



100 DAYS OF GOVT Major steps taken towards a 'new Bangladesh'

Inflation, law and order still remain worrisome, TIB observes in its report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite numerous challenges, the interim government over the last 100 days has taken many timely and significant steps that align with the vision of building a "new Bangladesh", observed Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday.

It said the government move to try killers and human rights violators from the previous regime; efforts to provide compensation and medical care to those injured in the movement; and the repeal of the Cyber Security Act were noteworthy.

However, the expected reigning in of inflation has not happened and problems with law and order remain, it said.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Trial process for killers, human rights violators initiated
- Measures taken to increase remittance, improve environment
- No reforms commission made for banking sector
- Concern remains over steps to prevent graft, money laundering
- A lack of initiatives to reform political parties
- Press freedom, the right to information under threat

Challenges also persist in bringing lasting reforms to key institutions, including the Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Information Commission, said the TIB.

It came up with the observations while unveiling a research report titled "New Bangladesh: Observations on the First 100 Days after the Fall of the Authoritarian Regime" at a press conference at its office in the capital.

The TIB presented its observations on 41 sectors, covering a wide range of issues, including political, administrative and institutional reforms, and appointments and reshuffles.

It also reviewed rule of law and human rights situations, the justice

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Students of Government Titumir College signal a train to stop during a demonstration at the capital's Mohakhali level crossing yesterday. They were demanding the college be transformed into a university. The protest cut off Kamalapur Railway Station from the rest of the country for about four hours.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

People suffer as students block road, rail line Protesters hurl stones at train, injuring 15-20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The day-long blockade of roads and railways by students of Government Titumir College in the capital's Mohakhali area, demanding the college be upgraded to a university, caused immense suffering to city residents yesterday.

Around 2,000 students took

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

13 big shots produced at ICT

Complete probe against Hasina, others in a month, tribunal asks prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), which has the special mandate to adjudicate crimes against humanity, experienced its first big day yesterday with 13 high-profile members of the ousted government, including nine former ministers, being produced before it.

It asked the prosecution to complete the probe against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others in two genocide cases by December 17. The arrestees are to be kept in detention until then.

The tribunal also ordered the prosecution to submit a report on the execution of Hasina's arrest warrant

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

People to decide if polls first or reforms

Prof Yunus tells Al Jazeera



STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, in an interview with Al Jazeera, said his interim government is focusing on reforms of state institutions, but would announce elections anytime if people want it, with or without reforms.

Asked about when the election can take place, he said he has no definite answer to that.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Firefighters tackle a blaze at a tissue factory owned by Meghna Group in Jhauchar area of Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila yesterday. Fire service officials said the building tilted and two floors collapsed due to intense heat.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Moody's goes negative on Bangladesh

Downgrades credit rating to 'highly speculative' B2



RISKS FLAGGED BY MOODY'S

- Lower economic growth
- More govt liquidity risks
- External vulnerabilities
- Banking sector risks
- Energy payments to strain reserve buffers
- Absence of polls roadmap to raise political risks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Major credit rating agency Moody's yesterday downgraded its outlook on the Bangladesh economy to negative from stable owing to increased risks of political uncertainty, further deterioration in law and order and weak domestic demand.

It cut Bangladesh's ratings from B1 to B2, incorporating heightened political risks and lower growth forecasts. A B2 rating means "highly speculative" and it comes with high

credit risks.

The heightened political risks come from the absence of a clear election roadmap, the deterioration of law and order and the nascent reemergence of community-based tensions, the American credit rating agency said in a report.

While economic activity has largely normalised under the interim government, political uncertainty punctuated by occasional lapses in law and order has weakened

domestic demand and weighed on activities in the garment sector, a key driver of the economy.

Moody's also lowered Bangladesh's growth projections for this fiscal year: the economy would grow by 4.5 percent, down from its earlier projection of 6.3 percent.

The negative outlook reflects downside risks to Bangladesh's growth outlook beyond its current expectations, which could further

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

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Jubo League activist shot, stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jubo League activist was shot and stabbed to death in front of his residence in the Rooppur area of Pabna's Ishwardi upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased, Khalequzzaman Manik, 36, of Rooppur Pakar Mor, had recently been released on bail in a murder case. He returned to his locality about a week ago.

Ishwardi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shahidul Islam Shahid said the incident occurred around 7:00am.

"A group of attackers on motorbikes arrived in front of his home. They shot Manik and attacked him with sharp weapons after he collapsed on the road. He died on the spot."

The assailants fled immediately, and police recovered the body on information.

The victim's body has been sent to the Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said Manik was an accused in the murder of Chhatra League activist Tafsir Ahmed Mona, who was killed on September 17, 2023, following a dispute over control of illegal sand businesses in the area. Manik was arrested in connection with the case but secured bail last week.

"Previous enmity might have led to the killing," the OC said, adding that police are investigating the incident and working to apprehend the culprits.

Additional police have been deployed to maintain law and order, added the OC.



People walk to their destinations yesterday after students of Government Titumir College block the Mohakhali level crossing and nearby streets for several hours. The photo was taken in Chairmanbari area of Banani around 12:30pm.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

JULY UPRISING Cops told to drop names of innocent from cases

Says CA's press secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police have been instructed to quickly go over the cases filed over the casualties in the July uprising to remove the names of those who were not involved, said Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

He said this to journalists in response to a query during a regular press briefing yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy.

The CA's press wing also addressed the government's stance on the wholesale filing of cases in recent times.

Deputy Press Secretary Apurba Jahangir said anyone has the right to file a case. However, it has been repeatedly stated that the names of people against whom there is no evidence of wrongdoing should be dropped.

On September 10, the Police Headquarters issued a directive stating that individuals whose involvement in murder or other offenses is not found in preliminary investigations must be taken off the relevant cases.

Yesterday, responding to a question over the formation of the Media Reform Commission, press secretary Shafiqul said a broad based panel has been selected for the commission with qualified members.

People suffer as students block road

FROM PAGE 1

out a procession from the college campus and blocked the Mohakhali intersection, including the railway crossing, around 11:15am. They continued their protest until 4:00pm.

Because of the protest, there was bumper-to-bumper traffic from Mohakhali to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on both sides. Additionally, all trains to and from Dhaka were delayed due to the blockade.

The demonstrating students forcibly stopped the Upakul Express, coming from Noakhali, at the Mohakhali railway crossing around 12:15 pm.

Moreover, they hurled stones through its windows, injuring at least 15-20 passengers, including children and women inside. Approximately 25 windows were broken, according to railway officials.

Besides the Mohakhali intersection, the protesters also blocked other

major roads, including roads leading to Gulshan and Banani, and areas around the BRT headquarters. They allowed only ambulances and CNG-run autorickshaws carrying patients to get through.

With no transportation available, many people were forced to walk to their destinations, some carrying heavy luggage or assisting elderly relatives and children.

Zobaidah Ferdus said she was stuck on the highway near the Mohakhali intersection for nearly an hour on her way to see a doctor in Gulshan 2.

"How can students block such a busy intersection? They could have sent their demands to the government if they were logical. Why did we have to suffer for a group of students' demands?" she questioned.

Another commuter, walking from the Army Stadium to Mohakhali with two of his family members, said, "We waited for over 30 minutes for the traffic to move then decided to walk. We heard that students blocked the

roads."

"The government must take action against those who unnecessarily block highways and cause suffering to the masses."

The traffic also came to a halt in Mirpur, with vehicles on Begum Rokeya Sarani stuck for hours, eyewitnesses said. They said that while both the Mohakhali flyover and the road below were closed to traffic, the elevated expressway remained operational.

Khairul Kabir, the divisional transport official (Dhaka Division) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star that railway operations resumed after over four hours at 4:10pm. However, all trains to and from Dhaka were delayed due to the blockade, he added.

Students of Titumir College have repeatedly staged road blockades in recent months, demanding the college be upgraded to a university and the formation of a Titumir University Commission.

13 big shots produced at ICT

FROM PAGE 1

within the same time.

The prosecution informed the court they will place a formal extradition request to bring Sheikh Hasina back from India.

On October 17, the ICT issued an arrest warrant for Hasina in connection with her alleged role in crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising.

Those produced before the tribunal yesterday included former law minister Anisul Huq; ex-civil aviation and tourism minister Lt Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan; former state minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak; ex-social welfare minister Dipu Moni; former shipping minister Shajahan Khan; former state minister of industries Kamal Ahmed Majumder; and former jute and textiles minister Golam Dastagir Gazi.

The other high-profile accused brought to the tribunal were Workers Party President and former civil aviation minister Rashed Khan Menon; Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President and former information minister Hasanul Haq Inu; former prime minister's power, energy and mineral resources adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury; Hasina's adviser and businessman Salman F Rahman; retired justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik; and former home secretary Jahangir Alam.

Avami League presidium member Abdur Razzaq was also supposed to be produced at court yesterday, but he was on remand in Tangail's Mirzapur Police Station.

All of them were shown arrested in a case filed over crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising and are accused of having "superior responsibility" for the July-August massacre, "even though they had a duty to protect the citizens".

At the same time, those directly involved in decision-making are being charged with having "individual responsibility" in the massacre.

The bench, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, said, "The

accused committed the offences of killing, genocide, and crimes against humanity by their active participation or by instigation. Accordingly, an order was given to issue arrest warrants against them."

The ICT was established in 2009 by the Hasina-led government to prosecute suspects for the genocide committed in 1971 by the Pakistan army and their local collaborators during the Liberation War.

This tribunal yesterday convened to prosecute her and her government.

The accused were brought to the court premises at 9:45am amid tight security. The main gates were locked and nobody, including journalists and lawyers, were being allowed inside without vetting.

The dock was prepared with chairs and all were seated. Dipu Moni was given a chair outside the dock. None of the accused were in handcuffs or any other restrictive apparatus.

While waiting for the court proceedings to start, several of the accused men got up and went over to the edge of the dock to greet Dipu Moni, who had been in the Kashimpur Women's Central Jail since her arrest on August 19, 2024.

Salman F Rahman, who had allegedly been arrested from Sadarghat with his long white beard shaved and hair dyed black, was seen to have reverted to his signature look.

Meanwhile, Faruk Khan leaned on a cane to walk, and when the court rose for the judges, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury had to grip the wooden fence of the dock to stand up.

Inu waved at reporters when entering the premises, and Zunaid Ahmed Palak motioned to the journalists present to pray for him on his way out.

The accused were given time to speak to their lawyers and meet their families in private after the proceedings. They were also free to converse with each other in the dock.

Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam read out the details of the accusations against them to the court.

"The seeds of the July-

August massacre were sown long ago during her 15-year-old tenure. She has perpetrated many crimes across her tenure. Those present here did everything in their power to consolidate her position."

Multiple "sham elections", where the people's right to vote was not respected, established a regime that perpetuated widespread, targeted persecution of the general public, and those produced at court were complicit in that, said Tajul, adding, "By destroying the electoral system, a fascist regime took shape."

He said the regime was characterised by illegal and arbitrary arrests and detention, custodial torture and deaths, enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, judicial harassment, politicisation of institutions and non-existent freedom of expression.

"All dissenting voices were relegated to being called razzakars as a tactic to divide and rule the nation."

When the students against discriminations platform brought forth protests based on legitimate demands, they characterised these students as razzakars to legitimise attacking and killing them, said the prosecution.

"Anisul Huq had termed the protesters 'spirits of those against the Liberation War'. Manik had gone live on television and called them 'children of razzakars,' mentioned Tajul, adding that lethal weapons were used against the protesters.

"The government of Sheikh Hasina ordered the law enforcers to shoot at sight. The reaction of the law enforcers and the semi-military forces to the peaceful protesters had been unnecessary, disproportionate, extreme, unjust, brutal and widespread.

"The Rapid Action Battalion had been spotted attacking protesters from helicopters, while semi-military forces like the Border Guard Bangladesh used assault weapons to tackle protesters."

The prosecution also said witnesses have seen members of Chhatra League, Jubo League and Awami League join forces with the law enforcers and attack the

protesters.

He mentioned that Zunaid Ahmed Palak had blacked out the internet to suppress information and hide the scale of the brutality.

"At least 1,500 people, including 200 children, were killed in attacks between July and August 5. The children include those living in the streets, underage workers and even those located in the safety of their homes.

"They not only killed the protesters but they've also been involved in heinous acts like setting dead bodies on fire in Ashulia, killing a student named Ashabul Yamin and then throwing his body off an armoured personnel carrier, shooting at close-range in cold blood and causing permanent loss of limbs and organs. All these will go down in history as significant instances of savage brutality."

Tajul also mentioned that the Hasina government had killed many innocent people during the 2013 attack on Hefazat-e-Islam's Shapla Square protests. "They had switched off the street lamps and attacked innocent protesters," he said, adding, "They had also persecuted human rights organisation 'Odhikar' for trying to demand justice for the killings."

The prosecution also mentioned the BDR mutiny and said the government had completely covered up the issue.

The bench, which included Justice Md Shofiqul Alam Mahmood and Judge M Mohitul Hoque Anam Chowdhury, then asked the prosecution if they wanted to separate the charges concerning the Shapla Chatter attacks from that of the July-August massacre. The prosecution said it will take "all of it into consideration."

Briefing reporters after the hearing, Tajul said, "This day serves as an important lesson for anyone who aspires to become a fascist or autocrat in the future of this country. It has been demonstrated in this court that no one can remain in power for long by committing crimes against humanity. Those who suppress and oppress the people, or engage in mass killings, will eventually have to stand trial."

Major steps taken towards

FROM PAGE 1

system, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary.

Additionally, the report highlighted concerns over corruption, irregularities, and money laundering.

"In its 100 days, the interim government has taken numerous timely and significant measures. Despite challenges in certain areas, progress is evident in the pursuit of a 'new Bangladesh'," said TIB Executive Director Ittekkharuzzaman.

He said commissions were formed for reforms to key sectors and there have been visible changes in the financial sector.

The initiative to hold the fallen government's ministers, MPs, and allies accountable for corruption along with strategic steps to recover laundered money are significant achievements, he said.

In a press release, he said, "It was evident that the essential strategies and roadmaps had not been put together right away to meet the important responsibilities of state reform and infrastructure development, which are vital for realising the objectives of the new political settlement entrusted to the interim government."

Ittekkharuzzaman criticised the ad-hoc approach to administrative decision-making and exclusion of the private and educational sectors from the reform initiatives.

"Another key issue is the lack of initiatives to reform political parties and their internal politics in the context of the anti-discrimination movement," he said.

"Moreover, the absence of the role of the army in ensuring peace and order in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, despite its exclusive authority, along with the

deliberate attacks and threats against some media outlets to silence them, raises serious concerns, TIB believes."

The TIB also spoke about press freedom, the right to information, the local government system, education, health, and other critical sectors.

Regarding politics, the TIB said the government's decision-making process regarding banning or withdrawing bans on political parties has been widely criticised, and the culture of appointing or cancelling appointments based on political affiliation continues.

It noted that the way appointments were being made failed to meet established standards and that transparency was absent.

The report said in some instances, false and baseless cases were being filed against individuals. There are allegations of indiscriminately naming individuals as accused in cases and accusing people in cases only to extort money from them for dropping their names.

Cases are also being filed against individuals due to personal enmity, political rivalry, and to harass people.

Allegations of cases being accepted under pressure without proper investigation and reports of individuals being arrested from different locations were mentioned in the report.

The TIB also mentioned the criticism and controversy regarding the appointments of judges and prosecutors to the International Crimes Tribunal. It said questions have been raised about their competence, experience, and political affiliations.

It said Awami League

leaders and activists were attacked in court; a Bangladesh Chhatra League female leader was assaulted in front of members of law enforcement agencies; and attacks were carried out on rival lawyers.

Regarding law and order, the TIB said there was a lack of effective measures to verify incidents, identify perpetrators, conduct investigations, and in taking action in cases of attacks on religious minorities, indigenous peoples, marginalised groups, and dissenting communities.

Questions were raised regarding the release of top criminals, the report said, adding that extrajudicial killings by different forces were still going on.

On the banking sector, it said no visible steps have been taken to form a banking sector reform commission.

On inflation, the TIB noted that although several initiatives have been taken to control prices of essentials and inflation, they, especially food inflation, remain significantly high.

Regarding press freedom and the right to information, it pointed out that targeted attacks, threats, and attempts to shut down media outlets pose significant risks to media freedom.

On local government, the TIB said the termination of city corporation mayors, UP chairmen, vice chairmen, and other elected members left local government at a standstill. It also mentioned forced resignations in the education and health sectors. The health sector also suffered because of partisan politics.

The TIB said the culture of establishing control and dominance persists in the BNP.

It said the Indian government and media outlets have failed to accept the fall of the authoritarian regime amid the uprising, which is embarrassing and shameful for India.

The study reported impatience among stakeholders, including political parties, in giving the government time for reforms.

No reforms within parties have been observed, which highlights a failure to embrace the core spirit of the anti-discrimination movement, it said, adding that the influence of religion-based politics is also growing.

The role of students in overthrowing the authoritarian government was crucial, but some of them lacked a firm stance and political tolerance.

About polls, Ittekkharuzzaman said without creating a conducive legal and institutional environment with specific steps for reforms, holding elections hastily would not achieve the goals of the student-led movement.

Ittekkharuzzaman, also chairman of the Reform Commission for the Anti-Corruption Commission, said questions were being raised about the time for elections and suggested the government that it answers those questions.

He said concrete reforms must be made following the recommendations of the reform commissions. Considering these, the government must clarify how much time is needed to prepare for elections.

The TIB said the government was enjoying international support.

Loan conditions of the World Bank, ADB, and IMF, and rising debt repayments were posing as additional financial challenges, it added.

People to decide on polls time

FROM PAGE 1

Prof Yunus said his government simultaneously pushing reforms and preparing for an election. He said the student-led mass uprising has presented his government with the opportunity that no government in Bangladesh had: the mandate to change the ineffective old ways for a "New Bangladesh".

"New Bangladesh is not going to come through just holding an election. Holding an election is a repetition of the old ways of doing things in politics.... So we want to get rid of those things and that's what the population of the whole country wants. Something new, something

different than the old. So that needs many things," he said referring to the reform initiatives his government has taken to bring about the changes in the key sectors like the judiciary, election commission, and even in the constitution.

However, he said the "election train" has already begun its journey and people will have the final say when the election will be held.

"And it's up to the people, up to the political parties to decide which way to go.... And we'll keep asking the people of Bangladesh - would you like to go to the election now or after these reforms are done?" he added. "So it's all a question of

what people want, the political parties want. If political parties say forget about it, give the election, we'll do it," the CA said, adding that his government "will not impose anything on the people."

Asked about how long the interim government can last, Prof Yunus said he has no idea about it either.

He said every government is interim as all have a certain tenure.

"The regular government lasts for 5 years. The new constitution [after reforms] may go for four years probably because people may want it. So, it should be under four years, that's for sure. It may be less," he said. Asked if the interim

government could stay for four years, Yunus said, "I didn't say that I'll be [here] for 4 years. I'm saying this is the term that maximum one can go. But that's not our intention. Our intention to get it done as quickly as possible.

When asked if he plans to stand for election, Yunus said, "I am not a politician. I enjoy my role, what I am doing."

In another interview with The Hindu, Prof Yunus said Bangladesh would pursue the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India.

He also said that he had no objection to her party, Awami League, contesting the elections.

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Govt forms five new reform commissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government on Sunday formed five new reform commissions to address key challenges and promote development, according to cabinet division summaries.

Each commission has been instructed to begin work immediately and submit a report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus within 90 days.

The health commission, led by Prof AK Azad Khan, president of the Bangladesh Diabetic Society, includes 12 members.

It aims to ensure universal healthcare access and address systemic issues in the health sector.

The labour reform commission, chaired by Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, has 10 members. It will focus on safeguarding workers' rights and promoting their welfare.

An 11-member media commission, headed by senior journalist Kamal Ahmed, will propose measures to improve media practices and ensure press freedom.

The local government reform commission, led by Tofail Ahmed, former public administration professor at Chittagong University, includes eight members.

It is tasked with strengthening and making local governance more accountable.

The women's affairs reform commission, chaired by Shireen Parveen Haque, founding member of Nari Pokkho, has 10 members.

It aims to enhance women's participation and empowerment at all levels of society.



The International Crimes Tribunal has shown arrested 13 high-profile individuals, including nine former ministers, in a case filed over crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising. The accused were brought to the court premises around 9:45am yesterday. They include former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser Salman F Rahman, former law minister Anisul Haq, former social welfare minister Dipu Moni, former minister Shajahan Khan, Workers Party president Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal president Hasanul Haq Inu, and former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HC hearing on Adani power deal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will hear a writ petition today challenging the legality of the government's power purchase agreement with Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited, signed on November 5, 2017.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury fixed the date after petitioner Barrister Md Abdul Qaium sought an urgent hearing.

Barrister Qaium, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the petition as public interest litigation on November 12, seeking a directive for the termination of the agreement between Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Adani (Jharkhand) Ltd if the latter refuses to renegotiate fairer terms.

He alleged the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'No political background check in police verification'

Recommends reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Reform Commission has recommended discontinuing the practice of checking political affiliations during police verification, especially for job recruitments.

Safar Raj Hossain, the commission's chief, told this yesterday after meeting Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury at the ministry.

"Police verification is essential for government, semi-government, and bank jobs. However, current procedures, influenced by British-era practices, include questions about candidates' political identity and whether their relatives engage in politics or oppose the state," said Safar Raj.

He said the proposal has been made based on allegations that many candidates have been denied jobs in the past because their relatives were politically active but not aligned with the ruling party.

"This practice has deprived many qualified individuals of employment. We recommend abolishing such practices," he

added. However, he said checks for criminal backgrounds, the authenticity of national identity cards and similar verification measures must continue for security purposes.

But cops should avoid causing harassment

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Harassment-Free Police Verification
- » Uphold rights of detainees
- » End political influence in police
- » Reviewing salary to prevent corruption

or suffering to job candidates in name of verification.

REFORMS ON ARREST AND DETENTION

Addressing concerns over laws allowing arrests without warrants and remands, Safar Raj said the commission lacks authority to

make decisions on these issues, as they fall under the jurisdiction of the law ministry. To address this, a joint secretary from the law ministry has been included in the commission.

"These issues have been litigated for years. A High Court directive, following a writ petition by Dr Kamal Hossain on behalf of BLAST, highlighted the need for safeguards, including notifying families upon arrest, conducting interrogations in visible glass rooms, and producing arrestees in court within 24 hours," he said.

Although the government appealed the directive, the Appellate Division upheld the HC's stance, requiring compliance with these safeguards.

TACKLING CORRUPTION, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

The commission chief also stressed the need to address corruption within the police. "If corruption decreases, efficiency increases, and public trust in the law strengthens. We are reviewing the police salary structure as part of our recommendations," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

No security threat surrounding Victory Day

Says home adviser

UNB, Dhaka

There are no possible threats to law and order during the upcoming Victory Day celebrations, said Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

Victory Day is for everyone and not just for any specific group, he said.

The adviser made the remarks following a security meeting at the ministry's conference room at the Secretariat ahead of the Victory Day.

"December 16 marks our glorious Victory Day. The meeting was convened to ensure that the day can be celebrated smoothly and without incident. We are confident that there will be no disruptions to the law and order situation," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



People hang wet clothes right next to this electric transformer for drying. This puts people who use this path at risk of electrocution. The photo was taken in the Kawran Bazar Municipality Market recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

WORKERS' UNREST RMG factory set on fire, three hurt in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least three garment workers were injured, and a factory was set on fire during a clash between two groups of workers in Gazipur's Panishail area yesterday.

The clash ensued around 11:30am and continued for over four hours, turning the area to a battleground, said locals.

The factory of Amazon Knitwear Ltd was set on fire by some agitating workers, said fire fighters and police.

Md Sarwar Alam, superintendent of Industrial Police in Gazipur, said workers at Beximco Industrial Park started their agitation demanding unpaid salaries on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur's Kashimpur area around 7:00am for the fifth consecutive day, blocking the Chakraborty intersection.

As vehicular movement remain halted at the intersection, vehicles resorted to use alternative routes, said Rafiqul Islam, a sub-inspector of Gazipur Industrial Police.

A protester said they continued their demonstration as they are yet to receive any assurance from the authorities.

The workers were still blocking the intersection till last reported at 8:00pm yesterday.

Around 41,000 people work in garment and ceramic factories at Beximco Industrial Park, according to Industrial Police.

Amid the agitation of Beximco's workers, authorities of at least 20 other garment factories in the area, including Doreen Fashion Ltd, announced holiday fearing that the movement might flare up.

Earlier on Sunday, Doreen's factory reopened after a 16-day closure since November 1 following recent workers' unrest.

When its workers came to the factory yesterday morning, they were infuriated to see the closure notice again on the factory gate, and they later joined the agitation of Beximco's workers.

The protesters tried to bring in workers of other factories to strengthen their agitation, said police and locals.

As part of this efforts, some agitating workers went to Amazon Knitwear's factory, but their workers refused to join the protests, which triggered the clash.

At least three protesters were injured in the clash, said a senior officer of Gazipur Industrial Police, wishing anonymity.

Later at around 11:40am, the protesters set fire to the factory, he added.

On information, two firefighting units rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control around 3:40pm, said Abdullah Arefin, deputy assistant director of Gazipur Fire Service.

The extent of damages could not be ascertained immediately, he added.

Beximco Industrial Park and the Doreen Fashion Ltd authorities could not be reached over phone for their comment.



Need global action for climate crisis

Says Rizwana

BSS, Dhaka
Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday urged the international community to uphold the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. "Delaying action until after 2030 is not an option. To keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal within reach, developed nations must rapidly scale up mitigation efforts and fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement," she said. She said this while addressing the 2024 Annual High-Level Ministerial Round Table at COP29.

Bangladesh faces harsh realities of climate change daily, she stated, highlighting the impacts of rising sea levels, intensified cyclones, erratic rainfall and salinity intrusion. "This year alone, two catastrophic floods caused US \$1.7 billion in damages equivalent, to 1.8 percent of the national budget. Over the past 18 months, the country has endured 15 climate-induced disasters, leaving 1.2 million people waterlogged," she said.

Health workers stage sit-in at DGHS for second day

Demand contract extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A group of health workers, who were employed during the pandemic, staged a sit-in protest in front of the Directorate General of Health Services in Dhaka's Mohakhali for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding extension of their employment contracts.

They started the sit-in in the morning and continued till 5:00pm.

The protesters said a total of 1,154 workers have been working amid "uncertain conditions" for the past four years, and expressed concerns over their livelihood.

"In 2020, during the peak of the pandemic, we were hired on three-month contracts. While the contracts were repeatedly extended, we're now being told our jobs will end in December," said ASM Shahjahan, one of the protesters.

"We've been working amid extreme uncertainty, without any job security, and now we might face unemployment. All we ask is to keep our jobs," he added.

Zahid Hasan, a data entry operator, echoed similar frustration.

"Many of us joined during the pandemic under short-term contracts. If we had known our contracts would be ended such abruptly, we could have explored other job opportunities. Now we are too late for that," said Zahid.



Sadiq Mohammad Wadud, from the HR and Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness (ERPP) department, appealed to DGHS to extend employment contracts of these 1,154 workers beyond December 31 by finding alternative roles for them.



Grand finale of 'Horlicks Brain Games Olympiad' held

CITY DESK

The grand finale of the "Horlicks Brain Games Olympiad," an event to empower students' cognitive, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, was held in the capital on November 16. The winners were rewarded with scholarship prizes worth Tk 3 lakh.

At the event, participants got an opportunity to enhance practical knowledge and adaptability that goes beyond traditional academic teachings.

The Horlicks Brain Games Olympiad was open to students in grades 6 to 8 and had over 22,000 participants nationwide. The participants were challenged with quizzes and brain games. After an online preliminary round, regional rounds were held in Chattogram, Rangpur, Khulna, Dhaka, and Mymensingh.

The top 1,000 students from each region competed, with the top 20 from each region advancing to the national final. A combined number of 100 participants from all regions competed in the grand finale.

'Pather Panchali' star Uma Dasgupta passes away

STAR REPORT

Uma Dasgupta, the actress who portrayed Durga in Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali," has passed away at the age of 84 after a prolonged illness.

She breathed her last around 8:00am yesterday at a private hospital on Bypass Road, Kolkata.

Uma Dasgupta's portrayal of Durga in Pather Panchali remains her only cinematic role.

In the film, she played Apu's elder sister, capturing the innocence and vibrancy of adolescence. Despite appearing in just one movie, her performance earned worldwide acclaim.

Professionally, Uma worked as a schoolteacher.

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Test Date: 22 November, 2024 web: mpa-ais-du.com
at 2:30 pm (Written) & 4:00 pm (Viva Voce) fb.com/duaismpa
Cell: 01912146788; 01922478641 form: cutt.ly/mpaform
Address: Room: 5058, MBA Building (Fee Tk. 1,500)

NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1187 OF 2024
[An Application for winding up of a Company under section 241(vi) of the Companies Act, 1994]
Pure Cotton Limited **VERSUS** Petitioner.
1. The Perfect Fit Co. Limited,
2. Nurul Saad (Starz)
3. Ummy Rowman Hoq,
4. Kishore Kumar Sukumaran, and
5. RJSC. Respondents.
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an Application under section 241(vi) of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed for winding up of the Respondent No. 1 Company (The Perfect Fit Co. Limited) and for obtaining other necessary declarations from the Hon'ble High Court as specifically elaborated in the prayer portion of the said Application. The said Application was moved before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh comprising His Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel on 29.10.2024. The Hon'ble Court, upon hearing the learned Advocate and perusing the Application along with the documents annexed therewith, was pleased to admit the Application and was further pleased to direct the Respondents to show cause within 04 (four) weeks from the date of receipt of the order as to why "Provisional Liquidator" should not be appointed in this matter to manage the affairs of the Respondent No. 1 Company (The Perfect Fit Co. Limited) vide Order dated 29.10.2024. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on or before the date so fixed. Copy of the Application may be collected from the undersigned upon payment of necessary costs.
(Golinda Biswas), Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
ATTORNEYS, House No. 48/2 (1st Floor), Road No. 32,
New Dhaka Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206.

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tenders hereby invited by Prime Bank PLC. from reputed companies in the relevant field for providing below item:

Name of Work	Period of Sale		Last Date of Submission
	From	To	
Temenos Transact Implementation for Prime Bank PLC.	19.11.2024	28.11.2024	28.11.2024

Details are given on the Prime Bank website.
<https://www.primebank.com.bd/tenders>
Head of Facility Management Division

Agrani Bank PLC.
Procurement & Common Services Division (Printing)
Head Office, Alamin Center (3rd Floor)
25/A, Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
Phone No. 02223380718, 02223357926
E-mail: dgmpsd@agrani.com.bd
Ref: e-GP/ABP/PCSD/PMICR Cheques/OTM/01/2024 Publication Date: 18.11.2024

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM, NCT)
This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following goods. Interested tenders can view details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd

SL No.	Name of the goods/works	Tender ID	Tender document		
			Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
01.	Printing & Supply of MICR Security Items: SB-10 (10,00,000 Books), SB-20 (20,00,000 Books), CD-50 (5,00,000 Books) & Pay Order (5,000 Blocks) [on bank's supplied CBS-1 Security Cheque Paper (23" X 18") for Agrani Bank PLC.	1035973	17/12/2024 16:00 hours	18/12/2024 15:30 hours	18/12/2024 15:30 hours

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. The fees of downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any registered bank's branch.
4. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
Mohammad Kabir
Deputy General Manager
Procurement & Common Services Division (Printing)
Agrani Bank PLC.

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
Bangladesh Development Bank PLC.
(A State Owned Commercial Bank)

Reference: 11.2/274-2 Dated: 18/11/2024

IT SECURITY UNIT

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

S/N	e-Tender ID	Description	Last date & time for submission through web	Date & time for tender opening
01	1038338	Supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of the Hardware Security Module (HSM) for Bangladesh Development Bank PLC.	01/12/2024 3:30pm	01/12/2024 3:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of Bangladesh Development Bank PLC or any registered banks' branches up to 2:30pm on 01/12/2024. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sd/-
Sabrina Chowdhury Dooty
Assistant General Manager
Tel: 02-41053147

No political

FROM PAGE 3
He highlighted concerns about political influence within the police. "Over the last 15 years, many police personnel have used political affiliations for corruption or career advancement. Recommendations will be made to eliminate this," he added.
RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER REVIEW
The commission, which began work on October

6, is expected to submit its final report by 31 December. Safar Raj said some recommendations could be implemented immediately, while others would require changes to laws and additional funding.
Regarding drives in plainclothes, he said, "We have not yet made a recommendation on this matter but plan to address it."

HC hearing on
FROM PAGE 3
deal is "fraudulent, unconscionable, and against public policy." The petition claims the agreement violated Section 13 of the Procurement Act, 2006, which mandates transparency and competition in government procurement processes. Qaium argued that the deal disproportionately benefits Adani at the nation's expense.

Previously, on November 6, Qaium issued a legal notice to the BPDB chairman and the energy ministry secretary, urging a review or cancellation of the agreement within three days.
He noted that experts have raised concerns that Bangladesh would pay significantly higher prices for lower-grade coal under this deal compared to other coal-based power projects.
The coal, sourced from an Adani-owned mine in Australia, will be transported to an Adani-owned port in India before being shipped to the Godda power plant, all at Bangladesh's expense, the petition added.

No security

FROM PAGE 3
To facilitate smooth movement for those visiting the National Memorial to pay their respects, traffic police will work to prevent congestion, he added.
Highlighting uniformity in observances, the adviser said only flags of the correct design and colour should be hoisted.

"In some cases, flags of varying designs and colours are displayed. This must not happen. Uniform flags will be hoisted everywhere, and significant locations will be adorned with appropriate lighting," he said.
Regarding the overall security scenario, he reiterated that there are no imminent threats.
"December 16 is a day for everyone. There is no security risk surrounding this occasion, and the country's law and order remain stable," he said.

NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1063 OF 2024
Abdul Momen **-VERSUS-** Paragon Techno Services Ltd. and others
-the Petitioner -Respondent.
Notice is hereby given that an application for winding-up under Section 241 read with Section 245 of the Companies Act, 1994 is filed by the petitioner. That a Bench of Hon'ble High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh comprising of his lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the application upon hearing of the petitioner on 21.10.2024. Any person/creditor(s) interested in the said application may appear on the date fixed for hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned.
Thanking You,
Mohammad Whaiduzzaman,
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Chamber: Md. Zafarullah Chowdhury & Associates,
52/1, Hasan Holdings, 9th Floor, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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বাড়ি নং-৩৫, সোহরাওয়ার্দী এভিনিউ, ব্লক-কে, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২১২
www.atu.police.gov.bd

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.৯৮৫.০৬.০৪৫.২৪-১৯৩

তারিখ-১৮/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।

"The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এবং এর তদীয় সংশোধিত বিধি মোতাবেক এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা, ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সালের ৩য় কোয়ার্টার (জানুয়ারি/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ হতে মার্চ/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) এর জন্য রেশন সামগ্রীর ০৮ টি আইটেম ক্রয়/সরবরাহ প্রাপ্তি ও রেশন স্টোরের পুরাতন চট বস্ত্র নিলামে বিক্রয় এবং ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সালের জন্য জ্বালানী গ্যাস ও সিলিন্ডার ক্রয়/সরবরাহ প্রাপ্তির জন্য বাংলাদেশ প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পৃথক পৃথক আইটেম ভিত্তিক সীলমোহরকৃত নামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং.	সরবরাহ/বিভাগ	সরবরাহের পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা		
২.	এজেন্সি	পুলিশ সুপার (লজিস্টিক্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট), পক্ষে- অ্যাডিশনাল আইজি, এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট, ঢাকা		
৩.	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	১৬ নং ক্রমিক বর্ষিত		
৪.	দরপত্রের বিষয় (কাজের নাম)	৪৪.০১.০০০০.৯৮৫.০৬.০৪৫.২৪-১৯৩ তারিখ-১৮/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ		
৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	১৮/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ		
৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের তারিখ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি		
৭.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হতে পিএলএ খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ		
৮.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	১৮/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ		
৯.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ০২/১২/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিটি কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।		
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৩/১২/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত		
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	০৩/১২/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা		
১২.	টিওসি কর্তৃক দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট কার্যালয়, বারিধারা, ঢাকা		
১৩.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট কার্যালয়, বারিধারা, ঢাকা		
১৪.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট কার্যালয়, বারিধারা, ঢাকা		
১৫.	টিকাদারের যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলযোগ্য কাগজপত্রের বিবরণ	দরদাতাকে শিল্পে ক্যাশপত্রাদির ছয়মাসি ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা দ্বারা সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে- ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ) নার্সিং/স্বাস্থ্য সেবা, গ) হালনাগাদ অফিস ও জাট সনদপত্র, ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদেয় অর্থের স্বাক্ষরিত সনদ (সেমেন্ডে বিক্রয়), ঙ) ফর্ম/ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সনদপত্র, চ) সন্নিবিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র। এছাড়া অন্যান্য শর্তকর্তী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।		

ছক-ক

লট নং	কাজের নাম/আইটেম	সরবরাহের পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা
১।	মস্তর ডাল সরবরাহ	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	১,০০০/-	৩৫,০০০/-	৩য় কোয়ার্টার ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সাল
২।	ভোজ্য সয়াবিন তেল সরবরাহ	ঐ	১,০০০/-	৪০,০০০/-	
৩।	জ্বালানী কাঠ সরবরাহ	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৪।	পেলাও'র চাল	ঐ	৫০০/-	৭,০০০/-	
৫।	গম পিছাই	ঐ	১,০০০/-	২০,০০০/-	
৬।	কুলি কাজ (সোড ও আনলোড)	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৭।	চিনি পরিবহন	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৮।	সাধারণ পরিবহন (চাল, গম পরিবহন)	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৯।	রেশন স্টোরের পুরাতন চটের বস্ত্র নিলামে বিক্রয়	ঐ	৫০০/-	৩,০০০/-	

ছক-খ

ক্র.সং.	কাজের নাম/আইটেম	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	১,০০০/-	৩৫,০০০/-	২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সাল
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোঃ রাফিকুল আলম, পিপিএম-সেবা			
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার (লজিস্টিক্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট), পক্ষে- অ্যাডিশনাল আইজি, এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট, ঢাকা			
১৯.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	বাড়ি নং-৩৫, সোহরাওয়ার্দী এভিনিউ, ব্লক-কে, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২১২			
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী ফোন নং	০২-৪১০৮১৩৫৭			
২১.	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী: ক) দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম "The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এবং এর তদীয় সংশোধিত বিধি মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে। খ) দরপত্র দাখিলের নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। গ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতই দরপত্রের কার্যক্রম যৌক্তিক কারণে যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিকভাবে অথবা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।				

Sd/-
মোঃ রাফিকুল আলম, পিপিএম-সেবা
বিপি-৮০০৬১১৭৮৫৭
পুলিশ সুপার (লজিস্টিক্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট)
পক্ষে- অ্যাডিশনাল আইজি, এন্টি টেররিজম ইউনিট
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা।
ফোন: ০২-৪১০৮১৩৫৭
E-mail: atu.spdev@police.gov.bd



Abdul Malek collects non-biodegradable plastic waste from the Bhairab river in Khulna. Every day, he rows his small boat along the river and collects 12-15 kilogramme of plastic and sells it for Tk 15-22 per kg. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Two BCL men arrested for bringing out procession in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Chattogram Metropolitan Police early yesterday arrested two people for their alleged involvement in Bangladesh Chhatra League's midnight procession on Sunday.

The arrestees are Didarul Alam, 48, former general secretary of BCL's Chattogram Law College unit; and Sajeb Hossain, 21, an activist of the banned student organisation, said Tarek Aziz, deputy commissioner (media) of CMP.

As seen in a video shot during the procession, some 20 BCL activists started marching from the Bayezid Bostami Road to the Probrakt intersection of the city that night, chanting slogans in support of Awami League and Sheikh Hasina.

The march went on for about 10 minutes, said police.

Following the incident, Didarul was arrested by Chandgaon police, while Sajeb was arrested by Panchlaish police during drives.

The interim government previously banned Bangladesh Chhatra League, the pro-Awami League student organisation.

The home ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on October 23 with immediate effect.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 19

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DAM REPAIR WORK
Poor coordination sparks tree felling, material theft



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Bangladesh Water Development Board on October 2 initiated repair works for a one-kilometre stretch of damaged dyke on the bank of Payra river in Dhankhali village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

As part of the work, soil has been kept on a damaged portion of the road on the dyke for excavators to dump it for repairing the dyke.

However, in a surprising turn of event, some locals have been digging up this damaged portion of the road to extract bricks, sand and gravel from underneath.

BWDB officials and workers deployed there have reportedly been indifferent as the road was constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department without permission from BWDB.

Moreover, expecting the BWDB to eventually widen the road after repairing the dyke, some locals have been felling trees, aged 20-25 years, from both sides of the road and selling those to timber traders.

At least 200 trees along the road were felled in the past few days.

According to sources, BWDB constructed the dyke along the bank of Payra river in the 90s. LGED later constructed an 8km road on the dyke around 12 years back.

Around 1km stretch of the dyke and the road got damaged due to storms and floods over the years.

Milon Mia, a local union parishad member, said he tried to stop the people

engaged in stealing the bricks, sand and stones, but nobody listened to him.

The situation arose due to lack of coordination between the two government departments, as the LGED had constructed the road on the dyke without permission from BWDB, he added.

Some locals said nobody stopped them from taking away the road materials.

"BWDB will likely widen the road, which will require many trees on both sides of the road to be felled. As such, everyone is selling the trees, and I purchased some trees for Tk 6,500," said Kalam Hussain Akon, a timber trader.

Contacted, Arif Hossain, executive engineer of BWDB in Patuakhali, said, "We are repairing a part of the dyke which got damaged at different times."

"Some locals have been removing the bricks, stones and sand from the paved road on the dyke after we began the repair work. This situation would not have emerged if LGED had coordinated with us in the beginning when it constructed the 8km road on the dyke without our permission. A 1km stretch of the road on the dyke also got damaged," he added.

Contacted, Hossain Ali Mir, executive engineer of LGED in Patuakhali, said "If BWDB had informed us prior to initiating the dyke repair work, we could have removed and stored the bricks, sand and stones from the road, and repair it after completion of the dyke repair work. BWDB, however, did not inform us."

School land seized, playground lost
Students' education at risk amid bridge construction

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

The Paschim Pasharibuniya Sikder Haat Government Primary School in Bhandaria upazila is facing severe disruptions due to the demolition of two of its classrooms to facilitate the construction of a nearby bridge.

Construction activities by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) have left piles of construction materials and mud on the school grounds, restricting space for students to study and play.

Adding to the school's challenges, a nearby canal poses an erosion risk, creating a hazardous environment for the school's 102 students.

Since the demolition took place two months ago, school activities

have been severely affected. Monirul Islam, the head teacher, said the school, built in 1994 on RHD land, has limited control over its premises.



Of the 38 decimals of land allotted to the school, only 29 remain accessible, with the rest occupied by outside parties. Amid the disruption, students are struggling to focus.

Afrin Meem, a fifth grader, said

the environment makes it difficult to concentrate.

"We have lost access to the playground due to the bridge construction works," said her classmate Ariful Islam.

Teachers are also finding it challenging to conduct classes effectively. Monirul Islam said the school has requested assistance from higher authorities to construct a new building and reclaim the seized land.

Md Ahidul Islam, Bhandaria upazila education officer, said they have informed the matter to the higher authorities in Dhaka regarding the construction of a new school building.

"We hope that a new school building will be constructed within a short time and that the problem will be solved," he said.

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা
স্নাতক শ্রেণিতে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি
শিক্ষাবর্ষঃ ২০২৪-২০২৫
Website for Online Application: www.buet.ac.bd

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা প্রাক-নির্বাচনী ও মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে দুই ধাপে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা তিনটি শিফটে গ্রহণ করা হবে। প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় মোবারক আলী/নির্বাচিত আবেদনকারীদের মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ প্রদান করা হবে। বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কেমিক্যাল এন্ড ম্যাটেরিয়ালস কৌশল, পুরকৌশল, যন্ত্রকৌশল, তড়িৎ ও ইলেক্ট্রনিক কৌশল এবং স্থাপত্য ও পরিকল্পনা অনুষদসমূহের বিভিন্ন বিভাগে স্নাতক শ্রেণিতে ২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি হতে আগ্রহী বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে নির্ধারিত নথি (অনলাইনে) দখল রাখা আবশ্যিক করা হয়েছে। যে সকল ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ২০২১ বা ২০২২ সালে মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২৪ সালে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন, অথবা ২০২১ সালে মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২৩ সালে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন কিন্তু উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় সংশোধিত ফলাফল ৫ই ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০২৪ তারিখের পরে শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে প্রাপ্ত হয়েছেন, অথবা ২০২০ সালের নভেম্বর বা তার পরে GCE "O" সেলেস এবং ২০২৩ সালের নভেম্বর অথবা তার পরে GCE "A" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন, অন্যান্য শর্তপূর্ণ সাপেক্ষে শুধুমাত্র তাই ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। যে সকল ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ইতোপূর্বে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করেছেন অথবা অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা অর্জন করেছেন তারা এই ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।

- ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা
 - প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোনো মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে গ্রেড পদ্ধতিতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে (গণিত, পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও রসায়নসহ) ৫.০০ এর ক্লেসে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০ পেয়ে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/দাখিল/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ করতে হবে অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোনো মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় গ্রেড পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর ক্লেসে জিপিএ ৫.০০ এবং উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয়সমূহের প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম জিপি ৫.০০ পেয়ে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ করতে হবে অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড/নম্বর পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে। যে সব প্রার্থী ২০২১ সালে মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২৩ সালে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন কিন্তু উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষায় তাদের সংশোধিত ফলাফল ৫ই ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০২৪ তারিখের পরে শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে প্রাপ্ত হয়েছেন, সেক্ষেত্রে তাদেরকে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় গ্রেড পদ্ধতিতে ৫.০০ এর ক্লেসে জিপিএ ৫.০০ এবং উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয়সমূহের প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম জিপি ৫.০০ পেয়ে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/আলীম/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ করতে হবে অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড/নম্বর পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে। সকল সঠিক আবেদনকারীর মধ্য হতে বাছাই করে ১ম থেকে ২৪,০০০ তম পর্যন্ত সকল আবেদনকারীকে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে। এই বাছাইয়ের জন্য যথাক্রমে আবেদনকারীর উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন বিষয় তিনটিতে গ্রেড মোট নম্বর এবং পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও উচ্চতর গণিত বিষয়ে গ্রেড নম্বরকে আর্থিকতার ত্রুটি হিসাবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।
 - GCE "O" সেলেস এবং GCE "A" সেলেস পাশ করা প্রার্থীদের প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য GCE "O" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে পাঁচটি বিষয় (গণিত, পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন এবং ইংরেজি) এর প্রতিটিতে ন্যূনতম B গ্রেড এবং GCE "A" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় গণিত, পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও রসায়ন এই তিন বিষয়ের যে কোনো দুইটিতে ন্যূনতম A গ্রেড এবং একটিতে ন্যূনতম B গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে।
 - ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা পূরণ সাপেক্ষে GCE "O" সেলেস এবং GCE "A" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় ফলাফল গ্রেড সকল সঠিক আবেদনকারীর মধ্য হতে উপরে উল্লেখিত নির্ধারিত গ্রেডের ভিত্তিতে বাছাই করে ১ম থেকে ৪০০তম পর্যন্ত সকল আবেদনকারীকে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে। এই বাছাইয়ের জন্য যথাক্রমে আবেদনকারীর GCE "A" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও গণিত বিষয়ে গ্রেড গ্রেডকে আর্থিকতার ত্রুটি হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।
 - ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা পূরণ সাপেক্ষে স্ক্রু নু-শোর্টলিস্ট সকল সঠিক আবেদনকারীকে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে।
 - উপরে উল্লেখিত শর্তাবলী পূরণ সাপেক্ষে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের তিনটি শিফটে বিভক্ত করে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা নেয়া হবে। পরিসংখ্যান ভিত্তিক পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে প্রতিটি শিফটে প্রার্থীদের মোবারক আলী/নির্বাচিত আবেদনকারীকে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে। এই বাছাইয়ের জন্য যথাক্রমে আবেদনকারীর GCE "A" সেলেস পরীক্ষায় পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান ও গণিত বিষয়ে গ্রেড গ্রেডকে আর্থিকতার ত্রুটি হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।
 - প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় ফলাফলের মেধাক্রম অনুসারে প্রতি শিফটের ১ম থেকে ২৫০০তম শিক্ষার্থীকে মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য নির্বাচিত করা হবে। স্ক্রু নু-শোর্টলিস্ট ন্যূনতম ১২ জন পরীক্ষার্থী (পদার্থ আবেদন গ্রহণ সাপেক্ষে) মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ পাবে। মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত আবেদনকারীদের তালিকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.buet.ac.bd) প্রকাশ করা হবে।
- আসন সংখ্যা
 - পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম ও অন্যান্য এলাকার স্ক্রু নু-শোর্টলিস্ট প্রার্থীদের জন্য প্রকৌশল বিভাগসমূহে ও নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগের জন্য মোট ৩টি এবং স্থাপত্য বিভাগে ১টি সংরক্ষিত আসনসহ সর্বমোট আসন সংখ্যা ১৩০৯টি।
 - আবেদন করার নিয়ম
 - আবেদন করার নিয়ম ভর্তির নির্দেশিকা (Guidelines for Admission to Undergraduate Program) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.buet.ac.bd)-এ পাওয়া যাবে। ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক আবেদন ফরম যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে তা অনলাইনে Submit করতে হবে। Submit করা শেষে একটি Application Serial No. প্রদান করা হবে এবং পরবর্তীতে এই নম্বরের বিপরীতে BUET এর website-এ বর্ণিত পদ্ধতিতে প্রাথমিক আবেদন ও ভর্তি পরীক্ষা বাবদ প্রদেয় ফি জমা দিতে হবে। অতঃপর আবেদনটি চূড়ান্তভাবে দাখিল (Final Submit) করতে হবে।
 - নিম্নের হকে বর্ণিত গ্রুপ অনুযায়ী আবেদন ও ফি ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ২ ধাপে প্রদান করতে হবে। (অক্ষরতযোগ্য)

গ্রুপ	বিভাগ	প্রাথমিক আবেদন ফি	প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের পরীক্ষা বাবদ প্রদেয় ফি
"ক"	প্রকৌশল বিভাগসমূহ এবং নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ	ট ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র)	ট ৮০০/- (আটশত টাকা মাত্র)
"খ"	প্রকৌশল বিভাগসমূহ, নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ এবং স্থাপত্য বিভাগ	ট ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র)	ট ১০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র)

বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য: সকল আবেদনকারীকে অনলাইনে আবেদন পূরণকালীন সময়ে প্রাথমিক আবেদন ফি হিসাবে ৫০০ টাকা প্রদান করতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে যে সকল আবেদনকারী প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য নির্বাচিত হবে তাদেরকে 'ক' গ্রুপের জন্য ৮০০ টাকা এবং 'খ' গ্রুপের জন্য ১০০০ টাকা প্রদান করে প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের Admit Card ডাউনলোড করতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষার পূর্বে আর কোন ফি প্রদান করতে হবে না। আবেদন ফি এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি: আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে যথাযথভাবে জানানো হবে। (www.buet.ac.bd)

১। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ, প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা, মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ইত্যাদির তারিখ ও সময়সূচী	৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৪, শনিবার, সকাল ১০:০০টা		
২। অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও জমা শুরু	১৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪, শনিবার, বিকাল ৩:০০টা		
৩। অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও জমা শেষ	১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪, রবিবার, বিকাল ৩:০০টা		
৪। মোবাইল/অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং-এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন ফি প্রদান শেষ	২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ সোমবার থেকে ১৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ মঙ্গলবার (হরুবার ও সরকারী ছুটিসহ বাকী) সকাল ১০:০০টা - বিকাল ৩:০০টা (সরাসরি জমা দেয়ার ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য)		
৫। প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য আবেদনকারীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	২৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪, বৃহস্পতিবার		
৬। প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা	২৩ জানুয়ারী ২০২৫, বৃহস্পতিবার (পরীক্ষার শিফট ও সময় পরবর্তীতে BUET-এর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.buet.ac.bd) জানানো হবে)		
৭। মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য আবেদনকারীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশের সন্ধ্যা তারিখ	৪ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০২৫, মঙ্গলবার		
৮। মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষা	১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০২৫, বৃহস্পতিবার		
মডিউল A	"ক" গ্রুপ এবং "খ" গ্রুপ	উচ্চতর গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান এবং রসায়ন	সকাল ১০:০০টা থেকে দুপুর ১২:০০টা
মডিউল B	"খ" গ্রুপ	মুক্তহস্ত অঙ্কন (Freehand Drawing) এবং দৃষ্টিগত ও স্থানিক বীর্জ (Visual-Spatial Intelligence)	বিকাল ২:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৩:৩০ মিনিট
৯। ভর্তির জন্য নির্বাচিত ও অপেক্ষমান প্রার্থীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশের সন্ধ্যা তারিখ	৮ মার্চ ২০২৫, শনিবার		

- বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য:
- অত্রকার অফিস বন্ধ থাকবে।
 - ১৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪, শনিবার, বিকাল ৩:০০টার পর অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ আর শুরু করা যাবে না এবং এদিনই বিকাল ৫:৩০ মিনিটে অনলাইনে আবেদনের সার্ভার বন্ধ হয়ে যাবে; এরপর অনলাইনে আর কোন আবেদনপত্র Submit করা যাবে না।
 - প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা শুরু হবার ১৫ মিনিট ও মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষা শুরু হবার ৩০ মিনিট পরে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় হলে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।
 - প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করার সময় বিভাগীয় অপশন প্রদান করতে হবে।
 - প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় "ক" ও "খ" গ্রুপের জন্য মোট ১০০ নম্বরের এর MCQ Type পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।
 - প্রাক-নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় নেগেটিভ মার্কিং করা হবে এবং প্রতিটি ভুল উত্তরের জন্য গ্রেড নম্বর থেকে গ্রেডের মানের ২৫% কেটে নেয়া হবে।
 - OMR Sheet-এ শুধুমাত্র কালো কালির বলপয়েন্ট কলমের মাধ্যমে বৃত্ত ভরাট করা যাবে। জেল পেন, ফাউন্টেন পেন অথবা পেনসিল ব্যবহার করা যাবে না।
 - মূল ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় মডিউল A এবং মডিউল B এর প্রতিটি বিষয়ের সকল প্রশ্ন ও মূল্যায়ন প্রচলিত পদ্ধতিতে করা হবে। কোন বিষয়ে MCQ Type প্রশ্ন থাকবে না।
 - মোবাইল ফোন ও স্মার্ট ওয়াচসহ যেকোনো প্রকার ইলেক্ট্রনিক বা টেলিযোগাযোগ যন্ত্র, জ্যামিতি বস্ত, পেনসিল বস্ত, কেস, স্ট-স্ক্রায়ার, কম্পাস ও কোন প্রকার ব্যাগ পরীক্ষা কক্ষে নিয়ে আসা যাবে না।

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Tender Notice

Tender is invited in National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of package mentioned below which is available in tender notice under e-GP system portal. This is an online tender where only Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit Tender, Registration in the National portal http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the Tender Document from the National e-GP system Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches. Detailed description of Goods Package No, Tender ID & Selling/Dropping Schedule are as follows:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Packages No	Name and description of Item	Published Date	Last Selling Date/Time	Closing & Opening Date/Time
01	1032815	DDM/Store/20 24-2025/01	Purchases of Office supplies (stationery item, cleaning item, computer item, crockery, sanitary item, electrical item and car wheels)	19-11-2024	02-12-2024 at 15:00	03-12-2024 at 12:00

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GD-987

SHAYAN

Of music and defiance

DOWEL BISWAS

"Bhoy Banglay, Bhoy Banglay, Bhoy Banglay Bhoy, Ei Bangla Shudhu Tader Ar Onno Karo Noy."

These simple yet powerful lines reflect the essence of many songs penned by Farzana Wahid Shayan.

For her, what started as a way to hold onto connections evolved into a unique musical journey. Rejecting commercial norms, the musician describes her work as "life songs"—raw and spontaneous expressions of her experiences.

Shayan's work is a blend of personal reflection and sharp social commentary, involving themes from lost relationships to biting political critiques. In songs like *Jonotar Bevadobi*, *Bhoy Banglay Bhoy*, *Ei Meye Shon*, and *O Neta Bhai*, she speaks not just of struggles, but of hope for a better world, calling for collective action against injustice.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Shayan shared insights into her creative process,

inspirations, and her plans for the future.

What messages do you hope to convey at your upcoming concert, 'Gaane Gaane Shayan', and how does it reflect your growth as an artiste?

For *Gaane Gaane Shayan*, I feel both excitement and nervousness. Performing solo again after a long break is challenging but thrilling. I can't pre-plan my emotions—everything will unfold naturally. My main goal is to reconnect with the audience. As for my growth as an artiste, it's a continuous process and I'm eager to share this experience with the audience.

Why did you choose music as your medium of protest, from songs like 'Abrar Fahad' to 'Aamar Naam Palestine'?

Music is the only language I truly understand. It's my way of processing and responding to injustices—whether it's the oppression of Palestinians or issues in Bangladesh. Music isn't just an expression; it's how I engage with the world and it allows me to make sense of the chaos around me.

Do you ever feel isolated in your stance due to a lack of support from contemporaries?

Not at all. I don't expect others to join my protests. Everyone has their own way of expressing themselves and I don't impose my beliefs on others. A protest can be powerful even when only one person stands up. I believe in my path and I tread forward, regardless of external support.

Can you share your creative process for songwriting and composition?

My songwriting often starts with raw emotions

derived from painful events, like the death of Abrar Fahad, for instance. It's an ache that forces me to look away from the world and confront my grief. Music is how I cope with the chaos—writing, composing, and performing help ease the burden.

My music is deeply personal, shaped by my raw emotions. I don't create for commercial success. Whether a song becomes popular doesn't matter as long as it reflects my experiences and emotions.

"The most rewarding part of my career has been connecting with people, daily. The biggest challenge has been sustaining myself through music, especially without mainstream success."

What drives you to participate in protests despite concerns about being politically labelled?

I don't mind being politically labelled because I consider myself a political person. I know my values and the kind of world I want to live in. Joining protests has allowed me to connect with others and find solidarity. Labels are inevitable, and I've accepted that people will interpret my actions in their own way.

How do you balance being an artiste and an activist, and how do you choose the issues to highlight in your music?

For me, there's no separation between social, political, and personal issues. If something doesn't feel personal, I won't engage with it. When I sing about

issues like Palestine, it's because I feel deeply affected. While some may label me an activist, I see myself simply expressing my reality through music.

How important is it for artistes to defy expectations, and what impact do you think this has on listeners and society?

My goal isn't to challenge societal norms but to remain true to myself in a world that imposes expectations. By doing so, I hope to inspire others to embrace their individuality. By defying these norms, I aim to live authentically. The impact on listeners is subjective—they're free to interpret my work however they wish.

How has your career evolved, and what challenges have you faced?

The most rewarding part of my career has been connecting with people daily. The biggest challenge has been sustaining myself through music, especially without mainstream success. Balancing music with my legal job was tough, as were societal judgments. Societal labelling and slander were difficult, but they're part of everyone's journey. Despite these struggles, I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had.

How do you compare today's political climate to the era of the fascist regime?

There's no comparison. A fascist regime suppresses expression and instils fear, whereas today's political chaos stems from people's mistakes and inexperience. While I'm not content with the current situation, I'd still choose it over the repression of a fascist regime.

What projects are you currently working on, and what are your future plans?

I'm focused on recording and publishing both old and new songs, as well as some poetry. Moving forward, I'll continue making music and cherishing time with loved ones. Whether through songs of joy, protest, or satire, I'll keep responding to the world around me.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

NEWS

Job scarcity key reason

FROM PAGE 12

marginalisation and at the end of the day does not have enough money to support not only investment but also public expenditure for health, education and social security.

"That's exactly what has happened in Bangladesh. We tried to fill up our democratic deficit with visible indicators of development," he said, adding that there was infrastructural development but the countrymen have to pay through the nose for it for long.

As not enough money was spent on health, education and social safety, education quality declined, which led to the young people being unprepared for the job market, said Debapriya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Thus, the student leaders who fought against the quota system were eager for government jobs because there were not enough jobs in the private sector.

"Whatever jobs there were, the government jobs were chosen for the party cadres and not for the university graduates," he added.

At a separate session, panellists said civil society, trade unions and media have an important role to play in democracy and holding accountable the governments.

Building strong institutions is crucial towards this end.

The government policies need to be designed in a way that is sustainable and inclusive, and not complying with them would lead to political and social instability.

Only between May and October, 18 million people were affected by the variety of disasters and many of them suffered unspeakable losses, said UN Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis.

Ensuring equitable access to health and education, social protection, living wages and gender equality can greatly contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, she said.

South Asia is the least integrated region, with only 5 percent of the region's trade taking place within it, said Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof.

There is ample potential for intra-regional trade that needs to be harnessed, he said, while calling for putting aside the political differences and boosting regional trade that can improve the lives of common people.

Farewell to captain courageous

FROM PAGE 12

While the Brazilian icon dazzled with goals, Pinto led a team that fought for a nation's freedom.

"There is no other football team in the world like the Swadhin Bangla football team. In that sense, I am luckier than Pele," Pinto had said in interviews with local media.

From July 25 in 1971 until the war's end, the Swadhin Bangla football team played across India to rally support for Bangladesh's liberation, using football as their weapon in the struggle for independence.

As captain of the team, Pinto had the distinction of being the first to raise Bangladesh's flag on foreign soil, a powerful act of defiance against oppression. Under his leadership, the

team played 16 matches, winning 12, drawing three, and losing just one.

Their victories were not just on the field; they raised funds for the government-in-exile and garnered international attention for Bangladesh's freedom struggle through newspaper and radio coverage.

Pinto's influence reached beyond 1971.

Born in Naogaon in 1943, he was a distinguished footballer before independence, representing the Pakistan national team and captaining East Pakistan's side. His leadership skills earned him the National Sports Award in 1978 and the Independence Award in 1995, cementing his status as a national

icon.

"His contributions to our nation's independence and football legacy will never be forgotten," Bangladesh Football Federation said in its tribute to Pinto's enduring legacy.

Suffering from heart, kidney, and liver complications, Pinto was admitted to Ibn Sina Hospital on Sunday, the day before he breathed his last in the ICU at 11:45 am. Survived by a son and three daughters, his legacy will continue to inspire generations.

Zakaria Pinto's story — a tale of courage, leadership, and an unwavering belief in freedom — shows that football, and sports in general, are forces capable of shaping history, with the power to unite and inspire during the darkest of times.

3,930 examinees of 44th BCS have to face

FROM PAGE 12

decided to send all answer scripts from the written tests of the 45th BCS to a third examiner for additional evaluation.

The evaluation of the written answer scripts for the 45th BCS is ongoing, and the work of the second examiner is nearly complete, the press release noted.

The PSC is also reviewing and assessing the written exam for the post of sub-assistant engineer in Bangladesh Railway, with a decision on this examination expected soon. The commission decided to republish

the results of the 46th BCS preliminary test by selecting an additional 10,638 candidates — equal to the number of candidates who had already passed the prelims and been selected for the written tests in the previously published results on May 9, 2024.

This decision was taken to "eliminate any potential disparities", the PSC said.

The 46th BCS notification was published on November 30 last year, and the preliminary exam was held on April 26 this year.

A private TV station aired a report in July this year, alleging that

question papers of 30 recruitment exams under the PSC, including for cadre and non-cadre posts, had been leaked by a racket.

The High Court yesterday ordered the Criminal Investigation Department of police to investigate allegations of question paper leaks in the 46th BCS preliminary examination and submit a report within 60 days.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury also issued a rule, asking the authorities why their failure to cancel the preliminary exam should not be declared illegal.

BNP upset at the absence of polls roadmap

FROM PAGE 12

somewhat disappointed. We had hoped that with all his wisdom, the chief adviser would identify the problems and outline an election roadmap," he said at a discussion marking the 48th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani.

"Why am I talking about the election time and again? It's because half of our problems will be resolved once the polls are held, regardless of whether the BNP comes to power."

Fakhrul said there should not be any distance between the BNP and the students. "Students have the right to voice their opinions. We are growing older. We now assess which actions are feasible and which are not."

"That's why we think holding elections soon will be good for the country and its people. The more time this type of government stays in power, the more problems will arise. Because it lacks the mandate [to govern]. So, where would the government's strength come from?"

Fakhrul said his party wants the interim government to carry out

reforms within a reasonable time.

"The interim government should not take such a long time for reforms, as this may lead to the perception that it is trying to hold onto power. We had such experiences in the past."

He said the then caretaker government in 2007 had tried to form a so-called "King's Party", but it failed. "People rejected the move and they [high-ups of the government] soon fled the country."

The BNP leader said his party had not blocked any reform initiatives by the incumbent government.

"If an election roadmap was declared, those trying to harm and destabilise the country would back off as the people would rally behind the government. We have to consider this."

Speaking at another programme at the Jatiya Press Club, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said that the interim government might try to prolong its rule, citing reforms.

Rizvi said that the chief adviser's remarks during an interview with an international media outlet about

taking four years to carry out reforms was a matter of concern.

"There seems to be some complication somewhere; why is he [chief adviser] talking about a long period of time? There seems to be some issue within the government, and this has raised concerns for us."

"People want to know why four years will be needed for the reforms and the elections," he said.

Addressing the same event virtually as the chief guest, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman called upon the people to extend their hand to those affected by the July uprising.

Speaking at a wheelchair distribution programme, he said if the BNP could form a government, different institutions and establishments would be named after the martyrs of the mass uprising.

"I call upon all to come forward to help those affected by the mass uprising," he said.

Amra BNP Poribar arranged the event to distribute wheelchairs among 10 people who were injured and maimed during the uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina's government.

Moody's goes negative

FROM PAGE 1

strain the country's already weak fiscal position and exacerbate external vulnerabilities.

"These risks stem from weaker domestic demand and supply disruptions due to recent protests and disruptions to law and order that cloud the export outlook and lower prospects for the ready-made garments sector," the agency said.

Inflation will also remain elevated and weigh on consumption even though the Bangladesh Bank has hiked the policy rate several times to curb demand.

"Given that inflationary pressures are largely driven by supply-side factors, such as supply chain disruptions and high domestic food prices, we expect monetary policy effectiveness to be limited. This is further compounded by the structurally weak policy transmission mechanism in Bangladesh."

While the interim government remains committed to a broad reform agenda, its capacity to execute remains uncertain, Moody's said.

Execution risk for reforms under the current IMF programme has increased, while the lack of a

clear election roadmap introduces uncertainty around the longer-term commitment to reform.

"Furthermore, political capital to push through challenging reforms could diminish if the interim government cannot swiftly meet social demands, including taming inflation and addressing high unemployment."

Despite improving remittance flows, import restrictions and loan disbursements from development partners, pressure on the country's external position persists due to a sustained decline in its reserve buffer.

As of November 13, foreign exchange reserves stood at \$18.4 billion, enough to cover about 3.2 months' import bills, as per the latest published data from the central bank.

"We now expect reserves to reach approximately \$20 billion by the end of 2024 and only improve in 2025 with disbursements from the IMF and other development partners."

Consequently, Bangladesh's external vulnerability indicator — the ratio of external debt payments and foreign currency deposits to foreign exchange reserves — has weakened to 91 percent at the end of 2024 from

63 percent at the end of 2023, albeit remaining at moderate levels.

"Heightened political risk and payment delays to energy suppliers will continue to exert pressure on the reserve buffers."

Vulnerabilities in the banking sector have also increased because of the expectation for higher problem loans due to the political and economic disruptions.

A portion of loans to politically connected borrowers under the Sheikh Hasina regime will default through the year, adding to existing structural weaknesses in the banking system. "This is likely to increase the fiscal cost of banking sector reform, which the government is currently reviewing with the IMF."

Moody's also lowered Bangladesh's local-currency and foreign-currency ceilings to Ba3 and B2 from Ba2 and B1, respectively, reflecting weak predictability and reliability of government institutions and high external imbalances.

Going forward, Bangladesh's credit rating will depend on maintaining political stability and the interim government committing to structural reforms, the agency said.

Support Ukraine 'sovereignty'

Biden urges G20 leaders; UK's Starmer calls for 'consistent' ties with China in Xi meeting

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

US President Joe Biden yesterday called on G20 leaders at a summit in Rio de Janeiro to support Ukraine's sovereignty, a day after US officials said he had allowed Kyiv to use long-range missiles against Russia.

"The United States strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Everyone around this table in my view should as well," Biden said in his opening remarks to the meeting, which Russia's foreign minister is attending.

"I ask everyone here to increase their pressure on Hamas, which is currently refusing this deal," he said.

At the summit, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer hailed the importance of a "strong



Women holding placards and candles take part in a demonstration in Guwahati, India yesterday, to condemn the alleged killing of women and children by militants in the Jiribam district of India's violence-hit northeastern state of Manipur.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli strikes kill 20 Palestinians in Gaza

Say medics; Lebanon ceasefire hopes rise

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 20 Palestinians yesterday, including six people who were killed in attacks on tents housing displaced families, medics said.

Four people, two of them children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a tent camp in the coastal area of Al-Mawasi, designated as a humanitarian zone, while two others were killed in temporary shelters in the southern city of Rafah and another in drone fire, health officials said.

In Beit Lahiya town in northern Gaza, medics said an Israeli missile struck a house, killing at least two people and wounding several others. On Sunday, medics and residents said dozens of people were killed or wounded in an Israeli airstrike on a multi-floor residential building in the town.

The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry said at least 43,922 people have been confirmed killed since the offensive erupted on October 7, 2023.



Meanwhile, the US official overseeing contacts to secure a ceasefire between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon is due to visit Beirut today, sources in Lebanon said yesterday, with Beirut expected to give its response to a US truce proposal.

Israel continued to pound Lebanon, killing eight more paramedics in an air raid on central Beirut yesterday. The Israeli campaign has uprooted more than 1 million people in Lebanon.

Sri Lanka leader keeps defence, finance in new cabinet

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake retained the key defence and finance portfolios in a new cabinet he announced yesterday after sweeping snap parliamentary elections last week.

The leftist leader, who won the September presidential election, confirmed his interim cabinet colleagues -- Prime Minister Harini Amarasinghe and Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath -- would keep their portfolios.

Dissanayake's decision to call polls nearly 10 months ahead of schedule and secure legislative backing for his agenda was vindicated when his National People's Power (NPP) won 159 seats in the 225-member assembly.

Cut the theatrics

UN climate chief tells nations at deadlocked COP29 summit

AFP, Baku

The UN's climate chief yesterday told countries at the deadlocked COP29 summit to "cut the theatrics", as pressure mounts on G20 leaders to deliver a breakthrough.

As the UN climate talks limp into a second week in Azerbaijan, the world is no closer to a finance deal for poorer countries that will determine the success or failure of COP29.

UN climate boss Simon Stiell said that "bluffing, brinkmanship and premeditated playbooks burn up precious time and run down the goodwill needed".

"Let's cut the theatrics and get down to business," he told delegates assembled in a cavernous football stadium in Azerbaijan's capital Baku.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev, a former oil executive turned ecology minister, urged countries to "refocus and pick up the pace".

Government ministers at the negotiating table have until Friday to break the impasse over how to raise \$1 trillion a year for developing countries to cope with global warming.

With the clock ticking, pressure is mounting on G20 leaders to throw their weight behind the stalled process in Baku when they meet in Brazil for their annual summit that began yesterday.

Holding polls

FROM PAGE 12

Prof Franceschi praised the current government's efforts towards democratic reforms and assured that the Commonwealth would support the ongoing reform initiatives, including electoral process reforms, in every possible way.

He stated that it is the Commonwealth's commitment to work with the interim government to build an inclusive, prosperous, and discrimination-free Bangladesh, said the release.

"The Commonwealth is always with Bangladesh, and it is keen to work with the country in areas such as education, information technology, media, cyber security, and artificial intelligence," added

Franceschi.

Nahid reiterated that the interim government is working for the country's transition from an autocratic or non-democratic regime to a democratic one.

He stressed the importance of support from the Commonwealth countries in this regard, saying that the interim government is ready to take any action that serves the national interest.

Posts and Telecommunications Secretary Mushiur Rahman, acting ICT secretary Muhammad Mehedi Hasan, Commonwealth Adviser and Head of Asia Dinusha Nihara, along with other senior officials, were present at the meeting.




UK-China relationship" while confronting Chinese President Xi Jinping over several contentious issues as the pair met yesterday.

In the first bilateral meeting between a British prime minister and the Chinese leader since February 2018, Starmer told Xi the UK wanted "consistent, durable, respectful" bilateral relations.

But he also warned that London was "committed to the rule of law", in a nod to various disputes which have soured ties between London and Beijing in recent years.

They include the case of British national Jimmy Lai, a media tycoon and pro-democracy activist imprisoned in Hong Kong, whose case Starmer raised directly with Xi.



আদমজী রশ্মানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা

আদমজী ইপিজেড মেডিকেল সেন্টার

আদমজীনগর, সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ- ১৪৩১।

(www.bepza.gov.bd)

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি


সূত্র নং: ০৩.০৬.৬৭৫৮.৩৩৫.১১.০৬.৫.২৪-১১৩৫ তারিখ: ১৪ নভেম্বর, ২০২৪

আদমজী ইপিজেড মেডিকেল সেন্টার ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের অধীনে নিম্ন বর্ণিত পদসমূহে স্থায়ী লোককল নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল	পদের সংখ্যা	১৩/১২/২০২৪ ইং তারিখে সর্বোচ্চ বয়স সীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
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০২	ডেন্টাল সার্জন বেতন স্কেল ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/- (স্কেল-০৯)	০১ (এক)	৩২ বছর	বি.ডি.এস ডিগ্রীধারী এবং বি.এম.ডি.সি হতে রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রাণ্ড
০৩	ডেন্টাল টেকনোলজিস্ট বেতন স্কেল ১২,৫০০-৩০,২৩০/- (স্কেল-১১)	০১ (এক)	৩০ বছর	সরকারী স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ৩ বছর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা ইন মেডিকেল টেকনোলজি (ডেন্টাল)।
০৪	ল্যাব টেকনোলজিস্ট বেতন স্কেল ১২,৫০০-৩০,২৩০/- (স্কেল-১১)	০১ (এক)	৩০ বছর	সরকারী স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ৩ বছর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা ইন মেডিকেল টেকনোলজি (ল্যাব)।
০৫	রিসিপশনিষ্ট কাম ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটর বেতন স্কেল ১২,৫০০-৩০,২৩০/- (স্কেল-১১)	০১ (এক)	৩০ বছর	ম্নাতক ডিগ্রী পাস।
০৬	ওয়ার্ড বয় বেতন স্কেল ৮,২৫০-২০,০১০/- (স্কেল-২০)	০১ (এক)	৩০ বছর	৮ম শ্রেণি পাস।

পার্থক্য:

- সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত চাকুরীর আবেদন ফরমে দরখাস্ত আদায়ী ১৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সদস্য সচিব, আদমজী ইপিজেড মেডিকেল সেন্টার ট্রাস্টি বোর্ড, আদমজী ইপিজেড, আদমজীনগর, সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ- ১৪৩১, বরাবরে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে পৌছাতে হবে। অত্র অফিসে সরাসরি কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে না। উপস্থিত তারিখের পর প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। আবেদনপত্রের নমুনা বেপজা এর ওয়েবসাইট: www.bepza.gov.bd থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।
- মেডিকেল অফিসার/ডেন্টাল সার্জন/ডেন্টাল টেকনোলজিস্ট/ল্যাব টেকনোলজিস্ট/রিসিপশনিষ্ট কাম ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটর পদের বয়স নির্ধারণের ক্ষেত্রে এস.এস.সি বা সমমানের স্যাটیفিকেশনের ভিত্তিতে এবং ওয়ার্ড বয় পদে জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র/ জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের ভিত্তিতে বয়স নির্ধারণ করা হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- অসম্পূর্ণ, ত্রুটিপূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বিত শ্রেণিত আবেদন পর কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- দরখাস্তের খামের উপর আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- রিসিপশনিষ্ট কাম ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটর পদে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য।
- আবেদন পত্রের সাথে ক্রমিক নং ১ ও ২ পদের জন্য ৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা, ক্রমিক নং ৩, ৪ ও ৫ পদের জন্য ৩০০ (তিনশত) এবং ক্রমিক নং ৬ পদের জন্য ২০০ (দুইশত) টাকা মূল্যমানের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার (অফেঞ্চযোগ্য), আদমজী ইপিজেড মেডিকেল সেন্টার, আদমজী ইপিজেড, আদমজীনগর, সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ- ১৪৩১ এর অনুকূলে সংযুক্ত পূর্বক নিশ্চিতকৃত কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র।
- ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সন্য ৩ (তিন) কপি রতিন পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি।
- ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র।
- স্থায়ী ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার/ পৌরসভার পৌর মেয়র কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র।
- ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র/ জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদ এর ফটোকপি।
- অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (যদি থাকে)।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের কারণে কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ প্রদান করতে কিংবা দিখিত/ মৌখিক পরীক্ষার কার্য ইত্যাদি করতে বাধ্য থাকবে না। দরখাস্তের সাথে দাখিলকৃত কোন কাগজপত্র ফেরত দেয়া হবে না। নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- কোন তদবির বা সুপ্রাধিকার প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে। প্রার্থীকে দিখিত/ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশ গ্রহণের জন্য কোন টিএ/ ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।



১৪/১১/২০২৪
(নাছরিন আক্তার)
অতিরিক্ত নির্বাহী পরিচালক (শ্রম ও শিল্প সম্পর্ক)
ও
সদস্য সচিব
আদমজী ইপিজেড মেডিকেল সেন্টার ট্রাস্টি বোর্ড
আদমজী ইপিজেড, সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ

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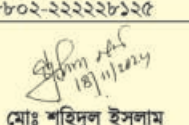
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ
সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
২২৪/১, নিউ ইন্সটান, ঢাকা-১০০০
www.bnswc.gov.bd

স্মারক নং ৪১.০৩.০০০০.০৮৪.০২.০০৬(৩).২৪-১১৪৫ তারিখ: ০২ অগ্রহায়ণ, ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৭ নভেম্বর, ২০২৪ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

গবেষণা আগ্রহবাক্যকরণ প্রস্তাব (EOI) আহ্বান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
০২	বাপ্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা	: বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ
০৩	EOI আহ্বানকারী	: নির্বাহী সচিব (যুগ্মসচিব), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ
০৪	EOI আহ্বানের কারণ	: নির্বাচিত শিরোনামে সামাজিক গবেষণার জন্য গবেষণা (বাক্য/দল/প্রতিষ্ঠান) নির্বাচন
০৫	EOI বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্র ও তারিখ	: নং ৪১.০৩.০০০০.০৮৪.০২.০০৬(৩).২৪-১১৪৫, তারিখ: ১৭ নভেম্বর, ২০২৪
০৬	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	: নির্দিষ্ট বাজেটের অধীন ব্যক্তিগতকৃত পরামর্শক/গবেষণা নির্বাচন পদ্ধতি
০৭	অর্থের উৎস	: রাজস্ব
০৮	EOI বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	: ১৯/১১/২০২৪খ্রিঃ
০৯	EOI জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ০৩/১২/২০২৪খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:০০টা
১০	EOI দাখিলের ঠিকানা	: বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ, ২২৪/১, নিউ ইন্সটান, ঢাকা-১০০০
১১	গবেষণার শিরোনামসমূহ	: (১) নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতার কারণ ও প্রতিকার (২) শিশুর প্রতি সহিংসতার কারণ ও প্রতিকার (৩) সমষ্টিগত সহিংসতার কারণ ও প্রতিকার (আন্তর্জাতিক ও জাতীয় ঐতিহাসিক অবস্থা বিশ্লেষণপূর্বক রাজনৈতিক ও সামাজিক সমষ্টিগত সহিংসতার কারণ ও প্রতিকার নির্ণয় করতে হবে) (৪) সিলেট জেলার বিশ্বনাথ উপজেলার রামপাশা ইউনিয়নের আমতৈল (আমতৈল, মাথারগাঁও, ধলিপাড়া ও জমসেদপুর) গ্রামে তুলনামূলকভাবে প্রতিবন্ধী বাকি ও শিশুর সংখ্যা বেশি হওয়ার কারণ ও প্রসঙ্গে সরকারি সেবাসমূহ চিহ্নিতকরণ (৫) প্রজন্মের মধ্যে রাজনৈতিক ও সামাজিক মূল্যবোধ (রাজনৈতিক মতাদর্শে প্রজন্মগত বিভাজন; প্রজন্মভেদে সামাজিক ও রাজনৈতিক মতামতের পার্থক্য নির্ণয় করতে হবে)।
১২	প্রধান শর্তসমূহ	: (১) প্রতিটি গবেষণা কাজের প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয় ৭,৬০,০০০ (সাত লক্ষ ষাট হাজার) টাকা (ভাট ও অয়করসহ)। (২) গবেষণা/গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান উল্লিখিত যে কোনো একটি শিরোনাম নির্বাচন করে বাংলাদেশে ১৫০০ শব্দের একটি গবেষণা সারসংক্ষেপ সম্বলিত অনুরোধ আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করবেন। (৩) একই বাকি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের একাধিক বিষয়ে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। (৪) গবেষণায় বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ-এর নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করতে হবে। নীতিমালা পরিষদের ওয়েবসাইট www.bnswc.gov.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে। (৫) গবেষণা/গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান গবেষকের যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, সহায়ক গবেষণা বা জনবলের যোগ্যতা/তথ্য, গবেষণার সামর্থ্য, শিরোনাম সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ প্রকাশনা ইত্যাদির তথ্য আগ্রহবাক্যকরণ প্রস্তাবের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। (৬) মূলকপি সহ ০৩ (তিন) সেট গবেষণা আগ্রহবাক্যকরণ প্রস্তাব (EOI) দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩	EOI আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	: মোঃ শহিদুল ইসলাম
১৪	EOI আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	: নির্বাহী সচিব (যুগ্মসচিব)
১৫	EOI আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	: নির্বাহী সচিব (যুগ্মসচিব), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ ২২৪/১, নিউ ইন্সটান, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন: +৮৮০২-২২২২৮১২৫



মোঃ শহিদুল ইসলাম
নির্বাহী সচিব (যুগ্মসচিব)
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জিডি-৯৮১

A lot needs to be done by the govt

Prof Yunus's speech marks 100 days of interim government

Amid myriad issues jostling for public attention, it was refreshing to see Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus deliver a speech conveying focused purpose and optimism at a time when deep-seated sociopolitical divisions threaten to overshadow the aspirations that led to the mass uprising over three months ago. His 34-minute address, marking the 100 days of the interim government, also reflected a sense of accountability that we hope will resonate across his administration. However, while he was quite forthcoming and persuasive on certain aspects—such as the ongoing reform drive and measures taken for the victims of the July-August uprising—he was less so on other aspects such as the economy, law and order, and, of course, the election timeline.

Prof Yunus has assured that an Election Commission would be formed "within a few days", and that the roadmap for the election would be issued as soon as decisions on electoral reforms are made. So far, the government has set up six commissions, including on electoral and constitutional reforms, which are expected to submit their reports between December and January. Prof Yunus said some essential reforms would be implemented during the election process which may delay the election "by a few months". This, along with his recent comment in an Al Jazeera interview about the government's tenure not extending beyond four years, has created an ambiguity that will test the patience of political parties, with BNP already expressing disappointment over the lack of a roadmap. The sooner the government comes clear on this issue, the better.

On other pressing issues, Prof Yunus's speech reflected some candour as he made no secret of the challenges we face with inflation, and commodity prices. He said the economy is "getting stronger" after the disaster left by the ousted Awami League government, but the administration's performance in this regard has left a lot to be desired. On the state of law enforcement, he said the government is trying to boost the morale of the police, and that there has been "visible progress" in the force. This may be the case, but progress on this front has been much slower than expected, with media reports still painting a worrying scenario of crimes. As regards the government's initiatives for the victims of the uprising—which Prof Yunus explained in considerable detail—there are areas that need to be expedited and streamlined, as recent protests by a group of injured protesters show.

These areas highlight the need to balance immediate grievances with long-term state reforms and political sensitivities. This is no easy task but the government must accomplish it anyway. That said, it cannot do all this on its own; political parties and citizen groups must also help with their patience, constructive criticism, and continuous feedback, keeping in mind the interests of the nation.

An unwise decision

Biman should not be given sole responsibility for ground handling

We are surprised that Biman has been awarded the ground handling responsibility for the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), despite having a very poor track record. Reportedly, Biman is set to take charge for two years initially, overseeing tasks such as boarding passengers, managing baggage, handling cargo, and providing various aircraft services. However, given its history of subpar service, we have serious doubts about its ability to handle this crucial task. Naturally, the decision has raised concerns among aviation experts and other stakeholders.

Over the past years, Biman has consistently failed to satisfy passengers, with many experiencing significant delays in luggage handling while instances of staff misconduct, particularly towards migrant workers, were also commonplace. Additionally, Biman's inefficient ground handling has often severely disrupted overseas trade, while the two currently operating terminals have struggled to cope with the pressure of increasing export and import volumes. So, the main purpose of building a new terminal was to solve all these issues by improving the airport's efficiency and ground handling services. Therefore, we think this decision by the government is contradictory to this whole effort.

Internationally, no airport reportedly relies on a single ground handling provider. So why has the government made such a decision? Has it consulted all relevant stakeholders before taking such action? If not, why? According to experts, Biman does not even have necessary, trained manpower to operate the terminal. Moreover, a survey by the HSIA authorities revealed that 93 airlines favoured having multiple ground handling service providers at the new terminal, which would foster competition and improve services. We also mention that it is this kind of monopoly that has emboldened our state carrier to engage in widespread corruption and irregularities over the decades.

The decision to award Biman this job was ill-considered, so we urge the government to reconsider it. If we want the quality of ground handling services at the third terminal to be world-class, the job should be awarded through an open competition involving multiple service providers. Although Biman is supposed to take this charge for two years, we think this period could further damage the airport's reputation.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Anwar Sadat visits Israel

After the Arab-Israeli war of 1973-74, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat began to work toward peace, and on this day in 1977 he began his historic visit to Israel, during which he offered a peace plan to its parliament.

Bread before ballots and rice before reforms

Faridul Alam
lives in and writes from New York City, US.

FARIDUL ALAM

"Bhat De Haramzada, Noile Manchitro Khabo" (Give me rice, you scoundrel, or else I'll eat up the map of the land.) — Rafiq Azad (1974)

"But the audience had long since lost interest in him and could no longer understand what he was doing." — Franz Kafka, *The Hunger Artist* (1922)

The bellwether opportunity afforded by the July 2024 uprising to reimagine Bangladesh's future by reforming or dismantling the repressive apparatuses of the ousted government comes with an existential challenge: stabilising essential commodity prices amid rampant inflation and soaring food costs. This crisis—an inheritance from Sheikh Hasina's toppled government—has pushed countless households, especially among the lower-income and shrinking middle classes, to the brink of desperation. Following the devastating floods in August 2024 that severely impacted eastern Bangladesh, the urgency for immediate, effective policy action has never been more apparent. For the interim government, prioritising "bread" over ballots or "rice" over reforms may be the only way to stave off popular discontent and retain public trust through clear, targeted policies. While conditions are not yet beyond repair, the admonition is to double up instead of double down, exercising prudence to safeguard public trust.

The epigraphs by Rafiq Azad and Kafka highlight themes of desperate struggle for recognition, survival,

In Bangladesh, comparing Hasina's regime with that of her father, Sheikh Mujib, provides perspective on the current crisis. The ousted Hasina government attempted to tackle food insecurity through subsidies, farmer loans, and the Open Market Sales (OMS) programme. Yet structural inefficiencies, corruption, and inconsistent policies undermined these efforts, leaving food prices high and eroding purchasing power for low-income populations.

and meaning amid societal apathy. Azad's 1974 protest poem, *Bhat De Haramzada, Noile Manchitro Khabo*, was written during Bangladesh's severe food crisis and famine under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's government. Shortly after Bangladesh's hard-won independence, Azad's words captured the disillusionment of a nation crippled by economic hardship, natural disasters, crop failures, and famine-induced suffering. The poem reflects not only the populace's desperation but also

their sense of betrayal after profound sacrifices in the independence struggle.

Kafka's *Hunger Artist*, written in post-World War I Europe, presents a protagonist whose self-imposed starvation once fascinated the public but ultimately becomes forgotten as society shifts its values. This existential alienation parallels an era of disillusionment, capturing the hunger for recognition in a society failing to value individuality. For Azad's speaker, defiance and the demand for sustenance underscore a readiness to challenge state power in pursuit of survival, while Kafka's artist embodies misunderstood dedication. Both works underscore a profound disconnect between marginalised individuals and

loans, and the Open Market Sales (OMS) programme. Yet structural inefficiencies, corruption, and inconsistent policies undermined these efforts, leaving food prices high and eroding purchasing power for low-income populations. While sporadic price controls and increased imports aimed to stabilise the market, these measures were inadequate against global price volatility. Climate disruptions added to the pressure on agriculture, while syndicates monopolising supply chains worsened inflation through hoarding and price manipulation.

These monopolies, backed by political patronage and weak regulation, intensified the food insecurity crisis by

essentials are central, especially for citizens in lower-income brackets who are disproportionately affected by price volatility. When food insecurity prevails, it risks not only social unrest but also hinders development across health, education, and economic sectors.

Economically, food insecurity has a ripple effect on productivity, limiting individuals' capacity to fully participate in the workforce and hindering long-term GDP growth. Malnutrition, stress from food shortages, and other adverse conditions tied to high food costs weaken current and future labour force capacity, ultimately stalling national development. Addressing food insecurity thus goes beyond immediate economic relief; it builds a foundation



Today, food insecurity has become a global issue, affecting both developed and developing regions, including OECD countries and South Asia.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

an indifferent society.

Today, food insecurity has become a global issue, affecting both developed and developing regions, including OECD countries and South Asia. Giner and Placzek (2022) noted that one in five people in OECD nations faced food insecurity in 2022—a figure largely driven by inflation and the Covid pandemic's lasting effects. In the United States, poverty, unemployment, and income inequality affect millions, especially households with children, communities of colour, and rural areas (US Department of Agriculture, 2022).

South Asia faces similar challenges, where food insecurity worsens due to climate events, economic instability, and social inequalities. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, food inflation has exceeded 35 percent in some areas, with climate disasters like flooding and drought further disrupting supply chains (World Bank, 2023). UNICEF and World Bank data show global food inflation intensifying, affecting lower-middle income countries in over 50 percent of cases, and even some high-income countries. Across 168 countries, food prices have risen faster than general inflation, underscoring the urgent nature of this issue (World Bank, 2023).

In Bangladesh, comparing Hasina's regime with that of her father, Sheikh Mujib, provides perspective on the current crisis. The ousted Hasina government attempted to tackle food insecurity through subsidies, farmer

exploiting their control over logistics and distribution. Price regulations were often circumvented, allowing syndicates to evade anti-hoarding measures and cartel laws. Subsidies meant for farmers or consumers frequently ended up benefiting syndicate-linked actors, further inflating costs. For many households, basic survival became precarious, eroding public trust in Hasina's leadership. In both Hasina's and Mujib's cases, responses to food insecurity revealed a disconnect from public hardships, fuelling widespread resentment. Azad's poem embodies the rage of a populace facing a preventable crisis, while the July 2024 uprising culminated in disillusionment with centralised rule seen as out of touch with grassroots concerns.

The urgency in the title of this opinion piece underscores the interim government's immediate challenge. Prioritising essentials not only aligns with Maslow's hierarchy of needs—recognising that secure access to food precedes higher aspirations like political stability and civic engagement—but also addresses a more fundamental aspect: the bio-psycho-social well-being essential for both individual and national resilience.

Stabilising food prices impacts social cohesion and extends beyond merely maintaining order. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines well-being as a state of complete physical, mental, and social health, to which affordable food and secure access to

for sustainable development that benefits all citizens. Policies that stabilise food prices are fundamental not only for social cohesion but for enabling broader growth and civic engagement.

This emphasis on basic survival reflects Amartya Sen's basic needs approach and the capability theory he developed with Martha Nussbaum, which argue that needs like food, shelter, and healthcare must be met before societies can foster human development and civic involvement. Without addressing these basic needs, individuals cannot achieve the capabilities necessary for a fulfilling life, such as education, meaningful employment, and community participation. Banerjee and Duflo, in *Poor Economics*, note that even when faced with hunger, the poor often make strategic choices aimed at future gains, asserting that "food policy should work with human behaviour, not against it." By aligning food security policies with this resilience and strategic resourcefulness, the government can support citizens' agency in the struggle for long-term well-being.

Ultimately, the government must recognise that when push comes to shove, the conditions of existence—feeding its people—precede any abstract promises of progress or growth. To echo Sartre's angst-ridden insight, "existence precedes essence": without the basic means for survival, any higher ideals remain hollow.

A thousand days since Russia's invasion of Ukraine

This is a statement by the high commissioners and ambassadors of 13 countries, including the UK, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Australia, Sweden, France, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Spain and Canada calling for peace in Ukraine.

1,000 days ago today, Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia's continuing assault on its neighbour is an unprovoked attack against a sovereign state. Putin's invasion represents a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and an attempt to challenge the international order on which our collective prosperity and security depend. Putin's actions should matter to every country, including Bangladesh, where this invasion has exacerbated inflationary pressures on crucial food, energy and fertiliser supplies.

In the face of Russia's aggression, Ukraine determinedly remains a sovereign nation, standing in defence of democracy and freedom against Putin's imperialism. Since the invasion there have been over 11,900 civilians killed and 25,900 injured, totalling 37,900 casualties. There have been over

1,786 attacks on health care facilities, and NGOs estimate that over 230 health care workers have been killed. The Government of Ukraine estimates almost 20,000 Ukrainian children have been deported by Russian authorities; reports about their fate from civil society organisations are chilling.

We cannot let aggressors like Putin succeed. Other international actors could learn this too. Putin and his proxies are sowing violence, bloodshed and chaos throughout the world.

In the face of Putin's barbarism, Ukrainians have defended their country with courage. They have demonstrated a fierce determination to defend the shared values we, Ukraine and Bangladesh, cherish. Ukraine has shown that they can defend their country. Putin is now into the third year of a war he thought would take days, thanks to the help of allies and

the bravery of Ukraine's resistance. Ukrainian forces have destroyed ammunition depots, harming Russia's ability to conduct offensive operations. They destroyed 20 percent of Russian attack helicopters in Ukraine. They have rendered inoperable almost a quarter of the Black Sea Fleet and the country is exporting grain freely again.

On the frontline, the situation is difficult, and Russian operations led to territorial gains. But these gains have come at enormous costs. Putin is callously throwing Russian, and other nationals' lives at the front, resulting in about a thousand casualties a day. The death toll of Russians following Putin's orders is horrific. To date, almost 700,000 Russian personnel have been killed and wounded. Russia is trying to overwhelm Ukrainian forces with outdated equipment and bad leadership, with no thought to

the protection or preservation of its own soldiers or civilians. For the sake of ordinary Russians, Putin must be stopped.

Though denied by Putin, there are credible reports that North Korea (DPRK) has sent combat troops in direct support of Russia's war against Ukraine. This is a significant escalation, and further evidence of Russia's growing reliance upon third country support, recklessness, and disregard for international peace and security. This escalation should trouble Bangladesh, as a DPRK emboldened by stronger ties with Russia would threaten the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

As we cross the grim milestone of 1000 days, our support to Ukraine must continue. All voices must call on Putin to end his barbaric invasion of Ukraine.

Balancing inflation control and banking stability



Deen Islam
is associate professor of economics
at the University of Dhaka.

DEEN ISLAM

Bangladesh's banking sector is undergoing a significant crisis, one that has been exacerbated by past mismanagement, particularly under the previous regime. In recent years, a troubling trend of misappropriation, embezzlement, and money laundering has eroded public confidence. The situation became so dire that early this year, Bangladesh Bank was compelled to inject liquidity into these struggling institutions to prevent a full-fledged banking collapse. However, this cash infusion, in large part through printed money, has placed mounting inflationary pressure on the economy, challenging both consumer welfare and monetary stability.

With the change in political leadership, citizens hoped for improved financial oversight and regulatory discipline. Yet, some argue that recent developments have deepened the chaos, with critics blaming much of this on the central bank's management. This necessitates a critical examination of the central bank's monetary policy, its impact on inflation and banking stability, and potential alternative strategies to address these intertwined issues.

Upon assuming office, the Bangladesh Bank governor made several public comments about the financial health of banks under investigation for past misconduct. While intended to inform, these statements inadvertently alarmed depositors, prompting many to withdraw their savings for fear of losing them. This created undue pressure on newly appointed directors at these banks, somewhat hindering efforts to restore stability.

The situation worsened when BB halted liquidity support as part of its anti-inflationary measures. While inflation control is critical, this abrupt withdrawal left already vulnerable banks scrambling for capital. To mitigate the impact, the central bank encouraged solvent banks to lend excess funds to struggling institutions, with the central bank acting as a guarantor. However, this approach has seen limited success, as public trust in Bangladesh Bank's assurances remains low. Solvent banks, cautious about their depositor bases and potential contagion effects, have responded

sluggishly. Only a fraction of distressed banks' needs has been met by institutions like Sonali Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, and City Bank. Consequently, distressed banks have been forced to ration services, further aggravating public dissatisfaction.

To combat inflation, Bangladesh Bank has implemented a contractionary monetary policy—raising policy rates and limiting money supply. While such policies aim to curb consumer demand and slow price increases, they are less effective in economies like Bangladesh, where inflation is driven by supply constraints rather than demand-side pressures. In Bangladesh, most household income is spent on essentials, leaving little room for delayed consumption. Households cannot easily delay or reduce consumption of essential goods, so intertemporal substitution (the postponement of consumption to a

GDP growth—a particularly troubling prospect given Bangladesh's current economic fragility.

Moreover, wealthier individuals, who might otherwise allocate funds to savings or bank deposits, may opt to invest in non-banking assets, such as real estate, gold, or foreign currencies, especially if they lack faith in the sector's stability. As a result, the intended effect of reducing money in circulation is

a cycle that not only prolongs the distressed banks' recovery but also reduces returns for depositors across the board. This effectively discourages saving, further reducing the funds available for economic investment and threatens the long-term stability of the banking sector.

Given these challenges, Bangladesh Bank could consider adopting a more targeted and modern approach to monetary policy

banks' bad assets. This approach ensures that the funds injected into struggling banks remain within the banking system, reducing liquidity for speculative activities while simultaneously providing much-needed support to distressed banks.

Bangladesh Bank could work with government agencies and development partners to recover outstanding NPLs and repatriate laundered funds. This would not only boost the banking sector's balance sheets but also deter future malfeasance. A focused effort on recovering these funds could ease some of the financial burdens on distressed banks and reduce the need for ongoing interventions.

Once inflation stabilises and the banking sector regains credibility, Bangladesh Bank could sell off the bad assets purchased from banks to private investors, either through the share market or direct sales to institutional investors. This would allow Bangladesh Bank to gradually recoup its investments and further reduce money in circulation as the economy strengthens.

The success of these strategies would also depend on broader fiscal discipline across Bangladesh's government institutions. Addressing inflation and restoring confidence in the banking sector require coordination between monetary and fiscal policies. Bangladesh Bank's efforts to stabilise the banking sector may be hampered if fiscal policies inadvertently exacerbate inflation, such as through excessive public spending or inefficient tax policies that place an undue burden on certain segments of the population.

Bangladesh's current monetary policy, focused on traditional contractionary measures, appears misaligned with the economic realities and unique challenges of the country. The interconnected issues of inflation and banking sector instability demand a more nuanced approach—one that goes beyond standard interest rate adjustments and direct liquidity restrictions.

For this approach to succeed, however, it is essential that Bangladesh Bank rebuilds its credibility. Clear, consistent communication is critical, as is a commitment to policies that inspire public confidence in the banking system. The adoption of these alternative measures could help control inflation while ensuring the stability and sustainability of the banking sector, laying a stronger foundation for economic growth. If Bangladesh Bank and the government can work together to implement such reforms, Bangladesh could emerge from this crisis with a more resilient and inclusive financial system, better equipped to serve its people and support long-term development.



FILE VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

Upon assuming office, the Bangladesh Bank governor made several public comments about the financial health of banks under investigation for past misconduct. While intended to inform, these statements inadvertently alarmed depositors, prompting many to withdraw their savings for fear of losing them.

undermined, while bank deposits decline, further tightening the credit available for real-sector investments. In essence, this policy framework could unintentionally fuel inflationary pressures by constraining the supply side, which is the root cause of the ongoing inflationary spiral in Bangladesh.

BB's strategy to address liquidity issues by directing solvent banks to lend to distressed banks, with BB as guarantor, presents its own set of complications. Participation of only a few solvent banks, even with BB's assurances, reflects broader concerns over BB's credibility and the potential impact on their depositor bases. Given the structural weakness in several of these banks, solvent institutions are understandably hesitant to divert significant funds to their troubled counterparts, fearing a ripple effect that could jeopardise their financial health.

Moreover, this policy inadvertently creates inequality among depositors. Customers of distressed banks receive limited or delayed access to their funds, which can lead them to transfer savings to more stable banks. These solvent banks, however, then end up lending those funds back to the distressed institutions at higher interest rates, thereby introducing

that focuses on long-term banking sector stability and controlled inflation. One of its immediate priorities should be consistent messaging regarding the financial health of banks. Communication from the Bangladesh Bank governor and other officials should be carefully crafted, and ideally vetted by financial experts, to avoid inadvertently triggering public anxiety. Clear, factual, and reassuring statements are essential to maintaining public trust in the sector.

Traditional contractionary policies may not be suitable for Bangladesh's unique economic structure. Instead, the central bank could explore quantitative easing (QE), a strategy where the central bank purchases bad assets or non-performing loans (NPLs) from distressed banks. This approach would provide targeted support to banks most in need while allowing BB to inject capital into the financial system without directly increasing money in circulation, thus minimising inflationary risk.

To fund the purchase of bad loans without worsening inflation, the central bank could consider raising the reserve requirement for all banks. By doing so, it can redirect these additional reserves toward buying distressed

WORLD TOILET DAY

Women should not have to struggle with a toilet crisis



Barrister Noshin Nawal
is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star
and an environmental activist.

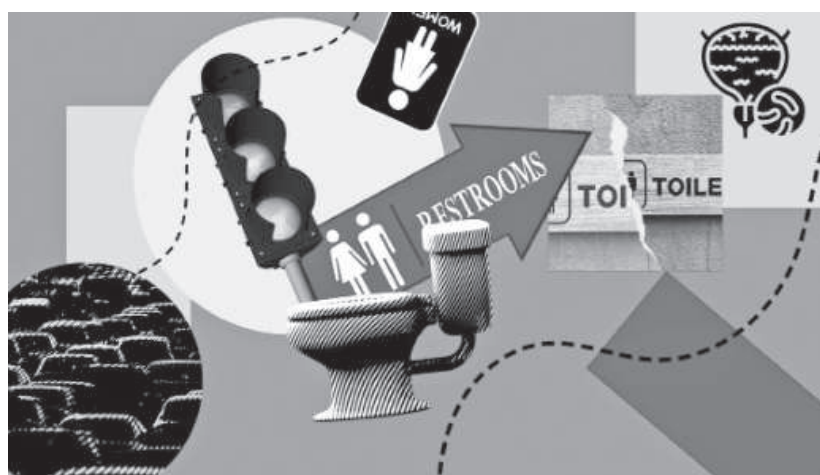
NOSHIN NAWAL

World Toilet Day, observed on November 19 each year, highlights the global sanitation crisis. In countries like Bangladesh, it is essential to address how this issue disproportionately affects women in the workforce, particularly those who face long commutes. The severe lack of usable public toilets in Dhaka is a major concern, where over five million people commute daily but fewer than 100 toilets are available. Inadequate sanitation facilities are not just a matter of hygiene; they also hinder health and economic participation for millions of Bangladeshi women.

Numerous challenges, both on the supply- and demand-sides, impede women's labour market participation. Many of these challenges stem from entrenched patriarchal norms that marginalise women's needs in public discourse. Despite some progress in urban infrastructure, the lack of safe and private public toilets for women continues to undermine gender equality and public health, revealing a disregard for inclusivity. It remains an unaddressed challenge.

Statistically, Bangladesh's public sanitation facilities are grossly inadequate. A study of 52 public toilets found that only 45 were operational, and just 28 were properly maintained by local authorities or organisations like WaterAid. Maintenance is inconsistent, and many toilets, especially those intended for women, are poorly kept or unsafe. In urban centres like Dhaka, this shortage forces women to endure unsanitary conditions or avoid these spaces entirely. A recent study revealed that many women avoid drinking water at work to prevent using communal toilets, highlighting the severe impact of inadequate facilities on their health and well-being.

Access to safe sanitation and



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

hygiene is one of the core principles of the United Nations under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is emphasised that access to clean toilets is a basic human right. However, the chaotic traffic situation in cities like Dhaka adds another layer of difficulty for women commuters. With severe congestion and long travel times, women often find themselves stuck in traffic for hours, unable to find a clean or safe restroom. As a result, many delay bathroom breaks and endure discomfort. This lack of accessible toilets during commutes not only inconveniences women but also creates serious health risks, highlighting the need for better urban planning and infrastructure.

The health consequences of inadequate sanitation are concerning. Around 60 percent of Bangladeshi women experience Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) at least once in their lifetime, with 20-30 percent suffering recurrent infections. The full scope of this issue is often underestimated,

as data is not frequently updated. Poor access to clean toilets leads many women to delay urination, increasing the risk of UTIs, which is a leading cause of antibiotic misuse and contribute to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Additionally, the medical costs of treating UTIs are substantial, as many women require repeated medical visits, diagnostic tests, and

often overlook the specific needs of women, focusing instead on generic solutions that fail to address privacy, safety, and hygiene.

To address this, the government must prioritise the development of clean, safe, and well-maintained public toilets, particularly in urban areas where women's workforce participation is highest. By allocating resources to improve public sanitation, Bangladesh can empower women, improve public health, and advance its SDG 2030 Agenda. This includes investing in gender-sensitive facilities, addressing the needs of low-income women's population, and offering affordable, community-led solutions.

Partnerships between NGOs, local authorities, and the private sector can bridge gaps in underserved areas. Bhumijo is such an initiative that provides hygienic, inclusive, and affordable sanitation solutions in Bangladesh. It offers smart toilets with additional services such as showers, clean drinking water, laundry, refreshments, and advertisement space, either through new constructions or the renovation and management of existing facilities. These services are accessible through a subscription or pay-per-use model. Today, the organisation operates 43 centres across Bangladesh, serving 10,000 people daily, including 15 percent women. With a dedicated team Bhumijo aims to expand to 100 facilities by 2025, serving 30,000 people daily, and ultimately scale to 1,000 facilities, serving 300,000 people per day by 2030 as required under SDG 6.

On World Toilet Day 2024, it is imperative that both the government and private actors unify to create environments that support dignity, health, and productivity for all women in Bangladesh. Civic society should aim to undertake more initiatives, as aforementioned, to facilitate this. Women's susceptibilities should not handicap them or refrain them from progressing economically. The deficit of governmental planning and policy development should not detrimentally affect them. As Bangladesh strives to build a more inclusive and equitable society, addressing women's sanitation needs in the workforce is a fundamental step.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

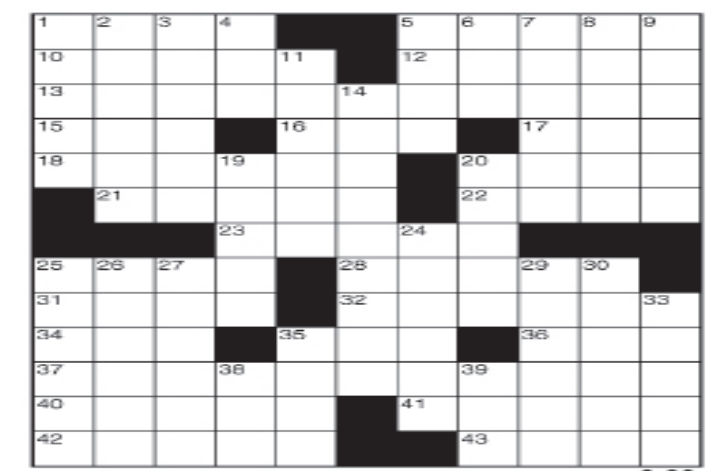
- Floor model
- Boutiques
- Midterms and finals
- Card for fortunes
- White House residents
- Yale student
- Equip
- "Wonder Woman" star Gadot
- "The Bathers" painter
- Fork part
- Liner parts
- Finishes
- Aquarium fish
- Take in
- Severe

DOWN

- Put off
- Driven out
- Leatherneck
- Meditation sounds
- Antlered animal

6. Deli choice

- Genesis
- Warsaw's nation
- Modes
- Bowling feat
- Direct
- Quartet doubled
- Sign of sorrow
- Put in order
- Stun with noise
- Ball caller
- South Dakota capital
- Turn suddenly
- Born in a contract
- Oboe parts
- Humble response to kudos
- Lawn material
- Opening



3-28

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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How to have effective performance conversations with your manager



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

In the frenzy of daily tasks, employees often prioritise performance conversations with their managers. One might falsely believe that their performance will speak for itself. In reality, giving visibility of your work to your manager is a job in itself, and failing to do so may have unexpected repercussions such as a lower performance rating than what you anticipated.

SYEDA ADIBA ARIF

Don't let "crucial tasks" that perpetually pop-up take precedence over your self-growth and follow the below tips on having conversations that truly matter.

SCHEDULE AHEAD

To avoid putting off conversations to a later date when the "time is right", agree on a frequency with your line manager and block invites for an entire year. Even if your team changes, it's a good way to maintain a relationship with a former manager who may become a mentor. While you can always reschedule for urgent business priorities or if your manager is having a horrible day, it's important to have it on your calendars so they act as periodic reminders to prioritise yourself.

PREPARE EXHAUSTIVELY

There is not a thing that we do that lacks a strong correlation between preparation and likelihood of success. Before you attend the meeting, make sure you've compiled everything you've done between two performance conversations. I use Microsoft Planner to keep track of my work and the "Completed" section is very useful for me to recollect my key achievements. Reflect on instances of team collaboration and

leadership demonstration. I like to keep a live excel sheet with rolling feedback from these meetings so I can refer to them and share the progress I've made. This assures managers that you value and act on their feedback. Conduct a thorough self-assessment of your weak areas. Consider any short-term problems you're facing to reach your long-term development goals. Think about aspects that your manager can guide you on, be it your job, your career trajectory, or your team.

DELIVER YOUR PITCH

During the meeting, focus on your tone and structure. Sound approachable and open to feedback. When presenting evidence of your work, speak in a Situation-Behaviour-Impact format, where you first specify the context, then describe your behaviour or action, and finally elaborate on its impact on the business or team. Non-verbal communication is also crucial for a good outcome. Demonstrate curiosity through sitting upright, leaning slightly forward, smiling, and maintaining good eye contact, or whatever feels right for you. The idea here is to engage your counterpart, listen and be listened to. Give your manager the time and space to digest the information you're imparting.

METABOLISING FEEDBACK

Ask for your manager's perspective on your work and listen to their feedback with poise and composure. Take notes. Both immediate acceptance and over-deliberation of feedback are problematic as they hinder your ability to process and apply it. This may lead to a decay in the usefulness of the feedback or even end up in you handling it begrudgingly. If you don't agree with something, address your concerns respectfully and seek further clarification. Make sure you have a complete picture of how your manager views your strength and development areas before you leave the meeting. Express your intentions to work on the feedback assertively and with focused clarity.

CREATE A FORWARD FOCUS

After the meeting, organise your notes and reflect. If you've spent some time in corporate, you are very aware that people may have varying motives for saying what they say. If you trust your manager's motive behind the feedback, and if the feedback aligns with your goals, go ahead and craft an action plan to work on it. If it doesn't align, continue conversations with your manager to reach better sync. If you don't trust their motive, discuss with your mentors to decide if you want to accept or discard the feedback. It is highly recommended to engage your mentors and people important for your career in separate conversations about your performance, so you can have a 360 view on how you're perceived.

On having a good number of these conversations, you will be able to trace similar areas of strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, consistent performance conversations help shape your career in a way that aligns with personal and organisational goals.

Performance conversations can be a crucial tool in an employee's lifecycle. When done right, it can go a long way to inspire positive change in careers. To best leverage this, stop treating them as a mere end-of-year exercise. Recognise the substantial impact it can have on your professional development. Remember, you are probably not your manager's only reportee, but they are your only manager for now. Accept the onus and take charge of your career.

Adiba Arif is an HR Manager at BAT Bangladesh and a corporate columnist for The Daily Star. Having completed her Bachelor's from IBA, University of Dhaka, she is currently pursuing a Master's in Data Science & Analytics at East West University.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

United International University (UIU)

Assistant Professor,
Civil Engineering

Deadline: November 30

Eligibility:

PhD or equivalent in the relevant subject from a recognised university.

Minimum experience: N/S



International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Cyber Security System
Engineer

Deadline: November 20

Eligibility:

Minimum bachelor's degree in the IT field. Master's degree will be given preference.

Minimum experience: 5 years



Daraz

Payment Solution
Specialist

Deadline:
November 25

Eligibility:

Bachelor's degree in CSE, MIS, or Business Administration from any top-tier university.

Minimum experience: 3-5 years



Plan

Manager, Talent
Management &
Development (People & Culture)

Deadline: November 23

Eligibility:

University degree in Human Resources, Organisational Development, Business Administration, or a related field.

Minimum experience: 7-10 years



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TikTok parent ByteDance reaches \$300 billion valuation: report

ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, is valuing itself at approximately \$300 billion through a new share buyback program, according to a recent report by the Wall Street Journal.

As per the report, the Beijing-based tech giant recently approached investors with an offer to purchase shares at \$180.70 each, compared to \$160 per share during its last buyback program. The latest move highlights ByteDance's strategy to provide liquidity for its investors amid the absence of plans for an initial public offering (IPO), shares the report.

This is the third buyback program ByteDance has conducted since 2022. In the previous round, the company bought back around \$5 billion worth of shares, valuing itself at \$268 billion, according to the report.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

5 ice-breakers to make your next professional gathering less awkward

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

We've all been there: stuck in a professional meet-up, awkwardly lingering in a corner, unsure of how to jump into a conversation. In these moments, remember that networking isn't just about making connections—it's about making an impression. Instead of relying on a rehearsed pitch, try asking thoughtful questions to spark meaningful dialogue.

Here are five practical ice-breakers to help you break the silence and get the conversation flowing.

"What's something you're working on right now that excites you?"

This is an excellent follow-up after introductions, easing into a topic that naturally engages people. Asking about current projects or goals not only provides insight into their professional life but also opens the door to finding common ground.

Pro tip: Use your existing knowledge to contribute to the conversation and share relevant industry insights when appropriate.

"What's a challenge you're currently tackling at work?"

This question demonstrates genuine interest in the complexities of their job, beyond just their title. Talking about challenges can feel personal, but finding shared experiences in professional struggles often leads to deeper, more meaningful conversations.

Pro tip: If relevant, share a similar challenge you've faced and how you approached it.

"What is your proudest professional achievement?"

People love sharing accomplishments, and this question gives them the opportunity to highlight their hard work. It's a great way to encourage positivity and pride, setting the tone for an engaging discussion.

Pro tip: Show genuine interest in their story and avoid interrupting or downplaying their achievement.

"What inspired you to pursue your current field?"

Move beyond surface-level topics by exploring their career journey. This question helps humanise the conversation, encouraging them to share the motivations and values that drive their work.

Pro tip: Acknowledge their story and share any parallels from your

own career journey to connect on a deeper level.

"What trends do you think will shape your industry in the coming years?"

This question works especially well with experienced professionals or industry leaders. It sparks a dynamic exchange of ideas, and you may gain valuable insights into market trends or emerging opportunities.

Pro tip: Add your own observations or ask for advice on how to prepare for these trends.

BONUS TIPS

Close the conversation with a thoughtful remark about something you genuinely appreciated. For instance, "I really admire how you tackled that particular challenge. It gave me a new perspective." Compliments like these leave a positive impression and show that you were actively listening.

Exchange business cards or connect on LinkedIn to keep the conversation going beyond the event. Social media platforms like LinkedIn are especially useful for staying updated on their professional achievements and activities.

Drone manufacturer Skydio secures \$170 mln in extension round

Skydio, the American drone manufacturer, has raised \$170 million in an extension of its Series E funding round, which initially brought in \$230 million in early 2023. The new funding attracted investors like Japanese telecom operator KDDI and Axon, renowned for its police technologies such as the taser. Linse Capital, a major stakeholder, also participated. KDDI contributed approximately \$60 million, aiming to deploy Skydio drones at 1,000 locations across Japan while improving their LTE connectivity.

According to a recent report by TechCrunch, Skydio generated over \$100 million in annual revenue in 2023, with 30% of it derived from software. Following the discontinuation of its consumer drone line in 2023, Skydio has gained traction with enterprise, public safety, and military clients.

The company's revenue for 2024 is projected to reach \$180 million, with defence orders making up over half of its \$1.2 billion pipeline, as per TechCrunch. Skydio's drones are increasingly used by law enforcement agencies, a growth area supported by investors like Andreessen Horowitz, a private venture capital firm.



The Onion acquires Infowars in bankruptcy auction

The Onion, a satirical news outlet, has recently announced its acquisition of Infowars, the controversial website founded by conspiracy theorist Alex Jones in a bankruptcy auction.

Infowars is set to relaunch in January 2025 with a new focus on humour. In a statement posted to X (formerly Twitter) on November 14, The Onion declared its intention to change the platform. "The Onion's goal with the acquisition is to end Infowars' relentless barrage of disinformation for the sake of selling supplements and replace it with The Onion's relentless barrage of humour for good," the post read.

The acquisition was backed by the families of victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, who sued Alex Jones for spreading false claims about the tragedy. In 2022, Jones was ordered to pay over \$1 billion in damages to the families, prompting him to file for bankruptcy later that year. In September, a judge approved the liquidation of Jones' assets, including Infowars. The Onion has not disclosed the amount for the acquisition of Infowars.

"Failure is unimportant. It takes courage to make a fool of yourself."

CHARLIE CHAPLIN



'My captain, our captain'

SPORTS REPORTER

Zakaria Pintoo, who passed away in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 81, was not only the captain of Swadhin Bangla football team and the first captain of independent Bangladesh, but was also a reference point to many legends of Bangladesh football.

The larger-than-life character had earned many accolades and much admiration during his illustrious footballing career and later as a football administrator, but he will perhaps always be regarded as 'the captain' by everyone that played with him or against him.

Pratap Shankar Hazra, the famed footballer and hockey player, was one of the closest friends Pintoo had had, starting from the university days to the last day of his life.



Mohammedan for more than a decade, remembered the stopper-back with much fondness.

"He was my captain, our captain," Hazra told The Daily Star over phone yesterday after the national sports award winning footballer passed away in the morning from various complications.

"To me was the best defender of Bangladesh. No one could get the ball past him," Hazra reflected. "And as a captain, he was unparalleled. His decision-making, leadership and ability to help others out earned everyone's respect."

Playing as a centre-back in three man defences, Pintoo was regarded as a wall in Bangladesh's football playing for famous clubs such as East End, Wanderers, and Mohammedan Sporting over a career that almost spanned two decades.

The stocky defender was one of the very few players that represented both Pakistan team as well as Bangladesh team. While Pintoo captain Bangladesh in their first-ever international match in 1971, it was his captaincy for the Swadhin Bangla football team that set him apart from the others.

Kazi Salahuddin, arguably one of Bangladesh's all-time greatest

footballers, believes Pintoo was the real hero for Bangladesh football.

"There are many heroes in Bangladesh football, but Pintoo bhai was the real hero because he was the captain of Swadhin Bangla football team. He was a great player and a great defender," Salahuddin, the recent past president of Bangladesh Football Federation, told The Daily Star.

"I have played with him in Mohammedan and also against him in Abahani. Our relationship during the 90 minutes on the pitch was not smooth, but after the final whistle, it was very friendly," Salahuddin recalled.

It was not just the technical ability and leadership skill that endeared Pintoo to his peers and juniors, he was a friend off the pitch to many footballers.

He had that image of a captain and used to maintain it. Pintoo bhai was a captain to all of us.

"We all respected him as captain and maintained a bit of distance, maybe because he was a bit senior to most of us. There was that command in him. He had that image of a captain and used to maintain it too," Golam Sarwar Tipu, another great footballer of that era, explained.

"However, he was very jolly off the field. He was fun on dining table, where he would talk a lot about cinema and books, but not much about football," recalled Tipu, lamenting the fact that Pintoo had started to live a quiet life, away from public interaction, following the death of his wife five years ago.

His **NAMAZ-E-JANAZA** will take place at 11 am today at the Bangladesh Football Federation premises, with Sports and Youth Adviser Asif Mahmud and BFF president Tabith Awal in attendance.

Hazra, who served as deputy to Pintoo in the Swadhin Bangla football team and played under Pintoo's captaincy in

Early NCL ends expose Test woes

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Even after 24 years since Bangladesh's first Test, the persistent problems of poor batting and substandard wickets in the domestic circuit, evidenced in the National Cricket League's (NCL) fifth-round fixtures, highlight why the national team continues to struggle in the red-ball format.

Three out of four NCL matches ended yesterday and, interestingly, all three four-day matches finished within the first session of the third day, with as many as five sessions left to play, meaning a big chunk of time was not required to achieve results.

At Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, staging its solitary fixture of the competition, Dhaka Division finally clinched their first win in the ongoing meet after four consecutive draws, beating Khulna Division by nine wickets. They reached their target of 104 runs in just 17.2 overs, finishing the game in just one hour and 17 minutes on the third day.

Dhaka pacer Anamul Haque, who claimed five wickets, including 4-17 in the second innings, felt the wicket was "60-40" in favour of the bowlers but denied that it was completely unplayable for the batters.

"See the way we batted today [yesterday] in our second innings, it shows the wicket had support for the batters as well. After our first innings, we discussed how poor we batted in that innings. Actually, our bowlers were outstanding throughout the match and that's why we could able to clinch victory. Khulna batters also didn't bat well here," Anamul, the leading wicket-taker in the ongoing NCL with 26 scalps, told The Daily Star yesterday.

There was a similar realisation at Khulna's Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, as league leaders Sylhet Division closed in on clinching their maiden NCL title after beating Dhaka Metro by an innings and 139 runs.

Resuming on an overnight score of 49-4, Dhaka Metro lost their remaining six wickets in just 13.4 overs. Sylhet pacer Khaled Ahmed was the chief wrecker, claiming a five-for in the second innings.

Sylhet head coach Rajin Saleh said, "I will give full credit to my bowlers. Many of them are national team players and they provided similar performance on the field for us... I think the wicket was good for both batting and bowling. If it only favoured the bowlers, then how did our team score 376 runs in the first innings?"

However, there were different statements coming from Chattogram's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS), where Chattogram clinched their second successive win after beating Rajshahi Division by nine wickets.

Resuming on an overnight score of 202-8, Rajshahi added only 18 runs before Chattogram reached the target of 81 runs in 17.4 overs in the opening session.

"The wicket wasn't a typical ZACS wicket. In previous times, the venue provided good wickets. The balls were staying low, and the soil was also causing the ball to seam at times," Rajshahi all-rounder Sabbir Hossain said.

"What I heard is that the main curator [Zahid Reza Babu] is sick and he's in Dhaka. As the head curator was absent, I feel that can be one of the reasons for such conditions," he added.

Whether it is the batters' poor batting performance or unsatisfactory pitches, the ongoing NCL is exposing the deep-rooted issues in Bangladesh's domestic cricket, which makes progress in Test cricket an increasingly steeper challenge.

SHORT CORNER

Ribot brace fires France past Italy

Adrien Rabiot fired France to first place in their Nations League group with a headed brace in Sunday's 3-1 win over Italy at the San Siro. Ex-Juventus midfielder Rabiot netted from Lucas Digne set-pieces in each half at the San Siro to ensure that Les Bleus leapfrogged Italy into top spot in Group A2 on goal difference, with both teams already in the quarterfinals before kick-off.



Pakistan name Aqib Javed white-ball coach

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed former fast bowler Aqib Javed as the interim head coach of the Pakistan men's cricket team until the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Gillespie will continue to be the head coach of the red-ball side and will rejoin the side for the upcoming Test tour of South Africa.

Tamim best opening partner, Shakib best captain: Imrul

Bangladesh opener Imrul Kayes' red-ball career ended yesterday at the end of the fifth round match between Khulna Division and Dhaka Division in Mirpur, which Imrul's side Khulna lost by nine wickets. "Tamim and I were the most successful. I used to enjoy batting alongside him. I never hesitated to tell him my strengths and weaknesses. When we batted together, I used to say to him whenever I felt I was struggling, or going through a tough period. Tamim would understand and that's very important."

*Read full stories on The Daily Star website

Sinner finishes season with 'a lot of wins, titles'

AFP, Turin

Jannik Sinner's reserved public persona belies his status as Italy's biggest sporting star and the new dominant force in men's tennis, his convincing victory at the ATP Finals confirming his rise to the top of the game.

An eighth tournament win of the season came in a near perfect year for Sinner who started 2024 by winning his first Grand Slam at the Australian Open and never looked back from there.

Long considered Italian tennis' great red-haired hope, few could have imagined this year's sudden burst to the top of the world rankings ahead of Spain's golden boy Carlos Alcaraz, himself a four-time Slam champion at the age of 21.

The 23-year-old is set to be Alcaraz's main rival in the years to come, the pair stepping up as Rafael Nadal retires and Novak Djokovic ends a year without an ATP Tour title for the first time since 2006.

The 23-year-old Sinner says he still has areas where he can improve next year after winning the ATP Finals for the first time with a 6-4, 6-4 victory against Taylor Fritz.

6-4, 6-4 at the season-ending event in Turin, his eighth title of a remarkable season which began with a first Grand Slam triumph at the

Australian Open.

He followed up his first Grand Slam triumph at the Australian Open with a second major victory at the US Open in September after becoming embroiled in a doping controversy having twice tested positive for traces of the steroid clostebol six months prior.

A World Anti-Doping Agency appeal against his initial exonerated has since been hanging over his head, with WADA seeking a ban of up to two years for the Italian.

While Sinner awaits the outcome of that case he is looking ahead to 2025 with no specific goals in mind but a view to further honing his game -- an ominous warning to his rivals from a player who has won 26 of his last 27 matches.

"Whatever we can catch, we take, and the rest we learn. I think that was the mentality we approached this whole year, trying to raise my level in specific moments, which I've done throughout this year," said Sinner.

"I'm very happy about that because it's a very nice way to finish off an incredible season. A lot of wins, a lot of titles."

Sinner is the first Italian to win the Finals in its 55-year history, doing so days after becoming the first from his nation to top the ATP's end-of-year rankings.



Signs of batting form ahead of steeper trials

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The West Indies Select XI bowling attack was nothing to write home about as Bangladesh began preparations for the upcoming Test series against the Windies with a two-day warm-up game at Coolidge in Antigua yesterday.

The visitors ended on 253 for seven after being asked to bat on the opening day, knowing they had a good foray with the bat, receiving enough of an indication of the difficulty of playing in the West Indies. However, steeper challenges are yet to come, with the first Test beginning on November 22 in Antigua.

Bangladesh would be wary of how the top order deals with the bounce and pace present on West Indies surfaces during the Tests. Bangladesh batters did about enough to suggest that they were acclimatising to the conditions, but there are worries about what a quality West Indies pace attack can do.

Tour match performances in the past in the West Indies did not reflect what was to follow in the Tests either. In 2018, Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad got hundreds,

and Shakib Al Hasan made fifty before Bangladesh were bowled out for 43 in the first Test, with Kumar Roach alone taking five for 8 runs.

In 2022, Tamim got 162, and Shanto made fifty in the tour match, but eight Bangladesh batters did not even reach double figures in the first Test's first innings in Antigua, as Bangladesh were bowled out for 103.

Batting has been the biggest difficulty in West Indies tours, and yesterday the performances of the openers leave room for doubt. Both openers, Mahmudul Hasan and Zakir Hasan, played away from their bodies to get caught at slips cheaply.

There would be some relief in how the rest of the batting order dealt with the challenges, albeit on a much slower wicket than one to be expected at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in the first Test.

Mominul Haque looked composed during his 31 off 58, dealing with the extra bounce before he misjudged a bouncer and managed to play it right into the wicketkeeper's hands. Shahadat Dipu played a few shots during a 25-run knock before he was done by an in-dipper from Justin Greaves, showing the concerns the top order carries.

Bangladesh team management, aware of the differences in conditions between Coolidge and Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, let all the batters get a run in with the bat, as most of the latter batters in the middle order retired.

Liton Das, however, looked at ease during his 31 before he retired. The slower nature of the bounce, however, allowed some ease for the batters. Jaker Ali, who saw off some deliveries uncomfortably, gradually settled in. Jaker's innings was only 19 deliveries old when Mahidul Ankon joined him at the crease, and it produced the most productive opportunity for the Tigers to test their middle and lower-middle order as the duo put on an 81-run stand.

Both batters used their feet well to spin that was availed to them early during the partnership. Without Shakib Al Hasan and Najmul Hossain in the line-up, the rest of the batting order would need to step up. Jaker Ali got 48, and Ankon managed 41 before both retired. Both got the majority of their runs against spin, but pace did cause some discomfort, although they appeared effective during the tour match's first innings.

Argentina will look to their skipper Lionel Messi for inspiration to return to winning ways when they host Peru in a 2026 FIFA World Cup South American qualifiers fixture at 6:00 am tomorrow (Bangladesh time). The Albiceleste, currently toppers on the standings with 22 points from 11 matches – three points better off second-placed Uruguay – come into the contest on the back of a 2-1 shock away defeat against Paraguay and will look to cement their spot in the finals of the World Cup with a win. Meanwhile, Brazil will face a stern test when they take on Uruguay on the same day at 6:45 am (Bangladesh time). Brazil forward Vinicius Jr will be aiming to deliver a standout performance to help his side climb the table after they were held 1-1 in Venezuela last week.

PHOTO: AFP/FACEBOOK



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CA'S SPEECH

BNP upset at the absence of polls roadmap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP said it was disappointed that the chief adviser in his address to the nation did not provide a roadmap to polls.

The party believes that parliamentary polls should be held soon, as the interim government does not have the people's mandate to govern.

Some BNP leaders have expressed concern that the government might attempt to extend its rule under the guise of reforms, citing potential complications or any evil plan.

In his address on Sunday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus called for patience from the people, and assured that a roadmap for the elections would be unveiled once electoral reforms were carried out.

Speaking at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction with the CA's national address.

"Our chief adviser addressed the nation yesterday [Sunday] to mark 100 days of his government.... I am



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Bundles of ripe paddy being taken to a farmer's house in Magolgaon village of Sylhet Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon. Paddy harvesting in the district began last week. Farmers are expecting a bumper production this year.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Zakaria Pintoo (1943-2024)

Farewell to captain courageous

KHALID HOSSAIN

Zakaria Pintoo, the legendary captain of the Swadhin Bangla football team, passed away yesterday at the age of 81, leaving behind a legacy that transcends the boundaries of sport and resonates with a nation's history.

When Pintoo made a bold but heartfelt claim, saying that "I am luckier than Pele," he was not boasting about his skills on the pitch but about his unparalleled role in history.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

3,930 examinees of 44th BCS have to face viva voce again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 3,930 candidates for the 44th Bangladesh Civil Service will have to face fresh viva voce since the newly constituted Bangladesh Public Service Commission has decided to cancel the previously conducted oral examinations.

The oral interviews of these candidates were conducted up until July 18 after a total of 11,732 examinees passed the 44th BCS written tests.

However, the oral exams were suspended on August 25, and the then-commission resigned on October 8.

The newly formed commission decided to cancel the previously conducted interviews and restart oral examinations for all candidates who passed the written tests in order to "maintain uniformity", the PSC said in a press release yesterday.

The new dates for the oral examinations will be announced shortly, the press release added.

In its first meeting, the newly appointed chairman and eight members of the PSC also made significant decisions on the 45th and 46th BCS tests, as well as various non-cadre exams.

To "ensure transparency and fairness", the new commission also

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Job scarcity key reason behind AL government's fall

Says Debapriya Bhattacharya at Bay of Bengal Conversation



Whatever government jobs there were, they were chosen for the party cadres and not for the university graduates.

Debapriya Bhattacharya

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Lack of quality education and dearth of jobs were the ticking time bombs that brought down the authoritarian regime of Awami League, said noted economist Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Authoritarian governments survive on three elements: lies, fear and the illusion of development, he said yesterday at a session on the final day of the three-day Bay of Bengal Conversation organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon. These lead to suppression of critical voices, benefits for oligarchs, and finally the fall of the government, he said.

"Such authoritarians create structures to subjugate the media, civil society and private sectors and lie about history, figures of development and even election outcomes. Even people are picked up anytime from anywhere, which was seen in the case of Aynagarh."

Then, such governments also create the illusion of prosperity to generate some growth to distribute the surplus among certain sets of people to keep them on its side, said Debapriya, the head of the 12-member committee formed by the interim government to prepare a white paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy.

"That crony capital creates oligarchs. The authoritarians think that they run the oligarchs but finally discover that actually the oligarchs are running them."

Such a system is not at all inclusive but thrives on inequality and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Holding polls not govt's only responsibility

Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just holding elections is not the sole responsibility of the current interim administration, since it is a revolutionary government, not a caretaker, Nahid Islam, adviser to the posts, telecommunications, and information technology ministry, said yesterday.

"Various commissions have already been formed for institutional reforms, and polls will be held after the reforms are completed," he said.

The adviser made the remarks during a meeting with Commonwealth Assistant Secretary-General Prof Luis Franceschi at the ministry's office, said a press release of the ministry.

Mentioning that the judicial process to ensure justice for the victims of mass killings during the July-August uprising is ongoing, he said the government requires assistance from the Commonwealth to ensure an impartial trial.

He also sought support from the Commonwealth nations in building a new Bangladesh.

Nahid mentioned that the interim government has received support from all over the world, which is still pouring in.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Biden 'fuelling fire' of Ukraine conflict

Says Kremlin as US allows Kyiv to use long-range missiles

AFP, Kyiv

The Kremlin yesterday accused US President Joe Biden of escalating the war in Ukraine by allowing Kyiv to use long-range missiles supplied by Washington to strike targets inside Russia.

The comments came as Moscow unleashed a second missile attack in as many days on the Unesco-protected Ukrainian city of Odesa on the Black Sea that left 10 dead and more than 40 wounded.

"It's obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps in order to continue fuelling the fire and provoke a further escalation of tensions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

A US official earlier confirmed the major US policy shift to AFP specifying it was in response to Russia's deployment of thousands of North Korean troops to aid its war effort.

Peskov said this marked "new spiral of tensions and a qualitatively new situation from the point of view of the US's engagement in the conflict."

He said President Vladimir Putin had expressed Moscow's position clearly in September when the Russian leader said such a move would put Nato "at war" with Russia.

Kyiv has long sought authorisation from Washington to use the powerful Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, to hit military installations inside Russia as its troops come under growing pressure.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday he had visited the frontline city of Pokrovsk, which Russian forces are closing in on.

Ukraine says it needs to be able to carry out strikes in Russia to prevent aerial bombardments that have levelled entire districts of towns near the front line and decimated energy facilities across the country.

Putin said in September that if Ukraine were to attack Russia with long-range missiles, Moscow would "take the appropriate decisions based on the threats".

- 10 killed in Russian missile strike in Odesa
- Russian forces advance on Pokrovsk in Donetsk
- N Korea dispatches thousands of its troops to aid Kremlin war

Annual Integrated Report 2023

SAFA BPA AWARDS 2023

Bank Asia

Bank Asia has won SAFA Best Presented Annual Report Award 2023 for Integrated Reporting among all the participating institutions.

The prestigious win is a testament of Bank Asia's commitment for greater transparency and accountability towards its stakeholders.

On behalf of Bank Asia PLC., Mr. Rumea A Hossain, Director & Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board and Mr. ANM Mahfuz, Additional Managing Director, received the award at a ceremony in Colombo from the Honorable Governor of The Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Mr. Nandalal Weerasinghe.