



DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2024 www.thedailystar.net

No bank will be closed:

REGD. No. DA 781

Salehuddin



Will things change in post-'Big-Five' era?

AGRAHAYAN 5, 1431 BS



Hundred days of hope

JAMADIUL AWAL 17, 1446 HIJRI

P8



200 children killed in Lebanon in 2 months: Unicef

16 PAGES: TK 15.00

Political party consensus will determine speed of reforms, election

Prof Yunus says in interview with The Hally Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said that it is the political parties that will decide on the nature and extent of reforms, which in turn will determine how soon the election can be held.

This, however, will be entirely dependent on the consensus among constitutional reforms. He said the political parties only, since seeking opinion of the people would require a referendum, he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz

Anam yesterday.

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"The sooner the reforms, the sooner the elections. And if the political parties say they don't want reforms, then even sooner," he said.

Prof Yunus explained his vision for reforms following the reports of the six major commissions, including on electoral reforms and that the interim government would strive to get to a political consensus in the quickest possible time on the next polls.

"We are not going to impose

→ FULL INTERVIEW WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON →

anything," he said before elaborating that his administration was merely facilitating the process.

Asked about a specific timeframe of the interim government's tenure, he said he is not giving a concrete timeframe intentionally. "Then people would be looking at that and try to hurry you through to the elections regardless of the reforms."

On the election roadmap, Yunus said there would be two parallel and simultaneous processes - one for reform and one for election

"The sooner the reforms. the sooner the elections. And if political parties say they don't want reforms, then even sooner.'



Three High Court judges, who had been barred from judicial duties for five years in the wake of an inquiry into allegations against

them, have resigned. They are Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury, Justice Reza-Ul-Hoque and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque.

Justice Salma was appointed to the High Court Division on July 29 2002, during the BNPled alliance government's tenure, while Quazi Reza-Ul and Zahirul were made HC judges on April 18, 2010, during the tenure of the Awami League

A gazette notification, signed by Law Secretary Sheikh Abu Taher, was SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Defaulted loans may double next year

BB to tighten loan classification rules by Mar '25

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The defaulted loan figure is set to double as the Bangladesh Bank is set to tighten the classification rules for all types of loans by March next year to meet the International Monetary Fund's loan conditions.

The guideline will be published soon and will take effect by March 2025, said BB spokesperson Husne Ara Shikha.

As per the draft guideline, lenders will treat any kind of loan as overdue if a borrower does not make an instalment payment within three months after the due date of repayment.

Loans will be marked overdue after three months

WB pushed BB to tighten rules as part of banking reform

Default loans hit record Tk 284,977cr as of Sep

Bad loans in Bangladesh highest in South Asia

At the end of September, defaulted loans in Bangladesh's banking sector hit a record Tk 2,84,977 crore as loans disbursed through irregularities to Awami League-affiliated businesses turned sour at an alarming pace following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

Between July and September, bad loans soared 34.8 percent or by a staggering Tk 73,586 crore, according

to data from the BB. The Banking Regulation and Policy Department of the BB has already prepared a draft guideline for loan classification following the in September this year international best practices.

At present, if a borrower fails to repay an instalment on time, the loan is considered overdue six months after the repayment date.

The central bank is tightening the classification rules in two phases.

In the first phase, the tenure of a loan being marked overdue has been reduced to three months from six

months in the case of term loans. A term loan is a loan from a bank for a specific amount that has a specified repayment schedule and a fixed or

floating interest rate. The BB implemented the first phase

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TITUMIR COLLEGE Students call off protests after govt assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students at Government Titumir College suspended their protests yesterday the government promised to form a committee within seven working days to assess the feasibility of upgrading the college to a university.

The decision came after a 14-member delegation of students met top government officials, including Information Advisor Nahid Islam and Special Assistant to the Education Adviser Prof M Aminul Islam, at the Secretariat.

"We have decided to form a committee within a week to evaluate the students' demand for upgrading their college to a university," said Prof Aminul Islam.

Following the meeting, Matiur Rahman, a student of Titumir College, said, "We've accepted the government's proposal and suspended our movement

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

ICT can recommend action against political parties

Law adviser says on amendment to ICT act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry has prepared a draft to amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, empowering the court to recommend measures against political parties that have committed crimes against humanity. The draft ordinance will be placed at a meeting of the advisory

"Our draft does not give power to the court. [As per the draft,] the court can recommend disciplinary action. The authority concerned will then take action," Law Adviser Asif Nazrul told a briefing at the Secretariat yesterday.

Responding to a question, he said, "Wait for a day or two as the draft has to be endorsed by the advisory council.

If the tribunal recommends punitive action against a political party, the implementing authorities would be the home ministry and

the Election Commission. But the draft does not mention these, he said. "It's not that the court will punish... it will only recommend punishment. However, it depends on the advisory council, whether the council will keep [this provision] or not or make changes to it.'

there are several "serious flaws" in the ICT Act, 1973, Prof Asif said. The interim government wants the reformed ICT act to be acceptable

According to local and international human rights organisations,

at the local and global levels, he said, adding that the government has held extensive consultations regarding the amendment to the law.

The amendment will greatly increase the importance, rationality and acceptability of the ICT trial, he said.

The move to amend the act comes at a time when the interim government is seeking to put on trial those responsible for the crimes committed to suppress the July uprising.

BNP will form 'national govt' if voted to power Says Fakhrul

government.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir vesterday said his party, if voted to power, will form a "national government" with participation from all parties that supported them throughout.

"If we are elected, we will not run the country alone ... So, where is the problem? Where is the doubt?" he said at a discussion at the Jativa Press Club.

Highlighting the need for holding an election swiftly to save the nation, Fakhrul asked the interim government to focus on specific reforms.

"The public has started doubting you [interim government]. The people in the government are creating confusion by making various remarks. Focus should be on fixing the Election Commission, administration, and the judiciary to prepare for elections. The remaining work will be done by those elected."

Mentioning the lack of political expertise in the current administration, he said. "Factories, which are major assets of our country, are being set on fire. Why can't they address this? ... They lack the political strength."

"None of these people [advisers] have political experience. Politics involves specific calculations and equations, which only politicians understand," the BNP leader said, adding that delays

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Revocation of accreditation cards worries Noab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) yesterday expressed grave concern at the government's decision to cancel accreditation cards of over one hundred journalists.

"NOAB thinks projects a so-good image of the interim government that promise-bound improve press freedom and expression of opinion," reads a statement from NOAB.

"The nation does not want to go back to the dark days of the past years. We, the members of NOAB, consider the recent step regarding the withdrawal of the accreditation cards an affront to free press," it

The axe has come down on, among others, the owner and publisher-editor SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Long queues of people at a TCB truck to buy essentials at subsidised prices near Hotel Purbani in the capital's Dilkusha area yesterday. The number of people purchasing OMS products is growing as their market prices are high. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Star INTERVIEW

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Bank owners' forum was useless during AL time

Says the new chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), the private bank owners' forum, will work with the central bank governor and the finance adviser to rejuvenate the banking sector, weakened under 15 years of Awami League rule, said its new chairman Abdul Hai Sarker.

The BAB's main job is to safeguard the banks' interests during the making and adjustment of government policies. But the forum did not play its due role in the last 15 to 16 years despite being a supreme body in the financial sector, he told The Daily Star in an interview recently.



"But BAB was a useless association in the last 16 years — it was used for only collecting money from banks," said Sarker, who was elected the chairman of the forum on September 9.

Sarker, also the chairman of Dhaka Bank, succeeded Sheikh Hasina's close associate Nazrul Islam Mazumder, who held the position for 17 years. Mazumder, who is currently in jail in a murder case during the mass uprising, did not care about the association during his tenure, according to Sarker.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Saad loyalists submit memo to CA's office

Hold 2-hr sit-in seeking permission to allow Saad to attend Biswa Ijtema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Followers of the Tabligh Jamaat faction loyal to Delhi's Maulana Mohammed Saad Kandhalvi yesterday submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser's office to allow Maulana Saad to attend next year's Biswa Ijtema.

They marched to the State Guest House Jamuna on Minto Road in the morning and submitted the memorandum, which was received by the Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

The memorandum also sought permission for followers of Delhi's Nizamuddin Markaz, the Tabligh headquarters led by Maulana Saad, to organise the first phase of next year's Biswa Ijtema.

Before the march, they held a sit-in demonstration in front of Kakrail Mosque, which began around 8:45am, leading to traffic congestion in the area.

They later withdrew their programme around 10:45am, after receiving assurances from the chief adviser's office that their demands would be addressed.

Shafiqul Alam, secretary of the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, met with the demonstrators to negotiate, but the protesters insisted on delivering their memorandum directly to Yunus. Eventually, a delegation submitted the memorandum at

the CA's office, where Shafiqul received it on behalf of Yunus. He assured the group that their demands would be communicated to the chief adviser, according to Mohammad Sayem, media coordinator for the faction.

"After receiving the assurance, we called off our sit-in at 10:45pm," Sayem told The Daily Star.



Baskets of fish being unloaded from boats and loaded on carts at Fishery Ghat Natun Bazar on the Karnaphuli in Chattogram city yesterday morning. The wholesale market is known for freshwater and sea fish, both captured and imported. The market opens at 3:00am and closes at 8:00am every day.

4 killed as bus, pickup collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people were killed in a head-on collision between a bus and a pickup truck in Tangail's Madhupur upazila early vesterday.

The incident took place around 5:30am in front of Malauri Government Primary School on the Tangail-Jamalpur regional highway when a Dhaka-bound bus of Binimoy Paribahan collided with a Jamalpurbound pickup truck, said Rasel Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Madhupur Police Station.

The deceased were identified as pick-up driver Sujan Miya, 25, his assistant Amjad Hossain, 28, and vegetable traders Rabiul Islam, 28, and Shahjahan Sheikh, 42.

Rabiul and Shahjahan were returning home after selling off their vegetables in Dhaka.

The driver and helper of the pickup truck died on the spot. Meanwhile, two critically injured passengers of the pickup were taken to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex, where they died from their injuries.

On information, police rushed to the scene. The accident briefly disrupted traffic on the road, but the situation was brought under control by the police soon after.

Defaulted loans may double next year

FROM PAGE 1

All types of loans including agriculture and SME loans will come under the tightened classification rules, which will have to be implemented in the second phase by March next year.

If the new loan classification rules are followed, the defaulted loan figure will likely double, according to industry insiders.

Bangladesh now has the highest ratio of defaulted loans in South Asia, with nearly 17 percent of the country's total disbursed loans having gone bad.

"No doubt, the defaulted loans will increase in the upcoming days," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, citing the tightening loan classification rules and the impending loan default by the Awami League-affiliated businessmen who took out huge amounts from banks violating rules and regulations.

Bad loans will surpass Tk 3,00,000 crore by December, said Mohammed Nurul Amin, a former chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB), the forum of banks' managing directors and chief executives.

If the loan classification rules are tightened, the number will be higher, said Amin, the chairman of Global Islami Bank.

A team of the World Bank is now in talks with the central bank to support banking sector reforms and they urged the BB to implement the international standard loans classification rules by the deadline.

BB once followed the international practice while classifying loans but it gradually deviated since 2015.

BNP will form

FROM PAGE 1

in holding polls will only exacerbate existing problems and create new

Referring to the recent protests by the students of Government Titumir College, Fakhrul questioned the interim government's preparedness.

"Were they not intelligent enough to foresee this? Why were preventive measures not taken?" he stressed.

Urging the government for an election roadmap, Fakhrul said, "We demand polls in the interest of the nation, not for BNP's benefit. We submitted reform proposals supported by 62 parties. Review them and decide on which ones will be implemented."

"Announcing an election roadmap will restore public confidence," said the BNP leader, adding that he wants the interim government to succeed in their endeavors.

"We don't want Hasina to return," he said.

Revocation of accreditation cards

FROM PAGE 1

of the oldest newspaper of the country, it said.

NOAB also appealed to the interim government to restore these accreditation cards immediately to strengthen the new environment of freedom that the interim government is trying hard to establish.

The issue requires urgent and judicious reconsideration, it said.

Political party consensus

preparations. "The Election Commission will be declared very soon and it will proceed at its own pace of its own accord. will have nothing further to do with

However, the economist turned social banker pointed out that the Election Commission would not be able to function till the electoral reforms commission submits its report. "And the report would not be enough by itself because there will have to be political consensus regarding it."

The reforms will initially depend on the six commissions' reports due by late December, he said. But the government would not be able to use those reports before there is a political consensus. "We will sit with all political parties to hear what they want.'

Yunus said the news outlets would also articulate their opinion through articles and editorials. "We will also seek opinions of the civil society."

In his opinion, the timeline for reforms will depend on how soon the political parties can reach a consensus. If the political parties say they do not want reforms anymore and demand elections instead, the interim government would do exactly that. "So be it. Who am I to say

The six reform commissions are expected to submit their reports by the end of December, and the government explained that when he was awarded will have ample time to arrive at a the Congressional gold medal it was a consensus on the reform timeline by unanimous decision. "Even Republicans July 2025, he said when asked about a timeline for reforms.

"It really depends on the political parties, there is no point asking me how long it will be."

Asked how the government will find out the will of the people regarding reforms, he said that the government will hold talks with political parties as people's representatives. "Otherwise, we would have to go for a referendum and that would be too cumbersome."

When asked whether the Awami League would be a part of those discussions, the Nobel laureate said that would also be entirely up to the political parties. "If the parties want the Awami League to be part of the process, then it will very well be there. We have nothing to say about that.'

Asked about random murder cases against journalists without any evidence, the chief adviser acknowledged the unfairness, saying, "This was hurriedly done, following the old laws and practices."

About the cancellation of accreditation cards of journalists, Prof Yunus said that he was briefed that the cancellation does not and will not affect their work as journalists, and that it will only bar them from freely entering the Secretariat.

He did not give a direct reply when pointed out that the cancellation did not conform to the rules.

Turning to the government's foreign policy, the chief adviser said although he was admittedly closer to the Democrats, his government would surely be able to work with a Trump White House. He voted for me. And no one has told me that they do not like me."

Regarding the narrative in the Indian media and its portrayal of the changed scenario in Bangladesh, Yunus said he had even brought it up during his conversation with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. He said he had urged Modi to have Indian journalists visit Bangladesh to ascertain whether minorities were being persecuted. Some of them have come since, but the narrative has not changed."

Yunus said that he really wanted to revive Saarc because he thought it was a great means to further cooperation within South Asia and the sub-continent. "All the countries are actually keen on it. But India is not taken with the idea."

But the chief adviser stressed that relations between Bangladesh and India were far more amicable and grounded in genuine friendship than what might appear at the moment. He said there may well be a difference of opinion but it would not define Bangladesh's relationship with India.

He explained that the two neighbours have such a long history and are positioned in such a way and so close to each other that one could not really sustain without being friends with the About China, Prof Yunus recounted

from his recent New York trip to attend the UN General Assembly where the Chinese delegation wanted to meet him but it could not be an official sit-down for protocol issues.

Nevertheless, he held a long discussion with the Chinese foreign minister. "It was not an official meet, but we got together."

The chief adviser said the Chinese delegation headed by their foreign minister had prepared a detailed and long statement which he reciprocated in kind. Both sides exchanged ideas about what they could do together.

a stay order on the default status

regulations were not implemented, he

said, adding that if the government can

enforce the laws, the situation should

more money loan courts (Artho Rin

Adalat) and strengthen them to clear

the logjam of cases in the financial

sector and recover the money from the

customers' trust because of some banks

and bringing back the depositors' trust

is very important, he said.

The banking sector has lost

The authorities will have to establish

Besides, the existing rules and

repeatedly must be stopped.

look up.

defaulters.

S Alam says

FROM PAGE 12 former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, it added.

The letter, a copy of which was seen by the FT, accused Mansur of making "inflammatory and unsubstantiated public comments" amounting to a 'campaign of intimidation against a business group" that it said employs about 200,000 people directly and

indirectly in Bangladesh.

The letter and Saiful Alam's threat to pursue international arbitration mark his most serious pushback yet against Bangladesh's interim government, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, which took power after a student-led protest movement toppled Sheikh Hasina.

In an interview with the Financial Times last month, Mansur - who was them.

appointed Bangladesh Bank governor after Hasina fled the country in August said S Alam and his associates had 'siphoned off" at least \$10 billion "as a minimum" from the banking system after taking control of banks with

the help of the Directorate General of

Forces Intelligence (DGFI).

Mansur alleged Saiful Alam, his associates and other groups used methods such as loans to the banks' new shareholders and inflated import invoices to carry out the "biggest, highest robbing of banks by any international standards".

S Alam group, which has interests in sectors including food, construction, garments, and banking, rejected Mansur's allegations last month, saying in a statement through Quinn Emanuel that there was "no truth" to

3 HC judges step down Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury,

FROM PAGE 1

issued yesterday in this regard. According to the notification, the three judges signed resignation letters addressed to the president in line with article 96(4) of the constitution. The president has accepted their

resignation letters, it added.

However, neither the government nor the Supreme Court administration has provided information on the allegations against the judges, the investigating authority, or the current status of the investigation.

Contacted, Law Secretary Sheikh Abu Taher declined to comment on the specifics of the resignations and the contents of the resignation letters.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul and SC Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuivan could not be reached over the phone for comments.

Requesting anonymity, an official of the SC registrar general's office told The Daily Star that the Supreme Judicial Council, led by Chief Justice Sved Refaat Ahmed, earlier this month had called for Justice Salma, Justice Quazi Reza-Ul and Justice Zahirul to appear before it.

The official said the three HC judges sent their resignation letters to the president yesterday through the SC egistrar general's office.

Then chief justice Syed Mahmud Hossain on August 22, 2019, asked

Justice Quazi Reza-Ul-Hoque and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque to refrain from judicial activities. The three judges sought leave

from the authorities concerned, then SCspokesperson Mohammad Saifur Rahman said in a press statement that day without mentioning any reason. The statement did not disclose

the names of the judges and why the inquiry was being conducted. Meanwhile, over 1.000 students

demonstrated on the SC premises on October 16 this year demanding removal of the "pro-Awami League fascist judges".

On that day, SC Registrar General Aziz Ahmed told the protesters that 12 judges will not be assigned benches. Following this statement, the agitating students postponed their demonstrations.

The 12 HC judges -- Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan, Justice Naima Haider, Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif Muhammad Justice Khurshid Alam Sarkar, Justice Ashish Ranjan Das, Justice Khizir Hayat, Justice SM Maniruzzaman, Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman. Justice Md Akhtaruzzaman, Justice Shahed Nuruddin, Justice Md Aminul Islam, and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon have not been given judicial duties

ICT can recommend The crisis-hit banks cannot be saved just with liquidity support, but

FROM PAGE 1

Law ministry sources say the draft introduces a provision that makes it possible to ban a political party for up to 10 years for committing crimes against humanity or genocide.

According to the draft, the amendment would allow the trial of leaders of any organisation for giving commands, the appointment of foreign lawyers, and the recording and broadcast of trial proceedings.

More than 120 complaints have been filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal so far. Dozens of the complaints were against Sheikh Hasina, her party colleagues and top

leaders of Awami League's ally parties. Prof Asif said the government would seek to extradite Hasina from India depending on the tribunal's

opinion CYBERCRIME, OTHER LAWS

The law ministry is at the final stage

to prepare a draft Cyber Protection Ordinance 2024.

The interim government early this month decided in principle to repeal the Cyber Security Act, which has been widely criticised as a draconian

If the cybersecurity law is repealed, cases filed over "speech crimes" under the law will be withdrawn and the lawsuits related to hacking or computer-related crimes will continue, Prof Asif said.

A draft law to appoint High Court and Appellate Division judges is in the final stage. "Hopefully, the next judge will be appointed as per the new law.

"We have taken a major step. There were different allegations over appointments of justices by different governments. We want to have a law regarding the appointments."

Almost all the criminal cases filed to suppress the mass uprising have been withdrawn, he said.

The government is embarrassed about cases filed just to harass people. "If I remain in this ministry, I will find a way to punish those who file false cases.'

Asked whether the law ministry was working on an ordinance to give legitimacy to the interim government, he said no such ordinance has been finalised.

About the next election, he said, We will hold elections as soon as possible after making some of the most essential reforms.

Answering a query about his performance as an adviser, Prof Asif rated himself four out of 10. The complex bureaucratic process hinders many of the initiatives, he

Bank owners' forum

"He used to ignore others' opinions while taking major decisions," he said, adding that the newly-elected executive committee wants to update and make rearrangements in the association.

The BAB will study how the banking sector is operating in the neighbouring countries and try to incorporate the best practices.

"We will work with the finance adviser and the central bank governor restore the banking sector's strength," he said, adding that a secretariat will be formed in the BAB

office to carry out the works. Sarker requested the Bangladesh the Financial Institutions Division under the finance ministry and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission to involve the

BAB in policymaking and reforms. He criticised the previous government for giving banking licences on political consideration, which overburdened the sector with so many banks. At present,

there are 61 banks. Asked about the record volume of defaulted loans in the banking sector, Sarker pinned the blame on faulty

Earlier in the day, students had threatened

to block roads and railway tracks in

Mohakhali under a movement termed

"Barasat Barricade to Mohakhali" if their

demands were not met. Around 300

students demonstrated at the campus,

chanting slogans like "No discrimination

in Titumir's Bengal," "From TC to TU

college already offers honours and

master's programmes, with no HSC

courses. Additionally, we have five hostels

on campus. These factors justify our

Students also boycotted classes and

Sudents of seven colleges affiliated

with Dhaka University (DU), started

demanding separation from DU and

urged the establishment of a unique

university for all seven institutions,

Ali Ahmed, a student, said, "Our

(Titumir University)," and so on.

demand for a university.'

exams on the day.

government.

At the end of September, defaulted loans hit an all-time high of Tk 284,977 crore, which is 16.9 percent of the total disbursed loans, according to data from the BB.

About 80 percent of defaulters are not willing to repay despite having the ability to clear the loans, according to

More than 15 major defaulters took out Tk 20,000 crore to Tk 30,000 crore each from banks before fleeing the country he said

"When the banks go to auction their mortgaged assets, these defaulters send their representatives to the court, and the High Court also takes their words into consideration. We can't recover the money when the court imposes a stay order on the default status of the client.

allowed to enjoy such legal rights.

But fugitive defaulters should not be

"We must immediately put an end to such a culture," he said, while demanding that the defaulters return to the country and attend court hearings to protect their property.

The rules and regulations in the banking sector will have to be rules and regulations of the previous strengthened and the scope to get

In response, on November 5, the

education advisor Wahiduddin Mahmud

assured the students that DU's affiliation

would eventually be revoked, and a

committee was formed to determine the

matter. Then students suspended their

However, a section of students at

Titumir College opposed this decision

and demanded their college be upgraded

to a university. To press home this

demand, they on Monday, blocked the

Mohakhali Intersection for over four

hours and halted the Upakul Express

train at the railway crossing. They threw

stones at the train, damaging 25 windows

and injuring 15–20 passengers, according

colleges opposed the Titumir College

However, other students of seven

government.

collective movement

to railway officials.

movement and demanded a unique university for all these seven colleges.

Abdur Rahman, a Dhaka College student and organiser of the Seven College Movement, said, "Our demand remains a unique university for all seven colleges. The government will decide, and we will continue pressing for our demand.'

Speaking on the matter, Prof Aminul, special assistant to education advisor said, "Converting a college into a university is a complex process, more challenging than establishing a new university. The committee will examine the feasibility and determine if such an upgrade is beneficial for students," he added.

Prof Aminul said. "Titumir College already has 10 acres of land, and there are no universities in northern Dhaka. The committee will review all these aspects and submit its recommendations."

restoring the depositors' confidence." Sarker, who is also the chairman and chief executive officer of the

textile manufacturer Purbani Group, expressed concern over the high interest rates on loans. Product manufacturing has become costlier because of the high interest

rate, which has increased because of several temporary policy measures by the central bank to rein in skyrocketing inflation, he said.

Students call off protests after govt assurance after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led

DHAKA

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A conspiracy is brewing somewhere Says Tarique Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tarique Rahman, the acting chairman BNP, warned party members



yesterday about an ongoing conspiracy and urged them to remain vigilant.

"The conspiracy has not stopped. Surely, you are aware of it through various newspapers over the past few days. As political leaders, all of you are experienced individuals. Therefore, you certainly understand that something is going on-a conspiracy is brewing somewhere," he said while addressing a programme.

He urged BNP men to exercise caution, adding that their fight now should focus on establishing political rights, especially SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



WINTER IS HERE... Dew drops, drizzled across the grass and paddy, sparkle as the sun rises, signalling the gentle arrival of winter. After an incredibly hot summer and autumn, the beginning of winter paints the landscape with shimmering beauty. The photo was taken in the Beel Pabla area of Khulna's Dumuria upazila yesterday.

121 children killed during July uprising Says rights platform

TSTAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 121 children were shot dead by law enforcement and other agencies during the July-August uprising, according to a report by the Child Rights Advocacy Coalition of Bangladesh published yesterday.

At least 482 children were reported killed between January and October this year, compared to 421 during the same period in 2023, said the platform of 14 national and international organisations.

"The death toll has risen this year due to the killings of children during the protests," said Santa Islam, project officer of Ain o Salish Kendra, the coalition's secretariat.

The report also highlighted other incidents, including the recent case of six-year-old Muntaha Akhter Jarin. The child, missing for seven days, was found dead in a pond in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila on November 3, her hands and

While killings have increased, the number of children tortured saw a decline, dropping from 920 cases in the first 10 months of 2023 to 580 in the same period this year. However, sexual violence against children remains alarmingly high, with 217 children raped -- 15 of whom were killed afterwards -- and 61 subjected to attempted rape. Additionally, 85 children faced sexual harassment, and 39 were physically tortured by teachers.

The coalition said many incidents remain unreported, suggesting the actual figures could be higher.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Suspended for exchanging greetings!

Court staffer suspended over alleged talks with ex-minister Qamrul

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A staffer of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka was suspended yesterday on the allegation that he talked the premises of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka.

The suspension of Shah Md Mamun, nazir of the court, came hours after pro-BNP lawyers alleged that he exchanged greetings with the former minister as he was brought there for a remand hearing in a murder case.

Abu Hasan, administrative officer of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, told The Daily Star, "Mamun was suspended as his answer was not satisfactory after a show-cause was served to him centring an incident that happened in the CMM Court this morning.

An employee working in the same SEE PAGE 4 COL 6 Polls delay will deepen crisis Say BNP leaders, express suspicions on CA's speech

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Leaders of BNP's highest decision-making platform yesterday expressed frustration over the chief adviser's failure to outline a definitive election roadmap during his recent address to the nation.

rnis has intensified their concerns about potential delays in the next parliamentary polls.

The issue dominated discussions at the party's standing committee meeting last night, with leaders warning that any election delay would exacerbate the current political crisis and widen the rift between political parties and the interim government.

In his speech, Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus assured the public SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Where is Milon?'

He went missing after joining a victory rally on Aug 5

MOSTAFA SHABUJ, Bogura

Muniruzzaman Milon, 31, a garments worker, went out to join a victory rally in front of Ashulia Police Station on August 5, to celebrate the ouster of the Awami League government following the studentled mass uprising.

Since then, he has remained

His family members are still searching for him, with no information on whether Milon is alive or dead. Milon's wife Savita Khatun,

24, and 14-month-old daughter Mansura Maryam are still waiting for him to return home. Savita said the family has been duped

twice so far while looking for him. Milon used to work as a supervisor

in 4-A Yarn Dyeing Limited's factory in Ashulia, and lived with his wife and daughter in a rented house in Buribazar area nearby.

He is from Jorgachha Paschim Para

village under Bogura's Sariakandi upazila.

"I was in the village home with my daughter on August 5. Milon was in Dhaka. His factory was closed on the day following clashes and deaths in Ashulia on the day before," Savita said.

"On August 5, my husband called me around 2:30pm to inform that Sheikh

Hasina had fled the country and he was on his way to join a victory rally in Ashulia. Later around 3:30pm, when I called him, he told me that he was in front of Ashulia Police Station amid a violent clash with police.'

"I called him again around 4:30pm. The phone rang but no one picked it up. Later, the phone was found switched off since

7:00pm," she added. Milon's elder brother Samiul Islam

Milton said he left for Ashulia on the same night and went to Ashulia Police Station the next morning. "There were six burnt bodies in a police

AL must face trial before contesting in elections Sarjis, Hasnat and Asif against

'rehabilitators of the party'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League must be held accountable for committing mass killings before being allowed to participate in elections, Sarjis Alam wrote in a Facebook post yesterday.

"If necessary, a second uprising will occur," he

A few hours earlier, Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, had also posted about the Awami League on

In his post, he wrote, "Aspiring to climb to the seat of power by trampling on the blood of the youth and making Delhi the ultimate arbitrator is a betrayal of the people's intent for liberation. History will mark those who take initiatives to rehabilitate the Awami League as enemies of the people."

In the same post, he further wrote, "Those who uphold the spirit of the July uprising and reflect the hopes and aspirations of the masses can only have one political stance regarding the Awami League in post-2024 Bangladesh -- to demand its trial. They cannot adopt any second or alternative

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

EMBASSY IN US Golam Mortoza appointed as press minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Editor Daily Star Bangla, Golam Mortoza, has been appointed as the press

minister at the Bangladesh Embassy in the US with the status of secretary.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued gazette notification regarding the appointment yesterday, saying Mortoza will serve a two-year term starting from the date of his joining.

The appointment is conditional upon Mortoza severing ties with any other professions, businesses, or work engagements, the notification added.

"This order has been issued in public interest, and other terms of the appointment will be outlined in a formal contract," the gazette the gazette reads.

Security of NBR server beefed up

Says press release, three days after Star report on unauthorised access

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue has enhanced security of its server - Automated System for Custom Data (ASYCUDA) - to prevent unauthorised access, the tax regulator said in a press release yesterday.

The press release comes three days after The Daily Star ran a report headlined "Cybergangs breaking into NBR server at will". The report, based on official documents, detailed how organised cyber offenders have been penetrating

the system bypassing its highly sophisticated security layers, including the OTPs. In at least two cases, a man with history of alleged cybercrimes intruded into the system from Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur using a device and an IP address

that have no official authorisation.

In its press release, the NBR acknowledged this specific penetration, and said, "It is an extremely concerning and sensitive development, and so the National Board of Revenue has taken steps to identify the real culprits and their associates.'

Two separate committees, one led by an NBR member and another led by the director general of customs intelligence, are working to take action against those responsible for releasing shipments from the port by stealing the IDs and passwords of customs officials.

The Cyber Crime Unit of police is providing

assistance in this matter, it added. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Six burnt cars lie at the entrance to the Department of Disaster Management in Mohakhali, occupying part of the road. On July 18, the building came under attack during the July-August mass uprising that led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina. Despite four months having passed, no steps have been taken to remove the vehicles. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Financial woes force Khasi people to scrap festival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Khasi Social Council has announced the cancellation of this vear's annual Khasi Seng Kutsnem programme, citing an ongoing economic crisis that has gripped the community.

Traditionally held on November 23, the festival is a significant cultural event for the Khasi people, marking the end of the old year and welcoming the new one.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Philah Pohthmi, general secretary of the Khasi Social Council, explained that the community's primary source of income -- betel leaf cultivation -- is currently facing a severe downturn.

"Farmers are not receiving fair prices for their betel leaves, which has led to widespread financial hardship," she said.

The program typically costs around Tk 2 lakh to organise, a sum the community has been unable to raise this year due to economic challenges. Instead of the usual grand celebration, the Khasi people will observe the day with smaller, domestic programmes, Pohthmi confirmed.



attracts tourists from both home made from bamboo and cane. and abroad.

The event features traditional attire, spirit of unity and tradition.

The Khasi Seng Kutsnem folk dances, songs, and communal festival, held at the Magurchhara activities like fishing, sports, and Khasi Community grounds in cultural performances, aimed at Kamalganj, Moulvibazar, usually strengthening social ties. A fair draws participants from 70 Khasi also takes place, with stalls offering communities in Sylhet Division and clothes, betel leaves, and handicrafts

Despite this year's challenges, Saju Marchiang, publication Marchiang expressed his confidence secretary of the Khasi Social on the community's resilience, Council, reminisced about the saying even in modest celebrations, vibrant festivities of previous years. the Khasi people will uphold the

Graduation ceremony

General (Training-1) of the ousted Awami League Police Headquarters, Mohiul confirmed the postponement of the closing parade for 66 apprentice ASPs under the 38th and 40th BCS police batches.

He assured that a new date would be set and that training for the apprentice ASPs would continue till then.

marks postponement second of the apprentice ASPs' graduation ceremony. Earlier, on October 19, the event was cancelled just hours before it was scheduled.

postponement followed a press conference uprising. Since then, 313 on October 17, where BNP standing committee member demanded Ahmed the cancellation of discipline during training appointments of over 800 sessions.

National Board of Revenue

identify and bring to book release said.

> Progress to ACCA (9 papers exemption)

baby pant diaper production lines.

Test Date: 22 November, 2024

SIs and 67 ASPs, accusing FROM PAGE 3 regime of making partisan appointments.

A separate press release, signed Additional DIG (Training-2) Shahala Pervin, also confirmed the postponement of the graduation ceremony for nowhere," Milton said. trainee SIs under the 40th outside cadet batch. The release said the parade date the would be announced later, and training of the trainees will continue till then.

Theissueofappointments has been a contentious one, fall of the Awami Leagueled government on August 5, amid a student-led mass out of 823 trainee SIs were discharged from the police Salahuddin academy in three phases, reportedly for breaching

those involved in cybercrimes

15th Batch

Security of NBR server

"Alongside its revenue and misappropriation of

collection activities, the government properties, the

is committed to enhancing from other government

safety and security of all agencies and all stakeholders

its automated systems. To if necessary," the press

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'Where is Milon?'

but my brother was not there. I went on to look for him in every hospital morgue in Ashulia, Gazipur and Dhaka, and also the jails, but found him Savita said they had

posted Milon's photo in a Facebook group, requesting information on his whereabout. A person contacted them saying Milon was held hostage particularly following the and demanded Tk 10,000 for his release. However, once the money was paid through a mobile financing app, the family did not hear from that person again, and realised they were duped.

"After that, we advertised in the newspaper but to no avail," she said.

প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

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স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৪৪৮.০৭.০০১.২৪.৭৯৪

Savita also said she car. I looked at the bodies went to Ashulia Police Station on August 10 to file a missing diary, but the police took a copy of their general diary and sent her back. Later, on August 21, they sent her back again without letting her file the missing diary.

> "I want to know what happened to my husband. Where will I go now with my 14-month-old child?" Sabita said.

Contacted Abu Bakr Siddique, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, could not say anything about Milon's missing

have received "We 3-4 missing diaries after August 5. We are working on them. No one has been found so far," the OC added. polls," he said.

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line of all substation under GMD, Kaliakair, power Grid Bangladesh PLC.

Polls delay A conspiracy

FROM PAGE 3 that an election roadmap be announced soon but refrained from providing a specific timeline. His remarks that the polls could still be delayed even after the roadmap's release have further fuelled suspicions among BNP leaders.

Top BNP figures believe a faction within the government is opposed to holding elections in the near future.

They cautioned that such an approach could escalate tensions and provide ousted autocrats with opportunities to exploit the situation and incite disorder.

"Any election delay will further alienate the government from political parties and deepen the crisis," a standing committee member told this correspondent.

Earlier, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir called on the interim government to quickly announce a roadmap to maintain public confidence. He urged advisers to avoid making misleading or unguarded statements, saying, "It is not your responsibility to govern the country. Organise the election and let politicians take over."

The BNP accused the government of taking advantage of their support, with leaders arguing that until a free and fair election is held, the Awami League will continue leveraging domestic and international allies to undermine the interim government.

Standing committee Iqbal Hasan member Mahmud Tuku criticised the government for neglecting its primary responsibilities. "Organising the election is their top priority, followed by addressing inflation and maintaining law and order. Their inaction is sowing uncertainty in people's minds," he said.

Another top leader Abdul Moyeen Khan said reforms and elections can proceed simultaneously.

"Reforms are a continuous process and should not be used as an excuse to delay

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তারিখঃ ১৮/১১/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

people's right to vote.

He also instructed party leaders and activists to avoid using titles like "Desh Nayak" or "Rastra Nayak" (national hero) before his name.

"As a colleague, I request you, and as your leader, I instruct you that from today[yesterday] onwards, no one should use these titles like Desh Nayak or Rastra Nayak when mentioning my name," he said.

achieving political and economic emancipation "Accountability must

be ensured... In any this," he added.

country, accountability comes through establishing the

right to vote," he said.

"The right to speak, political rights, and voting rights are what we are fighting for. Thousands of our colleagues [leaders and activists] have been abducted and killed over these. Over 60 lakh of our activists have faced false cases," Tarique said.

"We are fighting to He said that without establish the people's right freedom of expression. for the people, any reforms This battle must succeed at would remain meaningless. any cost. We have to raise public awareness about

121 children killed

FROM PAGE 3

The recommended including proper documentation and

the legal framework on coalition rape, and ensuring swift measures trials for cases of violence against children.

compensation for children of Terre des Hommes killed or injured during Netherlands, and Tamanna protests, establishing a Hoq Riti, coordinator separate directorate for of ASK, were among the children affairs, redefining speakers at the programme.

Suspended

FROM PAGE 3

court, wishing not to be named, said, "Mamun was suspended after some pro-BNP lawyers verbally alleged to the judge of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, demanding his punishment for replying to former minister Qamrul in the CMM Court today." Mamun said, "When I was

returning to my office after completing personal work at the CMM Court, suddenly former minister Qamrul shouted 'nazir' gesturing at me and asked how I was. I replied and left there. Nothing else happened." Around 1:10pm, a group

of BNP-backed lawyers vandalised the office where Mamun sits on the first floor of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, said court staffers.

Mamun was not in the office room during the attack, said staffer Mizanur Rahman.

Contacted, Sayed Nazrul Islam, a leader of pro-BNP told The Daily Star.

lawyers' group, said, "Some aggrieved lawyers vandalised the nazir's office, but I am

not sure whether they are

our followers or not.'

Court administrative officer Abu Hasan said the authorities did not file any case or general diary over the vandalism in their office till 9:30pm.

Meanwhile, Marjia Hera, a pro-BNP lawyer, yesterday submitted a written complaint to the CMM for taking necessary steps against Mamun. In the complaint, Marjia

stated Mamun exchanged views with Qamrul Islam and helped his son enter the courtroom when she and her fellow lawyers were present at the additional CMM Court-4 yesterday. Hours after the incident,

an official of the law ministry called the authorities of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court to take steps against Mamun. His suspension followed that, a court official

Energy FROM PAGE 5

seeks to establish a regional transmission system to efficiently integrate solar and wind energy.

Earlier, at the "Bilateral with LDC Ministers on Mitigation" session. Rizwana stressed the need to close the emissions gap to limit global warming to

"Achieving this requires a 43% reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 60% by 2035, relative to 2019 to vote and their right to levels, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050," she said.

> She also called for greater international cooperation and enhanced climate financing for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), warning that unchecked emissions would make adaptation unaffordable.

"Global MKabir, country director must unlock barriers to accessing climate finance," Rizwana said.

AL must face

FROM PAGE 3 position on this matter."

Earlier on Monday, Asif Mahmud, adviser to the Youth and Sports Ministry of the interim government, also spoke about the banning of the AL at a discussion at Jahangirnagar University.

"When we, on behalf of the government, speak about banning the Awami League, some political parties try to obstruct this through their speeches. If Germany could ban the fascist Nazi Party in 1945, and it remains banned to this day, then we should draw lessons about what the fate of the Awami League ought to be," he told the discussion.





STATUTORY NOTICE IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

Company Matter No. 1367 of 2024

An Application under Section-12 read with Section-13 of the Companies Act, 1994.

IN THE MATTER OF:

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bashundhara Agro Chemical Industries Limited

.. Petitioner. -VERSUS-

Respondents.

Take Notice that an application under Section-12 read with Section-13 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above-named Petitioner for the alteration of the object Clause III to the Memorandum of Association of Bashundhara Agro Chemical Industries Limited.

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies & Firms, 1, Kawran bazar, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), Dhaka-

Upon hearing of the application on 13/11/2024 Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the said application and directed to file affidavit-in-compliance within 1 (one) week i.e. on or before 11/12/2024 from the date of publication of this notice.

If anybody is interested to oppose the said application he may appear before the Hon'ble High Court Division either in person or through an Advocate.

Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost. A.K.M. Badruddoza

Senior Advocate

Alamin Center (Floor M) 25/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 017115411141



অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা णका-১২०४।

খইডিসিএল নিম্লোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত ছানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্রিষ্ট ব্রবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমান	আর্নেষ্ট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরৎযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহনের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
۱ ده	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/৪৫৭ তারিখং ১৯/১১/২০২৪ ইং	০৭ (সাত) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড বঙ {০৭ (ঝবাবহ) করহফং ড়ভ চৎরহঃবফ ইড়ী} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৫,৬০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্ৰতি সেট	০২/১২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	০২/১২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
०२।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/৪৫৮ তারিখৎ ১৯/১১/২০২৪ ইং	Printed Alu. Col. Tube for Neomycin Bacitracin Oint-10 gm. (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	২,১০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্ৰতি সেট	০২/১২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	০২/১২/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা

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Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.

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(৫ইঞ্চি x ৬কলাম)

Energy transition key to dev Says Rizwana Hasan

BSS, Dhaka

transition and climate financing are critical for Bangladesh's sustainable development, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said yesterday.

Speaking "Pathways to Tripling Renewables in South Asia' session at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Rizwana said the government is revising its energy policies to shift from fossil fuels to renewables.

"High import tariffs are being reconsidered, and foreign investments in solar energy are being



encouraged. With air pollution driven largely by power plants, now is the ideal time to invest in renewables," she said.

Rizwana highlighted rooftop installations could meet up to 40% of the country's renewable energy needs. Underutilised including tea estates and government-owned barren lands, could also be used renewable energy projects.

Bangladesh is exploring hydropower opportunities from Nepal and Bhutan via India and SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Anuradha Pal, a potter from Kalskathi in Barishal, dries hand-made pitha moulds made out of clay. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: TITU DAS

KALASKATHI VILLAGE IN BARISHAL

Clay artisans gear up ahead of 'pitha' season

SUSHANTA GHOSH

With the arrival of winter, potters of Kalaskathi village in Bakerganj Upazila of Barishal district are now busy making pitha moulds.

There are at least 50 potters in the village and they start off the winter season by selling these traditional hand-made moulds made

Throughout the season, as the demand for traditional winter pithas rises, the demand for such pitha moulds rises with it. Some potters informed this correspondent that they would make around 50,000 such moulds to sell across various districts including Dhaka.

They sell these moulds primarily for "chitoi" and "bhapa" pithas at a wholesale rate of Tk 800-1,000 for every hundred pieces.

This tradition is not just limited to the Kalaskathi village, but it is quite popular for the potters in Gaila village of Barishal district, Jhalakathi Palpara of Jhalakathi district, Baufal and Baga Palpara of Patuakhali district

and Kaukhali Palpara of Pirojpur district.

Over 500 families across the division are heavily engaged in this village are now busy making various types of pitha moulds. In just this division alone, over 40 lakh

pitha moulds will be made during the winter season, according to potters in this area. Anuradha Pal, a potter from Kalskathi village,

said at the beginning of winter every eyar, they make at least 3,000-4,000 "chitoi" and "bhapa" pitha moulds. This year is no exception. However, as the price of clay has doubled

this year, they will have to sell each item at least Tk 8-10 higher than last year's price, she said, adding that they are worried that it will be harder for them to sustain their profession if prices continue to rise.

Shankar Pal, Anuradha's husband, said they have no other education and training. They only know how to make pottery out of clay. Now, iron moulds for pithas are available in the market. So, the demand for clay moulds

Sabitri Pal, another potter in the village, said once upon a time, over 300 families were involved in this line of work. Now, only 70-80 families remain in this profession.

"We can't leave our grandfather's profession -- that's why we have to do this work even when we don't make much money," said Gautam Pal, another potter.

Biseshwar Paul, adviser of a welfare organisation for potters, said, "If pottery can be made in accordance with market demand, it can be sustained. For example, Baufal Pottery has earned a reputation by catering to the market. We requested the government to provide potters with various mechanical tools, loans and training on the modern market system. All of this will help sustain this line of work."

Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries Director Ebaidul Haque Chan said for such traditional items, it is absolutely necessary to take up projects at the

Garbage piles up in front of health centre

MIRZA SHAKIL. Tangail

A large pile of garbage has accumulated in front of the Kalia Union Family and Planning Health Centre in Tangail's Sakhipur upazila, creating an unsanitary and unpleasant environment for patients, staff, and locals.

Nearby traders from Barachaona market

allegedly discard their waste in front of the health centre, leading to a persistent, foul odour and an unhealthy atmosphere around the area.

The situation has become increasingly intolerable, with patients and healthcare providers affected as they navigate through the stench to access the centre, while residents find the side road unusable due to scattered waste.

Upon visiting the site, this correspondent observed heaps of garbage emitting a strong odour, with stagnant water pooling in discarded plastic and coconut shells, providing an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.



Ramesha Begum, a patient, said, "Even a healthy person would fall sick passing by this malodorous pile."

Local shopkeepers said the unsanitary conditions are impacting their businesses.

Assistant Community Medical Officer Ashiqur Rahman, in charge of the health centre, said, "This sight is unthinkable for a health centre. The stench is unbearable, and mosquitoes are breeding. I'm being held accountable, but without a boundary wall, people continue to dump waste outside."

Local market leaders acknowledge the issue, with Barachaona Bazar Merchants' Association president, Nurul Islam Talukder, stating that waste is discarded there due to a lack of alternative disposal options.

Abu Saeed Miah, the market lessee, said a suitable site for waste disposal is being identified and that the current garbage will soon be removed and incinerated.

Mashahed Hasan, upazila family planning officer of Sakhipur, said the matter has been informed to the district and upazila authorities and steps will be taken to this end.

Ensure freedom of thought Speakers tell discussion

বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

of thought, freedom of religion, respect for human rights, rule of law, and accountability. They expressed their hope for a country free from enforced disappearances,

extrajudicial killings, and murders. The remarks were made during a discussion titled "What do we want in a

new Bangladesh," organised by Benarnews, a US-funded news outlet, at the National Museum auditorium in the capital. At the event, Prof Salimullah Khan of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

of discrimination and blind imitation. 'We wish for such a Bangladesh where there will be freedom of thought and freedom of religious practices. The state must have a rule of law and democracy. A country where no one will be dehumanised," he said.

No. 20.08.0000.200.11.006.24.-281

need not to apply.

be sent by email to the applicant.

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emphasised the need to eliminate all forms

Highlighting frustrations with the media, Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Speakers at an event yesterday aspired for a Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, New Bangladesh," characterised by freedom urged the press to adopt a more peopleoriented approach.

"What the government wants to hear are [its] press releases, while what it doesn't want to hear are actual news reports. Say more of what the government doesn't want to hear." he said.

Mahdi Amin, adviser to BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, expressed his hope for a country where human rights are guaranteed and the rule of law and accountability are upheld. "We want a democratic nation where people can exercise their franchise through elections."

Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, shared his desire for a Bangladesh free from fear. Meanwhile, Sanjida Islam Tulee, a coordinator of Mayer Dak, called for justice for those subjected to oppression, violence, and enforced disappearances.

Date: November 18, 2024

ABU SAYED MURDER Ex-BRU proctor held in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Ranapur

Police Bureau of Investigation yesterday arrested Shariful Islam, the former proctor of Begum Rokeya University over the murder of Abu Sayed in Kangpui on July 16.

Shariful was detained for questioning last night and later shown arrested in the case, said ABM Zakir Hossain, superintendent of Rangpur PBI.

Shariful is accused of instructing law enforcers to open fire during the incident at the university gate. Earlier, Metropolitan Police ASI Amir Ali and Constable Sujan Chandra Roy were also arrested.

On August 18, Sayed's elder brother, Ramzan Ali, filed the case naming 17 individuals, including the former IGP, along with 30 to 35 unidentified others. Subsequently, a supplementary statement was filed, adding seven names, including Sheikh Hasina, Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and Shariful Islam. The court later directed their inclusion as accused in

Graduation ceremony of trainee ASPs, SIs postponed again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The graduation ceremonies for apprentice assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) and trainee subinspectors (SIs) at the Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah, Rajshahi, have been postponed again.

The apprentice ASPs from the 40th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) batch and the trainee SIs from the 40th outside cadet batch were scheduled to graduate on November 24 and 26, respectively. In a press release, Additional Deputy Inspector

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি Sonali Bank PLC বিশ্বস্ত ও স্মার্ট

লিগ্যাল ম্যাটার্স ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ফোনঃ ০২-৪১০৫১৪৩০ (ডিজিএম), ০২-২২৩৩৫৮৬৭৫ (এজিএম) ই-মেইলঃ dgmlmd@sonalibank.com.bd

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর প্যানেল আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এ ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে প্যানেল আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ব্যাংকের মামলা পরিচালনায় দক্ষ, যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞ বাংলাদেশী আইনজীবীদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ছকে ১৯/১২/২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। বিস্তারিত (বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও আবেদনপত্র) সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.sonalibank.com.bd) এ পাওয়া আগামী ২৬/১২/২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রতিষ্ঠানের ওয়েবসাইট থেকে নির্দিষ্ট আবেদন ফরম ডাউনগোড করে হাতে হাতে/ডাক্যোগে/ক্রিয়ার সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র অধ্যক্ষ, শেখ রাসেল ক্যান্টন্মেন্ট পাবলিক স্কুল ও কলেজ, জাজিরা, শেখ রাসেল সেনানিবাস, জাজিরা, শরীয়তপুর পৌছাতে হবে অথবা প্রতিষ্ঠানের ওয়েবসাইট (www.srcpsc-zajira.edu.bd) अत्र Recruitment अপশन श्रादक आरवमन कता यारव । श्राशीरमत्ररक ওয়েবসাইট হতে Applicant Copy/Admit Card কালার প্রিন্ট করে সাথে নিয়ে আসতে হবে

২. লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও ফলাফল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশ করা হবে এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উদ্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ডেমো ক্লাস/ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময় SMS এর মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে

৩. আবেদনপত্র ও প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রের সাথে অধ্যক্ষ, শেখ রাসেল ক্যান্টনমেন্ট পাবলিক স্কুল ও কলেজ, জাজিরা এর অনুকূলে ১নং পদের জন্য ৮০০/- (আটশত) টাকা এবং ২-৪নং পদের জন্য ৩০০ (তিনশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) এসআরসিপিএসসি রিক্রুটমেন্ট ফান্ড, ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিঃ, শেখ রাসেল সেনানিবাস শাখা, হিসাব নং ০১০৯-০২১০০০০০৯৬ বরাবর জমা প্রদান করে জমা শ্লীপ সংযুক্ত আকারে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

 আবেদনপত্রের সাথে (মোবাইল নম্বরসহ), সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদের ফটোকপি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি, সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের দুই কপি সত্যায়িত রঙ্গিন ছবি এবং নিজ ইউনিয়ন/পৌরসভা চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক নাগরিকত্ব সনদের অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

প্রার্থীর বয়স গণনার ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ গণ্য করা হবে।

৬. প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল কিংবা নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম পরিবর্তন ও সংশোধন করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৪/৬৯৫

অধ্যক

মোঃ গোলাম ছিদ্দিক Director General ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

Dr. Binayak Sen GD-998

শেখ রাসেল ক্যান্টনমেন্ট পাবলিক স্কুল ও কলেজ, জাজিরা শেখ রাসেল সেনানিবাস, জাজিরা, শরীয়তপুর

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ এসআরসিপিএসসি/০৯/২০২৪

বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনী পরিচালিত শেখ রাসেল ক্যান্টনমেন্ট পাবলিক স্কুল ও কলেজ, জাজিরা এ নিমুবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে (শিক্ষক-কর্মচারী) নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচেছ।

ক্রমিক	বিষয় ও সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	বেতন স্কেল ও গ্ৰেড	মন্তব্য
5.	প্রভাষকঃ ইংরেজি-০৩, বাংলা-০২, গণিত- ০১, পদার্থ-০১, রসায়ন-০১, জীববিজ্ঞান-০১, হিসাববিজ্ঞান-০১, ব্যবস্থাপনা-০১, মার্কেটিং-০১, ইতিহাস-০১, আইসিটি- ০২, যুক্তিবিদ্যা-০১, কৃষিশিক্ষা-০১, ত্গোল-০১, পৌরনীতি-০১	১। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে স্নাতক/স্নাতকোন্তর/ সমমান ডিগ্রী। শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন তরে তয় বিভাগ/সমমানের জিপিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর। অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য। ২। অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	বেতন গ্রেডঃ ৯ম (২২০০০- ৫৩০৬০)	
٤.	দ্রাইভার-০২ কমপক্ষে এসএসসি পাশ। হেভি দ্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স এবং পাঁচ বছরের বাস ও মাইক্রোবাস চালানোর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা ও মেডিকেল ফিটনেস থাকতে হবে। অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের এবং অবসরপ্রাপ্ত সেনা সদস্যদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য।		বেতন গ্রেডঃ ১৪তম (১০২০০- ২৪৬৮০)	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিয়মানুযায়ী বার্ণি ভাড়া, চিকিৎসা ভাতা, শিক্ষা সহায়ক ভাতা, উৎসব ভাতা এব শিক্ষানবিশকাল শেষে চাকুরী স্থা
o .	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর-০৩	যেকোন বিভাগে স্নাতক/সমমান ডিগ্রী। শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন স্তরে ওয় বিভাগ/সমমানের জিপিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে বেসিক কম্পিউটার কোর্সে কমপক্ষে ৬ মাস মেয়াদী প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর। অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পর্র প্রার্থীদের এবং অবসরপ্রাপ্ত সেনা সদস্যদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও বয়স শিধিলযোগ্য।	বেতন গ্রেভঃ ১৬তম (৯৩০০- ২২৪৯০)	হওয়া স্বাপেক্ষে ইনসেনটিভ, প্রভিডেন্ট ফাভ গ্র্যাচুইটি সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে
8.	নিরাপন্তা প্রহরী/নাইট গার্ড/অফিস সহায়ক- ০৬	১। ন্যূনতম ৮ম শ্রেণি/জেএসসি পাশ (বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর)। ২। স্থলামধন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্রিষ্ট বিষয়ে ৩ বছর কাজ করার বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রাধীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	বেতন গ্লেডঃ ২০তম (৮২৫০- ২০০১০)	

ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

When dance speaks the language of resilience and spirit



PHOTOS: COURTESY

"Ivy apu's journey is incredibly inspiring, and we tried to bring her vivid persona and courage to the stage, portraying the immense

pain she has

endured,"

said Adity

Roy.

SHARMIN JOYA

The mirror often reflects only surface beauty, but true beauty lies within-resilience and spirit define a person. A Rising Lioness: In Search of Beauty, a powerful dance drama directed and choreographed by Adity Roy, founder of Adity Dance CIC, a UK-registered organisation, challenges conventional notions of beauty. Inspired by the extraordinary life of Jannatul Ferdous Ivy—a burn survivor, writer, filmmaker, and human rights activist—the production is a moving exploration of

inner strength. Sponsored Hamlets, Tower Queen Mary University, Arts Council England and Stonebridge Legal Solutions, the two-day show took place at Rich Mix Centre in the UK on November 15 and 16, paying a tribute to Ivy's remarkable journey of hope and perseverance.

Named one the BBC's 100 most inspirational and powerful women in 2023, Ivy has emerged

as a beacon of strengthnot just for marginalised individuals or trauma survivors but for anyone

hesitant to live their life in full spirit. She has transformed 28 years of pain into a source of strength, dedicating herself to empowering burn survivors and women with disabilities since 2019. Through her work, she inspires positive perspectives and self-help skills within these communities.

Reflecting on the performance, Ivy shared, "It was surreal to witness the artistes portray my journey through dance. The language of the performance, expressed through various dance forms, was tremendous. I'm so grateful to

Adity and her team. Adity is a true patriot and a beautiful human being, who brings voice to those often unheard through her dance."

The production narrates a story of perseverance and transformation. It begins with a young woman enjoying a love-filled life, tragically altered by a devastating burn accident that scars 60% of her body. Abandoned by her romantic partner and burdened by trauma, she endures numerous surgeries and countless societal rejections. Yet, she rises

> above adversity, pursuing higher education, writing, filmmaking, and mountain hiking- all while inspiring others to build a more inclusive society.

"Ivy apu's journey is incredibly inspiring, and we tried to bring vivid persona and courage to the stage, portraying the immense pain she has endured," said Adity

Adity, recognised with the Nritya-Visharad Award for her production Avinashi Anurag (Eternal Love), has a

history of using dance to raise awareness about societal issues, including

challenges faced by children with special needs. A renowned dance scholar, and a Bangladeshi expat based in the UK, Adity is celebrated for her expertise in Bharatanatyam, ballet, and contemporary dance. Trained under legendary mentors such as the late Guru Professor CV Chandrasekhar, Smt Pushkala Gopal, and Santosh Menon, her style blends classical traditions with innovative, contemporary

expression. "Addressing social issues through dance has always been my primary focus," Adity explained. "In A Rising Lioness: In Search

of Beauty, we fused Bharatanatyam's rich tradition, ballet's elegance, and contemporary dance's emotive fluidity to create a transformative narrative."

Through intricate choreography and emotive expressions, Adity captured the protagonist's pain, resilience, and triumph, leaving audiences deeply moved. The smooth integration of diverse dance forms reflected the story's complexity, forging a profound connection with viewers from all walks of life.

"This drama is more than just a performance; it is a celebration of the human spirit's capacity to rise above adversity," Ivy remarked. "Adity's choreography breathes life into the narrative, showcasing how art can communicate complex emotions that transcend language. The devotion and dedication in the dance create a spiritual and emotional experience that lingers long after the curtain falls.'

Adity was joined on stage by the talented cast members Urmee Mazher, Sneha Shill, Sarah Lowe, Emma Clandon, Emma Levene, Athena Fairchild, Dr Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty and Daniel Jarvis, and assistant producer Tazminah Edoo, who brought Ivy's story to life. Music by Shek Jasim and Nirjhar Chowdhury amplified the drama's emotional depth, while poetic recitations by Sarwar-e-Alam, performed by Urmee Mazher, added a lyrical layer to the storytelling.

The dance drama stands as a moving example, reflecting Ivy's indomitable spirit, chronicling her journey from despair to hope and her relentless advocacy for equality and inclusion. The production reminds audiences that beauty transcends physical appearance, residing instead in resilience and the courage to overcome challenges.

With its universal message of hope, A **Rising Lioness: In Search of Beauty** speaks not only to burn survivors but to anyone facing disabilities, neurodiversity, or societal exclusion. By portraying a journey of courage and transformation, the production inspires reflection on the values of empathy, and inclusion, and celebrates the human spirit of

Bangladeshi silent film 'Nirvana' selected for Eurasia int'l film fest



Bangladeshi silent film Nirvana, directed by Asif Islam, has officially been selected for screening at the 17th Eurasia International Film Festival as part of its official competition.

The festival runs from November 24 to December 1 in Kazakhstan, with Nirvana slated for screening on November 25. At least 11 films from 11 countries will be competing at the festival. Earlier, the bagged the Special Jury

Award at the Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF) and also claimed an award at the Ganges-sur-Seine International Film Festival in

Nirvana is a silent film that explores the themes of grief, loss, and self-discovery involving three factory workers, featuring Priyam Archi, Fatema Tuz Zohra, and Imran Mahathir.

Taylor Swift's London concerts cost \$1m only in security

Taylor Swift's **The Eras Tour** concerts in London cost the Metropolitan Police over US \$1 million in security, according to recent Hollywood reports.

Security expenses surged from US \$85,000 per night in June to US \$125,000 per night in August due to heightened threats, including disrupted bomb plots at her Vienna shows. Reports claim Swift's mother and

campaigners

democracy protests in

2019, and the democrats

have been treated in

After a 118-day trial, 14 of

the democrats were found

guilty in May, including

Australian citizen Gordon

Ng and activists Owen

Chow and Gwyneth Ho,

The other 31 pleaded

guilty and all 45 were given

sentences ranging from

Minister Penny Wong said

she was "gravely concerned"

about the sentences, and

called on China to "cease

suppression of freedoms

of expression, assembly,

media and civil society," in

spokesman Lin Jian told

reporters that "no one can

engage in illegal activities

in the name of democracy

and attempt to escape legal

punishment", adding that

Beijing "firmly supports"

Hong Kong's efforts to

safeguard national security.

Hit by battery-

Chinese foreign ministry

Foreign

while two were acquitted.

accordance with local laws.

FROM PAGE 12

4-10 years.

Hong Kong.

Australia's

manager, Andrea Swift, negotiated directly with officials, demanding extensive security, and even threatened to cancel the concerts if demands

Critics are urging Swift to reimburse part of the costs, drawing comparisons to Harry Styles, who repaid US \$70,000 of his concert's security

COUNTRYWIDE

ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORK

Sand lifting threatens Kuakata reserve forest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A contractor of Patuakhali Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is extracting sand from Kuakata reserve forest for construction of a paved road, affecting trees under the green belt of the

Large and small ditches inside the forest area, caused by the sand lifting, not only posing threat to the reserve forest, but also destroying numerous trees of the plantation project.

Locals said despite repeated complaints to the authorities concerned nothing has been done so far to stop the heinous act.

Patuakhali LGED is constructing a 10-kilometrelong and 16-feet-wide road on both sides of Kuakata Zero Point to facilitate movement of tourists in Kuakata beach area.

Local contraction firm Younus and Brothers got the work order and conducting the construction work of the road at a cost of Tk 22.27 crore.

In the first phase, sand filling work to build a five kilometre portion of the paved road, stretching from Kuakata Zero Point to Gangamati area, is going on.

Sub-contractor Kabir Hossain, who was given the task of earth filling, was supposed to buy sand from local markets and use it in the road work, but extracting sand from inside the reserved forest area by installing dredger machines and using it in the road construction work.

As a result, numerous trees are dying due to creation of large ditches in the forest area, caused by

the illegal sand extraction. While talking to this correspondent, Kalapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rabiul Islam said after learning about the matter he sent the assistant commissioner (Land) and stopped the sand extraction.

However, the upazila administration's statement does not match the reality as sand lifting is still going on in full swing.

Local resident Dulal Fakir said the areas from where the sand is being extracted should be filled up immediately, otherwise it will surely damage the nearby flood control dyke.

Another local Babul Munshi said the coastal flood control dyke basically protect us from various natural disasters including cyclones.

Despite repeated attempts sub-contractor Kabir Hossain refused to make any comment in this regard and said sand is being supplied as per the rules. Mahipur Range Officer Abul Kalam said an influential gang is extracting sand from the reserved forest to build a road and the matter has been already reported to the upazila administration.

Indo-Bangla high-level meet Line of Credit have also remained halted as the rime minister mini

prime minister Sheikh Hasina in India. Bangladesh Chief Adviser

Adity Roy and Jannatul Ferdous lvy

Prof Muhammad Yunus in his address to the nation on November 17, said Dhaka will request New Delhi for Hasina's extradition.

Since the fall of the Awami League government, the Indian High Commission has limited the visas being issued

to Bangladeshi tourists. Besides, many of the

Indian contractors have not yet returned to Bangladesh for security concerns.

Foreign Meanwhile, Adviser Touhid Hossain earlier told the media that Dhaka will review the agreements and MoUs signed with New Delhi over the last few years.

scholar Prof Indian Sreeradha Datta, who specialises in South Asian affairs, earlier told The projects under the Indian Daily Star that a high-level

the earliest to ease relations.

Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in late September.

However, Ĉhief Adviser rof Muhammad Yunus Prof and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting there could not be held as their stay in New York then did not overlap.

effect, auto-rickshaw drivers Economy now stabilised

when the government assumed power, he said.

Several steps have been taken and the fruits of those are yet to be visible, he said. adding that some austerity measures were taken, like reducing foreign trips of officials, purchase of luxury cars, and reducing the

He said projects were being reviewed and those taken up under political considerations were being cancelled.

We're trying to control our expenditure and the budget deficit. The challenges before us are to mobilise more revenue If we don't increase revenue generation, then we wouldn't be able to finance our development projects,"

he added. Salehuddin said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has started the process of fully automatic income tax, customs, and VAT services, ensuring transparency to foster

authorities to

documents regarding the

process leading up to the

deal with Adani Power.

At the same time, the HC

also issued an order asking

submit

trust among taxpayers and businesses.

He said individuals' submissions of e-returns have exceeded four lakh. "The companies will get this benefit soon.....

Salehuddin said the and operation divisions of the NBR would be separated. "An act was passed in 2008, but it is yet to be followed."

About price hikes, he said the government has reduced or cut import duties on various types of essentials, like rice, eggs, and onions, and withdrawn collateral (margin) for opening Letters of Credits for their import.

"But still inflation is high, we know, but it started a long time ago. We need more time and the people need to have patience..." he said.

NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan said the prices of some products like eggs and sugar have reduced a little after the duties were cuts.

Prices of some products

authorities to explain why

the Adani deal should not

2025, for the next date of

It fixed February 25,

The HC bench of Justice

be declared illegal.

hearing.

the relevant government Farah Mahbub and Justice

are still high as their prices are high in the international

market, he said. Secretary Finance Khairuzzaman Mozumder said they were hopeful of getting \$2.1 billion from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by December.

The ADB and WB would provide \$600 million and \$500 million in loans, he

said. "We've requested an additional \$1 billion with the existing \$4.7 billion in support from the IMF for this year. Discussions are set to conclude when the IMF team visits on December 4, and we're optimistic about the outcome," he said.

Secretary of Economic Relations Division Shahriar Kader Siddiky said they were aiming to get \$1 billion from the WB by repurposing the existing loan programmes. He said \$723 million has

been finalised and talks on the rest of the amount will conclude by December.

lawyer Md Abdul Qaiyum

challenging the legality of the

power purchase agreement

signed on November 5, 2017.

read the meeting minutes. Then the meeting decided HC orders inquiry into Adani deal

rule following a writ petition

It comes just after the United States President Joe Biden gave Kyiv permission to use long-range missiles to strike military targets inside

enforced, president and clashed with police. At least general secretary of the 20 people were reportedly unity injured.

Take battery-run rickshaws Hong Kong

The following day, drivers staged protests in Rampura, Badda, Kuril, and Khilkhet areas.

Considering it, then prime minister Sheikh Hasina on May 19 instructed the authorities to cancel the decision on banning batteryrun auto-rickshaws.

stop battery-run rickshaws However, the ban on After the ban came into battery-run auto-rickshaws on 22 highways remainedin on May 18 took to the streets. force as per an earlier decision.

It's now mandatory for all

FROM PAGE 12

rickshaw

alliance,

intervention.

owners

Zahirul

Masum and Momin Ali, filed

the petition for immediate

then road transport and

bridges minister Obaidul

Quader asked the authorities

concerned to take steps to

from plying the city roads.

On May 15 this year,

The National Committee on Air Pollution Control, in its second meeting last year, made a similar decision to prevent water, air, and sound pollution, said officials.

RHD is one of the major government agencies implementing many projects for building or expanding roads and bridges. It is now implementing infrastructure projects, of which 17 are foreign-funded, shows planning ministry documents.

the monthly coordination meeting of the Road Transport and Highways Division on September 24, its Senior Secretary Ehsanul Hoque asked whether RHD carries out EIA and takes ECC before undertaking any project.

In reply, RHD Chief Engineer Syed Moinul Hasan said they do EIAs and take ECCs for the foreign-aided projects, but they usually do not take such clearances for the government-funded ones,

that assessment must be

done and ECC has to be taken

At the meeting, the chief engineer mentioned that 48 Development Project Proposals (DPPs) were now pending at different stages of the approval process.

for any government-funded

Moinul told The Daily Star yesterday that they usually carry out EIA based on the project size. Now, they will make EIA and ECC mandatory for every project. He added that some of

the DPPs are now at the preliminary stage and some at the advance stage.

Responding to a question, Moinul said, "Yes. It would take time to carry out the assessments, but we will do as per the directive."

Another top RHD official said some of the pending DPPs may not be moved forward for now given the changed situation.

But it will take time to do EIAs for the other proposed projects in the approval process and thus the number of RHD projects will decrease in the coming days, the official

said, wishing not to be named.

FROM PAGE 12 pronounced her dead, said

run rickshaw

Shamsur Rahman, chief medical officer at JU Medical "Her condition was critical when she was brought to the

entre," he said. Around 8:45pm, students marched on campus, demanding a ban on battery-

rickshaws

In 2022, Puja Majumder, a student of journalism, was seriously injured in an autorickshaw accident.

powered

Students then demanded a ban on auto-rickshaws on campus. But that demand was not met.

Ukraine fires first Debasish Roy Chowdhury gave the directives and the FROM PAGE 12

filed by Supreme Court

Military experts say US missiles can help Ukraine defend a pocket it has captured as a bargaining chip inside Russia but are not likely to change the course of the 33-month-old war.

INTERNATIONAL

COP29 SUMMIT Negotiators seek to break impasse

AFP, Baku

Negotiators yesterday sought to break a deadlock at UN climate talks after G20 leaders backed the need for "trillions" of dollars for poorer countries but left key sticking points unresolved.

Ministers at the COP29 conference in Azerbaijan had been eagerly waiting for the G20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro to issue a declaration that might jump-start the stalled negotiations.

While the lack of a phrase calling for "transitioning away from fossil fuels' disappointed activists, the statement on climate finance was cautiously welcomed at the sports stadium hosting the talks.

"G20 delegations now have their marching orders for here in Baku," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said in a statement.

urgently need all nations to bypass the



posturing and move swiftly towards common ground, across all issues," he said.

Rich nations are being urged to significantly raise their pledge of \$100 billion a year in financing for poorer countries to take action against climate change.

But efforts to finalise the deal in Baku are hampered by disputes over how much the deal should entail, who should pay it, and what types of financing should be included.

chair of the The G77+China, a grouping of developing nations, told AFP that the Rio statement was a "good building block" for the climate talks as G20 leaders acknowledged that the needs were in the "trillions"



Rescuers place the dead body of a person into a bag at the site of a residential building hit by a Russian drone strike in the town of Hlukhiv, Sumy region, Ukraine yesterday. Thousands of Ukrainian citizens have died, over six million live as refugees abroad and the population has fallen by a quarter since Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion by land, sea and air that began Europe's biggest conflict since World War Two.

Over 200 children killed in Lebanon in 2 months: Unicef

US envoy says end to Israel-Hezbollah war 'within our grasp'

REUTERS, Geneva

Over 200 children have been killed and 1,100 injured in Lebanon in the past two months, a spokesperson for the UN children's agency (Unicef) said

"The number of over 200 (children killed) is just in the last two months. It's at least 231 since the start of the war last year," James Elder told a Geneva press briefing in response to a reporter's question about casualties.

He did not comment on who was responsible for the killings, saving that it was clear to anyone who follows the conflict," he said.

landed in Beirut yesterday for talks with officials on a truce between armed group Hezbollah and Israel. Both the Lebanese government and Hezbollah have agreed to the US ceasefire proposal that

was submitted in writing last

There was no immediate comment from Israel.

Hochstein spoke in Beirut following talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. "This is a moment of decision-making. I am here in Beirut to facilitate that decision

but it's ultimately the decision of the parties to reach a conclusion to this

"It is now within our grasp... As the window Meanwhile, US envoy Amos Hochstein is now, I hope the coming days yield a resolute

The head of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, Naim Qassem, has postponed a speech set for yesterday to a later time, Hezbollah's media office said.

The speech had been announced minutes after Hochstein said there was a "real opportunity" to end the conflict.

The Israeli military said yesterday that some 40 projectiles were fired from Lebanon into central and northern Israel, with first responders reporting that four people were slightly injured by shrapnel.

That announcement followed earlier reports that some 15 projectiles fired that set of air raid sirens.

The Israeli police said they were searching the impact sites from projectiles intercepted by Israel's air defence systems but did not report any serious damage.

THE BALTIC SEA

'Hybrid warfare' suspected after two cables cut

AFP, Stockholm

Two telecommunications cables cut in the Baltic Sea in 48 hours have prompted Nordic and German officials to say they suspect "sabotage' and "hybrid warfare" stemming from Russia.

On Monday, Finnish operator Cinia reported that the "C-Lion1 submarine cable" connecting Helsinki and the German port of Rostock had been cut for unknown reasons. The break was traced to a location south of

the island of Oland in Swedish waters, some 700 kilometres from Helsinki. "These kinds of breaks don't happen in these waters without an outside impact," a Cinia spokesperson said.

Meeting in Brussels, the foreign ministers of Germany, Annalena Baerbock, and Finland, Elina Valtonen, said it hinted at foul play.

"The fact that such an incident immediately raises suspicions of intentional damage speaks volumes about the volatility of our times," they said in a joint statement.

"Our European security is not only under threat from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, but also from hybrid warfare by malicious actors.

Finland's National Bureau of Investigation announced yesterday it had launched an investigation into the broken cable, "to establish what has happened".

EASTERN PAKISTAN 8 soldiers killed, 7 cops kidnapped TTP claims responsibility

AFP, Peshawar

Eight soldiers were killed and seven police officers kidnapped in separate attacks in northwest Pakistan, police and intelligence officials told AFP yesterday.

A Monday clash resulted in the deaths of "eight soldiers" and "nine militants" in the Tirah area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, an intelligence officer said on condition of anonymity.

The Pakistani Taliban (TTP) responsibility. In a separate attack in the province, "seven police officers were kidnapped" at a checkpoint, said a senior police official, also speaking anonymously.

"The assailants also seized the weapons belonging to the officials," he added. Another police official, Muhammad Zia ud-Din, confirmed the incident.

Pakistan has seen a rise in attacks by the TTP on its border with Afghanistan. The group killed 10 police officers on October 25.

India to send 5,000 extra troops to quell Manipur unrest

AFP, New Delhi

GD-996

India will deploy an extra 5,000 paramilitary troops to quell unrest in apparent reprisal killing of six Meitei Manipur, authorities said yesterday, civilians, whose bodies were found in a week after 16 people were killed in Jiribam district days later. fresh clashes in the troubled state.

for more than 18 months between into ethnic enclaves.

Ten Kuki militants were killed when they attempted to assault police last week, prompting the

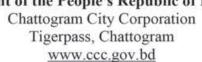
New Delhi has "ordered 50 Manipur in India's northeast has additional companies of paramilitary been rocked by periodic clashes forces to go to Manipur", a government source in New Delhi the predominantly Hindu Meitei with knowledge of the matter told majority and the mainly Christian AFP on condition of anonymity, as Kuki community, dividing the state they were not authorised to speak with media.

Each company of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), a paramilitary unit overseen by the home ministry and responsible for internal security, has 100 troops.

The Business Standard newspaper reported that the additional forces would be deployed in the state by the end of the week.

India already has thousands of troops attempting to keep the peace in the conflict that has killed at least 200 people since it began 18 months

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.39.24.0197

Date: 17/11/2024

e-Tender Notice-CCC/COS/2024-25/Notice-1

Package/ Lot No.	Tender ID	Identification of lot	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time
CCC/COS/2024- 25/W-06	1037129	Supply of stone and sand for repair and maintenance of roads in CCC area	02-Dec-2024 16:00	03-Dec-2024 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline hard copies will not 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 registered bank branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice.

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

CCC/PRD-16/24-25 (4"x4)

Tasmiah Tahseen Executive Engineer & Controller of Stores Chattogram City Corporation



GD-989

Dhaka South City Corporation Office of the Executive Engineer Zone-10, Dhalpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka

Ref No. 46.207.007. 24.09. 05.2024-2025

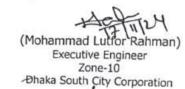
Dated: 17.11.2024

CORRIGENDUM: 1

e-Tender are invited in e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-10 , Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website from date 20/10/2024, 22:00. This is notify for all concern that the e-tender Notice whice was cerculated vide this Office Memo No: 46.207.007.24.09. 03. 2024-2025, Dated: 20.10.2024 Due to unavoidable circumstances the following tender celling and Closing date has been shifted as below:

SL	Tender ID,	Name of works	As in I	Notice	Amendments (1st)	
No.	Ref No.		Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
01.	1021855 Z10-WD5_SP- 58-59-2024- 2025	Development of works road from Arman Fashion House to Big Aunt House on Wasa Road, outside the boundary wall at the Dhaka end of Pagla sewage treatment plant under Dhaka South City Corporation Zone-10 at ward no 58-59.	18-11-2024 12.00	18-11-2024 15.00	24-11-2024 15.00	24-11-2024 15.00

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



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Fire Service & Civil Defence Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka

Memo No. 58.03.0000.008.07.001.24.12878

Date: 19/11/2024

e-Tender Notice No. FSCD (Purchase & Store)G-01/2024-2025/04

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of goods as mentioned in the following table:

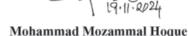
SL.	Tender	Description	Quantity	e-Tender	Last selling date	Closing &
No.	ID No.			publishing date	& time of e-	opening date &
				& time	Tender	time of e- Tender
					document	document
01	1009697	DMS Boot	12000	20.11.2024 at	04.12.2024 at	05.12.2024 at
			Pairs	12.00am	16.00pm	12.00am

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal. No offline/hard copies will be acceptable. To submit e-Tender please register in the National e-GP Portal System (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contract help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The fees for downloading the e-Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 04.12.2024 at 17.00pm.

(1) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any

(2) Tender notice will also be published in FSCD website www.fireservice.gov.bd



Mohammad Mozammal Hoque Director (Admin & Finance)

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EDITORIAL

The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Student protests must respect public welfare

Disruptions, violence by Titumir College students unacceptable

The daylong blockade of roads and railways by the students of Government Titumir College on Monday, causing severe disruption for commuters across Dhaka, is simply unacceptable. Even more appalling was the reckless act of some students throwing stones at a train they forced to stop, injuring at least 15-20 passengers, including children and women. Disturbing images published by the media showed bloodied faces of passengers, highlighting the trauma caused by this senseless behaviour. How could these students, who are demanding the establishment of a university transforming their college, believe that causing panic and disruptions would further their cause? Did they consider the harm inflicted on innocent travellers? What justification could they possibly offer?

Needless to say, the protests on Monday created massive traffic congestion across the Mohakhali Flyover and Airport Road areas, as well as surrounding streets, leaving countless commuters stranded for hours. The rail blockade further disrupted railway connections between Dhaka and the rest of the country, exacerbating the public's distress. Such actions reflect a disregard for public welfare and cannot be condoned.

This is not the first instance of students disrupting daily life with similar demands. Previously, students from the seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University-including Titumir College-protested for an autonomous university for their institutions. Their actions, too, brought significant parts of Dhaka to a standstill over several days. In response, the government formed a committee to address their concerns and held multiple discussions with student representatives. This shows that the authorities are actively working towards a resolution. While progress may be slow and additional dialogue might be necessary, it is unreasonable for one college to paralyse daily life by blocking roads and railways, especially when an official process is already underway.

Upgrading a college into a university-or creating an autonomous one combining all seven colleges-is not a decision that can be made hastily. It requires a thorough assessment to ensure the institution meets necessary qualifications and possesses the infrastructure and resources to function as a university. The interim government has repeatedly urged those with grievances to approach them for resolution. Representatives from Titumir College eventually did so, engaging in discussions at the Secretariat. However, dissatisfied with the lack of immediate results, the students resumed their protests on Tuesday. This impatience and unreasonableness are disappointing.

We strongly urge the students of Titumir College—and all others engaging in similar protests—to stop causing suffering to ordinary citizens. They must exercise patience and seek solutions through dialogue. Students should also carefully evaluate the legitimacy and practicality of their demands. Continued unreasonable and disruptive protests risk alienating the public and may ultimately do more harm than good to their cause.

Govt must rein in rising drug prices

DGDA should strengthen oversight to keep medicines affordable

It is no secret that Bangladesh has one of the highest out-of-pocket health expenditures in the world, with the majority of costs going toward buying medicine. Under such circumstances, it is concerning to learn that the prices of about 50 life-saving drugs have been raised by 10 to 50 percent since September. A report published in *Ajker Patrika* presents a grim picture of the increasing prices of drugs used to treat common ailments such as fever, acidity, pain, breathing difficulties, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.

Of the 219 medicines on the list of essential drugs approved by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), prices for 117 are fixed by DGDA. The prices for the remaining drugs are proposed by manufacturers and approved by DGDA. The drug watchdog told Ajker Patrika that it approved proposed price hikes for about 10 drugs in the last three months, but none of the mark-ups exceeded 10 percent. However, the report cited a packet of locally manufactured painkillers whose price rose from Tk 600 in August to Tk 1,000 in September—a 40 percent increase. Similarly, the price of a solution for treating scabies, manufactured by a well-known local pharmaceutical company, rose by 68 percent. Such increases have led to a 50 percent rise in people's medicine expenditure over the last three months.

When asked, drug manufacturers cite the rising import costs of raw materials as a primary reason for the price hikes. While the dollar crisis impacted import costs, import duties which are not waived for all pharmaceutical raw materials—also add to the cost, according to some company owners. However, economists argue that a higher production cost alone cannot justify such steep price hikes. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that the DGDA fully carries out its responsibility to monitor drug prices. In the past, we have urged the authorities to also strictly monitor and regulate pharmacies, many of which arbitrarily mark up medicine prices. Many, especially in rural areas, even sell expired, substandard or counterfeit drugs thanks to poor monitoring.

At a time when dengue and other viral fevers are circulating and food inflation is skyrocketing-causing an unbearable cost of living crisis—the drug authorities must be prudent in approving and monitoring drug price hikes to prevent further public suffering.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Mexican Revolution launched

On this day in 1910, Francisco Madero launched a failed revolt that nonetheless sparked the Mexican Revolution by inspiring hope in leaders such as Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, who then mobilised their ragged armies.

Hundred days of hope



is an advocate of the Supreme Court and a

MANZUR-AL-MATIN

I was far from home attending a conference when I saw the tweet from Donald Trump. He was trying to tell the world that Bangladesh was in chaos, that minority communities here were being subjected to "barbaric violence." This was the same narrative that the Indian media has been promoting all along. It reminded me of a cartoon by Debashish Chakrabarty, whose work moved many during the days of the July uprising. The cartoon tells India, "Stop acting like you've lost your colony." The US president-elect's tweet reminded me that the India media isn't going to stop its propaganda against Bangladesh anytime soon.

Recently, while addressing the nation on the 100 days of the interim government's rule, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has warned of deep-rooted conspiracies against Bangladesh. It's a grim reality we face every day. The murderous dictator, Sheikh Hasina, fled the country on August 5 when millions marched on the streets of Dhaka. None of the parliament members were to be found. It was as though the Awami League, which had ruled the country for over 15 years, vanished into thin air. Unfortunately, it was too late for many. By then, Hasina had claimed the lives of at least 1,500 individuals, many of them children and students.

During AL's reign, the country's economy was pushed to the brink of collapse. Money laundering reached new heights, essentially bleeding the country dry. Now, we can feel this huge amount of black money playing its part in conspiracies against Bangladesh. Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of the former dictator, has been reported to have hired a US lobbying firm. There are also reports of a massive number of bot accounts on social media. Although the rank and file of the former ruling party have disappeared from the streets, they are still very much active online. Their role in creating divisions among the forces of the July movement and attacking prominent figures of the uprising seems well-organised.

During the July uprising, the entire nation was united for one purpose

alone: the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. People from all walks of life joined the movement. Different political parties, with different visions for Bangladesh's future, came together to address the immediate threat. When the edifice of AL's fascism collapsed, however, that single uniting goal was gone. For over a decade, we had lived in an environment where only a few dared to speak, and those who did were often tortured or forcibly disappeared. Now, in the newfound

unity among the forces of the uprising. This is why it is crucial to find a bottom line upon which all forces can agree.

Undoubtedly, the government has many shortcomings. Prices have not come down as expected. Garment workers in some factories are still owed their arrears, forcing them to continue protests. Public disorder still remains a concern. These issues—to name just a few—need to be addressed as we work towards a greater unity. Improvements in these vital areas would surely enhance confidence in the interim government, paving the way for sustainable unity.

Finding the minimum to agree upon isn't that difficult. No one would question our desire for a fair electoral system that allows people to choose their leaders. People with diverse religious and cultural backgrounds participated equally in the uprising. The graffities on the walls dreamt of an

We must remain mindful of what is at stake. We must not forget brave souls like Abu Sayeed who gave their lives for a better Bangladesh. When we managed to overthrow the dictator, hopes understandably ran high. But now, after a hundred days, we must think practically. Because if we continue to tread down different paths leading to different visions for the nation, external forces will exploit this disunity to wreak havoc in the country. Thus, no time can be wasted in finding a common ground. Open dialogue among the forces of the uprising is paramount.

What is happening in Bangladesh is not unique. Countries like Sudan, Egypt and Sri Lanka have all gone through similar experiences. In Sudan and Egypt, the divide between liberals and Islamists led to civil war, while Sri Lanka fared better in establishing a pluralistic society. Attempts to



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

freedom, everyone has found their voice. There are countless gatherings and seminars across the country. People are flooding auditoriums, participating in debates about what the new nation should look like. When people speak their minds, differences of opinion naturally emerge. That is the essence of democracy—people agreeing to disagree. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are strong forces at play, both domestic and foreign, that would exploit any opportunity to disrupt the inclusive Bangladesh where everyone regardless of ethnicity, religion or political views—enjoys the same rights. Unity and equity among the people, while recognising our differences, is also something we can all agree upon. People took to the streets with the hope that the growing economic disparity would be reversed somedayanother area of consensus. By holding onto this short list of achievable goals, we can remain united for the cause of Bangladesh while agreeing to disagree on the more complex issues.

exclude or annihilate one's political opponents lead only to chaos, and rarely succeed. Over the past 15 years, the Awami League has done everything possible to eliminate its political opponents, which eventually only strengthened opposition. This should serve as a warning to those who continue to promote division. It's time we started walking away from exclusionary politics and toward inclusivity. If we fail to do so, fascism will inevitably return, in one form or

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Helping street children requires a holistic, evidence-based approach



is executive director at the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and author of Beyond Apologies: Defining and Achieving an Economics of Wellbeing.

DEBRA EFROYMSON

as exposed to the types of ads that are common in the Global North, seeking support to sponsor a poor child in an impoverished land. The images in those ads, though good for fundraising, are problematic. The child is portrayed in a vacuum, without a family, in a dehumanising way, rather than as a fully sentient human being who experiences joy as well as anguish. It is essential that we acknowledge the horrific situations faced by many street children: violence (including sexual violence), exploitation at the hands of employers, extreme discomfort, chronic hunger, and lack of educational opportunities, among others. But we must also remember that they are human beings. They may have loving families-however incapable they may be of taking proper care of them. These children and their families need support, but it must be delivered respectfully and with an appreciation of the full rights of the children.

Having good intentions towards street children is not enough. We must ensure that our actions are based on evidence of what will benefit them, that we don't simply remove them from the streets so as to rid ourselves of the guilt. We need to question why there are so many children roaming the streets of our cities—more than well-funded

In Bangladesh, people may not be 34 lakh, according to UNICEF. Why does this situation persist when Bangladesh's economy has done so well? In 2021, while just 21 percent of national income went to the bottom 40 percent of Bangladeshis, 27 percent of income went to the richest 10 percent. The added wealth continues to go to the top, and poverty remains widespread at the bottom. Until we address income inequality, it will not help even if the GDP continues to expand.

It is easy to speak in generalities. Far more difficult is to implement programmes and actions that achieve the needed results. In its report "Transformative Action to Accelerate Results for Children in Street Situations in the Decade of Action," UNICEF recommends a number of integrated approaches to the issue, including social protection, ending poverty, preventing family-child separation, improving educational outcomes, strengthening protection policies and programmes, working with local governments, and investing in evidence-building.

Social protection and poverty alleviation require an ongoing shifting of financial resources from the wealthiest to the poorest. The simplest mechanism is a high tax on the wealthy, which then goes to support and well-managed programmes to support the poor. services to children directly and to One aspect could be to give the same hold "local governments accountable payment to all families to support their children; the rich will always pay vastly more in taxes, but are less likely to object when they themselves are the recipients of the aid.

More complicated is the need to protect children from violence. Evidence-based approaches, not simply the desire to help, are vital. It is also important that the police understand that children are victims, not criminals. Laws to prevent the exploitation of poor children need strong enforcement, which also requires a social pact not to tolerate such activities. The common practice of using poor children as household help, without ensuring their rights, is not compatible with an interest in protecting children.

It is not enough to prevent children from labour exploitation; they also need the education and skills to obtain a decent job. UNICEF emphasises that "children and young people must have access to technical and vocational training and 21st century skills they need for productive lives and work. This in turn will increase and improve the number of quality work opportunities available to youth, while at the same time they will stay protected from violence and exploitation."

The focus on cities and local governments is also complicated, but basically involves ensuring that local governments prioritise and strengthen child protection services. This means putting aside sufficient budget and making the protection of street children and other vulnerable children a priority. In order to enact effective programmes, money must also be set aside for research. The if for a day on World Children's Dayrole of civil society is both to provide

to protecting children's rights by promoting active participation of children in the civic discourse." That final phrase bears repeating. Adults don't always understand what is in the best interests of children. Children themselves need to be involved in planning; for instance, my colleagues have used the computer game Minecraft to enable children to give input into an urban design of open public space.

Many street children rightly fear law enforcement and thus wish to hide from surveys. The understandable fear children have of authorities needs to be respected when data collection is undertaken. We need to know not only how many children are on the streets, but also what challenges they face and what interventions can prove effective. Important areas of study include exposure to violence, "access to justice, birth registration, gender equality, child labour, education and reduced inequality." Programmes to assist street children require rigorous evaluation to measure their effectiveness.

It can be more pleasant to indulge in platitudes and generalities while ignoring root causes and effective solutions. But if we really wish to solve the problem, we need to understand it better and acknowledge the role of conventional economics. Assisting street children without simultaneously helping struggling parents, and looking at poverty without simultaneously studying wealth inequality and solutions for it, will get us nowhere. And those children we feel so bad about—even deserve better.

Trump 2.0 and the future of Bangladesh-US defence relations

Kawsar Uddin Mahmud is a researcher at KRF Center for Bangladesh and

Md Sakib Hossain is a political and international relations analyst.

KAWSAR UDDIN MAHMUD and MD SAKIB HOSSAIN

Two months away from his second inauguration, Donald Trump aspires to be more protectionist to "Make America Great Again" this time. In his previous term, Trump declared the Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2019, citing this region as "the single most consequential region for America's future."

With the recent change in the administration in Bangladesh and the upcoming change in the United States, there is a growing need for reassessing the Bangladesh-US defence relations from a critical perspective. In the forthcoming years, the Indo-Pacific Strategy will be a key cornerstone for the US in engaging with Indo-Pacific nations. Hence, it has become imperative to look into and analyse what kind of defence ties may evolve between the two countries and why Bangladesh may face a dilemma while hedging between the US and China to maintain the ties under the second Trump presidency.

Before deep-diving into the defence dynamics, we must take a look at why

With the recent change in the administration in Bangladesh and the upcoming change in the United States, there is a growing need for reassessing the Bangladesh-US defence relations from a critical perspective. In the forthcoming years, the Indo-Pacific Strategy will be a key cornerstone for the US in engaging with Indo-Pacific nations. Hence, it has become imperative to look into and analyse what kind of defence ties may evolve between the two countries. the Indo-Pacific geopolitics, Bangladesh is deemed a strategic linchpin due to its crucial Southeast Asia. Its geographic location in the from a mere regional player to a vital strategic partner for major global powers—the US, the massive potential. Yet, per the World Bank

Bangladesh is an inevitable player for the unveiled in April 2023, echoes the country's global powers in the region. Regarding nuanced approach to regional politics. The country champions an all-inclusive approach, accentuating regional cooperation location that connects South Asia with and stability over strategic competition. Bangladesh is also projected to become a heart of the Bay of Bengal region has turned it trillion-dollar economy by 2040, sitting at the intersection of major global markets with



Former US President and President-elect Donald Trump attends a bilateral meeting with China's President Xi Jinping during the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan on June 29, FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

United Kingdom and Japan.

The Bay of Bengal holds a great strategic value as about half of the world's container traffic passes through this region, and its seaports handle around one-third of world trade. It is a major part of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which sees 80 percent of the global maritime oil shipments. A pronounced control over 118,813 square kilometres of the Bay, decisively affirmed through the rulings by the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), complements the significance accorded to Bangladesh as an inevitable player in the region.

Outlook, Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific

data, it loses \$1 billion annually due to tropical cyclones alone, and may lose one-third of its agricultural GDP by 2050 due to the impacts of climate change.

However, in the context of US-China rivalry in the region, the second Trump administration is expected to be more assertive. Analysts argue that among other issues, keeping China under pressure in the Indo-Pacific region will be one of the core geopolitical goals of Trump. In this respect, while evading the conflicts, Bangladesh must be cautious in stepping forward if it wants to exploit the geopolitical gains.

For five decades, Bangladesh and the US have enjoyed unfeigned defence relations and

counterterrorism, peacekeeping, defence purchase, and defence capability building. In recent times, the countries have developed a trustworthy relationship that is founded on shared values regarding a free and open Indo-Pacific. According to the US Department of State, Bangladesh has received \$78.45 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and \$14.5 million in International Military Education and Training (IMET) assistance since 2014. With the US's assistance, Bangladesh has acquired patrol boats for its army, navy and coast guard, as well as mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles for international peacekeeping missions. In two phases, Bangladesh received 50 MRAPs under the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) programme in 2019 to provide additional safety to its peacekeeping troops in Mali. Additionally, the US Army delivered 46 additional MRAPs with 11 mine rollers to Bangladesh in 2021. Bangladesh also received two Hamilton-

class cutters previously owned by the US Coast Guard under the EDA programme in 2013 and 2015. These naval assets are playing a crucial role in providing security to Bangladesh's maritime territory and ensuring safe passage for foreign vessels. In FY2021, the US approved the permanent export of over \$14 million in defence articles to Bangladesh under the Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) mechanism. The items include aircraft, assault rifles, military electronics, ground vehicles, and fire control, laser, imaging and guidance equipment for the military.

Under the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), the US has contributed nearly \$44 million since 2005 to support training and equipment upgrades to peacekeeping Bangladesh's capabilities. Besides, the countries have been participating in security dialogues and joint exercises like Exercise Tiger Shark, CARAT, Exercise Shanti Doot, and Exercise Pacific Angel for years. These joint initiatives aim to expand partnerships in humanitarian and security aspects between the two countries and the region.

Despite numerous sectors of cooperation between Bangladesh and the US, there have been concerns regarding the former country's state of democracy and human rights during the Sheikh Hasina regime. However, and economic constraints.

worked on a wide array of security issues, Bangladesh has embarked on a new journey including maritime security, border security, towards democracy and prosperity following the fall of the Hasina regime as the result of a student-led mass uprising in July 2024.

Conversely, the change in the US administration may corner Bangladesh to limit its military ties with China, which supplies most of its defence equipment. During Trump's first tenure, the US tried to use defence diplomacy to "woo" Bangladesh away from China. The US Secretary of Defence at the time, Mark Esper phoned former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, proposing to help modernise Bangladesh's military by 2030. The US offered Apache attack helicopters and missiles during that time. However, no major arms sales deal was formalised during Trump's first tenure. Bangladesh abandoned arms purchases from the US due to its stringent policies attached to arms use under the ACSA and GSOMIA agreements.

There is a strong possibility of the revival of talks between the two countries during the second Trump presidency, possibly including the signing of these agreements. However, Bangladesh may not opt for expensive US defence equipment to avoid increasing the burden on its plunging foreign exchange

The acquisition of two Hamiltonclass cutters in 2013 and 2015 and the authorisation of over \$14 million in defence articles to Bangladesh through DCS in FY2021 demonstrates the US's commitment to the military modernisation of Bangladesh. Yet, in the context of Indo-Pacific geopolitics, this defence rapport is palpable to be more complex in the coming days. Bangladesh's strategic hedging between the US and China has become increasingly precarious. Its hefty reliance on Chinese military equipment could be a ground of contention with the Trump administration, which is likely to be confrontational against China this time.

However, the success of future defence relations will widely depend on how these countries manage the competing priorities. Bangladesh, upholding strategic autonomy while benefiting from US military cooperation without alienating China is going to be an arduous challenge. For the US, on the other hand, the challenge lies in offering attractive defence partnerships that acknowledge Bangladesh's strategic concerns

Why is Elon Musk all over US politics?



RAMISA ROB

If there's one man who's been everywhere in the news since Donald Trump won the election, it's the business tycoon Elon Musk with a MAGA hat on his head, wearing the ecstatic smile of a man who just won his way into ultimate power. JD Vance, the actual vice president-elect, appears not nearly as close to Trump as Musk. As Trump watched himself win the elections in Mar-a-Lago, it was Musk sitting at his arm's length.

Musk helped Trump win the White House by not only pumping the campaign with reportedly \$130 million but also dedicating his platform X as a MAGA megaphone. Offline, Musk funded advertising and get-out-the-vote operations, conservative winning over communities including even Amish groups in Pennsylvania. He's the richest man in the world, and with the upcoming Trump presidency, he's poised to win even more.

presidentthe US announced his cabinet nominations, he made an expected announcement: Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead a new department called the Department of Government Efficiency. It is an unusual appointment-no high profile billionaire like Musk has been so overtly involved in political decision-making—but Trump had vowed, during his campaign, to make Musk the head of a new "government efficiency commission" with the power to recommend wide-ranging cuts at federal agencies and changes to federal rules. Likewise, Musk attended rallies and has cast his plans to optimise government efficiency in ways never seen before, reiterating his hopes of colonising Mars one day. The questions that most political analysts and the media seem to be grappling with, is how and why Elon Musk has emerged as the second main figure in US politics since the elections. For his progressive pariahs, the explanation is quite simple, Musk is there for what he does best: business.

Elon Musk has a religious following of people who espouse his ideology, such as his belief that settling other planets is essential if humans are to avoid extinction through a large asteroid colliding with Earth. Many of his supporters, especially in the right-wing, have long believed in an extension of "manifest destiny" to outer space. Musk was perceived as a contrarian and odd foil to the political scene with the Democrats, but now with Donald Trump's popular vote win, it is more likely that his view regarding the regulatory state being not only a threat to his business but also humanity, resonates with the masses in the US.

And the fact of the matter is that Musk has always been a powerful backer; he historically backed the Democrats. His companies have had contracts with the federal government. SpaceX dictates NASA's rocket launch schedule, surpassing Boeing as a major contractor. The Department of Defence depends on him for satellites. The root cause of Musk's rise to Trump's biggest political ally lies in the fact that his backing of the incumbent president did not serve him. Musk voted for Joe Biden in 2020. Biden and Musk shared many policy objectives, specifically investment in green

Then his takeover of Twitter in 2022 went through rounds of legal battles and Biden snubbed Tesla and backed unions. Biden even pushed for a bill to benefit EVs that are unionised, at the expense of those that are not: Tesla. At the time, in 2022, even The New York Times—which is generally critical of Musk-wrote, "Biden's beef with Musk seems to be a big missed opportunity-politically."

In December 2023, Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) had rejected \$886 million in subsidies to Starlink, the satellite internet services that oversees SpaceX. Musk increasingly grew frustrated with the government, and wrote on X, that

with the US federal government's to make it to Mars." regulatory agencies. Musk's plan to turn Tesla into a producer of driverless vehicles, Autopilot—which Trump is a proponent of-has run into major regulatory obstacles after it was found that the driverassisted version of Autopilot caused hundreds of crashes and dozens of fatalities.

But now Musk has a way out of his own regulatory headaches as he can influence who's in charge of what in the government through DOGE, which is formed on that very premise of ending government bureaucracy; in other words, it helps Musk get what he wants, and get it faster. The fact that it's not a government department but "advisory group" allows Musk to dodge the federal code's primary conflict of interest which bans government employees from participating in government matters in which they have financial stakes. Elon Musk has said he plans to slash \$2 trillion from the federal budget to make it more effective, but by law, he doesn't have the power to do that. But he can influence it as an "adviser." And he's been influencing quite a bit so far. On November 18, President-elect Trump nominated Brendan Carr—a

Elon Musk has a way out of his own regulatory headaches as he can influence who's in charge of what in the government through DOGE, which is formed on that very premise of ending government bureaucracy; in other words, it helps Musk get what he wants, and get it faster.

Republican official who has been outspoken in his support of Elon Musk's businesses to lead the FCCsuggesting he could get the financial benefits. Besides, Musk's SpaceX already stands to gain billions from federal contracts in the coming years, and a new mission to Mars-which would be more easily approved under the Trump administration—would SpaceX would reach Mars sooner, only make that federal spigot wider.

"as long as it is not smothered by When campaigning for Trump, joined in a call Trump had with Bessent for the role, to which he bureaucracy." Beyond SpaceX, Musk Musk had posted on X, "Vote for @ has also had no shortage of run-ins donaldtrump if you want humanity involvement in it all, raises suspicions. usual-choice, whereas (Lutnick) will

Musk's bet on Trump has already Times, right after Trump's win Lutnick is more on board with benefited him. Tesla's share price has and before Musk's appointment to been up 50 percent since Trump's DOGE, revealed that the SpaceX CEO who's considered a moderate. win. According to Tesla's SEC filings, wanted Trump to hire employees Musk owns about 715 shares, so that from his rocket company as top where Tesla has the biggest factory,

Turkey's Erdogan, and his general replied, that "Bessent is a business-as-Another report by *The New York* actually enact change." For context, Trump's tariff policies than Bessent

Trump's proposed tariffs on China, itself, when combined with the rise government officials, including at are likely to benefit Musk more than



Elon Musk at an event in support of Donald Trump at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pennsylvania, US on October 18, 2024.

in share price, would amount to \$50 billion. So whether his poker move on Donald Trump works out in the long run or not, the vast sum he's gained already covers not only what he spent on the President-elect, but also the \$44 billion that Musk and a group of investors poured into Twitter two

The world's richest man's side hustle as shadow vice president of the US is even extended to foreign policy as well. He has been a key player both in Ukraine's war against Russia; Starlink satellites operated by Musk's company SpaceX have provided internet connectivity to Ukraine's war effort. But Musk has feuded with Zelensky after he suggested a controversial peace proposal where Russia retain control over Crimea, which it illegally annexed in 2014. He also suggested that Ukraine drop its bid to join NATO. It's unclear how much political influence he would have on Trump's policies regarding Russia and Ukraine, but Musk also

the Department of Defense. DOGE keeps Musk an outsider by law, but judging by the nature of his relationship with Trump, he will have a lot of inner political influence in the upcoming days-more than say, a member of Congress-but the breadth and longevity of that remains to be seen. Trump and Musk are both unpredictable and eccentric by nature. Last week, friction unraveled between Musk and Boris Ephshteyn—a top adviser who's pushed for Cabinet picks that include the attorney general nominee, Matt Gaetz. Axios reported that the disagreement exploded at a dinner table at Mar-a-Lago and Musk accused Ephshteyn of leaking details of Trump's transition—including personnel picks—to the media.

Musk is now reportedly throwing his weight behind Trump's transition co-chair Howard Lutnick, the CEO of Wall Street firm Cantor Fitzgerald for Treasure secretary. On X, investor Kyle Bass wanted fund manager Scott the end of the day.

hurt him. It would bar cheaper EVs from China making it into the US, and Tesla, which makes cars in the US for the domestic market, stands to gain from it. But foreign policy over China, could create tensions in the bromance between Musk and Trump. Musk makes cars in Shanghai for the Chinese domestic market too. By 2022, China accounted for about 22 percent of Tesla's total revenues. While many analysts believe that Musk's role in Trump's China policies would lead to an eventual fall-out, it could also be possible that Trump would want to keep Musk on the side—even if it means falling out with his security hawks in the foreign policy department—given the wealth of resources Musk has to denigrate

an opponent. The night Donald Trump won the election, he said, "We have to protect our geniuses. We don't have any of them." And Elon Musk is a genius because he managed to get his way at



বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Secondary and Higher Education Division

Ministry of Education

(www.heat.ugc.gov.bd)



Ref: No. HEAT/PMU/G1(2024-25)-42/2024/200

Date: 20/11/2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1035428	HEAT/2024- 25/G1	Supply of Desktop Computer, UPS/Stabilizer, Laptop/Notebook, Photocopier (Heavy Duty), Scanner (Heavy Duty), Printer (Heavy Duty), Smart Attendance System, CCTV, Video Camera, DSLR Camera, Multimedia System (Projectors + screens), PA System, Video Conferencing System.	11-Dec-2024 11:00am	11-Dec-2024 02:00pm	11-Dec-2024 02:00pm

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered

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

Dr Asaduzzaman Project Director, HEAT

GD-995

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet Phone: 0299-6631506 E-mail: sesyl@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.9100.010.07.5/608(ka).24-3744

Dated: 19/11/2024

Tender Corrigendum-01

This is to notified for all concern that, the following amendments has been made to the Invitation of Tender Ref. No. 35.01.9100.010.07.5/608(ka).24-3636; Dated: 11.11.2024 for procurement of Non-Consulting Services.

SL. No.	Name of Criteria	Published as	To be replaced with
6	Invitation for	Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a	Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a
"	III VITALIOII IOI	Real-time Web based Toll collection system of	Real-time Web based Toll collection system of
		"Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of	"Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of
		Moulvibazar-Rajnagor-Fenchugonj-Sylhet	Moulvibazar-Rajnagor-Fenchugonj-Sylhet
		Road (N-208) under Sylhet Road Division	Road (N-208) under Sylhet Road Division
		during the year 2023-2024 for 03 (Three) years.	during the year 2024-2025 for 03 (Three) years.
14	Tender Package No.	04/PSN/SRC/2023-2024(Re-Tender)	01/PSN/SRC/2024-2025(Re-Tender)
15	Tender Package	Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a	Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a
	Name	Real-time Web based Toll collection system of	Real-time Web based Toll collection system of
		"Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of	"Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of
		Moulvibazar-Rajnagor-Fenchugonj-Sylhet	Moulvibazar-Rajnagor-Fenchugonj-Sylhet
		Road(N-208) under Sylhet Road Division	Road(N-208) under Sylhet Road Division
		during the year 2023-2024 for 03 (Three) years.	during the year 2024-2025 for 03 (Three) years.
23	Brief Description of	Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a	Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a
	Services	Real-time Web based Toll collection system of	Real-time Web based Toll collection system of
		"Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of	"Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of
		Moulvibazar-Rajnagor-Fenchugonj-Sylhet	Moulvibazar-Rajnagor-Fenchugonj-Sylhet
		Road(N-208) under Sylhet Road Division	Road(N-208) under Sylhet Road Division
		during the year 2023-2024 for 03 (Three) years.	during the year 2024-2025 for 03 (Three) years.
25	Package No.	04/PSN/SRC/2023-2024(Re-Tender)	01/PSN/SRC/2024-2025(Re-Tender)

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice will be treated as a part & parcel of the tender.

ID No. 601944 Superintending Engineer, RHD (C.C.)

Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet

GD-994

GD-992

Office of the Project Director "Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET" Khulna University of Engineering & Technology Khulna - 9203, Bangladesh.

Ref. No: KUET/EIAA/2024-25/DG-2428-2443 INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER Date: 19/11/2024

1	Minis	stry/Division	Ministry of Education, Secondar	y and Higher Education Division	
2	Organ	nization	Khulna University of Engineerin	g & Technology (KUET)	
3		aring Entity Name	Project Director, Expansion of Ir	frastructure and Academic Activities of KUET	
4		aring Entity District	Khulna		
		ation for	Supply of Scientific Equipment		
		DRMATION	Ones Tondarias Mathed Colonia		
		rement Method INFORMATION	Open Tendering Method (Interna	MIODRI)	
		et and Source of Fund	Development Budget		
		lopment Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
		LAR INFORMATION	Managaran area		
9		ct/Program Code (if applicable)	224270900		
10		ct/Program Name		Academic Activities of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology"	
11		er Package Name	Supply of Scientific Equipment		
12		er Publication Date er Last Selling Date	19-11-2024 02-01-2025, 9:00 AM		
4		er Last Submission Date & Time	02-01-2025, 1:00 PM		
15		er Opening Date & Time		28-2431,3.30 PM for DG-2432-2435,4.00 PM for DG-2436-2439& 4.30 PM	4 for DG-2440-2443
16		e & Address of the Office of	Office of the Project Director, K.	hulna University of Engineering & Technology, Administrative Building (E	
10		ng/Receiving/Opening of the Tender Document	KUET-9203, Khulna.		
7		Date/Time of Pre-tender Meeting (Optional)	None		
		ATION FOR TENDERER		WARANA CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY	
8		bility of Tenderer	As Per Tender Schedule (TDS & Supply of Scientific Equipment	(PCC)	
9		Description of related service er Document Price		nly) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET" (For each package)	
-		ation Ref. No and Date	Ref. No: KUET/EIAA/2024-25/	DG-2428-2431, Date: 19/11/2024	
	Packs	nge No: DG-2428-2431/2024	Package Name: Supply of Scient		
	SN	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security (Tk.)	Completion Time
	1017	AVERTON OF EACH		2.30,000/=	Samplemon VIIII
n	(1)	Lot 1: Supply of DSC TGA (MERC Lab)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Two Lac Thirty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EJAA, KUET"	3 Months
	(ii)	Lot 2: Supply of BET, Particle Size Analyzer	Office of the Project Director,	9,00,000/=	3 Months
	(iii)	& Raman Spectrometer (MERC Lab) Lot 3:Supply of AFM and Element (C, H, N,	Office of the Project Director,	(Nine Lac Only) Pay Order in Payor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET" 8,00,000/=	3 Months
	2005	S) Analyzer (MERC Lab) Lot 4: Supply of Vacuum chamber for nano	EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Eight Lac Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET" 3,70,000/m	39338973556
	(iv)	particle deposition study with accessories(MERC Lab)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Three Lac Seventy Lakh Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
	Invita	ation Ref. No and Date		OG-2432-2435, Date: 19/11/2024	
		age No: DG-2432-2435/2024	Package Name: Supply of Scient		
	SN	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security (Tk.)	Completion Time
	(i)	Lot 1: Supply of 3D Structured Light Scanning Machine (MERC Lab)	Office of the Project Director,	4,00,000/=	3 Months
	-		EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Four Lac Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET" 5,50,000/=	500 00
2	(ii)	Lot 2: Supply of Material Sample preparation equipment (MERC Lab)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Five Lac Fifty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
	(iii)	Lot 3: Supply of Thermogravimetric Analyzer (ME)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	2,50,000/= (Two Lac Fifty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT	3 Months
	92.770	Lot 4: Supply of Thermal Conductivity (For	Office of the Project Director,	2,00,000/=	11635-1663
	(iv)	metal) Testing Meter (ME)	EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Two Lac Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
	Invita	ation Ref. No and Date		DG-2436-2439, Date: 19/11/2024	·
	Packr	age No: DG-2436-2439/2024	Package Name: Supply of Scient		
	SN	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security (Tk.)	Completion Tim
	44	Lot 1: Supply of Metal Tester, Optical	Office of the Project Director,	2,80,000/=	236
	(i)	Emission Spectrometer and Stationary Spectrometer (ME)	EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Two Lac Eighty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
13	(ii)	Lot 2: Supply of 3D Printer, Accessories of Universal Testing Machine, Filament Making	Office of the Project Director,	3,00,000/=	3 Months
	Taugh.	Machine etc. (ME)	EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(Three Lac Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	2003000
	(iii)	Lot 3: Supply of Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy (ME)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	1,50,000/= (One Lac Fifty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
	(iv)	Lot 4: Supply of Automatic Isoperibol Bomb Calorimeter (ME)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	1,10,000/= (One Lac Ten Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT"	3 Months
_				EIAA, KUET"	
		ation Ref. No and Date age No: DG-2440-2443/2024		DG-2440-2443, Date: 19/11/2024	
	transcent per print to	Identification of Lot	Package Name: Supply of Scient Location		Completion Tim
	SN	identification of Lot	Pocation	Tender Security (Tk.) 1,30,000/=	Completion 11m
	(i)	Lot 1: Supply of Oil Analyzer (ME)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	(One Lac Thirty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
4	(ii)	Lot 2: Supply of Spark CCD Metal Optical Emission Spectrophotometer (MSE)	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	ctor, (Two Lac Fifty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT	
	(iii)	Lot 3: Supply of Impact Testing Machine, Hot Isostatic Press Molding Machine and	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	EIAA, KUET" 3,00,000/= (Three Lac Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 Months
	(iv)	Induction Furnace (MSE) Lot 4: Supply of ICP-OES (Chemistry)	Office of the Project Director,	3,50,000/= (Three Lac Fifty Thousand Only) Pay Order in Favor of "JAMANAT	3 Months
			EIAA, KUET, Khulna	EIAA, KUET"	>
5		of Official Inviting Tender gnation of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain Project Director, EIAA		
7		ess of Official Inviting Tender	Planning and Engineering Build	ling, 2nd Floor, KUET-9203, Khulna	
8				Ext. 8249; Fax: +88041-774403, Mob: +8801948941800,+880191852313	l Email: pd-
		ract Details of Official Inviting Tender	eiaa@kuet.ac.bd		and the same of th



Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer Zone-1 (Nagar Bhaban)

Memo No.: egp/dscc/zone-01/03(1)/2024-2025

Date: 18/11/2024

"Corrigendum Notice No-1"

This is for kind information to all concerned that the tender Memo no- egp/dscc/zone-01/03/2024-2025; Dated: 31/10/2024 has been made following amended for Tender ID: 1004637. All concerned are requested to take necessary actions accordingly.

SI No.	Tender ID & Package No Name of the works	Amended Subject	As per Tender Notice published on e-GP	As per 1 st Corrigendum published on e-GP
01.	1004637 WR05/Z1/Cutting/FY2024-25	Document last selling date & time	19/11/2024 13:18	24/11/2024 13:18
	Repairing works for the cutting of Dhanmondi R/A road no-9/A in ward no-15 zone-01 under Dhaka	Opening Date & Time	19/11/2024 17:00	24/11/2024 17:00
	South City Corporation.	Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	19/11/2024 15:18	24/11/2024 15:18
		Closing Date & Time	19/11/2024 17:00	24/11/2024 17:00

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum is a part and parcel of the Tenders.

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১২৯/২০২৪-২০২৫

Ministry/Division

Procuring entity name

Agency

2

Dhaka South City Corporation. Telephone No.: 02-223388454 E-mail: xenzone1dscc@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP 1): Implementation of National Single Window (NSW) And

Strengthening Customs Modernization Project National Board of Revenue

160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. E-mail: pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com

Re-Invitation for Tenders

Internal Resources Division

National Board of Revenue (NBR)

Project Director, Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1

5	Trocumg chary	in i	(BRCP 1): Implementation of National Single Window (NSW)				
					usto	oms Modernization.	
4	Procuring entity		Not used a	at present			
5	Procuring entity	district	Dhaka				
6	Invitation for			Five (5) Ve	ehic	eles	
7	Invitation Ref No	0.	NBR-NC				
8	Date		20 Novem	ber 2024			
	Y INFORMATIO		0.000 6 0.00				
9	Procurement met		OTM, NO	Т.			
	NDING INFORM		000				
10	Budget and source		GOB				
11		rtners (if applicable)	IDA				
	RTICULAR INFO		3.7				
12		code (if applicable)	None	Deand of De		Danaladaah Da	aiamal Campantinitu
13	Project name (if	аррисаоте)	Project 1 (Window ((BRCP 1): NSW) and	Imp	plementation of Nat rengthening Custom	
14	Tender Package		NBR-NC				
15	Tender package	name	Hiring of	five (5) Ve	hic	les	
			Date				
16	Tender publication		Not applic				
17	Tender last sellin	ng date	1 Decemb	er, 2024			
			Time		_		
18	Tender closing d		2 Decemb		-	.00pm	
19	Tender opening of		2 Decemb	er, 2024	2.	.30pm	
20	Name & address		Address				
	- Selling tender document (principal)					h Regional Connect	
							gle Window (NSW)
			and Strengthening Customs Modernization, 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh				
	0.111			00, Bangla	des	h	
	- Selling tender document (others)		None				
	- Receiving tender document - Opening tender document		Office of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP 1): Implementation of National Single Window (NSW)				
	- Opening tender	document				oms Modernization,	
				00, Bangla			, 100/A, Nakiali,
INE	ORMATION FO	D TENDERER	Dilaka-10	oo, Bangia	ucs	ш	
22	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER 22 Eligibility of tenderer			 The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 05 (five) years (years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper). The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least one contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of five (5) years with a value of at least of Tk. 1.00 (one) crore shall be required (years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper). The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 18.00 lakh. 			
23	Brief description		Hiring of				
24	Price of tender d		Tk. 1000/	00 (one tho			
	Package No.	Identification of	Location	Tender s	ecu	rity amount (Tk)	Completion time in
		package					months
25	NBR-NC 6A	NBR-NC 6A/1	Dhaka	BDT Tk.	2.0	0 (two) lakh only.	31 December 2026
	OCURING ENTI		Y				
26	Name of official		Jewel Ahr				
27		fficial inviting tender	Project Di		. 1	Comment to B	inst 1 (DDCD 1)
28	Address of offici	al inviting tender	Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP 1): Implementation of National Single Window (NSW) and Strengthening Customs Modernization, 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka- 1000, Bangladesh				
29	tender	f official inviting		5130647			@gmail.com
30	The procuring en	ntity reserves the right	to reject all	the Tende	ers c	or annul the Tender	proceedings
					3	12 Ju 2018	



Project Director

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP 1): Implementation of National Single Window (NSW)

Strengthening Customs Modernization, IDEB Bhaban 160/A, (10th Floor), Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

We have got all of the tools [to win the 2026 FIFA World Cup], We just need to play them in the (right) order. Thomas's [Tuchel] pool of players has increased so we have left the squad in a fantastic position.

Departing interim England manager Lee Carsley



'Big Five' not in picture, but what about persisting mediocrity?

NABID YEASIN

Bangladesh cricket is set to get a glimpse of a new era in Tests when they take on hosts West Indies in the first of the two World Test Championship (WTC) fixtures from November 22 in Antigua.

The game will be the Tigers' first in the format without any of the 'Big Five' -- Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim, and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza -- since they all appeared together in a Test, also away to the Windies, in 2009.

However, the notion of a future sans the 'Big Five' isn't something new for Bangladesh cricket and its fans.

The inevitable had been anticipated for a while now, but preparations for it have not matched the talk of the fear garnered at the prospect of it. There could be two bleak reasons for this -- first, the subpar cricketing culture that could not provide another as talented a bunch of cricketers as the 'Big Five' in the past decade, and second, the over-hyped legacy left behind by the five stalwarts.

While their individual heroics bailed Bangladesh out a number of times or at least provided solace in an otherwise underwhelming match, series, tour, or tournament, the collective achievements of the 'Big Five' are a far cry from the level of hype they garnered.



standard of a team like Bangladesh, who are tottering at nine in all three formats.

Including that only Windies Test in 2009, the 'Big Five' of Bangladesh's cricket have played together in 111 matches across formats, helping the Tigers win on 54 occasions. Bangladesh lost in 53 of these matches with four producing no results.

Not as overwhelming a figure as it is made to look, right?

However, focusing only on results will definitely not give the entire picture of the Or, maybe, the hype is befitting the impression that these particular five have

left on Bangladesh cricket's landscape.

As startling as it may sound, during the nearly 12-year period between their first appearance together for Bangladesh against Sri Lanka in the inaugural 2007 T20 World Cup -- and the last one -- also in a World Cup, albeit in the ODI version, in a game against Pakistan at Lord's in July 2019 -- the Tigers have not played a single game across formats without at least one of the five stalwarts.

This particular fact shows how important each of Shakib, Tamim, mediocrity.

Mushfigur, Mahmudullah, and Mashrafe have been for Bangladesh. On the flip side, it also tells a sorry tale of a cricketing nation that has failed to produce such talents who could emulate, join, or, even surpass the legacy of these five cricketers

a statement that could be further validated by the fact that since the end of that 12-year period, Bangladesh have played 14 matches across formats without any of the 'Big Five' and the result has kind of been similar with the Tigers losing seven and winning six.

The fear of not having the experience of at least one of those stalwarts might have been made to sound like a huge deal, but as reality depicts, things have continued on the same trajectory as before.

With another Windies series knocking, will things take a turn for the better? Recent results, including the humiliating losses to South Africa at home and away to India in the previous two months, don't augur well for the Tigers.

Even though they have been a part of the mediocre cricket Bangladesh have played over the years, the 'Big Five' are not to be blamed for how their contributions have been inflated more than deserved.

And, now, with none of these five cricketers in the picture for at least this Windies series, this gives the Tigers an opportunity to at least show indications of snapping out of the long-prevailing

মুক্তিযোদ্ধা জাতীয় পুরস্কারপ্রাপ্ত স্বাধীন বাংলা

Zakaria Pintoo laid to rest

SPORTS REPORTER

Zakaria Pintoo, the legendary captain of Swadhin Bangla National football team, was laid to rest at The Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur yesterday following three namaz-e-janazas held in the capital.

Before being laid to rest, Pintoo's coffin was taken to the premises of his beloved club Mohammedan SC. Former Mohammedan players, officials, and the incumbent board of directors attended the namaz-e-janaza before the state gave the legendary defender a Guard of Honour. The coffin was wrapped in the flags of Bangladesh and Mohammedan SC and wreaths were placed on it.

Later he was taken to the Bangladesh Football Federation for the day's second namaz-e-janaza in which the BFF executive members, including BFF president Tabith Awal, were present.

The third namaz-e-janaza was held at the National Press Club.

Amite 'ever-ready' for national call-up

Wicketkeeper-batter **Amite Hasan** has emerged as a standout performer in the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL), impressing with his consistency. The 23-year-old tops the run charts with 567 runs in eight innings, averaging 81, including his maiden double century and consecutive centuries. Captaining Sylhet for the first time, Amite has guided his team to the verge of their maiden NCL title, with a decent lead in points table with two matches remaining. In an interview with The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan, Amite shared insights on his and Sylhet's NCL journey, as well as his thoughts on the national team. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): How satisfied your keeper-batter role model? are you with the overall scenario?

are not thinking big right now. Our next match is against Barishal... There is no option for us to be complacent.

DS: Are you enjoying leading the side?

AH: I'm definitely enjoying the captaincy. Many of our players have played for the national team, and they have also played in Tests. So, the captaincy seems easy for me.

DS: Perhaps your performance is also making it easy

AH: I don't feel the same way. From a batsman's point of view, I always try to contribute to the team as much as possible.

DS: You have been consistent throughout the five rounds of the ongoing NCL. What was going through your mind before the start of the league?

AH: I was in the HP [High Performance] camp before the NCL. I had good practice there. Before the start of the NCL, we [Sylhet Division] also had a camp in Sylhet and played a few practice matches. Personally, I never make big plans. I always try to plan match by match.

DS: Your conversion rate is impressive, with half of your 18 first-class fifties turning into hundreds.

What's your mindset after reaching fifty? **AH:** I always have a simple plan. When I score a fifty, I try to score another fifty by keeping the first fifty aside. I always set small targets

during my innings. It could

DS: In this regard, have you consulted with someone, and who is

be five runs, ten runs.

AH: I have been working with Rajin Amite Hasan (AH): We've played Saleh sir for the last five years. I really well in our opening five games, discuss a lot about my batting with but still have two matches left, so we him. [Regarding role model] I follow Mushfiqur Rahim bhai

DS: You hail from Narayanganj but play for Sylhet in the NCL. What's the story behind this?

AH: When I was in the U-19 team in 2019, Hannan [Sarkar] sir called me one day and told me to travel to Rajshahi to play a first-class match for Sylhet. At that time, I had just played two youth Tests against Sri Lanka. And that's how I joined the Sylhet team, and my first-class career started from there.

DS: After your NCL performance, selectors say you're in contention to represent the national team. Do you feel ready?

AH: I've been in the HP Unit for the last three years. I think I'm very much under the radar of the selectors. Those who are in the national team pipeline are playing in the HP Unit. Right now, my focus is on the NCL so that I can finish it well.

It's totally the selectors' decision [to deem me capable of playing for Bangladesh]. As a player, I'm always ready to represent the national team.

DS: Test cricket demands patience. What's your mindset after arriving at the crease?

AH: I think fitness is an issue for a wicketkeeper-batsman. You need to work really hard to keep wickets as well as bat for a long time in longer-format cricket. I think I have worked well on fitness in the HP Unit. Regarding long batting, I don't overthink much, like scoring a hundred or fifty before going to the crease; instead, I always look to

begin my innings normally.

DS: Could you reflect on the early days of your cricketing journey?

AH: I started playing cricket in 2014. Like other players, I initially played in my locality. After watching me play, my elder brother Amanullah

Ani] decided to take me to Puran [Old] Dhaka for further training and introduced me to Sayem Asif Mahin bhai.

Federer pens tribute to retiring Nadal

Roger Federer paid tribute to his retiring rival Rafa Nadal on Tuesday, telling the Spaniard he challenged him like no other player and that he had made the tennis world proud during a glittering career lasting over two decades.

Nadal is part of the Spain side that begin their Davis Cup campaign against the Netherlands later, with the injuryplagued 22-times Grand Slam champion set to call time on his career after the team competition in Malaga.

Federer, who was part of the "Big Three" of men's tennis alongside Nadal and Novak Djokovic, posted a letter on 38-year-old.

"Let's start with the obvious: you beat me - a lot. More than I managed to beat you. You challenged me in ways no one else could," Federer said of Nadal, who edged their rivalry 24-16.

"On clay, it felt like I was stepping into your backyard, and you made me work harder than I ever thought I could just to hold my ground.

"You made me re-imagine my game even going so far as to change the size of my racket head, hoping for any edge." Federer, who won 20 Grand Slam

"I'm not a very superstitious person, but you took it to the next level," Federer added.

titles before retiring in 2022, also poked fun at Nadal's courtside quirks.

"All those rituals. Assembling your water bottles like toy soldiers in formation, fixing your hair, adjusting your underwear ... all of it with the

highest intensity. "Secretly, I kind of loved the whole thing. Because it was so unique - it was so you. And you know what, Rafa, you

made me enjoy the game even more." Nadal was by Federer's side in the Swiss great's final event when they played doubles for Team Europe at the Laver Cup in 2022, with images of the pair crying together going viral on

social media. "It meant everything to me that you were there by my side - not as my rival but as my doubles partner," Federer added.

"Sharing the court with you that night, and sharing those tears, will forever be one of the most special moments of my career."

Changes galore for Sri Lanka, South Africa

REUTERS

Sri Lanka recalled seamer Kasun Rajitha and leftarm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya on Tuesday for the two-Test series in South Africa starting on November 27.

Rajitha played the last of his 18 Tests against Bangladesh in March and the 31-year-old was left out of the squad that beat New Zealand 2-0 in spin-friendly home conditions in September.

Embuldeniya is in line to play his first Test since July 2022 after being drafted into the 17-member squad led by Dhananjaya de Silva.

Prabath Jayasuriya will lead a Sri Lanka spin attack which also includes off-spinner Nishan

Meanwhile, South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has been cleared to play in the series after missing out on the series sweep in Bangladesh last month with an elbow injury.

All-rounder Marco Jansen (rested) and fast bowler Gerald Coetzee (injury) are also back in the squad after missing the comprehensive win in Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka are third in the World Test Championship standings behind Australia and India. The island nation need to win three of their remaining four matches, including two on home soil against Australia next year, to make the final.

South Africa. meanwhile, will likely have to win both matches against Sri Lanka, and two home Tests against Pakistan to reach the final.

'Huge' step for women's cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's one of the largest business conglomerates, Square Group, is set to be the title sponsor of Bangladesh women's team's upcoming home series against Ireland, consisting of three WODIs and as many WT20Is.

A Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed the development to The Daily Star yesterday, saying that "it is a huge" step for Bangladesh's women's cricket, as for the first time, the board has been able to secure a deal for title sponsorship and ground rights for a home women's series.

"We've previously some contacted companies for the women's series but couldn't crack any deal," said the official, requesting anonymity, further informing that a women-centric product of Square Group will be promoted in the white-ball series, running from Nov 27 to Dec 9.



San Marino players celebrate their historic 3-1 win away to Lichtenstein in a Nations League Group D1 fixture on Monday. With only their second competitive win ever, San Marino finished top of the table to gain promotion to League C. Bottom of FIFA's world rankings at 210, the landlocked nation had won their first ever competitive match by beating Liechtenstein 1-0 in the reverse fixture in September, 20 years since their only other victory in a friendly also against Liechtenstein.





Take battery-run rickshaws off city roads in 3 days

HC orders authorities following writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government authorities concerned to take necessary steps to stop the plying of battery-run rickshaws and auto-rickshaws on the capital's streets within three days, aiming to reduce road accidents.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why their failure to halt the operation of these vehicles should not be declared

The directive was issued by the bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi, following a writ petition filed by Greater Dhaka City Corporation Rickshaw Owners Unity Alliance.

The petition challenged the authorities' lack of action in preventing unlicensed battery-run rickshaws from operating in the city. The petitioner's lawyer, Shanjid Siddique, informed the court

that these rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were running without valid licences, causing accidents due to their high speeds in various areas of the capital.

He also highlighted that they were straining the national power supply by consuming excessive electricity to charge their batteries.

Shanjid further pointed out that the Dhaka city corporations do not have the authority to issue operating licences for these vehicles. He informed the court that in July 2014, the HC banned the

operation of unlicensed mechanised and battery-run rickshaws SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Auto-rickshaws parked on Beribandh road in the capital's Mohammadpur obstruct traffic. Hawkers have also set up makeshift shops along the footpath, limiting space for pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Hit by batteryrun rickshaw on campus, JU student dies

A first-year student of Jahangirnagar University died after she was hit by a battery-powered rickshaw campus

Afsana was student of marketing and resident

Afsana Karim

Khaleda Zia Hall. Her parents live in Sherpur.

In security footage, Afsana was seen walking near the arts building when the rickshaw

Students said she suffered serious injuries to her head and face.

She was first taken to the university's medical centre and then to Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar where doctors SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Economy now stabilised Says finance adviser STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following short-term reforms measures, the economy has stabilised over the first 100 days of the interim government, Finance said Adviser

Salehuddin Ahmed. He said mid-and long-term measures would done next



avoid them. 'If the next government follow roadmap, the people will force it to do so," he said at a press conference at the Secretariat marking 100 days of the interim government.

While talking about the successes of the interim government, he said, "I think the dawn shows the day. The sun has already risen ... Yes, it's true that expectations are there, but we didn't make a bad start... We will leave a footmark."

The state of the financial sector was unimaginable SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT It's now mandatory for all RHD projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Roads and Highways Department must carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment for all its future projects to avoid possible negative impact on the environment.

It must take the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the authority concerned before undertaking any infrastructure project, according to a recent decision of the Road Transport and Highways Division under the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry.

Unplanned infrastructure major reason for killing

rivers, water bodies

It is implementing 122 projects, of which 17 are

RHD's 48 proposed projects waiting for

foreign-funded

approval

The RHD usually carries out EIA and takes ECC only for foreign-funded projects and does not do so for the governmentfunded ones.

The decision made by the Road Transport and Highways Division September left the RHD in trouble as many of its project proposals waiting for approval do not have such clearances.

So, the RHD must

do assessments and take clearances before moving forward with the projects, which will take time, said RHD officials.

EIA is the systematic study, assessment, and reporting of the impacts of a proposed programme, plan or project, including a management plan for dealing with negative impacts, according to an RHD management plan. EIA, which is prepared at the feasibility level, includes

quantification and valuation of the impacts, it says. The move comes amid rampant allegations that rivers and other

water bodies are dying due to many unplanned infrastructures developed by different government and non-government agencies as well as individuals.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Indo-Bangla high-level meet in Dec

2 foreign secys to lead first talks after Hasina's fall

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India's first high-level official meeting since the fall of the Awami League government is scheduled for December in Dhaka.

According foreign ministry official, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin İndian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will lead the Foreign Office Consultation.

The foreign ministry is preparing the necessary agenda for the meeting and will hold an interministerial preparatory meeting regarding this at the foreign ministry today, he told this correspondent.

The meeting will discuss the existing agreements and memoranda understanding and developments of the decisions taken in the earlier meetings.

Indo-Bangla relations been strained following the ouster of the Awami League government SEE PAGE 6 COL 2 **SUBVERSION CHARGES**

Hong Kong jails 45 pro-democracy campaigners

West condemns prosecution

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's High Court vesterday jailed 45 pro-democracy activists for up to 10 years following a landmark national security trial that has damaged the city's once feisty democracy movement and drawn criticism from the US and other countries.

A total of 47 pro-democracy activists were arrested charged in 2021 with conspiracy commit subversion under a Beijing-imposed national security law which carried **Benny Tai** sentences of up to





Joshua Wong

Joshua Wong and Benny Tai, a former legal scholar identified in the judgement as a "mastermind" of the activists' plans, were among those jailed for subversion.

The charges related to the organising of an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select the best candidates for an upcoming legislative election. The activists were accused by prosecutors of plotting to paralyse the government by engaging in potentially disruptive acts had they been elected.

Some Western governments have criticised the trial, with the US describing it as "politically motivated" and saying the democrats should be released as they had been legally and peacefully participating in political activities.

The Chinese and Hong Kong governments say the national security laws were necessary to restore order after mass pro-SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

PHOTO: REUTERS

JU CORRESPONDENT

evening.

of Begum

S Alam says he can sue Bangladesh **Financial Times** reports; he claims to be S'pore citizen

STAR REPORT

S Alam Group Mohammed Alam has claimed an international investment pact and his status as a Singaporean citizen offer protection against a "campaign of intimidation" being waged by the country's central banker against his conglomerate, according to a report by Financial Times.

In a letter sent in by lawyers on their behalf. Saiful Alam, founder and chair of industrial group S Alam, and members of his family warned central bank governor Ahsan H Mansur that they could seek to begin international arbitration procedures against Bangladesh.

FT said the letter from law firm Quinn Emanuel Urguhart & Sullivan follows Mansur's allegations in an interview with the Financial Times that Saiful Alam and associates "siphoned off" at least Tk1.2tn (\$10bn) from Bangladeshi banks under the regime of ousted

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

HC orders inquiry into Adani deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the ministry to conduct a high-level inquiry into the government's electricity purchase deal with India's Adani Power Limited in 2017.

In response to a writ petition, the HC asked the government to investigate whether there were any irregularities involved in the process of making the agreement with Adani Power and submit a report in three months.

As such, the secretary to the energy and mineral resources ministry has been instructed to form a high-powered committee with international energy and legal experts within a month. The committee will then be required to submit a detailed report in the following two months. The court also asked

the relevant government

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Ukraine fires first long-range US missiles into Russia

Says Moscow; Putin issues nuclear threat

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine used US ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory for the first time yesterday, Moscow said, in an attack regarded by Russia as a major escalation on the war's 1,000th day.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said attacks on Bryansk region by Ukraine with US missiles was a clear signal that the West wanted to escalate the conflict.

Lavrov hoped that Moscow's new nuclear doctrine, in which President Vladimir Putin lowered the threshold for a nuclear strike, would be attentively read.

Russia said its forces shot down five of six missiles fired

at a military facility in the Bryansk region, while debris of one hit the facility, causing no casualties or damage. Ukraine said it had struck a Russian arms depot around 110 km (70 miles) inside Russia and caused secondary

explosions. It did not specify what weapons it had used. Putin yesterday signed a decree broadening the scope for when Moscow will consider using nuclear weapons in

a clear warning to the West and Ukraine. The Kremlin said the move, which enables Russia to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear state if they are supported by nuclear powers, was "necessary to bring our

principles in line with the current situation.' SEE PAGE 6 COL 5