



No bank will be closed: Salehuddin

B1



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

P11



Hundred days of hope

P8



200 children killed in Lebanon in 2 months: Unicef

P7

Political party consensus will determine speed of reforms, election

Prof Yunus says in interview with *The Daily 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 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.

"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 constitutional reforms. He said that the interim government would strive to get to a political consensus in the quickest possible time on the next polls.

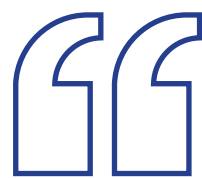
"We are not going to impose

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

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

3 HC judges step down amid inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 Quazi Reza-Ul-Hoque and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque.

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

A gazette notification, signed by Law Secretary Sheikh Abu Taher, was

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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 Husna 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 284,977 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 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 in September this year.

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TITUMIR COLLEGE Students call off protests after govt assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students at Government Titumir College suspended their protests yesterday after 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 for now."

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 council today.

"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."

According to local and international human rights organisations, there are several "serious flaws" in the ICT Act, 1973, Prof Asif said.

The interim government wants the reformed ICT act to be acceptable 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.



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BNP will form 'national govt' if voted to power

Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday 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 Jatiya Press Club.

Highlighting the need for holding an election swiftly to save the nation, Fakhru 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 the step projects a not-so-good image of the interim government that is promise-bound to 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 added.

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

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.



Abdul Hai Sarker

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

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A conspiracy is brewing somewhere

Says Tarique Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tarique Rahman, the acting chairman of 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 can certainly understand that something is going on—a conspiracy is brewing somewhere," he said while virtually 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.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

121 children killed during July uprising

Says rights platform

STAFF 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 feet bound.

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.

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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 to former food minister Qamrul Islam on 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 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.

This 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 student-led mass uprising.

Since then, he has remained missing.

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

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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 added.

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

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

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EMBASSY IN US Golam Mortoza appointed as press minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Editor of 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 a 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 reads.

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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 by 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.



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

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.

"We urgently need all nations to bypass the



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. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 yesterday.

"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, saying that it was clear to anyone who follows the media.

Meanwhile, US envoy Amos Hochstein

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 week.

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 conflict," he said.

"It is now within our grasp... As the window is now, I hope the coming days yield a resolute

decision," he added.

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 off 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.



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.

The chair of 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" of dollars.

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

AFP, New Delhi

India will deploy an extra 5,000 paramilitary troops to quell unrest in Manipur, authorities said yesterday, a week after 16 people were killed in fresh clashes in the troubled state.

Manipur in India's northeast has been rocked by periodic clashes for more than 18 months between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, dividing the state into ethnic enclaves.

Ten Kuki militants were killed when they attempted to assault police last week, prompting the apparent reprisal killing of six Meitei civilians, whose bodies were found in Jiribam district days later.

New Delhi has "ordered 50 additional companies of paramilitary forces to go to Manipur", a government source in New Delhi with knowledge of the matter told AFP on condition of anonymity, as 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 ago.

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) claimed 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.

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

Note:
(1) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any cause.
(2) Tender notice will also be published in FSCD website www.fireservice.gov.bd


Mohammad Mozammel Hoque
 Director (Admin & Finance)

GD-996

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.39.24.0197 Date: 17/11/2024

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

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

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

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders.

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 which was circulated vide this Office Memo No: 46.207.007.24.09. 03. 2024-2025, Dated: 20.10.2024 Due to unavoidable circumstances the following tender ceiling and Closing date has been shifted as below:

SL No.	Tender ID, Ref No.	Name of works	As in Notice		Amendments (1st)	
			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>).


(Mohammad Lutfur Rahman)
 Executive Engineer
 Zone-10
 Dhaka South City Corporation

ডিএসসিপি/পিআরডি/১২৭/২০২৪-২০২৫

The Daily 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



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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. Sajeb 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



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 someday—another 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 another.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Helping street children requires a holistic, evidence-based approach



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DEBRA EFROYMSON

In Bangladesh, people may not be 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

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 child 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 well-funded and well-managed

programmes to support the poor. One aspect could be to give the same 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 role of civil society is both to provide

services to children directly and to hold "local governments accountable 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 if for a day on World Children's Day—deserve better.

Trump 2.0 and the future of Bangladesh-US defence relations

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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.

Bangladesh is an inevitable player for the global powers in the region. Regarding the Indo-Pacific geopolitics, Bangladesh is deemed a strategic linchpin due to its crucial location that connects South Asia with Southeast Asia. Its geographic location in the heart of the Bay of Bengal region has turned it from a mere regional player to a vital strategic partner for major global powers—the US, the

unveiled in April 2023, echoes the country's nuanced approach to regional politics. The country champions an all-inclusive approach, accentuating regional cooperation and stability over strategic competition. Bangladesh is also projected to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2040, sitting at the intersection of major global markets with massive potential. Yet, per the World Bank

worked on a wide array of security issues, including maritime security, border security, 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 improve Bangladesh's peacekeeping 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,

Bangladesh has embarked on a new journey 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 reserves.

The acquisition of two Hamilton-class 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. For 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 and economic constraints.



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, 2019.

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.

Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific Outlook,

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

Why is Elon Musk all over US politics?



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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, winning over conservative 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.

As the US president-elect 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 energy.

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 SpaceX would reach Mars sooner,

"as long as it is not smothered by bureaucracy." Beyond SpaceX, Musk has also had no shortage of run-ins with the US federal government's 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 driver-assisted 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 law, 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 FCC—suggesting 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 only make that federal piggy bank wider.

When campaigning for Trump, Musk had posted on X, "Vote for @donaldtrump if you want humanity to make it to Mars."

Musk's bet on Trump has already benefited him. Tesla's share price has been up 50 percent since Trump's win. According to Tesla's SEC filings, Musk owns about 715 shares, so that itself, when combined with the rise

joined in a call Trump had with Turkey's Erdogan, and his general involvement in it all, raises suspicions.

Another report by *The New York Times*, right after Trump's win and before Musk's appointment to DOGE, revealed that the SpaceX CEO wanted Trump to hire employees from his rocket company as top government officials, including at

Bessent for the role, to which he replied, that "Bessent is a business-as-usual choice, whereas (Lutnick) will actually enact change." For context, Lutnick is more on board with Trump's tariff policies than Bessent, who's considered a moderate.

Trump's proposed tariffs on China, where Tesla has the biggest factory, 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.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

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 years ago.

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 Epshteyn—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 Epshteyn 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 Treasury secretary. On X, investor Kyle Bass wanted fund manager Scott

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 the end of the day.

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.

Or, maybe, the hype is befitting the



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 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,

Mushfiqur, 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 mediocrity.



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.

Changes galore for Sri Lanka, South Africa

REUTERS

Sri Lanka recalled seamer Kasun Rajitha and left-arm 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 Periris.

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.

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 are you with the overall scenario?

Amite Hasan (AH): We've played really well in our opening five games, but still have two matches left, so we are not thinking big right now. Our next match is against Barisal... 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 be five runs, ten runs.

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

your keeper-batter role model?

AH: I have been working with Rajin Saleh sir for the last five years. I discuss a lot about my batting with 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 Anil] 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

REUTERS

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 injury-plagued 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 X looking back at his rivalry with the 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 titles before retiring in 2022, also poked fun at Nadal's court-side quirks.

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



"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."

'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) official 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 contacted some big 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.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK



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 illegal.

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

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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 battery-run rickshaw on campus, JU student dies

JU CORRESPONDENT

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

Afsana Karim was a student of marketing and a resident of Begum Khaleda Zia Hall. Her parents live in Sherpur.



Afsana Karim

In security camera footage, Afsana was seen walking near the arts building when the rickshaw hit her.

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

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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, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

He said mid- and long-term measures would be done by the next government and the current government would hand over a roadmap for those reforms so that the elected government cannot avoid them.

"If the next government doesn't follow the 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 footprint."

The state of the financial sector was unimaginable

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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.

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

The decision made by the Road Transport and Highways Division in 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.

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- Unplanned infrastructure major reason for killing rivers, water bodies
- RHD's 48 proposed projects waiting for approval
- It is implementing 122 projects, of which 17 are foreign-funded

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 to a foreign ministry official, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin and Indian 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 inter-ministerial preparatory meeting regarding this at the foreign ministry today, he told this correspondent.

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

Indo-Bangla relations have been strained following the ouster of the Awami League government

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SUBVERSION CHARGES Hong Kong jails 45 pro-democracy campaigners

West condemns prosecution

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's High Court yesterday 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 and charged in 2021 with conspiracy to commit subversion under a Beijing imposed national security law which carried sentences of up to life in prison.

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.

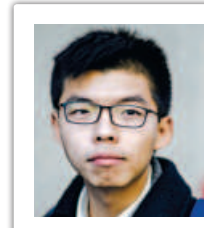
Some Western governments have criticised the trial, with the US describing it as "politically motivated" and saying the democrats should be released as they had been legally and peacefully participating in political activities.

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

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Benny Tai



Joshua Wong

S Alam says he can sue Bangladesh

Financial Times reports; he claims to be S'pore citizen

STAR REPORT

S Alam Group owner Mohammed Saiful 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 Urquhart & 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 Bangladesh banks under the regime of ousted

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HC orders inquiry into Adani deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the energy 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

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

PHOTO: REUTERS

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."

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