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Why did Abdullah have to die?

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New Election Commission takes shape

Ex-secy AMM Nasir Uddin made CEC; 4 other commissioners also appointed

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and BAHARAM KHAN

Amid much speculation about when the next election might take place, former health and energy secretary AMM Nasir Uddin has been appointed as the new chief election commissioner.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday also appointed retired additional secretary Anwarul Islam Sarkar, retired district and sessions judge Abdur Rahmani Masud, retired joint secretary Begum Tahmida Ahmad, and Brig Gen (ret'd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah as election commissioners.

Nasir is also a member of the local government reform commission formed on November 18. The appointments are made as political parties have for weeks been asking when the election will be held.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on November 17 said the government would issue a roadmap to the election as soon as decisions on electoral reforms were made.

The Election Commission (EC) had been vacant since September 5 when members of the previous commission, led by Kazi Habibur



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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus exchanges greetings with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a reception organised at the Dhaka Cantonment to mark the Armed Forces Day yesterday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PID

Armed forces a symbol of confidence

Says Prof Yunus

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said the armed forces are recognised as a symbol of confidence for standing alongside the people of the country.

"The armed forces stood by the people during the recent anti-discrimination movement and after the movement. By doing so, they have once again been recognised as a symbol of confidence by the people of the country."

The chief adviser made the comment while addressing a reception at Senakanja in the capital on the occasion of Armed Forces Day yesterday afternoon.

Recalling the contribution of the armed forces in the Liberation War, Yunus said on this day in 1971, the valiant members of the armed forces and the common people of Bangladesh jointly launched a coordinated attack on the Pakistani occupation forces.

As a result, victory was achieved, and Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign state, he added.

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PROTEST OVER BAN

Electric rickshaw drivers stop traffic, trains in city

City dwellers, commuters, travellers suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of battery-run rickshaw drivers yesterday blocked roads and rail lines in Dhaka, including at Mohakhali, Agargaon and Mirpur-10, bringing traffic to a halt for more than five hours.

Rail communication between Dhaka and most of the country was suspended for around six hours from 9:45am after a group of drivers blocked the Mohakhali level crossing.

All trains to and from Dhaka were delayed due to the disruption, said Khairul Kabir, divisional transport officer (Dhaka Division) of Bangladesh Railway.

The gridlock that was caused on city streets left many commuters and travellers helpless.

Earlier on Tuesday, the High Court directed the government to take necessary steps to stop the plying of battery-run rickshaws in Dhaka within three days. The following day, drivers took to the streets in protest at the decision.

Yesterday, over a hundred drivers took to the airport road in Mohakhali around 9:30am. The demonstration caused severe traffic jams on both sides of the road, said Rasel Sarwar, officer in-

charge of Banani Police Station.

Other groups of drivers blocked roads in Agargaon, Mirpur-10 and Rampura areas.

Members of the army dispersed the rickshaw drivers in Mirpur-10 and Agargaon around 2:00pm. Two protesters were detained at Mirpur-10.

The police and the army personnel removed the protesting drivers from Mohakhali area around 2:30pm.

Battery-run rickshaw drivers blocked several streets in Dhaka and police drove them away, said Talibur Rahman, DC media of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Traffic in Mohakhali began to move again around 2:30pm, witnesses said.

Inspector (investigation) Md Abu Hanif at Kafrul Police Station said there were several incidents of vandalism during the demonstrations but no case was filed as of 10:00pm.

Sajib, one of the protesters, said, "I am the sole breadwinner for my family. The decision is a blow to my livelihood. What am I supposed to do? How will I provide for my family?"

Explaining why they are demonstrating, Faruk

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Increase women seats in JS thru direct vote

Journos tell election reform commission, urge local govt polls before nat'l election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Editors and senior journalists from different media outlets yesterday recommended increasing women's seats in parliament, electing representatives to those seats through direct vote, and punishing those responsible for irregularities in the last three national elections.

They made these recommendations during a views-exchange meeting with the Election Reform Commission, held at the Election Commission building.

After the meeting, the commission's Chairperson Badiul Alam Majumder expressed satisfaction with the recommendations, saying they align with the commission's priorities.

"These [the commission's priorities] include direct elections for women's seats, conducting local government polls before national elections, reinstating a caretaker government, and ensuring voting rights for expatriates."

Senior journalist Masud Kamal suggested holding local government elections under a caretaker government and using National ID cards as voter cards.

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OF CRONIES AND CRIMES

Bodi: Yaba overlord's reign of terror

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Former Awami League MP Abdur Rahman Bodi pulled all the strings in the murky world of Cox's Bazar. His name surfaced in at least five intelligence reports, each painting a darker picture of his involvement in yaba trade and smuggling.

Allegedly, Bodi wove a web of influence, enlisting his five brothers, personal aide Mong Mong Sen, and former Teknaf upazila chairman Zafar Ahmed to spread the drugs across the nation and engage in other illicit activities. The true extent of their operations remains shrouded in secrecy.

Zafar was one of the linchpins in Bodi's shadowy empire. His role was pivotal, a cog in the dark machinery that kept Bodi's operations running smoothly.

As Zafar sought re-election in May, tension flared up in the area. Bodi, in a brazen display of power, fired warning shots at supporters of Zafar's opponent, Nurul Alam, president of Teknaf Jubo League. Bodi used an MP sticker on his car during the campaign, flouting the

rules with impunity.

The Anti-Corruption Commission recently seized Zafar's assets worth around Tk 4 crore, reportedly amassed through yaba trade. The Rapid Action Battalion arrested Zafar in Dhaka on October 31.

He has more than 12 cases against him, including on drugs and illegal arms charges.

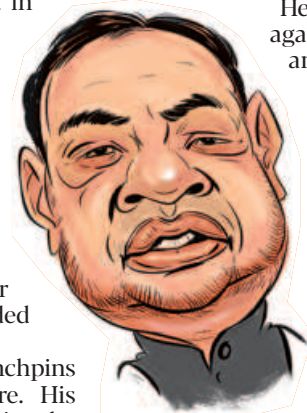
After his arrest, RAB-15 Senior Assistant Director (Legal and Media) Md Kamruzzaman said, "Former MP Bodi turned Teknaf into a safe haven for drug traders, smugglers, kidnappers, extortionists, and killers over the past 17 years. And Zafar is said to be the right hand of Bodi in his world of crimes."

Like Zafar, many listed yaba smugglers in Teknaf and Ukhiya are reportedly controlled and blessed by Bodi, known as the kingpin of drug lords of Cox's Bazar.

One of the major indemnities he arranged for the yaba lords was the surrender of 123 smugglers of Teknaf in two phases.

He allegedly rehabilitated his family

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



STUDENT MOVEMENT

18-member executive committee formed

Full martyrs' list by Dec 30, says Sarjis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement has formed an 18-member executive committee.

On their verified Facebook page last night, the movement released a list of the members' names. It also announced that the members of the central committee, formed on October 22, will serve as ex-officio members of this committee.

In the central committee, Hasnat Abdullah serves as the convener, Arif Sohel is the member secretary, Abdul Hannan Masud acts as the chief organiser, and Umama Fatima is the spokesperson.

The executive committee member are: Mahin Sarker, SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Battery-run rickshaw drivers, who were blocking the Mohakhali rail tracks yesterday, throwing brickbats and stones to chase away the police officials after army personnel dispersed them.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NINE BRIDGES IN SIX DISTRICTS

No one paying any tolls since August 5

RHD seeks home ministry's intervention as locals bar authorities from collecting tolls

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Toll collection from vehicles using nine bridges under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) remains suspended since the political changeover on August 5.

The RHD has sought intervention from the home ministry as, in most cases, locals are preventing toll collection, officials said.

In light of this situation, the Road Transport and Highways Division has decided to send a second letter to the home ministry, asking for support to resume toll collection, they said.

Of the nine bridges, four are in Mymensingh and one each is in Chandpur, Chattogram, Dhaka, Kushtia, and Munshiganj.

This fiscal year, RHD is collecting tolls at 68 bridges across the country.

The department earned Tk 896.52 crore from these bridges in 2022-23 fiscal year, according to its annual report.

While most tolls are collected through lessees, in some cases, the RHD's field offices collect them directly.

After the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, students and local people halted toll collection on 16 RHD bridges nationwide.

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ARMED FORCES DAY Khaleda receives warm welcome at event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia made her first public appearance in six years yesterday when she attended the Armed Forces Day reception at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment.

This also marked her first attendance at the annual celebration in 12 years.

During the reception, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus exchanged greetings with Khaleda. The two were seated next to each other and were seen interacting cordially.

The 79-year-old former prime minister arrived at the venue around 3:30pm from her Gulshan residence.

She was accompanied by Sharmila Rahman, the wife of her late son Arafat Rahman Koko, and BNP standing committee member, Dr AZM Zahid Hossain.

According to party sources, upon her arrival at Senakunja, Khaleda Zia was greeted by the Chief of Army Staff General Waker-uz-Zaman, the Chief of Navy Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hasan, and the Chief of Air Force Air

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus adorns army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman with a rank badge at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

PHOTO: PTD

Wife beaten to death by husband for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A young woman has been allegedly beaten to death by her husband over a domestic dispute involving a Tk 50,000 dowry in the Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat.

The incident took place on Wednesday at Dakshin Dalgram Tetultala village of the upazila's Dalgram union.

The deceased was identified as Mousumi Rani Laboni, 25, daughter of Manik Chandra Roy of Jawrani Dakshin Sardarpara village in Bhelaguri union of the district's Hatibandha upazila.

She was the mother of a three- and a half-year-old son.

Police recovered her body Wednesday night and sent it to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Kaliganj Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Ershad Hossain.

Following the incident, her husband, Milon Chandra Roy, 28, and his family members left their home, he added.

Milon is the son of Naresh Chandra Roy of Dakshin Dalgram Tetultala village of Dalgram union.

Laboni's father, Manik, filed a written complaint with Kaliganj Police Station against Milon and four members of his family in this connection.

According to Manik, Milon got Tk 5 lakh in cash and a motorcycle as dowry at the time of the wedding five years ago. For the past six months, Milon and his family members had been beating Laboni so that she would ask Manik for Tk 50,000.

As a continuation of that abuse, Laboni was beaten to death on Wednesday, said Manik. "To divert attention from the issue, Milon and his family members told everyone that Laboni had died of electrocution."

SI Ershad said the police would take action after receiving the autopsy report.

Romania signs deal with US to buy F-35 jets

AFP, Bucharest

Nato member Romania yesterday signed a deal with Washington to buy 32 F-35 jets, citing an "acute need for credible deterrent and defensive capabilities" as war rages on in neighbouring Ukraine.

With an estimated cost of \$6.5 billion approved by Romania's parliament, it is the most expensive military purchase by the poor eastern European country, which has gained in strategic importance since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

The F-35A combat aircraft, which are expected to begin arriving in the early 2030s, will "significantly strengthen" Romania's defence capabilities, Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu said at the signing ceremony.

Electric rickshaw

FROM PAGE 1

Hossain, 45, a battery-run rickshaw driver said his seven-member family depends on his income and it will put them under serious hardship if the government bans battery-run rickshaws.

He said they just want to be able to use their battery-run rickshaws in Dhaka city to earn a living. It's the government who should tell them on which streets they can drive, he said.

Humayun Kabir, a driver who is from Raipur of Lakhmipur, said his four-member family moved to Dhaka a few years ago as there was a scarcity of work in their village.

"I have been running my own battery-powered rickshaw for the last two months after taking out a loan of around Tk 80,000 to buy the rickshaw. I cannot do other work as my left leg got broken in an accident last year."

He said he has to pay Tk 2,200 every week as instalment for the loan and it will take him another 10 months to pay off the loan.

Meanwhile, supreme court lawyer Md Bahauddin Al Imran yesterday sent a legal notice to the authorities concerned, asking them to take necessary steps in three days to stop the plying of battery-run rickshaws on highways and flyovers across the country.

If they do not take steps, a writ petition will be moved before the HC, seeking necessary directives, he said in the legal notice.

On Tuesday evening, Afsana Karim Rachi, a student of the 53rd batch (2023-24 session) of the Department of Marketing at Jahangirnagar University, died after being hit by a battery-run rickshaw on the campus.

According to witnesses, the victim was crossing the road in front of the New Arts Building when a battery-run rickshaw struck her at speed and pinned her to a tree.

Earlier on May 15, former road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader asked the authorities concerned to take steps to ban battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka streets.

Battery-run rickshaw drivers on May 18 took to the streets and clashed with police that left at least 20 injured.

Then on May 19, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina instructed the scrapping of the decision to ban battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka streets.

New Election Commission takes shape

FROM PAGE 1

Awal, resigned. The EC had never been vacant for this long since it was founded in 1972.

Awal and the other commissioners were about halfway through their five-year tenure.

On October 29, the interim government formed a six-member search committee led by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division to come up with the names of two individuals for each EC membership.

BNP and several other parties proposed the names of Nasir and former secretary Shafiqul Islam as the chief election commissioner (CEC).

Nasir Uddin, aged 72, would be the 14th CEC and the seventh former bureaucrat to be in the position.

REACTIONS OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Nasir said he would leave no stones unturned for a free, fair, and credible election. The commission will work independently with the goal of establishing people's right to vote.

"I am not interested in knowing who nominated me. I will work independently. If I find out which party chose me and which did not, it might make me biased, even if subconsciously," he said.

"We must learn from [past ECs'] mistakes. We aim to avoid those flaws so that no allegations are raised against us."

All political parties desire a free and fair election, he said.

There are controversies regarding one particular party, he said,

Bodi: Yaba overlord's reign of terror

FROM PAGE 1

members, relatives, and close aides through the surrendering arrangements.

Each of the self-confessed yaba godfathers was out of jail after one and a half years.

Despite being accused of leading such a big network, he has not yet faced any coordinated investigation by government agencies.

This exemption made him the most powerful person of Teknaf and Ukhiya over the last 15 year.

NO DRUG CHARGES

During the BNP-led alliance government's tenure, four cases were filed against Bodi on charges of murder, rape, and repression of women while he was the mayor of Teknaf municipality.

All those lawsuits were withdrawn as "politically motivated cases" during the term of the AL government after Bodi became a ruling party lawmaker.

During the army-backed caretaker government, the ACC filed a case with Double Mooring Police Station in Chattogram on December 17, 2007 against Bodi on charges of amassing wealth of Tk 66.7 lakh beyond known source of income.

The charge sheet in that case has been submitted and witness deposition is almost complete. The case is now pending with the court of Senior Special Metropolitan Sessions Judge in Chattogram, said Sanwar Hossain Lavlu, ACC public prosecutor in Chattogram.

For the delay in the trial, he blamed the absence of a judge in this court, appeals pending with the High Court and the Appellate Division, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

His name appeared on a list of suspected yaba smugglers, prepared by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) in 2014. However, the agency did not go ahead with the investigation.

"We cannot file a case against a person who amassed illegal assets. We can only take action against the person who is arrested with any kind of drugs," said Sirajul Mostafa, assistant Director of Cox's Bazar DNC.

referring to the Awami League.

"I would rather not comment on this at the moment. When it is time for the election, we will see. You will see. We aim to include everyone in the electoral process, but for now, I refrain from making comments."



Rahmanel Masud



Anwarul Islam



Abul Fazal



Tahmida Ahmad

After meeting the other commissioners, he will sit with the electoral reform commission and set priorities.

Born in 1952 at Kutubdia, Cox's Bazar, Nasir studied economics at Chittagong University. He was a lecturer at the same department for a brief period before joining the civil service in 1979.

He was also a member of the Planning Commission and served as the secretary to the ministries of information, energy, and health before retiring in 2010.

Rahmanel retired as a member of the Administrative Tribunal-1 in Dhaka in 2017. He began his career in 1981 as a lawyer and joined the judiciary as an assistant judge in 1983.

He worked as an assistant registrar and deputy registrar at the High Court Division before being

promoted as a district judge in 2000.

The former judge also taught law at private universities and wrote about legal matters.

Tahmida was born in Sunamganj. She joined the civil administration through the 11th BCS exams. She

worked as a joint secretary to the civil aviation and tourism ministry and retired as a director of the Department of Jute in 2020.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Sanaullah joined the army in 1988 and served for 34 and a half years. His last work station was Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad. Prior to this, he worked at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tehran. He also studied at Defence Services Command and Staff College, National Defence College, US Army Command and General Staff College, and College of Defence Management, India.

"I am grateful. This is a huge responsibility, but I am sure we will be able to meet people's aspirations," he said.

Anwarul joined the public service through the BCS exams in 1985. He retired as additional secretary to the sports ministry.

home and tortured at the police station on his instruction," he said. "Many politicians of other parties had taken advantage from and compromised with Bodi. But I didn't. That's why he was angry with me. "He is a mafia. He smuggled yaba and arms into the country," the BNP leader added.

Abdullah alleged Bodi closed the legal cattle corridor from Myanmar and smuggled cows through hilly bordering areas to establish a monopoly in the business.

Bodi also controlled the Teknaf Port through his relative Omar Faruq and bought hundreds of acres of land in the name of Faruq and many of his close aides, according to the BNP leader.

"I have video footage where Bodi is ordering his goons to set my petrol pump on fire. In the footage, he is seen shooting with a gun at my business centre. However, police didn't recover the gun and completed the remand at the jail gates," Abdullah said.

He alleged a conspiracy was still going on to let Bodi get out despite many serious allegations against him.

Faruq could not be contacted for comments on the allegations made by Abdullah since the former is reportedly in hiding.

UNRESTRAINED YABA TRADE

Despite Bodi and many of the drug lords in jail or hiding, yaba trade is still going on unrestrained in Teknaf.

Some of his close aides were trying to blend in with the supporters of other political parties, said locals who wished not to be named.

Two of Bodi's accomplices, Md Moniruzzaman and Enamul Haque of Teknaf, are roaming freely in Teknaf.

The ACC in recent months seized Moniruzzaman's wealth worth around Tk 4.16 crore and Enamul's Tk 35 lakh, allegedly earned through yaba trade.

According to the district police, around 80 lakh yaba pills and 32 kg of crystal meth were recovered in Cox's Bazar this year until September.

The hauls recovered last year totalled over 1.5 crore yaba pills and 78 kg of crystal meth.

Armed forces

FROM PAGE 1

"Today, I recall with great respect all the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the war," he added.

The chief adviser also remembered all those who were martyred and injured in the July uprising. "Their sacrifice has created a new scope to rebuild the country."

At the onset of his speech, Prof Yunus expressed gratitude to former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for joining the reception despite her illness. The chief adviser wished Khaleda Zia a speedy recovery.

Earlier in the day, Prof Yunus said the interim government wants to build Bangladesh in such a way that the people become the true source of all power.

"We want to establish the idea that we are all equal. None is above anyone and

none is below anyone in national life," he said.

The chief adviser made the remark while addressing a reception accorded to the gallantry award-winning freedom fighters and their inheritors arranged by the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment's Multipurpose Complex.

He also said his government's responsibility is to bind people into a larger family.

"There will be differences of opinion in the family... but we will not be enemies to each other. We will not think of anyone as an enemy because of his or her opinion. We will not consider anyone an enemy because of religion," he added.

The chief adviser also paid respects to the award-winning and war-wounded freedom fighters and all the family members of the valiant freedom fighters.

No one paying any tolls

FROM PAGE 1

In many cases, they claimed that the tolls collected had already surpassed the cost of constructing the bridges and thus refused to allow further toll collection, according to officials.

The issue was discussed during the monthly coordination meeting of the Road Transport and Highways Division on September 24. The meeting decided that the division will send a letter to the home ministry seeking help for toll collection on the 16 bridges, read the meeting minutes.

A subsequent monthly coordination meeting on October 29 discussed the same issue. The meeting was informed that a letter was sent to the home ministry, and toll collection from 12 bridges was halted.

The meeting also decided to send a second letter to the home ministry.

According to the RHD, as of yesterday, toll collection from nine bridges remained suspended. At one bridge, battery-run rickshaws are not paying toll.

The nine bridges are: Shambhuganj Bridge, Khurshid Mahal Bridge, Banar Bridge and Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Bridge in Mymensingh; Chandpur Bridge in Chandpur; Toillardwip Bridge in South Chattogram; Dalla Bridge (Shaheed Rafiq Bridge) in Dhaka; Syed Masood

Rumi Bridge in Kushtia; Tulshikhali and Maricha bridges in Munshiganj.

Battery-run rickshaws are not paying tolls on the Mohananda Bridge in Chapainawabganj.

Tolls for seven of these bridges are being collected by lessees while RHD is handling toll collection for three, shows document.

The government is losing revenue due to the suspension of toll collection, but the RHD cannot give the figure.

RHD Chief Engineer Syed Moinul Hasan said they were trying to resume toll collection from the 10 bridges through discussions with the local administrations and the communities.

"The number of bridges from which toll collection is not possible is decreasing," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Moinul said they were collecting tolls following a toll policy, and they have to do so until the government declares those toll free.

Officials said there is no government policy for stopping toll collections for those bridges where toll collection has exceeded construction costs.

Toll collection is a source of government income which is supposed to be used for maintenance of roads and bridges, they added.

18-member executive

FROM PAGE 1

Rashidul Islam Rifat, Nusrat Tabassum, Lutfor Rahman, Ahnaf Sayeed Khan, Tarekul Islam Reza, Tarikul Islam, Mehrob Hossain Sifat, Asadullah Al Galib, Mohammad Rakib, Sinthia Jahin Ayesha, Asad Bin Rony, Nayeem Abedin, Mahmuda Sultana Rimi, Ibrahim Nirob, Rasel Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam, and Moinul Islam.

While unveiling the central committee on October 22, Abdul Kader, a coordinator of the movement, said, "This committee will not emerge as a political party."

He said the formation of the committee was based on the opinions of 158 coordinators across the country.

LIST OF MARTYRS, INJURED SOON

A complete list of those martyred and injured during the July-August mass uprising will be published by December 31, said Sarjis Alam, general secretary of the July Martyrs Memorial Foundation.

"We want this list of the injured to remain unquestionable – not just today, but even 20 years from now," he told reporters at a press briefing organised by the foundation and the health ministry yesterday.

To ensure that, the foundation is verifying every case with the highest caution.

By the end of November, verification of information concerning the martyrs' families will be complete, said Sarjis, a key coordinator of the Students Against Discrimination movement.

The financial assistance for the injured has been increased from Tk 1 lakh to 3 lakh with lifelong allowances for those unable to work, said Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdho, chief executive officer of the foundation.

Those who spent out-of-pocket on medical bills will be reimbursed under a second initiative taken by the foundation.

submit proof of their expenses to the foundation's mobile number, and after thorough verification, the amount will be reimbursed.

Additionally, families of the deceased will receive Tk 5 lakh as financial aid through the July Martyrs Memorial Foundation along with employment or economic support for their dependents, he added.

All injured individuals verified under the programme will receive unique ID cards and lifelong free treatment at all government hospitals, said Md Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the health ministry.

They will be provided with priority fast-track services, while any unavailable treatments at public hospitals will be arranged through contracted private facilities, with the government covering the costs.

The government has designated the cabin block of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital as a multi-disciplinary treatment centre, offering outpatient services and specialised care for the injured.

As part of ongoing efforts, patients in critical condition are already being sent abroad via air ambulance for treatment, with more expected to follow, he said.

For complex cases, such as eye injuries, foreign specialists will be consulted, and patients may be sent abroad for advanced procedures.

New physiotherapy facilities, including robotic therapy, will be gradually introduced, and expert teams from abroad will assist in providing the service.

A nationwide network of hospitals, including divisional and specialised facilities, will be established to ensure injured individuals receive timely and efficient treatment.

President pays tribute to Liberation War martyrs

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing a wreath at the Shikha Anirban (Eternal Flame) in the Dhaka Cantonment area, marking Armed Forces Day yesterday.

He was accompanied by the chiefs of the armed forces and other military personnel while paying the homage at 8:00am.

After placing the wreath, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stood there in solemn silence for a while as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyrs who made supreme sacrifices during the 1971 War of Liberation.

Later, a smartly turned-out contingent of the Army, Navy and Air Force presented a salute to the occasion. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A woman carrying her baby, along with other family members, had to walk a long distance to return home from a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. Their hardship was a result of the ongoing blockade by battery-run rickshaw drivers demanding rehabilitation. The photo was taken near the Mohakhali level crossing.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Will defend Sheikh Hasina if opportunity arises: ZI Khan Panna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna has expressed his willingness to defend ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina in the International Crimes Tribunal over genocide charges linked to the mass uprising.

He was speaking at a press briefing yesterday about the suspension of bail for former additional attorney general Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury.

When contacted, Panna told The Daily Star the same.

Asked if his willingness to defend Hasina contradicts his previous criticisms of her regime's alleged human rights violations, he acknowledged the contradiction but emphasised, "Every accused has the right to legal defence. From this humane consideration, I expressed my willingness to represent her."

He also voiced his opposition to the death penalty, saying it should be repealed for all offences.

Earlier in the day, the Appellate Division had suspended the High Court's bail order for

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HAZRAT SHAHJALAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT APBn at odds with aviation force over security duties

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A conflict has emerged between the Aviation Security Force (AVSEC) and the Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn) over security responsibilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA).

APBn claims that AVSEC took control of their office on October 28, hindering their ability to perform duties effectively.

On October 29, APBn filed a general diary (GD) with the Airport Police Station in this regard.

However, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) denies any conflict between the two forces, asserting that each is fulfilling its responsibilities within its respective jurisdiction.

Mohammad Sihab Kaiser Khan, commander of the airport APBn, told The Daily Star, "We want our reinstatement... we just want to do the policing, perform regular duty to ensure security and law and order at the airport, as we did before."

In response to this, CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan said, "Everyone is carrying out their duties from their respective positions. There's no problem with anyone. Aviation security is performing its duty, and APBn is supposed to operate outside, which they are doing."

"Some unpleasant situations

may arise while working together, but these issues can be resolved internally. We are committed to working collaboratively -- aviation, civil aviation, and APBn -- to ensure security," he told this newspaper.

Regarding APBn's office space, the chairman explained that APBn has multiple offices inside and covers a large area around the airport.

ALLEGATIONS FROM APBn

AVSEC took control of APBn's Airside Command office

APBn barred from terminal and apron security operations

APBn office instruments removed and signboard damaged

CAAB limits APBn's mandate despite international regulations

AVSEC released trafficking suspects, neglecting proper legal action

Replying to questions about limiting APBn's access, he reiterated, "APBn is responsible for performing duties outside... we will be happy if they do the duty properly."

APBn officials said around 1,050 APBn personnel were stationed at 79 posts across the land side

(the area between the airport's boundary and the boarding gates), terminal building, and apron side (where aircraft are parked, loaded, and serviced) before August 5.

They allege that the civil aviation authority now restricts APBn from performing duties within the terminal building and apron areas.

An APBn official, requesting anonymity, cited the International Civil Aviation Organization's Aviation Security Manual Book 1, Section 10.4.1.1, which mandates APBn to prevent and detect crimes within civil aviation facilities.

This includes surveillance and patrols in designated airport areas, as well as the security screening of passengers and baggage, with authority shared among law enforcement agencies, immigration officers, and airport police.

The arrangement of various security forces at HSIA has been a topic of discussion since 2010. Following a series of meetings, the home ministry directed the inspector general of police on July 19, 2010, to establish an APBn force specifically for HSIA, known as the Aviation Armed Police.

Meanwhile, a week has passed since APBn filed the GD, yet the police have not taken action.

The GD stated that the APBn's Airside Command and Control Center's office instruments had been removed, and the signboard

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

RTI ACT Chairman of NCTB for classroom assignments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Encouraging secondary school students to apply for information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act as part of classroom assignments can significantly raise awareness and strengthen the law's implementation, said National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Chairman Prof Reazul Hassan yesterday.

Speaking at a workshop titled "Review of Teaching Methods for Right to Information in Secondary Teacher's Guides", organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at the Bangladesh Information Commission, Prof Reazul highlighted the inclusion of the RTI Act in the ninth-grade curriculum to deepen students' understanding of the law.

According to an MJF press release, he said practical assignments would help students grasp the act's importance and contribute to its effective use.

Presenting findings from an MJF study under its "Advancing Women's Right to Information" project, researcher Mustafizur Rahman said while ninth-grade Digital Technology

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

HC scraps 6 cases against Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The High Court yesterday quashed all proceedings of six cases filed against Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, now chief adviser to the interim government.

Of these, five cases were lodged under the Labour Act in 2019, accusing Dr Yunus, then chairman of Grameen Telecommunications, and its managing director, Nazneen Sultana, of unlawfully terminating workers. The sixth case, a defamation suit, was filed in 2011.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain delivered the verdict on October 24 after hearing six petitions challenging the legality of the cases.

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan, counsel for Dr Yunus, said the Labour Court cases were initiated by former workers of Grameen Telecommunications, alleging their termination was due to their roles in a proposed trade union. However, the HC ruled that the workers' appointments were contractual and had expired, disqualifying claims of illegal dismissal as trade union members.

The court also noted that the Directorate of SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

INT'L CRIMES TRIBUNAL Toby Cadman 'special adviser' to chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Toby Cadman, a top human rights lawyer and the joint head of the London-based Guernica 37 law firm, has been appointed as a special prosecutorial adviser to the International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam.

"I am delighted and deeply honoured to announce that I have been appointed as a Special Prosecutor Advisor to the International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh," Toby Cadman, also an extradition specialist, posted on his X, formerly Twitter, account on Wednesday.

On September 2, he met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna.

During the meeting, they discussed the need SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PLOT TO KILL JOY Shafik Rehman granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to senior journalist Shafik Rehman after he surrendered in a case filed over a plot to abduct and kill Sajeeb Wazed Joy, for which he was sentenced to seven years in jail last year.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court granted bail upon his surrender and appeal for the cancellation of his sentence.

Earlier, the home ministry suspended Shafik's jail term for a year, on the condition that he surrender and file an appeal. In his absence, Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Nur had sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment on August 17 last year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

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Students of Cantonment Public School and College perform a dance holding the national flag on the field near Lebukhali Payra Bridge in Bakerganj upazila, Barishal, yesterday to mark Armed Forces Day.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

RMG workers block Dhaka-Aricha highway

Demand safe roads following death of 4 colleagues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Workers of Graphics Textile Limited factory staged a two-hour blockade on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Sreerampur yesterday morning, to press home their three-point demands following a road accident in Dhamrai on Wednesday night that claimed the lives of four colleagues.

The protest began at 9:20am and ended at 11:30am.

Their three-point demands include a general holiday for the factory, compensation for the families of the deceased and proper medical treatment for the injured, and the introduction of a dedicated transport system for employees.

Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Dhamrai Police Station, said that the protesting workers left the highway and gathered in front of the factory by 11:30am.

"The factory has declared today [yesterday] a general holiday, and discussions are ongoing between the police, factory authorities, and workers to address their demands," he said.

The accident occurred around 9:30pm on Wednesday in the Khagurda area of Dhamrai when a truck collided with a bus carrying factory workers. Four RMG workers were killed and at least 18 injured in the incident.

The workers blamed the accident on driver negligence and urged authorities to implement immediate safety measures.

Chairman of NCTB

FROM PAGE 3
textbooks cover the RTI Act, teachers lack training, and the allocated 10-minute lesson time is insufficient.

The study recommended teacher training, extended instructional time, storytelling techniques, and practical classroom activities to make RTI education more effective.

Prof Syedur Rahman, DSHE training director, said he would advocate for improved RTI teaching if

The Carter Center and MJF provided further support, while stressing the need to prevent misuse of the law.

Md Arif, secretary of the Information Commission, urged correct RTI application and suggested involving teachers in textbook development to better address students' needs.

Teachers, researchers, and officials from government and non-government organisations also spoke at the event.

Toby Cadman

FROM PAGE 3
to establish a domestic tribunal with international support to try people accused of committing crimes against humanity during the student-led revolution, according to a BSS report.

"Bangladesh quickly needs to establish an effective domestic legal framework for truth, justice, and accountability that was properly supported by the international community

and endorsed by the people of Bangladesh," the chief adviser's press wing quoted Cadman as saying.

Cadman said they were ready to support Bangladesh to develop a framework for the extradition of persons involved in crimes against humanity, economic crimes, and political corruption who fled the country with their ill-gotten assets.

He also presented a number of proposals to the chief adviser.

BPC's fuel pricing

FROM PAGE 5
Alam demanded a reform commission in the power and energy sector.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said they will reexamine the annual reports of all companies under the Power and Energy Ministry.

"We will hire a third party to thoroughly examine the reports of around 50 companies, to find if there were any illogical expenditures for the sake of consumers," he said.

BPC should be a profitable organisation, but it should be rational, he added.

However, at the dialogue, BPC Chairman Amin Ul Ahsan said the yearly profit of the BPC is rational. It's an organisation which has around Tk 50,000 crore turnover.

"The profit is only 7 percent of that amount, which is not excessive. We, the officials of the corporation, don't take

any profit bonuses from that amount, we have some development projects which require investment," he said.

He also said that it is possible to increase the efficiency of BPC by decreasing the costs in different stages, which they have been doing.

"We have initiated an automatic distribution system from the seaport to the distribution points to reduce the system losses and theft. We had been trying for a long time to build the second refinery, but due to shortening in capital, it has been delayed," he added.

Khalid Ahmed, Additional Secretary of Energy Division, said most of the depot employees are millionaires. Digitisation is the only way to reduce system losses and other expenditures.

HC scraps

FROM PAGE 3
Labour, which is authorised to file such cases, had not done so.

The defamation case stemmed from a 2007 AFP interview where Dr Yunus said Bangladesh politicians prioritise personal gain over public interest. Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnun filed the suit in 2011, but the HC dismissed it, citing that Chunnun was neither named in the interview nor directly affected by the statement.

Deputy Attorney General Md Jashim Sarker said the state plans to appeal the HC verdicts before the Appellate Division.

Dr Yunus and Nazneen Sultana were earlier granted bail in all the cases.

APBN at odds with aviation force

FROM PAGE 3
was found broken. The APBN logo from the office gate was also removed, in which, a sign shows "BAF Task Force".

Ershad Ahmed, officer-in-charge of the Airport Police Station, told The Daily Star, "We have informed the CAAB chairman about the GD. Both are government bodies, and the CAAB chairman is responsible for handling airport-related issues. We expect the chairman to resolve the matter."

NO MAJOR DETECTION IN THREE MONTHS

APBN officials say they had done great work when they were allowed to work freely. According to the database, the APBN has seized 1,008 kilograms of gold, 3.54 lakh yaba, 58,621 cartons of cigarettes, 2,928 litres of liquor, and 47,737 kilogrammes of cosmetics.

But now, confusion arises while preventing criminal offences.

For instance, on October 26, two Chinese nationals and two Bangladeshi women were allegedly found involved in an altercation in the departure area of HSLA.

The women were suspected to be victims of trafficking, but the AVSEC members released them all after taking an undertaking, whereas the matter should have been

addressed through legal proceedings.

MINISTRY INQUIRES ON CAAB AUTHORITY

In another development, the finance ministry has asked the CAAB to explain in writing under whose direction the members of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) have been deployed at HSLA.

Signed by the finance ministry deputy secretary Syed Ali Bin Hasan, the letter was sent to the CAAB chairman on October 29.

The letter, a copy of which The Daily Star obtained, reads, "Whether the consent of the chief adviser, who's in charge of the Ministry of Defense, has been obtained regarding the inclusion of 1,450 members of Bangladesh Air Force under the In Aid to Civil Power Act? Is there any scope to engage members of the Air Force under the act as per CAAB rules or regulations?"

The letter also made inquiries on the relevant rules for CAAB to disburse allowance to Air Force members engaged under the In Aid to Civil Power Act, how much money from CAAB's fund will be used to pay their allowances, and whether this amount is consistent with CAAB's financial income and expenditure.

In another letter on November 3, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

also sought clarification from the CAAB chairman in manpower engaged in airport security.

Regarding the letters, CAAB chairman Monjur Kabir said, "It is routine work. The chief adviser has approved the deployment of Air Force members in aid to civil power. We have already responded to the ministry query."

Shafik Rehman

FROM PAGE 3
Mahmudur Rahman, former editor of Amar Desh, was also sentenced to seven years in the same case. He is currently out on bail. Three others—Mohammad Ullah Mamun, his son Rizvi Ahmed Caesar, and businessman Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan—were also handed seven-year jail terms in absentia, along with Tk 5,000 fines or an additional three months in jail for non-payment.

According to the charges, Shafik and Mahmudur masterminded the plot, aided by Mamun, while Rizvi bribed an FBI agent for information on Joy.

The case, filed by the Detective Branch in 2015, accused several BNP leaders of conspiring to abduct and kill Joy, the ICT adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Shafik, 85, a British citizen, is a veteran journalist who worked for several media outlets.

Will defend Sheikh

FROM PAGE 3
former additional attorney general Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury in a case filed with allegations of murder related to incidents in July and August.

The order was issued by the Appellate

Division, led by Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed.

Zi Khan Panna represented the accused, while Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman and Additional Attorney General Aneek R Haque represented the state.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:05 12:30 3:45 5:21 7:00
JAMAAT 5:40 1:15 4:00 5:24 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়
সার ব্যবস্থাপনা ও মনিটরিং অধিশাখা
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

নং ১২.০০.০০০০.০০০.০০০.২৪-১৫৬

তারিখঃ ০৯/০৮/২০২৪ বঙ্গাব্দ
২২/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃাব্দ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ কেরকারি পরিষদের মাধ্যমে নন-ইউরিয়া (টিএসপি ও ডিএসপি) সার আমদানির লক্ষ্যে প্রস্তাব আহ্বান।

স্মরণীয়ঃ ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ বছরের ফসল উৎপাদন মৌসুমসমূহে ব্যবহারের জন্য তরুণিক অর্গানাইজ প্রয়োজনীয় পরিমাণ টিএসপি ও ডিএসপি সার আমদানির লক্ষ্যে "নন-ইউরিয়া সার আমদানি, বিক্রয় এবং তরুণিক প্রদান পদ্ধতি সংক্রান্ত পরিপত্র" মোতাবেক কেরকারি সার আমদানিকারকগণের নিকট হতে প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

• কেরকারি পরিষদের মাধ্যমে নন-ইউরিয়া (টিএসপি ও ডিএসপি) সার আমদানির লক্ষ্যে আগামী ২৭ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সীমাবদ্ধকৃত প্রস্তাব দাখিল করতে হবে। সীমাবদ্ধকৃত প্রস্তাবের উপর সারের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে। সীমাবদ্ধকৃত প্রস্তাব প্রদানের সময় সচিবালয়ের ৫০৫ নং ভবনের ৫০৫ নং কক্ষের সামনে প্রস্তুতকৃত নির্ধারিত বাস্তব বিজ্ঞপ্তির সনদ-পরিচালক (সার ব্যবস্থাপনা বিষয়), [৪৯-০১, মিলকুলা বা/এ, ঢাকা] এর মস্তুরে প্রস্তুতকৃত প্রস্তাব জমা দিতে হবে। একটি আমদানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠান একটি মাত্র প্রস্তাব দাখিল করতে পারবে। একটি প্রস্তাবে একাধিক সার উল্লেখ থাকলে প্রস্তাব বাতিল মর্মে গণ্য হবে।

• নন-ইউরিয়া সার আমদানি, বিক্রয় এবং তরুণিক প্রদান পদ্ধতি সংক্রান্ত পরিপত্র অনুসারে আমদানিকারকগণকে প্রস্তাবের সাথে কৃষি সম্প্রদায় অফিসের হালদাদা স্টেশন, আর্থিক সফতার সনদ, যাহাৎ কর্তৃক এনসি স্থাপনের নিত্যমতঃ সনদসহ সারের উৎপাদক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্রাকৃতিক Manufacturer Certificate জমা দিতে হবে। এছাড়াও প্রস্তাবের সাথে আমদানিকারকগণের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিএসপি সারটিফিকেট ও জাট আইডিটিফিকেশন নম্বর জমা দিতে হবে। Manufacturer Certificate-এ সারের বিনির্দেশসহ সারটির আমদানিকারককে নির্দিষ্ট পরিমাণ সার নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে সরবরাহের সম্বন্ধে উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে। উক্ত পরিপত্র প্রস্তুতকৃত প্রস্তাবের সাথে মোতাবেক প্রস্তাব দাখিলের তারিখ সার কেরকারি/সিটিসি/সিটিসি প্রস্তাব দাখিল করলে তা বাতিল মর্মে গণ্য হবে।

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02	Associate Professor	Biochemistry, Forensic Medicine, Community Medicine, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Medicine, Pediatrics, Neurology, Endocrinology, Respiratory Medicine, Radiology & Imaging, Surgery, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology, Obs. & Gynae	MBBS & FCPS/MD/MS/M.Phil/PhD or equivalent degrees as per BM&DC rules
03	Assistant Professor	Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Forensic Medicine, Pharmacology, Community Medicine, Microbiology, Pathology, Medicine, Pediatrics, Hepatology, Nephrology, Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Anesthesia, Obs. & Gynae	MBBS & FCPS/MD/MS/M.Phil/PhD or equivalent degrees as per BM&DC rules
04	Registrar	Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Obs. & Gynae	MBBS & FCPS/MD/MS or equivalent degrees as per BM&DC rules or FCPS Part II examinee or Part B examinee in MS/MD as per BM&DC rules.
05	Assistant Registrar	Medicine, Surgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Obs. & Gynae	MBBS & FCPS/MS or equivalent degrees as per BM&DC rules or FCPS Part II examinee or Part B examinee in MS as per BM&DC rules.
06	RS/RP	Medicine, Surgery, Otolaryngology, Obs. & Gynae	MBBS & FCPS/MS or equivalent degrees as per BM&DC rules or FCPS Part II examinee or Part B examinee in MS as per BM&DC rules.
07	Curator	Anatomy, Pathology	MBBS & equivalent degrees as per BM&DC rules. 03 years' experience as lecturer.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV/Resume to the Principal, Monno Medical College, Monno City, Manikganj (By post/ Courier) or E-mail: hrd@monnomc.edu.bd on or before the 30th November, 2024 (Salary: Negotiable).

জমি বিক্রয়
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যোগাযোগঃ ০১৭০০৩৫৬৬৬৪, ০১৭০৩৯৭৯৪০৪

NOTICE - THE 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

CCCL/SECT/MEETING/GB/00104A/92 20th November 2024
The 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Cadet College Club Limited will be held as per Art. 49 of the Articles of Association.

Date : Saturday, 14th December 2024
Time : 11:00 hours
Venue: Cadet College Club Limited, Purbachal. (Plot # 002, Road # 203A, Sector-12, Purbachal New Town)

Agenda:

- Confirmation of the minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 09 December 2023.
- Consideration of the Annual Report of the Board of Directors for the year 2024.
- Adoption of the Audited Statement of the Accounts for the Financial Year (FY) ended on 30th June 2024.
- Adoption of the Annual Budget for the Financial Year (FY) ending on 30th June 2025.
- Appointment of the Auditor(s) and fixation of the remuneration for the Auditor(s).
- Discussion and Adoption of Resolution(s), if any (proposed by members to Board and placed as per Art. 49).
- Expansion of the dining space and incorporation of games facility.
- Any other business allowed by the chair.
9. Election of the Office Bearers for the year 2025.

Any Primary Members having cleared their respective Club dues latest by Thursday, 28th November 2024 are eligible to attend and vote in the 22nd Annual General Meeting of Cadet College Club Limited as per Art. 49 (f) of the Articles of Association of the Club.

Sd/ (Ashraf Hussain)
Director, Administration and Services

GD-1012

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০৬৫১.৭৬২.০৭.০০৪.২৪.৩৩১৩ তারিখঃ ১৯/১১/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, বরিশাল দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works
1038397	Repair & Maintenance of 800 Sqft. Residential Building of Bhandaria 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.
1038259	Construction of RCC Property Demarcation Work at Bakergonj 132/33 kV Grid Substation.
1028921	Purchase of Different Types of Tools for Transmission Line Maintenance under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.

অগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আক্তারউজ্জামান পলাশ
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, বরিশাল

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা
ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.bb.org.bd

স্টাফবাস ভাড়ার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রের নিম্নবর্ণিত রুটের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের অফিসে আনা-নেওয়ার জন্য ৩০ আসনের একটি ডিজেল চালিত বাস চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদে ভাড়া করার উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বাস মালিক/সংস্থার নিকট হতে ই-টেন্ডারিং প্রক্রিয়ায় উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

রুটের নাম	গাড়ির ধরণ	মেয়াদকাল	মডেল	দরপত্র জামানত
মতিঝিল-মদিনাবাগ	৩০ আসনের ০১টি বাস	২০/১২/২০২৪ হতে ১৯/১২/২০২৭	২০১৬ সাল বা তৎপরবর্তী	৳ ৫০,০০০/-

আমহী দরপত্রদাতাগণ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bb.org.bd) ই-টেন্ডারিং অপশনে Bidders হিসাবে রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্নকরতঃ নিজ ক্ষেত্রে প্রবেশপূর্বক আলোচ্য দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। উপরে বর্ণিত দরপত্র জামানত (Tender Security) পরিচালক, কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আগামী ০৫ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১ (৭ম তলা, ২য় সংলগ্নী ভবন) এ দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই তারিখ বেলা ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অনলাইনে (www.etender.bb.org.bd) দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। একই তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাগণ অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধিবৃন্দের উপস্থিতিতে যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন। দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

সূত্র নং-ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৪-২৯১৫

স্বপন কুমার গোস্বামী
পরিচালক
ফোনঃ ৯৫৩০৪৮

GD-1012

Dengue claims
9 more lives

UNB, Dhaka

Nine more deaths from dengue were reported in the 24 hours until yesterday morning, raising the death toll from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 436 this year.

During this period, three deaths occurred in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), five in the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), and one in the Rajshahi division (outside the city corporation).

A total of 1,214 more patients were hospitalised with dengue across the country, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Among them, 195 were admitted to hospitals under DNCC, while 141 were hospitalised under DSCC.

Currently, 3,882 dengue patients are undergoing treatment nationwide, the DGHS said.



Fishermen clean their nets in preparation for venturing out to sea. Fishing from Dublar Char in the Sundarbans is permitted for five months each year. During this period, a fisherman earns between Tk 60,000 and Tk 1,50,000 by fishing and drying fish. The photo was taken at Dublar Char in the Sundarbans yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Climate migrants
in Khulna demand
access to civic facilities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Climate change has forced many residents of the southwestern region of Bangladesh to leave their homes and migrate to nearby cities, including Khulna, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

However, these displaced individuals, often referred to as climate migrants, face significant challenges in accessing essential civic facilities in their new urban environments, they said.

The daylong workshop, titled "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation in High Risk Areas of Khulna and Satkhira", organised by Caritas Bangladesh, was held at the Caritas Auditorium in Khulna city.

The speakers further noted that since these migrants are not permanent residents of the city and their voter ID cards are registered elsewhere, they are unable to access vital services provided by the city corporation or the government.

Without city-based voter IDs, they are denied basic amenities such as water, electricity, and other utilities.

In response to these hardships, climate migrants are urging authorities to ensure their access to civic facilities in Khulna. They are also calling for a simplified process to transfer voter registration to their new locations.

Climate induced migrants living in Khulna City Corporation areas, especially wards 9, 21, 22, and 31, attended the workshop.

Albino Nath, regional director (designate) of Caritas Khulna region, and Md Abdul Karim, district relief and rehabilitation officer of Khulna, were also present.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASES
HC to deliver verdict any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to deliver its verdict any day on the death references and appeals of the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain kept the death references (trial court documents for confirmation of death sentences), and the appeals, filed by the convicted accused in the cases, as curia advisari vult (meaning the verdict will be delivered any day), after concluding hearing on those matters, Deputy Attorney General Md Jashim Sarker told The Daily Star.

The cases were filed following a grenade attack on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka that claimed 24 lives and left about 300 injured.

Then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, who later ran the country for 15 years as

prime minister and was forced to resign and flee on August 5 this year following a mass uprising, narrowly escaped the attack on August 21, 2004.

A Dhaka court on October 10, 2018, sentenced 19 people, including former BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, to death in the two cases filed in connection with the grenade attacks.

Nineteen others, including BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, now in London, were given life imprisonment, and 11 people were handed different terms in prison.

Eighteen of the convicted accused are absconding and 31 are in jail.

During the hearing on the death references and appeals, the defence lawyers for the convicted accused prayed to the HC to scrap the trial court verdict and to acquit all the accused, saying that there is no specific allegation against them.

BPC's fuel pricing formula
needs to be revised

Says CPD, deems its current profit margin unethical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fuel prices can be reduced by Tk 10-15 per litre, if the current mechanism used by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is revised, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

BPC has been making profits from fuel sales despite following an automated formula to fix the prices since March this year, as the

Regulatory Commission (BERC).

The study says that the adopted pricing mechanism applies a financing charge of nine percent per litre, which is excessively high without adequate justification.

Besides, the basis for determining other rates such as commission for letters of credit, transit loss, and crude oil processing loss is not transparent and needs thorough reviews, it also said.

BERC's regulations to fix the fuel prices for the last 12 years. "The ministry never gave the power of fixing fuel prices to BERC, which is the legal authority to fix it after holding public hearings," she added.

Prof M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumer Association of Bangladesh, said a speech of the energy adviser to the interim government created confusion that they [the ministry]

PRICING OF FUEL (Tk per litre)	BPC'S PROFIT (in crore)					
	Product	Current Price	Import Cost	Total Cost	Margin Between cost and price	FY 2020
Diesel	105.5	50	95	10.5	FY 2021	6493
Kerosene	105.5	50	97.4	8.1	FY 2022	-2705
Petrol	121	60.68	109.67	11.32	FY 2023	4586
Furnace Oil	86	42.29	85.29	0.71	FY 2024	3500

formula was not formed based on actual cost, it also said.

"The profit margin of BPC is unethical," said CPD in their latest study titled "Market-based Fuel Pricing: Government-led Initiatives and Possible Revision", which was unveiled in a dialogue at a city hotel yesterday.

In the study, the think-tank recommended revising the formula under the Bangladesh Energy

Additionally, exchange rate determination and adjustments are unclear in the formula and multi-layered taxes and duties, determined by National Board of Revenue rates, significantly increase the final price for consumers.

Presenting the study's findings, Helen Mashiyat Preoty, senior research associate of CPD, said the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources didn't approve

want to keep the authority of fuel pricing to themselves.

"It wouldn't happen in the new Bangladesh. BERC is the legal authority for fixing all sorts of fuel prices and BPC is simply a licensee of the commission. The government considers BPC only as a source of revenue, as they take Tk 13,000-14,000 crore per year as taxes and dividends," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Shahjahan
Omar arrestedOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barishal

Former Awami League lawmaker Barrister Shahjahan Omar was arrested yesterday morning in Jhalakathi in connection with a case over vandalism of a local BNP office.

He was arrested around 10:00am in the Pingri of Rajapur upazila, said Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station.

Shahjahan had been in hiding since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5.

He was travelling to Rajapur in a private car around 9:00am, when a group of individuals reportedly attacked him, his driver and his vehicle in Pingri, the OC said.

On information, the police arrived at the scene and arrested Shahjahan.

Shahjahan contested the January 7 parliamentary elections under the Awami League banner after resigning from the BNP, where he had served as vice chairman.

His switch to the AL led to his expulsion from the BNP for violating party discipline.

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC.
(A State Owned Commercial Bank)

IT SYSTEM DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR TENDER

Reference: 11.3/249(ATS)/470 Date: 22/11/2024

Tender is invited from the reputed vendor companies for renewal of Oracle TS (Technical Support) for 2 (two) years with required installation, up-gradation, migration, training & local support (yearly basis). Necessary informations are given below:

01. Procuring Entity	IT System Department, Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level - 06), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka - 1000.
02. Procurement Method	Through Open Tendering Method (OTM) of Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and The Public Procurement Act, 2006
03. Invitation for Tender No.	BDBL/ITSD/OTM/2024/PSN/03
04. Source of Funds	Bank's own Fund.
05. Brief Description of the Goods and Services	Renewal Of Oracle TS (Technical Support) For 2 (Two) Years With Required Installation, Up-Gradation, Migration, Training & Local Support (Yearly Basis).
06. Name & Address of Receiving Tender Document	IT System Department, Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level-06), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
07. Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Schedule	07/12/2024 up to Office Hour.
08. Last Date and Time for Submission	08/12/2024 up to 03.00PM
09. Date, Time and Place for Tender Opening	All Tenders will be opened at IT System Department, Head Office, Dhaka on 08/12/2024 at 03.30 PM (Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of Tender).
10. Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar services of at least 3 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 5 years, each with a value of at least 80% of the yearly basis quoted price preferably in the banking sector. The bidder must have experience on installation, commissioning of similar products i.e (Oracle Enterprise Edition and Real Application Cluster) with at least 2 (Two) bank/government/semi-government/autonomous organization within 5 years. The Bidder must have ongoing AMC of similar product with at least 3 (three) organizations preferably in bank. The Bidder must have Member Partnership with respective OEM. Supplier must have at least Four (4) Oracle Certified Expert engineer (at least one senior) on relevant product such as Oracle 19c Administrator & Oracle RAC. All engaged resources should be permanent employee of OEM and selected bidder. No contractual & outsourcing resources are acceptable. Any false information submitted by bidders will be treated as disqualified. Bidder must submit Company profile with all Certification. Up to date Income TAX paying Certificate Up to Date VAT Certificate
11. Tender Security	Tk.4,00,000.00 (Taka Four Lacs) Tender Security Money only will be required in the form of Pay Order in favor of Bangladesh Development Bank PLC., Head Office, Dhaka.
12. Price of Tender Schedule	Tk. 2,000 (Taka Two Thousand) Only in Cash. (Non-Refundable)

Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender either in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever. If occur any government holiday then the tender opening date will be shifted to next working day.

Md. Rokonzaman
Deputy General Manager
IT System Department
☎ : 02-223384839

GD-1015

Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources didn't approve BERC's regulations to fix the fuel prices for the last 12 years. The ministry never gave the power of fixing fuel prices to BERC, which is the legal authority to fix it after holding public hearings.

HELEN MASHIYAT PREOTY
Senior research associate, CPD

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কুমিল্লা সেনানিবাসে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড/এমইএস/সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর যে কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত অথবা সরকারী ঠিকাদারপত্রের নিকট হতে নিম্ন ফর্মের প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক	কাজের বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
১।	সুদূর্গ প্রশিক্ষণ দীক্ষিতকর্ত্তে ৩৫ এসটি ব্যাটালিয়নের এসটি ড্রাইভিং ট্রাক নির্মাণ এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যয় নির্বাহ্য বাবদ	১,০০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	কার্যাদেশ পাওয়ার ০১ (এক) মাসের মধ্যে

ক। দরপত্র সিডিউল ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি সকল কার্যনির্বাহীকে অফিস চলাকালে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে জ্ঞায় করা যাবে। উল্লেখিত কাজের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী ৩৫ এসটি ব্যাটালিয়ন হতে জানা যাবে। দরপত্র আপাদী ২৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ ১০০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং একই দিনে ১২০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দরদাতাদের সামনে খোলা হবে।

খ। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সমস্ত দরপত্র বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা রাখেন।

গ। সরকারী বিধান মোতাবেক বিল হতে ভাট ও অন্যান্য প্রদেয় কর কর্তন করা হবে।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৪/৭০৭
২১/১১/২৪

GD-1014

LAST 2 DAYS

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Fan favourites vs Critics' picks: Bridging the gap in OTT awards

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The OTT awards have become a reflection of both audience preferences and critical acclaim, yet a recurring question persists: how well do the choices of fans and critics align? Last year's winners of the *Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards*, like Afran Nisho and Mehazabien Chowdhury in the Popular category for *Redrum*, stood in contrast to Critic's picks like Chanchal Chowdhury and Tasnia Farin for *Karagar*. This divergence highlights a nuanced distinction in the values audiences and critics hold dear.

Allen Swapan) and Tama Mirza (*Friday*) dominate the spotlight.

On the critics' end, Nasir Uddin Khan (*Myself Allen Swapan*) and Siam Ahmed (*Punormilone*) stand out among the male actors, with Azmeri Haque Badhan and Nazia Haque Orsha (*Jahan*) as strong contenders for Best Actress.

Popular selections reflect the audience's emotional engagement, with crowd-pleasers like *Mohanagar 2* and *Myself Allen Swapan* dominating the nominations in the Best Drama/Series category. Conversely, Critic's Choice focuses on narrative depth and artistic integrity,



This year's nominations continue the conversation. In the Popular category, beloved stars like Mosharraf Karim (*Mohanagar 2*), Ziaul Faruq Apurba (*Buker Moddhye Agun*) and Shamol Mawla (*The Silence*), among others, vie for the Best Actor title, while actresses like Azmeri Haque Badhan (*Guti*), Rafiath Rashid Mithila (*Myself*

spotlighting projects like *Guti* and *Friday*.

As OTT platforms expand their reach, bridging the gap between fan favourites and critics' picks remains an intriguing observance—one that could redefine storytelling dynamics in Bangladesh's digital entertainment scene.

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The Daily Star

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A collaboration of

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LAST DATE OF VOTING: NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Entertainment Partner



Scan to vote



NEWS

Increase women seats in JS

FROM PAGE 1
"This would streamline the voting process, enabling those who turn 18 after the voter list is prepared to cast their votes without being excluded."

Ajker Patrika Editor Prof Golam Rahman called for guaranteed media access during all stages of the election process.

"To ensure voting rights for expatriates, early preparations are necessary, including amending and updating laws. What we've seen in the past was the influence of ruling parties on elections, which should be eliminated."

He considered proportional representation impractical at this time, saying that meaningful change must originate from within the parliament to be effective.

The Daily Star Bangla Editor Golam Mortoza proposed direct elections for the reserved seats for women in parliament.

Recommending punishment to those responsible for irregularities in the past three polls, he said, "The reform commission should ask the previous election commissions, under

which the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections were held, on whose orders they conducted such elections."

He also urged the commission to enact laws to establish internal democracy within political parties and stressed the importance of ensuring that every citizen has the right to choose their preferred candidate.

Mortoza further proposed increasing the reserved seats for women to 100 from 50 and suggested that political parties nominate their candidates for national polls.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hossain said representatives should not contest elections in areas they do not live in, as this deprives locals of proper representation.

He suggested eliminating financial influence in polls by introducing state-funded election campaigns.

About women's seats, he too proposed direct elections.

He also emphasised the need for ensuring every citizen's ability to choose their preferred candidate.

Dainik Protidin Bangladesh Editor Mostafiz Shafi strongly advocated reinstating the caretaker government

system, saying that it could address 80 percent of the challenges posed by partisan governments during elections.

He called for constitutional reform proposals to be presented to both the government and the media to ensure accountability.

Shafi also emphasised ensuring voting rights for expatriates and providing advanced voting facilities for media personnel and election officials.

Regarding a rotational voting system for women's seats, Badiul Alam Majumder said women would directly contest in 100 seats, raising the total number of parliamentary seats to 400.

"These 100 seats would rotate across constituencies over four election cycles, with women competing alongside men for other seats."

He cited similar systems in local government polls in West Bengal and Kerala, where women's participation has been significantly higher.

The commission also plans to recommend internationally recognised guidelines for demarcating parliamentary constituencies to ensure fair representation, he added.

US team flies

FROM PAGE 12
Internationally recognised labour standards, as well as sustainable growth and broadly shared prosperity."

After the interim government took office, the US committed full support for reforms.

The US is the single largest importer of Bangladesh's products, mostly ready-made garments. Its annual import volume from Bangladesh is over \$10 billion. The US suspended the GSP facility after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013.

Earlier, the US administration said it was not providing funds to Bangladesh under the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), but the funds could be provided if the labour standards improves in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been seeking to have both the funding under DFC and the reinstatement of GSP.

Khaleda receives warm welcome

FROM PAGE 2
Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmud Khan. Her presence captured the attention of the attendees, many of whom greeted her.

She stayed at the event for about two hours, during which she greeted the participants and well-wishers.

Addressing a large gathering of dignitaries and VIPs, Yunus said, "We are particularly fortunate and honoured that three-time prime minister, also the wife of a freedom fighter and martyred president Ziaur Rahman, Begum Khaleda Zia, is present here among us."

Noting that Khaleda had not had the opportunity to attend this annual programme in the last 12 years, Yunus

said, "We are all very delighted and proud to have been able to have you in our midst."

He then addressed Khaleda, thanking her for attending the occasion despite her illness. "We hope for her a quick recovery and extend her a special welcome to this function."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, who had arrived at the event earlier, was visibly moved upon seeing Khaleda at the occasion.

Speaking to reporters at the event, Fakhru said, "The entire nation is happy, and we are grateful for the honour bestowed upon Madam [Khaleda]."

Adani charged

FROM PAGE 12
"We are raising this issue, it is my responsibility to raise this issue as leader of opposition," Rahul Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress party, told reporters when asked if he would bring it up in parliament next week.

Gandhi has led the opposition attack against Modi for what he says are Modi's links to Adani since US short-seller Hindenburg Research issued a report last year accusing the Adani group of using offshore tax havens improperly - which the company has denied.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge called for a comprehensive parliamentary probe into "every aspect of the working of the Adani Group".

Mob killings mark sharp rise

FROM PAGE 12
increased and apparently peaked in September.

There was mob violence in two top universities in the country that month.

On September 18, former Chhatra League leader of Jahangirnagar University Shamim Molla was beaten up by students twice on campus. He died of his injuries that day.

At Dhaka University, Tofazzal Hossain, known to be a wanderer on campus, died after a mob in Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall beat him up.

In late September, this newspaper talked to 16 officers in charge about 21 mob-violence related deaths over the previous 40 days. They said 11 cases had been filed over the incidents, no case was filed regarding two incidents they knew about.

On October 30, six people were killed in three incidents in Narail, Chapainawabganj and Dhaka. Cases were filed, but there were no arrests till November 5 when this correspondent talked to the police stations concerned. ZI Khan Panna, chairperson of ASK, thinks the deteriorating law and order situation is to blame for the spike in the number of deaths in mob beatings.

He said although the number of deaths in mob violence spiked recently, it has been going on for a long time, and a lack of confidence in police and the judiciary is a reason for this.

MOB KILLINGS	
YEAR	DEATHS
2024 (Jan-Oct)	100
2023	51
2022	36
2021	28
2020	35
2019	65
2018	39
2017	50
2016	51
2015	135
TOTAL	590
SOURCE: ASK	

It is a kind of extrajudicial killing carried out by agitated people. The other type of extrajudicial killing is committed by law enforcement agencies, he said, adding, "Both are harmful for the state."

Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said police were not on duty for quite a while in August.

Besides, the number of army personnel was not adequate.

"That's why the number of mob attacks was high in August. But it [mob violence] continues to reflect that the presence of law enforcers is not enough," she told The Daily Star on November 6.

There were some incidents that may have had political links while there were incidents when people took the law into their own hands, believing the victims were criminals. "People taking law into their own hands is a matter of serious concern. This should not be happening," the prominent rights activist said.

Sara Hossain, also a senior SC lawyer, recommended ensuring that people have trust in the judiciary.

Apart from making law enforcers more vigilant, a change in society is needed because, in most cases, people remain silent when an incident of mob violence takes place, she said.

Besides, it is necessary to bring the people involved in mob violence to book, she added.

The Daily Star tried to contact Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and Public Security Division's Senior Secretary Mohammad Abdul Momen for comments last night but they did not respond to phone calls and text messages.

Nations race to land deal as COP29 draft rejected

UN chief warns 'failure is not an option'

AFP, Baku

A fresh draft of a climate pact unveiled yesterday at COP29 failed to break an impasse between nations, with negotiators racing against the clock to broker a trillion-dollar finance agreement.

The UN climate summit is scheduled to conclude today but the latest draft deal released by hosts Azerbaijan was spurned by rich and poor countries alike.

The main priority at COP29 is agreeing a new target to replace the \$100 billion a year that rich nations pledged for poorer ones to fight climate change.

Developing countries plus China, an influential bloc, are pushing for \$1.3 trillion by 2030 and want at least \$500 billion of that from developed nations.

Major contributors like the European Union have balked at such demands, and insist private sector money would be needed to meet a larger goal.

The latest draft recognises that developing countries need a commitment of at least "USD [X] trillion" per year, but omits the concrete figure sought in Baku.

"There is a critical piece of this puzzle missing: the overall number," said Cedric Schuster, the Samoan chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of nations at threat from rising seas.

"The time for political games is over."

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday warned the world's climate negotiators of the risks of failure, urging a "major push" to seal the deal.

"Let's be frank. Many substantive differences are still remaining," Guterres told reporters as he returned to the COP29 talks. "We need a major push to get discussions over the finishing line," he said. "Failure is not an option."

Ali Mohamed, the chair of the African Group of Negotiators, another important bloc, said the "elephant in the room" was the figure.

Developing countries plus China, an influential bloc, are pushing for \$1.3 trillion by 2030 and want at least \$500 billion of that from developed nations

"This is the reason we are here... but we are no closer and we need the developed countries to urgently engage on this matter," said Mohamed, who is also Kenya's climate envoy.

COP29 hosts Azerbaijan said a "shorter" draft would be unveiled and would "contain numbers".

Other major sticking points -- including who contributes and how the money is raised and delivered -- were also left unresolved in the slimmed-down 10-page document.

Many nations also said the text failed to reflect the need to phase out coal, oil and gas -- the main drivers of global warming.

SIKH MURDER India warns of 'further damage' to Canada ties

AFP, New Delhi

India warned Canada of "further damage" to already strained ties after Toronto's Globe and Mail newspaper alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi knew about a purported campaign targeting Sikh activists.

Canada is home to the largest Sikh community outside of India and includes activists for "Khalistan", a fringe separatist movement seeking an independent state for the minority carved out of Indian territory.

Ottawa has previously accused India of orchestrating the 2023 killing in Vancouver of 45-year-old naturalised Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistan campaigner, and targeting other Sikh activists connected to the movement.

Nijjar, 45, was shot dead by gunmen outside the Sikh temple he presided over after being wanted by Indian authorities for alleged terrorism offences and conspiracy to commit murder -- accusations he denied.

India has repeatedly dismissed the allegations, which have sent diplomatic relations into freefall, with both nations last month expelling another round of senior diplomats.



Palestinians express grief as they check bodies in the morgue of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday, where victims of an Israeli strike at a UN-run school in the Nusseirat refugee camp are being brought.

PHOTO: AFP

38 civilians killed as gunmen attack vehicles in Pakistan 11 injured; officials say incidents linked to sectarian violence

AFP, Peshawar

Gunmen in northwest Pakistan killed at least 38 people in two attacks yesterday, officials told AFP, part of a sectarian conflict that has claimed dozens of lives in recent months.

Sunni and Shia Muslim tribes have been engaged in intermittent fighting for several months in the mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Sectarian clashes have seen hundreds of people killed over the years in the province's Kurram district, formerly a semi-autonomous area.

Yesterday's attacks targeted two separate convoys of Shia Muslims travelling in Kurram, Javed ullah Mehsud, a senior administration official, told AFP. "The death toll has now risen to 38, with 11 others injured in both attacks," he said, revising an earlier toll.



"Initial reports confirm that the victims include six women, several children, and police officers," he added. "Approximately 10 attackers were involved in both incidents, firing indiscriminately from both sides of the road."

A police officer confirmed the latest toll, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "Both convoys consisted of around 40 vehicles travelling under police escort," he told AFP.

Mehsud said that "women and children sought refuge in local houses, and we are currently searching for (the attackers) in the area."

"Initial reports suggest it was the same sectarian issue that has plagued the region for months," he said, adding that most of the victims were Shia.

Ajmeer Hussain, 28, was among those attacked and taken to a local hospital for treatment.

"Gunfire suddenly erupted and I started reciting my prayers, thinking these were my final moments," Ajmeer told AFP.

Israel strikes south Beirut Hezbollah claims series of attacks on an Israeli base

AFP, Beirut

Successive rounds of Israeli strikes hit Hezbollah's southern Beirut stronghold yesterday after Israeli military evacuation warnings, while Hezbollah claimed a series of attacks including on a base near south Israel's Ashdod, its deepest so far.

Lebanon's official National News Agency reported three raids "within the third round of strikes on the southern suburbs today", saying they hit the Haret Hreik and Hadath areas.

It had earlier reported two other rounds of three raids each on the southern suburbs, including a "very violent strike" on Haret Hreik and a raid on the Kafaat neighbourhood that destroyed a building and damaged others nearby.

Hezbollah claimed a series of attacks on Israeli troops in south Lebanon and on military facilities across the border including a drone attack on the Haifa naval base, which it has repeatedly claimed strikes against.

The group also said its fighters "targeted... for the first time, the Hatzor air base" near the southern city of Ashdod, around 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Lebanon's southern border with Israel, "with a missile salvo".

Israeli first responders said a man was killed yesterday after rocket fire from Lebanon hit the Galilee region in Israel's north.

The renewed Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs came after two days of relative calm in Beirut and its suburbs while US envoy Amos Hochstein visited, seeking to broker an end to the almost two-month-long Israel-Hezbollah war.

Hochstein was due to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, the premier's office said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh District Primary Education Office Dhaka www.dpe.dhaka.gov.bd

Memo No: 38.01.2600.000.33.000.24.3115

Date: 19/11/2024

Invitation for Tender (Goods) e-Tender Notice No.- 03/2024-25

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Works	Tender Method	Tender Proposal Document last selling & Submission Date and Time
1	1031320 NBIDGSP-1/G1.0432	Supply of furniture at a) AMIRA BAG, b) BHAWAL MONOHORIA, c) BRAHMON GAON, d) KODDOM TOLI GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, e) MIRER BAG GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, f) OGRU KHOLA GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, g) SONA KANDA, h) ZAZIRA, i) NAZIRPUR GPS of Keranigonj Upazila under Dhaka District.	NCT, OTM	Last selling: 09 Dec 2024 17:00 Submission: 10 Dec 2024 14:00
2	1031321 NBIDGSP-1/G1.0433	Supply of furniture at a) DEMRAN RANGS, b) DOKKHIN BANNAL, c) KULLA GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, d) SHOLDHON, e) SUTI PARA GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, f) UTTOR BANNAL GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, g) PALLI GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, h) BADDA GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, i) BARADESHI GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, j) CHAKAL GRAM GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, k) DHOBAROI GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, l) MADARTEK GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, m) NALAM GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL, n) SAIPARA GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOL of Savar and Dhamral Upazila under Dhaka District.	NCT, OTM	Last selling: 09 Dec 2024 17:00 Submission: 10 Dec 2024 14:00

These are online Tender's where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)


(Md. Abdul Aziz)
District Primary Education Officer
Dhaka
☎: 02-9144252
e-mail: dpeodhaka@gmail.com

GD-1008



University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207 website: www.ugc.gov.bd

UGC PhD Scholarship 2023-2024

Applications are invited from the teachers of Public/Private Universities, Government/MPO Colleges and Meritorious Students for 'UGC PhD Scholarship 2023-2024' under the following terms and conditions-


- (a) Applicant must be a full-time researcher. No part-time researcher will be considered for the scholarship;
 - (b) Total number of scholarship is 75 (Seventy five). Among them, 35 for Public Universities, 15 for Private Universities, 15 for Government Colleges, 05 for MPO Colleges and 05 for Meritorious Students;
 - (c) Applicants are already admitted into full-time PhD program in any of the public universities will only be considered for this scholarship, if finally selected;
 - (d) Allowance of scholarship is Tk. 40,000/- (Forty thousand) per month (maximum 36 months from the date of joining);
 - (e) A Synopsis of research proposal highlighting the highlighting the **appropriateness of research topic, clarity and importance of objectives, research methodology, quality of presentation, contribution/relevance to national interest** must be submitted;
 - (f) After preliminary selection, applicant/applicants may be asked to present/deliver the research proposal before a committee formed by the UGC.
- Application must be submitted in Prescribed Form through proper channel.
 - Prescribed Application Form, Information Chart, Terms and Conditions for the scholarship can be downloaded from UGC website (<http://www.ugc.gov.bd>).
 - Incomplete application shall be considered as rejected.
 - One set of complete application along with necessary documents shall be submitted to the **Director, Research Support and Publication Division, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207** on or before **31-12-2024**. Soft copy of Application Form along with Bio-data and Information Chart (in doc/docx format only) must be sent to director_research@ugc.gov.bd.



Dr. Ferdous Zaman
Director
Research Support & Publication Division

GD-1011


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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Battery-run rickshaw ban can be reviewed

But we must bring them under a strong regulatory framework

Rushed decisions and lax enforcement have been the bane of policy efforts surrounding battery-run rickshaws in Bangladesh. Over the years, we have seen how the use of these vehicles—with their fragile structures and unsustainably high speeds often posing safety risks—has prompted either blanket bans or partial restrictions, only for such regulations to prove futile as drivers invariably return to the streets. The High Court's directive on Tuesday—banning battery-run rickshaws on Dhaka's streets—and the inevitable pushback by drivers seem to perpetuate this cycle. A real solution that takes into account both the safety of passengers and the livelihoods of drivers, as well as the needs of this evolving city, remains elusive.

According to media reports, agitated drivers on Thursday again held demonstrations protesting the High Court directive. Following protests at Doyaganj in Jatrabari the previous day, they staged blockades at various intersections in Agargaon, Kallyanpur, Gabtoli, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, and Rampura, causing huge traffic disruptions. They also blocked railway tracks at Mohakhali for hours. If past trends hold, the authorities may again acquiesce to their demand, allowing them to operate as before.

But this will neither solve the problem nor address the deeper issues that perpetuate it. Weak enforcement is not the only issue here; the sector also suffers from lack of proper regulations. Currently, there is no official data on the number of mechanised and battery-run rickshaws and other illegal three-wheelers. However, unofficial estimates suggest there may be over six million such vehicles, with about one million within Dhaka city. The shortage of affordable public transportation relative to demand has led to their proliferation. The High Court first banned such rickshaws nationwide in July 2014, but successive attempts to implement the directive or restrict their use have failed. Massive investments have already been made, so an outright ban, without alternative employment for those involved, is clearly not a wise solution.

That doesn't mean we should continue to ignore the safety concerns. According to the Road Safety Foundation, motorcycle accidents cause the highest number of road fatalities in the country, followed by accidents involving three-wheelers, including battery-run rickshaws. In Dhaka, the recent deaths of a student at Jahangirnagar University on Tuesday, and another woman at Shahbag earlier, again brought the issue to the fore. Clearly, things cannot go on as before. While many have recommended a gradual phasing out of these rickshaws, we believe this would only address the safety concerns without addressing what the city actually needs.

It needs something that's faster than traditional rickshaws but safer than the inherently venerable battery-run rickshaws. So, we propose a three-pronged policy directive involving technical upgradation of their structures, retrofitting them with necessary suspension and braking features; detailed guidelines on where and to what extent they can operate; and proper regulations, including registration, driver training, and formalisation of other operational aspects. And, of course, we must ensure strict enforcement of these regulations. Done right, this kind of vehicle could be the future of city transportation. We urge the government to approach this issue with the thoroughness it demands.

People need urgent relief from inflation

Their exhausting wait for essentials is quite telling

The continued inflationary pressure on ordinary citizens, evident in the large crowds desperately lining up at TCB truck sales points and Open Market Sale (OMS) shops, is alarming. As reported by this daily, men, women, and even children are waiting for hours at various locations in Dhaka, anticipating the arrival of TCB trucks. In the busy Mirpur-10 area, for instance, around 300 people gathered early Monday morning, hoping to buy subsidised essentials that serve as a lifeline for low-income families. Elderly women, some as old as 70, were seen standing in line for hours and then running after a TCB truck to purchase necessities. Pregnant women also endured hours in line under the scorching sun to access low-cost essentials. With inflation remaining above 9 percent for 20 consecutive months, even middle-class individuals have joined these long queues.

Reportedly, a large number of people from low-income households are scrambling for essentials at the TCB truck sales points and OMS shops, which has become a defining picture of the city of late. Despite the government's efforts to increase the supply of low-cost essentials, it remains insufficient to meet the overwhelming demand. For example, according to one TCB goods seller, while they can serve about 350 people a day, around 700 people gather daily at their spot, indicating that TCB trucks are able to meet the needs of only half those seeking daily essentials.

According to a recent report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, released by international agencies including the UN, nearly 23.3 million people—or 26 percent of Bangladesh's population—are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. This situation is not only driving increasing desperation among the populace, resulting in thousands of hours wasted standing in TCB lines, but also causing immeasurable suffering. Additionally, the long-term health impacts of people cutting back on healthy diets will hinder progress for years if not urgently addressed.

Under these circumstances, the government must further prioritise efforts to address runaway inflation. If necessary, a high-level committee should be formed specifically to tackle inflationary pressures on low-income families. The government must further increase the quantity of essentials available at low cost through TCB and OMS sales. It should also work to improve the efficiency of their distribution, preventing people from enduring long lines and unnecessary hardships to access these resources.

The Indian media and Bangladesh-India relations

There cannot be a stable relationship without deeper understanding



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher of
The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

As Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus stated, "The Bangladesh-India relationship is deep and multifaceted. We can have our differences but that cannot define it." We have said this many times before and reiterate now that our bilateral relationship must be based on a "win-win" policy, rooted in mutual respect, non-hegemony, and the pursuit of shared prosperity and deeper understanding. In my early days as the editor of *The Daily Star*, I wrote, "For India, there are only two neighbours—China and Pakistan. The rest of us are geographic entities to be praised, cajoled, reprimanded and even punished as the situation would call for."

Sheikh Hasina's last tenure in power (2009-mid 2024) appears to have been a period of "praise." However, after the student led people's uprising toppled her regime, a powerful section of the Indian media has shifted into the "reprimand" mode, with some even suggesting "punishment." Much of the social media discourse seems to support this.

Let me start with my unequivocal position that oppression of minorities anywhere in the world, including in my own country, must be condemned and speedily resolved. It should never recur. Communal conflict has been an age-old phenomenon in South Asia following the British colonial policy of "Divide and Rule." It is a regrettable fact that, after 77 years of the departure of the British, we have still not been able to solve it.

After the regime change in Bangladesh, the Indian media's coverage of events can, in my view, be categorised as follows: 1) the events that toppled Sheikh Hasina was the work of Pakistan's ISI, the Islamists in Bangladesh, or pro-Chinese elements all aimed to replace the "India-friendly" government with an "India-unfriendly" government. There is no mention of the role of common people or of the students—of the killing of ordinary people, etc. Where is the evidence of foreign hand? What is the source of all these assertions? And yet, the vilification goes on unabated; 2) the new government is bent on persecuting Hindus and even committing "genocide," according to some. Many of these stories were debunked by fact-checkers, including the BBC. But that did not stop or even slow down the tirade of stories demonising us; and 3) the US's involvement was also referred to and was linked with the events in

Pakistan—as in after toppling Imran Khan, the US toppled Sheikh Hasina.

In terms of covering the events of the July-August uprising by the Indian media, the following observations are striking:

1) The Indian media largely ignored the massive student-led people's movement, which saw millions take to the streets in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Bogura and Khulna. Their focus remained almost exclusively on the sporadic violence against Hindus during the power vacuum in the first week of the transition.

2) The brutal firing on unarmed



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

demonstrators, resulting in at least 700 deaths by August 5, was barely covered. This represents one of the most barbaric crackdowns in the recent history of South Asia, yet the Indian media gave it little attention. In the six interviews I gave to mainstream Indian outlets, there was almost no mention of the scale of the uprising or the civilian deaths, only the vandalism of symbols like Bangabandhu's statue or the burning of government properties.

3) Even three months later, there has been no substantial coverage of the atrocities inflicted on students and civilians. The Sheikh Hasina government even resorted to firing on demonstrators using helicopters—an act of shocking cruelty. In a prompt action, the interim government fast-tracked the issuance of visas for journalists. However, the Indian journalists who visited Bangladesh focused solely on the attacks on Hindus, ignoring the broader human rights abuses by the Hasina government, thereby greatly affecting their credibility

to Bangladeshi readers.

4) The Indian media's coverage appears to be driven by concern solely for Hindus of Bangladesh, rather than the people of Bangladesh. Will that foster a healthy relationship between our two countries? I have said previously and I repeat it now that India should not see the recent events through the lens of Sheikh Hasina but through the lens of democracy.

5) In a recent video broadcast by the well-regarded news portal ThePrint, Meenakshi Lekhi, a BJP leader and lawyer, said, "The chief adviser... is seeking to rename the nation [Bangladesh] to be [the] Islamic republic of East Pakistan." Where did she get that from? What is the source of her claim? Her column was filled with distortions and misinformation. When recounting Sheikh Hasina's grand success, she omitted critical facts like the rigging of the 2014, 2018 and 2024 general elections—the core reason for voters' outrage with her regime.

Along with my team at *The Daily*

It is my conclusion that the mindset of the Indian media—and also that of a section of political leadership—is dominated by two strains of thoughts: 1) a fundamental disrespect for our intellectual ability; and 2) Islamophobia.

As for the first, Indian media coverage clearly implies that we, as a people, are incapable of determining our future. It is the Pakistanis, Chinese or the Americans—not to name the Indians, which they don't, of course, mention—that must tell us what to do. This mindset is insulting to a nation that has fought against Pakistani cultural, economic and military oppression, and that has defeated them in an armed struggle—albeit with Indian help. It is insulting to a people who have dismantled BAKSAL imposed by the post-liberation Awami League government, defeated the autocratic rule of Gen HM Ershad, and who have now toppled what appeared to be an invincible regime of Sheikh Hasina. This mindset shows the disdain of the Indian media towards us, and that of some political leaders, one of whom compared us with termites.

The second issue is the Indian media's Islamophobia and their total misunderstanding of the deep roots of Islam in the Muslim Bangalee psyche. People going to mosques, wearing Islamic headgear, keeping beards, using Islamic salutations, or referring to the Quran as a part of daily life are portrayed as extremists and terrorists in their eyes.

I wonder why they don't learn from their own backyard. If the revival and strengthening of Hindu religious practices, building more temples, enshrining Hindu cultural traits, and becoming more practising Hindus are part of the present day Indian ethos, then why should we, the Bangladeshis, become more Muslim make us extremists? If mass-based groups like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Bajrang Dal, and the RSS can propagate the Hindu religion, and if a populist party like the BJP, whose aim is to establish Hindutva in India, can get elected three times, then why does the reappearance of Islamic groups make us a fundamentalist country?

The Indian media and leadership must open their hearts and minds, dig deep into the cultural and religious heritage of Muslim Bengal, and try to embrace us as we are, rather than define us as they would like us to be. What the Indian people decide is the India we must accept, just as what the people of Bangladesh decide we are, India must accept. That is the only way a durable Bangladesh-India relationship can be built. The lesson for India is that regime-based relationships must be replaced by people-based relationships. For that to happen, we must understand each other better, with sincerity and respect.

We need stronger pledges from COP29



Dr Dwijen L. Mallick
is fellow and director at Bangladesh
Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

DWIJEN L. MALLICK

Climate scientists have warned that climate change is progressing faster and affecting a wider area, with severe impacts across the globe. The devastating effects of climate change are felt from the bottom of the sea to the top of the hills, through coastal and plain lands. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General, in his opening remarks at a plenary session at COP29 in Baku, stated that 2024 has seen the hottest day, the hottest month, and the hottest year on historical record. People are bracing for the next cyclone. Nonstop floods are destroying agriculture, crops, and infrastructure, affecting the food security of millions. A large number of children in African and Asian countries are going to bed hungry due to climate-induced shortages of produce.

A recent report by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) on "10 Insights in Climate Science" has cautioned that the world is not on the right track, as climate actions, particularly mitigation for the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs), are severely lacking, especially

among developed countries. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has reported that the average global temperature crossed 1.5 degrees Celsius in January 2024. Thus, the pace of climate change is rapid and forceful, with grave consequences for ecosystems. Scientists fear severe additional penalties, as climate change is a multiplier of risks, vulnerabilities, and socio-economic issues.

Climate change aggravates poverty, food, water and livelihood insecurity, which may lead to further social, gender inequities and conflict over limited resources, along with long-term social unrest in many parts of the world. The PIK report asserts that social systems in many countries could reach a threshold, or a social tipping point, due to the growing impacts of climate change, causing societies and economies to fall into an unrecoverable state. Early signs of this emerging situation are evident in some African countries, where thousands of poor and climate-vulnerable people are being forced to migrate to neighbouring countries due to hunger

and famine caused by extreme drought and frequent crop destruction.

In Bangladesh, people are facing alarming situations in climate hotspots, particularly in the coastal regions and north-central river basins, where they encounter multiple climate disasters year-round. They are exposed to cyclones, increased soil salinity, floods, soil erosion, drought, heat stress, and cold. These impacts affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor people, women, and socially excluded groups. They are unable to cope with the drastic changes in the local climate and its devastating effects. Thousands of people are displaced by climate extremes every year, and they are forced to migrate to large cities in search of livelihoods and shelter. However, these climate migrants are not welcomed by city residents or governments. They often end up in city slums and fringe areas, living in inhuman conditions without basic amenities such as food, adequate housing, water, sanitation, and healthcare. Women, children, and girls face significant insecurity and violence on their journey to the cities. Many of them never return to their villages of origin. They become homeless and are frequently evicted. As a result, their social ties, community connections, and social cohesion are broken.

Solving the climate crises requires policy responses for both adaptation and mitigation, adequate global finance, technological innovation, capacity building, institutional support

for the vulnerable communities, and local climate actions. The global strategies and responses are discussed at COP every year. Unfortunately, the developing nations and poor countries who are the innocent victims of climate change do not get much support from the developed countries, which are responsible for creating the problem.

We have observed with great concern that the major key players and climate negotiators—the presidents of the US, Russia, and China—are absent from this COP. This may negatively influence the decisions and ultimate outcomes of the COP. It is also feared that the major polluting countries are not committed to providing the necessary funds for adaptation and mitigation. However, a successful COP will require commitments to boost adaptation goals with adequate climate finance, develop strategies and actions for moving away from fossil fuels, and accelerate net-zero carbon emission strategies.

We hope that the civil society organisations, thousands of youths, environmental agencies, NGOs, human right groups, and media participating in COP29 will put pressures on the negotiators and global leaders to deliver the right strategies, targeted actions, and desired outcomes for the people. These actions are essential to reduce growing climate risks and vulnerabilities, address the emerging social tipping point, take urgent mitigation actions, and protect ecosystems and the planet.

Why did Abdullah have to die?



AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

Last Friday, loved ones of 23-year-old Abdullah, a student of political science at Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College in Old Dhaka, gathered in a graveyard in Bardaanchara, a small village in Benapole, Jashore, to bury him. Abdullah was a vital part of the student-led mass uprising in July-August, fighting for justice, for change, and for a future he believed in. But instead of celebrating his victory, his family watched in agony as they buried him—three months after a gunshot to his head left him fighting for his life.

Why didn't he die that day? Why did he hang on, only to slip away after three months of suffering, three months of agonising hope that he would make it? These heart-wrenching questions will remain unanswered, but we cannot help but wonder: could timely medical intervention have saved Abdullah's life? Instead of a sombre burial, could we have seen him alive, his face lit with the joy of knowing that, despite the violence of those days, his cause had triumphed?

Abdullah was shot in the forehead on the evening of August 5, in front of Bangshal Police Station. This was the day the people's uprising, which he had passionately fought for, achieved an incredible victory. But victory came at a brutal cost. After being shot, Abdullah lay on the street for hours, bleeding, with no one to help him. It wasn't until someone rushed him to Mitford Hospital that he received treatment. From there, he was transferred to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors operated on him. After his discharge, however, his condition worsened, and he was hospitalised again. An infection had set in, and by the time he was moved to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), it was too late. His prolonged fight to live ended on the morning of November 14.

In a recent speech, the chief adviser of the interim government mentioned that around 1,500 people had perished during the uprising. And 19,931 people were injured, many of them blinded, maimed or barely alive. How many of them, like Abdullah, are still fighting for their lives? And how many,

despite the horror they endured, remain forgotten as the rest of us move on, distracted by the new headlines of the day?

Apart from the loss of eyesight or a limb, many have lost the ability to work, which has left them and their families under a huge economic burden.

A report by *The Daily Star* in October found more than 200 such patients in some of the major hospitals in Dhaka. The stories from these visits revealed the despair of these young people, who now face a bleak and uncertain future.

For instance, Mozammel Haque, 21, has lost vision in both eyes because of pellet injuries on July 18 during the quota reform protests in Narsingdi. His mother despairs about how he will sit for his exams or even find a job, whether he will ever get married or have a family.

Mohammad Sujon, 21, a cable TV operator, needed two open heart surgeries and another one in his intestine to stay alive after two bullets pierced his torso on August 5 in Old Dhaka. His family of four members is financially dependent on him. What are his prospects of working again?

As the days wear on and we go about our business, and go back to nursing our personal grievances, the faces of these brave individuals will start to fade. How easy it is to forget things that make us feel uncomfortable or events that don't really affect our lives. Have we forgotten so soon how horrific those days between July 15 and August 5 were? Have we forgotten what these young people have gone through, what families who have lost their loved ones in this uprising are going through? Have we erased from our minds those chilling footage of people, most of them young, being shot in cold blood, their bodies treated with utter disrespect, the blank expressions of the injured or dead being hurriedly carried by their friends?

Fresh news constantly flooding us with new fears and uncertainties is perhaps the reason behind the loss of short-term memory. Grisly murders, mob killings, frightening

robberies, hours of traffic gridlock every time a disgruntled group decides to block the roads to get their demands met, food prices hitting the roof, worrisome international ratings about low economic growth, the weight of piling up foreign debt, and an uncertain political landscape—these are the items on our daily dose of stress factors. But they are also a wake-up call for us who thought that August 5 would magically

(such as serious head wounds) that require complicated surgeries, some of which may need advanced treatment abroad.

The government has set up a July Shaheed Smriti Foundation to provide support to the families of the martyrs and to those severely injured during the July-August uprising. While the interim government has waived treatment costs for the injured, delays and inefficiencies plague the system. Reports

Institute of Ophthalmology, their faces filled with frustration and despair. The apparent slow response to their needs had forced them to take to the streets, demanding the care they had been promised. In response, four advisers visited the protesters late into the night, acknowledging the government's shortcomings and pledging immediate action.

Swift, decisive action must follow these



FILE PHOTO: STAR

We must all work together to help those who suffered injuries during the July-August uprising, to rebuild their lives with dignity.

erase 15 plus years of systematic looting and suppressing and maiming a nation physically and psychologically, so that they would lose the ability to stand up for their rights.

We must not forget that everything that is happening to us is a consequence of that dark period in history.

Which is why we must be clear about our priorities. We must prioritise the care of the injured—those who are now facing a future without sight, without limbs, or without the very life they once knew. There are around 400 people who have lost their eyesight, many of them students, as a result of bullet wounds and others who have critical injuries

suggest that funds meant to help the injured have not been distributed quickly enough. The burden of costly medical tests and medicines, unavailable at public hospitals, falls on the families, while patients in private hospitals face crippling bills. Numerous patients are from other districts and from families who cannot really afford the cost of travelling to Dhaka, accommodation and food for those attending to the patient. These costs have to be taken into account while disbursing funds.

On November 13, injured protesters gathered outside the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) and the National

promises. The government must ensure that the funds for the treatment of the injured are adequate and reach them on time. Many of the injured have still not been included in the list; this must be done urgently. Donations and assistance must come from the public as well. Already, individuals and small groups have begun to offer assistance, but it is not enough. Those who will be released from hospital must be given the support needed for their rehabilitation. We must all work together to help those who have given so much, to rebuild their lives with dignity, knowing that their sacrifices will never be forgotten or undermined.

Pathways to world rankings for private universities in Bangladesh

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Dr Md Mamun Habib is professor at the School of Business and Entrepreneurship in Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), visiting scientist at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in the US, and adjunct professor at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK) in Malaysia.

SYED SAAD ANDALEEB and MD MAMUN HABIB

Top universities have rigorous admissions criteria, seeking high-achieving and motivated students, often from various cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds to enrich the academic space. Support for students, including scholarships, mentorship programmes and career services, is extensive, which results in high retention and graduation rates. In Bangladesh, an often-ignored area is our students' mental health needing serious attention.

While expensive, leading universities invest in modern facilities, libraries,

help commercialise research findings and new ideas, secure patents, and harmonise industry partnerships.

Many top-class universities have extensive international collaborations, student exchange programmes and joint degree offerings, allowing students and faculty to gain global perspectives. Faculty exchange programmes bring in international faculty to foster global awareness and understanding.

Top-class universities are blessed with effective leaders (and governance structures) who are visionary in their outlook, driving

international research networking (five percent), while THE rankings emphasise similar traits, particularly research quality (30 percent) and the research environment (29 percent).

Bangladesh's universities, especially the private ones, currently assign unusually high teaching loads to the faculty. Due to current policies, faculty members are fully engaged in teaching (four to five classes of 175-250 students each term) with little time for research. Then there are other administrative tasks such as mentoring, serving on numerous committees, being a part of co-curricular activities, or even helping with the admission process to ensure stable enrolment—a survival issue for private universities. With faculty members stretched to the limit, often for inconspicuous tasks, the real task of building university reputation gets sidetracked.

There are a number of programmes that the government can initiate. One is creating national rankings based on selected and locally relevant parameters to benchmark quality, tracking quality progression, and infusing a competitive ethos (especially for research grants) in the otherwise indolent academic ecosystem. In the absence of reliable local ranking mechanisms, internationally recognised rankings are currently used to signal university quality. This is inadequate and raises questions about relevance. To be sure, celebrating rankings has become a controversial and contentious matter.

Launching quality PhD programmes (under stringent conditions) and promoting high-impact research publications are also important to add value to the universities. However, the availability of qualified supervisors, as well as internal and external examiners, represents a significant challenge. Encouraging publication in the Web of Science (WoS) or Scopus platforms that include indexed journals from Taylor & Francis, Springer, Emerald and other publishers can quickly shape high-impact research. Creative incentives must be devised for those who publish in these competitive arenas.

Faculty members play the largest role in imparting quality education and building a brand reputation for a university. But their recruitment, especially at senior levels, still depends on academic degrees and length of teaching (experience). This is no longer sufficient and must be enhanced by placing more weight on their publications in various indexed platforms. Importance must also be given to inclusion in Google Scholar, Scopus or Scimago, along with h-index and other quality markers known for evaluating

scholarly output.

The advancement to senior ranks, particularly at the associate and full professor level, must require MPhil or PhD-level supervision and serving as examiners, locally and internationally. They must also publish papers with young scholars and junior faculty members and groom them through intellectual exchange. Participating on editorial boards of scholarly journals and engaging in peer review are additional key activities that set scholars apart from others.

To keep pace with global progression, private universities in Bangladesh may invite visiting professors from across the region/globe. An international exchange programme (for faculty and students) would also contribute to international recognition.

Industry linkages are another challenge for the private universities. Industry-driven research projects, academia-industry collaboration, arranging regular industry talks and symposiums, industry visits, etc could contribute to enhancing reputation and rankings.

To develop a university as a centre of excellence, the key executives must possess several vital characteristics like vision, ethical leadership, willingness to take risks, high capability, and a futuristic outlook. Their performance must be reviewed regularly by the board of trustees based on selected criteria to promote continuous quality improvement and to guide good governance of the university on its journey to greater heights.

In recent times, the quality and capability of members of the board of trustees in private universities have raised questions. For those lacking experience in university management, a crash course may be developed to enlighten and inspire them to discern between running academia and industrial outfits. Such courses are also important for those who come to serve in academia late in life from other careers. The board may consider engaging academic advisers to assist with leadership selection, developing training modules and research tracks, designing academia-focused evaluation systems, driving motivation programmes, and a host of other issues.

The global higher education landscape is becoming increasingly competitive, and universities worldwide are striving to improve their rankings and image. A few Bangladeshi private universities have made good progress but they face significant challenges. If universities prioritise quality education, foster a research culture, advance technology adoption, and promote internationalisation, achieving a place in global rankings will naturally follow.

A review of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings indicates that the number of Bangladeshi universities in the rankings are increasing. In 2025, as many as 15 universities are listed, whereas there were four universities in 2023 and two in 2022. Among them, about 50 percent (in 2025 and 2024) are private universities.

In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, there are 17 universities in 2025, whereas in 2024 and 2023, there were nine and five universities, respectively. In THE Asia University Rankings, there were nine Bangladeshi universities in 2024; comparatively, there were five universities in 2023 and only three in the 2022 rankings. Clearly, the number of universities is increasing in both QS and THE rankings. However, their positions (especially of the private universities) have much to be desired.

Every year, there is triumphant clamour in Bangladesh about those institutions ahead of others; yet, they typically rise and fall within the lower bandwidth. Consequently, even the highest-ranked universities in the country remain confined to subordinate categories. In contrast, the world's top-ranking universities consistently demonstrate many distinct strengths and characteristics. For one, top-ranked universities are known for their high-impact research in peer-reviewed publications, in substantial quantities, often leading pioneering studies and setting trends. They also attract substantial funding from governments, private institutions, and industry partnerships to support cutting-edge and innovative ideas pursued in contemporary facilities.

Celebrated universities are also staffed by renowned and distinguished scholars. They are often leaders in their fields, with extensive publications and citations. It must be emphasised that they are also exceptional educators, sharing their knowledge in engaging learning environments that stretch the imagination of and experiences for their students.



FILE VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

digital resources, e-learning platforms and related tools needed for a mind-stretching educational experience. Recreational facilities are also extensive to make mind and body work in unison. Facilities for spiritual nurture enhance the synergy.

Top universities offer a vast number of programmes and disciplines, providing numerous choices for students with an array of interests. They also promote interdisciplinary education that creates room for exploration and expansion of the mind. Furthermore, the curriculum is designed to develop students' analytical and critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing them for leadership roles. Universities like MIT promote innovation by providing incubators and reasonable funding for startups. This encourages students and faculty to translate their ideas into products, services or even businesses. Startups created by Stanford University generate around \$2.7 trillion in annual revenues! These universities also have technology transfer offices that



LAW OPINION

Rethinking capital punishment in Bangladesh

The international community has frequently urged Bangladesh to re-examine its capital punishment policy, emphasising that suspending executions would demonstrate a commitment to human dignity and conform with a global minimum standard. Moving away from the death penalty might represent a significant shift, one that respects human rights, promotes fairness, and promotes life.

MD. FAHMEDUL ISLAM DEWAN

While the international community has made tremendous progress in moving away from the death penalty, Bangladesh continues to use it for a wide range of offenses, including many that do not result in the loss of life. This approach puts Bangladesh at odds with a growing global movement to reduce or eliminate the death sentence based on a commitment to human rights and justice. Currently, 55 countries have the death sentence in their legal systems. Nine of these countries limited its application to the most heinous offenses, such as multiple homicides or war crimes. Furthermore, over 112 countries around the world have abolished the death sentence. Irreparable suffering, the empirical evidence suggesting wrongful conviction, ineffective deterrence, etc. are the main reasons behind this movement. This growing standard is further institutionalised in international instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which limits capital punishment to the most heinous offenses. In its recent resolutions, the United Nations has urged all governments to adopt a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its elimination. Despite this, our law permits the death sentence for both murder and other non-lethal offenses, including drug-related crimes (Special Powers Act 1974) and certain

terrorism-related offences (Anti-Terrorism Act 2009). The recent introduction of the death penalty for rape in the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Act 2020 demonstrates a firm stance against gender-based violence. Still, it also raises important questions about its proportionality. The number of prisoners on execution row in Bangladesh is particularly concerning. In a report by the Amnesty International, between 2018 and 2022, Bangladesh had 13 executions and 912 death sentences, with 2,000 individuals on death row by late 2021. Concerns about fair trial in Bangladesh, characterised by poor legal representation, lengthy detentions, and claims of forced confessions, underlie the possibility of false convictions. The United Nations has also asked Bangladesh to consider a moratorium, pointing out that capital punishment violates human dignity and lacks strong evidence that it is more successful at discouraging crime than alternative types of punishment. Bangladesh's large death row population stands unusual, significantly, since countries like Japan and the United States, which still use capital punishment, limit its application to situations of purposeful and severe injury. While some may claim that harsh penalties prevent crimes, studies from abolitionist countries challenge the long-held belief that capital punishment is required to keep communities secure. The death sentence is legal in the United

States, but its use is becoming increasingly restricted. The Eighth Amendment, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishments", has caused the Supreme Court to impose restrictions, such as barring executions for people with intellectual disabilities (*Atkins v Virginia* 2002) and minors (*Roper v Simmons* 2005). According to a report posted on 16 December 2022 in the Death Penalty Information Center, executions have decreased, with only 18 carried out in 2022, indicating a decline for its support. The death penalty has proven controversial in Bangladesh, primarily when it has raised questions about justice and human rights. Many international human rights organisations claimed that the death sentences awarded by the International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh in cases concerning the 1971 Liberation War, was fraught with violations of fair trial standards. The international community has frequently urged Bangladesh to re-examine its capital punishment policy, emphasising that suspending executions would demonstrate a commitment to human dignity and conform with a global minimum standard. Moving away from the death penalty might represent a significant shift, one that respects human rights, promotes fairness, and promotes life. The writer is lecturer, Department of Law, World University of Bangladesh.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Food adulteration and its deadly consequences

TAHSINA ZAMAN

Food adulteration slowly damages people's health in ways that are not immediately visible, but have serious long-term effects. However, this despicable crime has become quite normalised in our society. Not all businessmen engage in food adulteration, yet a large portion of food in Bangladesh is adulterated. While there are strict laws against food adulteration in Bangladesh, they are rarely enforced. As a result, business owners continue to adulterate food for profit, and the general public has come to view the consumption of adulterated food as routine. The first law against food adulteration in Bangladesh was introduced in 1974. Section 25C of the Special Powers Act of 1974 laid out strict penalties for food adulteration, the maximum punishment being life imprisonment or even the death sentence. In all cases, fines could also be imposed.

Despite having penalties as severe as death, food adulteration in Bangladesh has not been curbed, primarily due to the lack of enforcement. Since the law is not enforced, even the threat of the death penalty has failed to instill fear in unscrupulous traders. Additionally, in 2009, the Consumer Rights Protection Act was enacted for the benefit of consumers. In 2013, another law, the Food Safety Act, was introduced to eliminate food adulteration. This Act imposes penalties for food adulteration, producing substandard food, and importing, processing, storing, supplying, or selling adulterated food. Under the new law, the punishments are comparatively less severe than the 1974 Special Powers Act. Instead of repealing the 1974 Act, the introduction of this new law has effectively reduced the severity of the punishment.

According to legal theory, punishment has various purposes and kinds, such as deterrent punishment, retributive punishment, reformative punishment, and preventive punishment. Section 25C of the Special Powers Act of 1974 is designed as a deterrent and preventive punishment. The aim of deterrent punishment is to discourage future crimes by setting an example through the punishment, while preventive punishment seeks to prevent further crimes by incapacitating the criminal. But without proper enforcement, the law's goals are not achieved, making it ineffective—this law is a clear example of that. We occasionally find in the media the Consumer Protection Authorities and the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority conducting operations. However, in reality, food adulteration in the country is not decreasing; in fact, it is rising. This shows that the lack of enforcement is the root cause here. Merely passing laws without implementing them only leads to disappointment for the nation and its people. Therefore, immediate steps must be taken to enforce these laws so that crime is reduced, and the people of Bangladesh are freed from the scourge of adulterated food.

The writer is LLM candidate at Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).



CONSTITUTION REFORM

Five reform proposals to ensure a more DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION

A B M FOISAL HOSSAIN

During the 2024 anti-discrimination movement, the people of Bangladesh shed their blood on the streets to achieve a fair and just society. The movement raised a burning question in its immediate aftermath: Does our current Constitution empower us to achieve the ideals our martyrs gave lives to protect? Many claim that our existing Constitution is a barrier to this vision. Although opinions differ on whether it is required that we adopt a new constitution or amend the current one, there is a consensus that significant changes are needed for a better democracy. Here are five constitutional reform proposals that may help make our system a more democratic one. Firstly, the judiciary must have a separate secretariat under or within the Apex Court. Currently, the President cannot act independently of the advice of the Prime Minister (PM), except for the appointment of the PM itself and that of the Chief Justice, as mandated by Article 48(3) of the Constitution. Thus, the PM has been given the power to control the President's actions, which extends

to the matters related to judiciary as well. For example, according to Article 116 of the Constitution, the President, in consultation with the Supreme Court, has the authority to manage and discipline employees in the judicial service and magistrates who perform judicial duties. But the President cannot make decisions without the advice of the PM. This practice results in the subordinate courts often facing pressure from the executive branch. Indeed, a separate secretariat for the judiciary that looks after the administrative matters is a must to ensure judicial independence. Secondly, the members of the Supreme Judicial Council should be increased and be appointed on an *ad hoc* basis. In *Government of Bangladesh & others v Advocate Asad-uz-zaman Siddiqui & others* [(2017), the Appellate Division (AD) noted that if Parliament can remove a Judge of the Supreme Court, it could exert undue pressure on the judiciary. Citing that reason, the AD restored the Supreme Judicial Council system in removing judges. On the other hand, many would argue that without such power in the hands of the parliament, the



judiciary could become unchecked and tyrannical. One possible solution to this scenario can be to reform the Supreme Judicial Council by expanding the number of its members to include two members from the legislative branch, one from the ruling party, another from the opposition, as well as the Judges from all branches of the Judiciary (AD, High Court Division and Subordinate Courts). These committee members will not be prefixed but be formed on an *ad hoc* basis. This approach would further

ensure collaboration between the legislative and judicial branches. Thirdly, floor-crossing should be allowed, but only in certain circumstances. Article 70 of the Constitution does not allow a member of the Parliament to vote against his/her own political party. One is bound to vote for their own party or remain silent regardless of their viewpoint on that said matter. Thus, MPs become hostages in the hands of their party's high command. One may argue that the absence of Article 70 would allow

illicit floor crossing causing the government to fall. Taking such view into consideration, the proper solution is to make Article 70 inapplicable unless there is a vote of confidence on the PM and the budget bill. Fourthly, Article 7B should be removed from the Constitution. Article 7 states, "All powers in the Republic belong to the people, and their exercise on behalf of the people shall be effected only under, and by the authority of, this Constitution." Therefore, people are the primary source of power. Article 7(2) further explains that this Constitution is the solemn expression of the will of the people. However, Article 7B of the Constitution makes many provisions of the Constitution unamendable. Thus, there is an obvious conflict between Articles 7 and 7B. If the people are supreme, how can they not amend the Constitution as per their will? Finally, referendum should be included as a condition for binging in constitutional amendments. True that the basic structure doctrine is not a good sign for our Constitution. An incumbent parliament should not be able to take away or limit

the power of a future Parliament. Also, as the world is changing rapidly, our Constitution should adapt to new needs. Fifty years later, our fundamental rights and state policies may change, but because of the entrenchment of basic structure, we cannot adopt the demands of time to our Constitution. One possible solution is to introduce referendum. A system should be adopted where the parliament would have to propose a constitutional amendment with a two-third majority, and then the people would get it ratified with a referendum. Apart from these reforms, we may need to change many other provisions of our Constitution in the future. We must understand that reform does not undermine our constitutional practice but reflects our democratic spirit. Through reform, we can create a new Bangladesh where power belongs to the people, justice is delivered equitably, and democracy is not codified only as a principle but also as a practice for the people to live by. The writer is undergraduate law student at North South University.

Batting concerns dominate as Tigers tackle Windies

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on the West Indies in the first Test in Antigua today, hoping their slightly inexperienced batting line-up can weather the pace storm. Antigua has a strong recent record of making Bangladesh batters suffer.

In 2018, the Tigers were bowled out for their lowest-ever Test total at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua. This time, without the assuredness provided by their three top-calibre batters in Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, the team management would be hoping the batting line-up holds up.

Bangladesh have played five Test series in West Indies to date, and the 2009 tour was the high point of their Windies trials so far, when they clinched the series 2-0. The two most recent Test series in Windies -- in 2018 and 2022 -- were swept 2-0 by the hosts.

Bangladesh are coming off the back of dismal Test series losses against India and South Africa, where even the presence of the more experienced batters did not help their cause. In this ICC World Test Championship, Bangladesh languish at eighth with three wins in 10 Tests, unable to carve out a draw this cycle.

Top-order batting issues have rarely seen Bangladesh batters survive an onslaught after the opposition has gotten a sniff. Thus, a big test of will and skill awaits the new recruits -- the likes of Shahadat Hossain Dipu or a Jaker Ali in the upcoming Tests.

Psychologically, it would be a relief to have their full-strength pace-bowling line-up for the upcoming Tests, and the emergence of speedsters such as Nahid Rana or Hasan Mahmud gives the Tigers something to look forward to in terms of showcasing pace prowess.

The Windies pace attack, with Kumar Roach back in the fold and quicks such as Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph and Jayden Seales, would look to give an apt response to Bangladesh's pace.

Both teams are coming off the back of red-ball series losses to South Africa. The Windies batting has some new

The final frontier FOR CUMMINS



I love responsibility. I've wanted to do the tough job since I was a child. So you always want to be in the thick of things. You want to be thrown into tough scenarios. This is one of them as well. This adds a new challenge to me.

INDIA PACER JASPRIT BUMRAH, captain for first Test against Australia

REUTERS, Melbourne

Captain Pat Cummins has hoisted just about every trophy in cricket as part of dominant Australian teams but wants to tick the last box with a Test series win against India over the next two months.

While celebrating a slew of World Cup wins and Ashes triumphs in recent years, Cummins and a number of his teammates have known only defeat in the last four Test series against India, at home and away.

"I think for about half the change-room, we haven't won the Border-Gavaskar (trophy)," the fast bowler told reporters at Perth Stadium on Thursday on the eve of the series-opening Test.

"So (it's) kind of one of the last things to tick off for a lot of us.

"Almost every challenge that we've had thrown at us over the last few years, we've stepped up and done well.

"To do that for another year, another home summer would kind of cement this. Rather than it's been a two-or-three season thing, it's suddenly into a half-generation thing."



PHOTO: AFP

India will have a different look in this five-Test series to the injury-ravaged squad who claimed a stunning 2-1 win over Australia in the last tour in 2020-21.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will captain India in Perth while regular skipper Rohit Sharma takes leave to care for his newborn baby.

Left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal is among several new faces in the squad.

Cummins said Australia had made plans for the whole India squad.

"Most of us have played IPL (Indian Premier League) and seen how many newcomers come in and kind of step up straight away," he said.



In 20 encounters, Bangladesh have four Test wins against the West Indies' 14, with two matches ending in a draw.

The Tigers won two away from home -- a 2-0 sweep in 2009 -- and clinched as many at home.

It has been a constant slump for Bangladesh in the Caribbean since the 2009 triumph as they lost six matches across three separate visits. Those were hammering defeats as it included two 10-wicket losses, as many thrashings by 200-plus runs, and an innings defeat. In 2018, the Tigers were bundled out for 43 -- their lowest-ever total in the format.

Nine members of the Bangladesh squad haven't played in the West Indies.

whas struck a century in the West Indies since Mushfiqur Rahim's 116 in Kingstown in 2014. Mushfiqur, however, is unavailable for the series due to injury.

faces, and one win and five losses this year show they need their batting to fire.

"It's very important. Coming off of the disappointment of the South Africa series, where we really put ourselves in a position to close out that series, we didn't, and we now have this opportunity against Bangladesh," Windies head coach Andre Coley said ahead of the first Test.

"It's very important for us to come out with a winning result on home soil before we head off to (Pakistan)," Coley had remarked, underlining the confidence the hosts want to project in the Tests coming up.

BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY BEGINS

Australia are yet to win the prestigious Border-Gavaskar trophy since claiming it in 2014/15 at home.

In fact, Australia have tasted defeats in their last four Test series against India -- two of those in their own backyard, two away to India, and all by a 2-1 margin.

India also dominate in this particular series, winning 10 of the 16 Border-Gavaskar series played so far. One series was drawn while Australia have won five.

However, Australia boast a hundred percent record at the Perth Stadium, venue for the first of the five-match series. The Aussies have won all four of the Tests played so far at the stadium -- winning each of those games by a margin of more than 100 runs.

India, meanwhile, have lost the only game played at the Perth Stadium -- suffering a 146-run defeat in 2018 against Australia.

Kings-Mohammedan face off in inaugural Challenge Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

The 2024-25 football season in Bangladesh will kick off today with the newly-introduced one-off tournament, Bangladesh Challenge Cup, in which current Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings and runners-up Mohammedan SC will square off for the title at the Bashundhara Kings arena in Dhaka.

The tournament is modelled after England's Community Shield, where the league champions take on the FA Cup winners in a one-off game to decide the title.

As Bashundhara Kings had emerged as champions in both the league and the Federation Cup last season, Mohammedan, who had finished as runners up in both competitions, have been chosen as their opponents in the Challenge Cup.

Kings had also won the Independence Cup last season, in which Mohammedan had finished second.

Kings and Mohammedan were neck and neck in all four matches they played last season, with the Kings coming out on top three times and Mohammedan winning once.

This time, however, Mohammedan will come across a Kings side which looks vulnerable after the departures of Brazilian forwards Robson Robinho and Dorielton Gomes.

Three successive defeats in the AFC Challenge League last month in Bhutan showed the decline in strength of

the Kings, however, the five-time BPL champions are still strong enough to thump any local outfits.

"Tomorrow's [today] match is very important for me because the players produced bad results in Bhutan. I have never suffered three successive defeats in my life," Kings' Romanian coach Valeriu Tita said at the pre-final briefing at the Kings arena yesterday.

"After the Bhutan tournament [AFC Challenge League], I prepared for tomorrow's [today] match which is going to be a tough game.

"I have confidence in my players who will give their maximum to win the match but it is not an easy job because of the absence of some players," said the veteran coach.

Starting the season with a final is a unique occurrence in Bangladesh football as the local domestic season usually begins with the Independence Cup, which the BFF has decided not to run this season.

Mohammedan SC's coach Alfaz Ahmed was cautiously excited about playing a final against the Kings to begin the season, saying, "We are not used to starting the season with a final because it is going to happen here for the first time. We are looking forward."

Mohammedan SC defender Mehdi Hasan said, "Challenge Cup is a new thing and we are ready to take the new challenge tomorrow [today] because we want to bring the inaugural trophy to the traditional powerhouse Mohammedan SC."



Akbar suspended for two games

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Division skipper Akbar Ali has been handed a two-match suspension for a level two offence during his side's fifth-round match of the ongoing 26th National Cricket League (NCL) against Barishal in Rajshahi last week.

Akbar was charged for showing dissent at an umpire's decision during Barishal's second innings on the final day of the contest on September 19.

"When the appeal of caught behind during over 60.4 was turned down, he showed excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision. He was unhappy and had a prolonged argument with the umpire in an inappropriate manner. After lunch, when he came to the dressing room, he kicked a few chairs and one chair was broken," match referee Akhtar Ahmad wrote in his report.



As Akbar's behaviour was deemed as a breach of Article 2.8 of the BCB Code of Conduct, he was imposed a fine of 75 percent of the match fee and a one-match suspension with four demerit points.

Four demerit points mean Akbar will be suspended from another game, in addition to the one he received for the offences.

The suspension will see Akbar miss the remainder of the ongoing NCL -- a blow for Rangpur, who are currently placed second in the points table with 21 points from five games.

The ongoing NCL has witnessed a rise in Code of Conduct breaches at an alarming rate as, according to the BCB tournament committee, the current edition has already seen a total of 19 violations after the end of the fifth round. Last year's NCL and the Bangladesh Cricket League saw 12 Code of Conduct breaches altogether.

LeBron taking break from social media

AFP, Los Angeles

NBA superstar LeBron James said Wednesday he was taking an indefinite hiatus from social media.

James announced his break after sharing a post by Rich Kleiman, the long-time agent of NBA star Kevin Durant.

"With so much hate and negativity in the world today, it confuses me why some of the national sports media still think that the best way to cover sports is through negative takes," Kleiman wrote on X.

James shared the post with a one word comment: "AMEN!!" and followed it up with a post that read: "With that said, I'll holla at y'all! Getting off social media for the time being."



Jasmine Paolini, alongside her teammates, hoists the trophy after putting on a tennis masterclass to steer Italy to a fifth Billie Jean King Cup title as she beat Rebecca Sramkova 6-2, 6-1 in the second singles rubber to wrap up a 2-0 win over Slovakia in the final on Wednesday. This was the first title since 2013 for Italy, who suffered a heartbreaking defeat to Canada in the decider last year.

PHOTO: AFP

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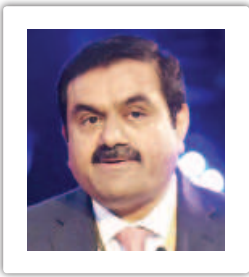
DHAKA METRO RAIL PROJECT
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Adani charged in US for alleged bribery, fraud

India's opposition parties call for probe; BJP questions timing of US indictment

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian opposition parties yesterday demanded a probe into allegations of wrongdoing by the Adani Group and said they would raise the issue in parliament after its chair Gautam Adani was charged in the US over an alleged bribery scheme.



Billionaire Adani was indicted by US prosecutors for his alleged role in a \$265 million bribery and fraud scheme and arrest warrants were issued for him and his nephew, plunging his conglomerate deep into crisis for the second time in two years.

The Adani Group rejected the allegations as baseless and said it complied fully with all laws.

Adani has been the target of Indian opposition parties who say that he and his conglomerate have been protected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, charges both deny.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



ON THE VERGE OF VANISHING!

A northern pig-tailed macaque spotted in Satchari National Park in Habiganj. A matriarchal and arboreal species, it can be found in forested areas in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It is a frugivorous primate, meaning it feeds mainly on fruits. However, due to its adaptability, it can alter its diet depending on the environment. Northern pig-tailed macaques play an important role in forest regeneration by dispersing seeds from over 100 species of plants. However, despite their ecological importance, their numbers have been declining for years. While they are susceptible to various diseases, such as HIV and coronavirus, they are also victims of hunting, poaching, agricultural expansions, illegal pet trade, habitat loss, and more such debilitating human impacts. According to the IUCN Red List, the species is vulnerable and declining throughout its range, while some researches suggest that in Bangladesh, they are already critically endangered and in urgent need of conservation.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Mob killings mark sharp rise

ASK says 100 killed this year, 68 in just 3 months

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Deaths in mob beatings marked a sharp rise this year due to poor law enforcement, a lack of trust in police, and a sense of impunity among the perpetrators, according to Ain O Salish Kendra and experts.

At least 100 people were killed by mobs in the first 10 months of this year, and 68 of them were in three months (August-October) alone, according to ASK, a rights organisation.

The tally is the highest since 2015 when 135 people were killed, the ASK data shows. The country witnessed political unrest that year.

The annual count stayed between 65 and 28 since then and until this year.

At least 28 people were killed in mob violence in September, the highest monthly number this year, followed by 21 in August and 19 in October, according to the ASK data, prepared from media reports and its own findings.

Legal experts and human rights activists described the situation as a disturbing trend and blamed it on law enforcement agencies' poor response to mob violence. The trend also indicates that Bangladesh has been struggling to restore law and order since the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5, they said.

Of the 100 killings, 44 were in Dhaka division, 16 were in Rajshahi division, 13 in Chattogram, 11 in Khulna, six in Barishal, four each in Rangpur and Mymensingh and two in Sylhet division.

After the fall of the Awami League government in August, police were not on the ground for around two weeks and that's when mob violence

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

DEATHS BY MOB BEATING IN 2024	
October	19
September	28
August	21
July	0
June	1
May	6
April	8
March	8
February	3
January	6
TOTAL	100
SOURCE: ASK	

DHAKA-DELHI TALKS Extradition of Hasina could be discussed next month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka may discuss the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina with New Delhi during the Foreign Office Consultation due in early December.

This is the first high-level official meeting between Bangladesh and India since the fall of the Awami League regime. "There is scope for discussion on the matter," foreign ministry spokesperson Toufique Hasan said during a weekly media briefing at the ministry yesterday.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin and his Indian counterpart Vikram Misri will lead their respective delegations to the FOC, which will cover a wide range of bilateral issues.

"We will engage with Delhi and initiate the formal process in accordance with the existing extradition treaty once we receive the necessary instructions," Toufique said in response to queries about the matter.

Hasina faces trial in Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal over allegations of mass killings during the July-August uprising. She has been staying in India since she fled Bangladesh after her ouster on August 5.

"We would like to make the relations with India dynamic," Toufique said, as bilateral ties remain strained since India sheltered Hasina.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Netanyahu now a wanted man

ICC issues arrest warrants for Israeli PM, his ex-defence chief for war crimes

REUTERS, The Hague

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence chief, as well as a Hamas leader for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, the court said yesterday.

In their decision to grant the warrants, the ICC judges said there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Gallant were criminally responsible for starvation in Gaza and the persecution of Palestinians.

The United States said it "fundamentally rejects" the ICC decision.

The Amnesty International welcomed the move.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu is now officially a wanted man," said Amnesty Secretary General Agnes Callamard. "ICC member states and the whole international community must stop at nothing until these individuals are brought to trial before the ICC's independent and impartial judges."

Netanyahu's office said the ICC decision was "anti-semitic" and he will "not yield to pressure, will not be deterred" until Israel's war objectives are met.

In a statement, Hamas welcomed the warrants against Gallant and Netanyahu and urged the court to expand accountability to all Israeli leaders.

The ICC's move now theoretically limits the movement of Netanyahu as any of the court's 124 national members would be obliged to arrest him on their territory.

Gallant was Netanyahu sacked by Netanyahu on November 5. In July Israel said it killed Diab in Gaza. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

The court does not have its own police force to carry out arrests and relies on its 124 member states for that.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military bombed at least five crowded homes in northern Gaza early yesterday with many casualties buried beneath the rubble, Palestinian health officials said, as troops deepened an incursion along the territory's northern edge.

- Israel accused of creating a buffer zone in north Gaza
- 80pc of Gaza Strip is now at high-risk: UNRWA
- 66 more killed in Gaza; Death toll rises to 44,056

US team flies in today to talk labour, other issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A high-level US delegation is arriving in Dhaka today to discuss economic resilience, stability, growth, as well as meaningful and quality jobs in Bangladesh.

The delegation will be led by State Department Special Representative for International Labor Affairs Kelly M Fay Rodriguez and Department of Labour Deputy Undersecretary Thea Lee.

During the three-day visit, the delegates will meet with government officials, garment producers, and labour union stakeholders, said a State Department statement.

"The delegation will engage representatives from American companies invested in the ready-made garment sector and global labour experts to discuss how to best support Bangladesh's economy, democracy, and workers," reads the statement.

"The visit underscores the United States' commitment to improving and advancing economic development,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

SPORT

Tigers begin Windies Tests

Bangladesh will start their West Indies tour with the first of the two-match Test series, starting today at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

The match will be telecast live on T Sports from 8:00 pm (Bangladesh time). Bangladesh come into the series on the back of consecutive Test series hammerings suffered at the hands of India and South Africa. Recent red-ball records in the Caribbean don't make things easier as the Tigers were thrashed in their last six matches.

STORY ON PAGE 11



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

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia fires ICBM at Ukraine for first time

Says Kyiv; two hurt, industrial enterprise damaged in Dnipro

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during an attack on Ukraine yesterday, Kyiv's air force said, in the first known use in the war of such a powerful, nuclear-capable weapon with a range of thousands of kilometres.

The air force reported the launch after Ukraine fired US and British missiles at targets inside Russia this week, despite warnings by Moscow that it would see such action as a major escalation in the 33-month-old war.

Ukrainska Pravda, a Kyiv-based media outlet, cited anonymous sources saying the missile was an RS-26 Rubezh, a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 5,800 km, according to the Arms Control Association.

The Ukrainian air force said the missile was fired from the Russian region of Astrakhan, more than 700 km (435 miles) from Dnipro in central-eastern Ukraine. It did not specify what kind of warhead the missile had or what type of missile it was. There was no suggestion it was nuclear-armed.

The Russian missile attack targeted enterprises and critical infrastructure in the central-eastern city of Dnipro. Regional governor Serhiy Lysak said the missile attack caused damage to an industrial enterprise and set off fires in Dnipro. Two people were hurt.