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Polls only after vital electoral reforms

New CEC says after taking oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new Election Commission does not want another one-sided election, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said yesterday, adding that the election will be free, fair, and acceptable to all.



Nasir Uddin

He also said the next national polls will be held after necessary reforms to the election process are done.

The one-sided elections of the past harmed the country, he said.

"We will create a level playing field for a competitive election," he told reporters after his first day at the office.

He referred to the 2024 election in which many Awami League leaders ran as independents, allegedly to make the election appear participatory.

He also made reference to the 2014 election in which 153 individuals also got "elected" to the 300-seat parliament because they were the only ones who participated in their constituencies, he said.

The BNP and other major opposition parties boycotted both the elections.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Thousands of battery-run rickshaw pullers gathered near the Jatiya Press Club in the capital to press home their demand yesterday afternoon. Many others occupied the streets in Agargaon, Mohammadpur and Jatrabari, causing disruptions to traffic.

BATTERY-RUN RICKSHAWS Drivers again block roads in key city areas

Govt moves to challenge HC order that prohibits plying of such vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Battery-run rickshaw drivers again blocked streets in several key areas of the capital yesterday, demanding that the High Court order to stop such vehicles from plying the city streets be withdrawn.

They also held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club to realise their 12-point demand.

Amid the protests, the government decided to move a petition before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, seeking a stay on the HC order.

"We are preparing a petition against the High Court order. We may move the petition before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division today," Deputy Attorney General Nur Muhammad Azami told The Daily Star.

He said the stay petition will contain a ground that allowing battery-run

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Amended ICT law to allow trial of security personnel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly amended International Crimes (Tribunals) Act will allow for the prosecution of members of the army, navy, air force, police, Rapid Action Battalion, Border Guard Bangladesh and all intelligence agencies.

A gazette was issued to this effect yesterday.

"Intelligence agency" means any "authority, force or entity, established by or under any law which is responsible for the collection, analysis and exploitation of information in support of law enforcement, national security and public safety", specified the amendment.

The amended law says, "The provisions of this article shall apply only to persons in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State."

The newly amended law also provides explicit instructions to protect accused and detained persons from torture and forcible detention, and orders all accused to be brought to the tribunal within 24 hours of arrest. The accused and detained will have legal rights to protection under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

"Evidence obtained by means of a violation of internationally recognised human rights shall not be admissible."

The law also mandates that the prosecution must disclose to the defence any evidence in its possession that portrays that an accused person may be innocent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

World reaches \$300b climate finance deal

Developing nations slam deal 'woefully insufficient' to tackle climate crisis

REUTERS, Baku

Countries at the COP29 summit in Baku adopted a \$300 billion a year global finance target yesterday to help poorer nations cope with impacts of climate change, a deal its intended recipients criticised as woefully insufficient.

The agreement, clinched in overtime at the two-week conference in Azerbaijan's capital, was meant to provide momentum for international efforts to curb global warming in a year destined to be the hottest on record.

- US, EU hail 'new era for climate finance'
- Deal keeps China climate finance 'voluntary'
- UN chief says deal did not go far enough'

Some delegates gave the deal a standing ovation in the COP29 plenary hall. Others lambasted wealthy nations for not doing more and criticised the Azerbaijan host for hurriedly gaveling through the contentious plan.

"It's a paltry sum. I regret to say that this document is nothing more than an optical illusion," Indian delegation representative Chandni Raina told the closing session of the summit, minutes after the deal was gavelled in.

"This, in our opinion, will not address the enormity of the challenge we all face. Therefore, we oppose the adoption of this document."

United Nations climate chief Simon Stiell acknowledged the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

30 injured as students run riot at govt college

They vandalise classrooms, office of Suhrawardy College over alleged attack on peers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JNU

Violence engulfed parts of Old Dhaka yesterday as students from over a dozen colleges attacked Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College in what they said was a retaliatory move.

They vandalised at least six vehicles at Suhrawardy College and tried to attack Kabi Nazrul Government College but failed to enter the campus.

At least 30 people were injured amid a chase and counter-chase between two groups hurling brick chunks at each other.

The protesters also attacked Dhaka National Medical College Hospital, where Mollah College student Avijit died on November 18 due to alleged negligence. The demonstrators vandalised the gate and glasses of the hospital.

The students were protesting against an alleged attack on their peers from Dr Mahbubur Rahman Mollah College by students of Suhrawardy and Kabi Nazrul colleges during a demonstration on November 21 over Avijit's death.

This correspondent witnessed that several thousand students, including from Mollah College, Dhaka College, City College and Notre Dame College, gathered in front of the hospital again at yesterday noon, protesting the death of Avijit.

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

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'16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM' At least one woman raped nearly every 9hrs

Sexual violence against women and children BETWEEN 2020-2024

- On Average 1 RAPE EVERY 9 HOURS
- 1022 GANG RAPE incidents
- 202 WOMEN were murdered after rape
- For every 3 rapes 1 incident goes unfiled
- 3 OUT OF EVERY 5 VICTIMS are children or adolescents (aged 0-18)
- 47% CHILD rape survivors are aged between 13-18
- In child sexual harassment incidents 60% INVOLVE STALKERS
- 40% involve teachers

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA



With the recent addition of potatoes to TCB packages, more people from low-income groups have begun joining the lines in front of OMS trucks. The packages now include 3kg potatoes for Tk 40, 2litres edible oil for Tk 200, 2kg lentils for Tk 120, and 5kg rice for Tk 150.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

INT'L DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

From November 25th to December 10th, the world unites to combat gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism. This annual campaign, initiated in 1991, aims to raise awareness and inspire action to end violence against women and girls.

Throughout these 16 days, The Daily Star, through its print and digital platforms, will highlight the ongoing issue of gender-based violence in Bangladesh, explore the root causes of this pervasive problem, and shed light on the tireless efforts of individuals and organisations working towards a more equitable future.

NILIMA JAHAN

Marium (not her real name) was only 10 years old when she was subjected to the horrors of sexual violence in 2018.

A middle-aged man raped her in the slum she lives in.

The child narrated the incident to her grandmother and a group of women, including a community activist.

Her grandmother, however, decided to hush up the matter to protect Marium's "reputation."

Despite the community activist's attempt to seek legal justice for the child, her 'honour' mattered more to the grandmother and their community.

When police arrived, the community members dismissed the incident as an "overblown rumour" – ultimately granting the rapist impunity and offering him the chance to further exploit the child and other girls of the slum.

This is an edited excerpt of a case study from the research report titled "Why Rape Survivors Stay Out of Court: Lessons from Paralegal Interventions" published by BLAST in 2018.

The scenario in Bangladesh has changed little since then. Under-reporting of rape cases remains a problem, according to experts.

For instance, data from the prominent human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) showed a total of 4,787 rape cases from January 2020 to September 2024.

In 2020, 1,627 rape cases were reported, while only 329 were reported between January and September 2024.

Legal experts say the rape data underrepresents the true scope of the problem as many rapes go unreported.

An analysis by this correspondent of the ASK data over four years showed that there was one rape every 9 hours – meaning at least two women have been raped in Bangladesh each day during this period just based on reports published in the media.

A 2024 report by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum noted that, amid political unrest and crises in Bangladesh, the needs of women, girls and vulnerable groups were overshadowed in media coverage.

EMPATHY IS MISSING FOR SURVIVORS SEEKING JUSTICE PAGE 9 SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Chaos in front of Prothom Alo; cops drive away demonstrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of people demonstrated in front of the daily Prothom Alo's office in the capital's Karwan Bazar almost throughout the day yesterday.

This caused disruptions to vehicular movement on the main road in the city's largest kitchen market.

In the evening, when trucks carrying essentials started arriving in the market area, law enforcers asked the protesters to clear the road. Many shopkeepers closed their stores, and the gates to the Karwan Bazar metro station were also shut.

The law enforcers tried to disperse the crowd using whistles, but the protesters tried to shove them away. Some threw brickbats at the officers, who then used tear gas and sound grenades to break off the crowd.

At that time, a clash broke out between the law enforcers and the demonstrators, resulting in injuries to some protesters and six police officers, including Tejgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mobarak Hossain.

Around 9:00pm, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Sajjat Ali visited the scene.

Earlier, witnesses said, 15-20 people attempted to block the road in front of the Prothom Alo office around noon. However, police intervened and dispersed the crowd.

The protesters returned around 2:30pm and engaged in a scuffle with the police. Later, they sat on the road.

In the afternoon, they slaughtered a cow they had brought and chanted slogans denouncing the daily.

By the evening, the number of protesters rose to around 50, intensifying the situation.

This group demonstrated in front of the Prothom Alo office on Thursday and Saturday. They also staged protests at the entrance to The Daily Star office on Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, in a statement last night, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal condemned what it said were "extremists' attempts to shut down the publication of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star".

The statement added that since August 5, there has been a series of attacks aimed at seizing control of the media and curtailing press freedom, freedom of speech, and independent journalism. The recent attempts to target Prothom Alo and The Daily Star are part of this ongoing campaign.

Polls only after vital electoral reforms

FROM PAGE 1

Nasir and four other commissioners arrived at the EC office around 1:30pm, after being sworn in by Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge.

"We will use all of our might to keep our commitment to hold free, fair and acceptable elections."

The election commissioners - former additional secretary Md Anwarul Islam Sarker, former district and sessions judge Abdur Rahman Masud, former joint secretary Begum Tahmida Ahmad and Brig General (ret'd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaulah - were also present at the briefing.

Minutes before the press briefing, two EC employees were seen taking down a portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from a wall of the conference room. They were also cleaning a section of the roof.

Nasir said holding national elections was difficult. But the challenge has increased significantly as the country is going through a transition, he said.

Many are talking about proportionate representation, bicameral legislature and so on. These are related to the election process. "If it is decided that there will be bicameral legislature or proportionate representation, the Election Commission will hold the election accommodating in line with these changes."

"We will consider the next election only after the necessary electoral reforms are done."

Every party has the right to take

part in national polls, he said, adding that the Electoral reform commission will surely make recommendations on these issues.

"A serious debate regarding the Awami League and its allies is going on at different levels. Let these issues be settled first. We will take action accordingly. Election will not take place in a day or two."

The new commission has no pressure from the interim government and will not have pressure from anyone.

The interim government, led by Prof Muhammad Yunus, does not have any agenda or political ambition to exert pressure on anyone. The chief of the interim government has repeatedly stated his intention to transfer power to an elected political government through free and fair elections, he said.

"Previous governments put pressure as they had a partisan agenda."

People ask what changes will an election make. The mass media's cooperation is needed to make people interested in voting, he said.

After taking the oath in the afternoon, Nasir said, "I see this as a big opportunity and responsibility - an opportunity to serve the nation."

"The people of the country have been deprived of the right to vote. They struggled a lot for a free and fair election. They organised movements and led..."

The EC fell vacant on September 5 when members of the previous commission, led by Kazi Habibul Awal, resigned.

Drivers again block roads in key city areas

FROM PAGE 1

rickshaws or auto-rickshaws on the streets is a policy decision of the government and therefore, the HC cannot interfere in it.

On November 20, the HC directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to stop the battery-run three wheelers from plying the city streets within three days. The order aimed to reduce road accidents.

PROTEST

Around 11:30am yesterday, thousands of drivers gathered on the street in front of the Jatiya Press Club to press home their 12-point demand, halting traffic in the Paltan, Press Club, and High Court areas.

They held the rally under the banner of the Rickshaw-Van-Easy Bike Workers Union.

At the rally, Mujahidul Islam Selim, former president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, demanded that the HC order against the battery-run rickshaws be withdrawn. He also

demanding a decision on alternative source of income for the drivers.

After the rally ended around 1:00pm, the rickshaw drivers left the road and went to the Central Shaheed Minar.

Earlier, Abdul Kuddus, general secretary of Rickshaw-Van-Easy Bike Workers Union, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police proposed a meeting at the DMP headquarters at 11:00am today to discuss the regulations for operating the battery-powered rickshaws. The DMP commissioner already asked them to attend the meeting, he said.

Battery-run rickshaw drivers also took to the streets in the Agargaon, Mohammadpur, Jatrabari, and Jatiya Press Club areas yesterday, causing significant disruption to traffic.

According to witnesses, the rickshaw drivers began assembling in these areas in the morning. Later, they blocked the streets and started demonstrating, leading to heavy traffic congestion,

Amended ICT law

FROM PAGE 1

The defence can present evidence or additional witnesses at any stage of the trial.

The amended law also specified the scope of culpability for crimes against humanity.

It detailed that those who can be tried include not only those who have ordered, solicited, incited or assisted in the commission of the crimes specified in the law, but also those who had knowledge that the crime was to be committed. The contribution must be "intentional", says the law.

"However, a person who abandons the effort to commit the crime or otherwise prevents the completion of the crime shall not be liable to punishment under this Statute for the attempt to commit that crime if that person completely and voluntarily gave up the criminal purpose," added the law.

The modified law stated that any commander, superior officer or leader who "fails to take necessary measures to prevent the commission of such crimes" or "consciously disregarded information which clearly indicated that the subordinates were committing or about to commit such crimes, is guilty of these crimes."

A provision has been included in the law that will allow the tribunal to award monetary compensation to victims.

The law also allows publication of court proceedings for transparency. The tribunal has been allowed to make the decision to record the hearings and broadcast audio-visual recordings as long as the safety, privacy and dignity of the participants are protected.

"Representatives of United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as national or international human rights organisations, may attend public hearings, trials and other proceedings," said the law.

particularly in Mohammadpur's Tin Rastar Mor area.

People faced huge difficulties in their movement. Police were seen trying to persuade the rickshaw drivers to clear the roads.

Shafiqul Islam, one of the protesters in Agargaon, told this newspaper that they gathered in front of the Election Commission office in Agargaon and planned to march to Mirpur-10 in a procession.

Asked about their demands, he said, "Our only demand is that the operation of battery-run rickshaws cannot be stopped without the rehabilitation of the drivers. This is a matter of bread and butter for many people."

Hafizur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Mohammadpur Police Station, said that the drivers have been blocking streets at Mirpur Beribandh, Dhaka Udyan, and Tin Rastar More since 11:00am. This caused severe congestion in Mohammadpur, Mirpur, and Gabtoli.

At least one woman raped nearly every 9hrs

FROM PAGE 1

Supreme Court lawyer and ASK Chairman ZI Khan Panna also shared this concern, noting, "I believe the actual number is much higher. We rely on newspaper data, and when necessary, verify cases with the police. Naturally, the numbers are lower if victims don't come to police."

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua said, "We estimate that about 30 out of every 100 incidents are never reported."

Experts pointed out there has been no fundamental societal shift to reduce rape incidents; instead, insecurity, distrust in the justice system, and doubts about legal processes continue to grant impunity to rapists.

"Social power dynamics remain the same, regardless of which party is in power, so reporting may dip, but actual incidents likely have not," said Jyotirmoy.

AT LEAST 1 IN 3 RAPES REMAIN UNFILED

Of the 4,787 rapes reported by media, only 3,419 resulted in filed cases, leaving nearly one in three incidents unfiled.

Women's Rights Activist Khushi Kabir attributed this to the lack of support in the legal system. "Women face distressing conditions in court, and cases can drag on for 8-10 years. This makes it nearly impossible for complainants to endure the costs, social pressures, and lengthy battle."

Barrister Jyotirmoy asked, "There's no guarantee that a victim will get justice even if they file a case, so why would they bother?"

He added, "Rape cases often remain unresolved beyond the mandated 180-day timeframe, and convictions are rare."

"The court alone cannot deliver justice, as 99 percent of the process - filing the case, conducting investigations, and presenting witnesses - is carried out by state

World reaches \$300b climate finance deal

FROM PAGE 1

difficult negotiations that led to the agreement but hailed the outcome as an insurance policy for humanity against global warming.

"It has been a difficult journey, but we've delivered a deal," Stiell said. "This deal will keep the clean energy boom growing and protect billions of lives."

"But like any insurance policy, it only works if the premiums are paid in full, and on time."

The agreement would provide \$300 billion annually by 2035, boosting rich countries' previous commitment to provide \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020. That earlier

goal was met two years late, in 2022, and expires in 2025.

The deal also lays the groundwork for next year's climate summit, to be held in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil, where countries are meant to map out the next decade of climate action.

The summit cut to the heart of the debate over financial responsibility of industrialised countries - whose historic use of fossil fuels has caused the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions - to compensate others for worsening damage from climate change.

It also laid bare divisions between wealthy governments constrained by

3 'KNA criminals' killed: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Inter Services Public Relations yesterday said three Kuki-Chin National Army members were killed in a gunfight with the army in a forest in Ruma upazila of Bandarban.

The army discovered a secret hideout of KNA there during a drive and recovered weapons and other equipment, the ISPR said in a press release.

The drive would continue, it said.

Another complaint filed with ICT against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another complaint has been filed with the chief prosecutor at the International Crimes Tribunal against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 43 others, accusing them of committing genocide and crimes against humanity during a Hefajat-e-Islam rally in the capital's Motijheel Shapla Chattar on May 5, 2013.

It was filed yesterday by Iffat Ara, the mother of Rehan Ahsan, a former student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) who was killed during the 2013 rally, said her lawyer, SM Tasmirul Islam.

Besides the former PM, her defence adviser Tariq Ahmed Siddiqui, then home minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, leaders of Awami League and its alliance are named in the complaint. It also named top law enforcement officials, including then Police IGP, Rab director general, and DMP commissioner who allegedly led the joint operation that day.

Speaking to the media, Tasmirul said Rehan was shot dead on the night of May 5, 2013, near the Mohammedan Sporting Club, located next to Shapla Chattar. His body was later found in the morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rehan's family didn't even receive his autopsy report despite making several requests, he added.

Rehan's mother, Iffat Ara, said, "I had truly given up hope that I would ever be able to get to fight for justice. After the political change on August 5, I found the courage to file this case."

At the time of his death, Rehan, 23, was a third-year student in the computer science and engineering department.



Dhaka: In search of the beginning

RAFFAT BINTE RASHID

The history of Dhaka is as fluid and majestic as the rivers that surround it. Over the centuries, the city's course has shifted, evolving with each new civilisation that passed through, leaving behind traces of their cultures in its soil.

I wanted to read up on Dhaka's history again because of the recent newspaper hullabaloo about the origins of Dhaka. Thanks to findings from the excavations at the site of the former central jail, located on the banks of the Buriganga, the story of Dhaka's origins got the attention of general people like me, as well as archaeologists and historians.

It is said that the excavation findings are thought to trace the history of the capital city back to the times of early medieval period or the Mughal Era, to the sultanate rule from 1438, to the pre-medieval times and finally, to the early historic period of sixth century BC to sixth century AD. I found that exhilarating.

How Dhaka thrived when it has been ruled by the many dynasties and empires over the ages, including the Hindu Gauda Kingdom, the Buddhist and Shaivite Pala Empire, the Hindu Sena Dynasty, the Hindu Deva Dynasty, the Turkic and Afghan governors, the Bengal Sultanate, and the Mughals and finally, the British?

It was my reason to look through history books and sites, and I thought I would share these interesting facts and theories with our My Dhaka readers.

The earliest mention or clue

of a place called Dhaka was found in an inscription of Sultan Rukunuddin Barbak Shah, dated 1460, and discovered in Birbhum district. It might very well be our modern Dhaka!

In 1582, Akbar's Finance Minister Todar Mal's revenue settlement divided Mughal Bengal into 24 Sarkars (districts). Mughal emperor Akbar's court historian Abul Fazal, who authored Ain-i-Akbari, refers to



"Dhaka-baju" as a pargana of Sarkar Bazukha of Bengal.

Akbarnama refers to a thana in Dhaka-baju as a place of importance in connection with the war against the independent Bhuiyans of Bhati (lower Bengal) from 1583-1605.

Now, the discovery of the fort on the premises of the Dhaka Central Jail provides a broader context of the importance of the city in the Mughal empire.

Mirza Nathan, writer and commander of Subahdar Islam Khan's army, referred to a fort in his book "Baharistan-e-Gayebi" as being "surrounded by mud walls and the largest and strongest in a pre-Mughal era".

It was asserted that the Subahdar and his army of 50,000 soldiers lived in the palace fort

and its surrounding area. Thus, it was commonly thought of as Islam Khan's fort. However, the fort has existed long before the arrival of Subahdar Islam Khan.

The first-ever Radiocarbon absolute dating, or carbon-14 dating, done on the relics from the fort, now the Dhaka Central Jail, at the US Beta Laboratory, has been found to date back to 1430 AD. This was done by archaeology students and

researchers at Jahangirnagar University.

The Binat Bibi Mosque, constructed in 1454, during the Bengal Sultanate dynasty (13th-16th century AD) in the Narinda area of Dhaka, stands as the city's oldest surviving brick structure. Built during the reign of Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah, the Sultan of Bengal (1435-1459), it bears testament to a prosperous settlement even before the arrival of Islam Khan.

Besides, the shrine of Shah Ali Baghdadi, a saint and disciple of Shah Bahar of the Chishti Order, has been an enduring presence in what is now the Mirpur area since 1412.

At the National Museum, there is an exhibit of an inscription, from near the fort on the gate of the Naswalla Gali Mosque that further highlights the

region's significance as a thriving settlement in the pre-Islam Khan period. The dated inscription of this mosque could have been a part of Iqim-i-Mubarakabad, administrative divisions in the Sultanate reign.

There is evidence of Dhaka being a thriving city even in the pre-Medieval period (sixth-13th century AD) to Early Historical period (sixth century BC-6th century AD). The discovery of glazed potteries and rouletted wares from the fort in the jail premises showed similarity to the ones found in Mahasthangarh and Wari-Bateswar from the Early Historic Period.

The earth has layers, and working through them, you find different archaeological wonders one above another. So, if you get one charcoal and conduct carbon-14 dating, then the other artefacts in the layers are automatically dated through relative dating, which links Dhaka's existence from the Early Historic Period. The discovered potteries imply the possibility of international trade in Dhaka through the ancient Silk Route, because the potteries were foreign in origin.

These are such intriguing facts about our Dhaka that we are not aware of. Working through layers of ancient civilisations, and combing through the remains of human settlements, an archaeological dig ascertains the age of any civilisation, how it flourished, and why it got buried under the debris of the next evolution.

Dhaka's rich history continues to unfold, as archaeologists and historians work to piece together its past. From its ancient roots to its modern incarnation, Dhaka's story is far from finished - it's still being written, one discovery at a time.

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Dengue fatalities cross 450-mark

2nd time in 24 years, 11 more die in 24-hrs

HELEMUL ALAM

The dengue death toll in Bangladesh this year surpassed the 450-mark yesterday, making it only the second time in 24 years that fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease have crossed this threshold.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 459 dengue patients have died so far this year, with 11 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning.

The previous record was set in 2023, when 1,705 people lost their lives, while 2022 recorded 281 deaths.

The latest deaths include four in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), five in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), and two in Khulna Division. Meanwhile, 1,079 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country during the same period, bringing the total number of reported cases since January to

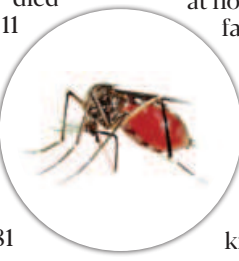
86,791, according to DGHS data. Health experts attribute this year's high mortality rate to severe complications such as multi-organ failure, shock syndrome, delayed hospitalisation, and comorbidities.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said many patients arrive at hospitals with multi-organ failure, triggered by shock syndrome after fever subsides.

"When shock persists beyond four hours, patients typically face liver damage, followed by kidney failure and other organ failures, leading to death in most cases," he said.

He added that dengue patients with comorbidities like hypertension, diabetes, and chronic lung disease are particularly vulnerable. Those already in end-stage organ failure face an even slimmer chance of survival, as evidenced by recent cases.

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A brick kiln operates illegally on a crop field in Goainghat, Sylhet, violating regulations. This practice reduces soil fertility, diminishes agricultural land, and contributes to environmental degradation. The photo was taken in Salutikor area recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Limit PM's terms to two

Eminent citizens also propose bringing bicameral system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six eminent citizens yesterday proposed that the Constitutional Reform Commission limit the tenure of the prime minister to a maximum of two terms.

They also suggested the introduction of a bicameral parliament.

The citizens presented the proposals during a consultation session with the commission held at the parliament building.

Participants in the meeting included former chief election commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Islamic scholar Mohammad Manzoor Elahi, former president of the Bangladesh Economic Association and former teacher of the economics department at the Chittagong University, Mainul Islam, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, Prof

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

NURUL KABIR'S HARASSMENT

Govt launches probe, accused officer withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced plans to create a transparent policy on foreign travel, following allegations of harassment by New Age Editor Nurul Kabir at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the policy will clarify who is permitted to travel abroad and who is not, with restrictions often imposed by banks or courts due to financial or legal matters.

Nurul Kabir on Saturday said he had faced harassment twice at the airport during his recent travels to Colombo for a media conference. The Chief Adviser's Office has expressed regret over the incident and launched an investigation.

At a press briefing, Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder acknowledged that lists of individuals subject to travel restrictions were previously compiled arbitrarily to suppress dissent. He assured that the current government is updating these lists and will ensure no one is unjustly harassed.

The Special Branch of Police has already withdrawn the officer accused of harassing Nurul Kabir, according to the CA's press wing.

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

Leading univs withdrawing from cluster system

Session delays, irregularities, and lack of central planning cited as reasons

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Undergraduate admission tests under the cluster system faces uncertainty for the 2024-25 academic year, as several prominent universities have decided to withdraw and conduct their own admission tests independently.

The cluster system is a centralised undergraduate admission process in Bangladesh designed to streamline applications for multiple universities under shared categories. It was introduced in the 2020-21 academic year to reduce financial strain, save time, and simplify admissions.

However, lack of coordination among universities has delayed

BACKGROUND	STUDENT CONCERNS
Introduced in 2020-21	Higher application fees without duster
Initially included 20 universities	Higher travel expenses
Later expanded to 36	
CHALLENGES AND CRITICISMS	UGC'S POSITION
Lack of coordination	No authority to prevent independent tests
Session delays	Suggests divisional tests and reduced fees
AFTERMATH	Lack of coordination causing session delays
Many univs withdraw	Allegations of corruption
They will hold independent tests	

result publication, student admissions, and department allocations, leading to session jams.

The cluster system has also faced growing criticism for

alleged corruption. Leading universities from the clusters including General, Science and Technology, Engineering, and Agricultural are now reconsidering their

participation.

"The cluster system caused session delays. While many JnU students from the 2023-24 session have completed their first semester, others are still undergoing migration processes. How can these students keep up with those who have already progressed a semester ahead?" said Jagannath University (JnU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Rezaul Karim.

Several other VCs from different clusters expressed similar dissatisfaction.

The cluster admission system initially included 20 general and science-technology universities, later expanding to 24 general, three engineering, and nine

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

FIVE BCS EXAMS

Govt to recruit 18,150 officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will recruit 18,150 successful candidates from five Bangladesh Civil Service examinations, four of which have already been held, with one yet to be scheduled.

Of the total, 12,710 candidates will be appointed to cadre positions, while 5,439 will fill non-cadre roles, Senior Secretary Mokhles ur-Rahman at a press conference yesterday.

For cadre appointments, 2,064 candidates will be recruited through the 43rd BCS, 1,710 through the 44th, 2,309 through the 45th, 3,140 through the 46th, and 3,487 through the 47th BCS examinations. Non-cadre appointments will include 642 candidates from the 43rd BCS, 1,791 from the 44th, 1,570 from the 45th, 1,111 from the 46th, and 325 from the 47th BCS.

The recruitment process for the 43rd, 44th, 45th, and 46th BCS exams was initiated by the previous Public Service Commission.

While the PSC conducted preliminary, written, and viva-voce examinations for the 43rd BCS, the final gazette was published on 15 October, with the joining date for 1,965 candidates set for 1 January, after being delayed from 17 November.

A reverification process is currently underway

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Dust envelops the air, obstructing the visibility of vehicles and passersby on Pagla Postogola Road in Narayanganj yesterday. Air pollution, especially dust pollution, continues to plague Bangladesh year-round, with conditions worsening during winter.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AL's election commissions must face justice

Citizens tell reform committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All participants in a views-exchange programme with the electoral reform commission yesterday called for the prosecution of previous Election Commissions, said Electoral Reform Commission Chief Badiul Alam Majumdar.

"Almost everyone is in favour of bringing previous Election Commissions to justice for violating their oath by holding controversial, staged, and scandalous elections," Badiul said after the meeting with eminent citizens and academics at the Election Commission office.

The Kazi Habibul Awal-led Election Commission faced severe criticism for overseeing the most recent national polls, which were boycotted by major opposition parties, including BNP. To make the elections appear participatory, the Awami League fielded "dummy" independent candidates, many of whom were AL leaders.

The KM Nurul Huda-led commission was also criticised following the December 2018 general election. Opposition parties alleged ballot-box stuffing on the night before the vote.

In January 2019, the Jatiya Oikya Front accused the EC of allowing 30-60 percent of votes to be cast the night before the election.

Transparency International Bangladesh later revealed ballot-stamping incidents in more than 30 centres across 33 constituencies.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BFIU seeks bank account details of ten journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has asked banks to provide account details of 10 journalists, including the immediate past president of the Jatiya Press Club, Shafiqur Rahman.

The other individuals are Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, editor-in-chief of TV Today; Abdul Gaffar Khan, editor-in-chief of Dainik Amar Somoy; Chowdhury Jafarullah Sharafat, acting editor of Dainik Bangla; Ashish Gosh Saikat, chief news editor at independent24.tv; Naznin Nahar Munni, assignment editor at DBC News; Anjan Roy, editor for research at GTV; Komol Dey, Chattogram bureau chief of somoynews.tv; AZM Sajjad Hossain, former press minister at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC; and Raju Ahmed,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Leading univs withdrawing

FROM PAGE 3
agricultural universities.
GENERAL CLUSTER
Jagannath University, which spearheaded the first cluster admission test, has formally withdrawn from the system and announced its 2024-25 undergraduate admission circular independently.

Prof Md Rezaul Karim described the cluster system as an initiative introduced with good intentions but marred by poor planning.

At Khulna University, Vice-Chancellor Prof Rezaul Karim said students and faculty alike have opted out of the system.

"KU now handles five batches simultaneously, instead of the usual four, causing a session jam and disrupting the academic calendar," he said.

While acknowledging the university's recent progress in academic excellence, he warned that the flawed admission process risks undoing these gains. "We are also considering holding our own admission tests," he added.

Meanwhile, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Comilla University, Barishal University, and Noakhali Science and Technology University have also decided to hold independent admission tests.

Prof Md Anwarul Azim

Akhand, Convener of the GST Integrated Admission Test Committee and VC of Maulana Bhashani Science and Technology University, expressed hope that the cluster exam could still proceed with the remaining universities.

He said no official discussions have taken place yet as the current academic year is still ongoing. A proper decision from the government is awaited.

ENGINEERING CLUSTER
The engineering cluster, consisting of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, is also dissolving.

KUET announced its independent admission circular on November 17, scheduling its test for January II, 2025.

Following this, RUET called an emergency meeting to discuss its participation.

"With KUET's departure, the cluster effectively no longer exists," said RUET Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Razzak.

CUET has yet to finalise its stance, but said the departure of two major universities has left the future uncertain.

AGRICULTURAL CLUSTER

In the agricultural cluster,

admission processes for nine universities under the 2023-24 academic year are still ongoing, leaving decisions for 2024-25 pending.

Bangladesh Agricultural University has proposed holding its own tests, as recommended by its Dean Council. However, no official circular has been published yet.

Meanwhile, a group of students preparing for the 2024-25 admission tests submitted a memorandum to the education ministry, urging measures to preserve the cluster system.

They said without it, their application fees and travel expenses would rise substantially.

UGC'S POSITION

Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof SMA Fayed said the UGC has no legal authority to prevent universities from conducting independent admission tests.

Prof Fayed suggested that universities opting out should consider holding tests in divisional cities and keeping application fees low.

"We will monitor the decisions of other universities and coordinate the next steps. However, universities should prioritise students' convenience and consult all stakeholders before finalising their decisions," he added.

AL's election

FROM PAGE 3
The Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad-led commission presided over the one-sided January 2014 election, in which 153 out of 300 lawmakers were elected unopposed after the opposition, including the BNP, boycotted the vote. The Awami League-led alliance secured more than two-thirds of seats in all three general elections under the Hasina government.

During the discussion, participants unanimously called for a caretaker government, Badul said.

"The Election Commission must be made independent and strengthened," he added. There was also widespread support for reinstating the "no" vote option and promoting internal democracy within political parties.

"If democracy is not established within political parties, it cannot be

expected to flourish at the national level," he added.

Proposals for direct presidential elections and direct elections to reserved seats for women in parliament were also raised by academics and citizens.

Jahangir Nagar University Prof Naseem Akhter Hussain suggested a bicameral legislature and an increase in reserved seats for women to 100.

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman of the same university discussed various aspects of the proportional representation system, as well as issues such as proper constituency demarcation, transparent party funding, and the involvement of all stakeholders in ensuring fair elections.

Film star and Nirapad Sarak Chairwoman Ilias Kanchan also proposed reintroducing the "no" vote system and urged a swift resolution of election-related cases

5 ex, present officials

FROM PAGE 5
Upon hearing arguments from both sides, the judge turned down the bail pleas and ordered to send them to jail.

The judge also issued arrest warrants against nine others, including Biman's former managing director and CEO Kevin John Steele, and its former flight captain (operation) Ishrat Ahmed, as they were shown fugitives in the charge sheet of the case.

Earlier on May 20 this year, Md Anwarul Haque, deputy director of Anti-Corruption Commission and also the investigating officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court.

The IO dropped the names of 14 others from the charge sheet as

their involvement in the corruption was not proved.

ACC had filed the case on February 6 last year, accusing 23 people for causing financial loss to the national flag carrier by colluding, and misusing their power, and embezzling money by leasing and then re-delivering two Boeing 777-200 ER aircraft from Egypt Air under a five-year contract.

The aircraft, both around 12.15 years old, suffered engine failures at the end of the first year and eventually became inoperable, causing Biman a loss of total Tk 1,161 crore.

The findings came up in investigation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. Later ACC launched an investigation in this connection.

Govt to recruit 18,150

FROM PAGE 3
for these candidates and 99 others who were dropped from the gazette.

The 44th BCS saw the PSC begin viva voce for 11,732 candidates, of which 3,930 had been completed before the government's fall on 5 August. The new PSC has decided to conduct fresh oral exams for all successful candidates.

For the 45th BCS, 12,789 candidates passed the preliminary exams held in January, but the evaluation of written exam answer sheets is still pending. The newly-formed PSC has opted to re-evaluate all answer sheets by a third examiner for fairness.

The preliminary results of the 46th BCS were published on 9 May, with 10,638 candidates qualifying for the written exam, although the exam date remains undecided. The new PSC has decided to republish the results, adding another 10,638 candidates.

No circular has been issued for the 47th BCS yet.

Mokhles-ur-Rahman also revealed plans to promote officials to deputy secretary and joint secretary positions. Additionally, Grade-I promotions will be awarded to additional secretaries who had previously been

overlooked and are nearing retirement. However, those facing disciplinary or criminal cases will not be considered for promotion.

There are currently 20 lakh posts in government jobs, with 5.5 lakh positions remaining vacant.

One killed

FROM PAGE 5
Police later detained another person, Sejul Mia, 37, from Longpur village in connection with the attempted robbery, and recovered local weapons from the possession of the detainees, the OC also said. Filing of a case in this connection was underway, he added.

56 premature

FROM PAGE 5
(KMC), and special care newborn units (SCANU). Less than five percent of newborns have access to KMC.

Mannan said that there are only 62 hospitals with SCANU facilities in the country. In 2024, a total of 1,22,061 newborns were admitted to these units.

Currently, Bangladesh has 468 health centres offering KMC services. Nearly 20,000 babies received KMC this year, he added.

Limit PM's terms

FROM PAGE 3
Mohammad Moinul Islam from the Department of Population Sciences at Dhaka University, and Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, a member of the University Grants Commission and teacher of international relations at Dhaka University.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Tanzimuddin said that he proposed the establishment of a bicameral parliament and limiting the prime minister's tenure to two terms.

He also recommended that the prime minister, speaker, and deputy speaker relinquish their party's leadership positions, retaining only primary memberships.

He suggested dividing the Upper House into four zones -- Northern, Southern, Central, and the Chattogram Hill Tracts -- to ensure effective governance in these regions.

According to his proposal, each zone would have 80 to 100 representatives, with equal representation for men and women.

He further proposed that national elections be conducted under a non-partisan advisory council.

He also advocated for

an inclusive nationalism model to replace the current Bangladesh nationalism framework.

Prof Mohammad Moinul Islam from Dhaka University proposed integrating population dynamics into the country's development projects.

He urged the commission to define small ethnic groups and ethnic minorities explicitly in the constitution.

He also recommended ensuring gender balance in parliamentary seats, removing the term "Gonoprojantani" (People's Republic) from the constitution, and reviewing the constitution every 10 years to modernise it.

The meeting was attended by Commission Chair Prof Ali Riaz and commission members Prof Sumaiya Khair, Barrister Imran Siddique, Prof Mohammad Ikramul Haque, Sharif Bhuiyan, Barrister M Moin Alam Ferozi, Firoz Ahmed, and Md Mustain Billah.

The Constitutional Reform Commission plans to continue its consultations with various individuals and organisations to gather more feedback for the reforms.

Dengue fatalities

FROM PAGE 3
WARNING SIGNS OFTEN OVERLOOKED

Nazmul said patients often fail to recognise warning signs, such as severe abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, bleeding, extreme weakness, or significant drops in urination. When they seek medical care, their condition has deteriorated.

Prof Tahmina Shirin,

director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, emphasised the risk of cross-infections from different dengue serotypes, which can cause severe complications if hospitalisation is delayed.

"Anyone with fever should immediately consult a doctor and follow prescribed treatment," she advised.

Ex-chief justice Md Ruhul

Amin no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justice Md Ruhul Amin died at the Combined Military



Hospital in Dhaka early yesterday. He was 83.

He breathed his last at 4:30am while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Justice Ruhul Amin was the 15th chief justice of Bangladesh. He has left behind his wife and two daughters.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed suspended all judicial functions of both the Appellate and High Court Divisions yesterday in tribute to Justice Ruhul Amin, according to Supreme Court sources.

However, the administrative procedures of the SC ran as usual.

The cases enlisted in yesterday's cause list of the Appellate Division will be heard on December 1 and that of the High Court Division will be heard today.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of Justice Ruhul Amin and prayed for salvation and eternal peace of his departed soul and conveyed sympathy to his bereaved family members.

Justice Ruhul Amin's namaz-e-janaza will be held at Supreme Court's Inner Garden after Zohr prayers tomorrow, he added.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
National Head Quarter (NHQ)
684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Maghbar, Dhaka 1217.
PABX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 258, Dhoot: +88-02-8333430, web: www.bdrcc.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. Invitation Reference, Tender ID No and Date	Pro. (Log) 391/2024 (A,B,C,D), Date: 21/11/2024 Tender ID: 73/24
2. Procuring Entity Name	Secretary General, BDRCS
3. Name of Requisition Department	DR Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Maghbar, Dhaka-1217.
4. Procurement for	(MRRO) under BDRCS, Cox's Bazar.
5. Invitation for	Group-A: Supplying of Plastic Pallets, Group-B: Supplying of Stationary Items, Group-C: Supplying of Electrical Items, Group-D: Supplying of Laptops
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
7. Project Name	Mayanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO)
8. Budget and Source of Funds	UNHCR
9. Purchase of Tender document	Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.bdrcc.org. Tender Schedule Download Link: https://bdrcc.org/tender/ Important Details: • Interested bidders are requested to collect the tender documents within the stipulated timeframe from the mentioned link/BDRCS website. • A Tender Schedule purchase fee of Group-A: BDT. 1000.00 and Group-B: BDT. 500.00 and Group-C: BDT. 500.00, Group-D: BDT. 1000.00 is applicable. This fee is non-refundable. • The purchase fee should be paid through Bkash number 01894806393 (BDRCS Merchant Account). • Please mention the Bkash transaction reference number on top of the tender schedule. Failure to include the Bkash transaction reference number may result in the disqualification of your bid.
10. Tender Schedule available	From 24-11-2024 to 03-12-2024
11. Tender Submission Date and Time	03-12-2024 3:00 pm
12. Tender Opening Date and Time	03-12-2024 3:15 pm
13. Address of Tender Submission & Opening	Logistics Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Maghbar, Dhaka-1217.
14. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	11:00 AM on 27 November 2024 in the Logistics Department Meeting Room, NHQ, BDRCS, Dhaka
15. Eligibility of Tenderer	Experienced Supplier/Importer/Manufacturing Company/Construction Firm
16. Brief Description of works/ Related Services	Group-A: Supplying of 500 Pcs Plastic Pallets, Group-B: Supplying of Stationary Items, Group-C: Supplying of Electrical Items, Group-D: Supplying of Laptops for 39 pcs
17. Tender Security Amount	2.5 % of the Total quoted amount
18. Completion Time in days	12 Calendar days

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender or split the order without assigning any reason whatsoever and will not be bound to accept the lowest bid.

Size: 3 col x 6"
Dr. Kabir M. Ashraf Alam, nmc
Secretary General

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Establishment of 40 TTC & 01 IMT Project (2nd Revised)
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
Bureau of Manpower Employment & Training
89/2 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No.: 49.01.0000.337.07.011.22-142 Date: 24/11/2024.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP portal for the procurement of the following goods:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description of Goods & Related Services	Tender Publishing, Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	1036654	Procurement of RAC Trade training equipment and related services for 15 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.014.22-RAC-Lot-01).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.00 pm
02.	1036660	Procurement of RAC Trade training equipment and related services for 14 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.014.22-RAC-Lot-02).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.10 pm
03.	1036692	Procurement of Auto Driving Trade training equipment and related services for 22 Technical Training Center (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.015.22-Auto.D Lot-02).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.20 pm
04.	1036693	Procurement of Auto Mechanics Trade training equipment and related services for 08 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.011.22-Auto.M-Lot-02).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.30 pm
05.	1036695	Procurement of Auto Mechanics Trade training equipment and related services for 08 Technical Training Center. (Invitation Ref. No. 49.01.0000.337.07.011.22-Auto.M-Lot-03).	25 November 2024, 09.00 am & 24 December 2024, 12.40 pm

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/Helpdesk.jsp>).

(Md. Saiful Haque Chowdhury)
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
Tel: +8802-49350826
Email: pd40tcc01imt@gmail.com.

GD-1033

প্রাইম ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশন
হেড অফিস: প্রাইম টাওয়ার (৯ম তলা), বাড়ী নং-৮ ও ৩৫
বিমানবন্দর সড়ক, নিকুঞ্জ-২, ঢাকা-১২২৯

জমি ক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্রাইম ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশনের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রাইম কলেজ অব নার্সিং, ঢাকা নির্মাণের লক্ষে ঢাকা জেলার উত্তরা, দিয়াবাড়ী, খিলক্ষেত, এয়ারপোর্ট, ৩০০ ফিট রাস্তা হতে ১০-১৫ কিলোমিটারের মধ্যে চলাচলের জন্য ন্যূনতম ২০ ফিট রাস্তার পার্শ্ব কমপক্ষে ১০০ শতক নিষ্কটক ভরাট করা জমি ক্রয়ের লক্ষে সরাসরি জমির মালিক হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী মালিকগণকে দরপত্রের সাথে জমির আরএস খতিয়ান, এসএ খতিয়ান, বিএস খতিয়ান নম্বর ও দাগ নম্বর, নামজারী রেকর্ডপত্র, হালনাগাদ খাজনা প্রদানের রশিদ, জমির দলিল, জমির বায়া দলিলসহ সংযুক্ত করতঃ প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, প্রাইম ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশন বরাবরে আগামী ১৫/১২/২০২৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় অবশ্যই প্রতি শতক জমির মূল্য উল্লেখসহ সর্বমোট মূল্য দাখিল করতে হবে। টেলিফোন নং +৮৮০৯৬১০৯২৩৯৩

(Md. Zabdul Islam)
Director(HRD-1)
Human Resources Department-1
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 880-2-9530492
gm.hrd@bb.org.bd

বার্ষিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারালিন শিখার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১২২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1032

COASTAL AREAS

New Climate Smart map to help farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate Smart maps that highlight climate-related risks in the coastal areas will help agricultural officials and farmers execute location-specific adaptation plans to mitigate climate risks and grow crops, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

The remarks came at the launching programme of the climate smart mapping and adaptation planning held at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) auditorium in the capital.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in collaboration with the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) jointly developed the Climate-Smart Mapping and Adaptation Planning.

The CS-MAP, developed under the CGIAR Research Initiative for Asian Mega-Delta, offers a participatory approach to identifying climate-related risks, assessing their impacts, and creating detailed maps and adaptation plans for agriculture in 10 coastal districts.

Being one of the most risk-prone countries for extreme climatic disasters, Bangladesh faces an array of



Md Badsha transports milk from small dairy farms in Kaptai, Chattogram, to customers in the Noapara area of Raozan upazila, including local residents and sweet shops. He makes this journey twice daily, delivering around 250 litres of milk and earning approximately Tk 1,500, which supports his family and covers his educational expenses. This photo was taken in the Madunaghat area of Hathazari upazila recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

56 premature babies born every hour: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every hour, 56 premature babies are born in the country, amounting to an average of 1,340 such births daily, said speakers citing a study at a programme yesterday.

Bangladesh ranked number one out of 103 countries in terms of pre-term birth rate in 2020. Each year, 4,88,600 premature babies are born, they added.

To address this, proper policy implementation needs to be strengthened, said experts at the workshop titled "Dialogue on the Premature Burden, Intervention Status, and Innovations in Bangladesh", jointly organised by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and icddr.

Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman, scientist of Maternal and Child Health Division of icddr, said if babies are born before completing 40 weeks of gestation, they are at risk of respiratory distress, jaundice, and anaemia. They tend to have lower body temperatures and weakened immune systems. They also face risks of cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or

visual impairment. Additionally, their mental development may not progress properly.

Citing a Lancet study from March 2024, conducted in 103 countries, he said out of every 100 newborns, 16.2 are preterm, meaning Bangladesh has the highest rate of preterm births in the world. Also, 23 percent of newborns in Bangladesh are born with low-birth-weight.

More than 24,900 newborns born prematurely and with low birth-weight die each year in Bangladesh. This means that three such newborns die every hour, Rahman added.

Professor Md Abdul Mannan, head of Neonatology Department at BSMMU, presented a paper about the ongoing efforts to prevent premature births in the country.

He said 24,957 babies die due to premature births annually, which means 68 newborns die daily. There are three approaches to treating premature and low-birth-weight newborns - antenatal corticosteroids, kangaroo mother care

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Judiciary Reform Commission seeks opinions

Launches website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Judiciary Reform Commission (JRC) formed by the interim government has launched a website to solicit opinions from stakeholders on necessary reforms in the judiciary.

The JRC has sought opinions from the general people, including judges, lawyers and court-related support staffers by December 7, a JRC press release said.

Separate questionnaires have been provided on the website (www.jrc.gov.bd) to collect feedback from different sections of the population and stakeholders. The commission has requested everyone to fill out the selected questionnaires for the relevant stakeholders and provide their feedback by December 7.

In addition, the commission has requested that if anyone has specific proposals regarding judicial reforms, they should send those within the specified time.

Proposals can be sent to the commission's e-mail (bangladeshjrc@gmail.com and info@jrc.gov.bd) or to the commission's address (Judicial Administration Training Institute, 15 College Road, Dhaka 1000), according to the press release.

TK 1,161CR GRAFT 5 ex, present officials of Biman sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent five former and present officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines to jail, rejecting their bail petitions in a Tk 1,161 crore corruption case.

The officials are: former deputy chief engineer Md Shafiqul Alam Siddique, former principal engineer (services and audit) Shahid Uddin Mohammad Hani, former deputy engineer Md Shahjahan, former engineer Md Jahid Hossain, and principal system engineer (structure) Sharif Ruhul Kuddus.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after they surrendered before the court and submitted petitions seeking bail in the case.

The prosecution opposed the bail petitions saying the charges brought against them were primarily proved, and hence they should be sent to jail after dismissing their bail prayers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

The CS-MAP, developed under the CGIAR Research Initiative for Asian Mega-Delta, offers a participatory approach to identifying climate-related risks, assessing their impacts, and creating detailed maps and adaptation plans for agriculture in 10 coastal districts.

challenges, including salinity intrusion, erratic rainfall, and rising temperatures, which threatens food security and rural livelihoods.

A 164-page atlas was published under the project and it would be sent to all local agricultural office in 10 coastal districts including Khulna, Satkhira, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Narail, Gopalganj, Barishal and Bhola.

Speakers said CS-MAP is an innovative tool that integrates scientific research with local expertise to map climate risks and provide location-specific adaptation strategies.

"The map will help the agricultural officials to execute the adaptation plans for a certain crop," said Mostafizur Rahman, director Climate Change and Disaster Management, CEGIS during his presentation of the map.

Humnath Bhandari, IRR representative to Bangladesh, said farmers and agricultural officials have been using these tools for last three years and it is helping them a lot.

Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, was present as the Chief Guest, while Mohammad Khalequzzaman, Director General, BRR; Saiful Alam, Director General, DAE; Nazmun Nahar Karim, Executive Chairman, BARC and Zakir Hossain, Additional Secretary, Extension Wing, Ministry of Agriculture were present as special guests.

One killed, 2 hurt in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was killed and two others were injured as a mob beat them up after they allegedly attempted robbery at a house in Nurjahan Tea Garden area under Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Alal Mia, 45, of Gotatikar village in Moglabazar of Sylhet district. The two injured - Abdul Malek, 41, and Jasim Mia, 38, of Sreepur village in the upazila - were later handed over to police and are currently being treated at a hospital.

Saleh Ahmed, owner of the house and also a local union parishad member, said some 10-12 robbers had gathered around the house early in the morning when local tea workers noticed them group and quickly warned other locals, who surrounding the robbers. When the criminals tried to resist, they were captured and beaten up by the locals. Alal Mia sustained critical injuries in the mob beating, while the others managed to flee the scene.

On information, police went to the spot and later apprehended Abdul Malek and Jasim Mia, two of the robbers, from inside the tea garden where they were hiding.

The three were taken to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for treatment, where Alal Mia succumbed to his injuries. The two others are currently being treated at the hospital, said Shamim Akonji, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of Kamalganj Police Station.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

BFIU seeks bank

FROM PAGE 3 Narayanang former correspondent of the daily Jugantor.

Additionally, the anti-money laundering agency has directed banks to submit account details of Sanjib Chatterjee, head of public relations at EXIM Bank.

This latest move by the

BFIU is part of a series of measures taken over the past three months to investigate allegations of money laundering against dozens of former ministers, lawmakers, and close associates of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted following a mass uprising in August.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Jail Superintendent Manikganj District Jail www.prison.manikganj.gov.bd Memo:58.04.5600.085.04.018.2024-2912/2(8) Date:24/11/2024 E-Tender Notice This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal

Sl. No.	Tender Package No	Tender ID No	Name of Goods Tender	Publishing, closing date & time
01	Package No-1	1039185	Supply of Dietary article Package No-1 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 10:00:00
02	Package No-2	1039149	Supply of Dietary article Package No-2 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 10:00:00
03	Package No-4	1039248	Supply of Dietary article Package No-4 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 11:00:00
04	Package No-5	1039311	Supply of Dietary article Package No-5 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 11:30:00
05	Package No-6	1039330	Supply of Dietary article Package No-6 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 12:00:00
06	Package No-7	1039347	Supply of Dietary article Package No-7 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 12:30:00
07	Package No-8	1039530	Supply of Dietary article Package No-8 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 13:00:00
08	Package No-9	1039634	Supply of Dietary article Package No-9 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 13:30:00
09	Package No-10	1039661	Supply of Dietary article Package No-10 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 14:00:00
10	Package No-11	1039738	Supply of Dietary article Package No-11 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 14:30:00
11	Package No-12	1039988	Supply of Dietary article Package No-12 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 15:00:00
12	Package No-13	1040100	Supply of Dietary article Package No-13 for the period of January/2025 to June/2025.	25 November 2024; 10:00:00 to 10 December 2024; 15:30:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (http://helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Humayun Kabir Khan BJ NO-0278000249 Jail Superintendent Manikganj District Jail Phone No-02223371336 (office)

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ অধিনায়কের কার্যালয় র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম "উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি" "The Public Procurement Act-2006" and "Regulation-2008" এর বিধি মোতাবেক ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বৎসরে ৩৯ কোটির (আড়াশির, তেরশার এবং মাত্র ২০২৫) জনা হাজার-৭, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম ফোর্সের প্রাপ্ত তিরিক সরবরাহের পৃথক পৃথক টিকিটারের বিস্তারিত লক্ষ্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীমাবদ্ধকৃত বামে প্রতিক্রিয়াসমূহক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এজন্যকেন্দ্রে বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিবরণ নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হলোঃ

ক্র.সং.	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ
১.	সহকারী/বিভাগ	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ
২.	সহকারী	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ
৩.	সরকার সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ
৪.	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ
৫.	দরপত্র সূত্র সং.	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ
৬.	তারিখ	স্বত্বাধার/বিভাগ

কাজের বিবরণঃ

ক্র.সং.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উল্লিখিত পদ্ধতি
৭.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উল্লিখিত পদ্ধতি
৮.	ব্যাটেল ও অর্থনৈতিক বাত	পিএস-একটি বাত বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ হতে (হাজির বাত)।

জব্বানদিঃ

ক্র.সং.	দরপত্র বিক্রয় প্রক্রিয়ার তারিখ	২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।
১০.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।
১১.	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রিঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রিঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকার দরপত্রের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রিঃ সময় ১১:০০ ঘটিকা।

অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ

ক্র.সং.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৪.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৫.	দরপত্র ভুক্তকর্তৃ/নির্ভুক্তিকার/অফিস	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৬.	দরপত্র প্রকল্পকারী/অফিস	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৭.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।

১৬. টিকিটারের প্রাক্করণঃ

"নির্দেশনা/০৮" এর বিধি মোতাবেক দরপত্র দাখিল (সিডিউস) করে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীকে নির্দেশিত কাজসম্পন্নকৃত কপি (ফোলিও/নামসমূহ) অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। অর্থাৎ দরপত্র দাখিল করার ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নলিখিত তথ্য দাখিল করা হবে না এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করতে ইচ্ছুক টিকিটারের নিজস্ব হাতের প্যাতে অফিসের সীলন হবে। (ক) ৩৯টি অর্থ বৎসরে বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত (খ) সর্বশেষ অর্থ বৎসরে অফিসের নিকট হতে প্রতিক্রিয়াসমূহক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এজন্যকেন্দ্রে বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিবরণ নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হলোঃ

ক্র.সং.	মাল্যায়নের বিবরণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (ফোলিও/নামসমূহ)	নির্দেশনা/০৮ (টাকা) (ফোলিও/নামসমূহ)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন)
১.	ক্রমিক নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ	০১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ হইতে ৩১ মার্চ ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত
২.	ক্রমিক নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ	০২
৩.	ক্রমিক নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ	০৩

দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণঃ

ক্র.সং.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃকর্তার নাম	মোঃ মাহবুব আলম, বিপিএম, পিপিএম, পিএসসি।
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃকর্তার পদবী	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭।
১৯.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃকর্তার ঠিকানা	অধিনায়ক, হাজার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	০২৩-৩৩০০০৮০০।
২১.	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	ক। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। খ। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকেন্দ্রে কর্তৃকপক যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। গ। দরপত্রের উল্লিখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ দুই অথবা ততোধিক বিধিতে কর্তৃকপক ক্ষমতা রয়েছে। ঘ। দরপত্র নিষ্পত্তি/২০০৬ ও নিষ্পত্তি/২০০৮ ও তদীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে। ঙ। আইটেমের দর বাজার মূল্যের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ হতে হবে। চ। সর্বশেষ দরপত্রের দর গ্রহণে কর্তৃকপক সকল ক্ষেত্রে বাধ্য নয়। ছ। দুইদিন হইতে প্রচার করা হইলে দরপত্র কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে পরীক্ষার ব্যয়ভার দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্তৃক বহন করতে হবে।

মোঃ মাহবুব আলম, বিপিএম, পিপিএম, পিএসসি
স্বাক্ষরিত
অধিনায়ক
তারিখ: ২০২৪-১১-২০

'Monsoon Revolution' workshop committee unveiled: What are the plans?

SHARMIN JOYA

Establishing a professional and structured film industry in Bangladesh has long been an ambitious yet elusive dream, often hindered by persistent challenges. However, a recent initiative announced by Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki at a recent press conference aims to turn this vision into reality and build a professional film industry in the country.

As part of this vision, Farooki outlined the "seven priority programmes" initiated by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. One of the flagship projects, titled **Monsoon Revolution**, seeks to decentralise filmmaking and nurture regional talents. To implement this vision, a four-member search committee has been formed.

The committee is chaired by Nafiza Shyama, additional secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, and includes prominent figures from the private sector—Dr Sumon Rahman, a celebrated writer and mass communication educator; filmmaker Tanim Noor; and producer-director Adnan Al Rajeev. They are joined by representatives from



DESIGN: DOWEL BISWAS

"Now is the time to tell our stories on both national and international platforms. This initiative provides a chance to ensure that the next generation of filmmakers can contribute to the global stage."

the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, and Syed Jamil Ahmed, director general of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Their primary responsibility is to select eight distinguished filmmakers who will lead workshops in eight divisional cities. Each filmmaker will mentor participants

through hands-on training and direct a 40-minute film as part of the programme. This initiative aims to equip emerging filmmakers with the skills necessary to excel in the industry.

During a conversation with The Daily Star, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki explained the significance of this initiative.

"As discussed during the press conference on November 21, Under the **Monsoon Revolution** project, eight established filmmakers will conduct workshops in eight divisions. Aspiring filmmakers will learn the craft directly from these directors. Following the workshops, 10 participants from each division will work as assistant directors on the films created by their mentors. This will result in eight films and nurture 80 budding filmmakers who can carry the industry forward."

Farooki described this effort as a transformative step toward decentralising the industry and empowering young

talents to pursue their filmmaking aspirations.

Adnan Al Rajeev also highlighted the significance of the initiative, stating, "We are currently awaiting a meeting where we will collectively decide which filmmakers will take on the projects. We definitely want to move forward with the finest makers, depending on their availability. Personally, I am fully aware of the responsibility and importance of this initiative. I believe this is a groundbreaking idea for our country. While Dhaka has historically been the main hub for entertainment, I hope this effort will expand opportunities to all divisions, allowing filmmakers to emerge from every corner of the nation."

He further added, "Now is the time to tell our stories on both national and international platforms. This initiative provides a chance to ensure that the next generation of filmmakers can contribute to the global stage."

Filmmaker Tanim Noor shared his perspective on the decentralisation of cultural activities. "Our industry is highly Dhaka-centric. However, projects like **Shaaticup** have demonstrated the potential of regional talents. Unfortunately, many lack professional training and resources, which limits their ability to succeed. This initiative bridges that gap by providing essential training and creative freedom for regional artists to thrive."

The **Monsoon Revolution** represents an unprecedented effort by the government to decentralise and professionalise the Bangladeshi film industry. By fostering regional talent and offering a platform for diverse storytelling, this initiative aims to reshape the industry. More than just an effort to develop skilled filmmakers, it is a step toward amplifying Bangladeshi narratives and creating works that resonate both nationally and internationally.

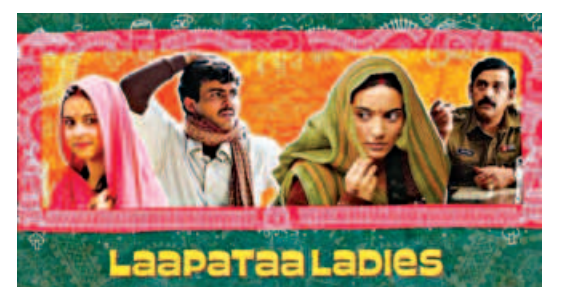


175 cultural activists call for a separate film division at BSA

In protest of the exclusion of the "Film" section from the "Drama and Film" sub-division in the revised Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Act, 175 film-related individuals have issued a public statement, demanding the formation of a separate film division.

The statement presented arguments in support of this demand, signed by filmmakers, producers, cinematographers, editors, sound designers, film critics, researchers, teachers, film workers and organisers, actors, musicians, and photographers.

Notable signatories include Nurul Alam Atique, N Rashed Chowdhury, Akram Khan, Shabnam Ferdousi, Tokon Thakur, Noman Robin, Wahid Tareq, Proshoon Rahmaan, Redoan Rony, Khijir Hayat Khan, Krishnendu Chattopadhyay and Zakia Bari Mamo, amongst others.



'Laapataa Ladies' makes record at Japan box office

According to the latest trade reports, Kiran Rao's **Laapataa Ladies** has surpassed the lifetime earnings of **Pathaan** and **Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire** in Japan.

While SS Rajamouli's **RRR** continues to hold the title of highest-grossing Indian film in Japan, the total box office collection of **Laapataa Ladies** is also remarkable.

NEWS

Bangladesh to face substantial losses

FROM PAGE 12

Different studies have suggest that Bangladesh's trade losses might be even larger, Razzaque said.

The estimated export loss to the EU range between 5 percent to 19 percent if Bangladesh gets a standard Generalised System of Preferences.

The projected tariff rates for apparel exports to the EU, Canada and Australia are 9.5 percent, 17 percent, and 5 percent respectively.

The largest decline in exports is for the textile and apparel sector, estimated at 14.7 per cent, followed by food and leather.

The impact of garment export shocks could slash GDP by 0.39 to 1.17 percent and employment by 0.41 to 0.88 million, according to the study.

The poverty rate could increase by 0.14 percentage points and depress labour returns by 5.5 percent. It will also have an impact on household consumption.

The strategy paper also said recent unfavourable macroeconomic developments add to longstanding economic challenges and vulnerabilities for Bangladesh.

These include a weakening balance

of payments situation reflected in a decline in foreign reserves and persistent domestic inflationary pressures that further strain the economy.

Apart from the above, external shocks are occurring with greater frequency, complicating development efforts.

Geopolitical tensions, the US-China trade war, the pandemic and the Ukraine war have disrupted global trade and affected a developing region like Bangladesh.

"These combined factors underscore the uncertainties and difficulties Bangladesh faces in its graduation journey," the strategy paper said.

Bangladesh's journey towards LDC graduation also gives credence and thrust to the reform agenda of the interim government, said Lutfy Siddiqi, special envoy on international affairs to the chief adviser.

Recently, exports from three sectors including jute, furniture and light engineering declined because of the government's decision to cut down the incentive on export receipts, said Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Leathergoods and

Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh.

He also suggested a rethink and not jumping into the decision to proceed with the LDC graduation.

Ichiguchi Tomohide, the chief representative of JICA Bangladesh, suggested the creation of a single ministry in investment, to make at least three economic zones fully functional, a real one-stop service centre, incentives for some sectors like automotive, the introduction of customs in the economic zones and a national single window.

Bangladesh can be a role model for other LDCs, said Taffere Tesfachew, member of the UN Committee for Development Policy and the Rapporteur for Bangladesh.

The UN will hold a meeting in New York on December 17 on LDC graduation and some important decisions may come from this meeting.

Lamiya Morshed, principal coordinator to the SDG; M Siraz Uddin Miah, principal secretary to chief adviser; Gwyn Lewis, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh; and ERD Secretary Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky also spoke.

Disband the new EC

FROM PAGE 12

it must fulfil the promised reforms.

"If this government leaves after one year or slightly more without completing the desired reforms and holding elections, it will face accusations of exceeding the three-month timeframe stipulated for a caretaker government, thereby questioning its legitimacy."

She said they do not want to hear undesirable remarks from the chief adviser, such as "reforms would be impossible if political parties opposed them."

Nasiruddin Patwary, convener of the platform, warned of taking to the streets again if any step goes beyond the spirit of mass uprising.

"If the recommendations of the reform commission and the spirit of the mass uprising are ignored, we will return to the streets. We will unite the people once again and wage an unyielding protest against any government — current or future

— that deviates from the spirit of the mass uprising."

He said they envisioned a new dream after August 5, and the interim government was formed to fulfil that dream.

"However, we are repeatedly disheartened by the government's failure to meet our expectations.

"Political parties have a commitment to the people and are supposed to assist the government, but we do not see them fulfilling that role. Instead, we observe them becoming entangled in tender manipulation and extortion, rushing towards a hasty electoral process."

He alleged that the EC helped establish a fascist regime, and holding elections without restructuring it and its laws would betray the martyrs' sacrifices.

Member secretary of the platform Akhter Hossen also spoke at the briefing.

US SEC issues

FROM PAGE 12

listed companies.

Adani Group representatives did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment yesterday.

The group has denied the criminal charges as "baseless". The group CFO said the indictment is linked to one contract of Adani Green Energy that makes up some 10 percent of its business, and that no other firms in the conglomerate were accused of wrongdoing.

Federal prosecutors issued arrest warrants for Gautam and Sagar Adani, alleging they participated in a \$265 million scheme to bribe Indian officials to secure power-supply deals.

Authorities said Adani and seven other defendants, including his nephew Sagar, agreed to bribe Indian government officials to obtain contracts expected to yield \$2 billion of profit over 20 years, and develop India's largest solar power plant project.

Govt should set up minority commission

FROM PAGE 12

members of the indigenous communities.

"Some argue that constitutional recognition alone won't solve all problems, but they fail to explain why it would be problematic. Recognition is undeniably a right, given their heritage and culture."

He added that the rights of indigenous people would never be upheld unless all citizens viewed their struggles as a collective national concern.

Regarding the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, he said, "No force, not even the prime minister, could implement the Peace Accord alone. The only entity capable of doing so is the Bangladesh Army. Just as they have been recognised globally for establishing peace, I hope they will play a similar role in the hills. We know that if you [the army] want, you can do it."

Sarwar Tusher, a member of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said the country's constitution is not race-neutral. "What is needed is a constitution that is both non-communal and race-neutral."

He expressed concerns over the potential travesty in reform commissions, citing the example of the interim government appointing former bureaucrats as the chief election commission and commissioners under

the existing laws.

"These bureaucrats were complicit in the misuse under the previous regime and have never apologised for supporting authoritarian governance."

Tusher also criticised Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus for suggesting that reforms would not occur without the consensus of political parties.

"Dr Yunus, you must remember that political parties did not lead the uprising; it was the students and the masses who brought about change."

He called for the establishment of two additional commissions — an education commission and a minority commission — and urged citizens to move beyond the narrative that only the Awami League is the defender of minority rights.

Jahangirnagar University teacher Snigdha Rizwana pointed out that indigenous communities were excluded from all commissions due to the unchanged mindset of the ruling authorities.

"The indigenous communities have not been represented because the rulers' mindset has not evolved. Despite their unique culture, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has not taken any steps to preserve it [indigenous culture]. In some cases, instead of protecting their rights, the state has taken their lands in the name of development."

She argued that the state is reluctant to recognise indigenous communities

because such recognition would necessitate granting them special rights.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hossain also stressed the importance of constitutional recognition for indigenous people. "Without it, the crisis will intensify," he warned.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of the Association for Land Reform and Development, called for the establishment of additional commissions on Land Reform and Agriculture, alongside the education and minority commissions.

Nai U Prue Marma, a member of the Rangamati Parbatya Zila Parishad, demanded the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord and the inclusion of the 1900 Regulations in the constitution's schedule.

Prodip Kumar Mahottam, an additional secretary of the CHT Ministry, highlighted the state's efforts to improve the conditions of indigenous communities.

The event also featured a visual presentation on the overall situation of indigenous people by Pallab Chakma, executive director of the Kapaceng Foundation. Ajoy A Mree presided over the session.

Among others, ILO official Amexius Chicham, Bangladesh Adivasi Parishad leader Philemon Baske, and indigenous leader Flora Bably Talang, also spoke at the event.

30 injured as students run riot

FROM PAGE 1

The gathering stretched to Kabi Nazrul College. At one stage, the protesting students tried to break into the college but could not.

The protesters attacked Suhrawardy College after a small group of students of the college tried to chase the demonstrators away from outside Kabi Nazrul College around 1:00pm.

Panic spread inside Suhrawardy College as honours first-year exams for the seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University were ongoing there.

The protesters vandalised three motorcycles, a car, a microbus, and an ambulance parked on the college campus.

They damaged the office and classrooms during the rampage until around 5:00pm.

Talking to The Daily Star, a Mollah College student said at that time, "The students of the two colleges

[Suhrawardy and Kabi Nazrul] attacked us. We will give them a befitting reply."

As the protesting students left the area around 5:30pm, the students of Kabi Nazrul and Suhrawardy colleges attacked St Gregory's High School & College, witnesses said. The assailants damaged the institution's entrance, suspecting its students joined the attack on Suhrawardy College.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Suhrawardy College Principal Prof Kakali Mukhopadhyay alleged that the local authorities did not cooperate to protect the college.

"Before we could apprehend anything, we saw on CCTV that a lot of boys and girls had come. They broke the gate and vandalised everything at will," she said.

"They released the gas line. Can real students be so violent?"

Md Jasim Uddin, Lalbagh Division deputy commissioner of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police, said the hospital authorities formed a probe committee over Avijit's death.

They assured the protesters of taking disciplinary action if any negligence was found, but the students continued the protests, he said.

SUHRWARDY ANNOUNCES CLOSURE

Later in the evening, students of Suhrawardy College announced an indefinite closure of the institution, demanding the immediate identification and exemplary punishment of those involved in the attack on the institution.

They also threatened to disaffiliate Mollah College if their demands were not met.

Anti-Discrimination Student Movement leaders of Suhrawardy College made the announcement at a press conference held on the college premises.

RUSSIA'S KURSK REGION
Ukraine lost
over 40pc of
land it seized

REUTERS, Kyiv
Ukraine has lost over 40 percent of the territory in Russia's Kursk region that it captured in a surprise incursion in August as Russian forces have mounted waves of counter-assaults, a senior Ukrainian military source said.
The source said Russia had deployed 59,000 troops to the Kursk region since Kyiv's forces swept in and advanced swiftly, catching Moscow unprepared 2-1/2 years into its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
"At most, we controlled about 1,376 square kilometres (531 square miles), now of course this territory is smaller. The enemy is increasing its counterattacks," the source said.
"Now we control approximately 800 square kilometres. We will hold this territory for as long as is militarily appropriate."
With the thrust into Kursk, Kyiv aimed to stem Russian attacks in eastern and northeastern Ukraine, force Russia to pull back forces gradually advancing in the east and give Kyiv extra leverage in any future peace negotiations.



A displaced Palestinian woman tosses water in front of a tent following heavy rainfall north of Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday, amid the ongoing Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave. PHOTO: AFP

Mystery drones
seen over three
US bases in UK

CNN ONLINE
Unidentified drones have been spotted flying over three bases used by the United States Air Force in Britain, the two countries have confirmed.
The objects were seen between Wednesday and Saturday flying over the Royal Air Force's Lakenheath, Mildenhall and Feltwell bases, all used by the US Air Force (USAF).
"The number of (unmanned aircraft systems) fluctuated and they ranged in size/configuration," a spokesperson for the US Air Forces in Europe said in a statement.
"Installation leaders determined that none of the incursions impacted base residents or critical infrastructure," the spokesperson added. A spokesperson for Britain's Ministry of Defence said: "We take threats seriously and maintain robust measures at defence sites. This includes counter-drone security capabilities."
Both nations said they would not comment further. The three bases are located within a few miles of each other in eastern England. Since 1992, Mildenhall has been home to the only permanent American wing in Europe that conducts air refueling operations, while Lakenheath houses the USAF's 48th Fighter Wing, which has played a role in post-9/11 operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Hundreds flee Gaza as
IDF orders evacuations

REUTERS, Cairo
The Israeli military issued new evacuation orders to residents in areas of an eastern Gaza City suburb, setting off a new wave of displacement yesterday, and a Gaza hospital director was injured in an Israeli drone attack, medics said.
The new orders for Shejaia suburb posted by Israeli army spokesperson on X on Saturday night were blamed on Hamas firing rockets from that heavily built-up district in the north of Gaza.
"For your safety, you must evacuate immediately to the south," the military's post said. The rocket volley on Saturday was

claimed by Hamas' armed wing, which said it had targeted an Israeli army base over the border.
Footage circulated on social media showed residents leaving Shejaia on donkey carts and rickshaws, with others, including children carrying backpacks, walking.
Families living in the targeted areas began fleeing their homes after nightfall on Saturday and into yesterday's early hours, residents and Palestinian media said - the latest in multiple waves of displacement since the offensive began 13 months ago.
In central Gaza, at least 10 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes on the camps of Al-Maghazi and Al-Bureij since Saturday night.



PTI PROTEST
Pak capital
locked down

REUTERS, Islamabad
Pakistan's capital was put under a security lockdown yesterday ahead of protests by supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan calling for his release.
Highways leading to Islamabad through which supporters of Khan, led by members of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, were expected to approach the city and gather near the parliament, have been blocked.
Most major roads of the city have also been blocked by the government.

Main points
of the \$300bn
climate deal

AFP, Baku
The deal reached at UN climate talks in Azerbaijan ramps up the money that wealthy historic emitters will provide to help poorer nations transition to cleaner energy and adapt to global warming. Here are the main points of the agreement reached at COP29 in Baku:
\$300 BILLION
Under a framework established by the UN in 1992, 23 developed countries - and the European Union - historically responsible for most planet-heating emissions are obliged to contribute to climate finance.
The Baku accord raises the amount of money that developed countries must provide to at least \$300 billion per year by 2035. It is higher than the \$100 billion that is currently required under a previous agreement that runs until next year.
But it falls well short of the \$500 billion that some developing countries had demanded at the fraught negotiations in Baku.
The deal states that the money will come directly from a "wide variety of sources" including government budgets, private sector investment, and other financing.
CHINA ROLE
The United States and EU had pushed to broaden the donor base to include countries that are still listed as developing but have now become wealthy, such as China and Saudi Arabia.
But China, the world's second-biggest economy and top emitter of greenhouse gases, has steadfastly refused to change its status while recalling that it already provides bilateral aid.
SHARE OF MONEY
The negotiations were also the scene of disagreements within the developing world.
The Least Developed Countries bloc had asked that it receive \$220 billion per year, while the Alliance of Small Island States wanted \$39 billion - demands that were opposed by other developing nations. The figures did not appear in the final deal. Instead, it calls for tripling other public funds they receive by 2030.
FOSSIL FALLOUT
Activists are worried that the promise to "transition away" from fossil fuels - the main achievement of COP28 in Dubai - disappeared from the final deal in Baku.
A text that was supposed to reinforce implementation of the landmark agreement was ultimately not adopted at the close of COP29, after a long battle that had already largely emptied it of its substance.

Quote: "I had hoped for a more ambitious outcome - on both finance and mitigation - to meet the great challenge we face. But this agreement provides a base on which to build. It must be honoured in full and on time. Commitments must quickly become cash."
UN chief Antonio Guterres on COP29 deal

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)
Invitation For International Tender
01. Ministry/Division : Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources /EMRD
02. Agency : Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (PETROBANGLA)
03. Purchaser Name & District : Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd. (JGTDSL), Sylhet.
04. Invitation for : Procurement of Polyethylene Tape & Primer.
05. Invitation Ref. No. & Date : 28.16.9100.098.07.002.24/415; Date: 24/11/2024
06. Procurement method : Open Tendering Method[ICT]
07. Budget & Source of fund : JGTDSL's Own Fund
08. Tender Publication Date : 25/11/2024
09. Tender Selling Start Date : 26/11/2024
10. Tender Last selling Date : 06/01/2025 (During office hours on all working days.)
11. Tender Closing date & time : 07/01/2025, 11:00 A.M. (BST)
12. Tender Opening date & time : 07/01/2025, 11:10 A.M. (BST)
13. Name & Address of the offices
(i) Selling Tender Document : i) Liaison Office, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd, Petrobangla, Petrocenter (13th floor), 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
(ii) Receiving Tender : Committee Room, Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), JGTDSL, Mendibag, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
(iii) Opening Tender : Committee Room, Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), JGTDSL, Mendibag, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
14. Eligibility of Tenderer : (i) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 10 (Ten) years of overall experience in the supply of gas pipeline materials.
(ii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Tape & Primer of at least 01 (One) contract successfully completed within the last 05 (Five) years with a value of at least USD 90,000.00 (USD Ninety Thousand) or equivalent.
(iii) The valid ISO 9001:2015 certificate (regarding manufacturing) of Tape & Primer in favour of the manufacturer.
(iv) All other detailed Terms & Conditions are given in the Tender Document.
15. Brief description of Goods : Polyethylene Tape: 4"x400'(Black)- 1000 Roll; 4"x400'(White)- 1000 Roll. Primer: 10,000 Liter
16. Price of Tender Document : BDT 3,000 (Non-refundable)
17. Location : Sylhet, Bangladesh
Tender Security Amount : BDT 3,00,000.00 (Taka Three Lac) or USD 2,500.00 (US Dollar Two Thousand Five Hundred) or EURO 2,370.00 (EURO Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy) or equivalent currency.
Delivery Period : 90 (Ninety) days from the date of LC opening to the date of shipment at the port of loading.
18. Name, Designation & Address of the official inviting tender : Engr. Mohammad Sarwar Jahan Mahmud
General Manager (Planning & ICT Division)
Gas Bhaban (4th Floor), Mendibag, Sylhet.
E-mail: gm_planning_ict@jgtdsl.gov.bd
Tel. No.: 02997700612
19. The purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা
রুক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
তারিখঃ ২৩-১১-২০২৪খ্রিঃ।
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
"দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন ২০০৮" এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলার পুলিশ সদস্যদের জন্য ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ সনের ৩য় কোয়ার্টারে (জানুয়ারি/২৫খ্রিঃ মাস হতে মার্চ/২৫খ্রিঃ মাস পর্যন্ত) রেশন সামগ্রী (ক) দেশীয় মত্তর ডাল (চিকন্দানা) (খ) সয়াবিন তেল ও (গ) পোলাউর চাল সরবরাহের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে সীলনকৃত খামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।
১ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ : স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২ সংস্থা : বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ/সংস্থা : পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা।
৪ দরপত্র আহ্বানের কারণ : সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলার পুলিশ সদস্যদের জন্য ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সনের ৩য় কোয়ার্টারে (জানুয়ারি/২৫ মাস হতে মার্চ/২৫খ্রিঃ মাস পর্যন্ত) রেশন সামগ্রী (ক) দেশীয় মত্তর ডাল (চিকন্দানা) (খ) সয়াবিন তেল ও (গ) পোলাউর চাল সরবরাহের জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে।
৫ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ : ০৩/২৪-২৫, তারিখঃ ২৩-১১-২০২৪খ্রিঃ।
৬ দরপত্র পদ্ধতি : উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৭ বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস : জিওবি (রাজস্ব)।
৮ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ : ২৪-১১-২০২৪খ্রিঃ।
৯ দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ : ১৫-১২-২০২৪খ্রিঃ, সময়-দুপুর-১১.০০ ঘটিকা।
১০ দরপত্র জমা গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ১৭-১২-২০২৪খ্রিঃ, সময়-সকাল-১১.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১১ দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ১৭-১২-২০২৪খ্রিঃ, সময়-দুপুর-১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১২ দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময় : ১৮-১২-২০২৪খ্রিঃ, সময়-সকাল ১০.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩ দরপত্র খোলার স্থান : পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা, রুক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
১৪ দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রস্তির স্থান : ১. আডিপনাল আইজি, রেলগেজে পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়।
২. পুলিশ কমিশনার, এসএমপি এর কার্যালয়।
৩. পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা এর কার্যালয়।
১৫ দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস : পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা, রুক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
১৬ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পদবী ও ঠিকানা : পুলিশ সুপার, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রুক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮ শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
১৭ মালামাল সরবরাহ অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ : দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।
১৮ দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা : দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত হাদনাগাদ অর্থসনের কাগজ প্রদান ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়ন পূর্বক দাখিল করতে হবে- (ক) ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (খ) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (গ) আয়কর সনদপত্র (ঘ) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র (ঙ) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সনদসহ হাদনাগাদ ও মাসের ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট (চ) ছবিবহু ফর্মের মালিকানা হস্তান্তরকারী (ছ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেটসহ সকল দলিল প্রদানি দেখে দরপত্র তফসিল (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় করা হবে। দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়ের সময় অবশ্যই ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব সীল সঙ্গে আনতে হবে। বর্ণিত প্রত্যেকটি কাগজের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন পূর্বক নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
১৯ দরপত্র গ্রহণ/মূল্যায়ন : দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী মোতাবেক।
২০ কাজের বিবরণ :
লট নং : দরপত্রের বিষয় : দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অক্ষরং যোগ্য) : দরপত্রের সাথে আর্নেস্ট মানি (ফেরৎ যোগ্য) : কাজের সময়সীমা :
১. দেশীয় মত্তর ডাল (চিকন্দানা) : ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র : ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা : ০১/০১/২০২৫খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।
২. সয়াবিন তেল : ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র : ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা : ০১/০১/২০২৫খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।
৩. পোলাউর চাল : ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা মাত্র : ৫০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র : ০১/০১/২০২৫খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।
২১ বিশেষ নির্দেশনা : ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রমে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। খ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী সিডিউলের শর্তাবলীতে উল্লেখ আছে। গ) প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। ঘ) প্রতিটি দরপত্র পৃথক খামে জমা দিতে হবে এবং খামের উপর আইটেম ও লট নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ঙ) কোন কারণ বশতঃ অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্য নিরসে একই সময়ে ও নিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা যাবে। চ) টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা, সিলেট বরাবরে দাখিল করতে হবে।
(মোহঃ মেহেদী হাসান)
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পুলিশ সুপার
সিলেট রেলগেজে জেলা, সিলেট।
ফোন: ০২-৯৯৭৭০১০৩২ ফ্যাক্স: ০২-৯৯৭৭০১০৩৩
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The Daily Star

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Police legacy of lethal force has to change

Militarisation of police cannot be accepted under any pretext

It is encouraging to learn that the police may cease using lethal weapons and lead pellets for crowd control. We fully support this drive as there is no justification for the police to use lethal force against ordinary citizens. Such actions, however, were rampant during the tenure of the ousted Awami League regime. During the July uprising, excessive use of lethal weapons by police and other security agencies resulted in approximately 1,500 deaths while leaving nearly 20,000 injured. It is incomprehensible that those entrusted with the duty to protect the public could commit such violence against them.

In light of these events, it is imperative that our security agencies, including police, undergo reforms to prevent such atrocities from ever occurring again. Reportedly, the Police Headquarters has already formed a committee to recommend non-lethal methods for controlling crowds and unlawful assemblies. Discussions are also underway about banning the use of long-barrel firearms. In extreme cases of necessity, it is expected that police will rely on small arms, in accordance with practices in developed countries and aligned with UN guidelines, to which Bangladesh is a signatory.

Following the successful July uprising, *The Daily Star* analysed the injury patterns of 204 individuals who had died as of August 1. Nearly 95 percent of these victims were killed by bullets, including live rounds and shotgun pellets. Of these, 113 were shot in the head, chest, stomach, or abdomen—clearly indicating an intent to kill. Additionally, an analysis by the Lawyers for Energy, Environment and Development (LEED) revealed that lethal weapons such as 7.62mm semi-automatic rifles, submachine guns, BD08 assault rifles, Taurus 9mm revolvers, and Type 54 pistols were used during attacks on protesters.

As highlighted in a report by this daily, the militarisation of the police under the previous regime began in 2012-2013. In an October 2014 meeting, a decision was made to procure lethal firearms, including 7.62mm rifles. From that point onward, the regime increasingly pressured the police to use such deadly weapons to suppress dissent. Procurement records available on the Bangladesh Police website show that 7.62mm sniper rifles and 7.62mm bullets have been in use for years, with their acquisition often coinciding with the farcical elections held under the regime, the latest being the January 2024 general elections.

Former Home Affairs Adviser M Sakhawat Hossain has rightly questioned the rationale for giving such “military-grade” weapons to the police. The answer is clear—they were introduced to enable the fascist regime to maintain power by silencing dissent and oppressing citizens. Therefore, comprehensive reforms in our security agencies, particularly the police, are critical. These reforms must also include establishing thorough, independent mechanisms to investigate errant police officers and hold them accountable.

Stop illegal brick kilns in Brahmanbaria

Why are they still in operation even after regime change?

We are frustrated by the lack of satisfactory progress in removing illegal brick kilns in the country, despite repeated assurances from the authorities. These unauthorised operations, especially along riverbanks and wetlands, continue to inflict damage on the environment, public health, and rural livelihoods. Most of the kilns were set up by local influentials leveraging their political connections, so the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5 had raised hope that they would be swiftly shut down. This has not happened, at least not to the extent expected.

Brahmanbaria is one of the districts where illegal brick kilns have mushroomed over the years, often encroaching on agricultural lands and even extending into wetland areas. Currently, there are 56 such units in the district. The problem, as per a report by *Prothom Alo*, is particularly acute in Sarail upazila, where a number of illegal kilns were set up along the banks of Titas River. Unfortunately, regime change hasn't had much effect on their operations or expansions. One example is the illegal Jisan Bricks kiln, set up by a former Awami League lawmaker occupying six acres of farmland near the Sarail-Nasirnagar-Lakhai regional highway. Despite having no valid documents, including environmental clearance or the permit for brick burning, it continues to operate even though its owner is now in jail in connection with a murder case. Reportedly, it has already erased a nearby canal.

Similar operations also continue unchecked, ravaging topsoil and burning bricks with impunity. Even open toilets have been set up along the river by kiln labourers. One doesn't need to be an expert to understand the cumulative effects of such activities. In addition to the various health hazards posed to local residents, these operations harm biodiversity, cause soil degradation, and lead to a decline in agricultural productivity. Yet, beyond imposing occasional fines on kiln operators, the authorities have taken no decisive action to stop them.

This has to change. We urge the government to crack down on all illegal kilns and ensure that their operations do not resume under any pretext. Given the massive damage already done to our environment by them, however, it is no longer enough to merely enforce regulations in the authorised brick kilns. We must find sustainable alternatives to traditional bricks and brick-manufacturing methods so that the demand for development can be met in an environmentally friendly way.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Fidel Castro dies at 90



On this day in 2016, Cuban political leader Fidel Castro, who transformed his country into the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere and became a symbol of communist revolution in Latin America, died at age 90.

Why is the banking sector crisis so deep-rooted?



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BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

The crisis that Bangladesh's banking sector is facing now is not simply a bundle of problems exclusive to banking, monetary, financial, accounting or managerial aspects. The sector is a victim of political extortion and rent-seeking cultures. The irregularities of the other five institutions of the past regime are mainly attributable to what the banking sector faces now. These institutions include: i) the finance ministry; ii) capital market; iii) parliament and bank-related lawmakers; iv) top-level bank borrowers and bank directors; and finally v) the financial judiciary.

The moral hazards such as taking big ticket loans and not paying them back were not confined to the banking sector alone. This culture of extracting people's money has been an integral component of big companies, ardently endorsed by corrupt politicians in power. Thus, the crisis in the banking sector is deep-rooted. The amount of defaulted loans as a share of total outstanding loans reached 12.56 percent in June 2024 from 8.96 percent in June 2022. At the end of September, the amount of defaulted loans escalated to almost Tk 2.85 lakh crore, which is 16.93 percent of the total outstanding loans. In December 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated the non-performing loan (NPL) share to be 25 percent of outstanding loans.

The turbulent July-September quarter saw an unprecedented increase of nearly Tk 74,000 crore in defaulted loans, vindicating that the sector is really in a crisis no matter if the government downplays it or not. The crisis was man-made since the default culture was largely wilful, indulged by the past regime for the monetary benefits of the corrupted politicians and laundering tycoons who received blanket endorsement for all their wrongdoings.

The share of defaulted loans rose from nine percent to 13 percent within the last two years when GDP growth was around six percent on average, suggesting that the default culture was largely wilful. Alarming, the default ratio that was shown in data is the tip of the iceberg, because the definition of default was perversely loosened by the past finance minister in 2019-2024 and the two central bank governors during the same period to revitalise the energy of the bank looters. That made the crisis worse.

The defaulters were allowed to adjust even as low as five percent of

the defaulted loans to get rid of the “stigma” of default. The past Awami League regime allowed multiple loose definitions to let some notorious tycoons participate in the national election and make faulty laws in their favour. There is another way to see that the default culture was wilful and evidently not a macroeconomy-wide issue. The high variation in the NPL ratios based on various ownerships



FILE ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLO CHAKROBORTY

unveils the story of how the state-owned banks were subject to a higher degree of looting, while private or foreign banks were able to maintain much lower NPL ratios.

A Bangladesh Bank report shows that at the end of June 2021, the NPL ratios were 3.9 percent and 5.4 percent in foreign banks and private banks, respectively, while the number was as high as 20.6 percent in state-owned banks. The numbers are much higher than what we see here since these ratios were calculated under the loose definitions of default. One thing is clear: the looting was religiously state-sponsored and passionately orchestrated by the

laundered out of the country over the 15-plus years of Awami League regime; only one Chattogram family is alleged to have laundered \$10 billion alone. He also said Tk 4 lakh crore is now the de facto defaulted loans that form 25 percent of the total advances. And Tk 2 lakh crore has gone to only a handful of families. This group of mafias plundered Bangladesh's banking sector to dump it into an incurable crisis. Much to people's frustration, some of them became members of parliament and even ministers, while some were made ministerial-level advisers to the former prime minister. The parliament turned into

financial gangsters not only eroded the future of the banking sector, but also made the wound too difficult to recover. Since the crisis in the banking industry is not simply its intrinsic problem, we need to correct those five institutions or related laws before we can expect a healthy recovery of the sector. Reforms must address these areas before energising the sector to move ahead swimmingly.

The writing draws heavily from the keynote speech at the BDI International Conference on Bangladesh held at the University of California, Berkeley on November 8-9, 2024.

Real change requires real youth leadership



Runa Khan
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RUNA KHAN

As the world's youth take to the stage at COP29, many more than before, we wonder, are we amplifying youth voices with genuine intent, or are we succumbing to “youthwashing,” where young people are included merely for appearances without meaningful opportunities to lead and impact decisions? Too often their presence is symbolic, fleeting, and mostly powerless.

We can no longer afford this superficial inclusion. The youth voice is vital. They are the inheritors of this legacy, and so they must be present with the strength and freedom to act and lead. We need empowered youth—not just to be seen, but to meaningfully shape outcomes.

Tokenism at events like COP29 risks reducing youth engagement to mere visibility. This approach not only disrespects their talents and intelligence but also fails to harness their full potential. Organisations must critically reflect on their motives and commitment to empowering youth.

Today, there are 1.8 billion young people globally—our largest generation—and they stand on the

precipice of an uncertain future. We know that in 2019 alone, 24 million people were displaced by climate-induced disasters, with an estimated 140 million projected by 2050. We cannot treat or use young people as props in a global spectacle, instead of vital allies in this existential fight.

We speak of global targets and yet ignore the transformative power of youth when effectively engaged. Youth-led change is not new; it is essential, and it is immediate. Look at the strength of today's youths in the July uprising.

Real youth representation must rise above mere gestures. It means giving young leaders the ability to engage on the critical topics of our time, giving them needed tools—climate finance, adaptation strategies, and the policies that determine the survival of nations.

Often, the youth are made to stand without adequate preparation. To stand in these dialogues without preparation is to set them up to fail, to lose the trust of decision makers and diminish their true courage.

Youth leadership from the margins happen and is a reality we see daily: friendship impacts girls and boys from

the remote chasms of Bangladesh, to defy incredible odds, to raise their voices on international platforms. Two such girls represented Bangladesh at the European Youth Parliament, sharing stories of resilience and innovation from their communities. Friendship's Interconnectivity School Project is another groundbreaking initiative that links students from the isolated chasms to the globe. Through digital technology, these students engage with peers worldwide, fostering knowledge exchange and global awareness.

Additionally, our flood volunteer programme empowers young volunteers to represent grassroots disaster response efforts at the 16th International Community-Based Adaptation (CBAM6) conference. An individual's story represented, exemplifies how locally trained youth leaders can drive change and advocate for solutions at a global level. These efforts showcase what is possible when youth are empowered with training, mentorship, and platforms to shine.

Empowering youth across diverse fields and technologies must be beyond events and programmes. True empowerment lies in equipping youth with technological skills and multidisciplinary expertise. Young leaders must be trained not only in climate negotiations but also in proposing practical solutions like green technologies, solar energy, and disaster response.

Teaching the next generation to install and maintain solar panels not only creates local resilience but also fosters sustainable economic

opportunities. Similarly, skills in climate disaster response, such as flood management and adaptation techniques, empower young people to lead in their own communities. These skillsets must be diverse—spanning policy, finance, engineering, and ecosystem restoration—because the climate crisis demands comprehensive, integrated responses. Empowered youth are those who can drive both local solutions and global policy, bridging the gaps between innovation and implementation.

There is no power in mere tokenism. Representation without power is worse than absence; it is a hollow gesture, and at this point in the climate crisis, hollow gestures are dangerous. At COP29, we must see beyond the presence of young people on panels or in photo ops. Instead, we must demand capable, prepared youth advocates. While the increased presence of youth is promising, it must be accompanied by comprehensive preparation and meaningful engagement in addressing real-world challenges. Incorporating youth voices meaningfully requires mechanisms for accountability and mutual learning. Decision-makers must evaluate the impact of youth contributions and provide actionable feedback. This ensures that their voices not only resonate but lead to measurable outcomes. Youth engagement must come with the skills to negotiate climate finance, ecosystem-based adaptation, and emissions reduction.

This is my hope for our coming conferences and for our world of tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Empathy is missing for survivors seeking justice



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NOSHIN NAWAL

Today marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as the commencement of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which is an annual campaign to raise awareness on this issue around the world. It is an opportunity to reflect on the legislative and procedural challenges faced by survivors of sexual violence in Bangladesh. But it substantially fails to address the human elements involved. Survivors navigate a justice system riddled with structural barriers, trauma, and inadequate empathetic support. In a recent conversation with this author, Barrister Sara Hossain emphasised that the focus must shift from performative gestures to actionable reforms. Awareness campaigns, while valuable, cannot substitute for systemic change, which remains essential for addressing the root issues with GBV.

Bangladesh has enacted several laws to combat gender-based violence. But the gap between legal provisions and their implementation reflects deep-rooted institutional weaknesses and resource constraints. This is further crippled by societal stigma attached with crimes of sexual violence. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, a landmark step focusing on preventing physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse within the household, provides for protection orders, compensation and shelter for survivors. However, according to Rumana Hoque, member of the Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), not having financial independence is a major factor that prevents survivors from pursuing justice. Many of them are forced to rely on their natal families, who may themselves face financial limitations or social ostracisation in providing long-term support. This economic vulnerability frequently compels survivors to compromise their safety, return to abusive households, or risk homelessness. For many survivors of domestic violence, the immediate goal is not accountability for the perpetrator, but simply the cessation of violence and assurance of safety. This reflects the painful reality that pursuing legal action is a luxury many cannot afford due to the financial resources and emotional resilience required to sustain such efforts.

Access to shelters is another significant barrier. Statistically, Bangladesh has only around 36 shelters nationwide, of which 15 are NGO-operated. This number is grossly inadequate for a population that includes



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

eight crore women. Moreover, the majority of shelters, being concentrated in urban areas, are inaccessible to women from rural communities. Admission processes are often complicated and cumbersome, requiring police referrals or court orders for entry into state-run facilities. This bureaucratic hurdle is particularly challenging for domestic violence survivors who may not have immediate access to law enforcement or legal personnel. As a result, many survivors are left without viable options for safety and support.

Sara Hossain states that the absence of victim and witness protection mechanisms aggravates the issues. In 2006, the Law Commission of Bangladesh submitted a report on a proposed law relating to the protection of victims and witnesses of crimes involving grave offences. In 2015, a High Court Division bench passed a directive for the enactment of a witness protection law. Then in August 2017, with the joint effort of the UNDP and the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, the Witness Management Policy for Subordinate Courts and Tribunals was drafted. Despite all these steps, no witness

protection law or scheme has been enacted to this day.

Implementing the Victim and Witness Protection Act would resolve the safety issue significantly. Such comprehensive protection mechanisms would be a significant step towards ensuring that survivors can safely participate in legal proceedings without fear of retaliation. Unfortunately, this legislation has been a stalled prerogative for almost two

decades. This legislation would ensure the safety and dignity of survivors and witnesses during legal proceedings, addressing the widespread issue of intimidation and reprisals by perpetrators. Interestingly, while the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) rules include provisions for victim and witness protection, such safeguards are not extended to regular criminal cases, including those involving GBV. This omission leaves survivors vulnerable and undermines their confidence in the justice system.

Gaps in investigative procedures also compound the plight of survivors as they frequently encounter law enforcement officers and medical professionals who lack training in trauma-informed practices. Survivors are traumatised again during investigations, particularly in cases of sexual violence. Since 2012, the government's Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women introduced One-Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) and forensic DNA facilities, although they are insufficient in number and capacity. With only 13 OCCs available for eight crore women, survivors in rural and remote areas

have further exposed systemic failures in addressing GBV and emphasised the need for reforms. The *Naripokkho vs Government of Bangladesh* case in 2015 highlighted failures in the registration of first information reports (FIRs) for GBV cases, particularly rape. The court held that such failures violated survivors' fundamental rights under Articles 27, 28 and 31 of the constitution, which guarantee equality before the law, non-discrimination based on sex, and the right to protection under the law. The judgment emphasised that all cognisable offences must be promptly registered to ensure justice. Inefficiency of law enforcement officers to register the complaint of rape by a Garo woman delayed the investigation, compromising critical evidence, including the time-sensitive medical examination. The High Court intervened and directed the inspector general of police (IGP) to take disciplinary actions against the negligent officers. While these judgments were significant in addressing institutional failures, the lack of accountability and follow-through highlights ongoing systemic inertia and

corruption, which continue to undermine the enforcement of these directives.

Unfortunately, these directives and activism become rhetorical exercises that fail to address the real, practical needs of survivors. The justice system itself remains alienating and hostile to survivors. The physical environments within courts and police stations further deter survivors from seeking justice. In many places, the women and children repression prevention tribunals lack basic amenities such as clean restrooms, waiting areas or spaces for children. This creates an unwelcome atmosphere that adds to the emotional toll that survivors already endure. Improving these spaces to make them more welcoming and accessible is a simple yet critical step towards ensuring easier navigation within the court houses. Basic interventions, such as improving signage, could significantly improve the survivors' experiences within the justice system.

Bangladesh can draw lessons from countries like South Africa, UK and the Philippines, which have successfully incorporated intermediaries such as paralegals and community workers to support GBV survivors and ease their access to justice. In South Africa, community advice offices serve as vital resources, particularly in rural areas, where paralegals provide survivors with legal advice, emotional support, and assistance in navigating the justice system. These intermediaries act as a bridge between survivors and formal institutions, ensuring that survivors are treated with empathy and care. Similarly, in the Philippines, Barangay VAW (violence against women) desks at the community level provide immediate assistance to survivors, including counselling, referrals and legal aid. These desks are staffed by trained officers who offer empathetic and survivor-centred support, fostering trust and encouraging survivors to seek justice without fear of alienation or insensitivity. These models highlight the importance of accessible and empathetic support systems in addressing GBV effectively. Steps may be taken to enshrine such initiatives within the Bangladeshi legal system.

The 16 Days of Activism serves as a reminder of the urgent need to address the systemic challenges faced by survivors of gender-based violence. These campaigns must focus on actionable reforms. Expanding the number and capacity of OCCs, implementing trauma-informed training for law enforcement, and enacting the long-delayed Victim and Witness Protection Act are crucial steps towards creating a survivor-centric justice system. By addressing these structural barriers, Bangladesh can move closer to a future where survivors are empowered to seek justice, rebuild their lives, and live free from violence and fear. Collective integration of legislative and empathetic reforms are the fundamental roadblocks to achieving this vision. It requires sustained commitment—the cost of inaction is far too great to ignore.

The nation still failing its women



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MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Violence against women has long cast a shadow over societies around the world, and here in Bangladesh, it feels like an existential tragedy. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is meant to bring awareness and drive change, yet every year it arrives as a painful reminder of the progress that remains elusive. There has been a surge in gender-based violence (GBV) cases, each story cutting deeper than the last, a stark reminder that violence against women in Bangladesh is more than a "social issue." It is a national crisis.

Just recently, the body of a woman was found mutilated, in a murder committed by her husband. Cases of women being sexually harassed and assaulted are also on the rise. These incidents are as horrific as they are tragic, but they are only the latest additions to a long history of unchecked violence against women. Globally, violence against women is a horrifyingly common experience, with nearly one in three women—around 736 million individuals—facing physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. In Bangladesh, at least 50 percent of women report having experienced physical or sexual violence from men in their lives.

The Human Rights Support Society's (HRSS) monthly human rights analysis report revealed that in October 2024 alone, 117 women were victims of violence in Bangladesh. Among them,

eight were subjected to gang rape, while seven were killed after being raped. Shockingly, 55 women and girls were victims of rape, with half of them under 18. The report also highlighted 11 cases of sexual harassment, and two murders related to dowry disputes. These figures expose the alarming frequency and severity of GBV

Despite the occasional outrage, the cycle of violence continues. An incident occurs, it sparks public outcry, demands for justice are made, and then the attention fades until the next horror emerges. This repetitive cycle has desensitised us as a society, and the overall inaction only reinforces the sense that women's lives are not a priority.

in Bangladesh, yet the nation's response remains lukewarm, as if we have now grown numb to these incidents.

As a woman in Bangladesh, these incidents are more than just numbers. Each case feels like a painful reminder of how vulnerable we all are. There is a

collective anxiety that looms over us, a fear that no amount of caution or self-defence can fully dispel. It is terrifying to live with this awareness—that as a woman, our very existence makes us a potential target, and that for every violent act reported, countless others remain hidden in silence.

It is not only the frequency of these crimes that shocks me, but the brutality with which they are committed. There is a pervasive culture of impunity that enables this violence, a culture where perpetrators know that they are likely to escape punishment and where the lives of women are treated as expendable. The interim government has done little to address this crisis. We were promised security and progress, but when it comes to women's safety, the silence has been deafening. GBV is not simply an issue of law and order; it is a fundamental human rights crisis. Every day that goes by without reform and justice, is a day when women in Bangladesh are abandoned by their country and left to fend for themselves in a hostile environment.

Despite the occasional outrage, the cycle of violence continues. An incident occurs, it sparks public outcry, demands for justice are made, and then the attention fades until the next horror emerges. This repetitive cycle has desensitised us as a society, and the overall inaction only reinforces the sense that women's lives are not a priority. Yet the suffering is not something we can ignore. The daily fear, the emotional scars, and the sense of betrayal from a system that fails to protect us—these are the burdens we carry, day in and day out.

Today, it feels important to address not just the violence itself, but the systemic failures that allow it to thrive. Violence against women in Bangladesh is not a

series of isolated incidents; it is an epidemic rooted in the very fabric of our society. A culture that devalues women, normalises misogyny, and ignores our voices has left us vulnerable and without recourse. The systemic response, or lack thereof, only exacerbates this crisis.

The judicial process is fraught with delays, corruption, and bias, often favouring the perpetrators instead of the victims.

Until we see true accountability, until there is real reform, and until this country prioritises the protection and dignity of its women, we are destined

to repeat this cycle of violence. The failure to address this epidemic is more than a government oversight—it is a glaring, heartbreaking stain on our collective conscience. We are the ones who need to solve this. We owe it to ourselves, to each other, and to the generations that will follow.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE JAIL SUPER
JAMALPUR DISTRICT JAIL
jailsuperjamalpur@gmail.com

Memo No-58.04.3900.097.01.001.24-3402 Date: 24-11-2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal.

SL No	Tender ID No.	Name of Work	Publishing, Closing date & time	Tender Document last selling Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1	1040697	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-1 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:00	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:00
2	1040698	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-2 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:05	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:05
3	1040699	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-5 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:10	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:10
4	1040700	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-6 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:15	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:15
5	1040701	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-7 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:20	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:20
6	1040702	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-8 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:25	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:25
7	1040703	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-9 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:25	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:25
8	1040704	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-10 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:30	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:30
9	1040705	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-11 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:35	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:35
10	1040706	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-12 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:40	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:40
11	1040707	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package-13 for the period of 01 January/2025 to 30 June/2025.	24-Nov-2024 12:00, 10-Dec-2024 12:45	10-Dec-2024 11:00	10-Dec-2024 12:45

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-Gp portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Abul Kalam Azad)
 Superintendent
 Jamalpur District Jail.

GD- 1029

The Faces Behind 'MADE IN BANGLADESH'



Lamia Karim

In conversation with Lamia Karim, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oregon, Eugene, and author of *Castoffs of Capital: Work and Love Among Garment Workers in Bangladesh* (University of Minnesota Press, 2022), which received the Gregory Bateson Book Prize Honorable Mention 2023.

The Daily Star (TDS): How did you transition to your new research focus on the garment sector in Bangladesh, given your previous extensive research on the prospects and implications of microloans in the country? What prompted this apparent shift from rural to urban settings in your research field?

Prof Lamia Karim (LK): I am an economic anthropologist specializing in political economy and women's labor. My primary focus lies in the anthropological dynamics surrounding women's participation in the workforce, particularly the recognition of women as visible agents within the labor market. Historically, women have engaged in informal labor within the domestic sphere, contributing to their families and supporting their husbands. For instance, a male vendor selling food in the market often relies on female family members to prepare the food. Consequently, women's labor remains both invisible and uncompensated. Feminist scholars have long advocated for the acknowledgment and inclusion of unpaid work within economic policy.

My interest in this field is also shaped by my personal background. I grew up in a family where women were actively engaged in professional roles; my great aunt (my grandmother's sister) was a published poet in the 1930s, my mother's first cousin was the first female photographer in what was then East Pakistan, and my mother, along with several of her female cousins, held academic positions as professors and principals of women's colleges. Thus, the sight of women pursuing professional careers was integral to my upbringing. However, I also witnessed the labor of women hired to work in our household—specifically, cooks and cleaners—whose work was often regarded as a natural extension of their identity rather than as respectful employment.

These life experiences made me particularly interested in examining the effects of both waged and unwaged work on women and how social forces condition us to view women's work. Bangladesh is home to two significant industries that center on women's work: the microfinance

into the primary contributor to the nation's economy? Despite witnessing a semblance of women's empowerment, how do you address the prevalent issue of widespread exploitation of women, which has unfortunately remained integral to this sector?

LK: The exploitation of women's labor within the manufacturing industry has a deeply entrenched and troubling history. An examination of industrialization in 19th-century England reveals how poverty forced women, men, and children to the cotton mills of Manchester, where they endured minimal wages and horrific work conditions. A pivotal moment in labor history occurred in the United States in 1911, when the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire claimed the lives of 143 workers, in factory conditions reminiscent of what occurred at the Rana Plaza factory collapse that killed over 1,100 workers.

Bangladesh is no different. A complex web of actors—including global retailers, government entities, factory owners, BGMEA, the families of these workers, and Western consumers—contributes to the systemic exploitation of working-class women, thereby facilitating the extraction of labor to yield profits and affordable goods.

The answer to your question is also embedded in cultural attitudes. We are a very class-based hierarchical society. Upper and middle-classes tend to treat people from the lower economic strata as less than them. Many factory owners, managers, supervisors, see the workers as lower than them on the social scale, and

They send home money for a brother's education, mother's medical expense, building a new roof, and so on. Their private lives are also precarious. Most of these women enter the workforce around the average age of fifteen. They are recent rural-to-urban migrants. They are usually brought to the city by a relative or a procurer. Most of them come to Dhaka with no prior knowledge of what it means to live in the city and how cruel and unforgiving the city can be. Many of the young women fall in love with men they meet in the city, who unbeknownst to them may already have a wife. These relationships are tragic and often involve severe domestic abuse. The men in their lives make constant demands on their wages, and if they do not hand the money over, the women are severely beaten. With no family elders, such as a father or an uncle to intercede for them, these women have to cope with these situations on their own. So, one on the one hand, they have attained certain autonomy, they earn wages, they have physical mobility, go to a movie, sit outdoors with friends and have some *fuchka*, met someone romantically, all the things that would be denied to them in rural society. On the other hand, they make many difficult decisions on their that often gets them into serious domestic precarity.

TDS: In your research, you explored the private lives of garment workers, delving into their intimate spheres of love, marriage, and romance. This perspective offers a novel way to understand them beyond the confines of economic analysis. How do you perceive the generational shifts among workers in this sector,

workers, belonging to the middle class signaled the exit from their poverty-stricken rural backgrounds. Factory employment had moved them up the economic scale. Similarly, taking the label of middle class set them apart from the poorer people they encountered in the city. As garment workers they were not like the women who worked as day laborers, cleaners, maids, cooks, and the like. They worked in brick buildings, operating industrial machines. That endowed them with a sense of pride and achievement when compared to their poorer rural and urban counterparts. They were the new symbol of "Made in Bangladesh" that is youthful, shiny, and hopeful. The combination of these factors gave them a sense of a new world of opportunities and their entrance into middle-class status.

TDS: Could you share insights from your conversations with the 16 interlocutors who are older or have aged out of the workforce about their initial aspirations? Additionally, could you discuss the differences observed in their ultimate realities, particularly regarding the changes in life after reaching a mature state within the garment sector?

LK: The sixteen older women, between the ages of 45-55 approximately, I interviewed had earned a limited form of sovereignty over their lives. They left abusive spouses, stood up to factory management when they faced workplace injustices, and tried to create better lives for their children through education. For these factory women, class mobility was a cherished goal that they saw as worth sacrificing for. Their goal was to help their children reach the new middle class

BGMEA, and the government. This is an ongoing struggle.

I did not inspect factories since that was not what I was doing. Safety measures vary across factories. There are factory owners who are forward looking and want to improve work conditions; there are others who think of workers as disposable bodies. The answer to your question requires investigative journalism.

TDS: As automation advances, Bangladesh's impending graduation from the category of least developed countries (LDCs) looms, coinciding with a gradual decline in women's participation in the sector. What are your thoughts on the garments industry as a whole, and what potential changes, both minor and monumental, do you envision that could reshape the prevailing landscape?

LK: With the garment sector accounting for Bangladesh's largest export, generating \$47 billion in 2023 and employing approximately four million workers whose earnings sustain the Bangladeshi economy. To effect meaningful change, it is essential to improve wages, enhance workplace safety, and provide accessible housing, healthcare, childcare, and education for their children. Factory owners resist these improvements, citing pressure from Western buyers who are reluctant to increase costs.

Bangladesh will face increased competition from other LDCs. The Ethiopian government sought to attract Western buyers by guaranteeing wages as low as \$22 per month for workers. Conversations with several garment factory owners regarding the potential loss of



Garment worker enjoying a snack on their day off



Garment worker holding a shirt she bought for her son



Older worker Monoara in her kitchen

they take it for granted that they can treat workers poorly, such as using vile language or to physically hit them. Firing workers under all sorts of fictional pretexts and defrauding them of wages is another way that workers get exploited.

To tackle the problem of violence against women at work, the way forward is the unionization of garment workers, a movement that remains significantly underrepresented in the Bangladeshi apparel industry. Legal NGOs and Human Rights Organizations should be watchdogs scrutinizing the factories for compliance to safety standards. The government too has a crucial role to play in supporting workers' rights. If all these actors could come together, viable change is possible.

TDS: What have your research findings revealed about the daily experiences of women laborers in the apparel manufacturing industry? You mentioned that instead of facilitating sustainable improvements in their lives, the neoliberal economy has perpetuated precarity in their work. Could you elaborate on how this has impacted the lives of these women?

LK: One is the precarity of global supply chains where workers are at the mercy of the global economy. During the pandemic for example, stores closed in the West, factories had to close in Bangladesh, making many workers lose their earnings. This dependence on the global economy is precarity at its worst manifestation because the workers who are the bottom of the supply chain do not control what happens to them. There are no safety nets to support them. Importantly, these workers do not understand how supply chains work, and how a sudden loss in demand in the US or EU will have tremendous effect on their livelihoods.

Precarity at the factory—low wages, long hours, poor quality of housing, poor diet, abuse at the hand of factory management, is constantly compounding precarity in worker's lives. It is well-known that the wages they receive do not cover their living expenses. The women also support their extended families, by extension, another twenty million people (mothers, father, siblings) indirectly depend on their wages.

from the macroscopic view to the individual human experience?

LK: I wanted to understand the attitudinal differences between older and younger women workers. The older women entered in the 1990s, some even in 1980s, at very low wages. All the older women shared a similar background. They came from landless and impoverished families. They described the before and after of coming to work as "Before I could not eat, now I can eat, before I could not send my child to school, now I can send my child to school, before I lived in a house with a leaking roof, now I live in a house with a roof that does not leak." The women had basic literacy of class three or five in a rural school. They could not read their hiring documents, making it easy for factory managers to fire them by making them sign on a document they could not read. Most of the older women came as married women with children, but their husbands had abandoned them. The women had to raise the children on their own. By the time they entered the factory, they already had many familial responsibilities. These women saw themselves as poor women whose goal was to get their children educated and moved up the economic social ladder. After twenty plus years of working, these older women's bodies and hearts were broken.

The younger women were entering with higher levels of education, often between class eight to ten. They could read their hiring documents. The younger were mostly single when they came from the village. They also came from poor families, but they entered factory work at higher wages. They would buy new *salwar-kameezes*, go to the beauty parlors to get their eyebrows threaded, openly hang out with their boyfriends. They did not have children to take care of. Familial responsibilities were less burdensome for them. Some of them told me that they would delay marriage because they wanted to experience life and make some money. These younger women exercised more sexual autonomy. They saw themselves as moving up the social ladder. They always called themselves middle-class and they would call the factory "office" and not *karkhana*. They eschewed the term *kormojibi* or *sromik*.

To the younger garment factory

that was unfolding through industrial capitalism in Bangladesh. Yet only two sons of the older female workers had made it to the new middle class, one as an accountant at a factory, and the other as an IT technician, the rest of their children had either entered the garment workforce or they were in other low-paying jobs as vendors, shop-keepers, guards. These older women recognized the limits of upward mobility in a deeply hierarchical society due to their lack of social capital. As one older woman said to me, "My son has received his bachelor's degree. He wants to work in a government office, but I do not have the contacts to help him. He has ended up working at a store." But their voices remained laced with traces of hope—if not for them, then for their children.

These older women entered the workforce when wages were very low, so they had little savings by the time they were forced out of factory work. They suffered from poor health. Their eyesight, fingers, arms were affected from long-term factory work. Kidneys were affected from not drinking water at work to avoid taking toilet breaks, something frowned upon by line supervisors. Many of them suffered from lung infections from breathing the air inside factories that is full of debris of clothing. Many workers were provided masks, but workers did not wear them because they felt hot and uncomfortable. It was a zero-sum game for these women.

TDS: Have you noticed any significant changes in the trade union movement or apparent enhancements in safety measures within this sector following the Rana Plaza incident?

LK: The trade union movement, still insignificant compared to the scale of the workforce, has become more visible after the Rana Plaza factory collapse. After the accident, the global retailers and EU did not have a fig leaf to cover their complicity in ignoring the safety conditions in the factories they were sourcing from. EU, Canada, Australia, and US to a lesser degree, became vocal about the right to unionize and the safety accords were written and implemented, with their many limitations. Trade union leaders have told me that now they have a voice with factory owners,

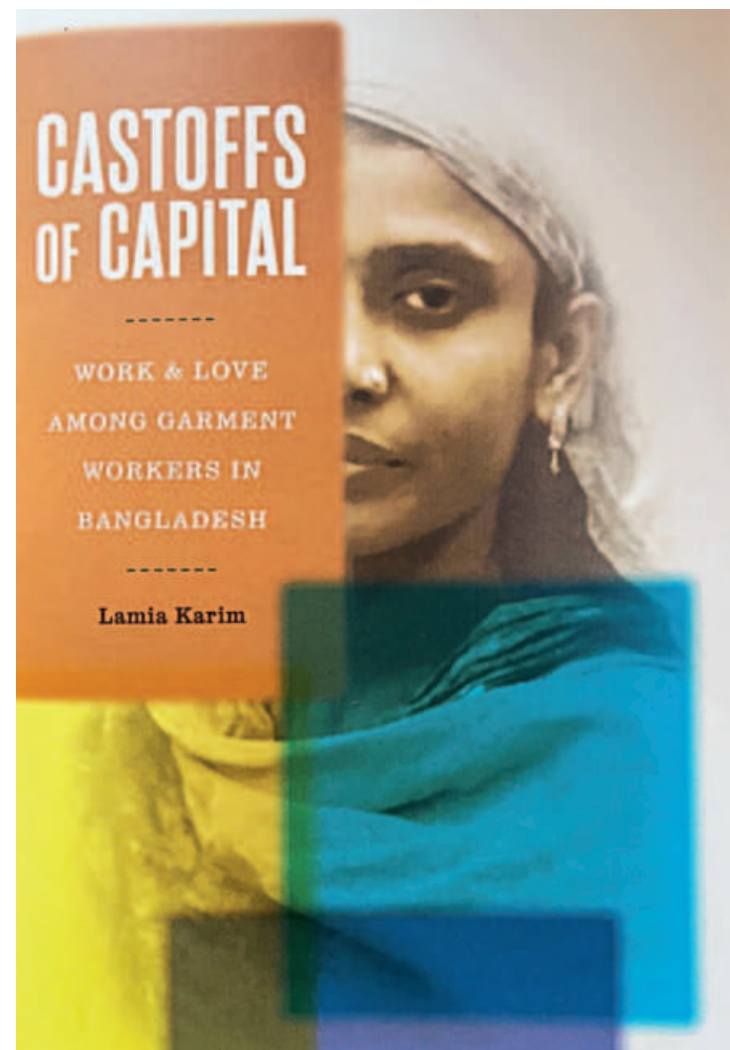
business to competing countries revealed a prevailing belief in their logistical advantages. However, as evidenced by the presence of garments labeled "Made in Ethiopia" in H&M stores, capital will invariably pursue profit at the expense of workers unless robust unionization efforts are undertaken. Such collective action represents a crucial avenue for genuine empowerment and systemic change.

I would recommend diversification from the garment industry to other sectors, and to invest in the domestic market. Here I am arguing for import substitution, so we are not wholly dependent on the vicissitudes of the global economy. While China has transitioned from low-wage apparel manufacturing to high-value sectors such as semiconductor processing, Bangladesh remains stuck on its garment industry. The nation's economic landscape necessitates a forward-looking approach, emphasizing diversification away from apparel manufacturing and the training of workers for more sustainable employment opportunities. But there is an intangible paradox here between the welfare of workers and the welfare of capital. The logic of capitalism is to chase lowest production costs across the globe, devouring the poor and dispossessed on its journey. To harness unfettered capitalism, one needs a systemic change to the economic structure. I do not see that on the horizon.

My goal in writing *Castoffs of Capital* was to humanize these women, to glimpse their world through their eyes, as they graciously allowed me into their lives. I envisioned a future where a Western consumer, poised to purchase a simple tee-shirt or a pair of jeans, could not only see the garment but also feel the pulse of those who made it. I wanted them to visualize the women, to empathize with their stories, and to reflect on the profound consequences of their consumer choices. In this way, I hoped to weave a deeper understanding of the interlocking human tapestry that sustains our global economy.

My heartfelt thanks to *Kormojibi Nari* who assisted me with the research on older workers.

The interview was taken by Priyam Paul of The Daily Star



sector pioneered by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus and the overseas apparel production industry. Both sectors have emerged as prominent examples of women's work as empowerment, a debatable point, within the framework of neoliberal capitalism. Therefore, I perceive my intellectual trajectory not as a shift but as a natural progression of my scholarly pursuits.

TDS: How do you interpret the trajectory of the garment sector in Bangladesh, which originated from a global capitalist restructuring that heavily relied on exploiting cheap labor, and incidents of so many accidents eventually evolving



King Kohli ROARS BACK

Batting maestro Virat Kohli wound back the clock with a sensational masterclass against Australia in the first Test on Sunday, but it was Yashviji Jaiswal who showed the world what the next decade of Indian batsmanship might look like. Australia trail by 522 runs on day three in Perth, crumbling to 12-3 at stumps after India piled on 487-6 declared, courtesy of 161 from Jaiswal and 100 not out from Kohli.

- Star Indian batter Virat Kohli's unbeaten 143-ball 100 yesterday was his 10th century across formats in Australia, the most by a visiting batter.
- It was also Kohli's seventh Test hundred in Australia -- tied for second-most by a visiting batter with English batter Wally Hammond in the land down under. England's Jack Hobbs holds the record for most Test centuries (9) by an overseas batter in Australia.
- Kohli is also tied with Sunil Gavaskar in terms of most Test hundreds in an away country. Gavaskar scored seven Test tons in the Windies.
- After being bundled out for 150 in the first innings, India piled up a mammoth 487/6d in the second innings. The 337-run improvement is the second-biggest for India in Tests, coming right after the Headingley Test in 1967 against England in which India saw an improvement of 346 runs between their first innings score of 164 and a second innings score of 510.
- Yashviji Jaiswal and KL Rahul's 201-run opening stand is the highest for India in Australia, eclipsing the previous best -- a 191-run opening stand -- set by Sunil Gavaskar and Kris Srikkanth in Sydney in 1986.

"I'm not a guy who hangs around for the sake of it. I take pride in performing for the country,"

said Kohli after hitting his 30th Test century.

"I think it's just about the batters sticking to their plans tomorrow, batting some time. And if some guys find some form and score 80, 90 or 100, that's probably the positives we can take out of it,"

said Australian speedster Josh Hazlewood on what Australia now expect from the game.

Dhaka beat Rajshahi inside two days in NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Anamul Haque completed his second five-for to help Dhaka Division clinch victory by an innings and 11 runs against Rajshahi Division inside two days during their sixth round match of the National Cricket League at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura yesterday.

Anamul finished with 5-54 in Rajshahi's second innings to take his tally to 32 in the ongoing season, while another pacer, Ripon Mondol, claimed 3-20 to bowl their opponents for 128 to move to second spot in the league table with 25 points.

Resuming on overnight score of 18-1, Rajshahi batters could survive only 24 overs on Day Two. They had scored only 42 runs in their first innings before Dhaka, in reply, made 181 runs on Day One.

At the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, fifties from Amite Hasan (56), Mubin Ahmed (53) and Nasum Ahmed (53) helped league leaders Sylhet Division reach 217 for six in reply to Barishal



Division's first innings total of 304 runs.

Earlier, Barishal added 46 runs to their overnight score of 258-7. For Sylhet, pacer Rejaur Rahman Raja finished with 5-69, his third five-for in first-class cricket.

At the other Sylhet venue, Khulna took a 40-run lead after reaching 56-1 at stumps in their second innings against Chattogram Division.

Earlier, Chattogram, who had resumed on 31 without loss, saw opener Parvez Hossain Emon make a brilliant 107 off 139 balls -- his maiden first-class ton -- while Irfan Sukkur scored 40 before Chattogram posted 220 runs to take a narrow 16-run lead in the first innings.

For Khulna, pacer Mehedi Hasan Rana, who was playing his first first-class game after more than two years, claimed 5-65 while another pacer, Masum Khan Tutul, finished with 4-32.

At Cox's Bazar Academy Ground, Mohammad Naim struck a career-best 180 off 285 balls while Marshall Ayub made 61 as Dhaka Metro scored a massive 475 runs in their first innings against Rangpur Division after resuming on 276-2.

Rangpur lost both openers in the first over to pacer Mehedi Hasan before finishing the day at 32-2.

Rodri is a great footballer... he deserves a Ballon d'Or, but not this year. This year they rewarded him for his performance last season... he deserved to win last year, when he won the treble with Manchester City,

Real Madrid chief Florentino Perez railed against the Ballon d'Or voting and organisers during Los Blancos' annual general meeting on Sunday, in which he also lashed out at European and world football governing bodies UEFA and FIFA.



Zimbabwe stun Pakistan in ODI series opener

REUTERS

Zimbabwe upset Pakistan in the opening clash of their three-match One Day International series, winning by 80 runs on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern system at Queens Sports Club on Sunday.

The home side, put into bat, were in trouble at 125-7 halfway through their innings before Pakistan-born Sikandar Raza (39) and left-handed tailender Richard Ngarava (48) put on 62 runs for the eighth wicket to help Zimbabwe to 205 before they were bowled out with nine overs left.



Debutant left arm wrist spinner Faisal Akram took 3-24 while offspinner Salman Agha returned figures of 3-42.

Zimbabwe quick Blessing Muzarabani removed Pakistan's openers cheaply and the wickets continued to tumble in a feeble batting display as they slumped to 60-6 off 21 overs before heavy rain arrived.

The two teams meet again in Bulawayo on Tuesday and Thursday.

IPL auction records tumble in Jeddah

AFP, Riyadh

Indian wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant became the most expensive player in Indian Premier League history Sunday when he sold for a record \$3.2 million, as teams splashed out on world-class cricketers for the lucrative Twenty20 tournament.

A total of 577 players are up for grabs at the two-day auction in Jeddah, with Pant, England veteran James Anderson and New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra among the top names.

The 2023 record of 247.5 million rupees Kolkata paid to Australian Mitchell Star was first breached by Punjab Kings, who the IPL said snapped up Shreyas Iyer for a "handsome" 267.5 million rupees (\$3.17 million).

Iyer, 29, captained Kolkata Knight Riders to their third IPL crown this year. But that record rapidly tumbled.

The IPL reported Lucknow Super Giants paid a "gigantic" 270 million rupees for 27-year-old star keeper Rishabh Pant.

The auction started on a sizzling note when Indian quick Arshdeep Singh's name began a bidding war, which ended with Punjab getting the left-arm pace bowler for \$2.13 million.

This year, Australian left-arm quick Star was not retained by Kolkata -- and went to Delhi Capitals for \$1.39 million.

Gujarat Titans paid \$1.87 million for England white-ball skipper Jos Buttler,



IPL 2025 TOP 10 BUYS

- Rishabh Pant to Lucknow, Rs 27 cr
- Shreyas Iyer to Punjab, Rs 26.75 cr
- Venkatesh Iyer to Kolkata, Rs 23.75 cr
- Arshdeep Singh to Punjab, Rs 18 cr
- Yuzvendra Chahal to Punjab, Rs 18 cr
- Jos Buttler to Gujarat, Rs 15.75 cr
- KL Rahul to Delhi, Rs 14 cr
- Josh Hazlewood to Bengaluru, Rs 12.50 cr
- Jofra Archer to Rajasthan, Rs 12.50 cr
- Trent Boult to Mumbai, Rs 12.50 cr

while India pace bowler Mohammed Shami went to Sunrisers Hyderabad for \$1.18 million.

Shami, 34, has recovered from a foot injury and is expected to join the Test team in the ongoing series in Australia.

Before bidding began, Rajasthan Royals coach Rahul Dravid said managers had done the groundwork but bidding on the day meant nothing could be taken for granted.

"You can prepare... you have a lot of discussions around the players and the tactics that you might employ," Dravid said, according to the IPL.

"But being realistic, you have to be able to think on your feet a little bit."

Punjab Kings coach Ricky Ponting, the former Australia skipper, said there was "huge excitement" but keeping cool during the bidding was critical.

"I think being really really calm, and really clear, at the auction table is a really important thing," Ponting said.

The IPL has generated billions in revenue since its inception in 2008, turning the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) into one of the richest governing bodies in sport.

In June 2022 it sold the broadcast rights for five IPL seasons to global media giants for \$6.2 billion.

Dates for next year's IPL have not been released but seasons usually run from March to May.

A dip or deeper decline?

AFP, Manchester

Pep Guardiola said he expected a slip in Manchester City's standards sooner or later but even he has been shocked by the English champions' implosion in a five-game losing streak.

After losing four consecutive matches for the first time in his decorated managerial career, Guardiola backed himself to turn the situation around by signing a two-year extension to his contract on Thursday.

Just 48 hours later, the positivity that deal created was punctured as City were humbled 4-0 by Tottenham to lose at



home for the first time in 52 matches.

A side that has created history by winning an unprecedented four Premier League titles is now caught in a negative spiral.

Guardiola conceded his star-studded squad are "fragile" and low on confidence after a run that also included defeats to Bournemouth and Brighton, either side of a 4-1 Champions League thrashing by Sporting Lisbon.

"Being here for eight years, I knew that sooner or later we would drop," said the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss.

There remains plenty of time in the season for Guardiola's men to arrest their decline.

However, there are serious questions whether they have the personnel or physical capacity to do so after years of

going deep into the well every season.

Before kick-off against Tottenham, Rodri was welcomed back to the Etihad for the first time since winning the Ballon d'Or, awarded to the world's best player over the previous year.

It was once the action began that City really showed just how fundamental he has been to their success in recent years.

Rodri suffered a season-ending knee injury in September's 2-2 draw against Arsenal and City's title aspirations looked to have disappeared with him.

Since the start of last season, City have lost once in 53 matches with Rodri and nine in 25 without.

Kevin De Bruyne made his return from a two-month injury layoff in the closing stages against Spurs but at 33 is now regularly sidelined by fitness issues.

And the pace that made captain Kyle Walker one of the Premier League's finest ever right-backs is now beginning to fade as Timo Werner tore past the England defender to set up Brennan Johnson's fourth goal for Tottenham.

The decision to sell Julian Alvarez to Atletico Madrid for £82 million (\$103 million) and not replace the Argentine looks increasingly misguided.

There is little back up to Erling Haaland as a goal threat. The Norwegian has carried the burden with 15 goals, while no one else has more than three.

Worse could be to come as City travel to Premier League leaders Liverpool next weekend.

Verstappen 'never thought' he'd win four world titles

AFP, Las Vegas

Max Verstappen admitted he "never thought" he would win four world titles after wrapping up the 2024 Formula One championship under the Las Vegas lights.

Verstappen's success ushered him into an elite club alongside Juan Manuel Fangio, Michael Schumacher, Sebastian Vettel, Lewis Hamilton and Alain Prost as a four-time champion.

Seven wins in the opening 10 races launched Verstappen to this success, but he needed to overcome a mid-season run of ten without a win before victory in a rain-hit race in Brazil set up his fourth title.

"At 17, I was just happy to be there and dreaming of potential victories and standing on the podium, just normal things that are already very difficult to achieve," said the Dutchman whose fifth-place race finish in Las Vegas was enough to guarantee the title.

"It was a very challenging season and for me also as a person at times it was very challenging and I had to be calm. In a way I still prefer last season, I enjoyed it a lot, but I think this season it

has taught me a lot of lessons.

"I am very proud of us as a team and in a way that makes it a very special and beautiful season. It's been so competitive this time. A special season. A beautiful season."

Verstappen also ruled out speculation that he may leave Red Bull, the team which has nurtured his talent and taken him to the top of the sport.

"For me, I'm just very proud to be part of the team and we are now celebrating our fourth world title together. There's nothing else on my mind."

Verstappen has been on top of the world championship in an unbroken run since the Spanish Grand Prix in 2022.

"It's incredible, he's done an amazing job,"

said Red Bull team chief Christian Horner. "He's been outstanding all year and we are just very proud of him."

"He's won eight Grand Prix and the championship with two races to spare and you can't ask for more than that."

Norris, who pushed Verstappen to the limit in the second half of the season, was sixth in the race, a place behind his rival.



- Pep Guardiola lost a home game by four goals for just the second time in his managerial career with this Manchester City's heaviest home defeat in any competition since February 2003.
- Guardiola has now lost to Tottenham more often than any other opponent (9).
- Man City are the first reigning English top-flight champions to lose five games in a row in all competitions since Chelsea in March 1956.
- This was just the third time a team has won away against the reigning Premier League champions by four or more goals.

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LDC GRADUATION

Bangladesh to face substantial losses

Finds govt strategy paper; decision on graduation to come soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decision on whether Bangladesh will graduate to the developing country bracket in 2026 will be taken shortly, said the finance adviser to the interim government yesterday.

The issue will be discussed with other important persons including the chief adviser in the cabinet soon, said Salehuddin Ahmed, finance adviser, at a discussion organised by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) at the InterContinental Hotel in Dhaka.

"I will not say more as you will learn about it within a few days," he said, adding that there are some challenges in graduation.

Although Bangladesh passed all three UN criteria to become a developing nation in 2021, the country can choose to delay graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) bracket, said a finance ministry official.

At the meeting, Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, national consultant on LDC graduation, presented a study on Bangladesh's strategy for a smooth transition.

LDC graduation could lower exports by 14.3 percent in a year as the country's shipments would be subjected to a 6.7 percent tariff, as per the study.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed administers the oath of office to newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge yesterday. Four other election commissioners were also sworn in by the chief justice.

PHOTO: PTI

Disband the new EC

Demands Jatiya Nagorik Committee, urges govt to form EC based on polls reform commission's proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Nagorik Committee yesterday demanded the dissolution of the recently formed Election Commission, replacing it with one based on the proposals to be submitted by the Election Reform Commission.

"The government has been compelled by political parties to form the election commission before the Election Reform Commission submitted its proposals. Such an act is tantamount to betraying the commitment of the mass uprising," said Samanta Sharmin, spokesperson of the platform, at a press briefing at the nagorik committee's office in the capital's Bangla Motor area.

The platform rejected the formation and swearing in of the commission, saying that the new EC was formed under the fascist framework of the illegitimate president and demanded abolishing the Election Commissioners Appointment Act, 2022.

"We are surprised to see that the current interim government formed a search committee for the Election Commission under that law. Whereas repealing that law after the July uprising would have been logical," said Samanta.

Students and people from all walks of life are stakeholders in the mass uprising, she said, adding that the chief adviser cannot make such decisions only by consulting with political parties.

"We want the chief adviser and other advisers to ensure that their decision-making reflects the aspirations of the mass uprising... We hope he understands the message from students and the youth, and responds to their call."

Noting that the government has already exceeded the scope and limits of a caretaker government by staying in power for more than three months, Samanta further said to establish the government's legitimacy as an active one,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Govt should set up minority commission

Say speakers, slam exclusion of indigenous communities from reform commissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an event yesterday criticised the exclusion of indigenous communities from reform commissions and demanded a dedicated minority commission to address concerns specific to those communities.

They also called for constitutional recognition of the indigenous communities to ensure the rights they are entitled to as citizens of the country.

They made the statements at a discussion titled "The Condition of Indigenous People in Bangladesh and the Way Forward," organised at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka by the Kapaeng Foundation, a human rights organisation.

Addressing the event, Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, demanded the abolishment of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) ministry and suggested it be replaced with a diversity commission.

He said the ministry had failed in its duty toward indigenous people.

"The Chittagong Hill Tracts Ministry, established under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, has completely failed to protect the rights of indigenous people. It should be abolished... The ministry has become development-centric, subjecting indigenous people to majority rule."

He further criticised the ministry for focusing on infrastructure projects that erode indigenous heritage and culture rather than prioritising the rights of local communities.

Iftekharuzzaman, who also serves as the head of the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission, emphasised the importance of constitutional recognition for

"The rights of indigenous people would never be upheld unless all citizens viewed their struggles as a collective national concern."

Iftekharuzzaman
executive director of TIB.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Tigers in trouble after Mominul, Liton fail to cash in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh found themselves in trouble at 165-5 after the end of the second session on Day 3 of the first Test against the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua today as two of their set batters - Mominul Haque and Liton Das - failed to capitalise on their solid starts.

The duo put together a flourishing 62-run stand but Mominul's vigil in the middle came to a premature end right after he reached his half-century.

The left-handed batter, who put away three fours for his 116-ball 50, got trapped lbw when he tried to flick a full-length delivery bowled by Jayden Seales.

Liton (76-ball 40) could not make it big either as he became pacer Shamir Joseph's first victim when he chopped one onto the stumps.

The Windies bowlers seized the initiative with persistent pressure, while the Tigers, behind by 245 runs at Tea, let the opportunity slip on a good wicket.

Hezbollah fires 160 projectiles at Israel

11 people hurt; one Lebanese soldier killed, 18 others hurt in Israeli strike

AFP, Beirut

Israel's army said Hezbollah fired around 160 projectiles into its territory from Lebanon yesterday, with the group saying its attacks had targeted the Tel Aviv area and Israel's south.

The Iran-backed group said in a statement that it had "launched, for the first time, an aerial attack using a swarm of attack drones on the Ashdod naval base" in southern Israel.



Later, it said it fired "a barrage of advanced missiles and a swarm of attack drones" at a "military target" in Tel Aviv, and had also launched a volley of missiles at the Gilot army intelligence base in the city's suburbs.

The Israeli military did not comment on the specific attack claims when contacted by AFP. But it said earlier that air raid sirens had sounded in several locations in central and northern Israel, including in the greater Tel Aviv suburbs.

It later reported that "approximately 160 projectiles that were fired by the Hezbollah have crossed from Lebanon into Israel". Some of the projectiles were shot down.

Medical agencies reported that at least 11 people were wounded, including a man in a "moderate to serious" condition.

In southern Lebanon, the Lebanese army said an Israeli strike on a post killed a soldier.

"One soldier was martyred, and 18 others were injured, including some with severe wounds, as a result of an Israeli attack targeting a Lebanese army centre in Amriyeh," the army said in a statement.

The Lebanon Ministry of Health said an Israeli drone targeted an ambulance as it was heading to Ain Baal for a rescue operation. When a second ambulance rushed to the scene of the attack, it was also pursued and targeted by an Israeli drone.

BRIBERY CLAIMS US SEC issues summons for Adani, nephew

REUTERS

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has issued a summons to Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, indicted on US bribery allegations related to a bombshell federal indictment against him, a court filing showed.

The SEC is suing the head of the Adani Group and his nephew Sagar Adani, alleging they engaged in hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to help an Adani company while "falsely touting the company's compliance with anti-bribery principles and laws in connection with a \$750 million bond offering."

The summons requires an answer within 21 days, according to the filing dated Wednesday in federal court in the Eastern District of New York. The SEC suit seeks unspecified monetary penalties and restrictions on the Adanis from serving as officers of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



This car was badly damaged when students from different colleges carried out vandalism inside the Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College campus in Old Dhaka yesterday during protests against an alleged attack on their peers from Dr Mahbubur Rahman Mollah College situated in the Jatrabari area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SPINNING PLANT FOR SALE

A reputed company intends to sale ongoing 55,000 spindles Spinning plant on 8.88 acres of land located at Narshingdi.

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- Gas Connection from Titas approved and 33 KV electric connection obtained.

Interested parties may contact
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