



Stop cyberbullying, misinformation targeting women
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Russia launches drones, missiles across Ukraine
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Mindless mayhem

Around 100 injured as students of 3 colleges clash, ransack campus of one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The clashes between students of three colleges continued yesterday, leaving over 100 injured in the capital's Jatrabari.

Hundreds of students from Shaheed Suhrawardy College and Kabi Nazrul College, armed with sticks, iron rods, and sharp weapons, stormed Dr Mahbubur Rahman Mollah College (DMRC) around noon, witnesses said.

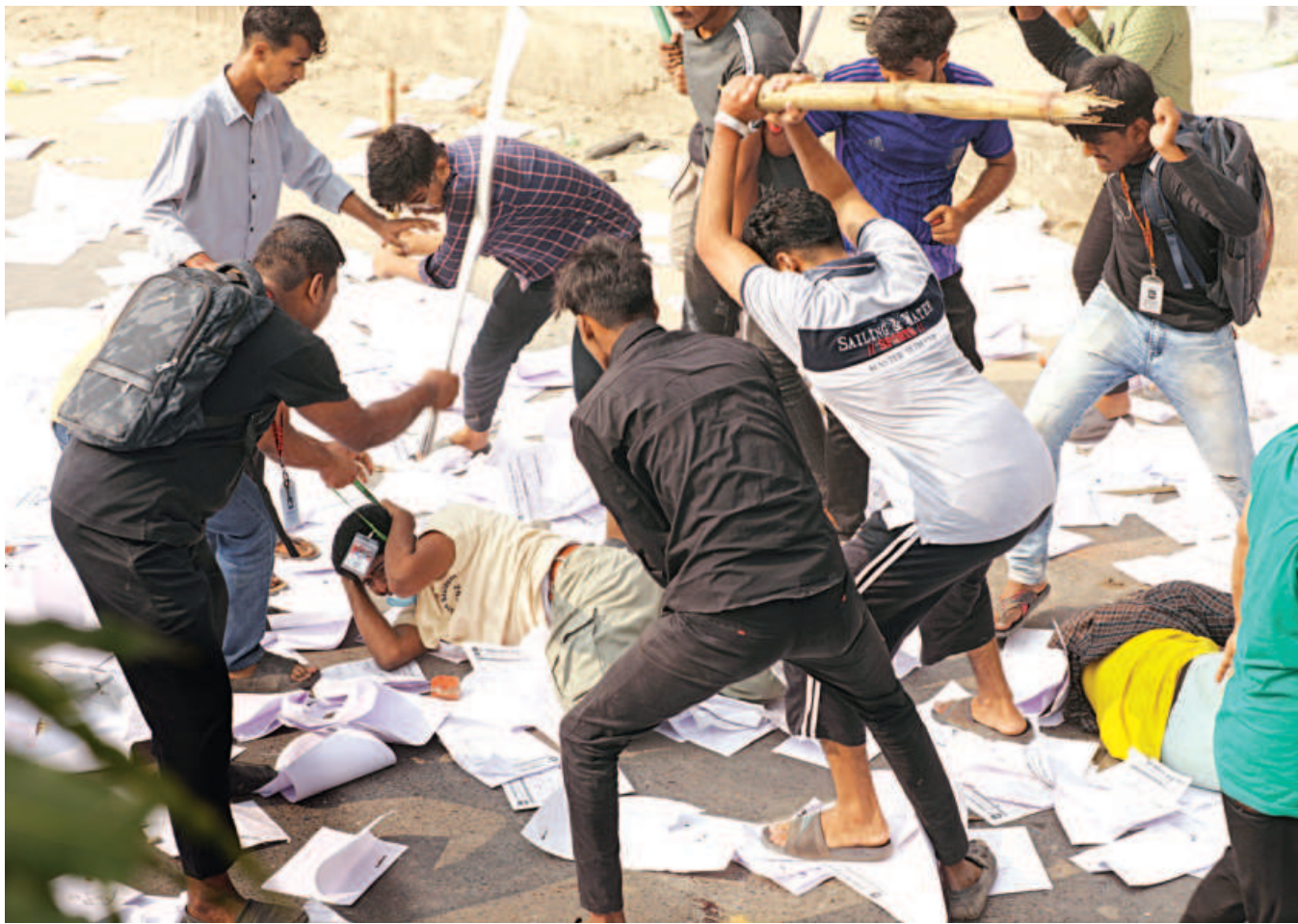
Nearly 300 DMRC students who were at the entrance of the college in anticipation of the attack were chased away by those from the two other colleges -- both government institutions in Old Dhaka. They assaulted 15-20 DMRC students.

Nearly 1,000 marauding students then entered the 11-story DMRC building and damaged everything on their path, set fire to furniture, damaged documents and looted cash, computers, and laptops, said six witnesses.

They ransacked the library, tore hundreds of books,

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Marauding students set fire to furniture, looted cash, computers, and laptops, and trashed the library.



A student being beaten up while another (in yellow shirt) lies motionless. Around 100 people were injured when students of Government Suhrawardy College and Kabi Nazrul Government College launched an attack on the Mahbubur Rahman Mollah College in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Plot afoot to create unrest

Govt suspects, warns against vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government believes that the chaos and vandalism in different parts of the capital that happened in the last two days may be part of a bigger plan.

Two advisers of the interim government spoke at a briefing of the chief adviser's press wing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"It is not a coincidence that so many incidents happened in just one day," said Nahid Islam, information adviser.

"Many do not want to see the government function successfully," he said.

Attacks, vandalism and battery will not be tolerated, he said.

Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said law enforcers did not show heavy-handedness in preventing clashes between students in Old Dhaka and Jatrabari to avoid a direct confrontation with the pupils.

"We admit that police may have shown weaknesses in acting against the students," he said.

"You know that the police are in the middle of the process of reforms. As so many students were engaged in clashes,

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Govt will carry out sweeping labour reforms

Yunus tells US delegation

STAR REPORT

The government is committed to carrying out sweeping labour reforms in an effort to attract more foreign buyers to the country, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus said yesterday.

He made the comments at his office in Dhaka's Tejgaon when a US labour and brand delegation called on him to discuss labour issues, the Chief Adviser's Office said in a statement.

"We want to make our labour laws at par with global standards. It is my commitment," Prof Yunus told the delegation.

He said the interim government appointed a special envoy only to reform the country's labour laws and to address the concerns raised by local and international labour rights groups, the International Labour Organization and

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Students to launch a party by next Feb

Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and Jatiya Nagorik Committee will jointly lead the process, say leaders of the two platforms

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Student leaders who spearheaded the July-August mass uprising are planning to launch a political party by early February 2025 and contest the next general election.

The new party will be centred on a balanced approach, avoiding leftist or rightist views. It will adhere to international standards and consider the reality of Bangladesh while addressing any issues.

Leaders of the civic and student platforms the Jatiya Nagorik Committee and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement will lead the new party.

However, the two platforms will not be dissolved. They will continue to work as "pressure groups".

Three top leaders of the two platforms shared their plan to launch the political party with The Daily Star. They did not want to disclose their identity since the matter was still at the planning stage.

They said the new party will have leaders from various other political parties and representatives from the civil society.

The leaders of the two platforms will not be directly involved, but some of them will participate in elections.

"Those who are interested in joining the political party from the two platforms will be incorporated into the party," one of the leaders said.

The two platforms are now forming district- and institution-level committees.

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To contest the next general election, student leaders have already started to reach out to potential candidates in each constituency.

Press freedom faces serious attack: Noab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday expressed concern over continued attacks on the freedom of the media.

Strongly condemning the recent sit-ins, attacks, and vandalism in front of the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star offices, Noab said such attempts to "create chaos" were disrupting the practice and environment of journalism.

"If anyone has objections to any news or the editorial policy of a particular newspaper, they can clarify their intellectual stance and views through writing," Noab said in a media statement, signed by its President AK Azad.

According to the statement, some individuals over the last few days attempted to create

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Won't tolerate attack on media

Says information adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not stand for any newspaper office or the shut down of any media outlet through the use of force, Information Adviser Nahid Islam has said.

"Those involved in vandalising newspaper offices and intimidating the media will be brought to book," he said at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"There was tension regarding the Prothom Alo over the last few days. Tension was created in front of its Dhaka office yesterday [Sunday]. The newspaper's Rajshahi office came under attack today [yesterday]. Besides, demonstrations took place in different parts of the country, including in Chattogram and Brahmanbaria [in this connection]."

A group of people also demonstrated in front of The Daily Star office on Friday.

"Our position is that if a section of people has any complaint about a media outlet, they can express their resentment peacefully. We don't support vandalising any newspaper office or putting pressure on one to shut it.

"We will not tolerate any such incident in the future."

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BNP on same page with govt on reforms

Tarique says bid on to create division among people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the party has no differences of opinion with the interim government over the ongoing reform initiatives.

"Reforms first or elections first? Those who raise such questions to create confusion among the people have ulterior motives," he said while virtually addressing the annual general meeting of the Dhaka Union of Journalists at the Jatiya Press Club.

"The BNP believes that reforms are not something that can be completed. One initiates reforms, but another carries them forward. Reforms are an ongoing process," he said.

Tarique said ousted autocrat Sheikh Hasina and her accomplices were trying to make a comeback by using various tactics.

"These evil forces, both inside and outside the country, are engaged in efforts to create misunderstandings among the pro-Bangladeshi forces," he said.

"But I strongly believe that if we remain vigilant, there will be no room for misunderstandings," he added.

Speaking from London, the BNP leader also said his

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Over a year ago, a part of this residential building was knocked down during an eviction drive to reclaim an old channel of the Buriganga in the capital's Kamrangirchar. With no repairs made since then, people are still residing in the building, exposing themselves to potential danger. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BUSINESS

Govt to speed up dev spending

The interim government is going to ask ministries to accelerate the implementation of ongoing development projects, Planning Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said, as he believes this would help avert a further economic slowdown.

Citing how the economy is facing turbulence such as political turmoil, labour unrest, expensive loans and stubbornly high inflation, the adviser yesterday said that it was time for policy adjustments.

This came a day after the government reported at least 14-year low development spending in the July-October period of this fiscal year.

STORY ON B1



Hundreds of students of Government Suhrawardy College and Kabi Nazrul Government College yesterday stormed Dr Mahbubur Rahman Mollah College in the capital's Jatrabari and vandalised the institution. They also looted many valuables, including chairs, books, laptops and other electronics.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Prothom Alo Rajshahi, Bogura offices attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of people attempted to create chaos in front of the Prothom Alo's head office in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

The situation was also chaotic with provocative speeches delivered against the Bangla daily in Chattogram, Sylhet, Barishal, Chandpur, Munshiganj, and Jahangirnagar University.

The newspaper's office in Bogura came under attack last night.

In the capital, chaos ensued outside the Prothom Alo's head office as a group of people chanted slogans and blocked roads, continuing the bedlam until around 4:45pm.

Police on Sunday evening detained five people from the same area. Later that day, the detainees were released on bond.

In Rajshahi, a group of people vandalised the Prothom Alo's regional office in the city's Kumarpara and set fire to its sign yesterday afternoon.

Under the banner of "Alem Olama and Tauhidi Janata, Rajshahi", they gathered at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point. They later marched towards the Prothom Alo office, tried to break in and threw brick chunks at it.

The attackers also burned copies of the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in front of the office.

Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, said he was unaware of the sign being broken or set on fire.

However, after videos of the incident were sent to his phone, he did not receive calls from a journalist.

In Bogura, some unidentified people attacked the Prothom Alo's local office in the town's Jolshwaritola around 10:40pm.

According to witnesses, about 15 people on five-six motorbikes reached the office. They hurled brick chunks and stones at the office, leaving a window pane broken.

The attackers also vandalised the digital sign of the office.

Chaos was also observed in Chandpur, where a group of people gathered at Hasan Ali Government High School playground yesterday afternoon. They chanted slogans against the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star.

Agitators took out processions, formed human chains, and delivered provocative speeches against the two newspapers in Chattogram, Sylhet, Barishal, Chandpur and Munshiganj.

Press freedom

FROM PAGE 1

chaos by taking position on the road in front of the Prothom Alo's main office in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

"Later, law enforcers dispersed those individuals. However, such activities continued yesterday [Sunday] as well."

The association called upon the government to take stern action against mob justice that targeted different institutions, including media outlets.

It also urged all the parties concerned to refrain from activities that are contrary to the freedom of the media.

Students to launch

FROM PAGE 1

On October 22, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement formed a four-member convening committee with Hasnat Abdullah, Arif Sohel, Abdul Hannan Masud and Umama Fatima as members.

The student platform and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee have so far announced 12 and 15 district-level committees respectively.

According to their plan, the new party will contest the upcoming national election and rope in heavyweight candidates who have the potential to win.

They have already started reaching out to potential candidates in each constituency.

"Our target is to field national figures as candidates, and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee is also working on how to create more national faces," a top leader of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee told The Daily Star.

"To achieve this, we are grooming leaders in each constituency. By following these strategies, we aim to participate in the upcoming elections and secure victories," he said.

They initially plan to announce a central convening committee of the party and gradually complete forming committees at district and upazila levels before the next election.

The leaders of the two platforms said they seek to break away from divisive politics and binary narratives that have dominated Bangladesh for decades.

Their party will focus on agenda-driven politics and addressing critical issues like unemployment, economic development, and national unity.

"We want a political discourse centred on how to improve the lives

Won't tolerate attack

FROM PAGE 1

"People have the right to assembly. If anyone has any specific complaint [against a media outlet], they can take legal actions. We call upon the people not to take part in any anarchic activity, and to refrain from doing anything that would taint the image of Bangladesh."

In a Facebook post, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday condemned the attack on the Prothom Alo's Rajshahi office.

"I condemn with the strongest terms the attack on the Prothom Alo office at Rajshahi. If you have complaints against the journalism of the Prothom Alo, The Daily Star, or any other media outlets, you can go to courts to seek legal redress. You can also hold peaceful protests. Protests against media outlets aren't new. It has been going on for centuries. But threats

Plot afoot to create unrest

FROM PAGE 1

the police wanted to prevent them without a direct confrontation."

Asif Mahmud said if police attacked the students, it could create an untoward incident. Now, however, the situation is under control.

Those who attacked the colleges will be brought to book, he added.

Asif also said the government is probing the weaknesses in the police force and will take necessary actions, including transfers.

The government is also in the process of recruiting about 1,400 sub-inspectors and 4,500 constables, he added.

In the past, he said, police would generally use rubber or live bullets in handling riots. They are now moving away from that approach. They will be

of the people and create jobs, moving away from the politics of division," said a leader of the Nagorik Committee.

He said they were stressing the need for a party rooted in "the spirit of the 1947, 1971, and 2024 movements".

They also want to ensure inclusivity, especially for women who constitute half the population.

"A truly functional democracy requires active participation of women at all levels, not just in passive roles," he said.

The new political force will uphold democratic values by ensuring accountability, even for itself, the leader said.

He assured that if the party deviates into authoritarianism or fascism, the Nagorik Committee will hold it accountable.

However, members joining the new party must sever ties with any existing political organisation and be willing to critique past wrongdoings of that party.

Nasiruddin Patwary, convener of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said that his organisation is primarily a platform for civil society, functioning as a pressure group.

"It will continue to operate the same way in the future," he told The Daily Star.

He acknowledged that they were considering forming a political party, but did not mention any particular plan.

"The key point here is that the people of Bangladesh want to see a political force led by the youth. There is a scope for this. Taking that into consideration, some of us, along with many others from outside, are considering forming a political party."

and intimidation of journalists or attacking media outlets will not be tolerated," he said.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM) and the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) have also expressed concerns over recent protests outside the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, in Dhaka and Chattogram.

BJIM is particularly troubled by the implications for the safety and security of journalists working at Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, according to a press release issued yesterday.

BJIM, an advocacy group for press freedom, urged protesters to express their concerns peacefully and constructively.

"Refrain from actions that could provoke or threaten any members of the press," it stated.

trained in a new approach as per the international standard.

The chief adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the interim government, following public expectation, has moved away from the protocol followed by the police in handling riots.

"None wants the police to even baton-charge demonstrators," he said.

Nahid called upon the people to bring forward their demands through proper channels instead of taking to the streets and creating public suffering.

In the aftermath of the July-August mass uprising, people have got new freedom and are making demands to claim their rights, but they need to do it constructively, he said.

Mindless mayhem

FROM PAGE 1

and broke most of the glass windows and doors.

As they were leaving the building, locals along with DMRC students clashed with them, said a resident named Amir Hossain.

The groups threw pieces of bricks at each other, leaving 70 to 80 people injured and damaging properties in the vicinity.

Many of the injured were treated at hospitals and clinics in Demra. Thirty-five students, mostly from Suhrawardy College and Kabi Nazrul College went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment. Three of them needed inpatient care.

Later in the day, DMRC Principal Obaidullah Nayan issued a statement requesting the authorities to ensure justice, students' safety, and recovery of looted assets and damaged documents.

He told reporters that the students took away 20-30 laptops, computers, damaged many certificates, laboratories, security cameras and five lifts. The damage done to the institution could be worth around Tk 60 to Tk 70 crore, according to him.

In the statement, Principal Nayan also alleged students of other colleges than Suhrawardy and Kabi Nazrul, and a group of outsiders entered the building to cause massive destruction.

Muktadir Mamun, a wounded DMRC student, said, "Everyone knew they would attack our college. Many policemen were only half a kilometre away. We called them, but they did not come."

Salah Uddin, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Wari division, denied the allegations of police's inactivity as false.

"We tried our best to stop the clash, but did not succeed fully, as several thousand students gathered and carried out the attack," he added.

Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud said the interim government will accept any logical demand of the students, but no unjustified demand will be



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus with the delegation of US Special Representative for International Labor Affairs and Department of Labor at his office in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

BNP on same page

FROM PAGE 1

"These evil forces, both inside and outside the country, are engaged in efforts to create misunderstandings among the pro-Bangladeshi forces," he said.

"But I strongly believe that if we remain vigilant, there will be no room for misunderstandings," he added.

Speaking from London, the BNP leader also said his party believes in reform, but it also believes that it is essential to hold free and fair elections without any bias within a reasonable timeframe.

"The interim government has already reconstituted the Election Commission. We believe this is a significant step towards forming an elected parliament and government, with representatives chosen through the people's vote."

BNP Standing Committee member Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, and Joint Secretary General Shaheeduddin Chowdury Anee, among others, spoke at the programme.

Govt will carry out

FROM PAGE 1

Western nations.

The delegation was led by Thea Mei Lee, the deputy undersecretary of the US Department of Labor, and Kelly Fay Rodriguez, special representative for international labor affairs.

The US officials said their country, global labour rights groups, and top international brands that buy clothing and footwear from Bangladesh back Prof Yunus's move to reform labour laws and create worker-friendly conditions.

"All of these are wonderful testaments," said Rodriguez, referring to what the interim government has done for the labour sector in the past three and a half months, including the 18-point agreement signed between the government and the local unions.

The US officials called for union rights in the factories and reviews of wages every year to cushion millions of garment and footwear workers from inflationary pressures.

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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Institutions failing to ensure justice Says MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The progress in addressing violence against women and children in Bangladesh has been slow, said Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in a statement yesterday.

MJF issued the statement on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The organisation expressed strong concern over the slow progress and condemned the existing ineffective structures designed to combat such violence.

The organisation expressed strong concern over the slow progress and condemned the existing ineffective structures designed to combat such violence.

The statement highlighted that women and girls continue to face significant insecurity, with reports of rape, gang rape, and other forms of sexual assault on the rise.

MJF called for a stronger commitment from the state to ensure the security of women and girls and to prevent violence and child marriage by making local committees functional and accountable.

The statement also said current institutions and legal frameworks have failed to ensure justice for survivors, with



the conviction rate for rape remaining low at just 2-3 percent.

MJF also demanded the launch of a national campaign to challenge victim-blaming and promote respect for women.

Women and girls deserve to live in safety, security, and without discrimination in the "New Bangladesh", the statement said.



Specific laws needed to combat cyber harassment

Discussants tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is an absence of a clear legal framework and proper definitions when it comes to cyber violence against women, speakers said at an event yesterday. They urged for specific legislation to combat such crimes.

The roundtable, titled "Scanning the Horizon: Addressing Cyber Violence against Women and Youth Through Policy and Awareness", was jointly organised by UNDP and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre.

Anowarul Haq, assistant resident representative at UNDP, said digital violence is a reality we cannot ignore.

"As the legal framework is weak and there is no clear definition of cyber violence, this issue must be addressed under specific legislation," he said.

He urged the government to strengthen law enforcement agencies through specialised training, recruit gender-sensitive personnel, and incorporate cyber violence awareness into school curricula.

Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua criticised the lack of clarity regarding digital rights and laws. "Our laws fail to define and address



globally recognised forms of cyber violence, let alone ensure justice... We haven't even established the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center," he said.

He called for judicial training on sensitive gender-related issues.

Rezwan Islam, regional editor at Global Voices, stressed the absence of institutional policies on cyber violence.

"A comprehensive policy is urgently needed in organisations," he said.

Investments are necessary to create safer digital spaces, he added.

Sharmin Ahmed, senior vice president at Mutual Trust Bank, linked a lack of digital literacy to harassment and fraud in cyberspace. She called for private sector involvement in enhancing digital literacy.

UNDP Research Analyst Faisal Bin Majid urged women to remain vigilant and resilient against growing cyber violence.

Sharmin Islam, gender team lead at UNDP, said her organisation is working to bridge the digital divide. "Women

face new forms of harassment regularly, even while engaging in e-commerce. When they seek police help, a lack of expertise often worsens their problems," she said. She advocated for smarter policing and victim counselling services.

Misinformation and disinformation targeting women, particularly during elections, were also discussed. Qadruddin Shishir, fact-check editor at AFP, said such tactics are used for personal vengeance or political gain.

"Alarmingly, the state was previously involved in spreading disinformation, and now political parties and groups are adopting these tactics," he said.

The lack of counselling services for victims was highlighted by Maliha Tabassum, assistant professor at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Bangladesh University of Professionals. She called for culturally driven programmes and a shift in the mindset of law enforcement.

Golam Sarwar, a UNDP consultant,



Girls are particularly vulnerable to cyberbullying, yet only one in 100 victims seek legal help. Often, police dismiss these cases as minor, while instances of victim-blaming and character assassination remain rampant.

against such actions. The laws require urgent reform," she said.

Sirazum Munira, former lead member of the Grassroot Network of the Youth Policy Forum, said 89 percent of cyberbullying victims in Bangladesh are aged between 18 and 30, with 73.4 percent not seeking legal action.

She identified deepfake and generative AI technologies, lack of digital literacy, and insufficient fact-checking infrastructure as significant challenges. "Pornography, offensive messages, and derogatory statements dominate crimes against women," she added.

Maliha Tabassum, faculty member of Bangladesh University of Professionals, pointed out that while urban youth are aware of AI, teens at the grassroot level lack digital literacy and often overlook online harassment, enabling perpetrators.

"We need to raise awareness at the personal level," she urged.

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SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Attempts on to destabilise the country Say Mahfuj, Sarjis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two prominent student leaders yesterday spoke out against what they described as efforts to destabilise the country and create unrest.

Mahfuj Alam and Sarjis Alam, have condemned the actions of individuals trying to provoke conflict and undermine the progress made after the July uprising.

In a Facebook post, Mahfuj Alam, an adviser to the interim government and prominent leader of the anti-discrimination student movement, said, "Some leaders and individuals from both left and right-wing factions have become desperate after being unable to secure a role in the uprising and the subsequent government formation."

He accused them of creating divisions among student organisations and disrespecting students.

Mahfuj Alam also

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

FAKE LOAN PROMISE Crowd lured to Shahbagh

DU CORRESPONDENT

A crowd, mostly from outside Dhaka, gathered at Shahbagh intersection between Sunday night and yesterday morning after being promised loans of Tk 1 lakh each by an organisation named Non-Violent People's Uprising Bangladesh.

According to attendees, the group claimed it would recover laundered money from abroad and distribute loans. Some attendees were interrogated by Shahbagh police, who are yet to identify anyone directly associated with the organisation.

Banners featuring the group's leaders, ABM Mostafa Ameen and Rafiqul Islam Hridoy, were seen attached to buses. Police reported that buses, pickups, and minibuses began arriving late Sunday night. Students and locals urged those gathered to leave the area.

At 12:30pm yesterday, a bus from Fulbaria, Mymensingh, arrived with 32 people. Lipi Akter, who led the group, claimed she contacted the passengers, who were promised loans. Lipi and an associate were reportedly beaten by onlookers before being handed to police.

Some attendees said they paid Tk 1,000 as a registration fee but were unaware of the event's true nature.

Shahbagh Police Station's OC AKM Shahabuddin Shaheen said, "We interrogated those involved, releasing the innocent and detaining others connected to the incident."

Meanwhile, Information Adviser Nahid Islam said yesterday evening that the platform's convener had been detained, and the public was informed that it was a fraudulent campaign.



Champions of the Cyber Defense Innovation Challenge (Shakib Izaz Mahmud, Mahdi Mohammad Shibli and Sa Adat Azam Saniat) pose for a photo alongside the runners-up (Sidratul Muntaha and Jannatul Ferdous) and second runners-up (Fayruz Tania Haseen and Anisha Meridha). The competition was a joint initiative of The Daily Star and UNDP, supported by the South Korean government. The event took place at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. This was an initiative to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FROM PAGE 3

Poet and activist Ferdous Ara Rumi linked social media misuse to child marriage.

"In villages, the threat of 'making it viral' is commonly used. Families, fearing social disgrace, often resort to child marriage to protect their reputation," she said.

Troy Beckman, USAID's director of communications, said the youth should play a major role in addressing digital harassment.

"Young people are the driving force for change in Bangladesh and must take action against this issue," he said.

Reaz Ahmed, executive editor of Dhaka Tribune, said national progress depends on addressing the issues faced by women.

"Following the July Revolution, tackling violence against women, particularly through combating misinformation and disinformation, is essential," he said.

The event called for stronger legislation, enhanced digital literacy, and collective action to ensure safer spaces for women both online and offline.

**PRAYER
TIMING**


NOVEMBER 26

	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



The image features the World Health Organization (WHO) logo on the left, which consists of a caduceus (a staff with two snakes entwined and wings at the top) inside a circular frame. To the right of the logo, the text "World Health Organization" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "Bangladesh" in a smaller font below it. Below the logo and text, there is a large, bold, black rectangular box containing the text "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)" in white, uppercase letters. Below this box, the text "The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:" is written in a black, sans-serif font. This is followed by a numbered list item: "1. RFP/BAN/2024/034: Provision for Conducting Mid-term Evaluation Study on Health-Related SDGs Progress in Bangladesh." Below the list item, the text "Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 10 December 2024 (Dhaka time)." is written. Then, the text "Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:" is written, followed by the URL "https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice." in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Finally, the text "Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(I)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka." is written at the bottom.



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TENDER INVITATION

Sealed Tender both Technical & Financial are hereby invited from the Manufacturer or their local agent for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of:

- (1) THREE PHASE DRY TYPE 800KVA TRANSFORMER & THREE PHASE 400KVA & 160KVA GENERATOR**
- (2) 250 TR VRF A/C SYSTEM for 9 STORIED RESIDENTIAL QUARTER BUILDING WITH (2) TWO BASEMENTS**
- (3) 1600 Kgs (20 Persons), 2 Nos Passenger Lift (US/UK/EU/Japan) for 9 STORIED RESIDENTIAL QUARTER BUILDING WITH (2) TWO BASEMENTS**

The tender documents will be available for purchase from the Procurement Officer from Nov. 26, 2024 to Dec. 09, 2024 in time of office hour 10 AM to 5 PM at a cost of Tk. 5,000/-per item (non-refundable) to issue a Bank Draft / Pay order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favor of “AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY”.

A Prebid meeting will be held on Dec. 11, 2024. Hard copy of the tender documents must be dropped in the tender box by **Dec. 15, 2024 up to 02.00 pm** and will be opened (technical and then financial) on the same day (**Dec. 15, 2024**) at **02.30 pm** at AUST premises. No tender will be received after 02:00 pm.

The tender should be accompanied by a Bank Draft / Pay order of Tk. 5,00,000/-per item (for SL-1 & 2) and Tk. 2,50,000/- (for SL-3) only with technical offer from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favor of “AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY” as earnest money without which the tender shall be out right rejected.

The AUST authority reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning the reason what-so-ever and is not bound to award the work to the lowest bidder.

INNOVATION:: CREATION:: LEADERSHIP

Career Opportunity

Position: Vacancy for the Post of Managing Director & CEO

One of the leading Non-Bank Financial Institution (NBFI) operating its business since 1996, established under Companies Act-1994 and within the ambit of Financial Institutions Act-1993. We are looking for an experienced Managing Director & CEO to oversee business operations and provide strategic leadership.

1. General Responsibilities: Managing Director & CEO will provide hard efforts for developing strategies & business plan along with implementing the plan towards functioning the company. Additionally, he/she will be responsible for overseeing the overall activities of the company.

2. Eligibility:

- MBA/ M.Com (Finance & Banking/Accounting/Marketing/ Economics) or in any discipline from reputed University with excellent academic result with English proficiency and Financial Management literacy.
- At least 20 (twenty) years practical experiences in Banks and/or NBFIs along with 2-5 years' experience as MD /CEO or DMD.
- Age not exceeding 62 (sixty two) years (age limit may relaxed upon special experiences)
- Any other experiences and eligibility will remain as per the DFIM Circular Letter no.03, dated March 25, 2024

3. Remuneration: Negotiable.

4. Apply procedures: Please submit copies of all Education and Experience Certificates with 3 (three) References, 2 (two) passport size recent Photographs, copy of NID card, updated Resume & Cover Letter to Human Resource Division located at Sara Tower (9th Floor), 11/A, Toyenbee Circular Road, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh or send CV/Resume to rmd.aviva@gmail.com by **December 12, 2024 (at the end of office hour).**

Application Deadline: December 12, 2024

Vice-Chancellor

One of the leading private universities in Bangladesh invites application for the position of Vice-Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor will perform his/her duties adhering to the Private University Act 2010, the Status, the rules and regulations and the policy-guidelines of the University. S/he will be responsible to report to the BOT.

Qualifications: The eligible candidate for the position will be a Professor and must have a graduate and post graduate degree with all first class (of equivalent) or with a PhD from international recognized university with excellent academic attainments.

Experience: Candidate should have a minimum 20 years of academic, research and administrative experiences, including a minimum 10 years of teaching experience in recognized universities. Experience as Vice Chancellor / Pro Vice Chancellor or equivalent will be an advantage. Experience of designing academic and administrative strategic and operational planning and having an active portfolio of professional affiliations will be treated as additional qualifications. Handsome package of salary and benefits, including a competitive remuneration structure, full-time car facility with a driver, and other attractive perks, designed to appeal to deserving candidates.

The BOT reserves the right to relax the requisite qualifications in the case of exceptionally suitable candidate. Expression of interest from qualified candidates, with a complete CV and all relevant documents, should be reach the following email address within the last date.

Application Last date: 08.12.24
e-mail: privateuni123@gmail.com



PHOTO: **ANISUR RAHMAN**

Makeshift stalls take up a majority of this road, leaving little space for vehicles using it. Despite authorities removing these shops time and again, they continue to return just days later. The photo was taken at Karwan Bazar, Dhaka yesterday.

RESOLVING ROHINGYA CRISIS

Thailand keen to work with Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Thai foreign minister's special envoy Dusit Manapan has said Thailand is keen to work with Bangladesh on resolving the ongoing Rohingya crisis and bringing peace in Myanmar.

He also stressed for wide range of consultation on border security and combating transnational crimes.

Manapan made the comments as he met Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning.

They discussed different issues, including repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar, the escalating situation in Myanmar, and regional peace and security, and bilateral issues such as promotion of trade, commerce, investment, tourism and connectivity between the two countries.

Bangladesh now shelters over a million Rohingya refugee people.

Lack of awareness

FROM PAGE 5

Speaking as chief guest, Nurjahan Begum, health adviser, emphasised the need for more research. "Once we have an accurate picture, we can address the issue effectively," she said.

Highlighting the lack of awareness, she added, "If we organise meetings, seminars, and visit rural households to raise awareness about dementia, we will see positive results."

She also called for training caregivers to provide compassionate and effective care.

Azizul Haque, secretary general of the Alzheimer Society of Bangladesh, in his keynote speech said that 55 million people suffer from dementia worldwide, a number expected to triple by 2050.

Despite constitutional provisions for senior citizens' rights, the absence of clear policies or legal frameworks worsens challenges, he added.

NSDA Executive Chairman Nasreen Afroz chaired the seminar, where Prof Nazmul Hossain, DG of the Directorate General of Medical Education, and others also spoke.

Implement CHT

FROM PAGE 5

plan for the accord's execution, an end to military oversight in the CHT, empowerment of local councils, resolution of land disputes, and sustainable development initiatives.

It also called for establishing a separate land commission for plains' indigenous communities and ensuring their representation in governance.

The movement also urged immediate actions such as reactivating monitoring committees, initiating dialogue with the CHT Regional Council, and addressing indigenous rights across the nation.

"These steps will solidify peace, justice, and equality for all indigenous communities," said the letter.

UTAH GROUP **Career Opportunity**

UTAH Fashions Ltd. located at Gazipur is looking for the position of **General Manager-Quality Assurance**, No. of Vacancy-01, Experience - Minimum 12 years, Education-Bachelor of Arts/Equivalent from any reputed University, Age at least 45 years, Basic Salary-Tk. 2,75,000/- House Rent-Tk. 50,000/- Conveyance- Tk. 20,000/-

Please apply for the above position with detailed CV and recent photographs within 15 (Fifteen) days to- sabera@utahgroup.net

 **রেজিস্ট্রার**
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, পোশালালঞ্জ।

তারিখ: ১০ নভেম্বর ১৪০১
২৪ নভেম্বর ২০২৪

পেট হাউজ ভাড়া দেওয়া সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, পোশালালঞ্জ-এর ঢাকাছ পেট হাউজ হিসেবে ব্যবহারের জন্য নির্মাণিত, কারখানা, ট্রান্সফর, দামমাট্রা একলার ৩/৪ বেকম, ড্রাইভ, ডায়নিম, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল সরঞ্জামাদি সহ ২০০০ থেকে ৩০০০ বর্গফুট ক্ষেত্রের ট্রায়া জন্ডা নেভা আবাসিক ও ট্রায়া জন্ডা স্টোনে অস্ট্রা ট্রায়া মালিকানাধীন ট্রায়াটের পূর্ব বিকল্প ট্রায়াটের আভ্যন্তর, সুবিধাধীন মালিক জন্ডা এবং কানোনা চার্জ ডায়নামিক স্টাডা কানোনা অথবা জন্ডা আত্মী ০১/১২/২০২৪ ই. তারিখ বিকাল ০৫:০০ টার মধ্যে জন্ডা নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী নিকি ডায়নামিক/নিয়ন্ত্রণ প্রদর্শন ই-মেইলে কোটেশন জন্ডা নেভার জন্ডা বিবেচনাতে অনুগ্রহ করা হইবে।


রেজিস্ট্রার (কারখানা) পোশালালঞ্জ
ই-মেইল: registrar@bsmrstu.edu.bd
মোবাইল: ০১৭৭৫১৪০৪০০

GD-1037

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
High Court Division, (Statutory Original Jurisdiction)
Company Matter No. 1375/24
IN THE MATTER OF
Abu taheer at House-07, Road-14, Blick-L, South banasree,
Khaligaong, Dhaka and others. - Petitioners
-Versus-
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and firms having office
at TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka and others
....Respondent
Dear Sir,
Notice is hereby given that upon application filed by the petitioner under
Section 43 of the companies Act, 1994 for Managing Director and
rectification of share register of Saudia Engineering Builders Limited
The Company bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme
Court of Bangladesh presided over by Mr. Justice Ahmed Shohel was
pleased to admit the same on 18.11.2024 and the Hon'ble Court has
directed the petitioners to file affidavit in compliance within 30 days from
the date of such Publication. If you are interested to oppose the said
application you may do so by an advocate or in person on the date so
fixed.
Md. Nurul Huda, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.
66/4 Nayapalton, Dhaka. Mob. 01911-357642**

Specific laws needed

FROM PAGE 3

identified unequal power dynamics as the root cause of women's online harassment. He stressed genuine empowerment to create safer online spaces.

Barrister Tazkia Labecca Karim highlighted inadequacies in current laws. "There is no clear definition of digital sexual harassment, and a specific law is needed to tackle this issue," she said.

Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Tasnuva Shelley underlined the importance of digital forensic expertise and educating lawyers and judges on cyber violence nuances.

The event also showcased a virtual documentary on cyber violence against women presented by Shahreen Tilotoma, programme officer at UNDP.

Moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in charge of NGOs and Foreign Missions at The Daily Star, the discussion saw participants stressing collaboration between government bodies, social media platforms, and institutions to ensure a safer online environment.

Speakers also recommended a national campaign to raise awareness, challenge victim-blaming, and promote respect for women in digital spaces.

Attempts on


FROM PAGE 3

said some "traitors" and reckless individuals within the country want to harm the nation by instigating conflict, and pledged to reveal the truth in due course.

Similarly, Sarjis Alam, general secretary of the July Shahid Smriti Foundation, issued a statement yesterday, warning against attempts to create chaos or anarchy for unjustified reasons.

In his post, he said the country, its people, and public resources must come first.

He called on law enforcement to resist any attempts to create disorder and ensure public safety, stressing that maintaining peace and unity is paramount for the nation's progress.

<div>  <div> <div>বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞপ্তি</div> <div>দরপত্র রেলওয়ে</div> </div> </div>	
০১.	মহানগর/বিভাগ
০২.	বাংলাদেশকারী সংস্থা
০৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তরের নাম
০৪.	আহ্বানকারী সত্যার জেলা
০৫.	প্রসিদ্ধিহেপ্তার মেসেজ
০৬.	তারিখ উল্লেখ
০৭.	প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা
০৮.	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রক্রিয়াকরণের স্থান
০৯.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান
১০.	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রক্রিয়াকরণ শেষ তারিখ
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় এবং স্থান
১৩.	দরপত্রের বিবরণ, দরপত্র নং এবং তারিখ
১৪.	নং-৪৪.০১.২৬৪৪.২০৪.০৭.০১৯.২৪ (ক) তার-২৪/১১/২০২৪ইং
১৫.	দরপত্রা সরবরাহকারীর অভিজ্ঞতা
১৬.	বার্ষিক কার্য ওভার এবং সিকুইট এসেট
১৭.	প্রতিটি দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য
১৮.	স্টোকার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাপ
১৯.	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম
২১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী
২২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর প্রিকান
২৩.	অন্যান্য দরপত্র সরকারী রূপে আইন এবং প্রচেষ্টা অনুযায়ী পরিকল্পিত হইবে।
২৪.	সিউইজেল বণিত বা বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত শর্তাবলী এই দরপত্রের অংশ হিসাবে প্রণয় হইবে।
২৫.	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যো কোন দরপত্র অযোগ্য/প্রত্যাখ্য প্রদান বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

BAKLADESH UNIVERSITY OF TEXTILES

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

Admission Announcement

MBA in Textiles Program

Bangladesh University of Textiles invites application from potential candidates for MBA in Textiles Program for the academic year of 2025 under the Department of Textile Engineering Management. The MBA in Textiles is a weekend program of 4 semesters (each of 6 months) duration. The number of seat is 60.

Minimum Requirement for Application:

1. The applicant must have minimum CGPA 3.00 on a scale of 4.00 or 1st class in B.Sc. in Textile Engineering/Technology degree from a recognized University.
2. Candidate having CGPA 2.50 on a scale of 4.00 or 2nd class in B.Sc. in Textile Engineering/Technology degree with 05 years professional experience can also apply.

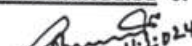
Application Process: Applicants are required to visit the admission portal at <http://admission.butex.edu.bd>. The online application form must be completed and submitted before the deadline. Following submission, applicants must login to their account to pay the application fee of 2000 TK via the online payment system between 25th November to 14th December 2024, upto 11:59 pm. All steps must be completed to ensure successful application processing.

Admit Card: Applicants can download their admit cards from their account on the admission portal between 18th to 19th December 2024, upto 11:59 pm. The admit card must be downloaded and printed before the deadline to be presented at the examination hall.

Written Admission Test Content & Time Schedule:

Subjects	Marks	Admission Test	Result Publication
Textile	50	20 th December 2024 Friday from 10.00 am to 11.30 am.	29 th December 2024
General Math & Aptitude	30		
English	20		
Total:	100		

Selection Procedure: Candidates will be evaluated solely on their performance in the written test. For more information visit the admission portal <http://admission.butex.edu.bd> or contact Academic Section of Registrar Office (Cell: 01554-926220).


21.11.24
Kabari Majumder
Registrar

GD- 1035

ABDUCTION

Ex-SP among
13 sued in
Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole

A Jashore businessman sued 13 policemen, including former superintendent of police Anisur Rahman, on Sunday night for allegedly abducting him, and attempting to kill him in 2014.

Masudur Rahman Nannu, the businessman, lodged the case with a court. The accused include former officers and constables, among them Milu Mia Biswas, then assistant superintendent of police, and several others.

According to the complaint, Nannu was abducted on May 31, 2014, near Manihar Cinema Hall following Anisur Rahman's orders.

He was taken to Chanchra Police Outpost, tortured, and threatened with "crossfire" unless Tk 25 lakh was paid. His brother managed to pay Tk 10 lakh, securing his release. However, the accused shot Nannu in the leg before admitting him to Jashore General Hospital.

An arms case was filed against Nannu, who was later transferred to a Dhaka hospital under police custody and eventually sent to prison.

Nannu alleges he was unable to seek justice earlier due to the accused's influence. He now feels the conditions are favourable for legal action.

LICHUTALA BRIDGE IN JASHORE

Collapsed connecting
road turns commute risky



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The Lichutala Bridge in East Barandipara area of Jashore Municipality is used by hundreds of people daily for their commute between Barandipara and Jhumjhampur area of Fatehpur union.

Recently, a portion of the bridge's connecting road on the east end collapsed, turning the route extremely risky for commuters, especially at night.

Since the route serves as an important shortcut, commuters continue to use it amid risk of accidents that may happen any time.

Local residents have demanded urgent steps to repair the damaged portion of the connecting road.

However, the authorities concerned are yet to make any move to this end.

"The road on the east end of the bridge collapsed into the Bhairab river at several points. Only a narrow stretch of the road still remains, through which only rickshaws, easy-bikes and motorcycles can ply at present," said Abdul Halim Shipltu, a resident of Barandipara area.

"We use Lichutala Bridge to travel to and from Fatehpur and Jhumjhampur areas, as it takes less time. On this route, we travel around 2.5-kilometre less compared to the alternative route. We urge the authorities concerned to repair the road as soon as possible," he added.

Echoing him, Abdul Jabbar and Mohammad Ali, two other

local residents, said there is no lighting on the bridge, making it dark at night and posing risk for commuters using it after dusk.

"Also, at present, private cars and ambulances are unable to ply the bridge. As such, if someone falls ill, it will be a difficult task to take them to hospital we would have to depend on easy bikes," said Ali.

Contacted, Zayed Hossain, executive officer of Jashore Municipality, said they are still unaware whether the route has become risky.

"Steps will be taken after inspecting the site," he added.

Sharmin Akhter, upazila nirbahi officer of Jashore Sadar, said engineers will be sent to inspect the collapsed road and initiatives will be taken to repair it quickly.

'Implement
CHT Peace
Accord on
priority basis'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Implementation Movement yesterday urged the interim government to include the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord in its agenda as a priority.

In an open letter to the chief adviser, the platform said despite being signed on December 2, 1997, key elements of the accord remain unimplemented.

It creates uncertainty for the indigenous communities in the CHT and across the nation, the letter stressed.

"Full implementation is essential not only for sustainable peace and stability in the region but also for upholding the dignity and rights of all indigenous people in Bangladesh," reads the letter.

The platform placed some demands, including a time-bound

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Probe killing of
stray animals
Rizwana urges livestock
ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has called for an impartial investigation into the recent poisoning of stray dogs and cats in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

In a letter to Farida Akhter, Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Rizwana urged immediate action to uncover the truth and ensure exemplary punishment for those responsible.

The incident, which occurred on Friday night at Japan Garden City, left 10 dogs and one cat dead. Witnesses reported symptoms of poisoning, including convulsions, vomiting blood, and severe distress among the animals.

Animal rights activists and local residents alerted police, who reportedly recovered the remains of three dogs and one cat. However, it is alleged that the remains of seven other dogs were concealed by the authorities.


Rizwana cited the Animal Welfare Act 2019, which prohibits cruelty to animals, including poisoning, and wrote such acts are punishable by law.

She also referenced the City Corporation Act 2009, which designates city corporations as responsible for managing stray animals.

Dhaka North City Corporation has initiated an investigation into the matter.

In her letter, Rizwana Hasan described the killings as "a horrific act of cruelty towards innocent animals" and a blatant violation of the law.

She urged the livestock ministry to ensure a thorough investigation and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.



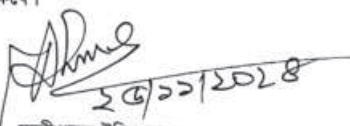
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আভ্যারম্যাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে সংশোধিত ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষ হতে আভ্যারম্যাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটায় শুধুমাত্র মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানসম সুযোগ পাবে, নাস্তি/নাস্তনী এই কোটায় বিবেচিত হবে না। ২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আভ্যারম্যাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে বিজ্ঞান ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ০১/০২/২০২৫ তারিখের পরিবর্তে ১৫/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ভর্তির আবেদন গ্রহণের সময়সীমা ২৫/১১/২০২৪ তারিখের পরিবর্তে ২৭/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ রাত ১১.৫৯ মিনিট পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য নিয়ম/শর্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

প্রশাসনিক ভবন
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০
তারিখঃ/২০২৪


মুনী শাসন উদ্দিন আহমেদ
ডেপুটি চ্যান্সেলর (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-1041

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FORCES INTELLIGENCE
DHAKA CANTONMENT, DHAKA-1206

1. Invitation for Tender No. 03/2024-2025/SIB Dated 24 November 2024
2. Sealed Tender (single envelop system) in local currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturer/s/Supplier/s/Indenter/s (**Enlisted Firms of ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, DGFI & DGDP**) to supply of the following items for DGFI:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence/ Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206
2	Agency	Directorate General of Forces Intelligence
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director General, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence
4	Procuring Entity Code	Office Equipment under Code no 4112310 and Engineering & Other Equipment under Code no 4112304
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Supply of Printer Black & White, Color Printer, PPC Machine, Scanner machine, Multimedia Projector, Paper Shredder and 3KVA Online UPS
7	Invitation Reference no	23.01.901.800.08.006.01.24.11.24
8	Date	24 November 2024

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method	Open Tender
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Date of Advertisement for Tender	26 November 2024
12	Last Selling Date of Tender	09 December 2024
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	10 December 2024 at 1200 hours
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	10 December 2024 at 1215 hours

15	Name and Address of the Office(s)	Address
a) Selling of Tender Document	Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206.	
b) Receiving of Tender Document	Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206.	
c) Opening of Tender Document	Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206.	

INFORMATION OF TENDERER

16	Experience of Tenderer	As per Tender Documents.
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DETAILS

Ser	Description of Goods	Qty	Details	Price of Tender Document (Non-Refundable)	Tender Security Money	Budget Code	Duration of Supply
a	PPC Machine	09	As per Schedule	500.00	12,000.00	4112310	As per deed
b	Color Printer	20	As per Schedule	300.00	10,000.00	4112304	As per deed
c	3KVA Online UPS	10	As per Schedule	750.00	35,000.00	4112304	As per deed
d	Multimedia Projector	07	As per Schedule	750.00	15,000.00	4112304	As per deed
e	Printer Black & White	40	As per Schedule	750.00	35,000.00	4112304	As per deed
f	Paper Shredder	15	As per Schedule	300.00	7,000.00	4112304	As per deed

18 Sample to be provided with the Schedule tender (if necessary).

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Staff Officer-I
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender and Telephone	Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206 No Tel: 8871800 Ext: 2049
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.	
22	All proceedings will be regulated as per PPR 2008.	

আই এস পি অফিস/তারিখঃ ২০২৪/১১/২৪

General Staff Officer-I
For Director General

GD-1047

DEMENTIA IN BANGLADESH
Lack of awareness
leaves patients
vulnerable: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 1.1 million elderly people in Bangladesh are suffering from dementia, with women comprising 75 percent of patients, speakers said at a seminar yesterday. They warned that the prevalence of dementia is rising, yet visible initiatives to address the issue remain scarce.

The seminar, titled "Dementia Care and Conservation of Universal Human Rights", was jointly organised by the National Skill Development Authority and the Alzheimer Society of Bangladesh at Binog Bhaban in Agargaon.

Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, senior faculty member at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, presented findings from a 2020 study by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and icddr,b.

She said that of the 1.1 million dementia patients, 2,80,000 were men (24.5 percent) and 8,30,000 were women (75.5 percent). By 2025, the number is projected to exceed 1.3 million.

Dr Halida also cited Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data from 2015, saying 72 percent of women experience domestic violence, and 42 percent of teenage wives face abuse. She stressed that both physical and psychological abuse contribute to dementia, alongside longer life expectancy, with old age being the primary risk factor.

She called for a combined effort from families, society, the private sector, and the government to improve old-age healthcare and reduce the burden of dementia.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SEPTIC TANK EXPLOSION
Teenager killed,
sister injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A septic tank explosion in Gazipur's Tongi area left a teenage boy dead and his younger sister critically injured on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Habibullah, 19, son of Ruhul Amin from Baherchar Kadamtali village in Shariatpur district, said Iskandar Habibur Rahman, officer-in charge of Tongi West Police Station.

The incident occurred around 10:00pm on the first floor of a rented house in Mollapara area of North Auchpara.

Quoting the tenants, the OC said the explosion caused the walls of three rooms, including the washroom, to collapse. Habibullah and Jannati were in one of the affected rooms when the blast occurred.

Neighbours rushed the critically injured siblings to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared Habibullah dead around midnight.

His sister Jannati, 13, was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Shahin Alam, a senior officer of Tongi Fire Service, attributed the explosion to the lack of a bypass line in the septic tank.

A case of accidental death has been filed in this regard, the OC added.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন



প্রবাসী, রেমিটেন্স যোদ্ধা, দেশি ও বিদেশি পর্যটক ও সাধারণ যাত্রীদের বিমানবন্দরে যাতায়াত ও লাগেজ সামগ্রী পরিবহনের সুবিধার্থে বিআরটিসি বিমানবন্দর শাটল বাস সার্ভিস চালু করেছে। প্রবাসী ভাইদের এ সুবিধা নেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।




বিমানবন্দর শাটল বাস সার্ভিসের রুটসমূহ

বিমানবন্দর টার্মিনাল-২ ▶ বিমানবন্দর গোলচত্বর ▶ উত্তরা জসীমউদ্দীন রোড ▶ বিমানবন্দর রেলওয়ে স্টেশন ▶ বিমানবন্দর টার্মিনাল-৩ ▶ বিমানবন্দর গোলচত্বর ▶ বিমানবন্দর টার্মিনাল-২

যোগাযোগ

জনাব শকুদেব ঢালী ডিজিএম (অপারেশন) প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিআরটিসি মোবো: ০১৭১১০৪১৩০৫	জনাব মফিজ উদ্দিন ম্যানেজার (অপারেশন) জোয়ারসাহারা বাস ডিপো মোবো: ০১৭১২৪০৬৫৩	ট্রাফিক ইনচার্জ জোয়ারসাহারা বাস ডিপো মোবো: ০১৭১৪৩৭৭৭৭১
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GD-1040



Jagannath University
Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences

Master of Pharmacy (Professional) Program
Department of Pharmacy

Admission Circular (Batch: 07P)
Spring 2025 (February-July)

Key Features of the program

Degree/Award: Master of Pharmacy
Major: 1. Industrial Pharmacy, 2. Pharmaceutical Marketing
Course duration: One year (2 semesters) Class time: Friday and Saturday
Application fee: Tk. 1,000.00
Application open: Till January 15, 2025 (9 am – 3:30 pm, week-days only)
Admission test: January 17, 2025, Friday. Test Result: January 20, 2025
Admission period: January 20, 2025 to January 27, 2025.
Orientation: February 07, 2025.

Eligibility for submission of application

A. Minimum 16 years of schooling; having S.S.C. (or equivalent) 10 years, H.S.C. (or equivalent) 2 years and Graduation (or equivalent) 4 years. **B.** Graduated in pharmaceutical sciences or relevant areas (CGPA 3.00 or more out of 4.00). **C.** No third class/division (or equivalent).

Application submission


A. Filled-up application form (available in www.jnu.ac.bd), **B.** Attested 3 copies of passport size photographs, **C.** Copies of the certificates and mark-sheets of all the previous examinations (attested by the Chairperson of the department of graduation) and **D.** Application fee.

Completed application can be submitted to the office of Dean, Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences, Jagannath University. Or, the application fee (1000 taka and transfer charge 20 taka) can be sent to 01717554320 by bKash and then the full application set can be mailed to saydur_pr@pharm.jnu.ac.bd as the PDF file along with the bKash reference number.

N.B. The authority keeps the right to cancel the application/admission at any time due to submission of incorrect application or misleading information

Contact (Application form and further information)

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences
6th Floor, New Academic Building (029587900 Office)
Department of Pharmacy (02226638755, 01731742040 Office)
Dr. Mohammad Saydur Rahman, Program Director (01717554320)


Prof. Mallik Akram Hossain, PhD
Dean
Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences
& Convener, M. Pharm. (Professional) Program Admission Committee

GD-1036

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Roaring slogans, cultural activities call on ending violence against women

In Bangladesh, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women committee has historically observed the day with a specific theme every year. This year, they arranged the celebration around the theme “*Bicharer Naame Obichar Hoi, Nari Kothao Nirapod Noy*” (Injustice reigns in the name of justice, women are not safe anywhere).

ZAREEN NAWAR

As I stepped into the Central Shaheed Minar late in the afternoon, I was greeted with the jovial and embracing atmosphere of feminists from all corners of the city— and perhaps even beyond. Most were decked out in orange and red sarees, seemingly in line with a theme for the day. Some were even in work mode, going live on social media platforms to share updates on behalf of their organisations.

The gathering, consisting of 51 human rights-focused NGOs, came together to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This day traces its origins to the sacrifices of “Las Mariposas” (The Butterflies), better known as the Mirabal sisters. The United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 in their honour to remember these courageous women who stood against the tyranny of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic in 1960.

In Bangladesh, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women committee has historically observed the day with a specific theme every year.

This year, they arranged the celebration around the theme “*Bicharer Naame Obichar Hoi, Nari Kothao Nirapod Noy*” (Injustice reigns in the name of justice, women are not safe anywhere).

The organisations and individuals present used the platform to speak of the atrocities women endure daily. When our everyday women face unspeakable hurdles associated with the types of violence and torture, in the form of sexual harassment and rape, at home and outside — they become inadvertently shunned and victimised through no fault of their own. Therefore, human rights spokespersons gathered yesterday to urge governments, organisations, and society to prioritise preventing and addressing all forms of abuse—ensuring strong action, effective measures, and fair prosecution of offenders.



During the event, they particularly highlighted five demands that every individual ought to adhere to for the better of the other half of our population. These directives include the government and administration taking decisive and effective measures to prevent and address all forms of harassment, abuse, and violence against women; authorities must act firmly against violence against women, ensuring thorough investigations and prosecution of offenders; the vigilant reporting of incidents of violence against women to authorities to build public resistance; encouraging media to be more sensitive to women's issues and ensure the

publication of impartial and accurate news; and assist social media users in identifying perpetrators and ensuring they are handed over to the authorities while respecting the dignity of the women victims.

Tamanna Khan, a member of Nari Maitree and one of the primary organisers, remarked, “We have gathered today to demand just punishments for those who perpetrate violence against women. Injustice in the name of justice must end. Women are beaten or treated as pawns at the slightest sign of disorder, which is unacceptable. We demand equitable treatment for women in every sphere of life.”

The event began with spirited chants and continued with powerful recitations, performance art, protest songs, and dance presentations by organisations and individuals like Jibon Unnayan Songstha, Bonhishikhha, Naripokkho, Karmojibi Nari, Proshika, Warda Ashraf, and Iqbal Ahmed.

A standout moment was the rap song *Thambe Kobe*, uniquely delivered by the committee. Attendees also had the opportunity to engage in a live art session. The day concluded with a torch procession leading to Mishuk-Munir Chattar, uniting everyone in their shared cause.



Shakib Khan, Tahsan collaborate for Remark-Herlan

Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan and popular musician Tahsan Khan have joined forces for the cosmetics and personal care brand Remark-Herlan to protect consumers from counterfeit and substandard products.

Tahsan, a celebrated singer and actor, signed an agreement with Remark-Herlan in the presence of Shakib Khan, the brand's director, at a ceremony held at The Westin Hotel, Gulshan, on Monday (November 25).

Speaking at the event, Tahsan expressed his excitement, stating, “I've long admired Remark-Herlan for their commitment to authentic cosmetics. Today, I'm proud to join their mission to protect our people from counterfeit and substandard products. I look forward to representing their diverse brands.”

‘I’m now a filmmaker in exile’

Exiled Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof finds himself in a bittersweet predicament as his latest film, *The Seed of the Sacred Fig*, representing Germany,

vies for an Oscar. Despite its success, including awards at the Cannes Film Festival, Rasoulof remains conflicted, having been forced to flee Iran.

Despite Germany's support, Rasoulof grapples with the pain of exile. “It's hard to accept that six months have passed... that I'm now a filmmaker in exile,” he said. While grateful for international recognition, Rasoulof longs for his homeland.

The film is set against the “Women, Life, Freedom” protests that erupted in Iran two years ago.

NEWS

Parties want caretaker govt, 2-term limit for PM

FROM PAGE 12
Jamaat also proposed that the High Court bench to deal with electoral petitions should dispose of all cases within 12 months.

They also sought the restoration of the provision of The Representation of the People Order, 1972 that empowered the EC to postpone elections at any stage after announcing the schedule.

After an amendment in July 2023, the EC now can postpone elections only on the polling day.

Jamaat also recommended direct power for the EC to take action against misconduct, corruption and irregularities of election officials.

CPB President Ruhin Hossain Prince said they have proposed the reintroduction of the “no” vote system and not to use EVM in the election.

The party also called for banning the use of religion in the electoral process and is in favour of the selection of candidates by the grassroots leaders and direct elections

to the reserved seats for women.

It is also in favour of full financial autonomy of the EC. The commission should bear the election campaign expenses, print posters and banners and organise events where all candidates will be able to hold campaigns.

The candidates should publish the accounts of their electoral campaign expenses and they should file the financial statement to the EC within 21 days of the election.

Alliance coordinator Fariduzzaman Farhad said that Jatiyotabadi Somomona Jote proposed a balance of power among the president, the prime minister and the cabinet.

The alliance also said specialists of different sectors will be selected to become members of the Upper House.

They also sought the reintroduction of the referendum system.

For forming the government, a party or alliance should get at least 51

percent of casted votes.

The alliance also called for scrapping Article 70 of the constitution which deals with the cancellation of membership of parliament members for voting against their political party.

GOP General Secretary Rashed Khan said they proposed having eight election commissioners for eight divisions.

The party proposed 10 years' jail or a Tk 10 crore fine if it is proved that the CEC or EC had taken the side of any candidate or influenced the polls.

The tenure of parliament should be four years, he said.

The party proposed that expatriate Bangladeshis should have the right to contest in the polls and cast votes.

Khelafat Majlis proposed a separate polling centre for women where all election officials will be women.

Like CPB, the party sought full financial autonomy of the EC and the commission should bear the election campaign expenses.

Multidrug-resistant

FROM PAGE 12
and intestines) were still effective, several microorganisms were detected to be in the process of developing resistance to these drugs, he mentioned.

“MDR bacteria share resistance genes with other bacteria, which spread rapidly in the environment, mainly through food and water,” said Prof Azad, adding that the organisms will disseminate uncontrollably if water quality and sanitation systems are not improved.

Aniruddha Ghosh, professor of medicine at Chittagong Medical College, blamed the prolonged and irrational use of antibiotics for this issue.

“Bacteria naturally develop resistance against antibiotics if used for a long time or irrationally [leaving the medicine course incomplete]. However, it might lose the resistance gradually if the drug is used after a long interval,” he explained.

Pratik Chowdhury, associate professor of medicine at Chandpur Medical College, recommended a unified effort by doctors, city corporation, and WASA authorities as most drinking water is contaminated due to poor sanitation systems.

No option

FROM PAGE 12
He added that all have heard that Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said this government wants to hold the polls at the earliest.

“However, the reforms that have been undertaken must be carried out. Everyone's goal is to go to the polls. We will talk about [holding] the election at the appropriate time.”

Earlier, newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin and four other ECs – Anwarul Islam Sarker, Abdur Rahman el Masud, Tahmida Ahmad and Sanaullah – held a meeting with the EC officials.

The CEC told the officials that they want a free, fair, and good election and all should work to ensure this, said several officials.

He added that no corruption and negligence of duties by anyone will be tolerated. He asked the officials to be present in their workplaces on time.

Sanaullah while talking to reporters said the chief election commissioner has instructed all officials to perform their duties with integrity and honesty.

SC allows battery rickshaws

FROM PAGE 12
lakh people depend on the vehicles. We now urge the government to formulate guidelines and issue licences to ensure discipline in the operation of the vehicles,” Abdul Hakim Mridha, president of Rickshaw-Van-Easy Bike Sramik Union, told The Daily Star after the SC order.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman appeared for the government while Shanjid Siddique argued for the writ petitioners during the hearing.

Senior lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal also placed arguments on behalf of the petitioners.

Lawyer Shanjid told The Daily Star that the existing battery-run rickshaws can now operate in Dhaka, but the new ones will not be able to enter the city following yesterday's order.

During yesterday's hearing, Attorney General Asaduzzaman argued that the HC order suffers from gross infirmity as it has given full relief to the writ petitioners without issuing any show-cause notice to the owners and drivers of battery-run rickshaws.

Earnings of an indefinite number of people were hampered because of the HC order, he said.

The attorney general appealed to the apex court chamber judge to stay the HC order and give at least three months' time to the government for framing a specific rule over operation of the battery-run rickshaws.

Writ petitioners' lawyer Shanjid

opposed the government's petition saying that such vehicles were running without valid licences and causing accidents due to their high speeds.

He added that the Dhaka city corporations do not have the authority to issue licences for these vehicles.

He informed the court that in July 2014, the HC banned the operation of unlicensed mechanised and battery-run rickshaws nationwide.

As this directive had not been enforced, Pedal Rickshaw Owners Unity Alliance filed the petition for immediate intervention.

Following the writ petition, the HC on November 19 this year ordered the government authorities concerned to take necessary steps to stop operation of the battery-run rickshaws in the city.

In another development, several hours before the SC order, representatives from rickshaw drivers and owners met Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sk Md Sazzat Ali and promised not to run these vehicles on major roads and urged him to allow in the feeder roads.

The commissioner then assured them of meeting with them again to discuss the issues.

To tackle extortion on the streets, the DMP chief advised forming committees involving police personnel and community members.

He also warned that OCs of police stations will face suspension if they refuse to register cases after incidents that require legal action.

Students to observe solidarity week from today

FROM PAGE 12
lawmakers who were elected in the last three national elections.

“Their assets must be confiscated as soon as possible. If this is not done, the conspiracies they are hatching will continue. The interim government must take clear and visible action in this regard.”

Demanding the removal of AL officials from administration, Hasant said, “The current government has come within the Awami administrative framework.

Therefore, the government must remove the officials of the Awami League.”

Hasnat said that several other issues, including the potential formation of a combined platform of all the “anti-fascist” student organisations; how to resolve inter-institutional conflicts; the issues facing minorities; and how student organisations can play a role in addressing the conflicts arising among educational institutions in Dhaka, were discussed.

FROM PAGE 12
a day after filing the case.

According to the case statement, the incident occurred on October 25, when some youths reportedly placed a saffron-coloured flag over the Bangladesh flag on the Shadhinata Sthombho (independence pillar) at the Zero Point near the New Market intersection during a rally organised by the Hindus under the banner of Sanatan Jagaran Mancha.

PROTESTS

Protesting the arrest of Chinmoy, former divisional organising secretary of the Chattogram ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), hundreds of people from the Hindu community gathered at Cheragi Pahar intersection in the port city around 6:00pm yesterday. They brought out a procession and demanded his immediate release.

Kazi Tarek Aziz, additional deputy commissioner (public relations) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said police have been deployed there to prevent any untoward incident.

In the capital, hundreds of members of the Hindu community, including ISKCON supporters, came out on the streets and blocked the Shabbagh intersection in the evening to protest the arrest.

Witnesses said around 200 ISKCON supporters gathered there, disrupting traffic movement. Tensions escalated when another group, armed with sticks, confronted the demonstrators, resulting in clashes.

The ISKCON supporters were eventually beaten and forced to leave the area.

Contacted, AKM Shahabuddin Shaheen, officer-in-charge of

Shabbagh Police Station, said, “An unidentified group initially blocked the Shabbagh intersection, but another group soon intervened and dispersed them.”

Processions were brought out also in Rangpur, Dinajpur and Narayanganj to protest the arrest.

Meanwhile, the Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad in a statement condemned the arrest.

Its presidents Ushaton Talukder, Prof Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, and Nirmal Rozario, and acting general secretary Manindra Kumar Nath demanded the release of the Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote spokesperson Prabhu Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari in the interest of the nation.

They said the arrest has the potential to tarnish Bangladesh's global image on the issue of freedom of expression and human rights.

Pro-Russia candidate leads Romanian polls PM out of the race

AFP, Bucharest

A pro-Russia far-right candidate took a surprise lead yesterday in Romania's presidential election, as the EU-leaning premier was knocked out of the race that will be decided in a December run off.

The result is a political earthquake in the country of 19 million, a Nato member which has so far resisted nationalist appeals, setting itself apart from neighbours Hungary and Slovakia.

Far-right candidate Calin Georgescu was in pole position with 22.95 percent of the ballot, followed by Elena Lasconi, the centre-right mayor of a small town.

Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu was in third place with 19.15 percent of the ballot in Sunday's election after 99 percent of the vote was counted, eliminating him from the December 8 run off.

Exit polls in the race for the largely ceremonial post initially had showed the premier with a comfortable lead and put another far-right candidate, George Simion, in fourth.



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, outside a distribution centre west of Gaza City yesterday. Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 44,200 people, and uprooted nearly the entire population at least once, according to Gaza officials.

PHOTO: AFP

One woman killed by partner, relative every 10 mins in 2023: UN

AFP, Vienna

One woman was killed by a partner or relative every 10 minutes worldwide in 2023, the United Nations warned yesterday, stressing that femicides remained at "alarmingly high levels".

Almost 85,000 women and girls were murdered by people last year, according to a joint report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Women agency published yesterday.

The report is based on available data from 107 countries or territories, and information the UNODC has collected from responses submitted by member states.

About 60 percent -- or more than 51,000 women and girls -- died at the hands of their partner or relative, the report found.

This equates to 140 women killed per day or one every 10 minutes by those closest to them.

"The home remains the most dangerous place for women and girls in terms of the risk of lethal victimisation," the report said.

While men were four times more likely than women to fall victim to homicide -- forming 80 percent of all murder victims last year -- they more often than not died at the hands of a stranger.

Russia fires drones, missiles across Ukraine

23 hurt; Russia downs 8 ballistic missiles fired by Ukraine

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russian missiles damaged residential buildings in Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv and Odesa in the south, and a blizzard of drones caused temporary power cuts in Mykolaiv region and targeted the capital Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Russia, which is making territorial gains in Ukraine's east, is conducting nightly attacks on faraway cities using missiles as well as cheaply produced "suicide" drones and low-cost "decoy" drones, which tie up Ukrainian air defences.

Of 145 drones used overnight, Ukraine shot down 71 and lost track of 71 more, likely due to electronic warfare measures used against them, the air force said.

Meanwhile, Russia said its air defences had shot down eight ballistic missiles fired by Ukraine.

Ukraine fired US-made ATACMS ballistic missiles into Russia for the first time last week after receiving approval from Washington, prompting a furious reaction from Moscow.



President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called on Kyiv's Western allies to step up pressure on Russia to prevent the components needed for the weapons systems reaching it.

"These Russian attacks on Ukrainian life can be stopped," he said.

"With pressure, sanctions, blocking the occupiers' access to the components they use to create the tools of this terror, arms packages for Ukraine, and a resolve that must be unwavering," he added.

Chinese balloon detected near island: Taiwan

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan's defence ministry yesterday reported that a Chinese balloon had been detected over the sea to Taiwan's north, the first time since April it has reported such an incident in what Taipei views as part of a pattern of harassment by Beijing.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, complained that in the weeks leading up to its presidential election in January Chinese balloon activity took place at an "unprecedented scale".

It described the incidents as part of a Chinese pressure campaign -- so-called grey-zone warfare designed to exhaust a foe using irregular tactics without open combat.

Taiwan strongly objects to China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future.

The ministry, in its regular morning update on Chinese military activities over the previous 24 hours, said the single balloon was detected at 6:21 pm (1021 GMT) on Sunday 60 nautical miles (111 km) to the north of Taiwan's Keelung port.

It then vanished some two hours later, having flown at an altitude of 33,000 ft (10,000 metres), but without crossing Taiwan itself, the ministry said.

China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

39 foreigners flee Myanmar scam centre: Thai police

AFP, Bangkok

Thirty-nine foreigners have fled an online scam centre in Myanmar across the border to Thailand, where officials are working to identify potential trafficking victims, police told AFP yesterday.

Scam compounds have mushroomed in Myanmar's borderlands and are staffed by foreigners who are often trafficked and forced to work, swindling their compatriots in an industry analysts say is worth billions.

The group from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Malaysia and Russia crossed into Thailand's Tak province, according to the police chief in the city of Mae Sot.

They had fled from Myawaddy across the border, Colonel Pittayakorn Petcharat said. Myawaddy is controlled by a militia group and is a hotbed of drug production and online scam outfits.

"I can't entertain that it fails. No one wants to find plastic in the placenta or in the blood of the unborn baby... I'm not going to give up and say that the whole thing is the lost today, on the contrary."

Says UN environment chief **Inger Andersen** as deep divisions on display at plastic pollution treaty talks

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রয়ী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

গুচ্ছার চর্চা করি সমৃদ্ধ সোনার বাংলা গড়ি

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুল্লা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No: 28.16.9100.097.07.002.24/94

Date: 25-11-2024

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal: <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

SL. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Date of Publishing	Name of the Goods	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID : 1036296 Tender : 28.16.9100.097.02. Package No 002.24/08 Date of Publication : 25th Nov, 2024	Procurement of Transformer Rectifier (TR) with permanent reference Electrode and its spare parts	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time : 08-Dec-2024; 17:00 Tender Closing Date & Time : 09-Dec-2024; 15:00 Tender Opening Date & Time : 09-Dec-2024; 15:00

The interested tenderer may visit the web site <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the detailed tender notice and to purchase the tender document.

This is an OTM 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.

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GD-1042

(Engr. Mohammad Sarwar Jahan Mahmud)
General Manager (Planning & ICT Division)
Tel: +88022996632641
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গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

"জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার"

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Plot no.F-18/A, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 28.14.0000.201.54.022.24 /472

Date : 25-11-2024

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

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Work(s)	Tender Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
01.	1039838	Land Development and Construction of Boundary Wall, Internal Road, Approach Road, Surface Drain & Garage at Gararan Station, Gazipur under OTMS Project. [28.14.0000.201.54.022.24]	17-Dec-2024 17:00	18-Dec-2024 14:15	18-Dec-2024 14:15
02.	1039919	Construction of Boundary Wall, Internal Road, Drain, Security Post & Garage at Gouripur Station, Cumilla under OTMS Project. [28.14.0000.201.54.023.24]	17-Dec-2024 17:00	18-Dec-2024 14:30	18-Dec-2024 14:30
03.	1039951	Construction of Boundary Wall, Internal Road, Approach Road, Drain, Security Post & Garage at Nijjunjara Station, Chhagalnaiya, Feni under OTMS Project. [28.14.0000.201.54.024.24]	17-Dec-2024 17:00	18-Dec-2024 14:45	18-Dec-2024 14:45

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

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

24/11/2028

(Engr. Shaheda Banu)

General Manager

Design and Development Division

Telephone: 88-02-44827226

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GD- 1038

GTPR - 16/24-25

Office of the Rangamati Pourashava
District: Rangamati

Memo No: Rang/Pour/Engr/2024/1388

Date: 19-11-2024

e-Tender Notice No (OTM)-01/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under IUGIP Project, LGED. Details are given below.

SL No	Description of the works & package	Tender ID No	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)	Tender Security Submission (LastDate & Time)
1.	Package No- IUGIP/RANG/UT+DR/01/2023 Improvement/Construction of Roads 4008.00m in 10 locations, RCC Drains 121.00m in 01 location, 05-Nos. RCC Cross Drain, 22m Palisading work, 481m Retaining Wall, 114 Nos Street Light & 180 nos Tree plantation under Rangamati Pourashava, District: Rangamati.	1039129	30-Dec-2024 13:00	30-Dec-2024 11:45

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 system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for the downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 03-Jul-2024 14:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)

24/11/24

(Nasrin Sultana)

Administrator

Rangamati Paurashava.

Rangamati.

GD-1034

Fix the system to prevent rape

Existing justice mechanisms for rape crimes are not working

A report published by this daily on Monday reveals a disturbing yet familiar picture of women's safety in Bangladesh. Citing data collected by the Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), it states that a female has been raped every nine hours on average in the country between January 2020 and September 2024. This translates to at least two rapes each day. To call this horrifying would be an understatement. More importantly, this highlights yet again how the country has been systematically failing half of its population.

During the above-mentioned period, a total of 4,787 cases of rape were reported in the media. Of those, police cases were filed for 3,419, meaning about one-third were not reported to law enforcement. It's not unreasonable to assume that there were even more incidents that didn't reach the media, as the stigma surrounding rape as well as threats of retribution continue to deter victims and their families from seeking justice. Unfortunately, despite numerous awareness campaigns and the authorities' promises to ensure safety and justice for women, our society has yet to undergo an effective shift to prevent gender-based violence.

For those who can overcome initial barriers, however, more hurdles await, as victims must endure distressing environments in court, lengthy legal battles that can be mentally and financially taxing, and also a lack of empathy across the justice system (from police stations to courts). Police data from the first nine months of 2024 also shows their arduous and often futile legal battles, with around 68 percent of those accused in cases of violence or abuse against women remaining at large. Police authorities say this is not due to a lack of capacity. Should we then assume a lack of interest?

The existing justice system for sexual and gender-based violence is deeply flawed. Delays in arrests in rape cases, combined with protracted legal proceedings, place the burden on victims and their families rather than on the perpetrators. Furthermore, there is still no specific law for victim and witness protection, despite the existence of a vetted draft. Nor is there a state-sponsored compensation mechanism which could encourage victims, especially those from underprivileged communities, to pursue justice. This cannot be the norm in a civilised, modern nation.

We urge the government to address the harsh reality that half of our population endures, and to incorporate modern, empathetic mechanisms for pursuing justice in cases of rape and other forms of gender-based violence into ongoing reform efforts. Ensuring women's safety and access to justice is essential if we are to build a society that truly values and protects all its citizens.

Dengue taking a deadlier turn

Relevant agencies must answer for failure to check its spread

We are deeply concerned by the rising number of dengue-related deaths at a time of year when such fatalities typically decrease. This November has already seen the highest number of deaths in the year, with 144 fatalities reported in the first 24 days of this month, including 11 in just the past 24 hours as of Sunday morning. Overall, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 459 patients have died this year from this mosquito-borne disease. This is only the second time in the last 24 years that dengue deaths have surpassed the 450-mark. Clearly, such a tragic toll could have been avoided had the authorities acted decisively and in a timely manner.

Admittedly, this year's dengue control efforts were disrupted by the July uprising, which left city corporations and municipalities unable to carry out their regular duties in the absence of mayors and councillors. However, once the interim government appointed administrators to replace the latter, we expected a swift resumption of mosquito-control drives. Unfortunately, both city corporations in Dhaka failed to do their part, and the situation was equally dire outside the capital. This daily has published many editorials urging action before it was too late, but nothing seemed to spur the authorities into action. It reflects not just inefficiency but also a certain disregard for public health, for which they must be held accountable.

Experts and entomologists have repeatedly warned about the shifting dengue patterns, but their warnings went unheeded. Previously, dengue was largely concentrated in Dhaka, but this year, cases outside the capital have exceeded those within, according to an October report by this daily. Furthermore, dengue cases that would typically decrease in winter show no signs of abating this year. If this trend continues, the situation may worsen in the coming days. Therefore, our dengue management strategy must account for these changing realities. Reportedly, many deaths this year have been due to late detection, with patients being diagnosed when it was too late. Since early detection is key to effective treatment, all healthcare facilities, including upazila health complexes, must be equipped to diagnose and treat dengue promptly. The government should also ensure that dengue tests are available at subsidised rates.

As for city corporations and municipalities, they must conduct regular anti-mosquito drives and awareness campaigns as these can have a significant impact on reducing cases. With dengue now endemic, we need sustained, year-round measures to curb its spread and prevent needless deaths.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Tutankhamun's tomb discovered

On this day in 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the main chamber of Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb and had a peek inside with a candle.

Monuments of resistance and the politics of memory



Nubras Samayeen is an architect, urban designer, and PhD candidate in the joint programme of Landscape Architecture and Heritage at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

NUBRAS SAMAYEEN

It was no easy victory. After enduring massive carnage and 15 years of unjust dominance by a single political party, Bangladesh experienced a reincarnation. This resurgence, marked by bloodshed and violence, claimed the lives of individuals ranging from toddlers—like Zahir (6), Abdul (4), Roya (6)—to university students and civilians, totalling over a thousand. This *shadhinota* differs vastly from what the post-1971 generation knew. These young people did not seek martyrdom; they were killed, forced into it by police brutality—gunshots, severe burns, or shrapnel—in the homeland they thought would rightfully be a safe haven. Ultimately, the student movement—or rather, the student-led people's movement—triumphed on July 36 (August 5), 2024. These horrific yet historic moments must be memorialised. But where and how? How can we, as common citizens, claim our victory? Thus arises the urgency of spatial claim/reclaim/lun]claim to reveal a fresh historical narrative—one that does not disregard 1971 but builds upon it. This nuevo-nationalism version 2.0 deviates from the Mujib-centred, post-1971 *chetona* (spirit) and its mono-narrative of Bangladeshi nationalism.

Immediately after the revolution, people spontaneously began to historicise and monumentalise urban spaces across broiling Bangladesh. Spaces of protest, martyrs, and carnage were transformed into markers and monuments, turning the major towns and cities—and particularly Dhaka—into open-air museums. These ad-hoc actions are techniques for historical recording. Notable examples include the commemorations of Abu Sayed (1999-2024) and Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho (1998-2024).

Sayed, just 25, died after enduring baton charges and being shot four times, becoming what Shahidullah Faraj called the "hero of the generation." His name has now been immortalised. The people renamed the Rangpur Park intersection to "Shaheed Abu Sayed Chatter" in his honour. On July 18, Mugdho was killed by police while distributing water to protesters. His death further galvanised people. In his memory, "Shib Bari Mor" in Khulna was renamed "Shaheed Meer Mugdho Chatter," Dhaka's Zero Point became "Mugdho Chatter," and the Bangabandhu Mukta Mancha in Uttara

was renamed "Mugdho Mancha." Police brutality, deaths, and political caricatures have been illustrated and replicated through recurring visual representations—wall paintings, cartoons, and street art—across Dhaka and beyond. These artworks, often created by hand and reproduced shortly after the incidents, carry a weight that counters Walter Benjamin's *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*. Though transient, the proliferation of these artefacts plays a crucial role in ensuring that Bangladesh's evolving narratives are not forgotten. In this way, these spatial moments serve as agencies of historical



People celebrate the downfall of the Hasina-led Awami League government near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on August 5, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

transference and identity-making. Thus, they also become powerful catalysts and iconoclastic gestures challenging the pervasive dominance of Mujib's omnipresence, propagated during Awami autocracy. Like museum pieces, these artworks act as critical historical spectacles. Dr Yunus, as head of Bangladesh's interim government, carried this message in mobile form—a book—to the UN meeting in New York, further underscoring the significance of these art forms.

One space that must be uncovered and integrated into Bangladesh's evolving, multi-faceted narrative is Aynaghar (House of Mirrors). Under Sheikh Hasina's regime, the country became infamous for forced disappearances, commonly referred to as *goom*. Much like India's Kaala-Pani—a hidden cellular jail and notorious torture site used during the British period—Aynaghars were

including even pet ducks. While the looting can be seen as a momentary act of vengeance and a release of pent-up frustration, it holds no deeper connection to Bangladesh's collective memory. Thus, memorialising Gono Bhaban as a museum risks evoking negative memories. Memorialising a space with such fear could wrongly shape the collective memory of a place where the public had little interaction in history. In that way, it may be counterintuitive to the monumental conquest, overshadowing the public struggle.

As educated citizens, we must remain vigilant about the significance of Gono Bhaban and the larger Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area. The building was specifically designed for the nation's leader by renowned modernist architect Louis I Kahn (1901-1974). Arguably one of Kahn's finest works, it deserves both scrutiny and preservation. It

of Kahn's design in shaping our national consciousness. Hence, the removal of the wall and the opening of the space long-owed to the public is perhaps a more justified approach, aligning with Bangladesh's newly found independence. This might also be an opportunity to decolonise the substantial number of independence-war museums, many of which were built using public funds during the Awami era. The images and narratives once set out of visibility should now be included to reflect evolving Bangladeshi nationalism and identity. We can also fill the gaps with visuals (photos, newspaper clippings) that were once restricted. It is time to insert the unsung heroes alongside those who gave their lives in 1971 and 2024. Now is the prime time to claim, and even reclaim, what is rightfully ours, and to discard what no longer represents Bangladesh Version 2.0.

Breaking the cycle of juvenile crime



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RAKIB AL HASAN

As Bangladesh surges forward into a new era of political change, a darker tide is rising within our communities—a troubling spike in juvenile crime. While our leaders focus on national reform, an underground world of teen gangs and criminal networks is quietly taking root, ensnaring our youth in cycles of violence, crime, and despair.

But why are so many of our children and teenagers drawn into the shadows of gang culture? It is a complex web woven from poverty, broken homes, peer pressure, and a search for identity. In underserved neighbourhoods, gang life can offer a twisted sense of family, protection, and power. Without strong family support or access to opportunities, young people can feel adrift, easily lured by the false promises of gang culture.

Yet the influences stretch beyond poverty. Across economic divides, some youths are captivated by the glamorisation of gang life on social media and in popular culture, where figures of crime are idolised as symbols of defiance and "success." With such distorted role models, many teenagers begin to see violence and lawlessness as pathways to respect and recognition.

In the wake of recent political turmoil, many communities are vulnerable, left without the support

and security they once relied on. The administrative reorganisation following the revolution has left gaps in law enforcement, creating space for gang activities to flourish. As political power shifted, gang leaders capitalised on the upheaval to recruit young people who feel isolated, restless, and overlooked.

Moreover, corruption among local power figures has emboldened gang networks, as some councillors and "big brothers" enable these gangs for their gain, using them as pawns for influence. This erosion of integrity at the local level has turned neighbourhoods into battlegrounds, where teenagers become unwitting soldiers and gang affiliation becomes a deadly game for respect.

What may start as minor acts of mischief often spirals into something much darker—drug distribution, theft, extortion, and even murder. Innocent people live in fear as communities are disrupted, their streets claimed by teenagers who see no future outside gang life. Schools are no longer sanctuaries but places of intimidation, where innocent students can fall victim to violence. Families are left shattered, watching as their children slip further away, trapped in a dangerous world with few exits.

The rise of teen gang culture calls for a united, strategic response—a plan that addresses root causes, not just symptoms. Here is a blueprint for a future where youth have a real chance to thrive:

Family and community engagement

Parents and guardians must be the first line of support, fostering open communication and offering a stable foundation. Communities can strengthen this support by creating safe spaces for young people, offering mentorship, mental health resources, and educational support. Government programmes can aid families facing financial hardship, reducing the vulnerabilities that gangs exploit.

Transforming schools into safe havens

Educational institutions have the power to reshape the trajectory of young lives. Beyond academics, schools must provide social and emotional support with activities that encourage positive self-expression—such as sports, arts, and leadership opportunities. Through community partnerships, students can engage with role models and mentors who demonstrate that success is attainable without resorting to violence.

A culture of awareness and empowerment

Awareness is key. Community organisations, local leaders, and the media must collaborate to shine a light on the dangers of gang life, offering clear, powerful messages that dispel the myths surrounding it. Real stories of resilience and redemption should be amplified so that young people see that strength lies in integrity, not in crime. Social campaigns, events, and

programmes that celebrate positive achievements can create a sense of pride and belonging that gangs cannot offer.

Reinforcing law and order with compassionate solutions

While strengthening law enforcement is essential, it must go hand in hand with rehabilitation efforts. Quick and fair punishment serves as a deterrent, but so does the chance at a future. By establishing rehabilitation programmes for juvenile offenders, we can guide them back to a constructive path. Police should also work in partnership with community organisations, ensuring they are not only enforcing laws but also supporting prevention efforts.

Bangladesh stands at a pivotal moment. The path we choose today will shape our future for decades to come. By ignoring the rise of juvenile crime, we risk losing a generation to violence, perpetuating cycles of poverty and fear. Yet, by coming together—parents, teachers, community leaders, and law enforcement—we can reclaim our neighbourhoods, giving our youth the chance to thrive in a world free of violence and corruption.

Bangladesh's youth are not inherently lost or violent. They are searching for purpose and direction in a society that too often looks the other way. It is up to us to show them that real power lies in courage, honesty, and lifting each other up. By building a society that values resilience and respect, we can protect our young people from the lure of gang culture and create a safer, more just Bangladesh.

The time for action is now. Let us break the cycle, together.

BAKU CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The unresolved question of ‘non-economic’ loss and damage



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PAVEL PARTHA

Some 64 kilometres southwest of Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku, is the Gobustan State Historical and Cultural Reserve. After the first week of the Baku Climate Conference, the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP), we had the opportunity to visit these relics of our ancestors.

As I observed the stone carved cavities in Gobustan, I wondered what Stone Age humans might have stored in them—perhaps meat, fruits, herbs, or seeds. Cooking rice was not yet part of civilisation, as rice had not been discovered; only later domesticated by *Homo sapiens*. Over time, wild rice was tamed, but the “Green Revolution project” transformed agriculture into a profit-driven industry, eradicating the diversity of traditional rice and other crop genetic resources.

In parallel, the discourse on climate change adaptation and payment for loss and damage is growing, with the Global South advocating for an Adaptation Fund and a Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund. Yet, L&D negotiations largely focus on economic losses, leaving non-economic loss and damage underrepresented in the global climate negotiations.

On our way back from Gobustan, I wondered: could we ever put a price tag on these priceless remnants? If these artefacts were to be lost to a volcanic eruption or another climate-induced disaster, the losses would fall under what we describe as the category of non-economic loss and damage in climate discourse.

The Baku Climate Conference, dubbed the “Finance COP,” focused more on promoting carbon credits and false solutions than addressing people-led adaptation and loss and damage. The unresolved, irreversible impacts of climate change continue to grow. Disasters like cyclones, droughts, floods, and heatwaves not only cause economic losses but also destroy traditional knowledge, rituals and even rare species. Can humanity survive without these non-economic, intangible cultural heritages? Acknowledging and incorporating these losses into global climate action is not just necessary—it’s urgent for conserving the essence of human existence.

Non-economic loss and damage
in global climate discourse

The issue of “Loss and Damage” due to climate change gained prominence through small island nations (Small Island Developing States/ SIDS and Alliance of Small Island States/ AOSIS) initially focusing on economic impacts. However, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) shifted the discussion

towards non-economic loss and damage (NELD), a concept often overlooked. Based on the UNFCCC’s report (2013) on Non-economic losses in the context of the work programme on loss and damage’ refers to losses not traded in markets—loss of life, health, human mobility, loss of territory, cultural heritage, Indigenous local knowledge and social capital, biodiversity and ecosystem service. Measuring these losses is challenging as they lack a market value, yet they are integral to human civilisation.

Following the Paris Agreement, a 2019 report identified key sectors for assessing NELD, and the “Santiago Network” was established to support developing nations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report included NELD examples, such as loss of life and ecosystems. NELD’s scope varies across different cultures, ecosystems, and communities, shaped by diverse social, cultural, and historical contexts. This article presents examples of NELD caused by climatic stress from various eco-regions of global countries including Bangladesh to illustrate the broader concept.

Lost rain, lost rituals

The Huni Kui people, who reside in the Brazilian and Peruvian parts of the Amazon, believe that after death, humans are reborn as trees in the forest, according to Ninawa Inu Huni Kui, leader of the Huni Kui. To them, every plant and tree is sacred. The *Mukaya* (shamans or healers) venture deep into the forest to collect flowers, leaves, and roots used in herbal medicine and various rituals.

Due to irregular rainfall and rising temperatures, many plants are going to be extinct in the Amazon. Ninawa’s account parallels the experiences of the Indigenous Tripura community in Bangladesh’s Rema-Kalenga forest. The Tripura believe the *Kuthui/Rugani/Khlum* plant guides dead’s souls to heaven, but prolonged droughts have made this sacred plant harder to find.

In the Bengali Hindu tradition, 108 lotus flowers are essential for *Sharadiya Durga Puja*. From 2022 to 2024, excessive rainfall during the flowering season destroyed many blooms in wetlands. While some devotees managed to acquire lotus flowers at high prices, a very few could gather the full 108 required for rituals.

New diseases, new concerns

Climate change is also linked to diseases like dengue, chikungunya, cholera, and malaria, which bring new challenges and fears. Caroline

Naeku Lemachakoti, an Indigenous activist from the Samburu community in Nigari village of Kenya, reported that prolonged droughts are increasing the spread of a camel disease called *Nadopapita*.

Meanwhile, Shahin Alam, a youth climate activist from Bangladesh’s Sundarbans, highlighted that intrusion of salinity is causing complex reproductive health issues among women in coastal villages. Irregular rainfall

water scarcity—a grim story she reiterated this year. Meanwhile, U Khing Nu Chak, a youth climate activist from the Indigenous Chak community of Naikhongchhari in Bangladesh’s Bandarban, shared her Grandmother Janingme Chak’s memories of colourful maize varieties that once flourished in their mountain villages. These varieties are now disappearing, driven by drought, water shortages, and rising temperatures.

by Chathurika Sewwandi of Sri Lanka’s Vikalpini National Women’s Federation, face increased violence and insecurity in these situations. The emotional toll of leaving one’s birthplace is immense, and adapting to new settlements often leads to social, cultural, and environmental conflicts.

Indigenous knowledge, beliefs
and new doubts

The devastating floods in Sunamganj and Sylhet in Bangladesh in 2022 not only led to loss of life and property but also wiped out many *Dhamail* songs, a cultural heritage of the *Haor* region. Women in these areas have their *Dhamail* songs written in songbooks, which were submerged and lost in the floods. Thus, climate change is causing the daily disappearance of numerous songs, languages, Indigenous knowledge, and cultural expressions around the world. Traditional practices related to weaving, agriculture, local adaptations, rural architecture, culinary arts, herbal medicine, and disaster management are all critically endangered due to climate change.

In the hills of Bandarban, only six speakers of the *Rengmitcha* language remain. The scarcity of water and land crisis is exacerbating the survival challenge of Indigenous communities. When the last speaker of the *Sare* language from India’s Andaman-Nicobar Islands passed away during the first wave of the Covid pandemic, the language went extinct.

Stephanie Stephens, a representative from Vanuatu’s Ministry of Climate Change, explained that as coastal villages are submerged by tidal surges, people are being forced to move to mountain areas. In these new regions, the medicinal plants they once relied on are no longer available, leading to the erosion of indigenous knowledge about herbs and healing.

Non-economic loss and damage, human
rights, and political commitments

While Bangladesh has made strides in disaster management and adaptation, it has yet to fully address NELD. There is an urgent need for policies and management frameworks in this area. Although Bangladesh presented a national L&D assessment framework at the Baku Conference, NELD must be explicitly integrated. This requires the consent of all regions and communities, along with coordinated research on the impacts of NELD on ecosystems and people.

In climate finance negotiations, countries must include NELD in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) to ensure that NELD are addressed in both national and international climate policies. After undue delays and false oaths, the global leaders at the Baku conference agreed to climate finance \$300 billion per year. Strong commitment and concrete climate actions are now needed to address the global NELD.



Prehistoric stone curving art at Gobustan State Historical and Cultural Reserve, Baku, Azerbaijan.

PHOTO: PAVEL PARTHA

and rising temperatures are also damaging betel leaf plantations in the Khasi Indigenous community of Sylhet in Bangladesh, leading to a rise in the *Uttam* disease of betel leaf garden.

Erosion of genetic resources
and biodiversity

In Sherpur of Bangladesh, the floods during August-September this year, submerged rice fields, including those growing the indigenous *Tulshimala* variety, a crop with Geographical Indication (GI) status. Rukasen Beypi, a climate activist from India’s Assam, highlighted a similar plight among the Karbi Indigenous people, whose traditional crops are rapidly vanishing. Droughts have made finding two wild banana varieties, *Lorup* and *Lochin*, increasingly difficult.

Bolivian food rights activist Aira Roja Condori, who also participated in last year’s climate summit in Dubai, recalled the loss of wild potato varieties due to droughts and

Leodegario Velayo and Rowena Buena the farmer-scientists from Philippines told that, they are trying to conserve the traditional climate resilient varieties.

Alien territories, new conflicts

Cyclones, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures are increasingly displacing both humans and wildlife, forcing migration in Bangladesh’s Satkhira and Netrokona regions. Young people, particularly women, are seeking jobs outside their villages due to the loss of agricultural land and employment opportunities. Unlike cultural migration, this displacement forces people to leave behind everything they’ve known: villages, ancestral graves, temples, and communities.

Makereta Waqavonovono from Fiji shared how frequent tidal surges displace her community, a situation mirrored by those affected by riverbank erosion in Bangladesh’s Meghna, Jamuna, and Brahmaputra basins. Women and children, as highlighted

A roadmap for rickshaw management is essential



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and Management (BIGM).

HOSSIE MUHAMMED ZAKI

The unplanned growth of our cities has exacerbated the management crisis surrounding rickshaws, adding to the woes of an already chaotic transport sector. Battery-powered rickshaws, in particular, have gained popularity nationwide as a more convenient to pedal rickshaws. However, since these vehicles are unsafe by design and poorly regulated, accidents occur frequently, which shows the urgency of formulating a comprehensive policy to manage their operation effectively.

Over the years, the authorities have made various attempts to control the spread of battery-powered rickshaws. In Dhaka and Chattogram, battery-run rickshaws were banned by the High Court in 2014, with a subsequent directive in December 2021 prohibiting their import. In August 2015, the government banned three-wheeled, non-motorised vehicles on 22 roadways across the country. The Road Transport Act of 2018 further restricted battery-powered rickshaws, along with vans and other three-wheelers, and in 2023, the government unveiled the “Registration and Movement of Electric Vehicles Policy.” However, this policy neglected to address battery-operated rickshaws specifically, leaving a regulatory gap.

From pedal rickshaws to battery-
run rickshaws

The history of the origin of rickshaws in Dhaka goes back to 1938 when six rickshaws were brought into the city by a zamindar from Sutrapur and a Marwari trader from Wari. This significant moment, documented in a 1986 BIDS publication, marked the beginning of Dhaka’s rickshaw industry. By 1944, according to Robert Gallagher’s 1992 research book “The Rickshaws of Bangladesh”, Dhaka licensed its first 100 rickshaws. By 1948, it was 575, and by 1972, the number increased to 23,000. However, there were more pullers than there were rickshaws, as many drivers shared the same vehicle. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)—the sole licensing authority until 1986—issued 79,554 rickshaw licenses, yet since its bifurcation, the city’s North and South corporations have conspicuously lacked data on the number of rickshaws in operation. This added complexity to managing the industry.

The transition to battery-powered rickshaws began between 2007 and 2009 when local workshops outfitted the vehicles. Auto-rickshaws and easybikes are the two primary varieties of battery-powered rickshaws. An electric motor and lead-acid batteries were added to the rickshaw frame, allowing it to operate at high speeds. However, these rickshaws or easybikes, often built with low-quality parts and batteries, lack essential safety

features, making them dangerous for drivers, passengers, and pedestrians alike.

Rickshaw-related
research findings

Research on rickshaws and their pullers/drivers can help policymakers understand the industry’s scale and impact. According to a 2019 study by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), Dhaka alone has around 1.5 million rickshaw operators, with five million nationally relying on the vehicles for their livelihood, contributing around Tk 30,000 crore to the rural economy each year. Therefore, regulation and registration, especially zone-based management, are essential to address the issues posed by unregulated battery-powered rickshaws.

A May 2024 study by CLEAN found that 1.4 million easybikes collectively use approximately 659 MW of electricity daily, serving about 25 million people for short-distance transport. The easybike system contributes approximately Tk 97,625 crore to the national economy, according to the study, with major contributions from manufacturing, battery, and services related to charging, servicing, and commuting. The study suggests that proper regulation of easybikes could add Tk 8,000 crore to the national exchequer if they were legalised, licensed, and subjected to regular renewals. To promote sustainable use, the study also recommended shifting to lithium-ion batteries, offering driving courses and licenses, setting up solar-powered charging stations, etc.

From October 2021 to September 2023, the Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC) carried out a project titled “Development of a Design

Standard for Easy Bike in Bangladesh.”

Conducted by BUET’s mechanical and electrical engineering departments, the project focused on creating a standard for easybike manufacturing, assembly, and importation. The project findings suggested that safety could be enhanced by improving the braking system, adding doors, and altering seating capacity. Replacing lead-acid batteries with lithium-ion batteries would reduce pollution and extend battery life. However, large-scale adoption of these changes could be hindered by the significant amount of illicit money involved in the unregulated sale of battery rickshaw number plates and inferior batteries.

Guidelines for sustainable

rickshaw management

Immediate action is needed to establish and enforce operating guidelines for both pedal and battery-powered rickshaws. But first, public walkways should be cleared for pedestrian use, and a rental bicycle system could encourage more people to cycle. Improved public transportation could also gradually reduce the dependency on rickshaws. Temporarily halting the production and sale of all rickshaw models and banning battery rickshaw imports are further steps to curb proliferation. That said, we should ensure that all these vehicles are properly registered and standardised. Community-based rickshaw systems, similar to those in DOHS and Bashundhara,

could be expanded, while a QR code-based registration for rickshaws could facilitate regulation. Finally, decentralising Dhaka’s concentrated economic and social opportunities is essential for alleviating transportation crises and reducing traffic congestion.

The rickshaw industry, both pedal and battery-powered, is deeply intertwined with the socioeconomic fabric of Bangladesh. By establishing and enforcing a structured management system, including regulated standards, safer designs, and environmental measures, the government can transform rickshaw dependency into a safer, more efficient, and economically beneficial system for all.

WEST ZONE POWER DISTRIBUTION CO. LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Office of the Project Director
Extension and Augmentation of Power Distribution System Project,
Bidyut Bhaban campus, Boyra Main Road, Khulna, email: eapdsp@gmail.com & pd.eapdsp@wzpdcl.gov.bd

Memo No: 27.22.4785.900.50.002.24.488

Dated: 25/11/2024

Tender Notice

e-Tender for the Project Director's office, Extension and Augmentation of Power Distribution System Project is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following goods:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Invitation Reference	Name of Tender
1.	1041601	27.22.4785.900.50.002.24.487 Date: 25.11.2024	Construction and renovation work of internal road and drain of WZPDCL Head quarter, Khulna.
2.	1039892	27.22.4785.900.50.002.24.485 Date: 21.11.2024	Construction of One Storied Semi- Paka (steel structure) Store at khulna under WZPDCL.

This is Online Tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Shafiqul Islam
Project Director
EAPDSP, WZPDCL, Khulna.

GD-1039

5 bad habits of high-potential employees



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

High-potential employees may struggle to listen actively. Even when someone else is talking, they're mentally occupied with crafting their counter-response.

SYEDA ADIBA ARIF

Legacy organisations have historically rewarded a “get-things-done-fast” mindset, fostering problematic behavior by high-potential employees as an unintended by-product. Despite emphasising the equal weightage of business and people, many organisations end up overlooking the negative impact of these ambitious talents on team morale. When left unchecked, they can have serious consequences on long term business results.

Watch out for these 5 bad habits commonly found in high-potential employees.

Aggressive quest of business targets
With a focused vision on driving business targets, high-potential employees are sometimes willing to strain workplace relationships and sacrifice their life outside

work. The problem magnifies when they expect the same from their teams, who may not share that worldview. They may condemn those who don't share their commitment level, resorting to emotional volatility as a management tool to drive results. Ultimately this results in creating a culture of burnout and resentment, reducing productivity and cohesion.

Overwhelming need to dominate discussion
High-potential employees may struggle to listen actively. Even when someone else is talking, they're mentally occupied with crafting their counter-response. They tend to hijack discussions, blocking diverse perspectives and revealing a lack of respect for others' viewpoints. This tendency can trap teams in silos of old ideas, stifling innovation. Employees may feel undervalued and disengaged, further clipping team performance.

Setting unbalanced expectations

Teams are made up of a spectrum of talents, from stellar superstars to steady contributors and even those who are struggling. Some team members, who may not have the steepest career trajectory, provide essential stability and specialised knowledge. High-potential employees may overlook these contributions, expecting uniform charisma and drive from everyone, while neglecting to offer additional support to those who need it. This one-size-fits-all approach misses the opportunity to also leverage each member's unique strengths, reflecting significant oversight in leadership.

Unnecessary pursuit of perfection
While striving for high standards is valuable, pushing for perfection on every task and project can be counterproductive. When a deliverable is good enough, investing excessive energy for marginal gains is not only wasteful, but also damaging to morale, as employees may feel that their work is never good enough. This also shifts focus from high priority tasks to good-to-haves.

Draining Pessimism
Optimism is a critical leadership trait, enabling leaders to uncover opportunities in adversity. While optimistic leaders spread a shared vision of success, conversely, pessimistic leaders spread negativity. They undermine other projects or teams. This condescending behaviour, rooted in a superiority complex can erode company culture, as team members may begin to impersonate and adopt similar perspectives.

High-potential employees are undoubtedly great assets, bringing high energy and impact. However, to fully realise their potential, they need to actively avoid these toxic behaviours. Without self-awareness, even the most promising employees risk creating a toxic environment – a significant challenge in today's workplace, where the threshold for poor management is lower than ever.

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

British businesses lost \$55 billion to cyberattacks over five years

NEXT STEP DESK

British businesses have lost an estimated £44 billion (\$55.08 billion) in revenue over the past five years due to cyberattacks, with more than half (52%) of private-sector companies

reporting at least one incident, according to insurance broker firm Howden.

The most common attack methods were email compromises (20%) and data theft (18%), with larger companies earning over £100 million

annually particularly vulnerable. On average, cyberattacks resulted in a 1.9% revenue loss for businesses.

However, despite the growing threat, only 61% of companies use anti-virus software, and just 55% have network firewalls in place. Cost

and insufficient IT resources are cited as key obstacles to improving cybersecurity, as per a Reuters report. The findings were based on a survey of 905 IT decision-makers by YouGov, a British internet-based market research firm.

Microsoft planning voice cloning tool for Teams meetings

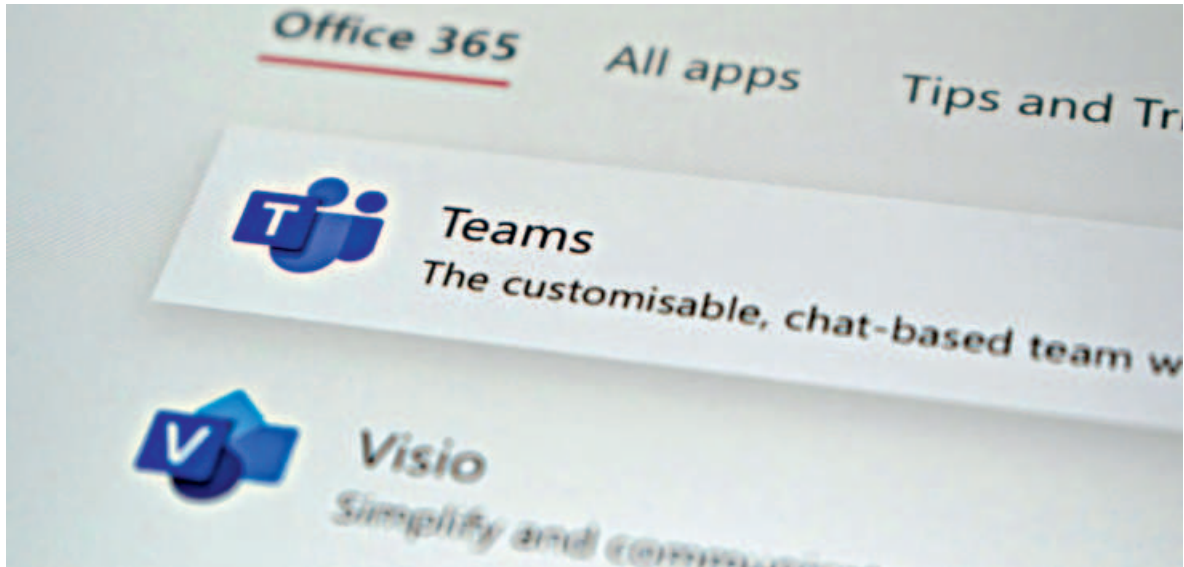
NEXT STEP DESK

Microsoft has announced plans to introduce voice cloning for Teams, allowing users to simulate their voices in multiple languages during meetings. Revealed at Microsoft Ignite 2024, the new feature, called Interpreter in Teams, promises real-time speech-

to-speech interpretation in nine languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. The feature will roll out to Microsoft 365 subscribers in early 2025.

In the event, Microsoft highlighted the tool's potential

to enhance multilingual communication in business environments. It clarified that Interpreter does not store biometric data, add artificial sentiments, or retain information beyond the original voice's tone. Users will have the option to disable the tool via Teams settings.



Interactive Cares launches 'Idea Innovation 5.0'

Interactive Cares, a local edtech platform, has launched 'Idea Innovation 5.0', the fifth iteration of its flagship event. According to an official press release, the event is aimed at fostering creativity and innovation among local youths, providing participants with the opportunity to pitch their ideas to judges while also gaining mentorship, technical guidance, and training from Interactive Cares.

This year's theme is 'Rebuild Bangladesh Through Innovation', which, as per Interactive Cares, calls on young minds to think big for the country's future. Participants have the chance to compete for a prize pool of BDT 1,50,000. Teams can include up to four members, and cross-university collaboration is encouraged. Winners will also receive other opportunities such as media features and focused mentorship sessions.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

BRAC

Senior Manager,
Crop Diversification;
Microfinance Programme

Deadline: November 30

Eligibility:

Bachelors in any discipline from any recognised university, with experience in agriculture/crop diversification.

Minimum experience: 5 years



Healthcare

Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Sr. Officer/Sr. Executive, R&D

Deadline: December 1

Eligibility:

Masters in Pharmacy from any reputed university, with prior experience in various pharmaceutical dosage forms, e.g. tablets, capsules, injectables, etc.

Minimum experience: 3-6 years



UNICEF

Health Specialist

Deadline: November 28

Eligibility:

Medical Doctor/MBBS and an advanced university degree in fields such as public health, pediatric health, family health, health research, global/international health, etc.

Minimum experience: 5 years



SMC Enterprise Ltd.

Territory Sales Officer

Deadline: November 30

Eligibility:

Masters in any discipline from recognised university, with prior working experience in a similar role.

Minimum experience: 3 years



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“Think like a queen.
A queen is not afraid
to fail. Failure
is another
stepping stone to
greatness”



OPRAH WINFREY



GIT-ING STARTED 5 beginner-friendly free Git courses

MARWAN KHADEM

You have probably heard developers mention Git here and there, and if you are new to coding, you might be asking: what is it, and why is it so important? Git is a version control system that allows you to track and manage all the changes you make to your code. You can think of it as a 'save point' in a video game, where, if something goes wrong, you can always rewind to an earlier version.

If you are a developer, you should also familiarise yourself with GitHub because it hosts Git repositories in the cloud. Imagine Git as your personal assistant for handling code, and GitHub is the social media where your code hangs out. Nearly every developer, whether they are building open-source projects or working in large companies, uses Git and GitHub every day. So, learning Git isn't just a good idea - it's essential for any tech career.

Here are five beginner-friendly, free Git courses to help you get started.

Git Started with GitHub by Udemy

If you are new to Git and GitHub, this is the course to begin with. It is packed with clear, easy-to-follow, and well-guided instructions. In no time, you will be pushing code to GitHub like a pro.

What you'll learn: How to set up

Git and GitHub on your computer; key concepts of Git source control system; basic Git commands, such as commit, push, pull, and help.

Version Control with Git by Coursera

If you prefer structured, university-style learning, this course is a good way to dive into Git. It consists of video lectures, quizzes, and hands-on tasks which will make your learning journey interactive and practical. It will also help you understand how Git fits into collaborative coding.

What you'll learn: How to set up Git and manage repositories locally; basics of version control, such as commits, branches, and merges; how to work with remote repositories; Git workflows for working teams, which include topics like pull requests and merge conflicts.

Git: Become an Expert in Git & GitHub in 4 Hours by Udemy

This 4-hour crash course can help you learn Git without compromising on quality. It is designed in a fast-paced structure, so you will be up to speed quickly, and the basics should be under your belt in no time.

What you'll learn: The fundamentals of Git, such as commit, push, pull, and clone; how to work with branches and resolve merge conflicts; advanced Git

features, such as rebasing and cherry-picking; how to effectively work with remote repositories.

Working with Version Control by Future Learn

This course focuses on real-world applications and teaches how Git fits in the development processes while making sure you learn the essentials. If you are a fan of structured learning, this is for you.

What you'll learn: How to use Git and version control in real-life scenarios; basics of Git, such as committing, pushing, pulling, branching, and merging; the importance of version control in collaborative projects; how to handle challenges like merge conflicts;

Learn Git Branching

This course will allow you to experiment with Git commands and visualise the results in real-time. So, you can practise Git commands without having to worry about messing up your real project.

What you'll learn: How to work with Git branches; visualising the Git workflow with diagrams; how to execute common Git tasks, such as resolving merge conflicts; learning advanced Git features through interactive challenges.



Bumrah rewrites script for ‘special’ India triumph

🔴 The 295-run win was India’s largest margin of victory against Australia away from home in terms of runs, surpassing their 222-run triumph in Melbourne back in 1977.

🔴 In the overall contests between these two nations, it was the second biggest Test win (in terms of runs) after the Mohali Test (2008), when India had won by 320 runs.

🔴 The emphatic victory was only India’s second in Perth and first since their triumph at the WACA Ground back in 2008.

🔴 Jasprit Bumrah became only the second captain from Asia to lead his team to a Test win against Australia in Perth – after Anil Kumble (2008).

🔴 The victory propelled India to the top of the World Test Championship standings with a points percentage of 61.11, while Australia dropped to second place with 57.69.

🔴 The last time Australia won a home series after losing the opening Test was 55 years ago against West Indies.

“I thought he [Jasprit Bumrah] bowled really well. He’s one of the best in the world. He’s always going to be a challenge, so we got to come up with ways to combat that. He bowled well through the game, like he does most games.”



Australia captain Pat Cummins

AGENCIES

India overcame an unpromising start to thrash Australia by 295 runs in the first Test at Perth Stadium on Monday, laying down the gauntlet for the rest of the series and putting to bed any question marks about their form.

Stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah led from the front with 3-42, named player-of-the-match after earlier picking up 5-30, as India wrapped up the comprehensive win well inside four days to take a 1-0 lead in the five-game series.

Set a mountainous 534 for victory, the world’s top-ranked Test team crumbled to 238 all out in the final session on day four.

“Obviously, a special win, my first win as captain, I’m very happy with that and more happy with the performance of the team. We were put under pressure and showed character,” Bumrah told reporters after the match.

“Whenever tough scenarios come, I ask myself ‘how I can contribute?’ We’re a new side so I wanted to put myself in tough scenarios when we needed to do something, to make the job a bit easier for the new guys coming in.”

It was an astonishing turnaround for India, who arrived in Australia on the back of a humiliating 3-0 home series defeat to New Zealand.

Given little hope of defending the

Border-Gavaskar Trophy they have held since 2017, they now head to the second day-night Test in Adelaide next week with a big psychological advantage and boosted by the return of skipper Rohit Sharma.

Under Bumrah’s makeshift captaincy, India dominated an ageing side which is now the one facing scrutiny after failing to fire.

Out for a dismal 104 in reply to India’s first-innings 150, the hosts’ bowling attack then had no reply to a brilliant 161 from impressive young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and an unbeaten 100 from Virat Kohli.

Bumrah bowled magnificently throughout the match on a surface that was all fizz and bounce on day one when

17 wickets fell but turned into a lifeless road that defied Australia’s bowlers for the best part of two days.

Bumrah, who will now hand the reins back to new-dad Rohit Sharma, however Bumrah warned his India side against complacency after their emphatic victory.

“But it was here, Adelaide might be totally different, it’s a pink ball.

“So yes, you can take the confidence from here, but again, you have to start from zero. You have to build on from confidence. You have to take learnings from this game.

“And there were learnings for us in this game, so we’re going to take it in our stride and put our best foot forward.”

Sinner completes year to remember

AFP, Malaga

Jannik Sinner led Italy to a successful defence of the Davis Cup with victory over the Netherlands in the final on Sunday, as the world number one eased to a 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 triumph against Tallon Griekspoor for the winning point. Sinner thus ends 2024 with titles at the Australian Open, US Open and the ATP Finals. Italy, meanwhile, became the first team to defend the title since the Czech Republic in 2013, and the fifth nation to win it along with the Billie Jean King Cup in the same season.

Batters show grit, but work remains

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh’s Test batting performances across the year left plenty of room for concern ahead of the ongoing first Test against the West Indies in Antigua. Yet, the Tigers showed resilience, battling through 98 overs with one wicket still standing at the close of day three on Sunday.

Remarkably, barring the two Tests against Pakistan in Rawalpindi – leading to Bangladesh’s only series win this year – this marks only the seventh instance in previous 15 innings where they have lasted at least 50 overs.

Across the four innings against South Africa in the last series, they played 50 overs just once, indicating the challenges the batting unit has faced in the Test circuit.

Thus, without Mushfiqur Rahim, Najmul Hossain Shanto, and Shakib Al Hasan, it took a big effort from the rest of the line-up to negotiate the searing pace of Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales,

and company.

Mominul Haque led the way with a fifty off 116 deliveries. He and Liton Das put on 62 for the fourth-wicket stand. Before that, Mominul ensured the Dukes ball lost some shine, contributing to a 45-run stand off 129 deliveries with Shahadat Hossain Dipu.

PHOTO: BCB

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed celebrates a landmark moment in his career, kissing the match ball after claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket yesterday. In his 15th appearance in the format, Taskin’s career-best 6-64 on the fourth day of the first Test in Antigua dismantled the West Indies for 152 in their second innings, leaving Bangladesh a 334-run target and reigniting their hopes in a hard-fought contest.

SHORT CORNER

Fizz, Rishad unsold in IPL auction

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman went unsold in the auction of the Indian Premier League in Jeddah yesterday. The Fizz, priced at INR 2 crores, was the first Bangladesh player to be called up on the second day of the auction but no franchise showed interest to rope in the left-arm pacer. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain, who has a base price of INR 75 lakhs, suffered the same fate. Ten other Bangladesh players were not called up to the auction. Mustafizur was the only Bangladesh cricketer to get picked in the last edition’s auction. He played nine matches for the Chennai Super Kings, taking 14 wickets at an economy rate of 9.26.

Sylhet on verge of maiden NCL title

Sylhet Division are on the verge of winning their maiden National Cricket League title as they need 105 runs to win their sixth-round match against Barishal Division on the final day at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium today. If Sylhet win the contest, they will have at least 37 points, 12 more than second-placed Dhaka Division and will clinch the title with one match to spare. According to tournament rules, a team can earn a maximum of nine points from a single fixture – eight points for winning the contest and one extra if the win is either by 10 wickets or an innings margin.

***Read The Daily Star website for the full stories.*

Rana resurfaces after two-year hiatus

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Once a bright prospect for the national team, left-arm pacer Mehedi Hasan Rana, who rose to prominence with his stellar performances in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) in 2019, had been absent in first-class cricket for 25 months.

His struggles began just a day before the last National Cricket League (NCL) season, when the 27-year-old fractured his hand, forcing him to miss the first-class competition and the subsequent Bangladesh Cricket League.

After regaining fitness, Rana was signed by BPL’s Fortune Barishal, who eventually won the title. However, he did not get a chance to play due to team composition.

Reflecting on his struggles, Rana admitted, “I blame myself for not performing in the 2023 BPL for Chattogram Challengers,” referring to his earlier success in the 2019-20 BPL, where he bagged 18 wickets for Chattogram Challengers. He followed that season with 11 wickets in eight matches for Fortune Barishal, who were runners-up that year.

Meanwhile, in the last Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League in April this year, he got only one match for Legends of Ruggani, who relied more on pacers like Abdul Halim, Al-Amin Hossain, and Mashrafe bin Mortaza. As a result, Rana, along with Sumon Khan, spent most of the season on the bench.

“I was unlucky last season,” Rana told The

Daily Star after claiming 5-65 for Khulna Division against his former side, Chattogram Division, in the first innings in Sylhet in the sixth-round match of the ongoing NCL.

Rana’s return to the field was far from easy. Initially drafted into the Chattogram squad, he had to secure an NOC from the management before finally joining Khulna to feature in his first first-class match since October 2022.

“I was out of red-ball cricket for the last two years... I felt I might not get a chance to play for Chattogram this season,” he said.

Rana also faced challenging days in 2022 when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) banned him for a month after he made “unacceptable” comments about a national selector on his Facebook page.

Rana now says he has moved past the incident and is focused on reviving his career. “I don’t think the selectors have kept these [previous misconducts] in their minds,” he said.

“I have always tried to remain fit... After the Premier League, I worked with [Mohammad] Salahuddin sir at the MASCO for three months. I was waiting for my turn to come, and it finally arrived.

“I have been in regular communication with Hannan [Sarkar] bhai... He wished me good luck to perform well here,” said Rana, who, however, is yet to secure a BPL team for the upcoming season and also remains uncertain about being picked in Barishal’s final squad for the NCL T20.

Kane in focus as Bayern host PSG

Bayern Munich host PSG on Tuesday in a battle between two sides flying high domestically but seemingly struggling to adjust to the new Champions League format. After four games, Bayern have lost twice and sit 17th, which would leave them unseeded for the knockout phase play-off. PSG’s situation is even worse, with the French champions in 25th – one spot outside the knockout places entirely. Both teams, however, lead their leagues by six points.

➤ Harry Kane will be the dangerman against PSG as the English striker will be looking to add to the 20 goals he has scored in all competitions this season. His hatrick on the weekend against Augsburg saw him become the fastest to 50 Bundesliga goals

➤ Bayern have won each of their last three games against PSG in the Champions League, played between 2021 and 2023.

➤ Hansi Flick’s Barcelona will be aiming for their fourth consecutive win in Europe when they welcome Brest as the knockout phases start to take shape. A high-flying Barca were stopped in its track in LaLiga by Real Sociedad and were denied a win by Celta Vigo on the weekends but the Catalans still remain top in the league and will look to put a stop to their mini-slide. Brest, placed fourth on the table, are one of five teams who are yet to taste defeat so far in the Champions League.

➤ Crisis has struck out of the blues in Manchester as the positivity from the contract extension of Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola was punctured on Saturday with a 4-0 thrashing at the hand of Tottenham Hotspurs which handed Guardiola a fifth straight defeat for first time in his managerial career. The Citizens, currently on 10th in Europe, will be hoping to get their mojo back when they host Feyenoord who are 21st on the table.

➤ London rivals Arsenal, on the other hand, will face a steep challenge as they will go to Sporting Lisbon, the Portuguese champions who managed to slay 4-1 City on matchday four.



TACKLING UNREST Students to observe solidarity week from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination and 18 other student organisations will observe the National Solidarity Week from today to resolve the unrest at educational institutions and prevent the resurgence of the Awami League.

Leaders of the organisations met at the anti-discrimination platform's office in the capital's Bangla Motor last night.

"Conflicts among various educational institutions have emerged... In almost every incident, we are seeing the involvement of the Chhatra League and Jubo League. They're seeking an opportunity to create division by inciting violence," Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the platform, told reporters following the meeting last night.

"In this situation, the entire student community of Bangladesh, as we were united before August 5, must now come together again,"

During the solidarity week, all student organisations that stood up against the AL, will visit various institutions to spread the message of unity and solidarity, he said.

"The message for the upcoming week will emphasise that there is no alternative to standing together. We will observe this programme and ensure its success.

"All the organisations agree that no opportunity will be given for [the AL's] rehabilitation in any form."

Hasnat further said that the student organisation will also place the demand to confiscate the assets of AL

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



A mother and father try to shield their terrified baby from protesting battery-run rickshaw pullers in the capital's Agargaon yesterday afternoon. The group of protesters stopped the rickshaw they were on and began harassing the puller, who was taking the family to the pharmacy to buy medicine for the child.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SC allows battery rickshaws on Dhaka streets for a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday directed the authorities concerned to maintain the status quo for a month on the issue of plying of battery-powered rickshaws on the Dhaka streets.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque, the chamber judge, said the battery-run rickshaws and auto-rickshaws can operate in the capital during this period as livelihoods of their owners and drivers depend on the vehicles.

The apex court judge also asked the High Court to dispose of the rule issued over this matter in one month.

Yesterday's SC order brought joy to the drivers of the vehicles who have been protesting the HC order since November 19.

The chamber judge passed the order after a petition was filed by the government seeking a stay on the HC order that directed the government authorities concerned to take necessary steps to stop operation of the battery-run rickshaws and auto-rickshaws in the city.

"We are thankful to the government and the court, as the livelihoods of 60

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

ELECTORAL REFORM PROPOSALS

Parties want caretaker govt, 2-term limit for PM

Jamaat, CPB, Gono Odhikar for introduction of proportional representation system of voting

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Gono Odhikar Parishad (GOP) proposed a proportional representation electoral system and the restoration of the caretaker government to oversee the national polls.

In separate proposals to the electoral reform commission, Jamaat and the 10-party alliance Jatiyotabadi Somomona Jote sought to limit the tenure of the president and the prime minister to two terms.

Jamaat, which lost its registration as a political party with the EC in 2018 following a court order, also called for repealing the law under which political parties get their registration.

Khelafat Majlis and the GOP want a provision to disqualify the Awami League and its allies from the election. The Somomona Jote and GOP sought bicameral legislation.

"Political parties are making the proposals as we sought proposals from them," Badiul Alam Majumdar, chair of the electoral reform commission, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The interim government constituted the electoral reform commission on October 3 and sought its report within 90 days.

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday placed a 22-point electoral reform proposal

including legalising the caretaker government system by incorporating it in the constitution.

It proposed six election commissioners in place of four at present. The party is in favour of the selection of candidates by the grassroots leaders, non-partisan local elections and CCTV cameras in all polling centres.

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday placed a 22-point electoral reform proposal including legalising the caretaker government system by incorporating it in the constitution

The party recommended giving magistracy power to the armed forces during the election. It suggested the decision to deploy the troops should come from the president.

The EC officials should get priority when appointing returning and assistant returning officers.

The party is against the use of the electronic voting machine in the polls.

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ANTIGUA TEST

Taskin's 6-for fuels Tigers' fight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh continued to garner momentum in their favour after Lunch on the fourth day of the first Test against the West Indies in Antigua yesterday, with pacer Taskin Ahmed claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in the format.

Playing his 15th Test, Taskin spearheaded the attack as the hosts were bowled out for 152 in 46.1 overs, leaving the visitors a 334-run target with four sessions left at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Starting the day by declaring their first innings at the overnight score of 269 for nine, the Tigers focused on leveraging the early morning conditions — a decision that paid dividends.

Taskin struck a double blow early, while Shoriful Islam complemented his efforts by dismissing skipper Kraigg Brathwaite before the Lunch interval as the West Indies reached 61 for three at session's close.

Post-Lunch, Taskin picked up four more, including the first-innings centurion Justin Greaves, ending up with career-best figures of 6-64 in 14.1 overs.

CHATTOGRAM CITY

Multidrug-resistant organisms found in drinking water

Reveals study on samples from households, restaurants, food carts, hospitals

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A recent study has confirmed the presence of multidrug resistant organisms (MDRO) in the drinking water at various restaurants, tea stalls, food carts, and diagnostic centres across Chattogram city, posing serious public health concerns.

The study titled "Screening and identification of multiple antibiotic-resistant genes containing Salmonella Typhi from drinking water: A severe public health concern in Bangladesh" was conducted by Professor AM Masudul Azad Chowdhury of Chittagong University's genetic engineering and biotechnology department, its assistant professor Sohana Akter Mina, and three students—Pabitra Debnath, AKM Zakir Hossain, and Md Zahid Hasan.

Set for publication in the UK-based journal Heliyon's 10th volume on November 30, the research article is currently available online.

Around 150 drinking water samples—39 from restaurants and tea stalls; 31 from hospitals and diagnostic centres; 50 from various households; and 30 from vendor shops—were analysed during the study.

Salmonella Typhi, a bacterium that causes typhoid fever, was found present in eight (5.33 percent) of the total samples. Of them, over 87 percent were multidrug resistant, posing a serious threat to locals and visitors, said Masudul Azad, who led the study.

Although important antibiotics such as co-trimoxazole and ciprofloxacin (used to treat pneumonia, bronchitis, and infections of the urinary tract, ears,

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Ex-ISKCON leader arrested at HSIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ISKCON leader Chandan Kumar Dhar, alias Chinmoy Krishna



Das Brahmachari, was arrested from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

Rezaul Karim Mallick, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and chief of the Detective Branch, said a team of detectives arrested him in connection with a case filed in Chattogram.

Earlier on October 31, a case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in Chattogram, accusing Chinmoy, spokesperson of Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, and 18 others.

Firoz Khan, the then general secretary of Mohora ward BNP, filed the case on charges of disrespecting Bangladesh's national flag in Chattogram's New Market area during a rally of the Hindu community on October 25.

Firoz, however, was expelled from the party over "anti-party" activities

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No option but to hold 'good' national polls

Says new election commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Brig Gen Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah yesterday said they have no choice but to conduct a "good" national election as the country is passing a transitional period.



Sanaullah

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with the EC officials at the Election Commission Secretariat, he described the new EC's role as an opportunity to serve the nation.

"More than a challenge, we see this as an opportunity. We are here to face this challenge."

He underscored the importance of holding a fair election, saying, "We believe we are entrusted with this responsibility by Allah (SWT). We are confident that we will fulfil people's hopes and aspirations."

Sanaullah mentioned that it is their primary task to ensure a credible election.

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Rescue workers clear debris at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted Tayouneh area in Beirut's suburbs, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Lebanon truce deal 'close'

Says US as Israel cabinet set to vote on proposal

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's security cabinet was preparing to decide whether to accept a proposed ceasefire in its war with Hezbollah, an official said yesterday, as the White House announced it believed a deal to end the fighting in Lebanon was "close".

The United States, European Union and United Nations have all been actively pushing in recent days for a truce in the long-running hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, which flared into all-out war in late September.

Lebanon says at least 3,768 people have been killed in the country since October 2023, most of them in the past few weeks.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an Israeli official told AFP that the country's security cabinet "will decide on Tuesday evening on the ceasefire deal".

US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby expressed optimism over the prospects for a truce but said talks were ongoing.

"We believe we've reached this point where we're close," Kirby told reporters, adding "we're not there yet".