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# 7 arrested over Ctg lawyer's killing

3 cases filed; 21 rounded up over Tuesday's chaos at court; lawyers to continue strike today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Joint forces yesterday arrested seven men on charges of involvement in the killing of lawyer Saiful Islam, who was fatally hacked in the Chattogram Court Building area on

Law enforcers also arrested at least 21 others on suspicion of attack on police, damage to property, and battery on the court premises.

In the afternoon, hundreds of people gathered at Tigerpass intersection of the port city and demanded justice for assistant public prosecutor Saiful, who was killed during clashes between police, lawyers, and followers of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari.

The men arrested over the murder are Rumit Das, Sonu Mathor, Aman Das, Sumit Das, Gogon Das, Nayon Das and Bishal Das, said Assistant Deputy Commissioner Tarek Aziz of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

The joint forces arrested the suspects, aged between 20 A FATHER LOST FOREVER -- PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The body of lawyer Saiful Islam is being moved on to a vehicle on the premises of Jamiatul Falah Mosque in Chattogram city's Wasa intersection area yesterday after his second namaz-e-janaza was held there. Saiful was killed during a clash between the followers of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, police, and lawyers in the Chattogram Court Building area on Tuesday.

## Forge national unity, prevent division among the people

**BNP urges govt; Yunus** reiterates call for calm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday shared its concerns over recent violence in Dhaka and Chattogram with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, calling for national unity to tackle such challenges.

The party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they urged the government to hold discussions with all political parties to build unity and prevent division among the people.

"We hope the chief adviser will promptly arrange a peaceful solution. The country should not reach a point that leads to division," he told reporters outside State Guest House Jamuna, where the meeting took place in the evening.

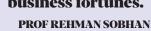
"At this moment, what is most needed is national unity, which we have conveyed to him," he said after leading a five-member BNP delegation in the hour-long meeting.

"We are facing significant challenges. PHOTO ON PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# 'Ambitious' reforms may take 4-5yrs

Prof Rehman Sobhan says party to assume power next will have to be sincere in implementing reforms

"Successive parliaments degenerated into a chamber of commerce for 'crony' capitalists...who used their power to advance their business fortunes.





#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday said the interim government will face challenges in implementing most of the reforms, as it promises to transfer power to an elected government within a reasonable time, possibly in 18 months to two years.

"To implement such a highly ambitious agenda would demand that the government continue in office for a sufficient length of time, perhaps four or five years. Given the interim government's commitment to hand over power to an elected government within a reasonable period of time, perhaps 18 months or two years, the scope for implementing most of the reforms will be challenging," he said.

Even the reforms initiated by the interim government will require the support of the party that is elected to office, he added.

The commitment and capacity of such a party will have to be assessed in relation to its social and political support and its past record, if it has previously held office," he said.

Prof Sobhan was delivering a lecture on "Constructing a more just society in Bangladesh", organised in memory of late Nahreen Khan, a SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

**CASES OVER JULY UPRISING** 

# Petitions pile up to drop names

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Faisal Hossain is one of the thousands of people injured during the July mass uprising. The 28-yearold was shot in the waist while pulling his rickshaw at Baipail in Dhaka's Ashulia around 11:00am on August 5, just a few hours before Sheikh Hasina fled to India.

Badly injured, Faisal was rushed to Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, where he was treated for about 45 days. He is still unable to

On October 15, his wife, Tania Khatun, filed a case for attempted murder with Dhaka's chief judicial magistrate's court, which directed the Ashulia police to register the complaint as a First Information Report (FIR).

The FIR named 203 suspects, including Hasina, several top Awami League leaders and senior police

officials. Just four days later on October 19, Tania changed her minds about some suspects, and filed a petition with a Dhaka court to drop 13 people previously named in the case. Their political identity is not clear from the petition.

"The accused were not present at the scene," says the petition, seen by The Daily Star, adding

"wrongfully and being aggrieved" by her husband's injuries. "These individuals would be most grievously harmed if they are not excluded from the case."

> "I don't know the updates of the case. My brother knows about it," Tania said, indicating the complaint was drafted by her brother, which she only signed.

But Tania did not know then and does not know now - any of these 13 people personally, or any of the suspects named in the case.

"I don't know the updates of the case. My brother knows about it," she said, indicating the complaint was drafted by her brother.

She hung up the phone when asked about the case details, and did not receive our calls since. The Daily Star could not contact her brother

as she did not give his name.

Tania's case is not isolated. This newspaper has so far found plaintiffs in 55 cases have submitted petitions to exclude at least 195 people they had initially named as suspects in cases for murder or attempted murder since the first week of August.

Of them, six are law enforcement officers, including Additional IGP Selim Md Jahangir and Bangladesh Border Guard Director General General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui; two teachers of a public university; two officials of the environment department and former cabinet secretary Mahbub Hossain.

This newspaper could not establish any clear political connection of 75 people. The remaining are Awami League leaders and activists.

#### TWO BIZARRE CASES

Court records show at least 550 cases, mostly for murder, were filed with various courts and police stations in Dhaka till November 25 since August 5.

At least seven plaintiffs, including Tania, told The Daily Star that they were not involved in the drafting of the FIRs. They only signed the complaints drafted by others.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## 'What kind of Bangladesh is this?'

#### **Questions Fakhrul, slams** intimidation of newspapers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing grave concern over the country's law and order situation, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said violence broke out on streets within

about months after the people's victory on August 5.

'People spilling other's Now, newspaper offices are being set on fire, and attacked... Is this the outcome of

the sacrifice people made?" he said at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

The Doctors Association of Bangladesh organised the event marking the death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, a martyr of the 1990 anti-autocracy movement.

Fakhrul said, "What kind of Bangladesh is this?... Why is such terrifying violence happening? Why is there instability? What are the problems? I raise these questions to all of vou."

The July uprising gave the people the opportunity to get united and bring about a meaningful change, he said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## Govt for trying Hasina, allies at ICC

Says CA's press wing; ICC prosecutor ready to help ICT

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government intends to pursue charges of crimes against humanity against the Sheikh Hasina regime at the International Criminal Court for the massacre during the July uprising and the enforced disappearances during her 16-year rule, the chief adviser's press

wing said in a statement. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus discussed the issue yesterday when ICC prosecutor Karim A Khan visited him at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka,

the statement read. Khan said the ICC would like to cooperate with Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), which is dealing with the cases related to crimes committed during the mass

uprising, according to the statement. The ICT has already issued an arrest warrant against Hasina and members of her political party.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



With a moving train just a few metres away, pedestrians rush to cross the level crossing in the capital's Ashkona, putting themselves in harm's way. The photo was taken recently.

# Ban ISKCON, give it no quarter

#### Student coordinators urge government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding an immediate ban on the ISKCON, leaders of the Anti-discrimination Students' Movement yesterday warned they would not allow the religious platform to implement "Delhi's agenda in Bangladesh".

They also said a conspiracy is being hatched to destabilise the country, but the "minority theory" will not be allowed to divide the country.

The student leaders made the remarks at two separate events in Chattogram and Dhaka.

"ISKCON is acting as an agent of Awami League and attempting to destabilise the country. This extremist group is behind the brutal killing of Saiful Islam," Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-discrimination Students' Movement, said at a rally held at the Tiger Pass intersection in Chattogram.

He said Bangladesh is a land of coexistence, and extremists of any kind have no place here.

"We'll work to protect everyone's rights. However, no room will be given if anyone tries to operate an extremist organisation under the guise of religion. My brother Saiful was brutally murdered. ISKCON must be banned as a terrorist organisation."

The rally also sought justice for the murder of lawyer

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## A father lost forever

Family of murdered Ctg lawyer seeks justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two-vearold Masura Islam Taskia, daughter of lawyer slain Saiful Islam Alif, remains unaware of the tragedy that has struck her family.



Saiful Islam

The little girl clings onto her mother, Ishrat Jahan Tarin, who is four months pregnant and too devastated to speak about her husband's loss.

Saiful, a former student of law at International Islamic University of Chittagong and a practicing lawyer since 2018, was from Lohagara upazila. He married Tarin in 2021, and the couple lived with their daughter in the family's village home.

He later moved to a rented house in the capital's Chawkbazar's DC Road area, where he lived with friends.

Saiful was murdered during a violent clash between police, lawyers, and followers of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari near SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



# Harmony of healing, where sound meets soul

REHNUMA SHAHREEN

Music is a language that transcends borders, speaking directly to the soul. It mends unseen wounds, bears the weight of shared histories, and offers glimpses into cultures, both near and distant.

Yet, it remains universally resonant, dissolving differences and finding a home in every heart.

This spirit defines "Harmony of Healing," an exhibition at Alliance Française de Dhaka, where instruments transcend their material form, becoming storytellers that bridge centuriesold traditions with the promise of a boundless musical future in the hands of contemporary artisans.

The instruments themselves are extraordinary, born of ageold techniques and daring experimentation. Some, like the gourd-crafted Ektaras, speak of wandering bards who turned whatever nature provided into vessels of sound.

are born experimentation, blending science with a deep-rooted spirituality. Among the pieces on display, many



are made from materials as humble as coconut shells, gourds, and wood.

At the heart of the event is Mohammad Jakir Hossain, musician, philosopher, and craftsman, whose life's work reverberates through every instrument on display.

His work, though rooted in tradition, reflects a profound understanding of music as a force that heals and uplifts.

Jakir's journey, from studying computer science to the spiritual philosophies of Sufism and the teachings of Indian gurus, has culminated in a practice that is both deeply personal and universally

His vision has brought together a team of dreamers and craftsmen

whose instruments are as much tools of sound as they are bridges to inner peace.

"Music and my love for it inspired me so much in this ... To me, it is both sacred and spiritual. Most instruments here are made by me, and some I crafted alongside other makers.

"I trained myself first, and then I trained a few instrument makers in my locality. I've taken this as a research project, but my approach is different. I prefer living and internalising it."

Jakir and his team have experimented with different types of wood, refining their craft to create instruments that not only produce exquisite tones, but also embody the spirit of the heritage they represent.

The exhibition also includes a few restored instruments. "In this exhibition, I've seen instruments

that are 150, maybe 200 years old,"

said Tapash Biswas, a visitor. "It feels

like I've visited that time within a few minutes." The event is more than an exhibition. Through interactive displays, live demonstrations, and curated performances, visitors are invited to experience how music binds us to our roots and one

Workshops offer hands-on sessions with folk instruments, allowing participants to soak themselves into the rhythms and melodies of Bengali traditions under the guidance of skilled musicians.

Another highlight of the event you.

is the collaborative folk-art session, where artists create live artworks inspired by the music around them.

This interplay between visual and auditory art forms adds a new dimension to the experience. Healing sessions, meanwhile, provide a quieter space for introspection, inviting attendees to reconnect with their inner selves.

Folk musician Shafi Mandal, a guest at the inauguration, summed up the awe many felt for Jakir's vision. "He must be an eccentric person; otherwise, it's not possible. As a musician myself, I understand how much effort and passion it takes to be able to do such a thing."

In a city as restless as Dhaka, where the air hums with the sound of horns and hurried footsteps, finding stillness feels almost impossible. Yet, even amid the chaos, there are moments when something extraordinary cuts through the noise.

The exhibition, running until November 29, invites you in not with grandeur, but with an intimacy that asks you to slow down, listen closely, and let the music speak to

#### Truck collides with car of Sarjis-Hasnat's convoy

Nobody hurt, trucker held

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Chattogram

A car in a convoy of vehicles carrying leaders of the anti-discrimination student movement Sargis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah was involved in a collision with a truck when the leaders were on their way back from Chattogram.

The incident occurred last night in Hazipara area of Chunti union under Chattgram's Lohagara upazila.

Additional Superintendent of Police Md Rasel of the Detective Branch (DB) of Chattogram District Police confirmed the incident to The

"Hasnat and Sargis were not in the car and are safe," he said.

car in their convoy Fortunately no one was injured in the incident, although the front of the car sustained damage. The truck driver has been arrested," he added.

### Over 60pc think freedom of expression improved

Says VOA survey

UNB, Dhaka

Over 60 percent people in Bangladesh think freedom of expression has improved under the interim government compared to the Awami League regime, according to a survey by Voice of America Bangla.

Besides, 61.2 percent believe the media enjoys greater freedom now. Between October 13 and 27, the

survey was conducted among 1,000 people aged 18 and above in the eight

Among the participants, 25.2 percent said they feel freedom of expression remains unchanged under the current government.

On the other hand, 14.2 percent said freedom of expression under the government has been reduced, while 0.2 percent chose not to comment.

Among the younger participants (18-34 years), 57.1 percent observed increased freedom while 63.8 percent of those aged 35 and above expressed the same opinion.

Around 18.5 percent see no difference, and 13.3 percent feel press freedom has declined.

Bangladesh ranked 165th in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, its lowest since the index's inception in 2002

Over the 15 years of AL rule, the country dropped 44 positions due to factors such as repressive laws, partisan media licencing, and censorship.

The AL government repealed the controversial Digital Security Act last year and replaced it with the Cyber Security Act. But this law also faced severe criticism from various quarters, including journalists.

# 7 arrested over Ctg lawyer's killing temples were vandalised on Tuesday there and a first temples were vandalised on Tuesday there and a first temples were vandalised on Tuesday there and a first temples were vandalised on Tuesday there are the temples were the temples wer

and 30, in overnight raids on Mathor Potti, Bundle Road, which is not far from the place where assailants attacked Saiful with sharp weapons,

Police filed three cases in connection with Tuesday's violence. A total of 79 named and 1,400 unnamed individuals were accused in the cases,

A Chattogram court sent 27 of the arrestees to jail around 5:30pm, CMP Additional Deputy Commissioner Mafiz Uddin.

Police said teams were looking for the other suspects.

In a 26-second video that went viral on social media on Tuesday night, a man, who locals identify as Saiful, was seen lying on the road, and 30 to 40 men were seen attacking him with sharp weapons and sticks.

One of them, Rajib Bhattacharya, was held by the Detective Branch last night, said Deputy Commissioner Rais

Meanwhile, fear gripped both "A Cox's Bazar-bound truck hit Muslim and Hindu residents of according to Ashraf Hossen neighbourhoods near the Court Chowdhury Razzak, secretary of Building, where large numbers of army, border guards, and law enforcers were deployed.

night.

Several windows of Niloy Sajan, the building near which the assailants attacked Saiful, were broken.

A local named Mahbub said somebody broke the security camera of the building, and police took the storage device at night.

Manik Kumar Das, a cleaner of Chattogram City Corporation, said, "I was outside the area on Tuesday. I heard later that a group of young men from our colony clashed with police. At night, there were police in the area. We don't know who vandalised the temples at night."

Another resident named Sujan Dev said, "After the attacks on houses at night, many of us went to our friends and relatives' houses outside the area and slept there to save our lives." PROTESTS

Lawyers were on strike yesterday, halting all proceedings at the 74 courts in Chattogram, protesting the

The strike will go on today, Chattogram Bar Association.

Yesterday lawyers morning, demonstrated on the court premises Locals said some shanties of Hindu and demanded immediate arrest of

there and a first Namaj-e-Janaza was held around 10:30am.

AF Hasan Arif, land ministry adviser; Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-Discrimination Student Tofayel Ahmed, Movement; Chattogram divisional commissioner; BNP's Chattogram City Convener Ershad Ullah, Member Secretary Rahman; Nazimur Jamaat's Chattogram City Ameer Shahjahan Chowdhury and Secretary General Nurul Amin attended the janaza.

Near midday, a group of people ransacked the office of the clerks' association on the court premises and set it on fire, said the association's President Shamsul Islam.

A lawyer named Firozul Islam Talukdar said people attacked the office because there were allegations that some clerks on Tuesday helped the attackers.

The association president refused to comment about the allegation.

The Chief Adviser's Office in a statement in the afternoon said police arrested at least six people in connection with the murder after identifying them in the video.

Besides, six members of the Awami League and now-outlawed Chhatra League were arrested in possession of crude bombs in the port city.

## Petitions pile up

another.

Tania at least knows who drafted the case - her brother - but in the rest six cases, the plaintiffs do not even know the people who came to their houses to take them to the police stations to sign the complaints. Four of these plaintiffs said these people identified themselves as local political party

The case of Aklima Begum is among the most peculiar. She does not personally know any of the 167 suspects named in the case filed over her husband's death. She also does know any of those who came to her house to have the complaint signed or any of those who came to her house again to have the petition signed to have some of the suspects excluded from the case.

was filed with This case Mohammadpur Police Station over the death of her husband, Akhter Hossain, who was shot in Basila area on July 19, according to the FIR.

Rahima Akter, another plaintiff now seeking to drop some names, said she got some financial help from some local people after the death of She was then taken to Bhatara Police Station by some locals to sign the complaint. Over the last few weeks, she received so many phone calls from people protesting their innocence that she now wants to withdraw the case altogether.

"Tell me, how do I discontinue the case?" she told The Daily Star by

RELIEVE THE INNOCENT

Legal experts and rights activists expressed concerns over the inclusion of random names, and said innocent people would be harassed if they are falsely implicated. There are also allegations that in many cases people are being implicated out of political rivalries or to settle old scores.

Noted rights activist Nur Khan Liton thinks many such cases are being filed to harass people.

"Cases are being filed against such people that it questions their veracity.... and now, many names are being excluded due to pressure and corruption," he said.

Noted Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna is one such victim. He was named in an attempted murder case filed on October 17, sparking harsh criticisms. The plaintiff subsequently applied to drop his name from the

A university teacher, whose name was included in a murder case, recently told this newspaper, "I was not involved in any crime, but I was accused in one case. The complainant appealed to drop my name when he realised I am innocent. The authorities should take quick steps to relieve the innocent from such harassment.'

Senior criminal lawyer Ehsanul Haque Shomaji said that during investigation process, there is no

legal scope to withdraw any suspect's name, and so complainants should be more careful about naming people in

According to him, when plaintiffs file for dropping names mentioned in the complaints, it generally weakens

**EXPLOITATION?** 

Shariatpur's Rubel Talukder has recently filed a petition to exclude 18 suspects from the case he filed over the death of his brother Riazul Talukder.

A BNP activist, Riazul was shot in the Jatrabari area around 5:00pm on August 4 during the antigovernment protest. He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while under treatment several hours later, according to the case statement, lodged with Jatrabari Police Station on September 12.

Rubel named 135 suspects, including Hasina and AL leaders from Shariatpur, in the case.

"I appealed to drop the 18 names as they were wrongfully named in the case. I don't know how their names were included," he told The Daily Star. Local sources confirmed that most

of these 18 people are AL leaders and activists. Some of them held - or currently hold – posts in different local government bodies.

An AL leader from the district's Jajira, who is also a suspect in the case, said Rubel took money promising to drop some names from the case.

Speaking on condition anonymity, he said he too was part of a discussion with some of these 18 people to have his name excluded. But they (the 18 people) struck the final deal with Rubel without informing him and several others.

Rubel denied the allegation. The Daily Star spoke with two of these 18, and both denied that they gave any money in return for dropping their

Besides Rubel and Tania, 18 complainants are now seeking to drop 77 names included in as many cases in Jatrabari and Uttara East police stations alone between August and October.

Sara Hossain, a human rights lawyer, said the recent allegation against senior lawyer ZI Khan Panna was a glaring example of how individuals can exploit the criminal justice system to harass others by falsely including their names in a criminal case. Fortunately, the complainant dropped his name after a public outrage.

"We now see a trend of plaintiffs seeking to drop names from the FIRs. If genuine mistakes led to their inclusion in the first place, this can be seen in a positive light as it will stop harassment. But if some names get dropped due to any kind of enticement, influence or threat, then there is a real risk of justice being denied to the victims of the July mass killings," she added.

#### Forge national unity FROM PAGE 1

address these challenges, particularly those that threaten independence and sovereignty or seek to undermine them, we must build national unity to resist and counter such threats," Fakhrul said.

He also raised concerns over the law-and-order situation at the meeting, mentioning clashes between students of different colleges in Dhaka earlier this week and violent protests in Chattogram on Tuesday against the

arrest of a former ISKCON leader. "The main purpose of our meeting

was to convey our party's concerns to the chief adviser regarding the recent developments, particularly the lawand-order situation in the past few days, the issues surrounding ISKCON, and the problems of students of some colleges," Fakhrul said, according to the

Fakhrul further stressed the need to hold elections as soon as possible after completing necessary reforms. The BNP leader also called for

withdrawing cases filed against party leaders and activists and also called for the dissolution of union parishads.

#### cleaners were burnt down and two the killers. Saiful's body was brought 'Ambitious' reforms may take 4-5yrs

former student of East West University (EWU) and the daughter of late Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker

The noted intellectual highlighted

the issue of inequality across four key - market injustice, inequitable social opportunity, political injustice, and state injustice. About market injustice, he stressed the need for taking into cognisance

unequal labour markets, where

accessing a job is itself a social privilege rather than an economic right. Detailing on inequitable social opportunity, Prof Sobhan said Bangladesh's educational system is profoundly unjust and perpetuates

Mentioning that the educational budget share remained low even by South Asian standards, he said this resulted in increased access to education quantitatively but the quality, especially in public education,

remained low. He viewed the educational system as a source of discrimination against the less privileged and the perpetuator of social injustice. Public education is largely accessed by lower income households, and thus their opportunities for remunerative engagement in the economy remains

limited, he said. "As a result, we are witnessing a progressive polarisation in the benefits of education due to the superior quality of education available to children of better off families," he said, suggesting substantially enhancing public investment in education - at least five percent of GDP – over the

next decade. On political injustice, Prof Sobhan said electoral democracy, even in the period where it commanded some credibility due to the constitutional provision for being supervised by a non-partisan caretaker government, suffered from many flaws.

"In practice, it had increasingly become a rich man's game. Over the years, we witnessed the escalation

of the role of money in politics, the emergence of politics as an instrument for business, and business as a source of entry into politics," he said.

He said successive parliaments degenerated into a chamber of commerce for "crony" capitalists, who, unconcerned by any issue of conflict of interest, used their power to advance their business fortunes

He further said what passed for an opposition in the three previous parliaments served largely as an appendage of the ruling party, while the primary function of parliament to hold the government of the day accountable for their acts of omission and commission was largely abdicated.

This nexus between politics and business was not limited just to the Jatiya Sangsad but was also extended down to the institutions of local government by ruling party office holders who used their positions to monopolise business opportunities available through public expenditures,

he said. "Within such a political order, lower income groups remained excluded that our primary institutions governance, our representative institutions, remained undemocratic and highly discriminatory for the majority of the population who could never afford to contest elections.

"In this exclusionary environment, witnessed the progressive Bangladesh's criminalisation of politics," Prof Sobhan added.

The state has emerged as the patron of crime because one could only be a criminal and a successful one if one stayed out of jail, he said, adding that the loan defaulters could seek the cover of parliament to ensure that no one was going to hold them to account for their default. "Candidates with defaulted loans

were, by law, not permitted to contest elections, but every finance minister relaxed this provision before an election so that the parliament and other elective bodies came to be populated with defaulters who resisted any attempt by parliament to address

of society.

He said the functioning of the state, manifest through its various institutions of governance, created and perpetuated injustice across all walks

revenues remains an important source of injustice and reflects its political preferences and societal biases. "Unfortunately, after all these years, we have no macroeconomic policy regime to underwrite these agendas

How the state spends and collects

of poverty alleviation, which, thus, remain basically micro-exercises. As a result, we had a state, whose allocative decisions tended to be inspired by the influence of powerful pressure groups." Prof Sobhan said, "Central to any agenda for constructing a more just society is the need to empower the

poor through making better use of their demographic and electoral majority across Bangladesh. "Bangladesh's poor survive as disempowered individuals with no institutional persona. The primary task of building institutions for the poor

should be to enable them to rediscover their collective identity," he said. He also said the political leaderships need to recognise that the majority of the voting population belongs to this underprivileged class.

They accordingly need to reach out to this class by empowering them to assume important position in party organisations and nominating them in larger numbers to contest for seats not just in local elections but also to the Jatiya Sangsad," Prof Sobhan said.

He said the move to realise structurally a more just society remains a longer-term project, but such a goal may be brought forward "if our political leadership sincerely commit themselves to realising a vision for a non-discriminatory more egalitarian, socially just, society".

EWU Chief Adviser Mohammed Farashuddin, EWU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shams Rahman, and Prof Fakrul Alam, a former professor of English department at Dhaka University, also spoke among others.

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## **UNIVERSITY ADMISSION** Cluster system's fate hangs in balance

#### No decision comes following ministry's meeting with VCs

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The fate of cluster system admission test for next academic vear still hangs in balance, as the education ministry did not make a decision yesterday in this regard following its meeting with university vice chancellors.

Special Assistant to Education Adviser Prof Aminul Islam held the meeting with VCs of different universities, along with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other officials, at the ministry.

"No specific decisions were made. However, the ministry plans to arrange further discussions with all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of admission seekers, as well as the leaders of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement," said a vice-chancellor who attended. Besides, in a press release, the ministry said it will adopt

## DUJ concerned over attacks targeting ≸tar, Prothom Alo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday expressed deep concern over recent protests, slogans, and attacks targeting Prothom Alo and The Daily Star offices

In a statement, DUJ President Sohel Haider Chowdhury and General Secretary Akhtar Hossain highlighted the alarming nature of these incidents, saying demonstrations SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



A delegation of BNP, led by its Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday.

# A multi-racial, multi-cultural, gender sensitive constitution

Propose civil society, orgs to reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives from civil society different organisations yesterday proposed for a multiracial constitution that will acknowledge multiple languages, cultures, religions, and gender sensitivity.

They also suggested allowing people with dual citizenship to run for the position of Member of Parliament but not to hold top-level executive positions.

They placed their proposals commission led by Prof Ali Riaz,

#### OTHER KEY PROPOSALS

Recognising indigenous identities

Allowing dual citizens to contest elections

Amending Article 36

Considering polls legitimate only if turnout exceeds 51pc

before the constitutional reform during a meeting that was part of its ongoing stakeholder consultations.

The meeting was held at the National Parliament Building.

Justice Iman Ali, Chief of the Chakma Circle Devasish Roy, and Prof Md Robiul Islam recommendations constitutional reforms.

Talking to The Daily Star, Devasish Roy said he proposed to include indigenous people in the constitution-drafting process to ensure that they, too, feel ownership of the constitution.

He also proposed that the preamble of the constitution should recognise the historical role of the SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## **ROAD SAFETY** Ensure longterm scientific solutions: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reducing the number of private vehicles, freeing footpaths from illegal encroachments and implementing bus route rationalisation systems in the city are vital to ensure road safety for all across the country, said experts at a programme vesterday

They also stressed the need for long-term scientific solutions for road safety.

The event, organised by Voice for Reform, University of Asia Pacific (UAP), and University Press Limited, was held at the UAP auditorium.

suggested encroachments from roads and highways and

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Reduce private vehicles

Free footpaths from encroachment

Implement bus-route rationalisation

> Follow specific code for road construction

ensuring high-quality footpaths for pedestrians.

Prof Md Shamsul Hoque, Department of Civil Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said, "I have been working on road safety for the past 30 years. However, there hasn't been much achievement, unfortunately. The responsibility to fix the system lies with policymakers. The people who sit in those positions are nontechnical. We need to ensure that those issuing registrations and licenses are qualified."

"Often, blame is placed on drivers. But if you go to Hatirjheel, you'll see buses running in a SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



the killing of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif, who died during a clash in Chattogram on Tuesday.

## Make NHRC consitutional

#### **Proposes coalition of** 20 rights bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Forum Bangladesh yesterday constitutional status for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) by amending the 2009 act and appointing a new commission after the amendments.

In a press statement, HRFB said they have submitted reform proposals to the law adviser.

In the proposal, the coalition of 20 human rights and development organisations, said the NHRC Act 2009 needs immediate amendment in consultation with stakeholders, to ensure the commission's effective role and to ensure that the appointment process is transparent, open, and participatory.

HRFB proposed the nomination process under a seven-member committee led by the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, and incorporating a supreme court lawyer proposed by the Chief Justice, parliament members from both the ruling and opposition

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Take firm control of ongoing situation Tarique calls upon interim govt

UNB, Dhaka

of the country should not be seen become increasingly intolerant. as isolated incidents, but as a part of a conspiracy to destablise the

He claimed that a coordinated

attempt to create chaos across the nation is becoming increasingly evident, with growing signs intolerance among the public.

Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

the growing activities of those who are destabilising the state's stability, calling it alarming.

He also called on the interim government to take firm control BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique of the situation, warning that if the Rahman yesterday said the recent government fails to demonstrate events in Dhaka and other parts effective leadership, the public may Addressing the rising cost of

living, Tarique said if the government fails to control the market and bring essential goods within the reach of the people, conspirators may use this issue to destabilise government.

He pointed to the associates of the He made the statement in a fugitive autocrat, claiming they press release signed by BNP's are waiting for an opportunity to

capitalise on the situation. In his statement, Tarique urged Tarique expressed concern over the public to remain calm and exercise patience, emphasising the importance of staying vigilant and alert to the situation.



#### Make NHRC consitutional

parties, representatives involved organisations protecting human rights, alongside women, children, and ethnic religious indigenous minorities. marginalised communities, and labours.

The proposal suggests

appointed permanently for Foundation a four-year tenure and no Director Shaheen Anam; one should be appointed Bangladesh Legal Aid and the commission's head for two consecutive terms. advisory body for NHRC.

The signatories of the Drong; statement are HRFB experts Hameeda Hossain, Sultana Kamal and Raja Devasish Roy; Ain O Salish Kendra that all seven members of Chairperson ZI Khan the commission should be Panna; Manusher Jonno

Executive Services Trust Executive Director Sara Hossain: They also proposed an Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Iftekharuzzaman; Bangladesh Parishad President Fauzia

#### Ensure long-term scientific transportation, the Dhaka decrease," he added.

disciplined way. So, it's the system that we need to correct first," he added.

additional chief engineer and Regional Planning at chaos on Dhaka roads. Local Government Engineering Department, people died in the last five said, "To ensure road safety, stakeholders must work together, including drivers, pedestrians, and authorities."

Hossain Lokman Mollah, former director of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), said,

Purchase Plot in Bashundhara

Vanted to purchase 7.5 katha

individual plots of land in "M'

block in Bashundhara, Genuine

owners please contact the address

Nagar Paribahan initiative is a must."

urban management Jahangirnagar University, "Around 35,000 years in the country due to road accidents. The number of injured is much immediately, he added. higher."

He pointed out that

"To restore order in public codes, accidents would among others.

**0**2426 00 9286

Moslem, among others.

Prof Akter also noted that the "Bus Route FROM PAGE 3 Prof Akter Mahmud, Rationalisation" must be Shaikh Muzakka Zaher, Department of Urban implemented to prevent

He also said The Road Transport Act of 2018 exists, but it is not being implemented. This law must be enforced

Prof Dr Qumrul Ahsan, vice-chancellor of UAP there is no specific code for and Mahrukh Mohiuddin, construction of roads and managing director of University Press Limited "If roads are built using (UPL), were also present,

বিত্রভয় রাজউক পর্বাচলে ১৫ নং সেক্টরে ৫ কাঠার প্রট বিক্রয় করবো। সম্মানিত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন ঃ

Uttara 3rd Phase Sector 15/A Corner Plot For Sale. Walking distance to Metrorail station playground, School Zone 8 Lake. Price 4.5 cr (fixed) Contact: 01970555542

#### **Consultancy Opportunities**



International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites applications from interested CONSULTANT FOR DRAFTING THE ACTION PLAN OF REINTEGRATION POLICY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS IN BANGLADESH. The Terms of Reference (ToR) can be downloaded from the United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM) at:

https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/254230.

The deadline for submission of proposal is Sunday, December 29, 2024, by 04:30 PM (BST time).



#### বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন

প্রট #ই-৫/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, বাংলাদেশ। শারক নং-১৪.৩২,০০০০,৭০১.৫২,০০৪.২৪-৫০০

বিষয়ঃ- M & H Telecom Ltd. কর্তৃক দায়েরকৃত Dispute Resolution No.-03/24 এর পরবর্তী সভার নোটিশ উপযুক্ত বিষয়ে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, M & H Telecom Ltd. কর্তৃক চারটি IGW প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ICX-IGW সেবা প্রদান সংক্রান্তে বকেয়া পাওনা আদায়ের নিমিত্তে বিরোধ নিম্পত্তির (Dispute Resolution) জন্য আবেদন দাখিল করা হয়। তদালোকে বিরোধ নিম্পন্নের নিমিত্তে কমিশন একটি "বিরোধ নিম্পত্তি প্যানেল" গঠন করে। বিরোধ নিম্পত্তি প্যানেল আগামী ১০/১২/২৪ইং, রোজ মঙ্গলবার বিকেল ৩.০০ঘটিকা উক্ত Dispute গুনানীর জন্য ধার্য করেছেন। তৎপ্রেক্ষিতে বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কমিশন এর ৮ম তলার রুম নং- ৮২৭ এ উক্ত শুনানীর জন্য আপনাকে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে বা

আইনজীবীর মাধ্যমে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য উপাত্তসহ হাজির হওয়ার জন্য নির্দেশক্রমে অনুরোধ করা হল। হাজির/ উপস্থিত না

হলে বিষয়টি আইনানুগভাবে নিম্পন্ন করা হবে। **'বিরোধ নিম্পত্তি প্যানেল'** এর পক্ষে, **মুহান্মদ আশরাফুজ্জামান জাহেদ**, সহকারী পরিচালক, লিগ্যাল এন্ড লাইসেন্সিং ডিভিশন, বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন। ol । জনাব, মোঃ তরিকল ইসলাম চেয়ারম্যান, বেসটেক টেলিকম লিঃ ঠিকানা- (১) বাসা-০২, ৫ম তলা, এ-৫, রূপায়ন সেন্টার, ৭২, মহাখালী বা/এ, এপল গ্রোবাল কমিউনিকেশন লিঃ রাস্তা-০১, সেক্টর-০৯, ডাকঘর- উত্তরা, থানা- উত্তরা পশ্চিম, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা-১২৩০।

ঠিকানা- (২) প্রঠ-৪৫, নাভানা টাওয়ার (৮ম ফ্রোর), গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২।

০৩। ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক,

০২। ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক,

রাতুল টেলিকম লিমিটেড,

টেলেক্স লিমিটেড, বাড়ী-৩৪, রোড-৪৬. +৮৮০২৯৮৫৬৫৯০ গুলশান উত্তর আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

০৪। মহি উদ্দীন মজুমদার, চেয়ারম্যান বাড়ী নং-০৬, রোড নং-২৮, ব্লক নং-কে, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩, মোবাইল-

ফোল:+৮৮০ ২৫৫৬৬৭৭৬৬, ফাল্প: +৮৮০২২২২২১৭১৬৮, +৮৮০২২২২২১৭১৬৭, ই-মেইল: info@btrc.gov.bd, ওরেব: www.btrc.gov.bd

## HC asks about govt

impose Section 144 in Chattogram and Rangpur to avoid further untoward incidents.

The attorney general told the HC that someone is trying to destabilise the country.

"The ISKCON issue is unfortunate. This is an undesirable incident and a criminal offence. The government is looking into this incident seriously, and will take appropriate legal action," he said.

The attorney general said whether the organisation (ISKCON) is registered or not, will be banned or not, and what measures will be taken - are the policy decisions of the government.

The government will look into this and therefore, the HC should not go for a judicial review in this regard, he added.

The bench said the court is concerned with the situation, and the country's law and order situation should not deteriorate.

## Cluster system's fate

a universally accepted system after discussions with all stakeholders involved in university

admissions. After talking to at least seven university VCs who attended the meeting, it was learnt that universities were divided into different groups, each expressing their views.

A vice-chancellor from the General, Science, and Technology (GST) cluster said, "Each university vicechancellor shared their views on the pros and cons of holding tests under the cluster system. I presented our decision in favour of conducting independent tests, which has been approved by our academic council.'

"Comparatively older universities with a large number of students spoke against the cluster system, preferring to hold their own admission tests," the vice-chancellor said.

"Universities established after 2014, supported the cluster system, as they do not have that much capacity to conduct the test properly," he added.

Another vice-chancellor from an engineering university said, "We have already decided to opt out of the cluster system, as approved by our academic council. However, during the meeting, we were instructed to hold off on making further decisions until the government reaches a final decision."

A VC, whose university had already published admission circular, said, "We will await the ministry's decision. This doesn't mean we will revoke our independent

admission circular.' "If the government instructs us to revert to the cluster system, we will bring the matter back to our academic council. Ultimately, every decision will be made based on the university act," the vicechancellor added.

"As university teachers, we welcome this approach of the interim government, that they involve more stakeholders in the decisionmaking process," he said.

Contacted, Prof M Aminul Islam said, "It is not that we could not come to a decision. For now, we have taken opinions from the VCs. Soon, we will seek opinions from more stakeholders -- those in favour and against the cluster system. We will also consult with guardians and admission seekers to make a proper and timely decision."

"Ultimately, we will present the results to the chief adviser for a final decision," he added.





20 Experience Criteria of Tenderer

#### 🙅 বাংলাদেশ সার্ভিসেস লিমিটেড বিএসএল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স (৫ম তলা), ভবন-৩, ১ মিন্টু রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

ইন্টারকন্টিনেন্টাল ঢাকা হোটেল সংলগ্ন বাংলাদেশ সার্ভিসেস লিমিটেড (ইন্টারকেন্টিনেন্টাল ঢাকা হোটেল-এর স্বত্তাধিকারী কোম্পানি)-এর অফিস কমপ্লেক্স-এর ভবন নং-৩ এর ৪র্থ তলায় ৫,০০০ বর্গফুট জায়গা এবং ভবন নং-১ এর ৩য় তলায় ৭৯৪ বর্গফুট জায়গা ভাড়া দেওয়া হবে। আগ্রহী বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান, আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থা, ব্যাংক, বহুজাতিক কোস্পানি, সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে নিমু ঠিকানায় যে কোন কার্যদিবসে (রবিবার-বৃহস্পতিবার) সকাল ৯:০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৫:০০ টার মধ্যে আবেদন/যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচেছ। –কোম্পানি সচিব। ফোন: +৮৮ ০২ ৫৫৬৬৩০৩০ Extension 4403 & 4401

E-mail: secretary.bsl@intercontinental-Dhaka.com

### A multi-racial, multi-cultural

FROM PAGE 3

people of different ethnic. religious, linguistic, and other backgrounds, alongside marginalised groups, who have been defending the integrity of the country's territory for centuries and nurturing its biodiversity.

"Some of the fundamental principles should be included as fundamental rights so that they are judicially enforceable, like rights to healthcare and quality education," he said.

He also demanded that Article 36 should be amended to acknowledge the need to provide reasonable restrictions to the acquisition of land ownership rights in tribal areas in the CHT and plains.

recommended incorporating laws like the 1900 Regulations and post-CHT Accord laws of 1998 (on regional and district councils), which protect indigenous people, into the first schedule of the constitution.

representing the University forms of discrimination Teachers' Network, proposed also several

recommendations. Contacted, Prof Taslima said she emphasised making the constitution multiracial and acknowledging languages, diverse cultures, religions, and gender sensitivity in the constitution, while Prof

Maruful talked about how

the parliament should be. Roman Uddin and Apon Zahir from the Centre for Governance Studies also presented their proposals.

Speaking to newspaper, Apon Zahir said they suggested that elections should only be considered legitimate if voter turnout exceeds 51 percent. He reiterated

proposal allow to individuals with dual citizenship to run for parliament but not hold top executive roles. Thev recommended

recognising indigenous

against indigenous peoples, as well as religious and ethnic minorities, illegal.

The organisations and representatives attending the meeting included Akhtar Hossain Khan from Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh; Sanjida Islam Tulee and Mushfigur Rahman Johan from Mayer Dak; Tamanna Singh Baraik and Puja Rani from Dalit Women's Forum: Nadira Parveen and Sultan Md Salauddin Siddique from Nagorik Udyog; Joya Shikder and Sudip Kumar Das from Sampurna; Md Junaid and Mohammad Millat Hossain from the Bangladesh Judicial Service Association; and Nazma Akter from the Combined Garment Workers' Federation.

Members commission present at the meeting included Sumaiya Barrister Imran Prof Mohammad Ikramul identities in the constitution. Haque, Barrister M Moin Prof Mirza Taslima They also recommended Alam Firozi, Firoz Ahn and Kazi Maruful Islam, explicitly declaring all and Md Mustain Billah. Alam Firozi, Firoz Ahmed,

### DUJ concerned over attacks targeting

FROM PAGE 3

and vandalism near newspaper offices, coupled with efforts to pressure the media into silence, have fostered an atmosphere of

"This has not only posed a threat to independent journalism but also put journalists' safety at risk,' said the leaders.

condemned individuals

up banners and making provocative describing such actions safeguarding media freedom.

The DUJ leaders urged authorities to identify those involved in what they termed "misconduct and conspiracy."

They called for legal action

inciting chaos by putting against the perpetrators and demanded measures. "These statements, malicious activities against two of the country's major as contrary to the interim daily newspapers have government's commitment created a climate of fear, not just within the media but also across the nation,' the statement added.

leaders The asserted that it is the interim government's responsibility to address



Directorate of Purchase BPDB. WAPDA Building, Dhaka, Tel.: 88 02 9550532.

Memo. No.27.11.0000.304.25.307.24

Date 27-11-2024

#### Amendment No. 01

#### Time Extension against Tender Enquiry No. Pur-27.11.0000.304.25.307.24, dated 07.11.2024 (e-GP ID NO 1033426) Tender invited for Procurement of Hydrazine Hydrate (N2H4), Tri-sodium phosphate (Na3PO4), Ammonium Hydroxide

(NH4OH), poly Aluminum chloride (PAC), sodium Hypochlorite, Anion Resign and Cation Resign for HRSG Dosing and Water Treatment plant of Chandpur 150 MW CCPP, BPDB, Chandpur, Bangladesh against Tender Ref. No. 27.11.0000.304.25.307.24, dated 07/11/2024(e-GP ID NO 1033426) is hereby amended as follows:

Description	Existing	Amended as		
Tender Selling date	up to 28-11-2024 13-30	28-11-2024 to 05-12-2024 13-00		
Tender Closing date & time	28-11-2024 at 14-00	05-12-2024 at 14-00		
Tender Opening date & time	28-11-2024 at 14-00	05-12-2024 at 14-00		

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

বিদ্যুৎ/ জন-৪৯৯ (২)/২৭/১১/২৪

a) General Experience:

(Md. Nannu Miah)

Tenderer's Agencyship/ Distributorship of the offered brand must be valid for at

I.D. No. 1-01304 Director Directorate of Purchase BPDB, Dhaka.

# INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IFIT)

2	Invitation for	Procurement of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Passenger Lifts and Fireman Lifts.			
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-04			
4	Publication Date	28 November 2024			
ΚE	Y INFORMATION				
5	Procurement Method	Competitive Tendering among eligible Tenderers: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Least Cost Basis (LCB).			
FU	NDING INFORMATION				
6	Source of Funds	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh			
PA	RTICULAR INFORMATION				
7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with Common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-04			
9	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Passenger Lifts and Fireman Lifts.			
10	Last Date of Issuing Tender Document	11 December 2024 upto 5:00 PM			
11	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	22 December 2024 at 11:30 AM			
12	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
13	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	09 January 2025 upto 12:00 Noon			
14	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)				
15	Name and Address of the Office Selling Tender Document	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
16	Name and Address of the Office for Receiving Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
17	Brief Description of Works	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Passenger Lifts including of relative works for complete Installation of the Passenger Lifts and Fireman Lifts.			
18	Issuance of Tender Document & Price of Tender Document	Tenderers intending to obtain Tender Document shall have to apply along with a Non refundable Pay Order/ Bank Draft for an amount of BDT <b>50,000 (Fifty Thousand)</b> o equivalent in USD in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2).			
19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BDT 5.00 (Five) million or equivalent USD in the form of Pay Order. Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2). The Tender Security furnished by a Foreign Bank must			

be counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.

- least 2 (two) years from the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/ Website and Authorization from the Manufacturer of the offered Brand of the Lifts for this b) Specific Experience: Tenderer must have experience of completion of Lift works for at least 10 (ten) Nos. of commercial buildings minimum 10-storied within last 5(five) years from the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/ Website. 21 Financial Criteria of Tenderer a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover: Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover only for Lifts and related works of BDT 200.00 (Two Hundred) million or equivalent USD in last 5 (five) years. b) Liquid Asset / Working Capital / Credit Limit: Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 200.00 (Two Hundred) million or Equivalent USD for this particular project. Neaz Khan Name, Designation, Address & Chief Executive Officer Contact details of Official Inviting Tender IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh Telephone No.: 09638917000 E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org Shall be available in the official Website of IsDB-BISEW (www.isdb-bisew.org) in the Any further changes / up-date/ form of Corrigendum and Addendum. modifications regarding this Tender Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender
  - Special Instructions and Conditions:
    - a) If the Government declares holiday on the opening day of Tender, Tender shall be received and Technical Offer shall be opened at the same time on the next working day.
    - b) Applicants without having the requisite experience and qualification need not apply for issuance of Tender
    - c) It is to be noted that the minimum qualification and experience criteria as stated in this IFIT is only for obtaining the Tender Document and not for being Responsive in the Technical Evaluation of the Tender.
    - d) This Invitation for Tender can be seen in the Website of IsDB-BISEW. e) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the Tender proceedings
    - without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. Neaz Khan



Chief Executive Officer

Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (IsDB-BISEW) IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Phone No.: 09638917000; E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org; Website: www.isdb-bisew.org

#### Reforms to ensure minority inclusion **Says Electoral Reform Commission chief**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badiul Alam Majumdar, chief of the Electoral Reform Commission formed by the interim government, yesterday said their recommendations will ensure that ethnic minorities or backward groups are not discriminated.

He also said their recommendations will establish the legal rights and the right to vote for all citizens.

He made the comments at a views exchange meeting with representatives of different sections of the society including small ethnic groups, dalits, and people with disabilities at the parliament complex.

Representatives from different organisations including Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Ashika Manabik Unnayan Kendra, Adibashi Samajik Unnayan Sangastha, and Bangladesh Dalit Human Rights joined the meeting and spoke about their different problems.

They also placed different proposals, including holding voting in the constituencies of three hill districts on a separate day with better security arrangement, constituting a bicameral parliament, holding direct elections to the Upper House, and holding non-partisan local government elections.

Badiul said that indigenous communities and other groups have problems with the voter list and national identity (NID) cards. The reform commission will make recommendations to address these issues.

He also said that many proposals like bicameral parliament, establishing balance of power between the prime minister and the president, election of Upper House, were discussed in the event.

## Islamic party leaders to visit China

STAR REPORT

GD-1065

For the first time, a delegation comprising leaders from Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Chhatra Shibir, and four other Islamic parties will be visiting China. Their flight departed

The 14-member team is led by Jamaat-e-Islami's central Nayeb-e-Ameer and former Member of Parliament, Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher. The visit comes at the invitation of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

This marks the first instance in which leaders from Jamaat or any Islamic party have received an official invitation from the CPC.

The delegation is expected to return to Bangladesh on

When asked about the purpose of the visit, Abdullah Mohammad Taher described it as a courtesy visit but declined to elaborate further.

#### **KHULNA CITY**

# Winter's arrival does little to curb mosquito menace

**DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna** 

Despite the onset of winter, when in mosquito populations typically dwindle, Khulna city continues to grapple with a severe mosquito infestation.

struggling with sleepless nights and disrupted daily lives.

usually Mosquitoes begin growing in number from spring onwards, as their breeding season begins between mid-February and late March. However, this year, the city is experiencing an early outbreak with the advent of winter.

Amid the situation, local physicians raised concerns about the surge in transmission of diseases, including malaria and dengue.

According to the Khulna Divisional Health Directorate, 8,744 dengue patients have been hospitalised in Khulna division, including over 2,442 in Khulna district alone, as of yesterday morning. The death toll has climbed to 26.

Meanwhile, city dwellers brought allegations of negligence against the Khulna City Corporation authorities in conducting its mosquito control measures in the city areas.

Toufiq Siddique from Phulbarigate area said stagnant water in nearby drains and Beel Dakatia have become breeding grounds for mosquitoes due to insufficient control measures by KCC.

"Hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed with dengue patients. We're passing days amid worries."

Students, too, are bearing the brunt. "My final exams start next week, but I can barely study with mosquitoes starting to swarm our ground-floor apartment from the evening. Even burning coils mosquito breeding. for hours doesn't help," lamented Srijon Kundu, an eighth-grader at Government Muhsin High School.

Hawlader, Advocate Babul member secretary of Khulna Civic Society, accused the KCC of failing to conduct year-round mosquito control activities.

controlling mosquito populations,w" he alleged.

KCC officials, however, said conservancy workers are engaged The nuisance has left residents 31 wards under the city corporation round the clock, while over 400 cleaners are cleaning drains and bushes to curb mosquito breeding.

KCC is also implementing a Tk 823 crore project on Drainage System Development, which will mitigate

"Also, KCC sprays adulterated clean all drains, as most are clogged insecticides, which are ineffective with garbage and polythene," he added.

Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist and professor of Zoology Department at Jahangirnagar University, said, "Previously, mosquitoes used to in spraying insecticide across the be a seasonal issue, usually around monsoon when they breed. However, it is now a year-round problem. If there is accumulated water, mosquitoes can breed any time, be that winter, summer, or monsoon."

In Khulna, it rained last on October 27. An Aedes mosquito



Mosquitoes used to be a seasonal issue, usually around monsoon when they bred. However, it is now a year-round problem. If there is accumulated water,

mosquitoes can breed any time of the year. **Prof Kabirul Bashar** 

mosquito outbreaks, they added.

Md Abdul Aziz, chief
conservancy officer of KCC, said the workers are sprinkling black oil in the city's drains to prevent

"Every day, 31 workers are also spraying larvicide and insecticide across the 31 wards under KCC. We carry out these measures round the year. In total, 77 people are engaged in mosquito control activities at present," he also said.

"We, however, face challenges to

typically lives up to 45 days, which means the mosquitoes born from larvae last month are still active. The ideal temperature for mosquito breeding ranges from 20 to 35 degrees Celsius, he said.

Entomologist at JU

Prof Bashar further explained that unplanned urbanisation, poor management of construction sites, inadequate waste management, poor implementation of mosquito control measures, alongside climate change, are all contributing to the menace.

## **16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM** 'Urgently address violence against indigenous women'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Highlighting the rising abuse of indigenous women and children across Bangladesh, indigenous leaders yesterday stressed the need to address the issue urgently.

They were speaking at a regional discussion, titled "Preventing Violence Against Indigenous Women and Children," held in Moulvibazar.

The meeting took place at a hall in Sreemangal upazila, and was organised by the Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network and Kapaeeng Foundation as part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

Reports from both organisations revealed that indigenous women and children across the country are subjected to various forms of abuse, including rape, kidnapping, physical violence, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation.

While indigenous women are celebrated for their vibrant cultures, their harsh daily realities are overlooked, speakers said.

Indigenous women continue to face different forms of gender-based violence, they said.

Many indigenous women live in marginalised, remote areas and constantly fear for their safety, particularly when travelling outside their communities, speakers also said.

Stressing that violence against indigenous women are becoming increasingly prevalent, they demanded urgent attention in this regard.

The session was chaired by Flora Babli Talang, vice president of the Bangladesh Indigenous

## HC asks about govt action on ISKCON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what steps the government has taken regarding ISKCON's recent activities, including its rally and Tuesday's clashes in Chattogram.

The court asked Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman to inform the court about the government's steps today.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury passed the order after a Supreme Court lawyer, Md Monir Uddin, placed two newspaper reports on ISKCON before

The lawyer sought a suomoto (voluntary) order on the government to ban its operations and SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH **Power Division** Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

#### Re-Invitation for Tender (OTM)

1	Mini	stry/Division		Power Division Resources	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources			
2	Procu	uring Entity Name		Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources				
3	Procuring Entity Code			Not used at pre	sent			
4	Procuring Entity Code  Procuring Entity District			Dhaka, Bangla				
5		ation for	Stationery goods, Desktop Computers, printers & ICT Equi Printer Toner.					
6	Invita	ation Ref No		27.00.0000.043.07.028.24.721				
7	Date			27.11.2024				
	KEY	INFORMATION						
8	Proci	rement Method		OTM				
	FUN	DING INFORMATION						
9		et and Source of Funds		Revenue/GOB				
10		lopment Partners (if app		Not Applicable				
		TICULAR INFORMATI	provident and the second of the second of the second					
11	Tend	er Package No.	02 (2024-2025)					
12		er Package Name	Toner.	ationery goods, De	esktop Computers, Printers & ICT Equipments, Printe			
13	-	er Publication Date	28.11.2024					
14		er Last Selling Date	08.12.2024 Time	: 3.00 PM				
15	Time		10.12.2024		Time: 12.00 PM			
16	Time		10.12.2024		Time: 1.00 PM			
	office			Bangladesh Secret				
į	Selling Tender Document (Principal)		Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Power Division, Room # 212, Building # 6 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.					
17	(Others) Di		Accounts officer, Power Division, Secretariat Link Road, Biddut Vabon (level-10) Dhaka.					
10			t Secretary (Admin-3) Power Division, Room # 212, Building # 6,					
	Document Bangladesh Sec							
{})	Open	ing Tender Document	Deputy Secretary (Dev-1), Power Division, Room # 208, Building # 6, Bangladesl Secretariat, Dhaka.					
INF	ORMA	TION FOR TENDERE						
18	Eligibility of Tender		The tenderer should be well experienced with (1) Trade License (2) Income Tax Certificate (TIN) (3) Vat Registration Certificate (3) Bank Solvency Certificate (4) Minimum 3 (Three) successful completion Certificate within last 3 (Three) years etc.					
19		Brief Description of Goods			esktop Computers, Printer & ICT Equipments), Lot-3			
20	Brief Description of		Not Applicable					
21		Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Lot (1, 2 & 3)	Γk. 1,000/- (Per Lo	t)			
	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Complementary equipment's			
22		Lot-01 Stationery goods, Lot-02 Desktop Computers, printers & ICT Equipments, Lot-3 Printer Toner.	Power Division Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.	Lot-01 for Tk. 73,500/- Lot-02 for Tk.93,500/- Lot-03 for Tk. 48,000/-	Ready stock or purchase/supply from mai dealer/reputed company of Bangladesh within 3 days from the date of issue work order. Th Tenderer Must submit sole distributor certificat /distributor authorization letter along with tende document.			
	Name of Official Inviting Tender			Power Division				
	Designation of Official			Secretary (Admin-	3)			
23		ess of Official Inviting	Room # 212, Bu	lding # 6, Power Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.				
	Contact details of Official			23390024	E-mail: admin-3@pd.gov.bd			
Î	Inviti	ing render						
24	The I	Procuring Entity reserves			v tender. e at Power Division's Website.			

(Md. Masudur Rahman Masud) Senior Assistant Secretary Ph: 02223390024

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর ৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ (www.dwa.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং- ৩২.০১.০০০০.০০১.০৭.৪৬৩.২৪-১০৫৩

তারিখ: ২৬/১১/২০২৪খ্রি.

#### আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় জনবলের সেবা ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

: মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

এবং আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় সেবা গ্রহণ নীতিমালা, ২০১৮ অনুযায়ী আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় মাসিক নির্ধারিত সেবামূলো মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নাধীন 'চৌধুরী ফিরোজা বেগম মহিলা প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, শিশু দিবায়র কেন্দ্র কাম-হোপ্টেল, শিবচর, মাদারীপুর'-এর পরিচালনা ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের জন্য ৩০জুন, ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত সময়ের জন্য জনবলের সেবা ক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত ও লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত বাংলাদেশ শ্রম বিধিমালা, ২০১৫ এর বিধি-৭ মোতবেক) ঠিকাদারী সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীল-মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আল্পান করা যাচ্ছে:

<b>\</b> .	সেবাক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিপপ্তর, ৩৭/৩, ইস্কাটন গার্তেন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০					
0.	সংগ্ৰহকারী সন্ধার নাম	1.1	মহাপরিচালক, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদন্তর					
8.	ক্রদ্মসংগ্রহের সন্ধাধিকারীর কোড নং-	1	2900203-221-23-23-23-23					
e.	দরপত্র আহনবানের কারণ / উদ্দেশ্য	1	মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিনন্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তব্যয়নাধীন 'চৌধুরী ফিরোজা বেগম মহিলা প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, দিশু দিবায়াই কেন্দ্র কাম-হোপ্টেল, শিবচর মালাজীপুর'-এর পরিচালনা ও বক্ষণাবেক্ষণের জন্য জনা আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় জনবলের সেবা গ্রহণ।					
6,	দরপত্র আহববানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	1	৩২,০১,০০০০,০০১,০৭,৪৬৩,২৪-১০৫৩, জারিখ: ২৬/১১/২০২৪খি.					
٩.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	1	२५/১১/२०२८वि.।					
ъ.	ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি		উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM).					
<b>b</b> .	বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস	1	क्रिवरि					
50.	দরপত্র প্যাকেঞ্চ এর নাম	1	আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় জনবলের সেবা ক্রয়					
33.	দরপত্র সিভিউল বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা	1:	বিজ্ঞান্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ০৯/১২/২০২৪ন্নি, বিকাল-০৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত					
52.	ক) দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিব ও সময়সীমা		১০/১২/২০২৪খ্রি. ভারিখ, বেলা- ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত					
	খ) দরপত্র বাক্স বছের তারিখ ও সময়সীমা	1:	১০/১২/২০২৪খ্রি, বেলা- ১২.০১মিঃ					
30.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	1	স্থান - উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন), মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর এর দার্দ্রবিক কক্ষ (কক্ষ না : ২১৩, দ্বিজীয় তলা) অথবা বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা হতে দরপর সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।					
			দরপরে অংশগ্রহণকারী/প্রতিনিধিণণ এর সম্মুদে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র যোলা হবে। তারিখ ও সময় — ১০/১২/২০২৪খ্রি. সময় : ২:০০ টা					
\$8.	দরপত্র সিভিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	কক্ষ নং-২০১ (২য় তলা), মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিনন্তর, ৩৭/৩, ইঞ্চাটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।					
54.	দরপত্র প্রহণের জন্য অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	<ol> <li>পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, মহিলা বিষয়য়ক অধিধন্তর, ৩৭/৩, ইক্ষাটন গার্ভেন রোভ, ঢাকা।</li> <li>বিভাগীয় কমিপনার, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়, পেশুনরাগিচা, ঢাকা।</li> </ol>					
λ·6.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	সরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ঠিকাদার হিসাবে কমপক্ষে ও(তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং সরকানী/ আধা-সরকানী/ রাট্রাহতু প্রতিষ্ঠানে বিগত ২(দুই) বছরের মধ্যে আউট সোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় কমপক্ষে একটি কার্যাদেশে সবনিম্ন ৩০,০০,০০০/- (ব্রিশ লক্ষ্য) টাকার জনবংলর সেবা সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার প্রমানপত্র দাখিল করাতে হবে। প্রতিষ্ঠানের হাসনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল (৩০জুন ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত হাসনাগাদ্বত), আয়কার পরিশোধ সনদ (হলে বছর পর্যন্ত পরিশোধিত), ভাট রেজিট্রেশন সনদ, বাংলাদেশ শ্রম বিধিমাল, ২০১৫ এর বিধি-৭ অনুমারী যে কোন সংস্থায় অউটগোসিং প্রক্রিয়ায় কর্মী সরবরাহ করার লক্ষ্যে সরবরাহকারী সংস্কৃত্রে রেজিট্রেশন সনদার করার লক্ষ্যে সরবরাহকারী সংস্কৃত্রে রেজিট্রেশন সনদার আক্ষাত্র সক্ষয় প্রকৃত্তি হাস্ত্রিয়ায় কর্মী সরবরাহ কর্মি করিছাট, ব্যাংক সলভেলি সাটিফিকেট এবং সিভিউলে উল্লেম্বর্টার পর্যান্ত কর্মান্ত বালকের হবে (বিজারিক টেন্ডার জন্মেস্টর্গারিজল উল্লেম্বর্টার স্বান্যান্য কার্যন্ত আক্ষেত্র হবে (বিজারিক টেন্ডার জনুমেন্টেসিভিউজে উল্লেম্বর্টার মেন্ত্রে)।					

ক্ৰ.নং	পদের নাম	ক্যাটাপরি	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা/যোগ্যতা	বয়সমীমা	সাকুলা মাসিক সেবামূল্য
51	ইলেক্সিশিয়ান	ক্যাটাগরি-১	05	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	59650/-
<b>2</b> 1	কেয়ারটেকার	ক্যাটাগরি-১	60	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিচ্চদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	29600/-
10	পাম্প অপারেটর	ক্যাটাগরি-২	05	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	29200/-
81	কুক/বাবুচি	ক্যাটাগরি-৪	05	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	\$ 800/-
01	লিফটম্যান	ক্যাটাগরি-৫	02	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	26200/-
61	সহকারী বাবুচি	ক্যাটাগরি-৫	05	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিন্ধদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	29200/-
91	আয়া	ক্যাটাগরি-৫	00	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	26200/-
ы	নিরাপতা প্রহরী/গার্ড	ক্যাটাগরি-৫	02	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	26200/-
16	হোষ্টেল এটেনভেট	ক্যাটাগরি-৫	02	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিচ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	26200/-
301	পরিজ্লতা কমী	ক্যাটাপরি-৫	02	৮ম শ্রেণী পাশ	অভিজ্ঞদের অগ্রাধিকার	১৮-৬০ বছর	29200/-
সৰ্বমোট	:		১৫টি				

প্রতিটি সিভিউলের মূল্য= ২,০০০/- (দুই হান্ধার) টাকা মাত্র (অঞ্চেরুযোগ্য) দরপত্র সিভিউলের মূল্য দরপত্র সিভিউল সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি

সংগ্ৰহতব্য সেবার পরিচয় দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ সরবরাহের সময়/মাস অউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের রাজস্ব বাজেটের আওতাধীন যে কোন ভফসিলি বাাংক হতে **চক্তি সম্পাদন/কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তি**র সর্বোচ্চ ৭ (সাত) দিন অথবা 'টোধরী ফিরোজা বেগম মহিলা প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, শিশু পরিচালক, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদন্তর ১৫ (পনের) জন জনবল এর অনুকুলে ৫০,০০০/-(পঞ্চাশ হাঞ্চার) দিবায়ত্র কেন্দ্র কাম-হোপ্টেল, শিবচর, মাদারীপুর' অথবা কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশিত সময়ের মধ্যে সরবরাহ

\$0,	দরপত্র সিভিউল সংগ্রহ		আমার্থী প্রাইভেট সিকিউরিটি সার্ভিস্পৌকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবন ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা মহাপারচালক, মহিলা বিষয়ব অধিবস্তর বরাবর বাংলাদেশ বাংক/সোনালী বাংকে ট্রেজারি চালানের মাধ্যমে (কোভ নং- ১-৩০২১-০০০০-২০৮৮) জমা প্রদানপূর্বক চালানের মূল কপি প্রদর্শনকরতঃ আগামী ০৯/১২/২০২৪ তারিখ পর্বন্ত অধিস চলাকালীন সময়ে মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিনন্তরের প্রশাসন শাখা হতে (কক্ষ নং : ২০১ দ্বিতীয় তলা) অথবা বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা হতে দরপত্র সিভিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।			
২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও কোন নম্বর		9	পরিচালক মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিবন্থর ৫৭/৩, ইম্লাটন পার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ কোন-১৩৩৬৮৬৩।			
22.	বিশেষ নির্দেশ্যবলী	11	দরশত্র ৰজিলে (সিডিউল) উল্লিখিত বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করতে হবে। বিস্তারিক দরপত্র সিভিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।			
₹0.	সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা	:	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যাতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করাসহ উক্ত দরপত্রের <u>আর্ব্</u> তীয় সিঞ্চান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।			

anno মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা। ফোন: ৫৮৩১০৭৭০

GD-1062

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**Nasir Uddin Khan** 



**Afran Nisho** 



**Mostafa Monwar** 



**Abdun Noor Shajal** 



Irfan Sajjad PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Your favourite 'bad guys' 2023:

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK** 

The OTT industry has revolutionised storytelling, presenting unforgettable characters that leave lasting impressions. Among these are compelling antagonists who have captivated audiences and redefined what it means to play a villain. The nominations for the Best Antagonist category at the Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2023 celebrate these powerful portrayals.

Afran Nisho, a name synonymous with versatility, made his OTT debut with Shihab Shaheen's Morichika, which earned him the Best Antagonist award in 2021 (presented in 2022). This year, he has returned to the nominations for his chilling performance in Yasir Al Haq's *Sharey* **Showlo**. Known for romantic roles on television, Nisho's portrayal of darker characters has cemented his place as one of the industry's finest.

Abdun Noor Shajal, another fanfavourite, has emerged as a masterful antagonist. His riveting performance

him a nomination this year. Shajal, typically celebrated for his romantic leads on the small screens, has successfully reinvented himself in the OTT space. Adding to his streak, he also starred as an antagonist in Zahed's project *Rumi*, showcasing his range and consistency.

Irfan Sajjad took audiences by surprise with his haunting performance in Shihab Shaheen's Baba Someone's Following Me. Playing a mentally challenged antagonist, Sajjad earned widespread acclaim and a well-deserved nomination. His nuanced portrayal solidified his position as a rising star in the industry.

The multi-talented Mostafa Monwar, known for his transformative roles, delivered yet another stellar performance in **Procholito**. Consistently captivating audiences with his craft, Monwar secured his spot among this year's nominees with a performance narratives and characters are that solidified his reputation as a powerhouse of talent. His dedication to bringing complex characters to a bright future for the country's in Vicky Zahed's *The Silence* earned life continues to impress viewers and digital entertainment landscape.

critics alike.

Reigning champion Uddin Khan, who won Best Antagonist last year for Syndicate, has also returned to this year's nominations for his menacing role in Shankha Dasgupta's Guti. With 18 nominations across Popular and Critics' Choice categories, Guti leads the awards this year. Additionally, Khan received a Best Actor (Male) nomination for his exceptional work in Shihab Shaheen's Myself Allen Swapan, proving his versatility and dominance in the OTT arena.

These actors exemplify importance well-crafted antagonists in storytelling, transforming them into the heart of a narrative's success.

As we celebrate these outstanding performances, it's evident that the rise of Bangladeshi OTT platforms has paved the way for diverse and boundary-pushing content. These now earning both national and international recognition, beckoning



# Lawyers hurl eggs at judge for remark

Justice Ashraful. But the eggs hit a calendar.

Then both the judges of the HC bench left the courtroom without saving anything to the protesting lawyers, the official said, adding that he did not know the lawyers.

The judges did not sit in the courtroom after the incident took

Contacted, some other staffers of the HC bench led by Justice Ashraful refused to comment on the incident.

SC Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts by phone.

However, an official at the SC Registrar General's Office told this correspondent that the authorities concerned of the SC have been informed of the incident.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Khan, a pro-BNP lawyer and former assistant secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association, told The Daily Star that Justice Ashraful has made very negative and unexpected comments about late president Ziaur Rahman in a verdict in the "Asaduzzaman Vs Bangladesh" case in 2016 while he was a junior judge of an HC bench.

In the judgment, Justice Ashraful observed that Major General Ziaur Rahman was not only the collaborator of the killers of the father of the nation and his family members but also the killers of the four national leaders. He also rewarded the murderers of Bangabandhu and his family members by making them

ambassadors, parliamentarians, etc. "What he did more heinously is that his government formulated the Indemnity Act that stopped the trial of the murderers of elected president, the father of the nation, and his family members.

"The people were astonished to see Major General Ziaur Rahman had joined hands with the murderers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members and the murderers of four national leaders, and completely illegally and unconstitutionally seized the office of president, which can be said in a word -- seized the people's institutions at gunpoint," Justice Ashraful said in the verdict.

He was appointed as an additional judge of the HC on December 12, 2010, for two years and his service was confirmed on December 10,

2012, during the regime of Sheikh Hasina-led government.

Lawyer Mahbubur added that some lawvers also confined High Court Division's Registrar Munshi Moshiar Rahman to his office for some time vesterday afternoon and removed his nameplate from his office as he was one of the behindthe-scenes craftsmen of "the August 10 judicial coup" and an aide of the fascist government.

Moshiar forced many lower court judges to visit Tungipara of Gopalganj while he was a judge in Narayanganj, alleged Mahbubur, publicity affairs secretary of Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Ainjibi Forum, a body of pro-BNP lawyers.

Moshiar could not communicated for comments by

Twelve HC judges have been kept away from judicial proceedings since October 20 amid the demand from the agitating students.

On August 10, then chief justice Obaidul Hassan and five other judges of the Appellate Division of the SC stepped down amid students' demonstrations demanding their resignations following the ouster of the Awami League government on

#### extortion from Abdul Monem Ltd. A Dhaka court convicted Khaleda

The three others were the former

#### Khaleda, Tarique cleared secretary Harris Chowdhury (now

the Barapukuria coal mine graft case by a Dhaka court yesterday.

The two others are former ministers Air Vice Marshal (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Khandaker Mosharraf Judge Md Abu Taher of Dhaka

Special Judge's Court-3, however, framed charges against Moazzem Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Moinul Ahsan and Md Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, officially launching the trial. In another development, Judge Md

Rezaul Karim of the Dhaka Special Judge's Court-10 cleared Tarique in a case filed in 2008 over dodging Tk 26.86 lakh in income tax from 2002 to

Tarique was also cleared by the Iditional Chief Metropolitan Additional Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka in another case filed during the rule of the armybacked caretaker government in 2007 over demanding Tk 10.31 crore as

and three others in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case on October 29.

minister's then political

dead), the latter's then private secretary Ziaul Islam Munna, and Monirul Islam Khan, private secretary to a former Dhaka City Corporation mayor.

The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on August 8, 2011, accusing the four of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources. Khaleda, who mostly staved at her

Gulshan home for the last five years following the suspension of her prison sentence, was released on August 6 this year after President Mohammed Shahabuddin had granted her clemency in two cases based on the law ministry's recommendation.

The development came a day after Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country in the face of a mass

Khaleda landed in jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court in Dhaka sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. The High Court later doubled her jail term.

In the same year, the same special court sentenced the BNP chief to seven years in jail in the Zia Charitable Trust

# Govt for trying Hasina

Separately, Essa Mbye Faal, a senior lawyer of the ICC, said the international court is ready to assist the ICT if requested by Bangladesh.

The ICC has always said that it is available to assist states in terms of technical support, training, and guidance when requested," he said while responding to a question at a press briefing in Dhaka.

"With this level of cooperation, if Bangladesh were to seek assistance, the Office would be more than happy to oblige," said the ICC lawyer.

During the meeting at Jamuna, Yunus and Khan also discussed the Rohingya crisis, the situation in Myanmar, and humanitarian efforts for the Rohingyas.

the chief adviser that his office has formally sought an arrest warrant

against Min Aung Hlaing, the chief of the Myanmar military government, for crimes against humanity regarding the treatment of the Rohingyas.

Khan backed Yunus's call to hold a special global conference on the Rohingva crisis. The UN General Assembly has agreed to hold the conference in 2025. Khan said he hoped a new direction to a sustainable resolution to the crisis would be found at the conference.

The chief adviser conference would bring all the international stakeholders to a table to seek a durable solution to the crisis, especially the plight of the Rohingyas and their young children in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

"We have to make sure that it does not explode," Prof Yunus said, referring to the young people growing up without hope in the camps.

#### A father lost forever

the Rangam Convention Hall, adjacent to the Chattogram Court Building vesterday

Tasnimul Hasan Jaki, his nephew said, "We didn't know anything about the incident until we received a call from Chittagong Medical College Hospital around 3:45pm. By the time we reached the hospital, he was already dead."

Saiful was the fourth of seven iblings, said his elder sister, Jannat Ara Begum.

"My brother was honest and always stood against injustice.

"His two-year-old daughter has lost her father, and his unborn child will never meet him. This pain is unbearable," she said, demanding justice for his murder.

Saiful's father, Jamal Uddin, unable to bear the grief, was seen repeatedly collapsing outside the CMCH morgue.

"I want justice for my son. I demand punishment for his killers," he cried.

As his family mourns the loss of a husband, father, and brother, they continue to demand accountability for the brutal killing.

## Tigresses notch

each to finish off the job, bowling Ireland out for 98 runs in 28.5 overs.

Batting performances have been a big concern for the Tigresses and the win would be a boost of confidence after recent struggles.

"The whole of Bangladesh watched our victory and we would like to continue on the same path," Sultana said at the post-match press conference. "The batters took responsibility and

that's why we were able to bowl with comfort. We bowled freely and without pressure," she added.

Sultana commended Sharmin's aggressive effort, an inspired knock in Bangladesh's context.

"She (Sharmin) batted really well. This is only the second time I saw her batting this aggressively. She can bat even better if she wants. It would have been better if she could reach her hundred," Sultana opined.

The Tigresses will head to the second ODI on November 30 with more ambition, hoping to clinch the series.

The government said at least one police officer and four state paramilitary personnel had been killed, before the main thoroughfare was cleared by forces armed with tear gas and batons early yesterday. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said

Imran Khan's followers

in a statement that security forces had 'bravely repulsed the protesters" as PTI told activists on social media the rally was cancelled "for the time being".

Khan made a statement from his cell outside Islamabad calling supporters to the capital on Tuesday

But the crowds were led by his key lieutenant Ali Amin Gandapur and his wife Bushra Bibi, who was also jailed earlier this year but released last

"The movement is continuing and it will be ended only by Imran Khan," said Gandapur after retreating from Islamabad to northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where he

serves as chief minister. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the protests "extremism". Since Sunday, his ministers held regular press conferences in central Islamabad vowing

no mercy for the oncoming marchers. But as they retreated from the capital, there were growing calls for reconciliation to prevent future flareups impacting regular citizens in the

country of 240 million. The Human Rights Commission forced to retreat.

of Pakistan said in a statement that Khan and Sharif's parties should "immediately enter a purposeful political dialogue".

"It is high time that they agree on a peaceful way forward instead of whipping up the emotions of their respective political workers and bringing the country to a standstill," the organisation said. Michael Kugelman, South Asia

Institute director at The Wilson Center, said on social media platform X that Pakistan's protests had no winners". Anger towards the establishment has increased over the crackdown, he said, while at the same time, PTI was

The ICC prosecutor informed

#### Israel attacks Lebanon crossings with Syria

#### Seven people killed

AFP, Beirut

Israel conducted strikes on the Syrian border with Lebanon that a war monitor said killed seven people, hours ahead of a ceasefire in the war with Hezbollah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Syria's President Bashar al-Assad he was "playing with fire" on Tuesday, as he announced the truce with Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Assad is a key ally and backer of Hezbollah, and Syria has served as the main conduit of weapons for the armed group from Iran to Lebanon.

deployed Hezbollah fighters into Syria during its civil war, and played a key role in propping up Assad's regime during the revolt that erupted in 2011.

The nighttime strikes hit border crossings, killing seven people including two Syrian soldiers, a child and a Syrian Red Crescent volunteer, said Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syria's defence ministry said earlier that six people were killed in the strikes. Israel has conducted hundreds of strikes on Syria in recent years.

# Five key points on Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire deal

AFP, Washington

WHEN DID THE TRUCE BEGIN?

INTERNATIONAL

The ceasefire went into effect at 4:00 am local time yesterday in Israel and Lebanon (0200 GMT), at which point "all fire stopped from all parties," the US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told reporters.

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Israeli forces will hold their positions, but "a 60-day period will start in which the Lebanese military and security forces will begin their deployment towards the south," the official said.

That will give them time to reach the Israeli positions, at which point Israel can begin a phased withdrawal without any vacuum forming that could see Hezbollah or others rush in, the official explained.

The withdrawal should take no longer than 60 days, the official said. Hezbollah must also withdraw from the southern border with Israel and move further north up the Litani River.

#### WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?

Biden said that the United States, with the support of France and other allies, would "provide the necessary assistance to make sure this deal is implemented fully and effectively."

However, that does not mean US boots on the ground, he said. Instead, "if Hezbollah or anyone else breaks the deal and poses a direct threat to Israel, then Israel retains the right to self-defense consistent with international law," Biden stated.

#### WHAT NEXT FOR LEBANON?

Given that "Hezbollah is extremely weak at this moment, both militarily and politically," the ceasefire presents "the opportunity for Lebanon to reestablish its sovereignty over its territory," the US official said.

#### WHAT DOES DEAL MEAN FOR GAZA?

The ceasefire in Lebanon could become "a stepping stone towards getting a ceasefire deal in Gaza and bringing the hostages home," the US official said.

In large part that will be because the Palestinian group Hamas will realize that "Hezbollah has decided to abandon them and delink the two conflicts," he



Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of an Israeli airstrike in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza yesterday. US President Joe Biden will launch a renewed drive for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal, now that Israel and Hezbollah have agreed to a truce in Lebanon, his national security adviser said.

# 15 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza school: medics

Two sons of a former Hamas spokesman among dead

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 15 people yesterday, some of them in a school housing displaced people, medics in Gaza said, adding that the fatalities included two sons of a former Hamas spokesman.

Health officials in the Hamasrun enclave said eight Palestinians Lahiya on the northern edge of the parties it would suspend its efforts were killed and dozens of others enclave where army forces have until the sides are prepared to make wounded in an Israeli strike that hit been operating since last month.

the Al-Tabeaeen School, which was sheltering displaced families in Gaza Gaza has left at least 44,282 people City. Among those killed were two dead and displaced nearly all the sons of former Hamas spokesman, enclave's population at least once, Fawzi Barhoum, according to according to Gaza health officials. medics and Barhoum himself.

Israel's 13-month campaign in

Months of attempts to negotiate In the Shejaia suburb of Gaza a ceasefire have yielded scant City, another strike killed four progress and negotiations are people, while three people were now on hold, with mediator Qatar killed in an Israeli air strike in Beit saying it has told the two warring concessions.

**ADANI CASE** India's parliament suspended again in row over US action

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's lower house of parliament suspended proceedings for a second yesterday disruptions by lawmakers demanding a discussion of the US indictment of billionaire Gautam Adani, while stocks of his group's companies clawed back some losses.

Last week US authorities accused Adani, his nephew and executive director Sagar Adani and managing director of Adani Green, Vneet S Jaain, of being part of a scheme to pay bribes of \$265 million to secure Indian power supply contracts and misleading US investors.

ports-to-power conglomerate denied the charges as "baseless" and vowed to seek "all possible legal recourse".

opposition, India's especially the Congress accuse Prime party, Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of shielding Adani.

Parliament proceedings were disrupted for the second day since the winter session began this week, with MPs shouting slogans and demanding discussion of the Adani allegations.

# Ban ISKCON, give it no quarter

authorities to apprehend the killers within 24 hours.

Sarjis Alam, a member of Jatiya Nagorik Committee and general secretary of July Martyrs Memorial Foundation, said, "General Sanatanis in the country are peace-loving, but the instructions of the Awami agents of the dictator Hasina are trying to create an unstable situation by inciting ISKCON. However, Hindus we won't let that happen as long as we are alive.'

Earlier in the day, the succeed." student leaders attended the second namaz-e-janaza will be silently tolerated for Saiful Islam at Jamiatul anymore.

Falah Mosque in the port Saiful Islam Alif, urging the city's Wasa intersection.

at a rally in the Central Speaking at the event, Shahid Minar, Abdul Hannan Masud, chief organiser of the students' platform, alleged ISKCON is working to implement Delhi's agenda in Bangladesh at the League President Sheikh

"But their plan to pit and Muslims

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Gopalganj Road Division, Gopalganj

email: eegopal@rhd.gov.bd

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"Collaborators of the Awami League are still In the capital, speaking lurking in many places, trying to destablise the country in various ways. We have decided that wherever they are found, they will be beaten by the public and handed over to the police."

Umama Fatema, spokesperson for the platform, said that after August 5, Sheikh Hasina's last trump card was an attack on minorities.

"She wanted to portray against each other in that an Islamic revolution this country will never was taking place in through Bangladesh, that Muslims However, we observed that He said no conspiracy were endangering Hindus, the government was lenient and that Hindus were unsafe in the country. The

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Public

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Nov-

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2024

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30-Dec-

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entire plot was orchestrated by India."

She alleged that since August 5 the Indian media has been aggressively pushing the minority issue in Bangladesh.

Criticising the interim government for its failure to address the propaganda allegedly spread by India, Umama said, "I believe it was the responsibility of the government to inform the world that India is running a propaganda against Bangladesh its media.... towards India.'

She also said that

Bangladesh's peaceful domestic politics perceived as a threat to India's pro-Hindu agenda.

"We must remain vigilant in our politics to ensure that neither India nor the Awami League can politicise the minority issue."

Central Coordinator Mahin Sarkar reiterated, "ISKCON is a militant organisation. We demand it be banned.... However, we must not fall into any traps laid by the Awami League. Everyone must remain calm and patient.'

# What kind of Bangladesh is this?'

Expressing regret, Fakhrul said, "It has only been three months, and already our true nature is beginning to reveal. With this behaviour, success can never be achieved."

Stressing the need for unity, the BNP leader said no problem can be fixed if division and conflict persist in the country.

Expressing concern over the "madness that erupted in the name of  $\,$ religion" and recent attacks on media offices, he said, "Despite our long battle for a free and independent press, media offices are being torched now. This is not the Bangladesh we envisioned, at least not the one I want to see."

BNP secretary The condemned general the intimidation newspapers.

"I strongly condemn the attacks on some newspapers, including the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star. I have fought for press freedom all my life.

fascist because she was choking us, killing us, silencing us, denying us the right to vote, and

committing murders. Now another one....he can't be allowed to speak...eliminate him. Can a society progress like this?

"I have been fighting for 14-15 years. I have been jailed many times. I am ready to go to jail again anytime, but I do not want to see this kind of Bangladesh.

"What I believe in, what my party believes in, I will speak the truth even if it costs me my life. I believe in liberal democracy. I believe in people's freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of voting," he said.

Referring to social media posts calling for arson, Fakhrul warned of further conflicts.

"The madness doesn't end there... Calls for burning and destruction are being made. Can you even imagine where they are leading Bangladesh? Do we recognise the assailant standing behind us with a dagger? Clearly, we do not. If we did, we would not have uttered such irresponsible words," he said.

interim making confusing of statements as they "may create confusion among the people".



তারিখঃ ২৬/১১/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

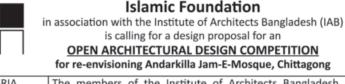
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1041131	27.21.0000.767.51. 009.24.797; Dated: 24.11.2024	Repair & Maintenance work of Control Building, Extension of water Line, Boundary wall & Protection Slope, Flag Stand & Name Plate at Gopalganj 132/33 kV Grid Substation.
1041134	27.21.0000.767.51. 009.24.798; Date:24.11.2024	Repair & Maintenance of IP Camera for different Grid Substations under GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.
1038823	27.21.0000.767.51. 009.24.778; Date:18.11.2024	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 5.0 kWp x 2 Nos. on-grid solar panel system for Faridpur 230/132kV Grid Substation with net metering under GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.
1038836	27.21.0000.767.51. 009.24.780; Date:18.11.2024	Purchase of LED light, light post etc for GMD office and different Sub-station under the GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.
1038828	27.21.0000.767.51. 009.24.779; Date:18.11.2024	Refilling of Expired Fire Extinguisher for all Grid Sub Station and GMD office under GMD, Faridpur.
1038847	27.21.0000.767.51. 009.24.781; Date:18.11.2024	Tower Leg maintenance & painting work of different Transmission Line under GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.

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That is my belief, my trust," Fakhrul said. Pointing at popular faces Stressingtheimportance that are pushing the entire of freedom of expression nation towards division Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after opening time. in a democracy, he said, and inciting an atmosphere "What is democracy? You of darkness, the BNP leader express your opinion, and said, "I won't name anyone, I may disagree. But I will nor do I want to. But reflect defend your freedom of expression with my life. on this -- those driving us toward division, are they That is democracy." Criticising suppression our enemies or allies?" (Md. Azharul Islam) of dissents, the BNP leader Fakhrul warned the Deputy Directors. said, "You overthrew a government ID No.: 602306 Email: iab.andarkilla@gmail.com Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD Address: IAB CENTRE, Plot-11, Block-E, Sthaptyacharjo Muzharul Islam

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# **EDITORIAL**

# The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## A disturbing tragedy at Chattogram court

Govt must thoroughly investigate clashes, hold to account those responsible

We are disturbed by the clashes that erupted on the Chattogram court premises on Tuesday, culminating in the brutal murder of Assistant Public Prosecutor Saiful Islam. Given the timing of these incidents—amid heightened tensions over recent attacks on media houses and violent disruptions by college students—it is not unreasonable to think that a sinister force is pulling the strings to destabilise the country through orchestrated chaos, making it all the more important that we remain careful and act responsibly at all times.

On Tuesday, violence broke out outside the Chattogram Court Building when Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a controversial former ISKCON leader facing sedition charges for allegedly disrespecting the national flag, was denied bail. Reportedly, his followers confronted security officers and lawyers as he was about to be sent to jail, halting the prison van. Despite efforts to clear them, the protests persisted, and by late afternoon, law enforcement used stun grenades and batons to disperse the crowd. The situation quickly escalated into violent confrontations, leading to at least 37 individuals being injured, including 10 police officers. During the chaos, Saiful was fatally struck by lethal weapons. Several cars, motorcycles, and a lawyer's chamber were also vandalised.

It goes without saying that these developments have profound communal implications if left unaddressed. For a country that prides itself on a hard-won interfaith harmony, despite occasional provocations, these incidents represent a troubling rise in tensions that cannot be attributed solely to the fallen regime. Other vested interest groups maybe at play, as evidenced by reports about sections of the Indian media circulating false and inflammatory narratives-such as the erroneous claim that the slain advocate was Chinmoy's lawyer. Such misinformation, coupled with exaggerated claims about police handling of Hindu supporters, is clearly designed to deepen divisions. While it is reassuring that the public has largely resisted falling into communal traps so far, the need to be circumspect has never been more urgent.

The government's response to the crisis has been measured so far. Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus condemned Saiful's murder and promised a thorough investigation. Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan earlier clarified that Chinmoy's arrest was based on allegations of sedition, not his religious identity. Such clarity is essential in countering misinformation. Six suspects have been reportedly identified through video footage and arrested, while 21 others were detained for vandalism and assaulting police officers during the unrest. Notably, Reuters reported that among those arrested were six members of Awami League, who police said were found in possession of improvised explosives.

As investigations continue, it is crucial to separate fact from fiction. Baseless allegations and communal scapegoating will only serve to exacerbate tensions. The interim government, along with political and religious leaders, must demonstrate their commitment to peace, reconciliation, and rule of law, ensuring that those responsible for Tuesday's violence, including provocateurs, are held accountable. Only through collective resolve and vigilance can we prevent divisive forces from derailing post-uprising Bangladesh.

## Give returnees the help they need

#### Migrant workers who return home with trauma need long-term state support

When it comes to economic statistics—such as GDP growth or foreign reserves—we often shower our migrant workers with praise. Yet our gratitude often falls short when it comes to providing returnees with the material and psychological support they need.

A report published recently highlights the physical and mental trauma many migrants face abroad. It cites the case of 24-year-old Layek Mia, who left for Oman in good health but returned home after five years so incapacitated that he now cannot move without assistance. Over the last five years. Brac has helped about 105 such returnees, but experts estimate the actual number is four to five times higher. Alarmingly, women make up nearly 80 percent of the migrant workers returning home with physical, mental, financial, or sexual trauma. In fact, the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, a UK-based nonprofit, reports that just in the first half of this year, there were 30 allegations of abuse against Bangladeshi migrant workers by renowned companies, mostly headquartered in the US, UK, and Saudi Arabia. Often, foreign employers send migrants back home empty-handed, as mere shadows of their former selves.

Unfortunately, the support returnee migrants receive from the state is negligible or often nonexistent. Families of migrant workers who die abroad receive a one-time disbursement from the Wage Earners' Welfare Board fund. However, families of returnee migrants-especially those suffering from mental abuse or physical ailments that leave them unable to workare left without any support. Many are not even aware of how to access the fund or apply for assistance. In fact, the whole journey of a migrant worker remains fraught with challenges from start to finish.

While addressing hurdles in the recruitment process is critical, it is equally important to ensure that our workers are treated with fairness and respect in their host countries. The government must prioritise the rights of our migrants and work to hold abusive employers accountable through foreign authorities. Establishing shelter homes or safe spaces at foreign missions, with support from affluent Bangladeshi communities abroad, could be a meaningful step.

However, the rehabilitation of returnees coming home with physical and mental trauma is even more crucial. The Wage Earners' Welfare Board fund could be used to improve services at the airport to better assist these migrants and guide them to the help they need. It could also support trauma survivors and their families in meaningful ways.

The interim government has received unequivocal support from migrant workers, and taken several positive steps so far. However, much more remains to be done. We urge it to establish a permanent mechanism to aid returnees in the long term.

# Priorities for Bangladesh's health sector

## A healthcare reform roadmap for the interim government



Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury and founding dean of the James P Grant School of Public Health.

AHMED MUSHTAQUE RAZA CHOWDHURY

created. Primary health care (PHC) encompassing curative, basic preventive, and promotive servicesis delivered at the upazila level and below, up to community clinics. Unfortunately, PHC is deprioritised under the current system, with poorly defined roles, accountability, and financing. Establishing a separate

are artificially and irrationally no significant updates have been made over the past 42 years. The interim government has an opportunity to address this by revisiting and modernising regulations.

#### **Establishing a permanent** health commission

The current commission cannot address all necessary reforms within the given timeframe. Once its work



recently completed 100 days. As expected, the demand for a "roadmap" for the transfer of power through parliamentary elections is gaining momentum. There is no concrete announcement from the government yet, but some have suggested that elections could possibly be held by December 2025. This leaves about 400 days from now. Within this short timeframe, only a few substantive reforms can be carried out. A myriad of reforms is needed, but which ones will be prioritised? In my opinion, the commissions should focus on areas that are impactful and can be meaningfully completed within the government's tenure.

One important sector requiring urgent reform is health. Public health experts have been voicing their concerns and frustrations about the state of this sector. With the new opportunities created through the July movement, there is hope for significant changes in the health sector as well. I am confident that the relevant commission will thoroughly examine the issues paralysing this sector and propose impactful reforms. Below, I outline a few ideas which, if implemented, could help the country progress towards the national goal of universal health coverage (UHC).

#### Investing more in health

The government spends only 0.7 percent of GDP on health which is the second lowest globally. This is circumscribed by the government's inability to spend even this meagre amount. Good health cannot be achieved without good investment and optimum spending. The commission should recommend more money for the directorates (DGs), many of which

health sector, but more importantly, how to spend the additional money for achieving UHC.

#### Creating accountability

There is a demand for establishing an independent National Health Security Office (NHSO), which would enhance accountability by separating the service delivery function of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) from its purchasing

#### Free drugs for all

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses in healthcare, most of which are for drugs. Despite the country's near self-sufficiency in medicines due to a thriving pharmaceutical industry and government production, free drugs and contraceptives provided through community clinics are often in short supply. Introducing free drugs within a specified timeframe could significantly reduce OOP expenses and health inequities.

#### **Restructuring healthcare** administration

The current administration under the MoHFW is divided into several directorate general for PHC would be beneficial. Additional DGs could be created for tertiary hospitals, medical education and research, drug administration, and other areas.

#### Strengthening community participation through youth engagement

The July movement demonstrated the value and potential of involving youth in development. Community engagement is a critical health system building block. Management committees exist for almost every facility, from district hospitals to community clinics, with civil society members included, at least on paper. Unfortunately, most of these committees are dysfunctional and have not met in years. Introducing youth representatives could revitalise these committees. Similarly, regulatory bodies like the Bangladesh Medical Although the interim government is and Dental Council (BMDC) could benefit from youth participation.

#### Regulating the private healthcare sector

The private sector now caters to over half of the population's health needs but remains largely unregulated. Since the ordinance on private healthcare was promulgated in 1982,

is complete, it would be prudent for the interim government to establish a high-powered, independent, and permanent health commission. This body would create a national health vision, tackle corruption, and plan and monitor progress towards UHC. One important task of the permanent commission could be revisiting the health policy recommendations made by Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and colleagues in 1990, which emphasised decentralisation and remain highly relevant for Bangladesh.

#### Leaving a legacy through dengue management

The spread of dengue in Bangladesh is alarming. Despite this, definitive steps to contain this preventable menace are lacking. Kolkata has successfully managed dengue-why not us? preoccupied with various challenges focused attention on this issue could save hundreds of lives and alleviate the suffering of millions. The recent focus on treating those injured during the July movement is commendable. Similarly, successful management could be a lasting legacy for the interim government.

# The unseen cost of Dhaka's toxic air



is associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages in International University of Business Agriculture and Technology.

#### **MD KAWSAR UDDIN**

Imagine, for a moment, walking through the streets of Dhaka on a cold winter morning. The smog hangs thick in the air, wrapping the city in a grey blanket. The sun, struggling to break through, casts a dull light over the buildings. This isn't just an unpleasant sight, it's a sign of a public health emergency. The "State of Global Air 2024" report confirms what many of us already know-Dhaka has one of the worst air quality in the world, consistently ranking among the top cities with hazardous pollution levels. On one particular morning, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Dhaka was measured at 291—labelled "very unhealthy." This means that every breath we take in Dhaka carries harmful particles that can damage our lungs, hearts, and even brains.

The problem is not just the occasional bad day-it is a constant, pervasive issue. Every year, more than 230,000 people in Bangladesh die from diseases linked to air pollution, and many of these deaths are avoidable. Perhaps the most heartbreaking fact is that children are communities in Dhaka, along with bearing the brunt of this pollution. our children, who are most affected by

According to the latest report, air pollution is the second-leading cause of death among children under five, after malnutrition. In 2021, over 19,000 children in Bangladesh died from air pollution-related diseases, such as pneumonia and asthma. These are not just statistics—they represent children who never had the chance to

In many ways, this situation mirrors the bleak descriptions of industrialised cities found in classic English literature. Take, for example, Charles Dickens' portrayal of Victorian London in Bleak House, where the fog was not just a physical phenomenon but a symbol of the social and moral decay of the time. The thick, suffocating fog in Dickens' novel could be seen as a metaphor for the way pollution clouds our judgment today-distorting our understanding of the consequences of our actions and making it difficult to see the full picture of the damage we are causing to the environment and to each other. Just as the poor of Dickens' London suffered most in the industrial age, today it is the poorest

As we look around, it's hard to ignore the fact that the streets of Dhaka, like those of Dickensian London, are filled with people who have little choice but to breathe in the polluted air. But unlike the poor workers of the past, we have the knowledge and resources to act. We know the dangers. The question is: will we take responsibility for the future of our city and its people?

Air pollution, particularly the fine particles known as PM2.5, is the silent killer here. These particles are so small that they can enter our lungs and bloodstream, causing longterm damage. Children are especially vulnerable because their lungs are still developing, and they breathe in more air relative to their body weight than adults do. This means that every breath a child takes in Dhaka could be harmful. In fact, the pollutants in the air can cause lifelong health issues, including asthma, lung diseases, and even brain development problems. As a result, children grow up in a city that doesn't just limit their dreams—it

limits their health. Dhaka's air pollution is not just a human problem, it is a problem that affects the environment as well. Just as a novel's setting shapes the characters, the environment shapes the lives of those who live in it. In Dhaka, the air is no longer something we can take for granted. It is a poisoned gift, one that we have collectively polluted through our choices-choices about how we build, how we commute, and how we use energy.

The dense fog in the streets, the visible haze over the skyline, are not just symptoms of a poorly managed city, they are the result of years of environmental neglect. We have allowed the city to grow without the necessary green spaces, proper waste management, and a public transportation system that reduces the need for countless private cars. The irony is that, despite all the noise, the real crisis is silent. The children suffer in ways that are unseen, and we have become numb to the changes

happening around us. But we do not have to resign ourselves to this fate. There is hope if we choose to act. We can invest in cleaner technologies, such as electric vehicles and green public transport systems. We can clean up our industries and encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices. We can also work to improve household air quality by providing alternatives to polluting fuels. The government and citizens must work together to find

The health of our children, the future of Dhaka, and the future of our planet depend on the choices we make today. It is time to change the narrative, take control of our story, and ensure that the air we breathe is not the tragic backdrop to our lives but a source of life, health, and hope for future generations. The thick, suffocating fog we face is not inevitable—it is a challenge we must overcome for the sake of our children and the world they will inherit.

# Has the media gotten out of the grip of (self-)censorship?



Sangita Gazi is a postdoctoral research scholar University of Pennsylvania

**SANGITA GAZI** 

troubling conflation of legitimate criticism or hurting religious sentiments. Hundreds with threats to national security. These dynamics have allowed the Act to become a powerful tool for suppressing opposing views, undermining the free exchange of ideas that a vibrant democracy requires.

Subsequent laws, including the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act, the Digital Security Act (DSA), and

of what qualifies as "prejudicial" and the like defamation, "negative propaganda," of arrests were made under this neverending cycle of repressive laws, leading to accusations that the DSA (and then CSA) was used to silence dissent and discourage investigative journalism.

Since the fall of the past regime, the sacking of journalists for reportedly being linked with the previous government, without concrete criminal charges having been brought against them, is unsettling to say the least. Most recently, the government rescinded the press accreditation of numerous journalists, effectively restricting their access to government secretariats. Previously, the ICT Adviser Nahid Islam had, on several occasions, suggested that journalists could be prosecuted and punished due to their possible nexus with the erstwhile regime. The press secretary, Shafiqul Alam, gave a similar vague message. The cancellation of press passes and the administration's statement against journalists sends an ambiguous message: while the government maintains that it supports press freedom and expresses its willingness to repeal the draconian laws, its words and actions may pressure the media to cautiously choose its contents and stories.

It is important to mention that journalists are held to high professional and ethical standards and must uphold truth and accuracy in news reporting. The current legal framework, such as the 1993 Journalists' Code of Conduct, provides a grievance procedure if journalists breach their duties. The Code prohibits maliciously distorting or slanting news in commentary and headlines, requiring clear and fair presentation without bias. Newspapers are also expected to resist and expose crime and corruption. If any newspaper, news agency, editor, or journalist breaches journalistic ethics and codes of conduct, the Press Council, under Section 12(1) of the Press Council Act of 1974, may investigate complaints and warn, admonish, and rebuke the concerned parties after giving them an opportunity to be heard. There are legal recourse available in the existing Press Council Act and the Journalists' Code of

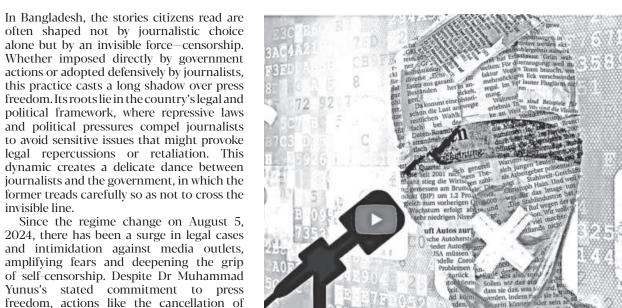
The persecution of journalists without any

specific allegations have attracted criticism from local and international quarters, raising alarms over the actual extent of media freedom in the country. Antoine Bernard of Reporters Without Borders called on the government to "stop the current legal harassment of more than 130 journalists" who have been charged with trumpedup crimes, as well as the arrest of some journalists without prior investigations. The Committee to Protect Journalists called for guaranteeing the procedural rights of incarcerated journalists.

The interim government's stated objective to right past wrongs and implement reform seems to be out of step with the continued plight of the media landscape in Bangladesh. The gap between the government's declared goals and the actual circumstances raises serious concerns about the current state and future trends of media independence. It may also thwart the goals of the Public Media Reform Commission, which is currently undertaking the job of furthering press freedom in Bangladesh.

Protests in July and August have flagged one of the most severe failures of the media in maintaining neutrality in times of crisis, yet similar patterns of media restrictions persist. If Bangladesh is to break out of this cycle where news outlets act primarily as a mouthpiece for the government, changes must extend beyond cosmetic promises. The interim government now has an opportunity and a corresponding responsibility to show real commitment to freedom of the press, which it can do by letting the Media Reform Commission work independently and by taking tangible steps that create an atmosphere where journalists can work without fear of retribution.

Failing to pursue these fundamental reforms at this critical moment would perpetuate the past practice of media suppression and drastically reduce public expectations of meaningful democratic change. The stakes are particularly high, given Bangladesh's history of political volatility and the critical role a free press must play in guaranteeing governmental accountability and fostering robust public



FILE ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

The constitution of Bangladesh promises freedom of thought, conscience, and expression, alongside press rights under Articles 39(1) and 39(2), with caveats of "reasonable restrictions" for national security, public order, and morality-vague terms often misused by authorities to limit dissent and critical journalism. In addition to the constitution, the Press Council Act of 1974 supports press freedom and upholds journalistic integrity. Yet, the effectiveness of this Act is limited, and it lacks the enforcement muscle to shield journalists from legal and extra-legal threats.

press credentials and the incarceration of journalists send troubling signals, leaving

media freedom in Bangladesh at a perilous

crossroads.

For years, successive governments in the government's expansive interpretation

Bangladesh have wielded repressive laws to penalise speech deemed, in their broad understanding, to be false, offensive, defamatory, or disruptive to law and order. Among the earliest and most contentious of these laws is the Special Powers Act of 1974, which established far-reaching state censorship by criminalising vaguely defined "prejudicial" content. This Act, and others silence dissenting voices and restrict the media's ability to report freely. Its impact is particularly alarming for two reasons:

the Cyber Security Act (CSA), have continued this trend. Notorious provisions like Section 57 of the ICT Act penalised digital content deemed defamatory or religiously offensive with harsh sentences, fostering a culture of fear. Subsequently, the DSA of 2018 was enacted in response to public outcry over the ICT Act, while the CSA of 2023 followed as a reaction to international criticism like it, have been routinely exploited to of the DSA. Each of these laws has drawn criticism for pulling similar language from Section 57 of the ICT Act and repackaging it to retain authoritarian control over freedom of expression under broad pretexts

# Building a lasting defence against fascism



is the founder of Dhaka Forum and a strategic international affairs expert.

**ASHFAQ ZAMAN** 

and its virtues, but when it comes to might have challenged governments and confronted authoritarianism, but does this mean the problem has been solved? Or are these efforts just temporary fixes, like putting a band-aid on a wound that needs surgery? We may have seen the fall of one fascist regime, but have we truly eradicated fascism itself?

Think of fascism like cancer. Imagine you have a cancerous tumour—it's painful, causing the most immediate problems, and you might decide to have a bloody surgery to remove it. Removing the tumour is essential, but does it cure the cancer? Not necessarily. If the cancerous cells remain, there's always a risk that it could come back. It might not be the same tumour or in the same place—it could reappear in your brain, your lungs, or somewhere else in your

body. Fascism is similar to a sickness in society. Fascist "germs" can still be found today, deeply ingrained in societal norms and myths. These stories continue to be told in many social circles, frequently with the backing of those who gain from them. Similar to cancer, fascism can be subtle. It silently spreads across society's shadowy nooks and crannies, feasting on greed and misinformation, fear, and power struggles.

What steps can we take to truly eradicate fascism? We need to focus on three key points. While these are not exhaustive, they can still serve as a foundation upon which to build.

The first step is achieving independence from any external interference in our political structure. Foreign policy and international relations will always have economic and diplomatic influences, that's a given. But the core of our political system—the building blocks of our democracy—

People often understand democracy must be free from external control. Influence is acceptable in measured the practical side of fighting fascism, stances, but control is not. When there's still much confusion. We external forces interfere, they often validate or create narratives that serve their interests, not ours.

This outside influence may pose a threat. Because it depends more on outside assistance than on the mandate of its own constituents, it might strengthen political party or government that is exempt from public scrutiny. Because these regimes are more accountable to foreign forces than to their constituents, such situations frequently result in authoritarianism eventually turning to fascism. An example

> **Instead of focusing** on any one political party, we need to invest time and resources to find out the remaining germs of fascism. As the mechanism for fascism still persists, it won't take long for a different party or entity to replace the old one.

of this is our previous regime's democratic beginning in 2009, which became more authoritarian as the government's external support increased.

We might think of the nations that supported the Soviet Union vigorously during the Cold War. An authoritarian regime ultimately emerged in many of these countries as a result of foreign influence creating a dependency, whereby the local government lost interest in answering to the people.

Our cultural mindset is the subject of the second point. Many conquered nations throughout history have fostered a culture cultural, social, and political of deference to authority. Long context.

after we gained our independence, submissiveness persisted democratic progress.

In many post-colonial societies, there is a tendency to respect and obey authority figures unquestioningly. This mindset is a hangover from the colonial era when people were taught to see themselves as subjects rather than citizens. Even today, in Bangladesh, when a senior official or politician enters a room, people stand up out of respect—a practice rooted in colonial traditions. In Bangladesh, every leader is looked at through a lens of kingship. Whether they come to power through an election or in some other manner, it seems like an ascension. We all seem to forget that they are there to serve the people and the nation, not the other way around.

This is why we have corrupt institutions filled with corrupt individuals. It's due to the lack of accountability and the superior feeling that people in power gain, which allows them to normalise selfish and corrupt behaviour. When these sorts of individuals fill an institution or organisation, the whole entity becomes like a kingdom. You cannot question it. We are merely subjects of it. It doesn't belong to us but rather to the individuals who run it.

In contrast, in many democratic societies, there isn't the same level of deference to authority. People see themselves as equal participants in governance, not subjects. They speak to their leaders by name and aren't afraid to express their concerns, and an attitude of accountability prevails. Authoritarianism and fascism can flourish when people fail to see that they are the real owners of their nation and that the government should work for them, not the other way around.

The third argument, related to the first two, concerns Bangladesh's idea of nationalism. Our political discourse has been influenced by outmoded colonial-era ideas or outside forces for far too long. We need a narrative developed by our own people, for our own people one that is rooted in our unique

Our current idea of nationalism martial arts, doesn't hold them back implies that winning elections and consciousness. Because individuals our people. For the moment, the arena. are more likely to accept authority nationalistic ideas or practices that national holidays that the ruling government of the time aligns with, declaring them unimportant when the government changes. This tradition has gone on too long. We are only appreciating our sports teams when they manage a win. We don't pay heed when the women's football team hasn't received their salary in months. We only try to get Geographical Indicators for products that draw interest from nations other than ours. We impose our own conservative or liberal views with nationalism to get an edge on our arguments.

We can look at alternative examples like Japan. It simultaneously embraces its cultural heritage and history while regularly setting the stage for one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world. The preservation of their traditional

practices, such as tea ceremonies and

needs a lot more work to reach from also having the reputation of overthrowing dictators are not the permeated our national the state where it can truly serve precision manufacturing in the global only goals of the struggle. It involves

> be successful through hard work. This narrative of independent identity, freedom, and economic prospects shapes the national idea of the US.

> Bangladesh today, more than ever, needs a unified idea of Bangladeshi nationalism. For us, our national identity could potentially accommodate the love for language, as even today we remain the only nation to have shed blood fighting for it. Next could be our fight for democracy. In the 1971 Liberation War, the 90's anti-Ershad movement, and the 2024 July uprising, every time the countrymen came to the streets to fight the suppression of democracy in one way or another. Lastly, our moderate Muslim majority identity, similar to Indonesia and Malaysia, can

> What does all of this signify for our efforts to combat fascism? It

constructing robust institutions, On the other hand, the US has "The altering people's perspectives, and than to question it, it impedes we have all seem self-serving to a American Dream." The idea is that promoting an accountable and large extent. We are only observing regardless of background, anyone can democratic culture. It's important to understand that, if we're not careful, fascism can emerge from the inside as well as from the outside.

> Instead of focusing on any one political party, we need to invest time and resources to find out the remaining germs of fascism. As the mechanism for fascism still persists, it won't take long for a different party or entity to replace the old one.

> So, while we have made some progress, we need to remain vigilant, buildstronger democratic institutions. foster a culture of accountability, and, most importantly, empower ourselves as citizens to take ownership of our country. Before that, we also have to figure out what we, as individuals, want to do for our country to create our own inception of Bangladeshi nationalism. Only then can we ensure that our victories against fascism are not just temporary, but permanent.



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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

36-04 পীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উরীণ এবং কার, বাস, ট্রাক ইত্যাদি চালানোর ক্ষেত্রে (CSTS-5-5) অন্যন ২ (দুই) বংসরের বাস্তব কয অভিজ্ঞতাসহ উঞ্জুপ গাড়ী চালানোর বৈং

১। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখঃ ২৬/১২/২০২৪ খ্রি.

২। আবেদনপত্র ভাকঘোণে মহাপরিচালক, জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ বরাবর আগামী ২৬/১২/২০২৪ ছি, তারিখ অফিস সময়ের ছবে। সরাসরি দাখিলকুত কোন আবেদনপত্র এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখ উত্তীপেঁর পর ডাক্যোগে বা অন্য কোনভাবে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য ছবে না

ত। সরকার নির্ধারিত চকুরির আবেদন ফরমে আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরমের নমুনা এ অফিসের Website: www.nmst.gov.bd থেকে বা জনপ্রশা Website: www.mopa.gov.bd থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে বা অফিসের নোটিশ বোর্ডে পাওয়া যাবে।

৪। আবেদন পত্রের খামের উপরের ভানপাশে পদের নামউল্লেখ করতে হবে এবং আবেদনপত্রের সাথে প্রাধীর যোগাখোগের ঠিকানা উল্লেখপূর্বক ১০,০০ টাকা মূলোর অব্যবহৃত ভাকটিকেট ৯.৫ ইঞ্চি x8 ইঞ্চি পরিমাপের একটি ফেরত খাম দিতে হবে।

৫। প্রাধীর বয়সদীমা ২৬/১২/২০২৪ স্থি, তারিখে ১৮-৩২ বংসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয

৬। নিয়োগ বিষয়ে সরকারি নিয়মাবলী এবং সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারীকৃত পরিপত্র/নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে

৭। এক জেলার বাসিন্দা অন্য জেলার বাসিন্দা হিসেবে আবেদন করতে পারবেন না। ৮। সরকারি/আধা সরকারি সংস্থায় চাকুরিরত প্রাধীদের অবশাই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

৯। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে বাংলাদেশের যেকোন অফসিলি ব্যাংক থেকে মহাপরিচালক জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে প্রাধীদের ২০০/-(দুইশত) টাকার অক্রেকযোগ্য ব্যাংক ড়াফট/পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে। এছাড়া পাসপোর্ট আকারের ৩ (তিন) কপি ছবি ব্যতীত আর কোন কাগজপুর জমা দিতে হবে না।

১১। অসম্পূৰ্ণ ও ব্ৰটিপূৰ্ণ আবেদনপত্ৰ ৰাজিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ১২। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহদের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

১৩। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সংশ্রিষ্ট সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং সকল সনদপত্রের সভায়িত ফটোকলি দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড়া জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দার প্রমাণপত্র হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কপোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত সনদ ও জাতীয় পরিচয়পরের সত্যায়িত কপি প্রদান করতে হবে। চাকুরিরত প্রাধীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। ১৪। কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চুড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।



GD-1061

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM** 

# OF HOMES AND THE WORLDS:

# Women, violence, and the domestic space



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

For these 16 days then, here is a list of novels and a short story that address the complex interplay of violence and empowerment in the domestic space and the ways in which women navigate its confining and often liberating potential.

#### NAZIA MANZOOR, AMREETA LETHE, MAISHA SYEDA

November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, marks the beginning of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which goes until December 10, Human Rights Day. Here at DS Books, we pondered long and hard over the kind of books that help us process, understand, and mull over the complex subject of gendered violence. GBV is a complex and lavered issue and when done right, fictional accounts often lay bare the horrors and intricacies of the subject with nuance and care. For a country still reeling from the public violence of July unleashed upon its citizens and the renewed vigour with which its female citizens have been subjected to harassment and violence in recent months, it seemed, to us at least, urgent to turn inward-to the site of private gender-based violence. For every day, our newspapers report grisly tales of domestic violence, of homes being unsafe spaces for women

for a home that is her own. For these 16 Subarna exhibits a rare show of agency, days then, here is a list of novels and a short story that address the complex interplay of violence and empowerment in the domestic space and the ways in which women navigate its confining and often liberating potential.

#### Subarnalata Ashapurna Devi Mitra & Ghosh Pvt Ltd., 1967

This novel follows the story of Subarnalata, a girl born into a middleclass Bengali family of the 20th century. As a daughter, Subarna is expected to remain confined to the domestic sphere, with limited freedom and autonomy. She is initially a naive and idealistic girl who dreams of a more independent life but as she grows up, she finds herself caught in the web of marital and maternal responsibilities, all the while grappling with her personal desires and aspirations. The novel traces Subarna's life unfolding in her domestic spaces first, in her maternal home, and then, in her in-laws'.

While Subarna's domestic life

in questioning the restrictions placed upon her and on middle-class women as a whole, who are expected to be meek and domesticated. She reflects on how the women at her in-laws' are all happily confined within the four walls of the kitchen: "They don't know the taste of the open air, don't know how to read books, or remember prose", she thinks to herself. Later we see that she, too, dedicates her life to raising her daughter Bakul and taking care of the family. She never, however, loses her voice to the oppressive forces of patriarchy and fights to gain equal rights for her daughter, herself, and the women in her household, uplifting the

Subarnalata is a fascinating tale of equity because Ashapurna Devi shows, through Subarna, an intellectual and emotional evolution taking place in the context of domesticity while the character gradually seeks ways to carve out her own space within the family unit. This space is not always physical home, of a woman's perpetual search a site for her personal growth. Here, an emotional and intellectual space for to study. Thus begins Tambu's foray

place of women in society.

environment.

#### The Bluest Eve Toni Morrison Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970

Early on in this classic tale about Black girlhood, racial self-loathing, and racial resistance, the novelist makes a distinction between being "put out" and being "outdoors". "Put out", for Morrison has some saving grace—here one goes somewhere else. But if one is "outdoors", one has no place to go back to. The child protagonist at the heart of the novel has been left outdoors by her father who has done the unfathomable and unspeakable twice: Raped his own child and left the family outdoors after burning down the home. For a black family, a home is what stands between having a life and not having one during the Great Depressionera Ohio. Morrison's depiction of the Breedlove's family home, a home reeking of neglect and joylessness, of broken furniture and memorylessness, of physical and psychical violencefurther testifies to the link she draws among poverty, gendered violence, and the domestic space. That Pecola's mother painstakingly, adoringly cares for the white household where she works as a domestic worker and neglects her own home and children demonstrate that "home" in the novel is both a fantasy and a site of terror. The domestic landscape thus compels us to rethink socially-sanctioned ideals of domesticity particularly with regards to

#### Nervous Conditions Tsitsi Dangarembga, The Women's Press, 1988

black girls and indeed, their mothers.

In his introduction to Franz Fanon's The Wretched of the Earth (François Maspero, 1961), Jean-Paul Sartre wrote that "The status of 'native' is a nervous condition introduced and maintained by the settler among colonised people with their consent." An exquisite study of gendered division of labour, race, coloniality and a coming-of-age, Dangerembga's novel is set in the 1960s postcolonial Rhodesia and follows Tambu, the female protagonist who at the opening of the novel is not unhappy to hear of her brother's passing. As the girl child who has so far been denied education and restricted to doing domestic chores, Tambu is pleased when her influential uncle decides she should replace her dead brother at and girls, of girls being forced to leave represents limitations, it also becomes in the novel but is more about claiming the missionary school where he used

herself within the constraints of her into spaces that has historically been made inaccessible to her. A product of the colonial encounter and bound by older notions of patriarchy as well as the changing socio-cultural norms of postcolonial ideals, the domestic space is a heavily contested site in the novel. On one hand, central female characters face extreme marginalisation in decision-making processes and experience sexual and gendered violence in homes. On the other, women such as Lucia and Maiguru challenge notions of sexual autonomy and female respectability.

#### Sultana's Dream Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain The Indian Ladies Magazine, 1905

Set in 20th century Bengal, Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's seminal text, "Sultana's Dream", constructs an imagined community where women are not necessarily given, but rather demand and take access to power and education from the men who ruled before them. As a result of this flipping of the script, where men are subjugated and secluded to the zenana to which women where previously relegated, and women instead tend to the intellectual, administrative, and judicial matters of the land, "Sultana's Dream" is popularly hailed as a feminist techno-utopia. However, Hossain's Ladyland perhaps lends itself less to this utopian conceptualisation on account of it being a new world order built primarily along gendered lines; its subversions can default to gender essentialism, ultimately reproducing many of the same repressive structures it had sought to counter. Instead, through its satirical meditation on the occupation of domestic space and the world beyond, "Sultana's Dream" serves as a stark reminder of the absurdity of a society governed and rationalised on the basis of gender, pointing out and deconstructing misogynistic arguments popularly deployed against the empowerment of women and their participation in society.

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Amreeta Lethe is a writer and translator, and sub-editor at Star Books and Literature.

# Storytelling, struggles, and reimagining identity

Regardless of context, or the pain you feel in being a woman, or the knot that tightens at the back of your throatwriting, it seems, is the only true liberation. Whether vou're telling your own story or of another, writing has the power to illuminate

and heal.

NAZIFA RAIDAH

Patriarchy would have you believe that women are inherently complicated-creatures who must be defined, boxed in, or reduced to stereotypes. In the technological age, social media only amplifies this, offering up an endless parade of idealised women, shaped by external expectations, each one conforming to society's narrow view of who they should be. But the true complexity lies not in these simplistic definitions, but in the myriad struggles women face every day. And I refuse to reduce this to the mere word "struggle," for all people encounter challenges.

Regardless of context, or the pain you feel in being a woman, or the knot that tightens at the back of your throat—writing, it seems, is the only true liberation. Whether you're telling your own story or of another, writing has the power to illuminate and heal.

Writers over time have shed light on how to navigate around some key tools of patriarchy. In it, they teach us how to combat the negativity that a largely male-controlled culture imposes on us women in the guise of being our saviour.

A Woman Looking at Men Looking at Women: Essays on Art, Sex, and the Mind Siri Hustvedt

Simon & Schuster, 2016

Writing about women starts with a dismantling—a breaking away from the male gaze to reconsider how women are seen and represented. A Woman Looking at Men Looking at Women is a compass for this transformation. It weaves together art, philosophy, psychology, and literature, probing how identity is shaped by being observed. Hustvedt dives into the philosophy of perception, drawing from minds like Immanuel Kant and Maurice Merleau-Ponty to untangle how our inner worlds construct the meanings we attach to what we see.

Hustvedt doesn't just question traditional frames of thought; she dissects them, challenging the audience to explore how any gaze—male or Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into without looking at healthcare, education, and

otherwise-carves out definitions of identity. What makes this work exceptional is its ability to spin a mosaic of ideas that invite readers to push past the usual confines of understanding. How does she accomplish this? Hustvedt bravely folds her personal truths into her intellectual pursuits, creating work that is as raw as it is sharp.

For writers, this is a lesson in creative risktaking. Hustvedt shows us what happens when we abandon silos, allowing disparate concepts to collide and spark innovation. By stepping into this space of possibility, writers can create work that not only challenges but resonates-work that forges connection while cracking open new wavs of seeing.

#### **Anthropocene Feminism** Richard Grusin (editor)

University of Minnesota Press, 2017

Anthropocene Feminism seeks to shed light on how exploitation is made. In an age dominated by human impact, the book asks tough questions, like how does the same system that exploits the Earth also oppress women? How can we shift from exploitation to care and responsibility? Additionally, the book reminds us that climate change and resource depletion hit hardest in marginalised communities, especially women. It urges writers to bring these voices to the forefront, to critique the systems-patriarchy, colonialism, capitalism—that perpetuate both gender inequality and environmental destruction, consequently, priming our systems to create an environment for exploitation.

This book pushes writers towards rethinking how we tell stories-moving beyond humancentric narratives, exploring the agency of animals, plants, and ecosystems. The writing advice that is perhaps at the heart of this book is weaving a connection into the heart of every narrative. The result is something that doesn't just critique the world as it is but helps to imagine what it could become.



**DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA** 

Opportunity for Women Worldwide Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn is the kind of read that grabs you by the shoulders and takes you straight into the lives of people who have endured and defied the worst the world can throw at them. The reader is introduced to complex characters in even more complex contexts, who are their own knights in shining armour and this is perhaps what sets the book apart.

Kristof and WuDunn don't offer any easy fixes to the problems that confront these very real people because there aren't any. Instead, they ask readers to grapple with the complexity. "How can you talk about gender-based violence without addressing poverty? How can you tackle poverty

social norms?" they ask, and argue that solutions

need to be holistic and context-specific. For writers, this book serves as an important reminder—to never simplify messy realities. It compels you to explore nooks and crannies and acknowledge nuances, and helps you build an understanding that you don't need to spoon-fed the reader to handle complexity in your writing. Rather, it's in this messiness that the most meaningful insights emerge. Half the Sky jogs our memory with the simple fact: that stories are meant to transform, not just inform. So it works as an invitation to not just tell stories—but telling the ones that make people care. Isn't that the point of writing, after all?

**Nazifa Raidah** is a journalist, researcher and an ex-avid reader. 'Ex' because capitalism won't let

# DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2024, AGRAHAYAN 13, 1431 BS

**SPORTS 18-1** South Africa vs Sri Lanka First Test, Day 2 Live from 1:30 pm **SONY SPORTS 5** New Zealand vs England

First Test, Day 2 Live from 4:00 am (Friday) **A SPORTS** Zimbabwe vs Pakistan Third ODI Live from 1:30 pm

# Supta dreamt of 'making a strong comeback'

Experienced Bangladesh batter Sharmin Akhter Supta made a sensational return to the national side as she struck a career-best 89ball 96 in the Tigresses' record 154-run win over Ireland in the first of three ODIs in Mirpur yesterday. Had she not been caught at mid-off while trying to ratchet up the scoring rate in the latter stage of the innings, Supta could have become only the second Bangladeshi woman batter to score an ODI hundred after Fargana Hoque, who scored both the ODI hundreds for Bangladesh. Playing her first international game since July 2023, she also had cramps while fielding which forced her to leave the ground. After the match, the 28-year-old batter talked to **The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan** regarding her comeback, preparation, and yesterday's match-winning knock. The

The Daily Star (DS): First of all, congratulations on such a comeback. How do you feel after your career-best knock?

Supta Sharmin Akhter (SAS): I played my last match at this venue [against India]. When I was called up, I had a dream of making a strong comeback at this venue. We played a lot of matches among ourselves, keeping the Ireland series in mind. I had some decent scores during those matches. I think it gave me the confidence to do

DS: How do you rate your innings?

**SAS:** I'm happy to score runs for the team. I think it's the best feeling for me. I'm not really too excited, but I hope I will continue

**DS:** You made a comeback in called up?



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

the national squad after 16 months. What was going on in your mind when you were

SAS: I was preparing individually for a long time. I aimed to perform well in the League but I couldn't do well bowlers would be more relaxed. there [161 runs in eight innings for Bangladesh Ansar and VDP]. Then I performed well in the NCL T20 [154 runs in six innings]. I tried to develop my practice on the basis of those performances.

DS: Do you regret missing out on your maiden ODI hundred, which could also have been the fastest by a Bangladeshi woman in the format?

**SAS:** I think scoring a hundred is a matter of luck. I was actually trying to push the team total beyond 250. Our bowlers did tremendously well in this contest. The wicket was really good but if they slipped even a little bit, it could have been a different game as Ireland also had three to four good batters. That's why I went according to the needs of the for scoring runs. I felt that if we team. I hope we will perform well

**DS:** When you got dropped from the side, you worked with coach Mohammad Salahuddin on your batting techniques. Can you tell us more on that matter?

SAS: Not only after getting dropped, but I have been working with Salahuddin sir on and off for a long time. Sir always tells me to develop my game and motivates me to play well.

DS: Bangladesh got a good start in the series. We all know how important the series is for your side. What will be your plan for the next two games?

**SAS:** I think the plan will be the same. We need to play [Women's Dhaka] Premier could score a very good total, our in the remaining games as well.

## Girls set to gear up for next SAFF U20 C'ship Seniors demand support

SPORTS REPORTER

While captain Sabina Khatun and teammates enjoy a deserving vacation following their SAFF Women's Championship triumph, the U-20s women's team are set to begin preparations for next year's SAFF U-20 Women's Championship, scheduled to run from February 11-19.

"The training of the Bangladesh U-20 women's team is going to start on December l with the participation of 30 players under English coach Peter Butler," BFF Women's Committee chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron said yesterday.

Since their return home on October 31 from Nepal, the victorious senior squad have been busy receiving receptions from



different organisations before leaving the BFF

dormitory from November 18. A decision has not yet been made about when the players of the senior women's national team will return to training, although they have placed some demands to newly elected BFF president Tabith Awal: regarding an increase in their salaries, facilities, the arrangement of more international matches, and strengthening the domestic league.

Asked whether the board has designed any plans for women's football yet, Kiron informed, "We have been preparing a plan and hope to let you know the details in the middle of December."

Meanwhile, Sabina and Co have also placed their individual aspirations and demands to chief adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus through Youth and Sports adviser Asif Mahmud, two days after receiving a reception at the State Guest House Jamuna on November

Sabina told The Daily Star, "A majority of players demanded to be provided with residential arrangements in Dhaka, because family members of the players can't arrange accommodation while coming to Dhaka to meet the players or for medical purposes.

"Apart from the accommodation arrangement, we have also raised some issues individual players are facing in their localities, such as the lack of electricity at Monica Chakma's house and even the absence of a road for two kilometres.

'Maria Manda is facing river erosion in her locality. We also mentioned some problems in other players' localities," added Sabina, who also noted that they have not yet received a response from the North Macedonian club Brera Tiverija, who showed interest in recruiting Sabina and Ritu Porna Chakma.

# Tigers keen to 'rectify mistakes'

SPORTS REPORTER

Challenging batting conditions are expected at Jamaica's Sabina Park, where Bangladesh will seek a quick turnaround in the second Test against the West Indies, beginning Saturday. Following their 201-run defeat in the first Test in Antigua, the visitors are keen on improving their batting, particularly at the top of the

In the last two Tests at the venue, Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi picked up 18 wickets, and the Windies speedsters were not far behind during that 2021 series either.

It is set to be another trial by pace for the Bangladesh top-order batters, such as Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Zakir Hasan, who are already burdened by a lack of runs over the past few Test series. Changes are expected, but what will be crucial is for the top order to see off the new

As was witnessed in Antigua, spending time at the wicket allowed batters to cash in later in the innings and score big runs.

For stand-in skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz, it is about "rectifying mistakes". Some batters were following the movement of the ball, getting thick outside edges.

Ronaldo.

If those [30-40 runs] partnerships had gotten to 100, the game [in Antigua] would have been different. Rectifying mistakes would help us get better going forward.

> Bangladesh captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz



Miraz himself was prone to short deliveries, finding it difficult to duck under bouncers; although he had negotiated the short stuff better in the second innings, scoring 45.

"Since the conditions and pitch will be new [in Jamaica], we will

consider those before making the eleven... We haven't done well as a batting unit," Miraz said after the match.

The middle order had put on a better effort after Mominul Haque had been able to absorb a chunk of the new-ball pressure. Miraz opined that they needed big 100-run stands to post the kind of scores that could help them bounce back in the twomatch series.

"We didn't have big partnerships. You saw that we had partnerships of  $30\text{-}40\,\mathrm{runs}$ . If those partnerships had gotten to 100, the game [in Antigua] would have been different. Rectifying mistakes would help us get better going forward," Miraz added.

Jaker Ali Anik, who scored a fifty and 31 in the two innings, emphasised that spending time at the crease was key to adapting to pace and bounce.

"My plan was to stay at the wicket as long as possible and keep my focus, since there was a lot of seam movement and bounce. If you get stuck in and play a lot of deliveries, there's a better chance of adapting to the conditions," Jaker said, hoping someone from the top order would score big to help the middle and lower-middle order withstand the Windies' pace onslaught.

## Sylhet to host entire NCL T20

SPORTS REPORTER

The upcoming National Cricket League T20 will now be held in the two venues in Sylhet -- SICS and Sylhet Outer Stadium -- as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had to change its initial plan of holding the four play-off matches at the Shere-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) in

According to a BCB official, the play-off matches have been shifted from Mirpur to Sylhet as the SBNCS will be needed to host a concert, marking the next edition of the Bangladesh Premier League.

"The whole tournament [NCL T20] will be held in Sylhet now. We didn't get the Bangladesh Army Stadium from the ministry for the BPL opening concert on December 23. That's why we have to shift those play-off matches to Sylhet," a BCB official told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the official, each venue in Sylhet will host two matches in a day and after every two rounds [until round four], there will be a one-day break. The last three rounds will be held without

The eight-team NCL T20 will get underway on December 11, with the final scheduled for December 24. The tournament will be followed by the 11th edition of the BPL, which will begin on December 30.

We can't force players into franchise leagues. If the players have ability, they will get picked. We had opportunities

the last year and the one before, but we couldn't. I think we should try to utilise these opportunities. Afghanistan have brought their players to this stage and their numbers are increasing while we are regressing.

BCB director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim told reporters in Mirpur yesterday regarding Bangladesh players getting snubbed in the

#### Hockey team upbeat ahead of Pakistan tie

SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh from a convincing 3-1 win against Oman in their opening match, Bangladesh U-21 hockey team are hoping for a strong performance against Pakistan in the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup in

Bangladesh had set their sights on a spot in next year's Junior World Cup in India, with top six teams from the ongoing 10-team tournament slotted to win tickets. The win against Oman means Bangladesh will finish no lower than third or fourth in Pool B, which also features Malaysia and China.

"Pakistan are always a strong opponent, and we have never been able to beat them. So, our target is to perform well against them as a team, so that we can carry the positives into the next matches," said coach Moududur Rahman Shuvo yesterday.

# City slump 'difficult to swallow'

REUTERS, Manchester

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola is rarely one to point the finger at his players and despite a calamitous 3-3 draw at home to Feyenoord in the Champions League on Tuesday, the Spaniard stuck by his team again but admitted that the slump is hard to

City find themselves in uncharted territory, now mired in a six-game slump after they arrived at the Etihad Stadium for Tuesday's match on the heels of five straight losses, including a 4-0 rout by Tottenham Hotspur last weekend.

It was another miserable night as defensive blunders saw Fevenoord strike three times inside 15 minutes and what could have been a confidence boost for City turned into anything but.

"It was not necessary to say anything to (the players), they know it perfectly," Guardiola said. "It is what it is, difficult to swallow now. We give away especially the first

one and after we are not stable enough." A double from Erling Haaland and a goal from Ilkay Gundogan had the home fans cheering before Anis Hadj Moussa pulled one back for Feyenoord in the 75th minute when he pounced on a terrible back pass from their

Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol. Another sloppy pass by the 22-year-old led to Santiago Gimenez making it 3-2 seven minutes later before David Hancko equalised for the Dutch side in the 89th minute.





### **HIGHEST** for more than **SELLING CEMENT**



## Khaleda, Tarique cleared of 4 graft, extortion cases HC acquitted the ex-PM in Zia Charitable Trust case





STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court and three lower courts yesterday cleared BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and acting chairman Tarique Rahman in four cases of graft and extortion. The HC acquitted Khaleda in the Zia Charitable Trust

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice

Syed Enayet Hossain scrapped the trial court's verdict that sentenced the BNP chief and two others to seven years It delivered the judgement after hearing appeals filed

by the three challenging the trial court verdict. Khaleda and two others were cleared of the charges in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Bangladesh pacer Marufa Akter (R) celebrates one of her two wickets against Ireland, helping the home side to a 154-run victory -- their biggest-margin victory in ODI format - during the first match of a three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Tigresses notch record win against Ireland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh women's team notched their biggest-margin victory in ODIs with a 154-run win against Ireland in the first of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Powered by Sharmin Akhter Supta's career-best 89-ball 86, the win was also Bangladesh's first win in this format this year following the disappointment of the 3-0 series loss against Australia at home.

Sharmin narrowly missed out on what would have been a first ODI ton and the fastest for Bangladesh women. However, her aggression allowed the Tigresses pick up the scoring rate and eventually led them to their highest score of 252 for four.

Fargana Opener contributed with 61 while Murshida Khatun struck 38. With the ball, Marufa Akter bagged back-to-back wickets to push Ireland on the back foot early before Sultana Khatun and Nahida Akter bagged three wickets

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

# Diesel to flow thru 250km Ctg-Dhaka pipeline mid-Dec

MD. NAZRUL ISLAM, Chattogram

Bangladesh is set to reach a milestone in fuel transport with the commissioning of the 250-kilometre Chattogram-Dhaka diesel pipeline in the middle of December.

The launch of the first underground pipeline -- from the port city's Patenga area to Godnail and then to Fatullah on the outskirts of the capital -- is expected to save about Tk 230 crore every year in fuel transport costs, according to officials of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

At present, diesel is transported from Chattogram to the rest of the country by river, rail and road, which causes frequent

pipeline from Godnail to Fatulla.

The pipeline from Patenga to Godnail has touched the bottom of 22 rivers and

metric tons has been built in Barura,

Fatullah depots have also been increased, said Aminul Haque, who is acting as the project director on behalf of BPC.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the 'Fuel Supply from Chattogram to Dhaka Pipeline' project at a cost of Tk 2,861.31



incidents of oil theft.

Besides, problems arise in fuel transportation due to the navigability crisis on waterways during the dry season. This often leads to disruption in fuel

BPC is implementing the project at a cost of Tk 3,600 crore through the 24th Engineer Construction Brigade of the Bangladesh Army.

The pipeline has already gone through a hydro test with water successfully transmitted from one end of the pipeline to the other, according to Colonel Jahangir Hossain, the project director of the 24th Engineer Construction Brigade.

There are nine pumping stations in the pipeline and the equipment of the stations are being tested.

"I hope we will be able to commission the pipeline by mid-December," Hossain added.

The pipeline can transport 2.7 to 3 million metric tons of diesel annually, which can be increased to 5 million metric tons in stages.

In fiscal 2023-24, 5.4 million metric tons of fuel were transported by waterways across the country, according to BPC.

Of this, 2.7 million metric tons were transported from Chattogram to Godnail and Fatullah depots in Dhaka. Currently, 110 ships carry fuel on this route every

The long-awaited pipeline has two segments: a 241.28-kilometre 16-inch diameter pipeline from Patenga to Godnail depot in Narayanaganj through Feni, Cumilla, Chandpur and Munshiganj and an 8.29-kilometre 10-inch diameter

A new depot with a capacity of 21,000

canals. Out of these, 10 are large rivers.

The storage capacities at the Godnail and

crore in October 2018. Around

After amending the development project proposal several times, the cost has

now reached Tk 3,600 crore. The project

It is the second underground fuel pipeline project after the 110-kilometre Single Point Mooring (SPM) Project from the deep sea in Maheshkhali to the Eastern Refinery in Chattogram.

implementation period has been set until

December this year.

Although the trial transmission of the twin pipeline for diesel and crude oil was completed on February 29 and March respectively this year, commercial operation has been stalled in the absence of an operator.

The SMP was built to transport fuel to the depot directly from a deep-sea mooring.

Currently, imported fuel from Chattogram Port is transported to the depot through feeder vessels.

During the previous Awami League government, the single-source tendering method was followed in appointing an operator for the SPM project, according to BPC officials.

The interim government has now started the process of appointing an operator for SPM following the open tender method.

Contacted, BPC Chairman Md. Amin ul Ahsan told The Daily Star that the current government has decided to appoint the Chinese company that built the project as the operator on a government-togovernment basis.

The operator will soon start the SPM project after completing the due process,

#### **HIGH COURT** Lawyers hurl eggs at judge for remark on Ziaur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of lawyers yesterday threw eggs at Justice Md Ashraful Kamal and forced him to end the session of a High Court bench for allegedly making "negative comments about late president Ziaur Rahman in a verdict".

The bench of Justice Ashraful and Justice Kazi Waliul Islam was hearing and disposing of cases in the packed courtroom-32 at Bijoy 71 High Court Building on the Supreme Court premises after lunch.

the lawyers entered the courtroom and told Justice Ashraful that he has no right to hold the office of a judge anymore as he made negative comments about proclaimer of independence Ziaur Rahman in a judgement, an official on duty at the HC bench told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

The lawyers also told the justice that they have tolerated him for several years, the official said.

At one stage, a few of the lawyers hurled eggs at SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# Israel-Hezbollah truce takes hold

Civilians head back to south Lebanon; Hamas welcomes truce, hopes for one in Gaza

Lebanon's army preparing to deploy to the south

Israel pushed Hezbollah back decades:

Netanyahu

World leaders, UN

welcome the truce

REUTERS, Beirut

A ceasefire between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah held yesterday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in the Middle East wracked by two wars for over a year.

Lebanon's army, which is tasked with helping to ensure the ceasefire holds, said it was preparing to deploy to the

south of the country. The military asked that residents of border villages delay returning home until the Israeli military, which has waged war against Iranbacked Hezbollah on several occasions and pushed around 6 km (4 miles) into Lebanon, withdraws.

While the ceasefire largely held yesterday morning, Israel said it identified Hezbollah operatives returning to areas near the border and had opened fire to prevent them from coming closer. The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the

Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was ignited by the Gaza offensive last year, is a major achievement for the US in the waning days of President Joe Biden's administration.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters that the group "appreciates" Lebanon's right to reach an agreement which protects its people, and hopes for a deal to end the Gaza offensive. Iran, Turkey, other Arab states, UN and world leaders welcomed

the Lebanon truce. A senior Hezbollah official told Lebanon's Al Jadeed TV that while it supported the extension of the Lebanese state's authority, the group would emerge from the war stronger.

## ISLAMABAD MARCH Imran Khan's followers end demos after crackdown

954 protesters arrested

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan police said yesterday they had arrested nearly 1,000 protesters who marched on the capital demanding the release of jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan, after crowds were evicted from the city centre in a sweeping security crackdown.

Khan has been jailed since August 2023, sidelined by dozens of legal cases he claims were confected to prevent his comeback in elections this year marred by rigging allegations.

Since the February vote, his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has defied a government crackdown with regular rallies, but Tuesday's gathering was by far the largest to grip the capital since the poll.

More than 10,000 protesters surged into the city, defying a lockdown and a ban on public gatherings to skirmish with 20,000 security forces enlisted to turn them

Islamabad Police Inspector General Ali Nasir Rizvi said 954 protesters had been arrested between Sunday and Tuesday, when crowds came within one mile (1.6 kilometres) of a public square they aimed to occupy.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Cheering crowds gather as vehicles drive near damaged buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect yesterday.