



## Let's unite to protect nation's sovereignty

Political parties reach consensus in meeting with chief adviser

MD ABBAS and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Leaders of political parties yesterday agreed to unite and set all their differences aside when the country's sovereignty, existence, independence, and dignity are threatened.

They also proposed forming a national political council to combat any sort of misinformation, said Prof Asif Nazrul, law adviser to the interim government, after a meeting between the parties and the chief adviser at the Foreign Service Academy around 4:30pm.

- » Proposal made for forming a national political council
- » Parties ask govt to set up a public relations cell
- » BNP seeks roadmap for elections
- » Jamaat asks govt to start talks with India on propaganda



"This nation is not dead, nor has it weakened. We are a powerful nation, ready to fight. They believe we have lost our vigour, but I have not. Our spirit remains as vigorous as ever. We had heard the police say, 'Sir, if one falls, four rise'. We now know that not just four, but forty will stand up."

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus

At the meeting, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus urged all political forces in the country to unite and fight the falsehood.

He thanked the parties that responded to his call and said, "Through the uprising of students and the masses, we managed to lift the crushing stone off our chest..."

"This nation is not dead, nor has it weakened. We are a powerful nation, ready to fight. They believe we have lost our vigour, but I have not. Our spirit remains as vigorous as ever. We had heard the police say, 'Sir, if one falls, four rise'. We now know that not just four, but forty will stand up."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and leaders of several political parties pose for a group photo after a meeting at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Dhaka, Delhi likely to hold secretary-level talks on Dec 9

Says Touhid; Indian foreign secy may fly in the same day

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said Bangladesh wants good relations with India and hinted that the Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries might take place on December 9, a day ahead of schedule.

"It is very clear that we want good relations, but it should be reciprocal. We need to work to that end," he told reporters while responding to a question at the foreign ministry.

Asked about the FOC, the adviser said it may take place one day before the schedule, or it will be held on December 10 in Dhaka.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

OF CRONIES AND CRIMES

## Zahir: A lawyer who terrorised Moulvibazar

MINTU DESHWARA

Md Abu Zahir, a former Awami League lawmaker, gained notoriety for orchestrating an extensive network of land grabbing and extortion throughout Moulvibazar. His reign of terror in the district was so intense that any news that could displease him was nearly impossible to publish in local and national media.

Zahir, originally an income tax lawyer, spent one and a half decades mulling the media by harassing journalists with lawsuits and suppressing dissent through intimidation to establish dominance. His deep involvement in Awami League politics diverted his attention from his professional career, significantly reducing his



fortune. He gradually became a lawmaker on an Awami League ticket, and his wealth boomed.

Zahir began his political career with Chhatra Union and soon joined Bangladesh Chhatra League to become the president of the latter's Habiganj district unit. Following the Awami League's return to power in 1996, he became the organising secretary of the party's Habiganj district unit.

Injuries Zahir suffered in a grenade attack that killed former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in 2005 marked the beginning of another chapter in his political prominence. Three years after surviving the attack, Zahir was elected as an MP for the Habiganj-3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



## Refrain from controversial activities

Tarique urges party leaders, activists

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday asked his party leaders and activists to stay away from any negative or controversial activities that could damage public confidence, as the next general election would be a "very tough" challenge for the party.

"Let's vow to avoid doing anything that would harm public confidence [in BNP]," he told the party leaders and activists at a workshop in Chattogram.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## INTERNET OUTAGE IN JULY Unity among journos played crucial role in publishing news

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local journalists faced immense risks during the July uprising but displayed unity and resilience, which led them to continue reporting despite the internet blackout imposed by the then government, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Despite the Awami League-led government's efforts to control the media or halt their work, non-partisan journalists explored every possible way to publish and broadcast news, journalists said at the discussion, "Blackout Chronicles: How Journalists and Activists Navigated the Blackout", organised by The Daily Star.

The event, part of the weeklong programme "36 Days of July: Saluting the Bravehearts," was held at the Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Speaking at the event, Tanvir Chowdhury, correspondent for Al Jazeera English, said the internet blackout made it challenging for most journalists to report from the ground and send stories to their offices.

"Being part of an international media outlet with better equipment, we were able to send reports even during the blackout. But for local journalists, it wasn't that easy -- they faced significant risks."

"The unity among journalists played a crucial role during the clashes and the blackout. Local journalists routinely shared warnings about

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



## DNA test finally cracks Harris Chy mystery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A DNA test report submitted to the High Court has revealed that the body buried in a madrasa graveyard in Dhaka's Savar under the name of Mahmudur Rahman is that of BNP leader Abul Harris Chowdhury.

His DNA matches that of his daughter Samira Tanzeen Chowdhury, according to the report submitted by the Criminal Investigation Department.

Following a court order, Harris' body was exhumed on October 16 this year, and the DNA test was conducted at the laboratory of CID,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Advertorial

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING CEREMONY

On 27 November 2024, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Nippon Steel Trading Corporation (NST), Japan represented by Mr. Kazuyuki Isobe, Director, Member of the Board & Managing Executive Officer and McDonald Steel Building Products Limited (MSBPL), represented by Mr. Md. Sarwar Kamal, Managing Director at the Headquarters of Nippon Steel Trading Corporation, Nihonbashi Tower, Tokyo, Japan. The purpose of MOU is to expand the business of civil engineering and construction materials of NST and MSBPL in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. Among other senior officials, those were present at the ceremony, namely Mr. Kazuhide Sakai, General Manager, NST; Mr. Norio Nambu, Country Representative, NST Dhaka Office; Mrs. Nelofer Kamal, Director, MSBPL; Ms. Erum Kamal, Deputy Managing Director, McDonald Group; and Engr. Sayeed Ahmed, Managing Director, Nippon & McDonald Steel Industries Limited (NMSIL).

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36 days of JULY

**PHOTO EXHIBITION**  
DECEMBER 1–7, 2024  
Time: 10:00 AM–8:00 PM  
Venue: The Daily Star Centre

**STORYTELLING WEEK**  
Time: 3:00 PM–4:30 PM

**MARGINALISED VOICES OF JULY REVOLUTION**  
Stories of struggle, sacrifice and hope from workers  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5**

**WRITE TO PROTEST**  
Writers and poets on their experience  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**



## Unity among journos played crucial role

FROM PAGE 1  
potential dangers, which showed a collective resilience and helped us navigate the situation.”

Qadaruddin Shishir, Fact Check editor at AFP, explained the difficulties in verifying information during the unrest and blackout.

“It wasn’t easy to determine the exact death toll. We contacted hospitals, on-duty doctors, and authorities, but after a few days, they stopped sharing data.”

Shishir also accused the then-government of attempting to downplay casualties. “They couldn’t entirely suppress the numbers, as we were able to present the real data through our own investigative processes.”

He also described how AFP’s office became a hub for local journalists during the blackout.

“We had alternative internet access, so reporters from other outlets came to our office to use our facilities. We even designated computers for them to send or publish stories.”

Shishir further said there was a surge of disinformation once the internet was restored. “The government circulated videos and images claiming Jamaat Shibir activists were attacking students, but in reality, they were old videos of attacks by pro-government groups. We debunked at least 50 such videos.”

Shamima Sultana, senior reporter at Channel 24, recounted how journalists adapted to the blackout. “We returned to old-school reporting – calling protesters for comments and

agencies. Despite these challenges, we found any and every alternative way to get the news out.”

Asked during the question-answer session about the trauma faced by



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**Journalists and activists attend the fourth session -- “The Blackout Chronicles” – of The Daily Star’s storytelling week titled “36 Days of July: Saluting the Bravehearts” at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.**

relying on text messages when calls failed.

“As broadcasting was disrupted due to internet blackout, we depended on cable connections, which were frequently cut by government

journalists, she said, “I was brutally beaten by a mob at Shahbagh the day before Hasina fled. That incident still haunts me. The trauma is still fresh.”

Saim Bin Mujib, multimedia journalist at The Daily Star, said,

## Fundamental rights, religious freedom need to be respected

### US state dept says about Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

The US has stressed the need for respect for religious and other fundamental freedoms, and basic human rights in Bangladesh amid alleged attacks on minorities.

“We are clear that there needs to be the respect of fundamental freedoms; there needs to be respect of religious freedom and basic human rights,” State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said while answering questions related to Bangladesh during a regular press briefing on Tuesday.

Two British MPs recently urged the UK government to engage with the Bangladesh government about the alleged violence against minorities. A journalist drew Patel’s attention to the issue and asked if the US would address this concern through diplomatic and policy measurement.

“So we are consistent with every government in which we have a relationship with ... Any kind of protests should be and need to be peaceful, and that any kind of crackdown – not even crackdown – that governments need to respect the rule of law, they need to respect basic human rights as part of that. And that’s something we’ll continue to emphasize,” Patel said.

Asked if the US would take steps regarding the arrest of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari in Bangladesh, Patel said he did not have the details surrounding that case.

“But again, we continue to stress and emphasize that even those who are in detention need to be afforded appropriate representation and need to be treated with basic fundamental freedoms and human rights,” he added.

US Congressman Brad Sherman on Tuesday also urged the interim government of Bangladesh to “demonstrate leadership” in stopping alleged violence against minorities.

“Bangladesh’s interim government has an absolute obligation to protect its Hindu minority and meaningfully address the protests of thousands of minority Hindus in outcry over the recent wave of attacks and harassment,” Sherman said in a statement.

“With the calls for an investigation from the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk for killings and other rights violations during the violent unrest leading up to and after the fall of Bangladesh’s former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the current administration must demonstrate leadership in eliminating acts of violence against the Hindu community,” he added.

## Zahir: A lawyer who terrorised Moulvibazar

FROM PAGE 1

seat in the 2008 election. He was re-elected in 2014, 2018 and 2024, and became the president of the district Awami League in 2013.

According to the affidavit he submitted before the 2008 polls, his family’s total assets amounted to around Tk 83.4 lakh, including about Tk 73.7 lakh in properties owned by him and Tk 9.7 lakh by his wife Aleya Akhter. Their son Ifat Jamil had no property at that time. After 15 years, Zahir owns a six-storey house, multiple luxury cars, and over 600 bhoori of gold. The family’s total assets have increased to more than Tk 6.6 crore, according to the affidavit submitted before the 2024 polls. His income and assets have grown ninefold, while his wife’s income and assets have increased by 26.5 times, totalling Tk 2.52 crore. Their son now has assets worth Tk 2.5 crore.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has recently launched an investigation into allegations that Zahir amassed illegal wealth through the abuse of power. Early findings have revealed significant financial assets linked to him and his family, according to sources. Advocate Trilok Kanti Chowdhury Bijan, president of Susasoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) Habiganj unit, alleged that politicians like Zahir developed an inflated sense of invulnerability, leading them to terrorise the people over the years.

### LAND GRABBING

Zahir constructed an opulent six-storey mansion estimated to be valued at several crores of taka. Allegations have surfaced that he encroached on both government and private properties, including a piece of land of the Habiganj High School and College quarters. His wife reportedly owns a significant portion of the land behind the educational institution, which includes a pond with an 18-decimal area.

Locals said Zahir also purchased 200 decimals of government land worth Tk 100 crore in the court area for his family members. They also alleged Zahir unethically used government plans for land acquisition to make millions of taka. Many were forced to sell their land to Zahir, who then sold it to the government for establishing Balla land port at four times the market price.

In 2012, Zahir was allocated two plots, 31 decimals each, in the BSCIC Industrial Estate of Habiganj, registered in his son, daughter, and younger brother’s names. One of these plots is listed under the name of Mukti Textile, with Zakaria Chowdhury and Zahir’s daughter Arifa Akter Mukti serving as managing partners.

Despite being allocated over a decade ago, these two industrial plots have remained undeveloped and vacant, which indicates Zahir might have planned to sell the land at higher prices. Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), the managing authority, however, took no action to cancel the allotments. BSCIC Chairman Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Khan, who has recently taken charge, said they would investigate the issue and take necessary steps.

Outside the BSCIC Industrial Estate, Zahir influences areas with over 50 factories in Shayestaganj and Madhabpur. Officials of these factories, who wished to remain anonymous, alleged they had to pay Zahir large sums as “commission” for land transactions. Thousands of workers operate in these industrial zones without trade unions, relying on Zahir for the settlement of various issues, allowing him to extract further “commissions.”

In addition to the industrial plot controversy, Zahir faces allegations of grabbing residential land. Locals alleged Zahir filled in a pond, which belonged to a Hindu family, next to Town Hall Road and built a five-storey house there, which he later sold. Zahir allegedly took advantage of a dispute between three brothers over the ownership of a three-storey house located on four decimals of land next to his property. The brothers – Farid Mia, Khwaja Mia, and Nizam Uddin – were migrants working in the Middle East. They were forced to sell the property, reportedly worth Tk 4 crore, for a fraction of its market value in March last year. Although the full payment was agreed upon, Zahir reportedly paid only Tk 1 crore, leaving Tk 26 lakh unpaid.

Another controversy involves a dispute over 300 acres of fallow land in Jalalabad Noagaon village of Sadar upazila. Zahir reportedly took possession of 101 acres of the land in 2011, promising to resolve a conflict between two groups of villagers. He then established a college named after him and his wife on this land.

### MUFFLING THE MEDIA

To suppress unfavourable news, Zahir harassed journalists with legal cases under controversial sections of the Information and Communication Technology Act. In 2016, senior journalist Shoeb Chowdhury faced four cases under the ICT Act for a story suggesting that Zahir might not get the AL ticket in the 2018 polls. Shoeb was jailed for 84 days in 2017. “For the past 15 years, the people of Habiganj have been in a state of terror. Abu Zahir has imprisoned and harassed many journalists by

filing digital security cases against them, including me,” Shoeb said.

Zahir effectively controlled the journalism landscape in Habiganj by instilling fear with these cases, resulting in jail time for several journalists and attacks on their offices and homes.

As a life member of the Habiganj Press Club, Zahir also had a group of journalists loyal to him. Zahir and one of his aides filed two cases against Daily Amar Habiganj Editor Sushanta Dasgupta and three other journalists of the local newspaper. The next morning, Sushanta was arrested from the newspaper’s office in Habiganj town and was granted bail 23 days later. The cases stemmed from allegations made by Sayeduzzaman Zahir, general secretary of the press club, that the newspaper had published “false” news accusing Abu Zahir of corruption and irregularities.

### FAMILY LEAGUE

Politicians opposing Zahir, including party members, faced intimidation. District BNP Joint Convener Advocate Nurul Islam said the Awami League’s reign of dictatorship was marked by repression and physical intimidation by leaders like Zahir. Even notable figures within the Awami League have been sidelined due to their dissenting views. Several prominent leaders, including former state minister Advocate Mahbub Ali and former woman MP Amatul Kibria Chowdhury Kaya, were excluded from the AL’s district committee in its 2019 council for opposing Zahir. However, some of those who were excluded were subsequently reinstated in the committee through central intervention.

While Zahir is the president of the Awami League’s Habiganj district unit, his family members and relatives control the committees of the organisations affiliated with the party. His wife Aleya serves as the general secretary of the district Mohila League and was elected chairman of the Zilla Parishad, while their son Jamil is a joint general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League’s Habiganj district unit despite living abroad for several years.

Zahir’s nephew Ataur Rahman is a former mayor of Habiganj Municipality. His other nephews Faizur Rahman and Saidur Rahman are the general secretary and former president of the district BCL, respectively. Zahir’s brother Badrul Alam serves as the joint general secretary of the district Jubo League.

during the July-August uprising.

While the government intends to bring her back, Hasan emphasised that the foreign ministry has not yet received any formal directive to initiate the extradition process.

“We will engage with Delhi and begin the formal process in accordance with the existing extradition treaty once we receive the necessary instructions,” he clarified in response to queries.

Regarding the review of existing agreements and memorandums of understanding between the two countries, Hasan said these fall under the jurisdiction of various ministries in Bangladesh.

“We tried to cover every angle – from students side to pro-government forces to law enforcers side – but almost everyone barred us from filming and there were fears of being attacked. The risks were extremely high.

“As the digital media team was reliant on the internet, the blackout posed an existential crisis for us. Yet, we persisted – we continued filming and editing videos daily, we archived them all and kept them ready for publishing as soon as the internet was restored.”

He further said, “This movement was also something new in many of our reporters’ careers. So, we had to come up with new ideas and ways to cover such incidents.”

Suravita Basak, country lead of feminist organisation Swayong, highlighted their campaign “All Eyes on Bangladesh”, through which they shared news and information about the July uprising on their social media platform.

While moderating the event, Naziba Basher, senior sub-editor at The Daily Star, answered a question regarding what change is expected in journalism after over 15 years of the press being gagged. “The state must take responsibility for protecting its journalists. But if we want real change in journalism, journalists must lead the way and commit to non-partisan reporting. It’s a matter of conscience.”

## Let’s unite to protect nation’s sovereignty

FROM PAGE 1

“Our blood has not dried. The writings on the walls, which you see every day while coming and going, have not been erased; they are still raw and burning. That fire still burns within our hearts as well.”

Prof Yunus said, “It seems our freedom and independence are not sitting well with some people. Various efforts are being made to stall our progress. Since August 5, you’ve witnessed how it has been unfolding. “Now, they are trying again, in new ways. The situation we are currently facing is why this meeting has been called.”

Prof Yunus said, “The Bangladesh we are aiming to build is being overshadowed by a fabricated narrative. They are relentlessly outlining a different version of our country.”

He said it was not limited to just one country. It has spread to certain major global powers.

“Since our great uprising has displeased some, they want to erase it ... We must unite to prove their falsehood and establish the truth.

“We must tell the world that we are united... We have called you here to discuss how we can move forward collectively. There is no room for missteps in this process.”

Amid demonstrations in the capital and different districts over the attack on the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala, Prof Yunus on Tuesday began a series of dialogues.

He met leaders of student organisations against discrimination on Tuesday evening and announced that he would hold talks with major political parties yesterday and religious groups today.

Delegations of several political parties, including the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, were present yesterday. The Awami League and the Jatiya Party were not invited.

Industry Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan, in his welcome speech at the dialogue, told the party leaders that the meeting was called to seek their opinions on three issues: the ongoing propaganda against Bangladesh in India and other parts of the world, the attack on the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala, and the recent false allegations of attacks on minorities.

After the meeting, Law Adviser Prof Nazrul told reporters that consensus was established regarding anti-Bangladesh activities in India, the attack on the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala, and India’s interference into Bangladesh’s internal affairs.

He said the parties advised the government to accelerate its efforts to counter the misinformation campaigns. If necessary, the government can seek the support of expatriates, friendly countries, and bring foreign media and journalists to Bangladesh.

The parties also recommended improving the government’s communication and legal capabilities and establishing a public relations cell.

Several parties proposed forming a minority commission to investigate alleged attacks on minorities and uncover the truth, Prof Nazrul added.

The leaders strongly condemned India’s economic and cultural aggression, its attempts to dominate Bangladesh, and its interference in Bangladesh’s internal matters.

“There is no room to see Bangladesh as a weak country ... We vow to uphold

## 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice will be imported from Myanmar, India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to import rice from Myanmar and India as part of its efforts to bring down the high price of the staple, replenish stocks and ensure distribution under social safety net schemes.

Under the plan, 1 lakh tonne of white rice will be imported from Myanmar at \$515 per tonne and 50,000 tonnes of basmati boiled rice from India at \$467.7 per tonne.

The proposals were approved yesterday by the cabinet committee on public purchase chaired by Salehuddin Ahmed, finance adviser to the interim government.

Politics would not come in the way of trade and commercial dealings with India, Ahmed told the media after the meeting.

“We will import from those who give us items at competitive prices, in a speedy manner and with due quality – it can be India or any other country. We are talking with India, Myanmar and even with Vietnam,” he added.

Earlier, the government had allowed the import of 1 lakh tonnes of boiled rice from India under open tender.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



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## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

## Sexual abuse is part of life for street children

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Dhaka's bustling streets are both a workplace and a home for 14-year-old Amina.

She navigates the bustling streets selling flowers by day and sleeping on the footpath at night – her undernourished frame becoming just one among the countless other children who call Bangladesh's streets their home.

According to a Unicef study, titled "Children Living in Streets Situations in Bangladesh 2024", over 3.4 million children find themselves in street situations in Bangladesh without parental care.

Sexual molestation has been highlighted as one of the physical and social environment risk factors for street children.

Amina is no stranger to that potential danger, especially without the safety of a family. Two years ago, she lost her mother at a young age. Then she came to Dhaka, escaping her abusive father and stepmother in Munshiganj.

"My father used to beat me for being a girl child. He remarried, and my stepmother and her family members tortured me as well. They did not give me food when I was hungry. They used to make me do all the household chores all by myself," she shared. "I don't have

any shelter in Dhaka. I live and sleep in the streets with other girls and boys," she added.

Sharing the problems she faces on the streets, Amina said, "I have only two frocks. When I change my clothes behind a tree or a bush, male pedestrians stare at me. That scares me."

**Whether it's on the road, in a park, or in a crowded place, most girls and boys living on the streets face sexual harassment. They don't understand the abuse when they are young, but they realise it when they grow up.**

**WAHIDA BANU**  
Executive director  
Aparajeyo Bangladesh

"Sometimes men touch my hands and shoulders when I sell them flowers. Sometimes, they even offer to take me elsewhere. But I do not go near them after they say such things," she said.

Amina's greatest fear, however, is nighttime when she has to sleep in a park. "Night is a horrible time

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Speakers at a discussion, titled "Transforming Bangladesh Public Administration: Overcoming Challenges and Shaping Reforms", jointly organised by UNDP and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Qualitative political change key to administrative reforms

## Discussants tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without bringing qualitative changes in politics, it is not possible to achieve desired reforms in administration, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

"Civil servants are like horses, and politicians are the riders steering them," they said.

They made the remarks

**Corruption persists due to the lack of democratic accountability. Corrupt individuals are often promoted while honest officers are sidelined.**

**KHANDAKER AMINUR RAHMAN**  
Former additional secretary

at a discussion, titled "Transforming Bangladesh Public Administration: Overcoming Challenges and Shaping Reforms," jointly organised by UNDP and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The discussion emphasised the urgent need for reforms to align Bangladesh's governance with people's aspirations.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Global problem-solving must rely on cooperation

## Says Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Highlighting the importance of "multilateral efforts" to overcome global challenges, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said global problem-solving must rely on cooperation, not conflicts.

Addressing a graduation ceremony, "National Defence Course 2024," Dr Yunus said they need to be together more than ever before, as global challenges do not belong to anyone or any nation alone.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## 'Respect our sovereignty'

## Fakhrul calls upon India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called upon India to respect Bangladesh's sovereignty and democracy.

He also urged India not to align with any specific political party, particularly Awami League, in a way that could undermine the democratic aspirations of the Bangladeshi people.

"Bangladesh is a nation that fought for its independence through immense sacrifices," Fakhrul said during a rally in London at 2:00am

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## Application fee for govt jobs capped at Tk 200

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has capped the application fee for all government jobs, including the BCS exam, at a maximum of Tk 200.

This decision was made during a meeting of the Secretary Committee on Administrative Development.

Md Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary of Ministry of Public Administration, shared the decision with journalists yesterday after the meeting held at the Secretariat.

Currently, various government jobs require different amounts of fees. Candidates have to pay a fee of Tk 700 to apply for the BCS exam.

## Prioritise public interest, liveability in DAP

## Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The amendments in the recently published Detailed Area Plan of Rajuk do not prioritise the city's liveability, capacity, civic amenities, and environment, said speakers at a virtual programme yesterday.

Instead, the interests of real estate developers and housing traders have been given an importance there, they said.

They also said the role of some officials of Rajuk and Ministry of Housing and Public Works in the DAP amendment process is questionable.

They were speaking at an online event, titled "Repeated revisions of Dhaka's DAP: Observations of IPD," organised by the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD).

The government, on August 23, published the gazette notification for the 20-year (2016-2035) DAP, which covers 1,528 square km of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

While presenting the keynote paper, IPD Director Adil Mohammed Khan said, "The culture of prioritising business profits over the liveability issues faced by Dhaka does not reflect the post-July uprising sentiment. If this trend continues, Dhaka, which is slowly becoming uninhabitable due to traffic congestion and pollution, will become more stagnant."

To overcome this, DAP needs to be refined by prioritising public interest, liveability, and the environment by using planned sustainable strategies and approaches, he added.

"In the amended DAP, nothing was considered except the proposal to increase the size and height of buildings in Rajuk areas. Protection of flood flow zones, wetlands, and agricultural land has been neglected," he said.

"We were saying that realtors and some professionals were requesting cancellation or postponement of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

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আজ ৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪  
ফুন্সনিকার

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**The Daily Star**  
**STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2**

**CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS / NOMINATIONS**

The Stellar Women initiative aims to recognise twelve (12) extraordinary women throughout the year (From September '24 to August '25) for playing a remarkable role in their distinguished fields. Their work must have made positive contributions towards the development of society & the nation.

Inviting nominations/ registrations in the following categories:

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(31 <sup>st</sup> December '24)	(31 <sup>st</sup> January '25)	(28 <sup>th</sup> February '25)

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## Brokers rampant

FROM PAGE 5

the clinic, claiming the hospital lacked facilities. I was charged Tk 100 for consultation, but the doctor there prescribed unnecessary tests costing Tk 4,300. Later, my son intervened and rescued me.”

Nasima alleged that the brokers look to collect their cuts from those tests.

She also alleged that some Ansar personnel and outsourcing staff of KMCH are also involved in this racket.

Like Nasima, hundreds of patients face similar hassles every day.

According to KMCH authorities and law enforcers, over 25 groups and another 20-25 individual brokers operate in the hospital.

In 2022-23, some 37 brokers were detained from KMCH premises, and 12 of them were sent to jail while the rest were released after paying fines.

The situation, however, hardly improved.

KMCH currently has 281 doctors against 300 sanctioned doctor posts. Also, many critical operations are delayed or suspended due to a lack of anaesthesiologists.

Dr Muhammad Nurul Islam, deputy director of KMCH, said the 500-bed hospital currently accommodates 1,500 to 1,750 inpatients daily, while around 2,000 patients visit the OPD daily.

“We are struggling to provide proper services amid a shortage of doctors and necessary equipment. So, middlemen take this chance,” he added.

“However, we often conduct drives against them, while some formal complaints have been made

to law enforcement and the regional administration to curb the brokers’ activities,” he added.

Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam, president of Bangladesh Medical Association in Khulna, alleged that a section of medical staff and influential clinic and diagnostic owners appoint brokers to draw patients to their clinics and private hospitals, ignoring the law.

“When problems arise due to shortages of doctors and equipment, patients’ families often blame the doctors, and these brokers seize the opportunity to lure them to nearby clinics and private chambers,” he added.

Advocate Mominul Islam, president of Khulna Healthcare Recipients’ Forum, called for ensuring accountability and transparency to improve the quality of KMCH’s service to restore public confidence, which will in turn curb the brokers’ menace. Seeking anonymity, a broker, who works for a local clinic, said, “Many patients come from far away who want to get done with everything and leave as soon as possible. Amid a huge crowd, we provide them the chance to see a doctor. In return, we get some commission from the clinic.”

She denied allegations of deceiving and extorting patients.

## Sexual abuse is part of life

FROM PAGE 3

for me. I always have to be cautious worrying what if someone does anything bad to me as the [Suhrawardy] Udyan is filled with bad people.”

The fear of sexual harassment or assault also haunts parents who live with their adolescent daughters out in the open. Kushum, 13, lives with her mother in the street. Her mother begs, and she sells lozenges in a small red bucket.

Kushum’s mother said, “Roaming around Ramna Park and Udyan, we encounter many men taking drugs. These people try to be nice to us, which terrifies me more.”

“I always tell my daughter not to take anything from men and eat anything they offer. At night, I wake up frequently to check on my daughter as the surroundings are not safe, and my daughter is now an adolescent,” she added.

Kushum said, “People sitting inside the parks sometimes offer money to go with them. I run away from there as fast as possible.”

This correspondent talked to 15 street children, mostly adolescent girls who live in the same fear of getting sexually harassed.

Street children in Bangladesh face a harsh reality of deprivation, poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and violence. Unicef’s 2022 survey reveals that many sleep alone or in groups for safety, and one-third experience violence during sleep. Shockingly, passersby are responsible for most of the abuse and harassment of street children in Bangladesh, with eight out of 10 children reporting such incidents. However, there were no separate statistics

on sexual violence.

The survey findings are based on first-hand reports from a sample of 7,200 children aged 5-17 years in hotspots in Dhaka and in the country’s eight divisions.

Prof Tahmina Akhter of Institute of Social Welfare and Research noted that there is an absence of study on sexual abuse of street children in our country. Based on her research, she said female street children are often sexually harassed at a young age by law enforcement officers, rickshaw pullers, or bus and truck drivers. “Especially those who sleep on the streets face more sexual harassment,” she said.

“Sometimes these children face sexual violence from their relatives at home because of lack of parental care,” she said.

Living without parental guidance, sometimes these children, after reaching puberty, also began to explore their sexuality early, getting involved in unsafe sexual activities amongst themselves, Tahmina said, adding that miscreants lure children by promising to marry them and then sell them to brothels.

Tahmina said these street children don’t tell anyone or take legal action even if they are subjected to any sexual abuse. Sometimes, they do not even realise that they have been subjected to sexual violence.

Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajeyo Bangladesh, an NGO working with children, youth, and women living in and around Dhaka slums since 1976, had a similar view.

She said, “Whether it’s on the road, in a park, or in a crowded place, most girls and boys living on the streets

face sexual harassment. They don’t understand the abuse when they are young, but they realise it when they grow up.”

Wahida said the issue of sexual harassment of street children is not prioritised in our society. Adolescent girls growing up on the streets do not understand prostitution. They get involved in sexual activities, accepting it as a norm, she said.

Sometimes, street children get molested in exchange for money as low as Tk 5/10, she added.

Wahida noted that although the Children Act 2013 talks about underprivileged children, there is no legal framework through which they can access justice. Although there are many government facilities, such as shelter homes and services like the 1098 hotline number, street children do not know about them, nor can they avail those services, she added.

“Our laws are not pro-children,” she said. “To bring street children under legal help for violence perpetrated against them, they require guardianship. Otherwise, these children, who are completely alone, will not get any justice.”

## Global problem

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Yunus lauded the members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, noting that their commitment to safeguarding the nation has been exemplary.

He said the Bangladesh Armed Forces symbolise resilience, patriotism, and unwavering dedication to peace. He highlighted their efforts during national crises like disasters, political unrest, and pandemics.

“These demonstrate your unwavering dedication to the well-being of our citizens,” said the chief adviser, congratulating the NDC graduates from home and abroad.

Prof Yunus also said their contributions to global peace through the United Nations are internationally acclaimed.

He acknowledged the Bangladesh Armed Forces’ contributions to national security, development, and nation-building activities.

## Qualitative political

FROM PAGE 3

Presenting the keynote, Prof Kazi Maruful Islam of Dhaka University said although Bangladesh gained independence through the Liberation War, its administrative structure was never aligned with the aspirations of a free nation.

He said over 20 administrative reform commissions have been established since independence, but their recommendations remain largely unimplemented.

This resulted in a lack of accountability and fostered authoritarian tendencies within the administration, he added.

“The current socio-political landscape is different. The mass uprising for an equitable Bangladesh offers a vision for change. If proper steps are taken, it’s possible to establish a new framework for administrative reform,” he said.

Khandaker Aminur Rahman, former additional secretary and member of Public Administration Reform Commission, pointed out that corruption remains one of the biggest challenges in public administration.

He emphasised that most corruption occurs in project management rather than among civil servants.

He stated, “Corruption persists due to the lack of democratic accountability. In many cases, corrupt individuals are promoted while honest officers are sidelined. This culture must be changed by prioritising integrity and competence in promotions.”

Dr Rizwan Khair, another member of the reform commission, said reforming administration is a long-term and difficult task.

He said, “We have missed many opportunities for reform since independence. Now is a turning point, and we cannot afford to miss this chance. Governance requires people with strong backbones, not yes-men. Bureaucracies cannot function

effectively without robust leadership.”

Asif Mahmud Shahan, professor of Development Studies at Dhaka University, traced the roots of authoritarian tendencies in Bangladesh’s administration back to 1972.

He said while the country gained independence, it failed to create its own administrative framework.

“From 1975 to 1990, the state was governed under authoritarian rule, during which laws and regulations were crafted to empower civil servants. These frameworks were never reformed post-1991, despite opportunities,” he explained.

Elira Dewan, member of Local Government Reform Commission, highlighted the marginalisation of indigenous communities in government employment.

She criticised the reduction of quotas for indigenous groups from five percent to one percent, which is shared with other categories, including persons with disabilities.

Kamrul Islam Khan Hridoy, a visually impaired business development professional, criticised the equalisation of the age limit for government job applicants at 32 years for both disabled and general candidates.

Dr Mizanur Rahman, additional secretary of public administration ministry, asserted that political will is the foremost requirement for administrative reform.

Comparing Bangladesh to India, he said, “India took immediate steps to reform their administrative structure after independence. Unfortunately, we failed to learn from them.”

The roundtable also included participants such as Prof Ferdous Arfina Osman of DU, BCS Administration Academy Rector Dr Omar Faruq, ICT Division Additional Secretary Abu Sayeed Mohammed Kamruzzaman, BRAC University Senior Academic Coordinator Mohammad Sirajul Islam, and DU student Maisha Farah, among others.

## Prioritise

FROM PAGE 3

amendment to the DAP only to raise the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) standards in building construction. Our suspicions were proven to be true,” he added.

The standards required to build a liveable city have not been followed when determining FAR and block-wise FAR values as proposed in the DAP amendment, Khan continued.

As a result, the proposed amendments to the DAP may further jeopardise the liveability of the capital, he said.

Prof Aktar Mahmud of IPD said, “A liveable city does not only have housing. It needs a good environment, education, healthcare, public transport, etc. But our business community is only interested in increasing FAR. No research has even been carried out on whether the area will remain habitable in the future if the FAR is increased.”

“Many in Rajuk’s policy-making circles are succumbing to the unfair demands of vested interest groups as they fail to realise the importance of urban planning. Decisions should be made in the public interest to increase the liveability of Dhaka without thinking about these groups,” he opined.

## Respect our

FROM PAGE 3 (Bangladesh Time) yesterday.

Fakhrul criticised the recent incidents involving Bangladesh’s diplomatic missions in India and raised concerns about border activities near Sylhet and Benapole.

“We are deeply hurt when baseless accusations and lies put the people of Bangladesh in danger,” he said, questioning India’s intentions behind these activities.

“We always hope India will stand by the people of Bangladesh and rectify past mistakes to rebuild trust,” Fakhrul added.

The BNP leader emphasised the need for unity among political forces to safeguard Bangladesh’s independence and sovereignty.

**Legal Notice**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
COMPANY MATTER NO-1549 OF 2024

**An application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the Company Act 1994 AND IN THE MATTER OF**  
**Aziz Ali Kaiser Son of Mr. M.A. Hashem, Managing Director of F. Karim Re-Rolling Mills Ltd.** at Blooming Dale, House-24, Dutabah Road, Baridhara, Dhaka. ....Petitioner

**-VERSUS-**  
**The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and others Respondents**

Notice is here be given that an application under Section 81(2), 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act 1994 was moved in petitioner to Condonation of delay in holding the 38th, 39th and 40th Annual General Meeting of the Company named and style as F. Karim Re-Rolling Mills Ltd. Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli has admitted the said application on 02.12.2024 if any person interested in the said application may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

**Mrittunjoy Samadder**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Hall Room No. 02 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Building,  
Dhaka. Mobile No.01818730825


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**Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC)**  
Ministry of Textiles and Jute



**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI) (International)**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1 Ministry	Ministry of Textiles & Jute
2 Agency	Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC)
3 Inviting Entity Name	Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC)
4 Invitation for	Award of Lease for Theme Park, Eco Resort and Commercial Complex of the Khulna Textile Mills
5 Invitation Ref. No	24.03.0000.103.56(2).110.19-343
6 Date	04/12/2024

**KEY INFORMATION**

7 Selection Process	Award of Lease to the highest scoring bidder ranked on the basis of combined score of technical and financial proposals weighted equally from responsive bidders.
---------------------	---

**INFORMATION FOR EoI**

8 Last date & Time of EoI Submission	Date: 25/01/2025 Time: 12.00 PM (BST)
9 EoI Submission Place	Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) Chairman Section, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
10 Opening Date and Time of EoI	Date: 26/01/2025, Time: 11 AM (BST)
11 Place of Opening	Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) Chairman Section, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
12 Other details	Submission of EoI should be made in closed envelop bearing the name and address of the individual/farm, EoI no. & date and be addressed to the EoI issuing authority in 07 (seven) copies in English including 01 (one) "ORIGINAL" in separate packet and in the form of book binding. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPIES" shall have to be covered within a single packet. The bidder shall have to mention the page number serially in every page of submitted EoI document.

**INFORMATION FOR BIDDER**

13 Name of the Mills to be leased out	Khulna Textile Mills Ltd. Boyra Main Road, Khulna
14 Term of Award (of lease)	Up to 30 Years (further extendable)
15 To/R including Schedules (of lease) for Khulna Textile Mills Ltd.	Available on the following websites- (i) www.btmc.gov.bd (ii) www.mofj.gov.bd (iii) www.bida.gov.bd

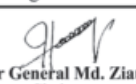
**INVITING ENTITY DETAILS**

16 Name of Official Inviting EoI	Brigadier General Md. Ziaul Hoque, OSP, ndc,afwc,psc
17 Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Chairman
18 Address of Official Inviting EoI	Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) Chairman Section, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
19 Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Telephone / Mobile Number 55014346 E-mail btmcho@gmail.com
20 Focal Persons to be contacted (if necessary)	Kazi Ferroz Hossain General Manager (Commerce) 01781180656 feroz775@gmail.com

**OTHER INFORMATION**

21 Any interested party may visit the Khulna Textile Mills for lease purpose.
22 Only short-listed bidders shall be invited for Final Proposal (FP).
23 The Inviting Authority retains the right to reject any or all EoI without reasoning.

**Date: 04/12/2024**

  
**Brigadier General Md. Ziaul Hoque**  
Chairman  
Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1501 OF 2024

**Fazlur Rahman Rana, Managing Director of Blessing Chemicals Limited** of House- 33/B, Road- 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205  
..... Petitioner

**-VERSUS-**  
**Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms of T.C.B Bhaban, 6th Floor, 1, Karwan Bazar, under police station Tejgaon within district Dhaka and another**

**-----Respondents**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rules 8 and 263 of the Companies Rule, 2009 has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh with a prayer for direction to call the Annual General Meeting of the **Blessing Chemicals Limited** having its registration No. C-93466, Reg. date: 12.06.2011 for the calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and also for subsequent calendar year(s), if fallen due, and further direction for holding and conducting the said AGM(s) in the manner of the Hon'ble Court thinks expedient on condoning the delay in holding said AGM(s). Upon preliminary hearing the Hon'ble High Court Division comprising **Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli** was pleased to admit the application on **27.11.2024** and hearing date will be fixed soon for appearance. Anyone desires of opposing the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through an authorized Advocate on the date fixed. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

**Md. Imam Hasan**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
14 Purana Paltan (10th Floor), Dhaka-1000. Cell : 01711-241335

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1500 OF 2024


**Fazlur Rahman Rana, Managing Director of Blessing Overseas Limited** of House- 33/B, Road- 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205  
..... Petitioner

**-VERSUS-**  
**Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms of T.C.B Bhaban, 6th Floor, 1, Karwan Bazar, under police station Tejgaon within district Dhaka and another**

**-----Respondents**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rules 8 and 263 of the Companies Rule, 2009 has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh with a prayer for direction to call the Annual General Meeting of the **Blessing Overseas Limited** having its registration No. C-93478, Reg. date: 12.06.2011 for the calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and also for subsequent calendar year(s), if fallen due, and further direction for holding and conducting the said AGM(s) in the manner of the Hon'ble Court thinks expedient on condoning the delay in holding said AGM(s). Upon preliminary hearing the Hon'ble High Court Division comprising **Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli** was pleased to admit the application on **27.11.2024** and hearing date will be fixed soon for appearance. Anyone desires of opposing the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through an authorized Advocate on the date fixed. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

**Md. Imam Hasan**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
14 Purana Paltan (10th Floor), Dhaka-1000. Cell : 01711-241335



**সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর**  
**প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস**  
**জরুরি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। দপ্তর বাহিনীর জন্য দেশীয় মূল্যায়ন নিম্নলিখিত চিকিৎসা সামগ্রী ক্রয় প্রতিরক্ষা ক্রয় মহাপরিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যবসায়ী/প্রকৃতকারী/আমদানীকারক/ইউজিং প্রতিষ্ঠানের দিষ্ট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত প্যাকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।  
২। দরপত্রের সিটিউল নিম্নের হতে উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময় যোগাযোগে সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস থেকে নমূল মূল্যে (স্কেডারযোগ্য) সমাহার করা যাবে। প্রয়োজ্যভাবে তথাকালীন দরপত্র সীলমোহরকৃত প্যাকে মহাপরিদপ্তরে রক্ষিত ঠিকার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বর্ধিত নির্ধারিত তারিখেই যথা প্রদর্শিত ০১০০ খাতিকা হতে ১২৩০ খাতিকা পর্যন্ত জমা দেয়া হবে এবং দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে ১৩০০ খাতিকার দরপত্রজামের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	দ্রব্যের বিবরণ	সিটিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ		দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	দরপত্র নম্বর
		ইউজিং	পর্যন্ত		
1.	Suction Machine Electric including floor Suction unit	10-12-24	24-12-24	24-12-24	104/2024-2025/EM
2.	Suction Machine Electric				
3.	Blood/Infusion warmer electric				
4.	Infusion Pump				
1.	Fiber Optic Video Laryngoscope set Complete	10-12-24	24-12-24	24-12-24	105/2024-2025/EM
2.	Telescope 0° degree 5mm				
1.	Binocular indirect ophthalmoscope	10-12-24	24-12-24	24-12-24	106/2024-2025/EM
2.	Slit Lamp GAT + Documentation device				
3.	Retinoscope				
4.	Ophthalmic Operating Chair				
5.	LED Digital visual acuity chart				
6.	Non Contact air puff tonometry with pachymetry				
7.	Auto refractometer with Keratometer with motorized table				
8.	Video Indirect Ophthalmoscope with recording Station				
1.	Endoscopic CO2 Regulation Unit Complete set for ERCP	10-12-24	24-12-24	24-12-24	107/2024-2025/EM
2.	Electro Surgical unit Indocart Complete set APC for ERCP				
3.	Endoscopic High Power Suction Machine with Accessories				
1.	Arthroscopic Recording/Picture Management System	10-12-24	24-12-24	24-12-24	108/2024-2025/EM
2.	Electric Tourniquet				
3.	Battery Operated Rechargeable & saw Both Power and Battery Drill (04 Battery in each Drill) and k wire chuck attachment				
4.	Plaster Cutting Saw (Electric)				
5.	32" HD/LED Medical grade Monitor				
6.	Diathermy Bipolar				
1.	Operation Table with all fracture Accessories	10-12-24	24-12-24	24-12-24	109/2024-2025/EM

৩। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।  
৪। বর্ধিত ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স মেডিকেল ইউজিংসেন্টস এর বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিবরণ, কারিগরী বিনির্দেশ ও জারিহাওয়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্যাদিসননপত্রের তালিকা দরপত্র সিটিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।  
৫। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে দরপত্র সিটিউলে উল্লেখিত আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি/কমানোর এবং দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন।  
৬। সিপিএ/২০০৬ ও সিপিএস/২০০৮ মোতাবেক দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

তারিখ: .....নবেম্বর ২০২৪।

**আইএসপিআর/বিবিসি/৫৫৮**  
০৪/১২/২৪

**GD- 1111**

**কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
ভারপ্রাপ্ত এজিডিরএমএস (স্টোফ)  
সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর  
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস







# BAPPA MAZUMDER

## revives Lucky Akhand's melody in 'Bhober Nodi'

Seven years after Lucky Akhand's passing, his timeless music lives on with *Bhober Nodi*, a new song performed by Bappa Mazumder and Sayeeda Shampa. Based on a melody composed by the legendary musician, the track features lyrics by Golam Morshed and music arranged by Bappa.

Set to release today on *Gaan Janala* YouTube channel, the song celebrates Akhand's enduring legacy. Bappa expressed gratitude for the opportunity, praising Akhand's soulful compositions and Shampa's complementing vocals.

Lyricist Morshed highlighted the collaboration as a tribute to Akhand's influence, which continues to inspire Bangladeshi music today.





# 12 entertainment stars in BBC 100 Women 2024 list

The BBC's 2024 100 Women list celebrates inspiring figures driving change amid global crises, including 12 entertainment industry icons who have used their platforms to challenge stereotypes and inspire action.

Afghan singer Elaha Soroor's anthem *Naan, Kar, Azadi!* has become a powerful symbol of resistance for Afghan women. Pakistani singer Hadiqa Kiani has combined music with humanitarian work, rebuilding homes for flood victims through her *Vaseela-e-Raah* project. Malian artiste Inna Modja advocates for climate justice as a co-founder of Code Green and highlights Africa's environmental efforts through her film *The Great Green Wall*.

Other honorees include Japanese comedian Naomi Watanabe, British singer Raye, and Indonesian heavy metal vocalist Firda Marsya Kurnia, all of whom continue to inspire change through their creative and social contributions.

## Teerondaz Repertory returns to Shilpakala after 8-year ban

After an eight-year hiatus, Teerondaz Repertory returns to Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy this Friday, marking its comeback with a debate and two performances. Banned in 2016 for a Sundarbans awareness issue, the troupe's return follows the political shift post-July Uprising.

The day begins with *Bagbitanda* (Verbal Duel) at 4pm, featuring Deepak Suman and Anu Muhammad debating autocracy and development, with audience participation.

At 5:30pm and 7pm, the group will stage *Konthonalite Surjo* (The Sun in the Windpipe), exploring identity and existential struggles. The cast includes Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Shayer Niyogi, and Deepak Suman, among others.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

## 'Gai Gaan, Miley Prane Pran'

An intimate musical gathering for music lovers at Jatra Birotti, featuring Shorbonam, Argha Dev, and Rodoshi Isfar Fatemi.

**Date: December 7**  
**Time: 7pm**




# BEYONCÉ

## crowned as ultimate pop icon of the 21st century

Billboard has named Beyoncé the greatest pop icon of the 21st century, celebrating her 25-year career of record-breaking achievements, constant reinvention, and unmatched artistry. With 32 Grammy wins—the most in history—and 11 new nominations for her 2024 album *Cowboy Carter*, she continues to dominate.

Beyoncé boasts nine No 1 singles, 24 top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100, and eight No 1 albums since her 2003 debut *Dangerously in Love*. Billboard's list ranks Taylor Swift and Rihanna at No 2 and No 3, respectively, alongside other stars like Adele, Drake, and Lady Gaga shaping modern pop culture.



## Khijir Hayat Khan resigns from Film Certification Board

Filmmaker Khijir Hayat Khan has resigned from the Bangladesh Film Certification Board just three weeks after its reformation in September. Announcing his decision via Facebook on December 3, he stated, "Holding a government position doesn't mean censoring one's thoughts... I can't change myself for any position or title." He cited personal reasons for stepping down.

The 15-member board, formed to address filmmakers' demands, includes figures like Dr Zakir Hossain Raju and Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed. Chaired by the secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the board oversees film certification in Bangladesh.



NEWS

## Pacers lead Tigers to glory

FROM PAGE 12

quicks, including Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, and Nahid Rana -- the latest to make his way in the pace unit and the most exciting of all -- now making their presence felt in almost every other matches, Bangladesh finally seem to have cracked the code of bundling the opposition out twice in a Test.

The second Test against West Indies was turned on its head on Day 3 when Nahid terrorised the hosts' batters with deliveries that clocked around and even over the 150kph mark.

From 85 for one to getting bundled out for just 146, still 18 runs away from the Tigers' low 164-run first-innings total, West Indies batters were left bamboozled, bruised, and shocked by what Nahid offered during a spell of fierce fast bowling. He ended up with his maiden Test fifer in the first innings, and that seemed to have sparked a belief in the troops to go in the ascendancy from there on.

In the second innings, Jaker Ali's relentless career-best 91 off 106

deliveries, stand-in skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz and opener Shadman Islam's sudden attack on the Windies bowlers to Taijul Islam wrapping things up on Day 4 -- the foundation for all of it were laid by Nahid had done in the previous innings.

The pacers even played a crucial role on the fourth day as well, with Taskin reaping the benefits of bowling in tandem with Nahid as he gave Tigers two crucial breakthroughs in between spinners weaving their web.

The Test series win in Pakistan saw pacers take a total of 21 wickets in two matches and even the famous win over the BlackCaps in Mount Maunganui in 2021 was on the back of a brilliant spell by Ebadot Hossain.

From a time when Bangladesh had to rely mostly on spinners making most of the pitches tailored to suit them to the Tigers knowing that now they have what it takes to overpower opponents even in their own backyards -- this particular WTC cycle will definitely work as a confidence booster for even better Test outings in the coming years.

## 12 remanded

FROM PAGE 12

Clashes between police, lawyers, and followers of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari erupted after he was denied bail in a sedition case on November 26. Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed during the clashes.

Police have arrested 39 people so far in five cases over the violence and the murder.

## Banks were considered

FROM PAGE 12

Mansur, who took over the central bank in August, recounted what he had seen when he first surveyed the economy. "Everything was a disaster," he told the NYT. Now he says he is "cautiously optimistic" that things are being stabilised.

This "is not the year for economic growth," Mansur added. But inflation is coming down, and remittances are going up. "We have to be satisfied with that," he said.

## MPs begin push

FROM PAGE 12

also filed a complaint of "insurrection" against the president, some of his ministers and top military and police officials -- which can carry a penalty of life imprisonment or even death.

Even the leader of Yoon's own ruling party described the attempt as "tragic" while calling for those involved to be held accountable.

In a show of public anger against the president, thousands of protesters converged around his office in central Seoul on Wednesday evening after staging a rally in Gwanghwamun Square, demanding Yoon quit.

In his late-night television announcement imposing martial law on Tuesday, Yoon cited the threat of North Korea and "anti-state forces".

More than 280 troops, some flown in by helicopters, arrived at parliament to lock down the site.

But 190 lawmakers defied rifle-carrying soldiers to force their way into parliament to vote against the move.

The constitution says martial law must be lifted when a parliamentary majority demands it, leaving Yoon with little choice but to retract his decision and call off the military in another television address six hours later.

## Rice to be imported

FROM PAGE 2

The current rice stock is below the 10.5 lakh tonne recommended by experts for enabling market interventions by the government to foil price manipulation by private millers and traders.

Public food stocks stood at 10.90 lakh tonnes, which includes 6.69 lakh tonnes of rice, on December 4.

Meanwhile, food ministry officials said they have initiated efforts for both government-to-government arrangements and open tenders.

Bangladesh has signed a memorandum of understanding with Vietnam and Myanmar for rice imports and the deals are valid until 2027, they said.

In addition, the advisory committee

on government purchases recently eased public procurement rules for rice imports through open tender, bringing down the time needed to 15 days from 42 days.

The advisory committee on economic affairs has also decided, in principle, that the government would import 5 lakh tonnes of rice.

Estimates by the Department of Agricultural Extension show that Aman acreage declined to 57.35 lakh hectares this season from 57.5 lakh hectares in the previous one.

The Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission in a report on October 29 cited the DAE estimate and said the recent floods had caused a production loss of 8.39 lakh tonnes.

## Student leaders

FROM PAGE 12

establish non-partisan, student-council-based politics on campuses, ensuring representation of students.

Hasant also said that student's representation in the interim government should be ensured through elections to student councils before the national elections.

The student organisations also decided that each platform will submit a proposal by December 20 outlining the reforms in student politics.

"A new kind of politics led by student organisations is the need of the hour. We, the leaders of student organisations, will outline the nature

of the reforms we want," Shibgatullah Shibga, literary affairs secretary of Islami Chhatra Shibir, told the briefing.

The student leaders claimed that 30 student platforms attended yesterday's meeting. However, according to meeting sources, Chhatra Dal, the student wing of BNP, and all the left-leaning student organisations were absent.

Contacted, Nasir Uddin Nasir, general secretary of Chhatra Dal, stated that while the interim government has mentioned involving students in various initiatives, including the reform commissions, only a particular group has been engaged so far, and no discussions were held with other organisations.

## Hindu temples, houses

FROM PAGE 12

houses. The house and family temple of Guru Dey, president of Upazila Puja Udjaan Parishad, were vandalised. They also looted several gold jewellers' stores and shops owned by Hindu people."

Rahul Das Ratul, a resident of Manglargaon, said, "They attacked my neighbourhood around 10 o' clock at night. I called 999 and then the army team arrived."

"I don't understand why all of us have to suffer because of a single man's fault?" he asked.

Police filed a case under the Cyber Security Act, accusing the man. A Sunamganj court later sent him to jail.

The army set a temporary camp at Manglargaon village to prevent the risk of further incidents, said the OC.

Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ileas Mia said, "We suspect the incident was preplanned:

the mob was instigated to attack Hindu properties. The damage is not as much as it is said to be. We met the religious leaders in the upazila to keep the situation calm."

Also on Tuesday night, a temple titled Sree Sree Kali Mandir was partially damaged in an attack at Gaziteka village of Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar, said Abdul Qayyum, officer-in-charge of Barlekha Police Station.

The idol, a hand pump, part of the boundary wall, and tiles were vandalised, he said, adding that no complaint had been filed over the matter.

Quoting locals, the officer said the incident occurred late at night.

"We visited the scene," he told this correspondent.

Late last night, around 100 students of Dhaka University demonstrated near the TSC against the attacks on Hindu community.

## Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 12

opposition to someone's inclusion.

"At this critical juncture of the country and its polity we strongly urge the country's media to refrain from the kind of malpractice that the report has done," it added.

### Our Reply

After getting the rejoinder The Daily Star talked to some other members of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee who attended the November 22 meeting. They confirmed that there was no discussion on the inclusion of any particular individual, but they had different views on the inclusion of new members.

That is why the Jatiya Nagorik Committee formed a seven-member search committee to scrutinise the proposed inclusion. However, the committee did not further discuss with the members on the findings of the search committee, although it is a norm of a democratic organisation to have such discussion.

We apologise for mentioning the inclusion of the particular individual.

However, The Daily Star in its report raised the procedural flaw of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee and the rejoinder didn't mention anything on it. The report also had the comments of the platform's spokesperson and maintained all journalistic norms and procedures. We stand by our report.

## Over 700 escaped

FROM PAGE 12

with higher protein levels to ensure better nutrition, better medical services and security.

High-risk prisoners are kept in specialised cells equipped with mobile phone jammers. Officials search those cells regularly, he said, adding that CCTV cameras have been installed in some cells to monitor illegal activities.

The prison authorities are going to deploy dog squads in some prisons to prevent the entry of drugs, he added.

The prisons chief said they are going to change their logo, as it contains a boat symbol, following demands from different quarters and the general public.

Responding to a query about the attack on a former lawmaker inmate at BSMMU under jail custody, the IG prisons said the incident occurred due to security lapses. However, there were prison guards present, and due to their intervention, the incident did not escalate further.

"We have taken an important initiative to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. We are planning for a Central Prisons Hospital. If it is built, prisoners will be treated there, and we will not need to send them to government hospitals," he said.

## Amu, Qamrul

FROM PAGE 12

The AL leaders, who were arrested earlier in other cases, were brought to the court from Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj around 10:20am.

Qamrul was dressed in a khaki shirt, black trousers, and black glasses, while Amu wore a white Panjabi and pajama. They were produced before the court around 11:40am.

As state prosecutor Gazi Monowar Hossain Tamim read the allegations against Amu to the tribunal, he stated that the accused, as the coordinator of the 14-party alliance, had decided to impose a curfew and issue shoot-on-sight orders to suppress the student movement.

Amu remained silent, but he shook his head as the charges were read.

Qamrul has been charged with ordering the indiscriminate shooting of students and ordinary people in the capital's New Market area, which led to numerous fatalities. The killings were carried out by Chhatra League, Jubo League, and law enforcement agencies.

As the prosecutor detailed the charges, Qamrul smiled faintly.

Briefing journalists after the court proceedings, prosecutor Gazi Monowar Hossain Tamim said, "Today [yesterday]

is a significant and remarkable day for all of us. Qamrul Islam was the very person who formed this tribunal. Now, he is here to face trial for his crimes."

Then Hasina-led AL government constituted the ICT in March 2010 to try the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

Prosecutor Monowar yesterday said they told the tribunal that both Amu and Qamrul were present at the meeting that decided to issue the shoot-at-sight order. "The following day, many innocent students and civilians were shot dead, and many others injured across the country."

According to the prosecutor, the ICT has already issued arrest warrants for about 70 high-profile individuals, including former ministers, judges, bureaucrats, an army major general, and law enforcement officials, in a case filed over committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising.

However, only about 25 of them have been arrested so far.

DB police arrested Amu in the capital on November 6.

Qamrul was detained on November 18 before being shown arrested in the murder case of one Abdul Wadud.



## POST-COUP MYANMAR

### Another rebel group calls for talks with junta

AFP, Bangkok

A second major Myanmar ethnic rebel group has said it is ready for Beijing-mediated talks with the junta to end more than a year of renewed fighting that has ravaged areas along the Chinese border.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), with about 8,000 available fighters, has fought the Myanmar military for more than a decade for autonomy for the Kokang ethnic minority in northern Shan state.

Last year, it and two other allied rebel groups launched an offensive against the military and seized swathes of Shan state, including ruby mines and a lucrative trade highway to China.

Last week, MNDAA ally the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) said it was ready for talks with the military.

The Arakan Army (AA), the third group in the rebel alliance, is still fighting the military in coastal Rakhine state in Myanmar's west.

## THAILAND FLOODS

### Death toll now 29



AFP, Bangkok

More than 30,000 people have been forced to flee their homes due to severe flooding in southern Thailand, where the death toll climbed to 29, officials said yesterday.

More heavy rain is forecast in the area, where over 155,000 households have already been affected by flooding, according to the Thai government's public relations department.

Five southern provinces have been hit – Pattani, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phatthalung – forcing more than 33,000 people to leave their homes, the spokesperson for Thailand's ministry of public health said in a statement.

Disaster response teams were working to drain floodwater and evacuate flood victims to dry areas, the country's disaster agency said on its Facebook page Wednesday morning.

The death toll now stands at 29, up from 25 reported on Tuesday.

The Thai Meteorological Department warned that a weather system moving from the South China Sea across Malaysia and the Andaman Sea was expected to bring heavy rain and further flooding to southern Thailand.

The Department of Mineral Resources also warned of potential landslides and flash floods until December 5.



A woman carries the body of her child who was killed during an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, during a funeral procession, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## ‘World on fire’

### UN seeks \$47b for aid in 2025

AFP, Geneva

The UN yesterday appealed for more than \$47 billion to deliver vital aid next year in a world ravaged by surging conflicts and the climate crisis, but warned many in need would not be reached.

“The world is on fire,” the United Nations’ new humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told reporters in Geneva, acknowledging he was looking ahead to 2025 with “dread”.

With brutal conflicts spiralling in places like Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, and as climate change and extreme weather take an ever-heavier toll, the UN estimated that 305 million people globally will need some form of emergency assistance next year.

“We are dealing with a poly-crisis right now globally, and it is the most vulnerable people in the world who are paying the price,” Fletcher said, warning that swelling inequality combined with the convergence of conflict and climate change had created a “perfect storm” of needs.

Launching the Global Humanitarian Overview, Fletcher acknowledged that the UN and its partners would not be able to reach all of those in need.

The annual appeal by UN agencies and partner humanitarian organisations is seeking \$47.4 billion for 2025 – slightly less than the appeal for this year – which it said was enough to provide assistance to the 189.5 million most vulnerable people.

“There’s 115 million that we won’t be able to reach” with this plan, Fletcher acknowledged.

Pointing to significant “donor fatigue” hitting humanitarian operations, he stressed the need for a “realistic” plan, which required prioritisation and making “really tough, tough choices”.

“We’ve got to be absolutely focused on

reaching those in the most dire need, and really ruthless.”

As of last month, only 43 percent of the \$50 billion appeal for this year had been met.

Underfunding this year has seen an 80-percent reduction in food assistance in Syria, cuts to protection services in Myanmar, and diminished water and sanitation aid in cholera-prone Yemen, the UN said.

Camilla Waszink of the Norwegian Refugee Council described the appeal's acknowledgement that millions would not be reached as “devastating”.

“When the richest people on Earth can go to space as a tourist and trillions of US dollars are used annually on global military expenditure, it is incomprehensible that we as an international community are unable to find the necessary funding to provide displaced families with shelter and prevent children from dying of hunger,” she said.

Even more than funding woes, Fletcher said the biggest barrier to assisting and protecting people in armed conflict was the widespread violation of international law.

This year has already been the deadliest for humanitarian workers, surpassing the 2023 toll of 280 killed.



## Iran ‘releases’ Nobel Peace laureate Narges Mohammadi

AFP, Tehran

Iran has released Nobel Peace laureate Narges Mohammadi, jailed since November 2021, for three weeks on medical grounds, her lawyer posted on social media.

Over the past quarter century, Mohammadi, 52, has been repeatedly tried and jailed for her vocal campaigning against Iran's widespread use of capital punishment and its mandatory dress code for women.

“Based on the advice of the examining doctor, the public prosecutor suspended the jail sentence against Narges Mohammadi for three weeks and she was released from prison,” Mostafa Nili said on X.

Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023, primarily for her campaigning against the death penalty in Iran. Her children collected the award on her behalf as she was in prison at the time.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian Nobel Committee urged Iran to permanently free Nargis Mohammadi, after Tehran released her for three weeks on medical grounds.

## DNA test finally cracks Harris Chy mystery

FROM PAGE 1

writ petitioner Samira's lawyer Mahdin Choudhury told The Daily Star.

The lawyer said Harris, who was political secretary of BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, had been hiding to escape the wrath of the then government.

He stayed in Dhaka under the assumed name – Mahmudur Rahman – until his death on September 3, 2021. He died from Covid-19 at a city hospital.

But due to pressure from the law enforcement agencies, his death was covered up and he was buried in a madrasa graveyard in Savar, Mahdin said.

At that time, the hospital authorities did not issue any death certificate to the name of Harris, rather to the name of Mahmudur.

Harris was not given the respect he deserved as a freedom fighter, the lawyer added.

Mahdin said Harris had been made accused in several cases, but he could not confirm the number of cases.

Meanwhile, accepting the DNA report, the HC yesterday allowed the family of Harris to bury his remains, which are now in the morgue of Dhaka Medical College, in

the graveyard of “Shafiqul Huq Chowdhury Memorial Orphanage” in Sylhet's as per his last wish, said lawyer Mahdin.

The court also asked the authorities concerned of the government to give due honour to Harris as a valiant freedom fighter.

The bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Mubina Asaf passed the order after examining the DNA test report during a hearing on the writ petition filed by Haris' daughter Samira seeking necessary directives.

Following the petition, another HC bench on September 5 this year ordered the authorities concerned to exhume Harris' body from the graveyard in Savar's Birulia and carry out the DNA test to ensure his identity.

The court also asked the CID to submit the DNA test report before it.

The report was submitted through the Supreme Court Registrar General's Office in compliance with its previous directive.

Deputy Attorney General Shafiqur Rahman represented the state during yesterday's hearing.

Harris disappeared when a military-backed caretaker government took over in 2007.

## Refrain from controversial activities

FROM PAGE 1

The Chattogram divisional workshop titled “31-point state structure reform proposal and the public engagement” was organised by BNP training affairs committee at the Institute of Engineers, Chattogram. Tarique joined the event virtually from London.

The BNP acting chairman cautioned that anyone thinking that the party could easily win the next election because their main political rivals are weak should dismiss that thought.

Tarique said the next general polls will be very challenging for BNP as many conspiracies are afoot and many invisible forces are working against the party.

He reminded the party's leaders and activists about the oppression they had faced for the past 15-

16 years. “Please don't spoil our achievements and sacrifices with small mistakes. We should be careful so our achievements and sacrifices are not foiled.”

He said the BNP will not be able to woo voters in the next parliamentary polls if it fails to maintain the existing public trust in the party. “It is your responsibility, not the people's, to retain this confidence.

“You will have to uphold this confidence until the polls are held. Once you win the election, you will have to work on implementing the 31-point reform proposal,” said Tarique.

The BNP leader asked his party leaders and activists to take its 31-point reform proposal to the doors of people and to drum up support for it.

**“We have enduring interests, enduring security interests in Syria, particularly the interest in making sure that ISIS doesn’t resurrect and doesn’t come back.”**

US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Office  
Upazila Health Complex  
Rangunia, Chattogram

Ref No. UHC/Rangunia/Chattogram/MSR/24-25/1454

Date: 04.12.2024

**Invitation for e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

FY-2024-2025 e-Tender is in the National e-GP System Portal invited (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works given below:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description and name of the package	Publishing (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
1	1045538	Procurement of Non EDCL Medicine for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
2	1045539	Procurement of Surgical Instruments for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
3	1045540	Procurement of Gauge, Bandage and Cotton for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
4	1045542	Procurement of Linen for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
5	1045545	Procurement of Reagent, Chemical for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00
6	1045547	Procurement of Furniture for the F.Y 2024-25 in Upazila Health Complex, Rangunia, Chattogram.	05-Dec-2024 10:00:00	19-Dec-2024 16:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of any registered banks within the date mentioned in the tender notice.

**Dr. Muhammad Touhidul Alam**  
Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer  
Upazila Health Complex  
Rangunia, Chattogram

GD-1113

**Bangladesh Shipping Corporation**  
**Chattogram**  
Tender No. 18.16.0000.366.50.001.24

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF M.T. BANGLAR JYOTI AND M.T. BANGLAR SHOURABH**

1. Sealed quotations on ‘as is where is’ basis are invited for sale of two vessels M.T.Banglar Jyoti and M.T.Banglar Shourabh (both were built at 1987 Denmark and DWT 14,541 MT). These Vessels were trading in Bangladesh territorial Water.

2. The Tender Documents bearing No:18.16.0000.366.50.001.24 dated: 05-12-2024 shall be sold out latest by 05-01-2025 during office hours and the tender shall be dropped in the tender boxes kept following offices latest by 12.00 PM. (BST) on the 06-01-2025 as per terms & conditions laid down in the tender document.

**A. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation**  
BSC Bhaban (3rd floor)  
Saltgola Road, Chattogram.

**B. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation**  
BSC Tower (22nd Floor),  
Plot No. 2 & 3 Rajuk Avenue,  
Dainik Banglar Moor. Dhaka-1000

3. The tender also may be submitted through e-mail: [gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd](mailto:gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd) latest by 12:00 PM.(BST) on the 06-01-2025. Those who submitted the tender document through e-mail must ensure the deposit of earnest money / tender security which deposited in the following bank account mentioned in Para:4.

4. (a) BSC's Account No: **0200-001988265**, Routing No: **010-150-911**, Account Name: Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, **Agrani Bank PLC, Port Branch**, Chattogram, Bangladesh.

(b) BSCs Account No: **260-361076-178**, Account Name: Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, **The HSBC**, Singapore Branch, Swift Code: **HSBCSGSG**, 10 Marina # 48-01. Marina Bay Financial Centre, Singapore-018983.

5. Informatively, tender will be opened at 12:00 PM (BST) on the 07-01-2025 in the Conference Room in Bangladesh Shipping Corporation head office, Chattogram.

6. The Tender Documents containing main particulars and certificate/survey status of these vessels, terms and conditions for the tender etc, can be obtained from the following offices on application and payment of Tk 12,000.00 (Taka Twelve Thousand) or US100/- (USD One hundred) only (non refundable) per set during office hours. The Tender documents also may be collected through e-mail: [gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd](mailto:gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd) after paying price of the tender schedule in the above designated bank mentioned in Para:4.

**A. General Manager (Accounts)**  
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation,  
BSC Bhaban (3rd Floor), Saltgola Road, Bander, Chattogram-4100  
Tel: 031-710149

**B.GeneralManager (Marketing).** BSC Tower (22nd Floor), Plot No. 2 & 3 Rajuk Avenue, Dainik Banglar Moor, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 02-9553568

**C.E-mail:**  
[gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd](mailto:gm-fin@bsc.gov.bd)

7. BSC, however, reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**General Manager (Finance)**  
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation,  
BSC Bhaban (3rd Floor),  
Saltgola Road, Chattogram  
Tel: 02333310149, 01815-528226

GD- 1112



## Time for national unity

### We must respond firmly to anti-Bangladesh actions in India

The recent attacks and disruptions targeting Bangladesh's diplomatic missions in India have provoked justifiable anger from government officials, politicians, student leaders, and the public alike. Emotions are running high—as evidenced by the barrage of statements and street protests in Dhaka and elsewhere—but so is the case in India. It is precisely during times like this that cooler heads need to prevail. We agree with the Indian high commissioner that Indo-Bangladesh ties cannot be judged by a single issue. But this is a mess of India's own making, and to extricate itself from it and stabilise bilateral relations, it must help prevent the disinformation campaign over “minority persecution” that is fuelling unrest. And it must stop demonising Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, too, needs to frame its own response, and fast, given the continued fallout of the arrest of Hindu religious leader Chinmoy Krishna Das, with reports emerging of anti-Bangladesh posturing in different parts of India as well as hostile mobilisations along the border. It must be acknowledged that people in Bangladesh have shown commendable restraint so far. But much more needs to be done. The first priority is to reaffirm our commitment to national unity and continue showing restraint, despite the provocations. Chief Advisor Prof Muhammad Yunus's initiation of dialogue with the leaders of student, political and religious bodies shows a constructive approach to this crisis, which will hopefully further consolidate our response.

Unity is also needed to highlight the pluralistic character of Bangladesh in the face of the disinformation campaign run by sections of Indian media, which Hindutva groups and parties have been exploiting to rally domestic support and destabilise Bangladesh since the ouster of India's favoured leader, Sheikh Hasina. In this regard, the role of our religious leaders, particularly those from Hindu community, is particularly important as they can promote a collective vision of coexistence by debunking the false narrative of persecution and showcasing their commitment to national unity and sovereignty. The authorities, at the same time, must take stricter measures to address any rights concerns of minority communities. Official investigations into past violence against minorities must also be more visible and result-oriented.

But perhaps the most important thing to do now is streamline efforts to counter the systemic propaganda on India's side. In recent days, we have seen reports on circulation of videos and pictures that have later been proven to be false. In fact, such attempts have been ongoing since August 5 to exaggerate isolated incidents of minority attacks in order to bolster the narrative of persecution. Unfortunately, the Indian media continues to be a reference point for the Western media and India-linked politicians. This calls for a better and more coordinated response from Bangladesh so that our side of the story gets the coverage it deserves.

The challenge we face is multifaceted, but we must remain united and say no to any divisive tactics. The anti-Bangladesh and anti-Muslim politics in India will likely lose steam if we continue to be vigilant. The Indian authorities, for their part, must match their commitment with meaningful actions that de-escalate tensions and take our relations in a positive direction.

## Awami League’s legacy of corruption

### TIB report reveals how it held the country hostage to bribery, corruption

An estimated Tk 1.46 lakh crore being paid in bribes for services during the 15 years of Awami League rule is truly mindboggling. This estimate was derived by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) from an analysis of six household surveys conducted between 2010 and 2023. The most recent survey, which assessed the extent of corruption between May 2023 and April 2024, revealed that 70.9 percent of respondents encountered corruption while seeking services, collectively paying a total of Tk 10,902 crore in bribes.

Among the sectors analysed, passport services were identified as the most corrupt (86 percent of respondents), followed by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (85.2 percent), law enforcement agencies (74.5 percent), judicial services (62.3 percent), and land services (51 percent). Overall, 50.8 percent of surveyed households reported paying bribes or being forced to pay extra for services. These findings underscore how the former regime normalised corruption, compelling citizens to engage in unethical practices to access basic services.

Shockingly, the highest average bribe amount was recorded in the judicial services sector, at Tk 30,972 per household. The fact that individuals were forced to resort to unlawful measures even for legal assistance underscores the extent to which the regime undermined law and order. This not only points to the institutional decay during its tenure but also reveals that, far from maintaining a “zero-tolerance” stance on corruption as claimed, Awami League turned the country into a mafia state. Citizens were left at the mercy of systemic corruption, while mechanisms for accountability completely collapsed. Given this, rebuilding a system of checks and balances to steer the country away from this cesspool of corruption will understandably require substantial time and effort.

The consequences of such widespread corruption were catastrophic, disproportionately affecting low-income and marginalised groups. The survey also found that corruption rates were higher when individuals sought services in person compared to when using online or mixed methods, even though the latter approaches were not without flaws.

Following the ouster of the corrupt and fascist AL regime, the nation has placed high expectations on the interim government. Chief among these is the hope for substantial measures to dismantle institutionalised corruption that spread like cancer. To this end, the current government must strictly implement TIB's recommendations—such as full digitisation of services, introduction of one-stop service systems, and strong legal action against those involved in corruption. Additionally, it must comprehensively reform institutions tasked with combating corruption, such as the Anti-Corruption Commission.

# The risks of turning symbols into battlegrounds



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HM NAZMUL ALAM

Flags hold a special place in the hearts of nations. They are not just pieces of cloth fluttering in the wind—they carry the weight of collective memory, identity, and pride. When someone burns or desecrates a flag, it's more than an act of protest; it's a statement that can cut deep and spark anger, sometimes even chaos.

Recent incidents involving the desecration of national flags in both India and Bangladesh have turned into flashpoints, threatening to unravel delicate ties between the two neighbours. These actions, whether deliberate or impulsive, are a reminder of how fragile relationships can be when symbols of identity are treated carelessly. Let's talk about why these symbols matter so much, how such actions deepen divides, and what lessons history can teach us about handling these situations better.

Tensions have been running high between Bangladesh and India after a few troubling events. In Kolkata, protesters outside the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh set fire to the Bangladeshi flag along with an effigy of the chief adviser. In Agartala, protesters attacked the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh. Meanwhile in Bangladesh, reports emerged of students walking over images of the Indian tricolour painted on the ground in some prestigious educational institutions.

These acts have triggered outrage on both sides. Bangladesh's foreign ministry issued statements expressing serious concerns and resentment about the attacks on its diplomatic missions, noting that such protests breached security arrangements and made their staff feel unsafe. In India, some hospitals and medical associations reacted by declaring that they would stop treating Bangladeshi patients, a move that could have serious human consequences for people who seek medical help across borders. Meanwhile, the hotel and restaurant owners' association in Tripura announced they were temporarily banning Bangladeshi tourists.

These retaliatory moves show how quickly emotions can escalate and turn minor incidents into major controversies, deepening mistrust

and threatening the goodwill between neighbouring countries that share a long history and complex ties.

#### The history and power of flags

Flags, as a concept, are relatively new in the grand sweep of history. They became widely recognised symbols of nationhood in the 18th and 19th centuries. As political theorist Benedict Anderson explains in *Imagined Communities*, nations are constructed through shared



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

symbols and stories. A flag is one such symbol that embodies the collective imagination of a country's people.

But that same power also makes flags easy targets. Throughout history, flag desecration has been a provocative form of protest. During the Vietnam War, the United States saw widespread flag burning as an act of defiance against its government. In South Africa, during apartheid, anti-government activists burnt the national flag to reject the regime's legitimacy.

The emotions tied to flags vary by country. In the US, the First Amendment protects flag desecration as a form of free speech. But in countries like Bangladesh and India, where the national identity is closely tied to hard-won independence struggles, such acts are seen as deeply offensive and often lead to severe backlash. The recent incidents show how such provocations can lead to a ripple effect. On the surface, these acts

may appear as isolated incidents, but they tap into deeper insecurities and grievances. The emotional reactions they provoke often blur the lines between rational discourse and blind outrage.

The role of sensationalist media in fanning the flames is impossible to ignore. For example, in Bangladesh, the arrest of a former ISKCON member was widely misrepresented by sections of the Indian media as an attack on Hindu minorities, despite evidence showing that it was unrelated. The tragic murder of a lawyer in Chattogram during clashes between the former ISKCON member's followers and police was also sensationalised to create religious tensions.

These skewed narratives don't just inflame tempers, they shift public focus from genuine issues to symbolic conflicts, making peaceful resolutions even harder to achieve.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

#### The role of the law

The Flag Act, 1972 in Bangladesh and its 2010 amendment impose penalties for flag desecration, including up to two years of imprisonment and a fine. India also has stringent guidelines under its Flag Code, dictating how the flag must be treated and prescribing punishment for violations.

In countries like Denmark, burning a foreign flag is illegal, while burning the national flag is allowed under free speech rights. In Saudi Arabia, desecrating the flag, which features Islamic scripture, is considered both a religious and national offence.

Laws like these reflect a nation's values, but they can only go so far in preventing symbolic provocations. Addressing the root causes of such acts—be it political dissatisfaction, social unrest or inter-group tensions—requires broader efforts beyond legislation.

When emotions boil over symbols like flags, they risk diverting

attention from more pressing issues. For Bangladesh and India, this includes vital concerns like Sheikh Hasina, water-sharing agreements, trade partnerships, and border management.

In George Orwell's *1984*, the manipulation of symbols is central to maintaining control over society. Likewise, in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, a group of boys descends into chaos partly because of their obsession with symbols of power and fear.

These examples emphasise the importance of handling symbols carefully. Symbols can unite, but when misused or misunderstood, they can also tear societies apart.

#### What's the way forward?

Both the governments and civil societies must take responsibility for defusing tensions. This means avoiding knee-jerk reactions to incidents and focusing on long-term solutions. Leaders on both sides should address the root causes of such acts, be it misinformation, cultural misunderstandings or political grievances.

One way to promote greater understanding is through education. Teaching young people about the shared histories and struggles of Bangladesh and India can build empathy and mutual respect. Cultural exchanges, joint initiatives, and public dialogues can also help bridge gaps and counteract divisive narratives.

At the same time, media organisations must commit to responsible reporting. Sensationalism may grab attention, but it does so at the cost of trust and truth. As Amartya Sen argues in *The Argumentative Indian*, societies flourish when debates are grounded in reason and respect, not hysteria.

For Bangladesh and India, the stakes are too high to let flag-related controversies derail progress. Both countries face shared challenges, from climate change to economic development, and cooperation is essential for overcoming these hurdles. With careful handling, even the most provocative acts can become opportunities for dialogue and growth.

Ultimately, flags are not just pieces of cloth. They are carriers of collective hope and history. Respecting them means respecting the people and principles they represent. By focusing on what unites rather than what divides, Bangladesh and India can show the world that symbols don't have to become weapons to wield against each other. In a world increasingly fractured by identity politics, we have to look beyond the fabric and focus on the fabric of humanity itself.

# Bring back married adolescent girls to schools



Laila Khondkar is an international development worker.

LAILA KHONDKAR

Imagine a future where thousands of girls, married off too young, find their way back to classrooms. This vision is not just aspirational—it's essential. According to the Socioeconomic and Demographic Survey 2023 published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), marriage accounts for 42 percent of student dropouts. Shockingly, 71 percent of female dropouts cite marriage as the cause, compared to three percent of boys. Girls who leave school due to marriage not only lose educational opportunities but also have lower chances of joining the formal labour market. As adults, they face lifelong economic insecurity and social marginalisation.

Last year, a BRAC survey of 50,000 households in the country, titled “Born to be a Bride,” found that child marriage is happening in both poor and rich families. In addition to poverty and lack of social safety for girls, parents mentioned finding a “suitable groom” as one of the main reasons for arranging marriage for their daughters. Weak law enforcement is also responsible for child marriage. Alarming, around one and a half years of Covid pandemic-induced school closures exacerbated the

situation, with poverty pushing more families towards child marriage.

Child marriage is a violation of children's rights and a form of sexual violence. Adolescent brides face heightened health risks, increased domestic violence, and the abrupt end of their childhood. Sadly, Bangladesh has the highest child marriage rate in South Asia. According to Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2023, 41.06 percent of girls under 18 years of age were married last year, a significant rise from 31.3 percent in 2020. This regression is not just disappointing, it's unacceptable.

The dropout statistics are equally bleak. While secondary school enrolment for girls has risen to 83.7 percent, 34.87 percent still drop out, with the majority leaving after primary school (Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, 2023).

Married adolescents often face discriminatory attitudes from teachers, administrators and other students. It is considered inappropriate to have a married or pregnant girl in the classroom as she is perceived as setting a “bad example” to other students. Besides, caregiving responsibilities

prevent most married girls from continuing their education when they become mothers. They face various challenges after childbirth, which include a lack of affordable childcare, and an inflexible school routine for new mothers. Furthermore, their families, often poor, do not encourage or support their studies. Marriage and motherhood are frequently perceived as incompatible with schooling in Bangladesh, which needs to change.

While there are some efforts to prevent child marriage, hardly any organisation focuses on bringing back married adolescents to schools. They remain almost invisible in our development discourse. But there are programmes in other countries that address the multiple needs of adolescent mothers and build their agency for future planning.

The *Reencontrandome* (Finding myself again) programme in Mexico used a multipronged approach to build support networks for adolescent mothers, run workshops to enhance their skills and agency for returning to school, and gain employment. The programme taught about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), trained SRHR care providers for providing support to adolescents, monitored the availability of contraception, identified cases of sexual violence, and referred girls to appropriate services.

By the end of the programme, significant improvements were observed: a 30 percent increase in the use of contraception among girls; a 33 percent increase in girls communicating assertively with their

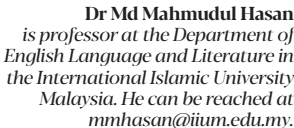
partners; a 40 percent increase in girls attending school or being in paid work; a nearly 70 percent increase in girls having a reliable support network.

In Bangladesh, we should integrate policies to support married girls and adolescent mothers into existing national strategies for education, child marriage and adolescent health. Referral and tracking mechanisms should be created between health, education and child protection systems to identify pregnant adolescents in school and refer them to appropriate maternal health and child protection services. A system to track adolescent girls who have left school due to marriage or pregnancy can be developed to actively reach out to girls after their childbirth and facilitate their reintegration into school.

Moreover, parents, in-laws and community members should be made aware of the importance of education for married girls. Teachers, school staff and students need to be sensitised on the rights of married girls to help them complete their education free from stigma. Finally, married girls should be supported in balancing their caring responsibilities and studies by establishing childcare facilities near schools or offering adolescent mothers flexible school hours.

Girls married too young are more than statistics—they are individuals with dreams deferred. It's time we acknowledged their plight and prioritised their right to education. Our society must rise to this challenge and ensure that marriage is not the end of a girl's journey, but a chapter she can rewrite with dignity and hope.





MD MAHMUDUL HASAN

For example, in September 2010, Pope Benedict XVI visited London, and on September 18, 2010—without any proof or evidence whatsoever—*The Daily Express* featured an eye-catching, frontpage headline: “Muslim plot to kill Pope.” Written by John Twomey, David Pilditch and Nathan Rao, the

Accordingly, in a research paper titled "Islamophobia in the UK" conducted at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in 2014, Fleur Allen comments, "When the original story had been given so much space it seems inadequate that the correction was afforded so little. The original story, without correction, is also still available on their website."

Later, Dr Bari's statement was distorted and decontextualised in the service of anti-Muslim

I would like to end this essay with the following rhetorical question: how would Bangladeshi and foreign media outlets report a comparable case involving the killing of a non-Muslim lawyer?

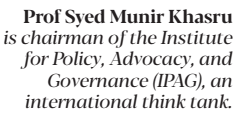


Clearly, there was no plot to kill the Pope. Nor were those (Muslim) men charged for hatching any. Two days later, on September 20, 2010, the newspaper published a redress. However, while the provocative fake news story

Dr Bari was the secretary-general of the Muslim Council of Britain in 2006-2010. On November 10, 2007, London-based newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* published an interview with him conducted by journalists Rachel Sylvester and Alice Thomson. It included the

As I have discussed above, a section of the British media is charged with anti-

# Bangladeshis know how to shape their destiny



**SYED MUNIR KHASRU**

While communal tensions can arise in Bangladesh, like in other parts of South Asia, international media often misrepresent these incidents, overlooking Bangladesh's commendable, if not perfect, track record in upholding and promoting

This resilience stems partly from Bangladesh's experience with extremist violence, such as the 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery attack. The state's firm response, combined with the community's rejection of extremist ideologies has ensured that such an incident has not occurred since.

In addition, the country's vigorous engagement in international peacekeeping missions highlights its commitment to stability beyond

If religion alone could shape a state's trajectory, Bangladesh would not have parted ways with Pakistan. Instead, people's free-spirited nature and a rich tradition of cultural celebration have created a space where being devout doesn't conflict with being open-minded and progressive. Bangladeshis have trod this path with blood and sweat since February 21, 1952, when martyrs gave their lives to resist Urdu being imposed as the national language by Muhammad Ali Jinnah until Bangladeshis liberated the country in

As the interim government steers the country towards elections, the challenges it faces are real, but the strengths it possesses are equally significant. While vigilance is necessary, the core values that have shaped Bangladesh's independence remain its greatest asset in navigating these uncertain times with cautious optimism. There is no need for anybody, regionally or globally, to be overly concerned as history shows, despite setbacks and challenges, Bangladeshis know how to shape their destiny.

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Memo No:47.62.0000.966.07.016.24-2285 Date: 04/12/2024

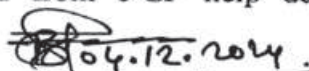
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Tender ID: 1044339	Procurement of sewing & embroidery machine	22/12/2024; 16:30 23/12/2024; 15:00

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Mohammad Reshedul Alam  
Project Director

GD- 1107



BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

I love you; it's ruining my life

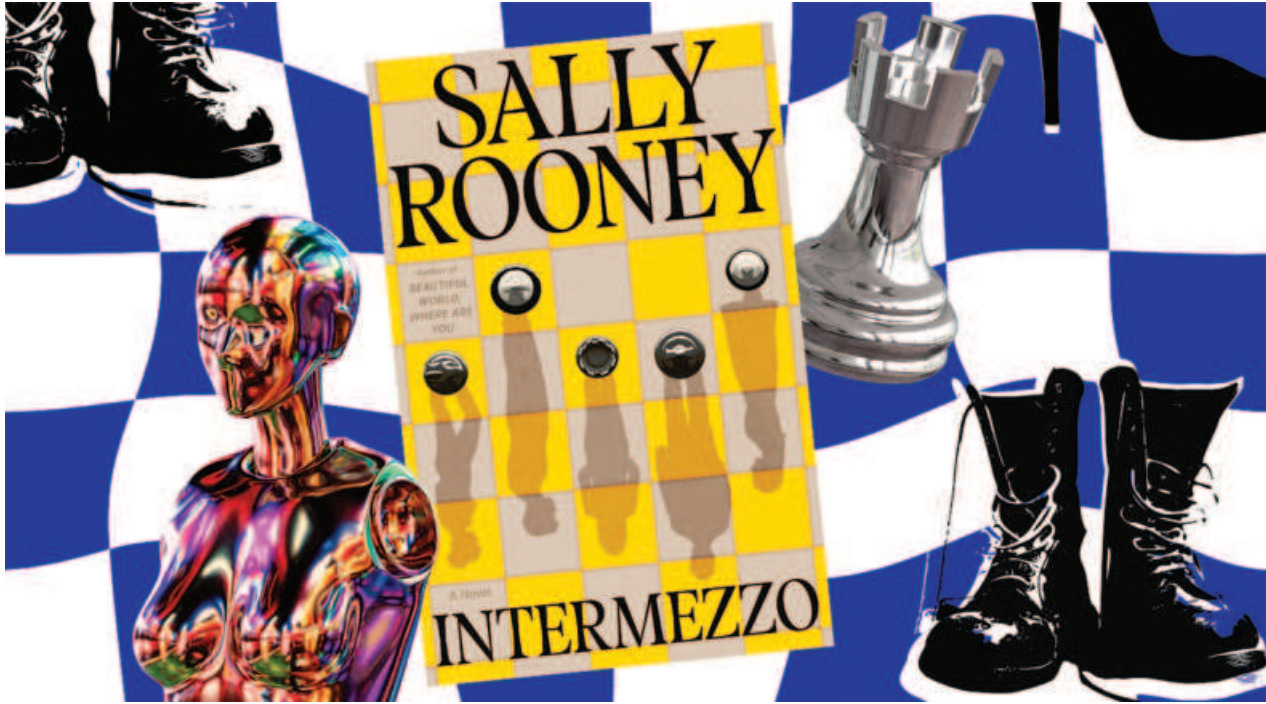
A reluctant fangirl reviews Sally Rooney's *Intermezzo* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024)

SABRINA FATMA AHMAD

Someone in a chat group somewhere called Sally Rooney the 'Taylor Swift' of the literary world, and now I cannot unsee it. Young, beautiful white women telling stories from a white, relatively privileged perspective, crafting worlds populated almost exclusively by beautiful people, and yet managing to transcend borders of race, age and gender to achieve widespread appeal in a way that's almost magical. Just as I have mixed feelings about Ms Swift, everything Ms Rooney has written has had me ugly crying. Yet, I'm never not going to reach for the next thing she brings out.

*Intermezzo* is Sally Rooney's fourth novel; it revolves around two estranged brothers of Polish descent who have just lost their father, an event that strains their already frayed relationship. Grappling with grief, they medicate themselves with unconventional romances. Peter, the elder, is in his 30s and a successful lawyer. He finds himself torn between Sylvia—the untouchable love of his life—and Naomi—his much younger plaything, for whom he's beginning to catch feelings. He runs from his feelings by shuttling between the two women and drowning the in-betweens in work, alcohol and drugs. Ivan, the younger, is in his 20s and a socially awkward chess prodigy—written almost like he's on the autism spectrum, although this isn't explicit anywhere in the novel. He meets and falls for Margaret, a much older woman who is "technically" still married to the town drunkard.

Like the pattern of a chessboard, the narrative structure alternates the perspectives of each major character with each chapter—mostly Peter and



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

Ivan—although, surprisingly enough, Margaret gets a few chapters of her own. While occasionally speaking to one another, the stories of these characters very rarely intersect. But 'intermezzo' itself is an in-between move which forces its players to respond. It's symbolic of the way death repositions a life and grief unsettles love, and that's pretty much what the novel explores. While the romantic tangles, the messy friendships, and the minefields of parent-child relationships that characterise Rooney's other works are present, this particular novel is a little bit of a departure from her usual style. Here, she puts the brothers

front and centre, pitting Peter's hypocritical condescension against Ivan's resentment and utter disdain. Throbbing beneath the surface of this tension is a well of love, and it would take a stone-cold sociopath not to weep at the book's emotional climax.

Those familiar with Rooney's earlier works will note the increased confidence in this one, the ease with which she merges her complex themes and issues—from women's health, to mental health, to climate anxiety, to Covid scares—with some of the most mundane scenarios. The prose changes with the perspective: Peter thinks in short bursts and phrases, almost like a list, while Ivan has a cool, calm, logical

exposition. Margaret's chapters have long, emotional and introspective sentences. The author is a master of scenes, drawing each one out in lush detail, with great economy of words, filling space normally reserved for propulsive action, instead with a variety of ideas, conversations and themes, or as Margaret imagines halfway through the novel: "more life".

The way Rooney seamlessly folds in age-old questions and ideas within the reality of our current, often hopeless world makes her the significant writer that she is. And if I may jump back on the Taylor Swift parallel, all of the characters in her novels so far feature

young adults figuring out the desires, dreams, and people that compose their respective lives (much like Rooney's main readership, or the Swifties' core demographic). Peter, Ivan, and Margaret may be positioned in specific and unique scenarios, yet their feelings will resonate with many readers the way Swift's songs, as hyperbolic as her imagery may often be, still hit you in the feels when you least expect them to. References to topics explored in her preceding books also show how Rooney is in conversation with herself and her past writing, and how she grows and evolves as her characters do, much like Ms Swift revisiting her old hits in her 'Taylor's Version' drops. It's not a stretch to imagine that the ongoing success of both artists hinges on continuing to capture with compassion the ways in which we all respond, grieve, and grow with each new day.

*Intermezzo* has received favourable reviews in general, with many calling it the "perfect novel", but I actually have a peeve—it's that some of the secondary characters feel not fully realised. Naomi in particular, is built on the Manic Pixie Dream Girl trope, and while the complications of Sylvia's health issues, and their impact on her relationship with Peter, are treated with non-sensational attention, the lack of specificity at times feels like a jarring blind spot. Similarly, the brothers' mother, when she makes an appearance, isn't fleshed out enough.

Minor quibbles aside, Sally Rooney has been going from strength to strength with each successive book, and this, her latest, is a real triumph.

Sabrina Fatma Ahmad is a writer, journalist, and the founder of *Sehri Tales*.

ALT LIT

How to make incendiary literature



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

KATERINA DON

Zines are a new name for an old thing. They are the revolutionary pamphlets of the 1930s, and the underground student manifestos of the '50-'60s. They are a distant relative of the tattered choti mags. There are many other examples from around the world of self-published, self-distributed, and often dangerous reading material.

In the context of our scale-obsessed, globalised market value system, zines are a very niche subculture. And today they are relevant in a very new way as a form of escape from surveillance, censorship, capitalist authoritarianism, and targeted algorithmic erasure—phenomena that threaten creativity and freedom of thought.

Zines are a way to create and share but stay invisible to the pervasive information harvest. Even if you said no to web cookies, every word, reaction, and eye movement made with and on a digital device is used to make you a clearer target. Can you tell that there is a tone of paranoia in my voice? Yes, because this article should have been a zine.

So, here is a simple instructional guide

to creating your own zine in times of peace, war, or armageddon. Note: You will need a photocopier to multiply and distribute, so try to make your zine before the power goes out. There are alternatives to the machine, which I will mention at the end, but they are slightly more labour intensive.

WHY ZINES?

- Fits in to your pocket
- No binding needed
- Easy to reproduce
- Easy to slip into people's pockets, unnoticed
- Stands up to be a pop-up exhibit

HOW TO MAKE ZINE(S):

\*Note: When folding, crease well.

1. Fold the page in half horizontally
2. Fold the page in half vertically
3. Fold the page in half vertically again
4. Open the page and fold it vertically
5. Cut (or gently, rip) the centre crease the length of one square, this is your central slit
6. Open and fold horizontally again and push open the slit and press the two ends together\*
7. Done! You have made a zine

\*Alternative ways of folding exist and you can experiment to find what works best for your issue.

Pagination—which rhymes beautifully with imagination—is the page order of a publication. Most material has a front page, a back page, and inner pages. Let's call this the status-quo pagination. Challenging the status quo pagination means exploring other ways of thinking about and working with page structure and sequence.

In the case of your 8-page zine with the central slit—you can get pretty wild with it. You can choose to respect the 'front-inner-back' order or have a run on story with no end. You can open the zine up into its original single sheet state, flip it over to have two sides of the story. You can treat the inner side as a completely different thing. Or stand the zine up by opening up the centre cut to give a sneak peak into the flip side.

In format and philosophy, the zine allows for an unchecked creativity. Mary Poppins famously declared: "First of all, I would like to make one thing clear: I never explain anything." Similarly, the zine is absolute; it does not have to seek the approval of an editor or a publisher. It is in and of itself,

just like you.

But there is an honour code—to fact check; to spread information that is helpful and hard-to reach; and to refrain from stealing or appropriating the work of others. There is no zine police or censor board to tell you where the line is and threaten with punishment if it is crossed, but there is a self-regulatory culture and benchmark of what is and isn't acceptable.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER AS YOU MAKE YOUR ZINE(S):

1. There are two schools of thought: One, pro-digitisation/pro-ephemera, and the other (which I belong to), believing that information has a lifespan and should not be doomed to live forever. Zines should expire, like butterflies, bonfire logs, milk, medication, humans. And being terminal adds a gravitas to the zine and the moment in which it is made. Once the moment is gone, the information may be outdated, not age well, be decontextualised and made redundant. If you want something to live on, this may not be your format. But zines can live on, however—in other zines.
2. Zines are your own personal

communication channel, but you can choose to be unseen. You, the maker, choose to be yourself, anonymous; use a pen name or Insta handle.

3. The topic should matter to you a whole lot. And it should challenge something enough that you worry that it would never see the light of day as an institutional publication.
4. It does not have to be pretty. But it does help if the handwriting is easy to read.
5. This is a slow-burn. There are no word limits, no moderators, no instant gratification apart from the joy of making, no reactions to worry about.
6. You need to give it oxygen and share it. Copy it and you drop it in washrooms, libraries, slip them into books and leave them on coffee tables.
7. Your original and your copies will be different; the copies will be black and white.

Now that you have made your zine, you have been a writer, a layout artist, an editor. Now it's time to be a printer and distributor.

To multiply the zine, use your office/library photocopier while no one is watching. Or take your zine to the print shop, any neighbourhood shop where you don't mind spending some time. Make sure to distract your photocopier-mama from looking too closely at your material.

PRINTSHOP TIPS:

1. Choose the right paper. Standard weight is the most economical and works well with high-speed copiers. If you are using coloured paper, choose light tones so that the ink pops more.
2. Check that the contrast and brightness is set to your liking on the machine.
3. Check the margins (you may need to zoom in or out on the machine).
4. Give the ink time to set before folding.
5. Give yourself time for folding, use gloves to keep from staining your fingers.
6. Quantity depends on your plans, but starting with 50 is good.
7. Make sure to save your original for making more copies in future.
8. If the power is out or you have no access to a photocopier, there are several analog ways of multiplying your zine: Call your friends and copy by hand; use plasticine block prints; screen print.

Now that you have your zine multiplied and folded it is time to distribute. You will need to find locations that resonate with the theme and topic of your zine. If it's an educational zine about tax filing you may want to be dropping it in the tax office or at the bank. If it is a girl zine about sex-ed for newly married couples, the marriage registrar is a good seeding ground.

Hope to stumble upon and be ignited by your zines soon!

Katerina Don is the curator of *HerStory Foundation*, and together with Shoma Sharmin and Zaima Hamid Zoa hosts *Sister Library Dhaka*.





# Miraz channels fear into bold play

ABDULLAH AL MEHEDI

Bangladesh produced two of their finest days in Test cricket on day three and day four of the second Test in Jamaica, capturing imaginations with a tooth-and-nail fight yesterday to secure their first Test win in the Caribbean since 2009.

The ambition shown to wrest back control after losing the first Test in Antigua by 201 runs, and in the absence of regular faces such as Mushfiqur Rahim and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, highlighted the team's ability to inspire with a bold and pronounced approach.

As for the architects of this momentous win, several players had pivotal roles, but Mehedi Hasan Miraz stood out. Rallying his troops with grit, controlling emotions, and leaving a tactical sparkle, Miraz achieved a dreamy start to his first Test series as the stand-in skipper.

Few would have believed Miraz when he spoke of a comeback after the first Test. The greater challenge lay in making his teammates believe in the process. The decision to bat first was a significant departure from Bangladesh's usual preference to bowl first and assess conditions. Even as the batting faltered in the first innings, Miraz ensured his side did not retreat into a shell.

Facing a verbal barrage from the Windies quicks, who targeted his discomfort against short deliveries, Miraz rose to the challenge. His 42 in the second innings may appear modest in terms of runs, but its impact was profound. With Alzarri Joseph and Jayden Seales breathing fire early in the second innings, energised by Bangladesh's first-innings struggles, Miraz counterattacked.

Coming in at number four after Mominul

Haque fell ill, Miraz joined Shadman Islam in taking the game on. In the space of 12 deliveries, following Shahadat Hossain Dipu's dismissal after a promising start, the pair smashed 33 runs. Shadman's powerful cut against Alzarri set the tone before Miraz unleashed, striking Seales for four consecutive boundaries. Six fours came from seven deliveries, and Miraz capped the sequence with a near six off Seales. This counterattacking surge liberated Bangladesh's batters, who had been cowering against the short-pitched barrage.

A 70-run partnership in such a short time provided the counterpunch the visitors needed. Miraz shared after the match, "I told them to play positively. With Mominul bhai feeling sick, the atmosphere inside the team wasn't great. I told Dipu he could take on their bowlers from the first delivery if he wanted. When I went to bat, I played the same way."

Miraz's contributions extended beyond his batting. His tactical nous as captain shone, with bowling changes tailored to match scenarios. When Kraigg Brathwaite attempted to steady the home side in their first innings, Miraz introduced Nahid Rana, whose short-pitched deliveries proved decisive. Brathwaite's discomfort against Taijul Islam was exploited in the second innings as well.

There was no haste or lack of patience in Miraz's captaincy. He used Rana's pace in short bursts and rotated Taskin Ahmed and Hasan Mahmud effectively. His foresight in the fourth innings, utilising Taijul Islam -- who is the leading wicket-taker in fourth innings Tests over the past 12 months -- ensured the fields and match scenarios aligned perfectly for success.

## Jaker's moment under the sun

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

"You deserve all the credit," wrote veteran Bangladesh cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim on Facebook, praising Jaker Ali Anik's heroic 91 off 106 balls in the second innings of the final Test against the West Indies in Jamaica on Tuesday. Despite the bowling unit stealing the spotlight after the Tigers secured a massive 101-run win, Jaker's valiant knock will be etched in Bangladesh's cricketing folklore, given the stakes involved.

Playing only his third Test, the 26-year-old seized the moment when his team needed him most. Even as partners fell at the other end, Jaker stood firm, helping Bangladesh level



"I was 11 years old back then. I didn't miss a single match of that 2009 series. I used to stay up all night watching Bangladesh play. One day, my father woke up and found that I was watching the game. He just stared at me, but didn't scold. Fifteen years later, I am playing for Bangladesh in the same series. If Abba were alive, he might have stayed up all night watching me play. Anyway, this is for you, Abba,"

The 26-year-old Jaker wrote on Facebook.

the series and end their 15-year wait for a Test win on Caribbean soil.

Setting a target of 287 runs and leaving the hosts with a record run-chase at the venue, Jaker stayed undeterred. His defiance, demonstrated by clearing the Windies bowlers five times over the ropes, will linger in the memories of Bangladesh fans.

The wicketkeeper-batter scored 62 of his team's 75 runs on the fourth day after the visitors resumed on 193 for five. His efforts paved the way for Taijul Islam to spin the Windies batters into disarray, as they

were bowled out for 185, with Taijul claiming five for 50.

"I know you will do the most epic things," Mushfiqur also said of Jaker, whose selection for Tests had drawn criticism. However, Rajin Saleh, Jaker's former Sylhet teammate and the team's current head coach, described it as "a quite familiar innings, as he often plays this kind of knock in the National Cricket League."

Jaker has already scored fifties in each of the three Tests he has played, becoming the first to achieve such a feat. Rajin believes he should have received his Test call-up before his T20I debut.

"In my observation, Jaker Ali is firstly a good Test player, then a good ODI player, and lastly a T20 player," Rajin told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Doing something like this against the West Indies, in the West Indies, is definitely a big achievement. I think it was difficult for him to score runs from the position he came in. It was a pressure situation, but he stood firm," he added.

Regardless of whether Jaker establishes himself as "a genuine Test player," as Rajin suggested, what is undeniable for now is that he has shown promise in providing a crucial safety net to the batting order during moments of crisis.

Second innings specialist Taijul [Islam] got five wickets. He was excellent. He has been very good for the last 10 years.

Bangladesh captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz

Taijul Islam picked up his 15th five-wicket haul in the format and fourth abroad.

The 2023-25 cycle of the World Test Championship was Bangladesh's best in terms of matches won. The Tigers clinched four matches (lost eight in 12 matches) -- the highest in any cycle of the competition. Before this, they won a solitary match in the previous cycle.

Bangladesh have now won three Tests in the West Indies -- the most they've won in any country. The Tigers won two away Tests in Pakistan and Zimbabwe and one each in New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

Jaker Ali became the first Bangladesh player to hit half-centuries in each of his first three Tests. His 91 in the Jamaica Test was his third fifty in the format and also his career-best score.

## JUNIOR ASIA CUP HOCKEY Bangladesh finish fifth with win over China

SPORTS REPORTER

Forward Rakibul Hasan and defender Amirul Islam scored hatricks to steer Bangladesh to fifth position in Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup with a comprehensive 6-3 win over China in their place-deciding match in Muscat, Oman yesterday.

The men in red and green, who secured a maiden FIH Hockey Junior World Cup berth on Tuesday after beating Thailand, will return home today with their best-ever finish among 10 teams in the last 16 years.

China had given Bangladesh a run for their money in their last pool match which had ended in a 1-1 draw, allowing Bangladesh an opportunity to face Thailand in the first place-deciding match.

This time the charges of Moududur Rahman Shuvo did not give spirited China much room by taking the lead in the very first minute through with a strike from Rakibul. China, however, equalised in the first quarter and took the lead early in the second.

But penalty corner specialist Amirul, who converted three penalty corners in a span of nine minutes, made it 4-1 before half-time.

China pulled one back in the third quarter before Rakibul completed his hatrick with two goals from open play in the last quarter to ensure Bangladesh's third win in six matches in this.

### SHORT CORNER

#### Stokes fit for 2nd New Zealand Test

Captain Ben Stokes was named Wednesday in England's team for the second Test, starting on Friday, against New Zealand in Wellington, allaying concerns over his fitness. The visitors won the first Test in Christchurch by eight wickets inside four days and have stuck with the same XI for the next clash starting on Friday.



#### Pakistan recall Babar for SA tour

Pakistan recalled former skipper Babar Azam on Wednesday for the away Test series and white-ball matches against South Africa starting next week, but there was no place for spinner Sajid Khan. The 30-year-old star batsman Azam was dropped following defeat in the first Test against England in October and rested for the ongoing limited-over series against Zimbabwe.

#### West Indies duo fined for behaviour in Bangladesh loss

West Indies cricketers Jayden Seales and Kevin Sinclair were both fined Wednesday for breaching the International Cricket Council's code of conduct during the second Test defeat by Bangladesh. Fast bowler Seales was fined 25 percent of his match fee "for making aggressive gestures" towards the Bangladesh team after taking a wicket. He also received one demerit point for the offence. All-rounder Sinclair, who was not in the original XI but came on as a substitute fielder, was docked 15 percent of his match fee for sledging.

\*Read full stories on The Daily Star website

## SA push for WTC final

REUTERS, Gqeberha

South Africa's push for a place in the World Test Championship final continues on Thursday when they host Sri Lanka at St George's Park, where victory would be a giant step towards the decider at Lord's next year.

If South Africa win the second and final Test in the series, and both home fixtures against Pakistan starting later this month, they are guaranteed a place in the final.

They thumped Sri Lanka by 233 runs in the first Test in Durban, bowling them out for their test record low of 42 in the first innings, but the wicket in Gqeberha may be more to the visitors' liking.

Traditionally lower and slower, the coastal venue provides more opportunities for spinners and was the scene of a historic eight-wicket victory for Sri Lanka in 2019 when they became the only sub-continent side to win a Test series in South Africa.

The hosts have lost all-rounder Wiaan Mulder and fast bowler Gerald Coetzee to injury, and have called up 18-year-old

speedster Kwen Maphaka as a replacement for the latter.

Whether he makes his debut remains to be seen, but he has a good chance with Dane Paterson the other seamer option in the squad. South Africa could play an extra batter as a replacement for Mulder, or go with spinning all-rounder Senuran Muthusamy.

The first Test win had several impressive individual performances. Coach Shukri Conrad praised the mentality of his side after they claimed a fourth Test win in a row.

"We get on with things and what we continually tell the guys is that they need to be themselves on and off the field," Conrad said. "They're just a great bunch who get on with it, they train hard, enjoy each other's company away from the field."

Sri Lanka needed to improve with the bat after their woeful first innings in Durban and did so by scoring 282 in the second.

Sri Lanka can also reach the WTC final but will have to win in Gqeberha and beat Australia in two home Tests starting in January to stand a chance.



## T20 SERIES TEEING OFF IN TEA TOWN

Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty and her Irish counterpart Gaby Lewis, wearing traditional attire of tea leaves pickers, unveil the T20 series trophy at the historic Malnichera Tea Estate in Sylhet yesterday. Having won the ODI series 3-0, the hosts will look to emulate the success in the T20 series, beginning today.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



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## Pacers lead Tigers to glory

NABID YEASIN

The 101-run win over hosts West Indies in the second and final Test in Jamaica on Tuesday was the fitting way for Bangladesh to close out the 2023-2025 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle – the best one the Tigers experienced to date.

And, while there have been sporadic flashes of brilliance coming from batters, bowlers or fielders, the one department that often set the tone in the recent wins in the longest format is the Tigers' pace unit.

The convincing victory not only saw Bangladesh bounce back to draw the two-match series but also marked the Tigers' first win in the Caribbean in 15 years.

It was also the third away Test win for Bangladesh this year and the first time that they managed to win a total of four Tests in a single WTC cycle.

In fact, in the previous two WTC cycles, Bangladesh managed to win just a solitary game – a historic victory against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in the second cycle (2021-2023) after going winless in their first WTC foray between 2019-2021.

Winning a Test requires a team to possess the ability to scalp the opposition's 20 wickets – a reality that haunted the Tigers for a long time. However, with the core group of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz takes a selfie with teammates after their 101-run win over hosts West Indies in the second Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday. Having suffered a 201-run hammering in the first Test in Antigua, the Tigers bounced back to level the two-match series 1-1.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

### FACEBOOK POST

## Hindu temples, houses attacked in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least two temples were ransacked and “many” homes and shops of the Hindu people were vandalised at a remote village in Dowarabazar upazila of Sunamganj on Tuesday night, said locals.

Officials said they were yet to assess how many properties had been damaged.

A mob attacked Manglargaon village after local Muslims said a 21-year-old Hindu man posted an image on Facebook around 7:40pm that hurt their religious feelings, said Zahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dowarabazar Police Station.

“As locals demonstrated, saying that they were outraged by the Facebook post, we took the man in custody for his safety. The mob attacked our team and tried to snatch him. They then vandalised the man and several others' houses and shops owned by Hindu people,” he said.

Later, army personnel arrived at the spot and they along with local, political, and Islamist leaders calmed the situation, he added.

Khokan Roy, general secretary of Kendriyo Loknath Mandir in Sunamganj town, said, “The mob ransacked a Loknath temple and stole valuables worth over Tk 15 lakh. They also vandalised almost 100

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Banks were considered ‘the best place to rob’

BB governor tells NYT about 15-year AL rule

STAR REPORT

Ahsan H Mansur

has said he never witnessed “any country where the highest level of the government, engineering with the help of some goons,” managed “the systematic robbing of the banks”.

“The highest level of political authority realized that the banks are the best place to rob,” the Bangladesh Bank governor told The New York Times in an article titled “How a Country's Economy Was Siphoned Dry”.

Bangladesh's currency was battered by what the new head of the central bank says was the looting of the banks under deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government.

Mansur calculates that about \$17 billion was siphoned from the country's financial system in the 15 years before the fall of the Hasina regime.

Using a web of financial schemes, Mansur said, the perpetrators in the government and at some of the country's biggest companies pulled off what was “effectively the largest bank heist in the history of money”. “Whole boards were hijacked,” said the governor.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



## Over 700 escaped prisoners still at large

Militants, death row convicts among them, says IG prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 700 inmates, including death row convicts and militants, remain at large around three months after they escaped from different prisons during and after the July-August mass uprising.

More than 2,200 prisoners escaped on and after August 5, and around 1,500 have so far been rearrested, said Brig Gen Syed Mohammad Motaheer Hossain, inspector general of prisons, during a press briefing at Prisons Headquarters yesterday.

The escaped prisoners include 70 militants, death row convicts, and individuals accused in sensational cases, he said, adding that efforts to recapture them are underway, he added.

In response to a query, Motaheer identified 17 out of 69 prisons across the country as at risk of collapse since these are very old with vulnerable infrastructure.

The government is aware of this issue, and the process of rebuilding some of these prisons is already underway, he said.

Since August 5, as many as 174 prisoners linked to militant outfits, including JMB, and 11 top criminals have been released on bail, the IG prisons said in response to another query.

“The release of prisoners is entirely under the jurisdiction of the court,” he said.

Motaheer said they have implemented a series of reformative measures to improve conditions at prisons, including better meals

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

**The escaped prisoners include 70 militants, death row convicts, and individuals accused in sensational cases**

## Rejoinder, our reply

Jatiya Nagorik Committee sent a rejoinder to our report titled “Nagorik Committee members split over ex-Shibir leader joining,” published on November 26, saying the report was a one-sided portrayal and appeared to align with the divisive tendency to stigmatise individuals.

The rejoinder said as a democratic platform, they follow a transparent process for each and every decision they make including the inclusion of any member, which naturally involves differing opinions.

“Singling out one individual while emphasising their past involvement with Islami Chhatra Shibir unfairly perpetuates a divisive narrative and undermines their right to engage in politics. Not only that, this report attempts to propagate a divisive narrative and undermines an individual's right to engage in politics,” it said.

Besides, the rejoinder said that there was no agenda regarding the inclusion of any members in the general meeting organised on November 22, let alone any vehement

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## MPs begin push to impeach South Korean president

AFP, Seoul

South Korean lawmakers yesterday accused President Yoon Suk Yeol of declaring martial law to stop criminal investigations into himself and his family, as they kickstarted a push to impeach him.

Yoon's declaration of South Korea's first martial law in over four decades was swiftly overturned by lawmakers in a night of drama, but has plunged the country into political turmoil and alarmed its close allies.

The future of Yoon, a conservative politician and former star public prosecutor who was elected president in 2022, now looks highly uncertain.

After jumping fences and tussling with security forces to get into parliament and vote down the martial law overnight, South Korea's opposition lawmakers have filed a motion to impeach Yoon.

The motion says Yoon “gravely and extensively violated the constitution and the law” and accuses him of imposing martial law “with the unconstitutional and illegal intent to evade imminent investigations... into alleged illegal acts involving himself and his family”.

Lawmakers could vote on the motion as soon as the early hours of Friday morning and Yoon's prospects look bleak.

The opposition holds a large majority in the 300-member parliament and needs only a handful of defections from the president's party to secure the two-thirds majority needed to pass the motion.

The main opposition Democratic Party has

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Yoon Suk Yeol

## 12 remanded in cases over violence at Ctg court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday placed 12 accused on a six-day remand in two cases over attacking police and obstructing their duties during violent protests over a former ISKCON leader's arrest.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sarker Hasan Shahriar passed the order after Kotwali police sought seven days to grill the suspects in custody, said Mofizur Uddin, additional deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

The 12 accused are Joy Nath, Runit Das, Nayan Das, Gagan Das, Sumit Das, Aman Das, Bishal Das, Sonu Methor, Suman Das, Rajesh Das, Durlav Das, and Ajay Sutradhar Chowdhury. They were produced before the court amid tight security in the morning.

On Monday, a local court granted police a seven-day remand of eight others accused in another case of attacking the police and obstructing their duty.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES Student leaders for council polls by early Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination and 29 other student organisations have agreed on demanding elections to student councils at universities and colleges across the country by late January or early February.

The decision was announced last night following a meeting between Students Against Discrimination and other student organisations at the former's office in the capital's Bangla Motor area.

“We have reached an agreement that elections to student councils at all universities and colleges, including Ducus, should be held by the last week of January or the first week of February,” Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, told reporters.

The platform's nine-point demand include banning partisan student politics on campuses.

“For over a decade, campuses were dominated by Chhatra League through a type of authoritarian political culture. This created a sense of fear among a generation about student politics. Also, debates have surfaced across educational institutions since August 5 about whether to allow student politics and in what form,” Hasnat said.

He said the student leaders agreed to address the negative aspects of past politics and reform them to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Polythene bags, which were used for packaging chemicals, are being washed in the Buriganga, polluting the river. These bags will be recycled. The photo was taken in the capital's Islambagh area recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### MASS UPRISING

## Amu, Qamrul shown arrested in genocide case

ICT sends them to jail



DU CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League ministers Amir Hossain Amu and Qamrul Islam have been shown arrested in a case filed at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) over their involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising.

The three-member ICT bench, led by Justice Golam Mortuza Mazumder, sent the two to jail after they were produced before it yesterday.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to bring Amu and Qamrul before it on December 17.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1