



Of fish crisis and loss of livelihood

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Israeli strikes kill 34 Palestinians in Gaza

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University students deserve a better learning experience

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Man City seek UCL comfort

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Try Hasina, Awami League

Families of martyred, forcibly disappeared, those injured during July uprising demand at rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families of the victims of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and those martyred and maimed in the July mass uprising yesterday demanded that ousted Sheikh Hasina and her party be brought to book.

Marking International Human Rights Day yesterday, Mayer Daak, a platform of the families of enforced disappearance victims, organised a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

Delegates from the United Nations, Jatiya Nagorik Committee, students against discrimination, rights defenders from home and abroad, leaders of the BNP, Jamaat, and Hefazat-e-Islam were on stage.

"We are able to hold an event in an open space on the 76th International Human Rights Day -- something that was not possible before. This is an achievement of 36th July," said noted rights activist Nur Khan, referring to Hasina's fall on August 5.

The killing of Hefazat activists in 2013, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killing of opposition activists under Awami League's 15-year rule bear the mark of genocide, he said.

Enforced disappearance victims who were released by the regime kept their ordeal a secret out of fear. Some of them are speaking up now, said Nur Khan.

People spent months and years in the tiny secret detention cells, said the member of the inquiry commission on enforced disappearances.

"They wrote many things on the walls. One of them wrote, 'I love my country'. We now have the opportunity to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. We must not miss this."

Jatiya Nagorik Committee Convener Nasir Uddin Patwary said, "Murderers of the Awami League's regime must be brought to justice. Justice first, election later. Unless we ensure justice for the martyred and injured, be it politics, election or something else, there will be failure."

Adviser Nahid Islam said, "The Awami League is a party that stands against humanity. Sheikh Hasina has blood on her hands, just like her father had. Sheikh Mujib established Baksal and violated human rights. Whenever they came to power, they violated human rights. The Awami League's time is up."

Referring to reports that people were blackmailed over cases related to the killings during the uprising, he said, "Students and the public are united against the exploiters and those rehabilitating the Awami League."

Regarding killings at the Bangladesh-India border, he said, "We must speak on the basis of justice and equality. Killings at the border to put pressure on Bangladesh are

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The brother and mother of martyred Soheli Rana, 37, weep as they demand that his body and grave be identified, at a rally organised by Mayer Daak in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. Soheli left home on July 18 to join the students' movement and went missing. After relentless searches, the family in August learned from DMCH authorities that Soheli died after being injured in the protest and was buried in the Rayerbazar Intellectuals' Graveyard as an "unclaimed person".

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Arakan Army claims control of border along Bangladesh

CNN ONLINE

One of the most powerful ethnic minority armed groups battling Myanmar's army has claimed the capture of the last army outpost in the strategic western town of Maungdaw, gaining full control of the 271-kilometer-long border with Bangladesh.

The capture by the Arakan Army makes the group's control of the northern part of Rakhine state complete, and marks another advance in its bid for self-rule there.

Rakhine has become a focal point for Myanmar's nationwide civil war, in which pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armed forces seeking autonomy battle the country's military rulers, who took power in 2021 after the army ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Khaing Thukha, a spokesperson for the Arakan Army, told The Associated Press by text message from an undisclosed location late Monday that his group had seized the last remaining military outpost in Maungdaw on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BNP proposes disbanding Rab

Party gives recommendations to police reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has recommended the dissolution of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), which is currently under US sanctions for serious human rights violations.

The proposal was part of the recommendation the party voluntarily made to the Police Administration Reform Commission on December 5, BNP Standing Committee Member Hafizuddin Ahmed said at a press conference held at the party chairperson's office in Gulshan yesterday.

Established in April 2004 during the tenure of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Rab has faced intense criticism both at home and abroad for its controversial actions. In 2014, BNP Chairperson Khaleda also called for the force to be disbanded.

"This is stated in medical science as well -- when gangrene sets in completely, there is no alternative but to amputate. Rab has become internationally condemned and has turned into a monstrous force within the country."

If Rab is disbanded, necessary steps must be taken to ensure that its responsibilities are transferred to the Armed Police Battalion and police stations.

"Rab has become internationally condemned and has turned into a monstrous force within the country."

Hafizuddin Ahmed
BNP Standing Committee Member

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

A brutal murder, a wicked cover up

Factory employee, cohorts kill owner, bury him under floor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owner of a fabric printing factory in the capital's Kamrangirchar was brutally killed, dismembered, and then buried inside his own factory early Friday.

Police recovered the body yesterday, four days after he went missing. Earlier, they arrested three people, including an employee of the factory.

Amirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kamrangirchar Police Station, said the deceased, identified as 57-year-old Nur-e-Alam, was murdered by his employee Miraj and three others.

The OC said Miraj was gambling with three outsiders inside the factory when Nur-e-Alam was sleeping in another room there. Alam woke up due to the noise the four were making and reprimanded them for gambling.

They then attacked Nur. One of them struck him with a hammer and another stabbed him in the chest, killing him on the spot.

They then dismembered the body and buried it about two feet beneath the ground inside the tinshed factory, OC Amirul said, quoting the arrestees.

The victim's son-in-law Ataulah Khan Sajib

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Nur-e-Alam

'Joy Bangla' no longer national slogan

SC stays HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court verdict that declared "Joy Bangla" as the country's national slogan.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed passed the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by the interim government challenging the HC judgement.

"Joy Bangla" will not be considered as the national slogan following this Appellate Division order," said Additional Attorney General Aneek R Haque, who appeared for the government during yesterday's hearing.

The apex court passed the order on the ground that the national slogan is a matter of the government's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus posing with the female student protesters, who were injured during the July uprising, in an event marking World Human Rights Day yesterday and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25) at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: P10

764 retired civil servants pitched for promotion

BAHARAM KHAN

A designated committee drew up a list of 764 retired bureaucrats for retrospective promotions yesterday.

The committee led by former finance secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan looked into the applications from over 1,500 individuals who retired between 2009 and August 4, 2024, and believed that they had been deprived by the Awami League regime.

If the government endorses the recommendation, the retired officials will get the perks and retirement funds that they would have enjoyed had they received the promotion on time.

The government may even reinstate some of them in different posts.

The five-member committee looked into the applications of 1,540 individuals who retired between 2009 and August 4, 2024. Zakir submitted the recommendations to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

The committee recommended promoting 119 as secretaries; 41 officials to grade-1 (secretary status); 528 as additional secretary; 72 as joint secretary; and four as deputy secretary.

The committee looked into 1,540 applications including 19 from family members of deceased officials. It did not review 13 of those as they fell outside its jurisdiction and mentioned why 763 others should not get retrospective promotions.

A member of the committee said some applicants expressed interest in contractual appointments without realising that that was strictly the government's discretion.

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Abdul Momen made ACC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government reconstituted the Anti-Corruption Commission by appointing a chairman and two commissioners today.

Former senior secretary to the Public Security Division of the home ministry Dr Mohammad Abdul Momen has been appointed as the new chairman, while Miah Mohammad Ali Akbar Azizi and Brigadier General (Retd) Hafiz Ahsan Farid as commissioners.

The Cabinet Division today issued a gazette notification regarding the appointments this afternoon.

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NATURE MAGAZINE Yunus among top 10 personalities

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has been named among the top 10 personalities in 2024 by the prestigious scientific journal Nature.

The publication described him as a “Nation Builder” for his impactful contributions to society.

The Nature Top 10 list highlights key developments in science and the people who have driven these advancements over the past year.

According to its website, the list is curated by Nature’s editors to reflect important trends in science, technology, engineering, and medicine and to recognise people shaping the world.

This year’s achievements span a range of remarkable contributions, from redefining weather forecasting to leading a nation.

Yunus, born in Chattogram during British-occupied India, witnessed significant geopolitical changes in his early life.

After the partition of India in 1947, Chattogram became part of East Pakistan. During the 1960s, Yunus pursued his studies in the United States, where he was mentored by Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, a pioneer in ecological economics. This field seeks to understand the relationship between economic systems and the natural world.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Al-Bashir now Syrian caretaker PM

Syrian media claim Israeli troops near Damascus

REUTERS, Damascus

An Israeli military incursion into Syria has reached about 25 km (16 miles) southwest of Damascus, Syrian security sources and media reports said yesterday, after Israel seized a buffer zone in southern Syria and launched air strikes on Syrian army and air bases overnight.

Israel’s military operation into Syria comes two days after the lightning overthrow of president Bashar al-Assad by a rebel alliance left Syrians, regional countries and world powers nervous about what comes next.

Meanwhile, Mohamed al-Bashir has been appointed caretaker prime minister of the transitional Syrian government until March 1, 2025, state media said yesterday.

Al-Bashir ran the rebel-led Salvation Government before the 12-day lightning offensive swept into Damascus.

A Syrian security source said Israeli troops reached Qatana, which is 10 km (six miles) into Syrian territory east of a demilitarised zone separating Israeli-occupied Golan Heights from Syria.



“The reports circulating in the media about the alleged advancement of Israeli tanks towards Damascus are false,” an Israeli military official said. “IDF troops are stationed within the buffer zone, as stated in the past.”

‘Joy Bangla’

FROM PAGE 1

policy decision and the judiciary cannot interfere in this issue, he added.

Last month, the government filed the leave to appeal petition with the SC seeking stay on the HC verdict that on March 10, 2020, declared “Joy Bangla” as the country’s national slogan and ordered the government to take necessary steps so that the slogan is used at all state functions and academic institutions’ assemblies.

On December 1 this year, the apex court stayed another HC verdict that justified August 15 as the national mourning day and public holiday.

The full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed passed the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by the government challenging the HC judgement.

On August 13 this year, the advisory council of the interim government took the decision that there would be no national holiday on August 15.

Wear masks outdoors

FROM PAGE 1

With an air quality index (AQI) score of 241 at 9:00am, Dhaka ranked first in the list of cities with the most polluted air.

An AQI between 151 and 200 is said to be “unhealthy” while 201 and 300 is considered “very unhealthy”, and 301 to 400 is considered “hazardous”, posing serious health risks to residents.

Pakistan’s Lahore, Vietnam’s Hanoi, and India’s Delhi occupied the second, third, and fourth places with AQI of 219, 194, and 191 respectively.

In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five criteria pollutants – Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO2, CO, SO2 and Ozone.

Dhaka has long been grappling with air pollution issues. Its air quality usually turns unhealthy in winter and improves during the monsoon.

As per the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and acute respiratory infections.

Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 1

Outpost commander Brig Gen Thurein Tun, was captured while attempting to flee the battle, Khaing Thukha said.

The situation in Maungdaw could not be independently confirmed, with access to the internet and mobile phone services in the area mostly cut off.

Myanmar’s military government did not immediately comment.

Maungdaw, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) southwest of Mandalay, Myanmar’s second-largest city, has been the target since June of an Arakan Army offensive. The group captured Paletwa and Buthidaung, two other towns on the border with Bangladesh, earlier this year.

Since November 2023, the Arakan Army has gained control of 11 of Rakhine’s 17 townships, along with one in neighbouring Chin state.

Ann, a town in Rakhine that hosts the strategically important military headquarters overseeing the western part of the country, appears to be on the verge of falling entirely to the Arakan Army.

The group said in a statement posted on the Telegram messaging app late Friday that it had taken more than 30 military outposts, except the army’s western command, which controls Rakhine and the southern part of neighbouring Chin state, as well as the country’s territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal.

Shibbari Youth Camp & George Bahini

FROM PAGE 12

the support of George and other political leaders and organisers, a training camp known as the KBM College Camp was set up at Gadagari Hat in South Kotwali.

On the afternoon of March 27, George joined the Bangalee soldiers at the EPR headquarters in Kuthibari after they had revolted. As the Pakistani soldiers retaliated with gunfire, George and the Bangalee soldiers formed a counter-resistance. After forcing the Pakistani soldiers to retreat, George, along with the Bangalee soldiers, students, and youth, raided the Kuthibari armoury.

On March 31, after four days of intense fighting, the Pakistani army was completely driven out of Dinajpur, the book reads.

After the victory, George started training young recruits at Dinajpur Stadium and a temporary camp in Buaadanga.

DINAJPUR FALLS

On April 12, as the Pakistani army advanced towards Dinajpur from Saidpur Cantonment, freedom fighters put up a resistance. A group of freedom fighters led by George also participated in this battle.

Anwarul Kadir Jewel, second in command of Shibbari camp, said, “However, due to the overwhelming firepower of the Pakistani army, Dinajpur fell on April 13.”

Subsequently, George and his team retreated to India, seeking refuge at the Rajibpur Missionary Church in Gangarampur, West Bengal.

TRAINING IN INDIA

In late April, George resumed training freedom fighters on a smaller scale near the Rajibpur Missionary Church.

Jewel said, “We started with training 18 individuals at the Rajibpur church. But as the number of freedom fighters grew, we moved the camp to Osman Gani’s estate and mango orchard in Shibbari.”

Initially, the freedom fighters received food supplies from Rajibpur church. However, as their number increased, the supplies became insufficient.

“We raised funds by going door-to-door and performing songs on local trains. With just one meal a day, we continued training,” said Jewel.

During this period, George visited refugee camps in neighbouring areas

to encourage students and youth to join the war effort. As a result, the number of freedom fighters in Shibbari camp steadily increased. In the first phase, 18 trained freedom fighters were sent to Siliguri for advanced training.

To accommodate the increasing number of freedom fighters, training was expanded to the Nimtola field near the camp.

Between June and July, the number of youths joining the Shibbari camp surged, leading to space constraints. So, many were sent to 12 other camps, including Patiram, Pransagar, Dangarhat, Kusamandi, Panihati, Raiganj, Katla, Malan, and Bateshwar.

The Shibbari camp and Geroge Das maintained regular communication with these camps.

Tarani Kanta Roy, one of the first trainers at Shibbari camp, said, “We started with just three trainers. However, within a month, our team expanded to 13. After three months of training, I led a group of 100 people to Patiram, as Shibbari was becoming overcrowded with recruits.”

Rajendranath Roy, a Shibbari camp trainee, who fought under the Malan sub-sector in Chapainawabganj, told this newspaper, “We, the trainees of the Shibbari camp, including those trained under George, were deployed to various sub-sectors after completing our training.”

DEPLOYMENT IN WARZONE

Under the leadership of captain Idris, Bir Bikram, freedom fighters were engaging the enemy forces in several areas under the region including Birol and Hili in Dinajpur and Kansat in Chapainawabganj since May.

In July, the areas came under the jurisdiction of the Hamzapur sub-sector (Sector-7).

Freedom fighters trained at the Shibbari Youth Camp were initially deployed to the Hamzapur sub-sector.

In August, floods and landslides disrupted the operations of Sector 7



George JM Das (1940-2009)

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Camp location: Shibbari in Gangarampur, West Bengal.

Operation areas: Birol, Hakimpur, Ramsagar, Khanpur, Saraswatipur, and Jamalpur upazilas in Dinajpur.

Timeframe: March – December.

Freedom fighters trained: At least 2,500.

A group of freedom fighters along with their trainers at the Shibbari Youth Camp in Nimtola field in 1971.

PHOTO: ANWARUL KADIR JEWEL

Recent photo of Ramsagar Dighi in Dinajpur. Here George Bahini fought the Pakistani army in 1971.

PHOTO: AHMAD ISTIAK

headquarters in Tarannagpur and the Panihati Youth Camp.

At that time, the increasing instances of torture and killings within the country led to a surge in refugees seeking shelter across the border. Many young people also arrived at the Shibbari Youth Camp for training.

Jewel said, “They came to the camp and declared, ‘We’re not here for food; we’re here to fight. Train us!’ Over a

month, the Indian Army trained more than 500 young recruits.”

In late October, the Hamzapur sub-sector announced plans to deploy trained youth for operations within the warzone, he added.

Jewel said, “In early November, a group of 41 trained freedom fighters from the Shibbari camp were selected to join a suicide squad alongside the Madras Regiment.”

A brutal murder

FROM PAGE 1

said Nur used to live in the factory, which he set up a year ago in Kamrangirchar’s Hasan Nagar area, while his family lives in Mymensingh’s Gafargaon.

Miraj, who was employed 20 days before the murder, used to live in another room in the factory.

“My father-in-law went to bed early on Thursday night as he was supposed to visit the family the next morning. But he woke up as the killers were making noise.

“After killing him, the killers dug a pit, placed his dismembered body inside, and sealed the pit with plaster to cover up the murder,” he said.

Ataullah added, “My mother-in-

Bangladesh elected VP of UN Human Rights Council

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been unanimously elected vice president of the UN Human Rights Council responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights around the globe.

The decision has been made on Monday, according to a statement of the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva yesterday.

Bangladesh will be vice-president for entire 2025.

The bureau of the Human Rights Council consists of one president and four vice presidents representing each of the five UN regional groups.

This is the first time Bangladesh is going to serve as VP since the Human Rights Council was established in 2006.

In phases, other groups of freedom fighters trained at Shibbari entered the country.

Under George Das’s leadership, over 100 freedom fighters participated in battles at various locations, including Birol, Hakimpur, Ramsagar, Khanpur, Saraswatipur, and Jamalpur in Dinajpur, he added.

INDIGENOUS FIGHTERS

Individuals from various ethnic minority groups across the country actively participated in the war, many of whom fought under George.

Villages like Halja, Raghudevur, Achutia, and Jhenaikuri in Ranipukur union of Birol upazila were home to various ethnic minority groups, including Santals, Mundas, Koras, Oraons, Mahalis, and Turis. Many individuals from these communities participated in the war under George.

In recent decades, many members of these ethnic minority groups have migrated to India.

Kina Kora is one of the few surviving freedom fighters from the Kora community who participated in the war. He fought alongside George in the operation to destroy a bridge in Jhenaikuri village.

Speaking to this newspaper, Kina said, “We used 40kg of explosives to destroy the bridge in Jhenaikuri village. This stopped the Pakistani soldiers from crossing it to attack our villages near the border.”

Not only members of small ethnic groups but also many Christian residents of Dinajpur town fought in the war under George and his force.

Vincent Marandi, a Christian freedom fighter, said, “Dinajpur had a significant Christian population at the time. As George himself was Christian, he had the loyalty of the local Christian community.”

GEORGE’S BROTHERS

According to the books, all four brothers of George actively participated in the war.

James M Das Lewis, a former EPR member, fought alongside George in Kuthibari. Robert RN Das served as a relief officer for the Mujibnagar government. John SK Das and Anthony NN Das were active combatants alongside George Das. Anthony fought with George in the battles of Birol and Ghughudanga.

Translated and edited from Bangla by Subrata Roy.

law received a phone call from her husband around 4:35am. When she answered, no one spoke, but she could hear noises and shouting from the other end. She suspected that something might have happened at the factory.”

The next morning, as Nur did not return home, the family tried calling him and found his phone switched off. They then sought help from police.

OC Amirul said they heard the description of the phone call on the night of the incident and analysed other evidences, leading to the arrest Miraj and two others. “We’re trying to arrest the other killer.”

Nur’s body was sent to hospital morgue for an autopsy.

764 retired civil servants

FROM PAGE 1

An analysis of the committee’s report reveals that it recommended four-step promotions for nine, three-step promotions for 34, two-step promotions for 126, and one-step promotions for 595.

Other members of the committee, formed on September 16, 2024, are from the Cabinet Division, public

administration, finance division, and justice division.

It held 28 meetings to come up with the report before the 90-day deadline.

ABM Abdus Sattar, convener of an employee forum against discrimination, said he hoped the report would lead to fair treatment of officials deprived earlier.

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RABANABAD-ANDHARMANIK ESTUARY

Of fish crisis and loss of livelihood

Fishers hold Payra power plant, Payra port responsible

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

A tributary of Rabanabad river merges with the Andharmanik river to form an estuary in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali before the rivers descend to the Bay of Bengal.

On the northern corner of this estuary lies the Payra Thermal Power Plant, while the Payra Sea Port lies on the southern corner.

The 1,320 MW coal-fired power plant was commissioned in 2020. The Payra Sea Port was inaugurated in 2016-17 fiscal year.

Before the port and the power plant came into the picture, the estuary used to be a rich and abundant fish reserve, especially of hilsa.

Andharmanik river was also declared a hilsa sanctuary.

Thousands of fishermen in Patuakhali and neighbouring districts used to catch hilsa and other fish in the two rivers and the estuary.

However, over the past few years since the port and the power plant became fully operational, the scenario changed significantly, much to the woes of the local fishermen.

CHAOS ON THE SURFACE

Around 3:00pm on November 10, this correspondent witnessed a chaotic scene while sitting on the bank of Rabanabad river adjacent to the Payra power plant.

Some fishermen were waiting in their fishing boats and trawlers after throwing their large nets in the water to catch hilsa.

Right then, a lighter ship was seen coming from the Bay. Visibly upset, the fishermen began waving a red towel, signalling the ship to change its course.

The ship, however, paid no heed to the signal and ran straight through the nets, tearing those apart, while the waves caused by its propellers swelled the river's water and pulled the nets to the surface, and the cries of the fishermen were lost amid the ship's loud noise.

"This has become a daily occurrence

since the port and power plant opened up here," alleged Alauddin, another fisherman who was standing by this correspondent.

"Ships come and go like this day and night, leaving the nets of fishermen torn on their way. Each of these hilsa nets costs between Tk 3-5 lakh. Who knows how many such nets got destroyed over the years, and how many fishermen had to suffer for this!" he added.

LESS FISH, LOST LIVELIHOOD

Over the past few years, fish populations in the estuary, which used to be an abundant reserve of hilsa and other fish, have depleted alarmingly, making

Hilsa is a deep-sea fish that comes to the river to release eggs. If the water of a river is polluted, the movement of hilsa decreases in that river. Also, if hilsa eggs are released in polluted water, all the eggs don't hatch, reducing the fish population.

MD LOKMAN ALI
Dean of Fisheries, PSTU

fishing no longer profitable for the local fishermen.

Lamenting about it, Alauddin said, "If so many ships ply every day, how will fish come to the river?"

Fishermen Hossain Sharif, 48, and Harun, 35, of Pashurbunia village under Kalapara upazila, have been engaged in catching hilsa in the Andharmanik and Rabanabad rivers for their livelihood for years.

"Even around seven years back, I owned two trawlers and would catch hilsa worth Tk 15,000-20,000 in a single trip on a trawler. Now, I can catch hilsa worth hardly around Tk 3,000-4,000 a day, while each trip on the trawler costs Tk 5,000. Burdened by debt, I had to sell off one trawler, and some of my land. I can barely make ends meet

now," said Sharif.

Echoing him, Harun said the movement of fish in the rivers reduced considerably since the thermal power plant became operational and ships began plying the rivers in large numbers.

Due to this crisis of fish, many fishermen were compelled to change their profession.

Once a fisherman, Habibul Bashar of Panjupara village now provides ride-hailing service with his motorbike for a living.

Bashir Uddin Howladar, 48, who used to sell fish in Banati Bajar, has given up his business due to a crisis of fish.

Fisherman Ashraf Ali Pada, who caught hilsa in Andharmanik river for 15 years, said he now hunts crabs and sells those for Tk 500-700 a day.

Many other fishermen are now working as day labourers, masons or rickshaw pullers.

TROUBLED WATERS

According to Payra sea port authorities, about 4,000 domestic and foreign ships pass through the port every year, alongside numerous lighter ships.

If the port becomes connected to the rest of the country through a road network, transporting goods from the port will become a lot easier and hence the number of ships to the port will increase further, they opined.

This, in turn, will only reduce the fish resources of the rivers and add to the woes of the local fishermen.

Another troubling fact that came to light is the discharge of hot water into the river from the power plant.

The power plant has two pipes connected to Andharmanik river on its south side and two more pipes to Rabanabad river on the east side.

When one unit of the plant is operational, water is discharged from one pipe on each side, while both units being operational means water will get discharged through all four pipes.

On September 21 at around 9:00am, and again on November 10 at around 4:00pm, this correspondent observed that the water discharged through the pipes connected to Rabanabad river was of much higher temperature than normal.

Hashem Pahlowan, 65, a resident of Char Nishanbaria area along the east side of the power plant, also said the pipes discharge hot water into the rivers, which may have reduced the rivers' fish population.

Dulal Majhi, 70, another resident of the area, echoed him.

AUTHORITIES SAY OTHERWISE

However, Payra power plant authorities disagreed with what the fishers claimed.

Contacted, Azimur Rahman, deputy manager of the plant, said although hot water from the boiler is pumped and released into the river through pipes, this water has no negative impact on the river.

He said the plying of ships in the river led to the decline in the rivers' fish reserve.

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BNP to establish accountability-based govt

Says Tarique Rahman

BSS, Dhaka

If Bangladesh Nationalist Party comes to power, it will establish a government focused on accountability to the people, said its acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday.

Speaking at a training workshop in Cumilla, Tarique outlined BNP's 31-point proposal for state reforms, urging party members to widely disseminate the proposals across the country.

He stressed that the outline represents BNP's plans for governance, aiming to resolve national issues in phases once in power. He called for the inclusion of all democratic opinions in the proposal, which was updated from an initial 27-point plan to 31 points.

Tarique also highlighted the sacrifices made by his family, referencing the martyrdom of his father, former president Ziaur Rahman, and the suffering of his mother, Begum Khaleda Zia, and brother Arafat Rahman. He criticised the Awami League government for destroying the education system and fostering corruption.

The BNP leader said the youth should be made aware of corruption from an early age. He said the education system should be modernised to create skilled citizens. He also said the public transport system should be improved, adding coordinated efforts should be taken to deal with traffic congestion.

BNP Standing Committee member Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, who inaugurated the workshop, called for early general elections, promising that BNP would win a fair vote. The event was attended by BNP leaders from across Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, and surrounding districts, with plans to extend the training to grassroots levels.

Respect our sovereignty

BNP tells India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-India relations should be based on state-to-state interactions rather than influenced by individuals or organisations, BNP leaders said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after paying homage at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy urged India to refrain from interfering in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

"No nation's interference is desirable to the people of an independent country. Bangladeshis will decide who is competent for which roles; there is no need for external advice. If needed, we can bring in consultants," he said.

Gayeshwar emphasised the importance of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

March towards Bangladesh mission halted

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Hundreds of protesters, including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh members, marched towards the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi yesterday, alleging human rights violations against minorities in Bangladesh.

The Delhi Civil Society and other organisations joined the protest, which began at 11:00am.

The procession was halted by police at Teen Murti roundabout, far from the high-security diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri, where the mission is located, according to the law enforcers.

Security was tightened around the High Commission, following vandalism at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala last week.

Protesters called for UN intervention and urged Bangladesh to end alleged atrocities against Hindus.

Punish those responsible for BDR carnage

Demand former armed forces officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of former armed forces officers yesterday called for punishment for all those responsible for the BDR carnage that led to the killing of 57 army officers, as well as the murder of Major Sinha.

They also demanded justice for all the disappearances and murders that occurred during the previous government's tenure.

The officers also sought the reinstatement of around 1,000 army, navy, and air force personnel who were dismissed at various points during the last regime and are still within the service age.

The statements were made during a press briefing held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium, organised by two platforms of former armed officers: "Justice for Comrades" and "Sohojoddha."

At the briefing, Major (ret'd) Shakil Newaz stated, "The neutrality and professionalism of the armed forces have repeatedly been questioned in different political situations, often influenced by the interests of the powerful. As a result, we have witnessed the abuse of martial law, planned killings, disappearances, and the unjust convictions and dismissals of meritorious officers by military courts without pensions."

Major Shakil emphasised, "We are here to highlight the ongoing injustice faced by serving and retired military members over the past 15 years. We have seen how agencies like DGFI, NSI, SB, and DB, under



Two farmers harvesting spinach in a lush crop field in Keraniganj yesterday. These freshly plucked greens are prepared to be sold in the kitchen markets of the capital, ensuring a supply of winter produce.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Yarn, fabrics show opens in Dhaka

STAR REPORT

ASK Trade & Exhibitions Pvt Ltd is set to host the 10th Yarn, Fabrics & Accessories Show from December 11-14 at ICCB Dhaka, said a press release.

The event will feature over 150 international suppliers showcasing the latest innovations in yarn, fabrics, and accessories under one roof.

Targeted at buying offices, agents, RMG exporters, knit composite units, label manufacturers, and merchandisers, the show provides a prime platform to source new collections and connect with suppliers.

Tipu Sultan Bhuiyan, managing director of ASK Trade & Exhibitions, highlighted the significance of such a focused tradeshow in sourcing the latest collections for upcoming seasons.

The event is supported by Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association, Merchandising Brotherhood Association Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Merchandisers & Suppliers Association, benefiting their members.

Open exclusively for business visitors, the show will run daily from 11:00am to 7:00pm, serving as a vital sourcing gateway for the industry.

Sitakunda farmers cash in on early bean cultivation

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Hundreds of farmers in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila have reaped good profits by cultivating Rupban, an early bean variety, in the hilly areas this year.

The farmers found high demand for their bean harvest as it matures earlier compared to other varieties of beans. As such, they managed to sell the crops profitably.

Visiting the Kumira area in the upazila recently, this correspondent observed that farmers were harvesting beans from their land.

Sitakunda's hilly land is famous for producing high-yielding varieties of beans, tomatoes, gourds and pumpkins every year.

Farmers in this area usually cultivate winter beans, but in recent years cultivation of early beans in summer has become popular for profitability.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension in Sitakunda upazila, at least 300 farmers cultivated Rupban beans on 40 hectares of hilly lands in the upazila.

The farmers planted the bean seeds in April, and within two months, bans were ready for harvest from June.

Mohi Uddin, a farmer from Kumira area, said he had cultivated early beans on two acres of land this year spending Tk 1,25,000 and is now

selling his produce at Tk 140-150 per kilogramme.

"I am expecting a profit of Tk 1.5 lakh," he added.

"These early beans are in high demand. Sometimes, we cannot meet the demand of the buyers as the supply of beans is inadequate," said Hasmot, 55, another farmer.



Mentionable, beans cultivated in this upazila last year were exported to the Middle-east.

Contacted, Habib Ullah, agricultural extension officer in Sitakunda, said, "Sitakunda's weather condition is favourable for early bean cultivation, making farmers more interested in it day by day."

"We are communicating with the growers regularly to help them tackle any kind of crop disease," he added.

The day Tangail tasted freedom



MIRZA SHAKIL

On December 11, 1971, freedom fighters raised the flag of an independent Bangladesh after freeing Tangail from the grip of Pakistani occupation forces.

The Zila Swadhin Bangla Gono Mukti Parishad was formed in March 1971, with local youths beginning to organise. Freedom fighters underwent rigorous training in preparation for battle.

Despite their initial resistance, Pakistani forces entered Tangail on April 3, overcoming freedom fighters at Goran-Satiachara in Mirzapur.

Forced to retreat, the fighters regrouped. Soon after, the Kaderia Bahini, under Siddique's leadership, launched strategic attacks on the Pakistani forces, supported by another group led by Khandakar Abdul Baten.

On December 10, the Pakistani army's morale shattered after 2,000 Indian paratroopers from the Mitro Bahini landed at Poulee, near Tangail. Facing relentless resistance, the Pakistani forces retreated towards Dhaka.

By early December 11, freedom fighters entered Tangail, greeted by jubilant crowds flooding the streets to celebrate their newfound freedom.

Tangail Municipality traditionally hosts a six-day Victory Festival from December 11 to December 16. This year, a rally, cultural programmes, and a discussion meeting will be held at Shaheed Srity Poura Udyan, according to Shihab Raihan, the municipal administrator.

AL leader dies

FROM PAGE 5

He was shifted to Sirajganj General Hospital around 5:00am, where doctors declared him dead.

The body has been sent to Shaheed M Monsur Ali Medical College for autopsy.

On completion of legal formalities, it will be handed over to his family, the jailer added.

Meanwhile, four Awami League leaders have died in Bogura jail custody within a month till Monday.

Abdul Matin Mithu, 65, organising secretary of Gabtoli upazila AL unit's proposed committee, died around 9:00am on Monday. He fell ill inside the jail and was undergoing treatment at the Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Jailer Syed Shah Sharif told The Daily Star.

Earlier in November, Shahidul Islam Ratan, general secretary of AL's Bogura town ward-14 unit; Abdul Latif, treasurer of AL's Shibganj upazila unit; and Shahadat Alam Jhunu, organising secretary of Bogura district AL, also died in Bogura jail custody.

12 remanded

FROM PAGE 5

In the violence case, eight accused were each remanded for five days. They are Ahmed Hossen, Sakibul Alam, Rupan Das, Suman Das, Md Rafiq, Sowrav Das, Sujan Chandra Das, and Imon Chowkrabarty, said Mafiz Uddin, additional deputy commissioner (Prosecution) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

Chinmoy, also a spokesperson for Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, was arrested on November 25 at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in a case for disrespecting the national flag.

Following his bail rejection, clashes erupted at the Chattogram court premises between police, lawyers, and Chinmoy's followers. During the unrest, lawyer Saiful Islam Alif was beaten and hacked to death.

Police have filed three cases naming 79 individuals and accusing 1,400 unidentified people over the clash. Alif's father and brother have lodged separate cases, while another individual filed a case for injuries sustained during the violence. Police, who arrested 40 suspects, said CCTV footage revealed that those involved in Alif's murder were mostly cleaners by profession.

PRAYER
TIMING
DECEMBER 11

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 5:20

12:45

3:45

5:22

7:00

JAMAAT 5:55

1:15

4:00

5:25

7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Respect our sovereignty

FROM PAGE 3

mutual respect, saying, "India is a neighbour, and if our friendship is rooted in equality and shared interests, both nations will benefit."

However, he accused India of exerting influence over Bangladesh's internal matters in the past, claiming, "For years, India

dictated key appointments — from bank managing directors to judges and ministers."

He said bilateral ties should prioritise country-to-country relations over party or personal affiliations. "If India acknowledges this, a stronger friendship will follow," he added.

Meanwhile, in Rajshahi, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi staged a symbolic protest by burning an Indian-made bedsheet during a "Boycott Indian Products" programme.

"This bedsheet from Jaipur symbolises the rejection of India's undue influence," he said.

Punish those

FROM PAGE 3

the Hasina regime, have tortured, humiliated, and repressed dedicated military members, undermining our security system."

He further said, "We have witnessed extrajudicial killings, abductions, false charges, and torture as part of a broader culture of impunity and injustice."

He also criticised the lack of accountability for high-ranking officials involved in these crimes.

Referring to the BDR massacre of 2009, Major Shakil remarked, "We saw how 57 army officers were brutally killed, but the full investigation into this incident has yet to be completed, and as a result, the real perpetrators remain free."

He also condemned the lack of proper trials for other serious crimes and criticised the dismissal

of key figures involved in the murder of Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan, specifically referencing the case of the wife of death-row convict Pradeep Kumar Das being discharged from the case.

SIX OFFICERS HARASSED

On November 9, two naval officers and four personnel of different ranks were picked up from a restaurant in Khilkhet by individuals posing as DGFI, the officials claimed at the briefing.

Later, they were detained in the police station for around 20 hours. However, they were released after the intervention of "Justice for Comrades". But no explanation has been given as to why they were picked up.

Those who are trying to embarrass the interim government and the army chief by working in this way have to be identified, said Major Shakil Newaz.

Of fish crisis and loss of livelihood

FROM PAGE 3

Asked the same question, Engineer Shah Abdul Mawla, plant manager of the power plant, said water is brought from the Andharmanik river through pipes and heated to boiling point in the plant.

"As such, the water is purified before it is released into the river. The biodiversity of the river is not supposed to be lost in that bit of hot water," he claimed.

SURVEY FINDINGS, EXPERT OPINIONS

A study conducted by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon has suggested that the activities of the port and the power plant are responsible for the decline in hilsa and other fish in Rabnabad and Andharmanik rivers.

As part of the study, local fishermen were surveyed. Of them, 87.62 percent opined that the crisis of fish in the two rivers is a direct result of operating the port and the

power plant in the vicinity of the rivers, while 12.38 percent attributed the decline to climate change impacts.

Also, 76.22 percent of the fishermen said the temperature of the water increases due to the release of hot water from the power plant into the river; 72.38 percent said coal and dust pollution from the plant reduces water quality; 72.38 percent said movement of large number of vessels in the rivers is causing the decline of hilsa population; 89.22 percent opined the size of hilsa is getting smaller than before; and 70.78 percent claimed that the taste and smell of hilsa from the rivers has also deteriorated.

Contacted, BAPA General Secretary Sharif Jamil said the development and infrastructure of Payra port and thermal power plant have degraded the ecosystem of the estuary and adjoining areas.

Construction and dredging activities for the

port are causing siltation and change to the river bed, reducing the level of oxygen and light in the water, and thereby hindering the movement and breeding of hilsa in the rivers, he added.

"Hilsa is a deep-sea fish that comes to the river to release eggs. If the water of a river is polluted, the movement of hilsa decreases in that river. Also, if hilsa eggs are released in polluted water, all the eggs don't hatch, thereby reducing the fish population. The pollution also negatively affects the size of fish," said Md Lokman Ali, dean of Faculty of Fisheries at Patuakhali Science and Technology University.

"The operation of the power plant and high traffic of vessels, in turn, increased the extent of pollution in the two rivers due to the discharge of different wastes into the water. As a result, the rivers' fish resources are depleting," he added.



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Invitation for
Expression of Interest (EOI)
(WFP/BDCO/EOI/24/04)
For the Supply of
Bread Bun

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is hereby inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from local manufacturers who wish to do business with WFP as suppliers of Bread Bun.

Interested manufacturers and producers are required to provide the following documents:

1. The filled in EOI Response Form, which includes:

- Table 1. WFP Requirements.
- Table 2. Supplier Information.
- Table 3. Supplier Financial Status.
- Table 4. Supplier Relevant Experience.
- Signatory by the authorized company representative and company stamp.

2. Supplier Vendor Registration Form

3. Initial Paper Assessment Form


The detailed EOI information, necessary forms, and specifications, are available in the following link:
<https://cutt.ly/LeCOsw65>

Manufacturers who meet the WFP pre-defined criteria will be selected registration on WFP suppliers' roster for invitations to participate in tenders.

The forms and other necessary documents should be submitted to the email address below, not later than 31 December 2024, 4:30 PM (Bangladesh Time).

ban.foodprocurement@wfp.org

Should you have any questions please contact us at ban.foodprocurement@wfp.org



EAST WEST UNIVERSITY
Progoti Foundation for Education and Development

Permanent Sanad Holder

INVITATION OF TENDER

Tender is invited from the bonafide/intending suppliers/firms for the following items:

1. Procurement of 16 sets Computer with Monitor (02 types) and 09 units UPS (650VA) for various Departments /Offices of EWU

2. Procurement of 42 sets Desktop Computer for ICS Lab-4

3. Procurement of 16 sets Computer, UPS, Speaker and Multimedia Projector along with Screen for the classrooms of Academic Building-1 (AB-1) of EWU

4. Supply and Installation of Network Switches for Academic Building-1 (AB-1) of EWU

5. Supply and Installation of Network Infrastructure Implementation for Academic Building-1 (AB-1) of EWU

6. Renovation work (civil part) for Academic Building-1 (AB-1) of EWU

7. Procurement of Split Type AC (inverter) for Academic Building (AB-1) of EWU

8. Electrification works for Academic Building (AB-1) of EWU

9. Procurement of 2800 units Convocation Brochure for the 24th Convocation 2025 of EWU

10. Procurement of Lab Instruments for the Department of Civil Engineering

11. Filling of entire area of EWU Land located at Vadam Mouza, Tongi, Gazipur

The schedule of the items with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department (1st floor) of the University until **30.12.2024** during office hours (until 03:00 p.m.) on working days. The schedule of items **no.1, 2 & 3** will also be available in the e-tender process (<http://etender.ewubd.edu>). The price of the tender schedule (non-refundable) is **Tk.500/-** (Taka Five Hundred) only.

The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender schedule by **31.12.2024 within 02:00 P.M.** through hard copy or e-tender process (as mentioned in the schedule). The tender (hard copy) must be dropped in the tender box kept at the 2nd floor of the office of the Treasurer (Room No-316) of the University. The tender(s) submitted within the deadline will be opened on **the same day (31.12.2024) at 02:15 P.M.** in the Conference Room (4th floor) of East West University in the presence of the representatives of the bidders.

The bidders must mention the **"name of the item"** at the top of envelope. Otherwise, the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without mentioning any reason thereof.

Chief of HR & Logistics

Legal Notice


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO-1546/2024

Bhaskar Palit, son of Rajendra Narayan Palit, Managing Director, Boond Engineering Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd., of House: House: 03, Flat: C-6, Room:09, Road: 20, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.**Petitioner**

-VERSUS-
Boond Engineering Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd., Represented by its Managing Director, of House: 03, Flat: C-6, Room:09, Road: 20, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh and another.**Respondents**

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 81(2), section 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) and exoneration from any penalty of 'Boond Engineering Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd.' was moved before a Single Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the petitioner and upon preliminary hearing on 01.12.2024 Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohail was pleased to admit the said application. Anyone desirous of opposing the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through his advocate. A copy of the petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same, by the undersigned, on payment of the prescribed charge for the same.

Shakil Ahmad
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Room No. 4015, Bar Association Annex Building
Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Phone: +8801916948710




প্রধান চিকিৎসক
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্রের জন্য ঔষধ, এক্স-রে ফিল্ম ও প্যাথলজিক্যাল Reagent ক্রয় এর নিমিত্তে এই ব্যবসার সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ীদের/সরকারি আমদানীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে মূল্য তালিকা অদ্য অর্ধ-বছর অর্থাৎ ০৯.১২.২০২৪ হতে ৩০.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখের জন্য মূল্য তালিকা আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিমধ্যে যারা ঔষধের মূল্য তালিকা সংশ্লিষ্ট অফিসে জমা দিয়েছে, তাদের পুনরায় মূল্য তালিকা জমা দেওয়ার প্রয়োজন নাই। আপনদি উক্ত মূল্য তালিকার অংশগ্রহণ করতে চাইলে (চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্রে যে সকল ঔষধ, এক্স-রে ফিল্ম, প্যাথলজিক্যাল Reagent চালু আছে সে সম্পর্কে চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্রে থেকে জেনে মূল্য তালিকা দেওয়ার জন্য বিশেষভাবে জানানো যাচ্ছে) প্রদত্ত দরপত্র প্রস্তাব করার জন্য অনুপ্রেরণ করা যাচ্ছে এবং প্রয়োজনীয় হালনাগাদের সকল কাগজপত্র (সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট এবং আরকব পরিষেবের সার্টিফিকেটের কপি) দাখিল করতে হবে।
উক্ত প্রস্তাবিত মূল্য তালিকা উল্লেখপূর্বক আর্থী দরদাতাদের যথাযথভাবে সংযুক্ত মূল্য তালিকা, সীল স্বাক্ষর সহ সীলপালাকৃত খামে চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্রের রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অফিসে আগামী ১৭.১২.২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০টার মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে।
উল্লেখ্য যে, কোন ঔষধের মেরাদ শেষ হওয়ার কাছাকাছি সময় আসলে ও মেরাদ উত্তীর্ণ হলে কোম্পানী সেই সব ঔষধ পরিবর্তন করে নতুন মেরাদ সংশ্লিষ্ট ঔষধ সরবরাহ করতে বাধ্য থাকবে।

প্রধান চিকিৎসক
চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্র
রা.বি.

GD-1152



Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd.
Head Office: Dugdha Bhaban
139-140, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

50
বর্ষাবৃত্তি

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 47.67.0000.007.07.206.21.602 Date: 10/12/2024

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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading of the e-Tender documents of following package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank's branches.

Sl No.	Name of goods	Tender ID	Tender publish date & time	Tender last submission, opening date & time
1	Thermoforming Plastic Sweet & Sour Curd Cup (100ml) (Frame Work Contract)	1044774	12/12/24; 15:00	30/12/24; 15:30
2	PET/HDPE Plastic Bottle with Cap for 250ml Labang (Frame Work Contract)	1044772	12/12/24; 15:00	02/01/25; 15:30
3	Cup Lid for Sweet & Sour Curd (100ml) (Frame Work Contract)	1044773	15/12/24; 15:00	30/12/24; 16:00
4	HDPE Bottle with Cap for Packaging of 200ml Matha (Frame Work Contract)	1044779	15/12/24; 15:00	02/01/25; 16:00
5	White Sugar (Frame Work Contract)	1044787	17/12/24; 15:00	15/01/25; 15:30
6	PET/HDPE Plastic Bottle with Cap for Packaging of Labang (500 ML.) (Frame Work Contract)	1044781	17/12/24; 15:00	06/01/25; 15:30
7	Polyethylene Bag(s) (Frame Work Contract)	1044780	18/12/24; 15:00	06/01/25; 16:00
8	Master Paper Carton for IFCMP (Frame Work Contract)	1044782	18/12/24; 15:00	07/01/25; 15:30
9	Tyre with Tube (New & Unused) (Frame Work Contract)	1044775	19/12/24; 15:00	07/01/25; 16:00
10	Plastic Container with Lid for ½ kg. Sana/Para/Khezurgoor Sondesh (Frame Work Contract)	1044783	19/12/24; 15:00	08/01/25; 15:30
11	Paddy Straw (Frame Work Contract)	1044786	22/12/24; 15:00	08/01/25; 16:00
12	Diesel Dispenser Unit	1044784	22/12/24; 15:00	09/01/25; 15:30
13	AI Sheath & AI Hand Gloves (Frame Work Contract)	1044785	23/12/24; 15:00	09/01/25; 16:00

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

Sd/-
Eng. Md. Mostafizur Rahman
Deputy Manager & In-charge (Procurement)
E-mail: mypurchase.bo@gmail.com

Size (7"×3)
D-41

12 remanded in Alif murder, violence cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday remanded 12 individuals in connection with the murder of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif and the violence on the court premises on November 26, following the rejection of bail for former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari.

Third Metropolitan Magistrate Md Alamgir granted a five-day remand for Ripan Das in the murder case and four-day remands for three others — Razib Das, Aman Das, and Bishal Das, said Public Prosecutor Mafizul Hoque.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

AL leader dies in jail custody

STAR REPORT

An Awami League leader died in Sirajganj jail custody early yesterday reportedly due to cardiac and respiratory complications, jail authorities said.

The deceased, Ataur Rahman Angur, 55, known as Angur Miah, of Duttabari village in Sadar upazila, was the forest and environment affairs secretary of AL Sirajganj municipality unit.

Ataur had been in jail custody since November 1 in connection with a criminal case related to political violence, said Abu Nur Md Reza, the jailer of Sirajganj district jail.

Angur had been suffering from cardiac and respiratory problems during his time in custody, the jailer said.

His condition worsened after he was taken to Sirajganj court on Monday morning. Despite receiving treatment at the jail hospital, his health deteriorated further.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Workers are busy processing peeled and dried betel nuts at a wholesale market in the Jagannathkathi Sadar Road area of Pirojpur's Swarupkathi upazila. Working there from dawn to dusk, each worker earns Tk 800-1,000 daily. These betel nuts are sold to wholesalers for Tk 300 to Tk 400 per kg. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Create jobs for climate refugees

Speakers urge govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for constructing strong embankments to prevent flooding in the country's southwestern districts that are grappling with the impacts of climate change, including frequent cyclones and tidal surges.

They called upon the authorities concerned to repair and renovate the existing dams and embankments that are in vulnerable condition at present.

They also urged the government to promote alternative livelihoods and create employment opportunities for climate victims in rural areas to encourage them to stay in their communities instead of migrating to urban centres.

The speakers made the remarks while addressing the day-long workshop titled "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation in High-Risk Areas of Khulna and Satkhira," organised by Caritas Bangladesh at Ashashuni Upazila Parishad hall room in Satkhira.

Dr Mohammad Ismail Hossain, assistant professor of the Institute of Disaster Management at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, delivered the keynote speech at the workshop.

He said hundreds of people from rural areas along the coastline have been forced to leave their ancestral homes and migrate elsewhere after having lost their livelihoods and are currently living in the slums of adjacent cities.

"Many people who have migrated to big cities are climate refugees. They face a lack of basic civic amenities there. They are living in slums without good sanitation or a healthy environment. They are sometimes engaged in activities that are detrimental to the environment, without realising it. So, raising awareness among them is important," he added.

"Meanwhile, the influx of displaced people is putting immense pressure on urban infrastructure and resources," he also said.

Hundreds of people have been forced to leave their ancestral homes and migrate elsewhere after having lost their livelihoods and are currently living in the slums of adjacent cities.

DNC office attacked after raid on Jamaat leader's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A mob vandalised the Teknaf office of the Department of Narcotic Control (DNC) following a raid at the house of local Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Ismail on Monday night.

Ismail, vice-president of the Jamaat's Teknaf Municipality unit, claimed that DNC officials attempted to frame him with yaba pills during the raid. He alleged that four plainclothes men, posing as DNC officers, tried to abduct him, but locals intervened and rescued him. Ismail's followers drove the DNC team out of the house. Later, the mob hurled brickbats at the DNC office.

Sifat Tasnim, assistant director of DNC (Teknaf region), said the raid was based on intelligence that yaba pills were at Ismail's house. He accused Ismail of inciting his followers to resist the raid, leading to the injury of three DNC officers.

Road blocked protesting transport leader's arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport workers blocked the Tibbat-Satrasta intersection in Tejgaon Industrial Area yesterday, protesting the arrest of one of their leaders.

Talukder Md Monir, president of the Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Drivers' Union, was held earlier at the Tejgaon truck stand in four murder cases, said Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station Officer-in-Charge Gazi Shamimur Rahman.

The protesters burnt tyres and tubes, causing a two-hour traffic gridlock, said police.

They claimed they had formed a human chain to protest "police harassment" of truck drivers.

The arrest was made as police believed Monir was behind the human chain, alleged trucker Ariful Hasan.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE SC stays Tarique's jail sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court verdict that sentenced BNP's acting Chairman Tarique Rahman to seven years' imprisonment in a money laundering case.

The apex court also stayed a lower court judgement that sentenced Tarique's close aide Gias Uddin Al Mamun to seven years' imprisonment in the same case.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed came up with the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by Mamun challenging the HC verdict.

The ACC filed the case in 2009 on charge of laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

Shomi Kaiser gets bail from HC


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted 3 months' ad-interim bail to actress Shomi Kaiser, also former president of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), in an attempted murder case.

The HC also issued a rule asking the state to explain why Shomi, who was arrested on November 6, should not be granted regular bail.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain granted the bail and issued the rule following a bail petition submitted by Shomi.

Shomi's lawyer Hamidul Misbah said there is no legal bar to her release from Kashimpur jail now.



South Asian Regional Standards Organization
(A Specialized Body of SAARC)
Dhaka, Bangladesh

SARSO/GSS Recruitment/32/2024/2708


VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Category: General Services Staff (GSS)

Applications are invited from the citizens of Bangladesh for filling up the following vacant posts on a three year contract renewable basis.

Designation & No. of post along with level	Salary and allowances	Qualifications, Experience and Age
Senior Finance Officer GSS-I 1(one) post.	Pay Scale: US\$ 265-6x5-295 (EB)9x5-340 (EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules.	M.Com/MBA with at least eight 8 (eight) years relevant experience in line with the job requirements. Competent to handle financial matters independently using computer software, such as budgetary control, fund release, maintaining accounts and finance in Tally software, desk monitoring and audit. Experience in financial management of foreign/donor agency and large government enterprise will be of added advantage. Computer literacy is a must. Should be capable of preparing Annual Budget, claim of contributions from the Member States, preparing the relevant document for presenting in the Governing Board. Capable of providing the relevant financial matters/documents to the Regional Audit Team and reply to the queries, should have good knowledge in foreign currency dealing. Age: Maximum 35 years as on the date of publication of advertisement.
MIS Officer-cum-PS to DG GSS-I 1 (one) post.	Pay Scale: US\$ 265-6x5-295 (EB)9x5-340 (EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 50.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules.	MS/M.Sc. in Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Electrical and Electronics with at least 8 (eight) years' experience in system design, programming, installation, operation, maintenance of data base system, LAN, WAN and website management in programs. Knowledge in Apache Server, PHP, ASP, NET, MYSQL, CSS/HTML etc. will be of added advantage. Preparation of computer aided presentation materials, report writing and communication with audience in discussion forum, meetings and training classes are the key prerequisites. Age: Maximum 35 years as on the date of publication of advertisement.
Office Assistant GSS-II 2 (two post)	Pay Scale: US\$ 203-6x5- 233 (EB)7x5-268(EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules.	Graduate with minimum 5 (five) years relevant work experience and good speed in typing. Should have skill and ability to prepare official correspondences/ documents independently. Must be conversant with and having practical experience in MS Office (Word, Power Point, Access and Excel). Age: Maximum 35 years as on the date of publication of advertisement.
Receptionist GSS-II 1(one) post	Pay Scale: US\$ 203-6x5- 233 (EB)7x5-268(EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules.	Graduate with minimum 5 (five) years relevant work experience and good speed in typing. Should have skill and ability to prepare official correspondences/ documents independently. Must be conversant with and having practical experience in MS Office (Word, Power Point, Access and Excel). Age: Maximum 35 years as on the date of publication of advertisement.
Peon/MLSS GSS- VI 1 (one) post	Pay Scale: US\$ 130-2x5- 140 (EB)4x5-160(EB) House Rent Allowance: 50% of basic pay Conveyance Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Medical Allowance: US\$ 40.00 Children Education Assistance: As per rule Festival Allowance: One month basic pay per annum Others: As per SAARC Harmonized Rules.	SSC or equivalent qualification. Age: Maximum 35 years as on the date of publication of advertisement.

Conditions:

- Application in English along with complete "Curriculum Vitae" stating name, father's name, present and permanent address, date of birth, qualifications and experiences with all supporting documents duly attested, along with clearly indicating post against which the application is made, shall have to reach the Director General, SARSO through e-mail at dg@sarso.org at 116/A, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 within 1 (one) month from the date of publication of advertisement.
- Two copies of recent passport size photographs duly attested and character certificate from a First Class Gazetted Officer must be submitted along with the application.
- Selection will be made as per approved criteria of the SAARC Secretariat on a three- year contract renewable basis.
- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for test/interview.
- No. T.A. and D.A. will be paid for appearing in the test/interview
- Age and qualification may be relaxed for highly experienced candidates from the Governments/Semi-governments/ Autonomous organizations.
- The candidates who are in service shall apply through proper channel.
- The appointment would be made subject to satisfactory police verification report.



Dr. Shahzad Afzal (Ph.D.)
Director General

GD-1156

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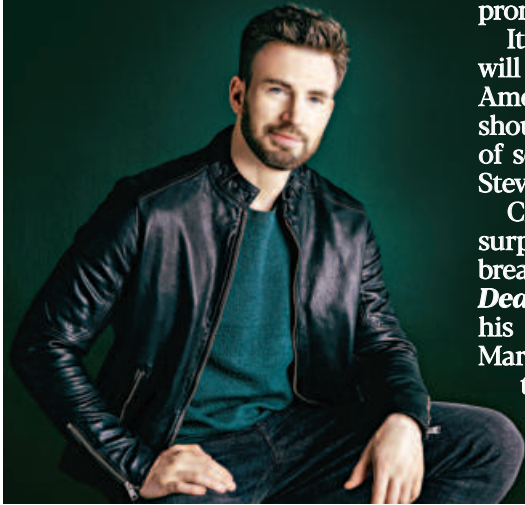


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Chris Evans to join Robert Downey Jr for epic MCU reunion

Chris Evans is reportedly making a return to the MCU in the upcoming *Avengeers: Domsday*, directed by Joe and Anthony Russo.



While the exact nature of his role remains uncertain, insiders suggest that Anthony Mackie's portrayal of Sam Wilson as Captain America will also feature prominently in the film.

It appears unlikely that Evans will don the iconic Captain America suit again, but fans shouldn't rule out the possibility of seeing him reprise his role as Steve Rogers in some capacity.

Chris Evans recently made a surprise cameo in the record-breaking R-rated blockbuster, *Deadpool & Wolverine*, playing his role from the early Fox/Marvel era, Johnny Storm from the *Fantastic Four* films, predating his time as Captain America.

AYUB BACHCHU'S Rupali Guitar restored by fans after years of neglect

Ayub Bachchu's iconic *Rupali Guitar* sculpture in Chattogram has been restored by fans after years of neglect. Erected in 2019 to honour the late music legend, the 18-foot monument had fallen into disrepair, prompting Mohammad Mohsin, a devoted fan, to lead a cleanup effort.

Mohsin rallied volunteers via a heartfelt Facebook post, and on December 8, they polished and restored the sculpture to its former glory.

Ayub Bachchu's wife, Ferdous Akhter Chandana, praised the initiative, calling it a tribute to his enduring legacy. For fans, the *Rupali Guitar* remains a cherished symbol of the beloved rock icon's impact.



Taylor Swift gifts \$197m in bonuses to 'Eras Tour' crew

Taylor Swift has made history with her Eras Tour, which grossed over US \$2 billion and became the highest-grossing tour of all time. To celebrate, she gifted \$197 million in bonuses to her crew, including truck drivers, dancers, technicians, and more.

The 149-date tour, attended by over 10 million fans, concluded in Vancouver, where Swift expressed heartfelt gratitude to her team. Her production company confirmed the record-breaking ticket sales, solidifying her legacy.

Additionally, Swift's *The Eras Tour Book* sold 814,000 copies in two days, with her 11th album, *The Tortured Poets Department*, becoming the year's top-streamed album.



Vicky Zahed, Afran Nisho reunite once again

Afran Nisho and Vicky Zahed, the dynamic duo behind hits like *Punorjonmo* and *Chirokal Aaj*, are set to reunite for a new web-series. Nisho, who transitioned to films with *Surongo* last year and earned acclaim for the web-series *Sharey Showlo*, has since taken a break from TV projects to focus on films.

On his birthday, December 8, he announced his upcoming movie *Dagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Following its shoot, he will begin working on the yet-to-be-titled series with Zahed. The director revealed they finalized the story after Nisho expressed interest in collaborating again.

Pritom Hasan and Tanjin Tisha pair up for Chorki's 'Ghumpori'



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHORKI

Chorki's upcoming original film *Ghumpori* will star Tanjin Tisha and Pritom Hasan in their first on-screen collaboration. The romantic drama, which blends love with elements of mystery, has generated significant excitement. Tanjin Tisha expressed her enthusiasm for the compelling story, marking her debut on Chorki. Pritom Hasan, known for his recent success with *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya*, is also eager for the project. Parsha Mahjabeen Purnee, who rose to fame during the July-August protests with her rendition of *Cholo Bhule Jai*, making her web film debut, joins the cast. Directed by Zahid Pritom, *Ghumpori* is set to begin filming soon.

NEWS

BNP proposes

FROM PAGE 1
"We believe that dissolving Rab at this moment would send a positive signal to the public."
The other recommendations include forming a Police Commission, establishing citizen committees at the upazila level, and introducing a proper documentation process before arrests to prevent abuse of power.
The police commission would serve as both a watchdog for the police and a body that provides recommendations.
The commission's chairman will be the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry if parliament is in session.
If parliament is not in session, a retired Supreme Court judge will serve as the interim chairman of the commission.
This eight-member commission will include a ruling party lawmaker, an opposition lawmaker, a university professor, a senior lawyer from the High Court, a prominent citizen, an additional secretary nominated by the home secretary and an additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) nominated by the IGP, who will act as the member secretary of the commission.
The government will determine the selection process for the commission's members, framework and tenure through regulations, Hafizuddin said.
The citizen committees at every upazila or thana level would help the police to prevent crime and improve relations between the police and the community.
The chairman will be a local figure, while the officer-in-charge (OC) of the local police station will serve as the member secretary.
The other members will include two Union Parishad members, one teacher, one businessperson, one imam, and local representatives from political parties with seats in parliament.
The party has proposed that the commission require police to create a formal document detailing arrest information before detaining anyone.
To prevent abuse of power, the proposed form should include details of the arrest and be signed by the arresting officer, the officer-in-charge and the unit head.
A copy of the form must also be provided to the arrested individual to ensure transparency and hold officers accountable, Hafizuddin said.
The party has called for better

training on human rights and discipline in police training institutions.
Police training institutions are often seen as "dumping grounds" for officers accused of misconduct, which undermines the quality of training, Hafizuddin said.
"To improve this, those working in training institutions should be given extra allowances and benefits."
The party has proposed two-tier recruitment for police.
The police force recruits through four entry points: constable, sergeant, sub-inspector and assistant superintendent of police (ASP).
The party suggested reforming this system by introducing a two-tier recruitment process.
Under the proposed system, the first tier would involve recruitment for the constables, while the second tier would be for ASP and that would be filled through the BCS examination.
To curb corruption within the police force, the BNP has proposed decentralising the powers.
"The procurement authority, currently controlled by the Police Headquarters, should be handed back to field-level officials," said Hafizuddin, adding that ensuring the rule requires police officers to submit an annual declaration of their assets.
The party also proposed strengthening medical facilities at the district level to ensure better treatment for family members of police.
"If the people entrust the BNP with governing the state, we will work to implement the recommendations we have made."
After August 5, at least 488 police officers sought protection from the military authorities in cantonments.
"Every one of these 488 individuals was either a criminal, corrupt or involved in enforced disappearances or killings. That is why they sought shelter. I do not think it was the right decision for the military to shelter them."
After the movement, there were no police for 3-4 days. There was no government either.
"It is difficult to pinpoint who was truly responsible. I believe that since they sought shelter inside the cantonment, military officials or senior officers from the cantonment might have had a role in their escape. But we cannot say this with certainty. Over time, this will surely come to light," Hafizuddin added.

Indian Coast

FROM PAGE 12
The two vessels are owned by C&A Agro Ltd. and SR Fishing Ltd. Both firms have submitted letters to the Marine Fisheries Office in Chattogram, requesting steps to ensure the release of the trawlers and their crew.
Md Abdus Sattar, director of the Marine Fisheries Office, Chattogram, confirmed receipt of the letters.
He said that a meeting involving relevant authorities will be held this afternoon to address the issue.
70 arrested
FROM PAGE 12
the country from August 4 to August 20, according to Bangladesh-Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad.
Citing a report by the Sweden-based Netra News on the findings of the Parishad, Shafiqul said, "It [the report] said almost every case took place due to political or personal reason, and attacks did not happen as he or she was a member of the minorities communities."
Meanwhile, Bangladesh is planning to organise an international conference in the second half of next year with a view to resolving the Rohingya crisis.
All countries, including the US, the EU, China, and India, are expected to attend the international conference, Shafiqul said.
The UN and its agencies will also be invited to the conference.
"We will have a big task next year -- to organise a big international conference on the Rohingya crisis," he said, adding that the conference is expected to be held in September-October next year, and the venue and modalities will be fixed by March-April.
In September, while speaking at a high-level discussion on the Rohingya crisis held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus sought the international community's continuous focus on the crisis and warned that the whole region, not just Bangladesh, could be in trouble otherwise.
Prof Yunus proposed that the international community revisit its approach to the crisis.

Reduce VAT on newsprint

FROM PAGE 12
media during the July-August uprising.
The meeting was held at the office of Noab President AK Azad.
"We don't have the environment for independent media due to the existing legal framework for the media," said a press release of the commission, quoting Mahfuz Anam, The Daily Star editor and publisher, as saying.
Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman said the newspaper industry became sick in this digital era. Besides, circulation of newspapers and the income from advertisement dropped sharply due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
Mentioning that the previous governments tried to control the media, he said, "No governments in the past allowed media freedom

and journalists could not work independently."
However, the previous government considered newspapers as its enemy, he said.
New Age Publisher Shahidullah Khan questioned the necessity of the enlistment of media outlets. He said the Press Council should be modernised and kept free from any influence of the executive.
Urging the commission to be careful so that no vested quarters can misguide them, Bonik Barta Editor and Publisher Dewan Hanif Mahmud criticised filing of cases against editors and journalists and the revocation of accreditation cards of journalists.
AK Azad, also the publisher of daily Samakal, said they, as publishers, had to face threats and incur financial loss. Except for the newspaper industry, all

other industries got incentives during the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.
He also hoped that the Media Reform Commission would place specific recommendations for the independence of editors.
During the meeting, Kamal said there is no way that the commission would be influenced by any vested quarters, and that they would submit recommendations based on the opinions of stakeholders.
He added that the commission would seek opinions from all stakeholders to prepare guidelines for the state-run Bangladesh Betar, BTV, and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).
Daily Sangbad Editor Altamash Kabir and daily Financial Herald Publisher Masrur Reza also spoke at the meeting attended by other members of the commission.
University, said the two countries should do their parts.
Prof Imtiaz said there is a perception that India gains more from the agreements or MoUs with Bangladesh.
"I think it's time the Bangladesh government seriously assesses the deals with India. This will also clear any confusion that may be there."
He said the signing of the Teesta deal is unlikely. "Therefore, Bangladesh needs to think pragmatically on how to manage the river and ensure it has water during the dry season."
Prof Imtiaz also suggested robust engagement between the people of the two countries to better understand the issues of minority repression, fake news or anti-India or anti-Bangladesh stances among them.
Munshi Faiz said the tension in the relationship only hurts the people.
"I would suggest the interim government takes steps to ensure that the political parties do not make any provocative statements that cause tension. The same also should be applied for Indian authorities."
The government can also brief the media from time to time on the developments of the bilateral relations to the media, he said.
Sreeradha Datta said diplomacy is back on track and any issues in the bilateral relations should be resolved amicably. "Both sides need to be sincere."

Good start for mending ties

FROM PAGE 12
India and Bangladesh issued separate statements after the meetings, committing to take forward the relationship based on mutual interests.
Bangladesh's major points include asking India to tell Sheikh Hasina not to make statements, taking steps to stop false media propaganda against Bangladesh, putting an end to border killings, and resolving the unsettled issues in the bilateral relationship, including water sharing of Teesta and other rivers.
Dhaka also requested Delhi to ensure the safety of Bangladesh missions in India.
Meanwhile, India expressed concerns over the attacks on minorities and cultural and diplomatic properties.
Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in his statement highlighted India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.
Prof Imtiaz, also executive director of Centre for Alternatives, said he thinks India has also spoken of elections in which all political parties of Bangladesh can take part and the views of people of all ethnicities and faiths are allowed.
Former ambassador to China Munshi Faiz Ahmad said it is good that India spoke about a democratic and inclusive Bangladesh. "In fact, that is why there was an uprising that ousted

the Awami League government."
Prof Imtiaz Ahmed said he thinks India will continue to raise the minorities issue unless there is tangible progress.
"While we said most of the incidents are political or personal in nature and not communal, we need to ensure accountability of those responsible for any attacks on minorities. That will give us leverage."
Munshi Faiz said, "Minority repression is a human rights issue. So, anybody can speak about it. Bangladesh can also talk about the minority repression in India."
"The vital point here is that we must all ensure the protection of minorities."
As false propaganda was a major issue in the talks, Indian foreign policy analyst Prof Sreeradha Datta said the governments of both countries should issue strong statements on the misinformation being spread by media.
"Fake news and hatred through media have become real problems in our bilateral relationship. This must end," she told this correspondent from New Delhi yesterday.
She appreciated the way the FOC was held, saying that both sides spoke all of their issues including water sharing, connectivity, visa and consular services, trade and border killings.
Datta, who teaches international affairs at the OP Jindal Global

SYRIA PRISONS
Jordanian man
returns home
after 38 years

AFP, Amman

A Jordanian man has returned to his home country after spending 38 years in Syrian jails, an official said yesterday, after the fall of president Bashar al-Assad ended an agonising wait for his family.

The man, named as Osama Bashir Hassan al-Bataynah, was found in Syria “unconscious and suffering from memory loss”, Jordanian foreign ministry said.

Kodat said the man’s relatives reported his disappearance in 1986, when he was just 18, and that he had been in jail ever since. “He was transferred from Damascus to the Jaber border crossing (with Jordan) where he was handed over to border guards,” added Kodat, saying the man had been reunited with his family yesterday morning.

The rebels who swept Assad from power on Sunday also opened the prisons and released thousands of detainees.



People looking for relatives talk to health workers and an anti-government fighter at the morgue of Harasta Hospital in Damascus, Syria yesterday, a day after 40 bodies bearing signs of torture were found.

PHOTO: AFP

104 journos
killed in 2024
Says press group; over half
of them in Gaza

AFP, Brussels

This year has been “particularly deadly” for journalists with 104 killed worldwide, over half of them being in Gaza, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said yesterday.

The toll for 2024 is down on the 129 deaths in 2023 but still makes it “one of the worst years” on record, IFJ general secretary Anthony Bellanger told AFP.

According to the figures collated by the press group, 55 Palestinian media workers were killed in 2024 in the face of Israel’s offensive in Gaza.

“Since the start of the offensive on 7 October 2023, at least 138 Palestinian journalists have been killed,” the federation said.

Bellanger condemned the “massacre that is happening before the eyes of the world”.

He said that “many journalists were targeted” in Gaza deliberately, while others had found themselves “in the wrong place, at the wrong time” in the fighting.

China deploying largest
fleet of ships in years
Says Taiwan as potential war games loom

REUTERS, Taipei

China is deploying its largest navy fleet in regional waters in nearly three decades, posing a threat to Taiwan that is more pronounced than previous Chinese war games, the Taiwanese defence ministry said yesterday.

Speaking in Taipei, defence ministry spokesperson Sun Li-fang said the scale of the current Chinese naval deployment in an area running from the southern Japanese islands down into the South China Sea was the largest since China held war games around Taiwan ahead of 1996 Taiwanese presidential elections.

China’s military has yet to comment and has not confirmed it is carrying out any exercises. China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory over

the island’s rejection, had been expected to launch drills to express its anger at President Lai Ching-te’s tour of the Pacific that ended on Friday, which included stopovers in Hawaii and the US territory of Guam.

Taiwan’s military raised its alert on Monday after saying China had reserved airspace and deployed naval and coast guard vessels. “The current scale is the largest compared to the previous four,” Sun said. “Regardless of whether they have announced drills, they are posing a great threats to us.”

Senior ministry intelligence officer Hsieh Jih-sheng said there have so far been no live fire drills in China’s seven “reserved” air space zones, two of which are in the Taiwan Strait, but there had been a significant increase in Chinese activity to the north of Taiwan over the last day.

Israeli strikes kill 34 in Gaza
Dozens injured; tanks push into central, south parts of enclave

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 34 Palestinians overnight and yesterday, medics said, as Israeli tanks pushed into areas in central and southern parts of the enclave.

An Israeli airstrike killed at least 25 people in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where Israeli forces have operated since October, and injured dozens of others in a multi-floored building, medics said.

The Palestinian Civil Emergency said most of those killed were from the same family, including women and children. Images posted online, which Reuters couldn’t immediately verify, showed the bodies lined up in a single mass grave in the town.

Another airstrike on a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people. It wounded several others, medics and the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said, while another killed two people in Rafah south of the enclave.

In Deir Al-Balah near the coast, Israeli naval forces detained six Palestinian fishermen who tried to sail into the Mediterranean Sea earlier yesterday, according to residents.

At least 44,786 Palestinians have been killed in the 14-month-old Israeli military campaign on Gaza that has followed, Gaza health authorities said yesterday.

Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas’ increasing isolation after the downfall of Syria’s Bashar al-Assad could open the door to a deal to return hostages but it was too early to say if efforts would succeed.

Yesterday, a Hamas official declined to disclose the content of negotiations but told Reuters mediators had recently stepped up their efforts, citing the group’s willingness to show the flexibility needed “to end the aggression on our people”.

A Palestinian official with knowledge of the mediation effort said Hamas had asked other Gaza factions to list the names of Israeli and foreign hostages in their custody, whether dead or alive, signalling potential progress in the talks.

Hamas wants a deal that ends the offensive and sees the release of Israeli and foreign hostages held captive in Gaza as well as Palestinians jailed by Israel, while Netanyahu has vowed the war can only end once Hamas is eradicated.

- » Israeli naval forces detain six Palestinian fishermen
- » Death toll in Gaza rises to 44,786

Ceasefire efforts by Arab mediators Egypt and Qatar, backed by the United States, have failed to find agreement, but recent signs of optimism among Israeli and Palestinian officials have suggested a deal to end the offensive could be closer.

On Monday night, Israeli Prime Minister

India’s opposition
moves to impeach
VP Dhankhar

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian opposition parties yesterday moved to impeach Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, a spokesman said, accusing him of being partisan in his role as chairman of parliament’s upper house, in a first such move in the country’s history.

Dhankhar’s office did not respond to a request for comment. The step follows several weeks of disruption in parliament, where government and opposition parties have accused each other of not allowing legislative business by creating political controversies.

The vice president holds India’s second highest constitutional office, as well as being chair of the upper house of parliament. The vice president also acts as the country’s president if there is a temporary vacancy.

Although the move is symbolic as the opposition parties do not have enough votes to remove him, it is expected to worsen the fraught relations between the opposition and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government as Dhankhar was elected as a candidate of Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Yunus among top
10 personalities

FROM PAGE 2

Following the Liberation War of 1971, which led to the birth of Bangladesh, Dr Yunus returned home to contribute to building the newly independent nation.

Dr Yunus is widely acclaimed for his pioneering work in microcredit, providing small loans—often less

than \$100—to empower the underprivileged. While some companies offering small loans have faced criticism for exploiting the poor with exorbitant interest rates, Dr Yunus demonstrated how fair lending practices can transform the lives of the most vulnerable.

Abdul Momen made
ACC chairman

FROM PAGE 2

Of the three, the chairman will enjoy salary, allowance, and other benefits equivalent to those of a judge of the Appellate Division, while the two commissioners will enjoy the same equivalent to those of a judge of the High Court Division.

Momen, who was serving on a contractual basis in Ministry of Home Affairs, resigned from the position earlier.


The Ministry of Public Administration cancelled

his contractual appointment today and issued a separate order in this regard.

In 2013, Momen, while serving as a joint secretary, was sent into compulsory retirement.

Following the fall of Awami League government on August 5 following the student-led mass uprising, he was reappointed on a contractual basis as the secretary to the Public Security Division.

Later, he was promoted to the rank of senior secretary.



সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোলিয়ামের একটি কোম্পানী)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

বিশুদ্ধ ও আদ্যাদী নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

গ্যাস আদায় সম্পন্ন। এর অদায় বেশে
করে বাড়ীতে দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

সূত্র নং-২৮.২০.৯৯৫৩.৯৪২.৯৪.০০৯.২৪


তারিখঃ ১০-১২-২০২৪

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (জাতীয়)

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/অধিদপ্তর	১. বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ।
২. সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোলিয়াম)।
৩. প্রকল্প/একটি/একটির নাম	সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (এসজিএফএল), ঢাকার-চিকনাপুল, সিলেট-৩৩২।
৪. ব্যাজেট ও অবধিবেশের উৎস	নিজস্ব অর্থায়ন।
৫. কাজের বিবরণ	সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড-এর আওতাধীন রশিদপুর কনভেন্সেন্ট ড্রাকপেনশন প্রস্ট (আরএসএফপি), রশিদপুর বৈদ্যুতিক ৪০০০ বারেল ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন কনভেন্সেন্ট ড্রাকপেনশন প্রস্ট, রশিদপুর বৈদ্যুতিক ৩০০০ বারেল ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন সিরাইট প্রস্ট, কৈলাশালা, বিয়ানীবাজার, হারিদপুর গ্যাস ফিল্ড ও কৈলাশালা এলপিগ্যাস প্রস্ট হতে উৎপাদিত মটর স্পিরিট, ডিজেল, কোয়েলিন ও অকটোন এসজিএফএল-এর নির্দেশিত দেশের অভ্যন্তরে যেকোন স্থানে এবং এসজিএফএল-এর উক্ত ফিল্ডসমূহে উৎপাদিত পেট্রোলিয়াম পণ্য (হেভী কনভেন্সেন্ট, লাইট কনভেন্সেন্ট, মটর স্পিরিট, ডিজেল, কোয়েলিন ও অকটোন) এক ফিল্ড হতে অন্য ফিল্ডে বা একই ফিল্ডের এক লোকেশন হতে অন্য লোকেশনে ট্যাংকার/বাটজাহাজের মাধ্যমে পরিবহনে সক্ষম একাধিক পরিবহনকারী ট্রাকদ্বারা নিয়োগ।
৬. দরপত্রের বৈধতা	(ক) তল পেট্রোলিয়াম জাতীয় পণ্য পরিবহনে লাইসেন্সধারী পরিবহন ট্রাকদ্বারা হিসেবে দরপত্রের ন্যূনতম ০০ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (খ) পরিবহন ট্রাকদ্বারা হিসেবে তল পেট্রোলিয়াম জাতীয় পণ্য পরিবহন কাজে নিম্নলিখিত/করা/লিখ নোয়া ১,০০০ (নয় হাজার) লিটার বা তদুর্ধ্ব ধারাবাহিকতাসম্পন্ন কমপক্ষে ১০টি ট্যাংকার/বাটজাহাজের সরবরাহে দরপত্রদাতার সক্ষমতা থাকতে হবে। (গ) পরিবহন ট্রাকদ্বারা হিসেবে দরপত্রদাতার সরকারী (ডিওবি)/আধা-সরকারী/ স্বায়ত্বশাসিত তেল ও গ্যাস সেক্টরের প্রকল্পের সাথে লিখিত ০৩ (তিন) বছরে কমপক্ষে ০.০০ (তিন কোটি) টাণকা মূল্যের তল পেট্রোলিয়াম জাতীয় পণ্য পরিবহন কাজের সুনির্দিষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
৭. কার্যকালের মেয়াদ	চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে ৩ (তিন) বছর।
৮. দরপত্র দাখিল বিস্তারের স্থান	(ক) হিসাব ও অর্থ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ঢাকার-চিকনাপুল, সিলেট-৩৩২। (খ) ঢাকা লিফটের অফিস, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, পেট্রোলিয়াম, ১৪তম তলা, ৩ কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫। (গ) হিসাব শাখা, রশিদপুর কনভেন্সেন্ট ড্রাকপেনশন প্রস্ট, ঢাকার-বাবুল, জেলাঃ হবিগঞ্জ।
৯. দরপত্র দাখিল স্থান ও খোলার স্থান	প্রকিউরমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ঢাকার-চিকনাপুল, সিলেট-৩৩২।
১০. দরপত্র বিক্রয় শুরুর ও সমাপ্তির তারিখ	১৭-১২-২০২৪ হতে ০৭-০১-২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্য দিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১১. দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৭-০১-২০২৬ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৭-০১-২০২৬ বেলা ১২.০৫ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র বা আহার প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
১৩. প্রতি স্টেট দরপত্র সিদ্ধিউত্তর মূল্য	৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা (অফারযোগ্য)।
১৪. দরপত্র আমানতের পরিমাণ	২,৫০,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা।
১৫. বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	(১) দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে সরকারী টিউর কারনে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে বা অনিবার্য কারণবশত দরপত্র খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী প্রধান কার্যালয়ের বর্ণিত স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। (২) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে দরপত্র খোলার মেয়াদ ১২০ (নব্বই) দিন এবং দরপত্র আমানতের খোলার মেয়াদ ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন। (৩) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সিদ্ধিউত্তর বর্ণিত রয়েছে। (৪) এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি কোম্পানীর ওয়েব সাইট www.sgfl.org.bd এবং পেট্রোলিয়ামের ওয়েব সাইট www.petrobangla.org.bd তে পাওয়া যাবে। (৫) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকৈ কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

১০-১২-২৪

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক(প্রকিউরমেন্ট)



প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে
সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০।
ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ

ফোন: +৮৮০৩১২৮৬৩১৬২, ই-মেইল: cec@railway.gov.bd

তারিখ: ০৮.১২.২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।

নং-সিই/ই-জিপি/০১/২০২৪-২৫:

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) এ নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে:


ক্রম নং	টেন্ডার বেসক্রিপশন	Tender আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরন ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	১. xenpne/east/e-tender/24-25/15	1048604	Works: At SSAE/Works/KYTO section- Manufacturing, fitting & fixing of Caution Board and providing Speed Breaker & rail Fencing for L.C. Gate No. E/28 C at K.M-332/3-4, E/30 C at K.M-337/3-4, E/31 A at K.M-338/0-1, E/30 C at K.M-345/2-3, T/30 D at K.M-352/6-7, E/30 D at K.M-357/3-4, T/30 F at K.M-360/0-1, T/32 C at K.M-361/1-2, E/33 at K.M-361/3-4, E/34 at K.M-364/1-2, E/34 B at K.M-366/7-8, E/34 A at K.M-366/8-9, T/37 C at K.M-369/5-6, T/38 C at K.M-376/4-5, T/39 B at K.M-378/4-5, E/41 D at K.M-378/4-5, E/42 C at K.M-380/9-381/0, E/45 A at K.M-384/0-1, E/45 B at K.M-385/1-2, E/46 C at K.M-386/4-5 in between SPU-UMNG section jurisdiction with others allied works.	OTM (NC)	24-Dec-2024 12:00 PM

বিঃদ্রঃ ১. তথ্যস্বরূপ ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নির্ধারিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাদের সরাসরি অপেক্ষার করতে পারবেন।
২. দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল ও দরপত্র আহ্বানকৃত বারদ অবধি নির্ধারিত ব্যাংক জমা করতে হবে।

এস (২৪)(২৬১)

০৮/১২/২৪
(স্বাক্ষর)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পি এন্ড ডি) (পূর্ব) (অতিঃ নঃ)
পক্ষে-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-1159



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

তারিখঃ ২৫ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪৩১
১০ ভাদ্রশ্রবণ ২০২৪

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৮৯/২০২৪

১০টি ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে ২০২১ সাল ভিত্তিক 'সিনিয়র অফিসার (জেনারেল)' (৯ম গ্রেড) (JOB ID-10180) এর ৯২২টি শূন্য পদে প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যসভায় ১০টি ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে ২০২১ সাল ভিত্তিক 'সিনিয়র অফিসার (জেনারেল)' (৯ম গ্রেড) (JOB ID-10180) এর ৯২২টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে এ সচিবালয়ের ২৯/১২/২০২২ তারিখের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর-১৩৭/২০২২ এর প্রেক্ষিতে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার প্রাপ্ত নম্বরের ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি বিধিবিধান অনুসরণপূর্বক মেধা ও কোটা অনুসারে প্রণীত প্যানেল হতে নির্বাচিত ৯২২ (নয়শত বাইশ) জন প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত করা হয়েছে।

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এর ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।

এ বিষয়ে যে কোন প্রয়োজনে প্রার্থীদের info.bsccs@bb.org.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করার পরামর্শ প্রদান করা যাচ্ছে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৪-৩১৯৮
তারিখঃ ১০/১২/২০২৪

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মোঃ কাওছার মতিন
পরিচালক (বিএসসিএস), বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

স্বাক্ষরিক ও আর্থিক সেবা প্রদানে হারানির ঝুঁকির হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৯২০৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1157

A new chapter for Dhaka-Delhi relations

Mutual respect and fairness are vitally important

The first high-level official talks between Bangladesh and India should be seen both as a recognition of the challenges straining our bilateral relationship and as a welcome attempt to recalibrate it in light of the new reality following Bangladesh's political changeover four months ago. During his daylong visit to Dhaka on Monday, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held separate discussions with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, as well as his Bangladeshi counterpart Md Jashim Uddin. Media reports on the meetings indicate that both camps used the occasion to address areas of contention while laying the groundwork for what they hope to be a mutually beneficial partnership.

This is something we indeed welcome, as a constructive partnership between our two nations is essential not only for addressing existing challenges but also for unlocking the vast potential of mutual cooperation in areas of shared interest. The first step towards meaningful progress, as Prof Yunus has also highlighted, would be addressing the “clouds” or sources of tension that have overshadowed our relationship in recent months—in which India must take the lead.

Chief among these issues is the harmful narrative propagated by certain Indian media outlets and politicians about the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh, undermining its reputation and sovereignty. It is imperative that the Indian authorities take decisive steps to counter such propaganda to ensure that the trust between our peoples is not eroded by sensationalism. Of equal concern are Sheikh Hasina's inflammatory statements broadcast from her place of refuge in India, which is further fanning the anti-minority tensions and divisions. While Vikram Misri has asserted that India's ties with Bangladesh transcend party politics, the continuation of such rhetoric from its territory must be prevented to rebuild confidence in our shared journey.

The longstanding issue of border killings—with the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunning down a suspected cattle lifter along the Panchagarh border as recently as Friday—remains another test for the sincerity of the drive to recalibrate our partnership. The recurring loss of Bangladeshi lives at the border contradicts the spirit of neighbourly interactions. While we acknowledge India's concerns about border crimes, there is no justification for extrajudicial killings. We urge India to adopt humane and sustainable solutions to all border law enforcement issues.

The recent talks have also covered other key bilateral issues including trade, agreements on transboundary rivers, including the Teesta, flood management, electricity imports from India and beyond, Rohingya repatriation, etc. The future of our ties with India will largely depend on how India responds to these and other issues going forward. One thing is certain: increasing collaboration and cooperation from both sides will not only boost regional stability and economic integration, but can also help build a partnership that is reflective of the aspirations of both nations. As our closest neighbour, we value our ties with India. We also appreciate its desire to work closely with the interim government of Bangladesh. But our relationship must be grounded in mutual respect and fairness.

Treatment costs must not shorten life

High cost of kidney dialysis taking away hope from many patients

A recent study by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) on the cost and burden of kidney dialysis has revealed a grim picture. Conducted on 477 patients across public, private, and NGO-run hospitals, the study has found that 93 percent of families experienced financial distress in accessing kidney dialysis—the primary treatment option for end-stage kidney failure (ESKF) patients.

In a country where an estimated 200–250 people per million develop ESKF each year and require dialysis, the average monthly treatment cost of Tk 46,426 is too high considering that our average monthly household income, according to an official estimate from 2022, is just Tk 32,422. As per the BIDS study, 19.5 percent of the surveyed kidney patients received fewer dialysis sessions than medically recommended because of the high cost, jeopardising their health further.

Bangladesh is already struggling with a high rate of out-of-pocket health expenditure. The exorbitant cost of kidney dialysis adds another layer to the challenges of our health system that often pushes people below the poverty line instead of safeguarding their right to health. While wealthier patients face higher absolute costs, poorer patients bear a disproportionately heavier financial burden. Unfortunately, the alternative treatment option—a kidney transplant—is often unattainable for the poor due to its high one-time cost and the risk of exploitation by unscrupulous donors.

Another interesting finding of the study is that most patients prefer NGO-run treatment centres to public and private ones, even though public hospitals offer the lowest dialysis costs. This raises questions about the quality and trustworthiness of our public health infrastructure. While reform is required in our overall health system, the issue of high kidney dialysis costs can be addressed in the short term by following the recommendations made in the research report.

The recommendations include subsidising the costs at private hospitals, expanding access to treatment by establishing facilities in semi-urban and rural areas, encouraging local pharmaceutical production of kidney disease drugs to lower prices, and incorporating low- and middle-income patients into the government's social safety net programmes. However, the long-term goal should be to reduce the disparity in our health sector by regulating fees and treatment costs across the public and private health facilities.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

UNICEF established

On this day in 1946, UNICEF, a United Nations programme devoted to improving the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children, was established.

We must act in the ICJ Rohingya genocide proceedings



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QUAZI OMAR FOYSAL

On Monday, marking the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus strongly condemned the persecution of the Rohingya and reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to justice and accountability for the victims. This came a day after Dr Khalilur Rahman, the high representative on the Rohingya issue, urged for global consensus on Rohingya repatriation at an international conference in Doha. Meanwhile, Slovenia's recent declaration of intervention (filed on November 29, 2024) in the Rohingya genocide case (*The Gambia vs Myanmar*) at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has reignited global attention on the issue.

Despite hosting over a million Rohingya refugees for more than seven years, Bangladesh has conspicuously remained silent on the possibility of intervening in the ICJ proceedings, raising critical questions about its commitment to international justice and the future resolution of the Rohingya crisis. The Gambia's decision to institute proceedings against Myanmar regarding the latter's breach of several obligations under the Genocide Convention brought momentum to ICJ history. In particular, The Gambia, despite being a non-affected state situated 11,570 kilometres away from Myanmar, successfully filed the proceedings based on its community interest in preventing and punishing genocide.

Though ICJ proceedings are limited to the disputant states, the interest of third states are protected by Article 59 of the ICJ statute. The ICJ statute facilitates the procedure of intervention, allowing any third state to participate in such a proceeding to safeguard its legal interest or promote its political interest. Two categories of intervention are available under the ICJ statute: (i) Article 62, which protects “an interest of a legal nature”; and (2) Article 63, which implicates the “construction of a treaty.”

In the aftermath of The Gambia's institution of proceedings, some states expressed their interest in intervening in the case. Eventually, seven states—namely Canada, Denmark, France,

Germany, the Netherlands, UK, and the Maldives—filed a joint declaration of intervention, and the Maldives submitted a sole declaration of intervention on November 15, 2023. On July 3, 2024, the ICJ issued the Order on Admissibility of Intervention, declaring the admissibility of both declarations. Interestingly, both the joint declaration of the seven states and the declaration of the Maldives



FILE PHOTO: AFP

Rohingya refugees disembark from a boat on the shoreline of the Naf River after crossing the border from Myanmar in Teknaf on September 30, 2017.

are related to Article 63, i.e. the construction and interpretation of the Genocide Convention.

Though Bangladesh supported The Gambia both financially and politically, it has omitted, despite being an affected state by Myanmar's genocidal atrocities, to enlist its name as one of the intervening states. While Bangladesh expressed its intention to intervene in the Gaza genocide case, which has no direct relevance to it, its hesitation to intervene in the Rohingya genocide case in the last five years, which has immediate bearing, is truly surprising.

The ICJ's Order on Admissibility of Intervention resurfaced the issue of whether Bangladesh will submit any declaration of intervention. This is a vital issue for the Rohingya genocide case, given that Bangladesh hosts the majority of the displaced Rohingya, many of whom are also

genocide survivors. In fact, the ICJ acknowledged Bangladesh as the directly affected state in its Preliminary Objections Judgment (Para 113). One of the remedies asked by The Gambia is “the safe and dignified return of forcibly displaced Rohingya.” The merit judgment of the ICJ will have a direct impact on Bangladesh.

It is to be noted that Bangladesh does not have the entitlement to institute direct proceedings against Myanmar due to its reservation to Article IX of the Genocide Convention. Article IX confers the jurisdictional basis over any dispute regarding genocide to the ICJ. However, Bangladesh has continued to offer diplomatic and financial support to The Gambia regarding the Rohingya genocide case. Admittedly, it is very surprising and equally disappointing that Bangladesh has yet to submit

explore whether Bangladesh fulfils such requirements.

First, there should be an interest of a legal nature, not a right or a legal interest. Article 81(2)(a) also speculates a legal interest that “may be affected” by a decision. Thus, there exists a very low threshold of evidence. It is apparent that the remedy sought by The Gambia related to the Rohingya repatriation is closely linked to Bangladesh's continuous endeavours to repatriate the Rohingya to Myanmar. Bangladesh may also underscore its potential legal duties owed to the Rohingya genocide survivors currently taking shelter in Bangladesh after the final judgment. Thus, it is safe to assume that Bangladesh can successfully argue that it has an interest of a legal nature that may be affected by the eventual judgment of the proceedings in the discussion.

Second, Bangladesh should highlight the precise object of its intervention. In earlier cases, intervening states sought to inform the nature and description of the legal rights and interests that may be affected by the eventual judgments. In the present proceedings, Bangladesh may claim that it seeks to inform the court of its legal rights and interests in relation to the repatriation of the Rohingya who took refuge in its territory.

Third, the ICJ has clarified in its case laws (*Honduras/El Salvador* and *Cameroon vs Nigeria*) that no such jurisdictional link is required in the case of an Article 62 Intervention. As a result, Bangladesh's reservation to Article IX may not bar it from intervening under Article 62 of the ICJ statute.

At this juncture, it is to be investigated whether Bangladesh may still avail itself of the opportunity to intervene in this case, especially after the order of July 3, 2024. As per Article 82(2) of the Rules of the Court, an application for permission to intervene shall be filed on or before the deadline for filing the last written pleading. In the present case, the deadline for submitting the last written pleading, i.e. Myanmar's Rejoinder, is December 30, 2024. Accordingly, Bangladesh is still within its time limit to intervene. But time is slipping away.

It is important to emphasise that Bangladesh's decision to intervene in the Rohingya genocide case will not jeopardise its repatriation efforts. On the contrary, this intervention could positively influence the upcoming repatriation process. Therefore, Bangladesh should proceed with its intervention application to clarify its legal rights and interests in the proceedings, thereby assisting the ICJ in making a more informed deliberation.

Are our information systems secure?



Mamun Rashid is the chairman of Financial Excellence Ltd and founding managing partner of PwC Bangladesh.

MAMUN RASHID

The recent surge in cyber-attacks globally, coupled with increasing digital adoption in Bangladesh, has magnified the vulnerabilities within our own cyber ecosystem. Cyber threats are evolving at an alarming rate, becoming more sophisticated and harder to detect. We know of the central bank money heist. Reputed media operators also reported of IT firewall break. Apart from that, many of our public undertakings have also reported repeated cyber-attacks or hacking. In the same line, phishing attacks, ransomware, and data breaches are becoming increasingly common, affecting both individuals and organisations. Organisations must adopt robust measures to protect their data and systems from unauthorised access, misuse, and potential breaches. An effective Information Security Management System (ISMS) is the backbone of any organisation's information security strategy. It encompasses various activities to safeguard information assets, including software, hardware, services, data, staff, and intangible assets.

Identifying and classifying assets is crucial as they are categorised based on their importance and the impact their loss or compromise would have on the organisation. This includes software, hardware, services, data, and other assets. Proper asset management ensures that all assets are protected according to their classification.

Implementing strong access controls is essential to prevent unauthorised access to sensitive information. This includes role-based access, secure log-in procedures, password management systems, and session timeouts. Access to information should be granted based on the principle of least privilege, ensuring that individuals only have access to the information necessary for their role.

A robust incident management process is vital for identifying, reporting, and responding to security incidents. This includes having a dedicated team to handle incidents, conducting root cause analysis, and implementing corrective actions to prevent recurrence. Regular reporting and review of incidents help in the continuous improvement of the security posture. Secure coding practices and effective management of the application development lifecycle are critical to preventing vulnerabilities. Regular security testing, including vulnerability assessments and penetration testing, helps identify and mitigate potential threats.

Employees are the first line of defense in information security. Comprehensive training and awareness programmes ensure that staff are knowledgeable about security policies and practices. Background checks, security training, and adherence to the code of conduct are essential components of human

resource security. Regular audits and compliance checks are necessary to ensure that the Information Security Management System is effective and aligned with industry standards. For instance, ISO/IEC 27001:2013 provides a framework for managing information security. Internal and external audits help identify gaps and areas for improvement, ensuring that the



VISUAL : COLLECTED

organisation remains compliant with regulatory requirements.

Business continuity and disaster recovery plans are essential to ensure that operations can continue in the event of a disruption. This includes having redundant systems, regular testing of recovery procedures, and continuous monitoring to address emerging risks. An ISO 22301 certification, for example, demonstrates an organisation's commitment to maintaining business continuity.

Bangladesh faces significant challenges in access to affordable information due to inadequate infrastructure and lack of appropriate education. The absence of an integrated computer security system and education on cybersecurity compounds these issues. Cooperation, collaboration, and investment in cybersecurity are crucial to develop a culture of security and trust. Despite improvements, many organisations still use outdated security protocols, especially SMEs,

which are highly vulnerable due to limited resources and awareness. The absence of a comprehensive national cybersecurity strategy exacerbates these vulnerabilities, leaving critical sectors like banking, healthcare, and telecommunications exposed to cyber threats.

Bangladesh has implemented several key policies to advance its ICT sector, including the National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy 2018, National Digital Commerce Policy 2018, Cyber Security Act, 2023, and the Electronic Transaction Act. These initiatives aim to develop a comprehensive ICT infrastructure across the country, ensuring that all citizens have access to information, which in turn fosters empowerment, good governance, and sustainable economic growth. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has issued various guidelines and directives to enhance cybersecurity in the telecommunications sector. This includes requirements for telecom operators to implement robust security measures and report cyber incidents. The Data Protection Act 2023 sets out guidelines and best practices for both organisations and the government on managing personal data. It governs how personal data is processed and ensures the protection of individual rights.

While no system can be entirely impervious to threats, a comprehensive and proactive approach to information security can significantly mitigate risks and enhance the overall security posture of an organisation. By adhering to established standards and continuously improving their security measures, organisations can ensure that their information systems remain secure in an ever-evolving threat landscape.

University students deserve a better learning experience



Dr A.S.M.A. Haseeb is professor and head of the Department of Nanomaterials and Ceramic Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

A. S. M. A. HASEEB

"I am a ... student at ... University. I am having some difficulty with my faculty members. Most of the senior professors, I feel, are unable to teach ... They seem to have little idea about the grading system, curriculum and teaching process ... Is there anything we can do ...?"

– The Daily Star, April 5, 2005
"I have always felt that the education system in this country is broken ... The classes are boring and the teachers are mostly insincere and uninterested in teaching ..."

– The Daily Star, September 12, 2024
These two quotes have been taken from articles published on *The Daily Star*, 19 years apart. As evident in these quotes, learning experience in our universities has not improved over the years. Generations of students have been yearning for a decent learning experience, which we can no longer brush aside. One of the goals of education, besides crafting proper human beings, is to produce graduates who are employable in our increasingly complicated, sophisticated and tech-oriented economy. Ill-prepared graduates who go through a poor learning experience cannot satisfy the quality standard required by the job sector. Indeed, employers constantly complain about the low level of readiness of our graduates.

Teachers are the most important factor for the success of student learning in the classroom, as research has shown. Therefore, they have to take their teaching responsibility as a sacred duty. "Teaching is the profession upon which all other professions depend," says the World Bank Policy Approach to Teachers. In fact, one can argue that teaching is not just a profession, it is a life mission.

Teaching has two aspects: what to teach, and how to teach. University teachers in Bangladesh are rarely trained in the latter. In our university classrooms, passive lectures are still the dominant mode of teaching. Passive lecture, a teacher-centred mode of education, can be ineffective, unengaging, uninspiring,



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

and boring. It leads to rote learning or surface learning, and doesn't help students to acquire the mastery of knowledge and achieve higher cognitive skills such as problem-solving, analysis, evaluation, synthesis, creation, etc. A prominent research study found that "... students in classes with traditional lecturing were 1.5 times more likely to fail than were students in classes with active learning" (PNAS, 2014). This finding prompted Prof Eric Mazur, a famous educationist and physics professor at Harvard University, to opine that "... it's almost unethical to be lecturing if you have this data" (*Science*, 2014).

But our universities don't have to adhere to passive lecturing. Educational sciences have seen tremendous developments over

the years, and research in this field has led to the development of innovative teaching techniques that can make lectures more interactive, ensuring student participation. These techniques include think-pair-share, roleplay, jigsaw, minute paper, concept map, summarisation, muddiest point, etc. To instil higher cognitive skills, modern universities adopt other innovative modes of teaching and learning, such as problem-based learning,

However, one cannot blame only the teachers for the poor learning experience of students. University authorities have the key responsibility to support teachers in achieving teaching excellence. Universities must create an atmosphere where teaching excellence is encouraged, nurtured, supported, and celebrated. Authorities must help create champions in quality teaching and let younger teachers learn from them.

our teachers to international best practices.

The education ministry and the University Grants Commission (UGC) must realise that excellence in teaching and learning cannot happen automatically in our universities. It requires setting goals and proper implementation at the national level. They must support the universities in establishing teaching and learning centres. They should institute national-level awards for university teaching (UGC has awards for only research and publications). The Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) is currently implementing Outcome Based Education (OBE) in our universities. Fundamental to OBE is constructive alignment among (1) student outcomes, (2) teaching and learning activities, and (3) assessment. In this construct, teaching and learning activities are vital to achieving student outcomes, so that's where serious consideration should be given. In the past, the UGC, in partnership with the British Council, initiated a project named the Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) to strengthen teaching and learning capacity in a few selected universities. The experience with this programme should be revisited. It should be revised and revived with the aim of improving its efficacy, wider applicability and long-term sustainability.

Our employers and industry cannot just demand high-quality graduates without doing their part either. They must play their role by engaging with academia, clearly articulating their needs, and supporting student training. They must help universities expose students to real-life scenarios by bringing industry problems to the classrooms. The government, UGC, and professionals have to facilitate such industry-academia collaboration.

Students, in turn, have important roles to play. As adult learners, university students must take responsibility for their own learning. They must realise that there is no alternative to diligence, discipline and hard work.

We cannot afford letting our university students go through poor learning experiences. Teachers, being the primary actors, should play a leadership role to improve the situation. They must restore pride in performing their basic duty. But university teachers need support from the key stakeholders, i.e. the university authorities, education ministry, UGC, and the employers. The reward and return that excellent teaching can bring for all are invaluable. The benefits are not just academic but, indeed, economic as well.

Spreading false narratives will get Indian media nowhere



Bishakha Devnath is the business editor of *The Financial Express*.

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

In journalism, there is a popular saying: if there is a dispute over whether it is raining or not, look out the window to see for yourself.

Since the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh, a larger section of the Indian media has constantly been belittling the political changeover in Bangladesh as nothing but an emergence of extremist groups. In doing so, these "journalists" have been cherry-picking information about what has been happening in a tense, tumultuous time to tarnish the image of Bangladesh, with a pre-determined narrative. It is as if they look for information to fit the story they have already written about post-2024-uprising Bangladesh.

The main rhetoric in the Indian media is that minorities in Bangladesh have been subjected to communal violence after the student-led mass uprising toppled the Hasina regime. There is no denying the fact that homes and businesses belonging to Hindus were ransacked and set ablaze in the immediate aftermath, but so were many other establishments that belong to Muslims. Taking advantage of the political void and lawlessness that followed the ouster, people who had been victimised by the previous regime, as well as those who took the situation as an opportunity to loot properties and some fanatics unleashed a wave of attacks on their opponents or perceived enemies.

While I demand justice on behalf of the innocent men and women who suffered at that time, I will resist the manufacturing of the self-serving narratives that the Indian media is so fixated on—as vehemently as any Indian would do if the neighbouring country was judged by the 2002 Gujarat riots or the lynching of people from its minority Muslim community.

Hence, I request my Indian peers to come to Bangladesh, leaving behind prejudices, and see for themselves how things are before reporting on the country's evolving political and social situations. I appeal to them to stop portraying the country as a war zone. It is not. Things have been improving bit by bit since August 5, and we Bangladeshis are optimistic about reconciliation in a society that has been highly polarised for a decade or more to the benefit of a highly extractive political, economic

disparity. The macroeconomic indicators make it palpable. About a dozen banks have been dragged to near bankruptcy by close allies of Sheikh Hasina by borrowing huge amounts of money but never paying back. The capital market is in ruins because of corruption, manipulation and scams. The previous regime allowed politically influential people from the Awami League and bureaucrats, who served their interests, to exploit and distort the system of governance.

People are now suffering the consequences; they are not getting back deposits from the sick banks, the value of investments in scam-hit securities diminished, and commodity prices skyrocketed as inflation kept rising not only because of global tensions but also due to domestic mismanagement. In the meantime, jobs are scarce because the money borrowed from financial

for their lack of knowledge, but did not say how Bangladeshis around the world fought back against the force. What I hate to see is his depiction of attacks on minorities. Communal tensions have always had a presence in Bangladesh, kept alive by politicians as a calculated strategy targeting elections. Between 2012 and 2021, many attacks were made on minority communities: 2012 Ramu violence against Buddhist houses and monasteries; 2014 attacks on the Hindu community in Abhaynagar, Jashore; 2016 attacks on Hindus in Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria over a fake Facebook post; and the 2020 attack on Hindu households in Muradnagar, Cumilla, for example.

The Awami League government did not ensure justice for the victims of those attacks, and we did not see Indian media personalities—such as Mr Ghosh—expressing concern and warning the then government against

inaction. The Indian government, too, was not vocal at the time.

What has changed then? Mr Ghosh and his disciples will be able to tell. I would suggest one thing though: his yelling does not prove the points he wants to make. He has to contextualise his speeches and research a bit more to elevate his works to the standards of journalism.

Meanwhile, the damage rendered by the Indian media is that they have created a virtual version of Bangladesh as the political unpredictability offered them a good business opportunity with more and more audiences drawn to whatever content they made and promoted on social media platforms. That was feeding into an already tense psyche. The outrage in India expressed through attacks on Bangladeshi missions is inimical to the relations between the two nations.

What the present turmoil in

Bangladesh demands is a supportive attitude from friends within and outside towards building an amicable environment for reforms that will help the country achieve equitable growth. We need reconciliation between opposing forces; we need harmony and solidarity to rebuild the nation for the better.

On Monday, during an official visit to Bangladesh, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India wanted to "carry on where we left off," meaning the disruption in the bilateral ties after Hasina's fall. "There is no second thought about increasing engagements. We see this as beneficial for both countries," he said. I hope the section of the Indian media that is bent on fuelling tensions between the two countries will take note. Above all, I expect them to uphold journalistic standards and present reports based on facts.

The damage rendered by the Indian media is that they have created a virtual version of Bangladesh as the political unpredictability offered them a good business opportunity with more and more audiences drawn to whatever content they made and promoted on social media platforms.

and bureaucratic system.


This appeal comes from concerns that the misinformation and disinformation that journalists (who crossed over into the territory of YouTubers or activists) are spreading will ruin the potential of good relations between these two neighbours. One particular individual who has drawn my attention is Mayukh Ranjan Ghosh, senior editor of Republic Bangla. He is bent on proving that Bangladeshis are furious against the chief adviser of the interim government. It is a bizarre proposition unless he refers to the fallen political force and its sycophants.

Yes, Bangladeshis are frustrated because they are running out of patience to see a quick fix to the accumulated problems. A majority of them feel left out of the nation's economic growth over the last decade because it only exacerbated economic

institutions on the pretext of business expansion was laundered abroad.

While the financial sector has been mercilessly beaten into the present sorry state for over a decade, it is now an uphill task to bring it back into order. The interim government has been given the mandate to bring reforms, but anyone can guess how challenging it must be. There are other concerns to address, such as rampant land grabbing, pollution of water bodies, and illegal construction of buildings, hotels, and other infrastructure by those who could get away with violating laws for their links to power before the August 5 changeover.

But Indian journalists like Mayukh Ranjan Ghosh tried to push the narrative that people were unhappy and divided in the post-August 5 era. He brought to notice some extreme sermons that criticised our national anthem, vilifying them



Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer
Mechanical Circle, Dhalpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka.
www.dhakasouthcity.org

Memo No. 46.207.007.09.25.004.2024

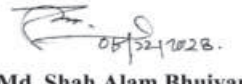
Date: 08/12/2024

Re-Tender Notice

This is notify for all concern that the following tender has been published in e-GP portal:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Identification of Lot	Tender ID No.	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Dropping Date & Time
1	egpdsccmech. 036/2024-25	Supply of different types Road Marking Paints & Necessary Things Required.	1044757	22/12/2024 up to 4:00 PM	23/12/2024 up to 12:00 PM
2	egpdsccmech. 037/2024-25	Engagement of yearly contractor for supplying Stone ships, Sylhet sand, Bitumen & Labour for repair and maintenance of defected bitumenous roads of different zones under DSCC through Asphalt Plant of mechanical division.	1044796	22/12/2024 up to 4:00 PM	23/12/2024 up to 12:00 PM

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 Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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(5"x4)

Towards an Independent and Credible NHRC: Agendas for Reform



The Daily Star

UNDP's Strengthening Institutions, Policies and Service (SIPS) project, co-funded by Embassy of Switzerland, in collaboration with The Daily Star organised a roundtable titled 'Towards an Independent and Credible NHRC: Agendas for Reform' on November 28, 2024. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.



Jyotirmoy Barua, Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court & Human Rights Activist

The National Human Rights Commission Act 2009, modeled on India's legislation on the National Human Rights Commission and in light of the Paris Principles of 1993, provides for the establishment of NHRC as an independent statutory body. However, structural issues limit its autonomy. Concerns raised by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in 2011 and 2015 highlight the partisan nature of the NHRC's selection process, undermining its impartiality and contributing to Bangladesh's 'B' accreditation status.

The NHRC's investigative powers are restricted, particularly against law enforcement agencies, where it relies on government reports rather than conducting independent inquiries. This limitation has prevented the NHRC from addressing serious human rights violations, such as enforced disappearances, over the past 16 years.

While new leadership may bring change, institutional effectiveness cannot depend solely on individuals. The NHRC's role remains confined to recommendations, with rare use of provisions like Section 13 for judicial referrals. Additionally, appointing former government officials as Chairpersons contradicts the Paris Principles, which advocate reducing administrative ties to achieve greater independence. To realize its full potential and aim for 'A' status accreditation, the NHRC must prioritize impartial leadership, strengthen its workforce, and expand its operational independence.



Sayeed Ahmad, Protection Coordinator, Asia Pacific, Front Line Defenders

The status of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) needs clarity—whether it is a government entity or an NGO. Globally, national human rights institutions are seen as bridges between the state and NGOs, a role crucial for Bangladesh, where the gap between the two has widened over the past 16 years.

The NHRC's mandate to promote, protect, and prevent human rights violations requires innovative approaches, even within legal constraints. For instance, while Section 18 of the NHRC Act 2009 limits investigations into law enforcement, the NHRC could conduct research on extrajudicial killings and establish guiding principles. Similarly, it could set standards, such as guidelines for peaceful assemblies tailored to Bangladesh's context, but such efforts remain absent.

Operational independence is undermined by the secondment of officials and budget allocations controlled by the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, despite provisions for an independent secretariat and budget. These gaps weaken the NHRC's effectiveness and hinder its potential.



Sheikh Hafizur Rahman (Karzon), Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka

The establishment of the NHRC in Bangladesh appears to be more symbolic than purposeful, falling short of fulfilling its mandate to protect and promote human rights. While the state bears the constitutional responsibility for safeguarding human rights, the NHRC should act as an independent watchdog, addressing allegations of violations by state actors, including MPs, bureaucrats, police, and other agencies. Unfortunately, it has failed to deliver on this critical role. To enhance its effectiveness, the NHRC's appointment process must prioritize individuals with proven expertise in human rights, such as legal scholars, justices, and advocates. Additionally,



the Commission requires greater financial independence and expanded powers, including the authority to investigate allegations against law enforcement, recommend legal action, file writs, and hold state offenders accountable. It must also be granted executive power.



Kazi Maruful Islam, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka

To enhance the NHRC's effectiveness, its mandate must be broadened, with accountability mechanisms in place to ensure its integrity. Law enforcement agencies and national forces remain key violators of human rights, highlighting the need for greater alignment between the judiciary, executive bodies, and NHRC activities. Strengthening collaboration with civil society is crucial for transforming the NHRC into a transparent, people-centric institution. For instance, many individuals displaced by development projects are denied proper compensation despite repeated appeals. To address such issues, the NHRC must actively engage with marginalized communities and work closely with field-level human rights defenders. This approach would improve cost efficiency, operational transparency, and the Commission's capacity to effectively safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations.



Dr. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

While the state bears the primary responsibility for protecting human rights, the NHRC must assess the state's effectiveness, identify gaps, and recommend actionable solutions. Its role should extend beyond bridging NGOs and the state to bridging the deeper divide between the people and the state. In addition to addressing critical issues like enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, the NHRC must address pervasive violations of women's rights. To achieve this, the Commission needs greater representation of human rights experts with a strong focus on gender sensitivity and women's issues.



Sohrab Hassan, Joint Editor, Prothom Alo

As a journalist, I am deeply concerned about the state of human rights in our country, particularly given the mounting pressure on media outlets such as Prothom Alo and The Daily Star. These offices face increasing protests, symbolic acts like the slaughter of cows, and public calls for closure—blatant violations of press freedom and human rights. The absence of an independent and effective National Human Rights Commission exacerbates the situation.

The press plays a crucial role in uncovering these incidents but faces significant challenges, particularly when law enforcement agencies or even Heads of state are alleged to be involved. To address these issues, the National Human Rights Commission must be genuinely independent, with the authority to investigate and hold state actors accountable.

Establishing a tribunal-like panel within the NHRC could help ensure justice for violations committed by those in power. At the same time, fostering political awareness and demanding accountability across all levels of governance are critical for protecting human rights and press freedom in Bangladesh.



Shireen Huq, Founder President, Naripokkho and Chair of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission

The NHRC merely reiterates traditional points without

addressing pressing issues. For instance, while the death penalty is widely recognised as a gross human rights violation, the Commission has yet to take a definitive stance against it.

Bangladesh, as a signatory to several international treaties and conventions, has maintained reservations on critical articles of these treaties, undermine its commitment for example, in the case of CEDAW, we have retained a reservation on Article 2 and 16(1)(c), which obligates states to align their laws and policies with the principles of non-discrimination. By doing so, we have essentially undermined the spirit, commitment, effectively stating that we are not bound by those obligations. As a nation, we have fallen short in upholding international legal obligations and fulfilling commitments, more specifically in implementing treaty like the ICCPR.

Many organisations have consistently demanded an independent investigative mechanism within the National Human Rights Commission to ensure its effectiveness. Protecting human rights often involves addressing human rights violations by the non-state actors (third-party) beyond the state's direct actions. These responsibilities are clearly outlined in the human rights framework. Members of the National Human Rights Commission are well aware of their duties and obligations, but if they continue to neglect these, no human rights commission can function effectively.



Sumita Rabidas, Human Rights Activist Coordinator, BCRA

Youth Leader, I developed a deep understanding of human rights, which inspired my activism within my community. While much attention is given to the challenges of hill tracks communities, the Adibasi (indigenous peoples) of the plain land remain overlooked. The National Human Rights Commission must be decentralise its operations, expanding to district and union levels, especially in Adibasi-dominated areas. A separate land commission for plains Adibasis is also essential to address their specific issues. The Commission's delayed response to the police firing in Govindaganj on 6 November 2016—arriving 36 days later—highlighted its lack of urgency and raised serious concerns about its commitment to Adibasi justice.



Syed Mohiuddin Daanish, Senior Project Officer, Obobob

Human rights protections in Bangladesh remain alarmingly inadequate, with even the mainstream population often lacking sufficient safeguards. This raises critical concerns about the vulnerabilities faced by minority communities defined by sex, ethnicity, and religion. Reforms and policies must be truly inclusive, ensuring that the violation of even a single individual's rights is acknowledged and addressed as a fundamental breach of human rights.



Nirupa Dewan, Former Honorary Member, National Human Rights Commission

Marginalized communities, particularly Adibasis, face systemic human rights violations unique to the hill tracts and plains, setting them apart from the rest of the country. Efforts to highlight these issues are often met with accusations of conspiracy and undue scrutiny of our movements. For instance, during a visit to the Kaptai Dam, Adibasis, including myself, were denied entry, while a then-Director

General (from the mainstream community) was granted access. This incident exemplifies the everyday discrimination we endure, challenging the notion of equal human rights.

During my tenure from 2010 to 2016 as a Member of the NHRC, we recognized these shortcomings and worked to address them through extensive fact-finding missions nationwide, documenting all human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). To uphold its mandate, the NHRC must evolve into a true bridge between the government and the people, ensuring that marginalized voices are heard and their rights are protected.



Sarshathi Das, Programme Officer, Dalit Women Forum

The draft Anti-Discrimination legislation, proposed many years back, remains unpassed. In our colony slum, city corporation employees can secure housing, yet individuals in private cleaning jobs struggle to find rental accommodation and face limited job opportunities. To address these inequalities, I strongly urge the immediate enactment of the Anti-Discrimination Bill and its inclusion in the constitution to ensure meaningful protection and equity for all.



Sabina Yasmeim Lubna, Senior Programme Manager, Embassy of Switzerland

The Swiss Embassy continues to prioritise human rights, she underlined. For the NHRC to promote human rights throughout the nation, she emphasised the necessity of enhancing its regional presence and continuing to enhance the capability of its employees. Additionally, she brought up long-standing issues with the NHRC's opaque hiring and selection procedure. For an independent statutory organisation such as the NHRC to operate effectively and efficiently, strong leadership is necessary. The leadership of the organisation is crucial to its success because of their dedication and vision. However, little progress has been made in this crucial area over the last 10 years, and the NHRC has failed to reach its full potential.



Sumaiya Islam, Executive Director, Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra – BNSK

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) provides valuable data highlighting the challenges faced by outgoing and returnee female migrant workers. However, most cases of abuse against migrant workers go unreported. A significant concern is the involvement of trafficking syndicates, often with the complicity of corrupt officials and Ministers, in controlling migration to countries in the region and Europe.

Destination countries, particularly in the Middle East, frequently show little regard for human rights violations due to a lack of commitment to comprehensive protection mechanisms. Addressing the plight of migrant workers requires urgent and collaborative efforts, both nationally and internationally, to ensure their safety and uphold their rights.



Sebastin Rema, Secretary, National Human Rights Commission

Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of human rights, and expectations from the NHRC to safeguard this right remain high. However, the NHRC requires structural reforms to enhance its operations and deliver tangible impacts. A significant issue

is that the government agencies do not always pay attention when the NHRC requests for reports. Greater collaboration and cooperation between the government and the NHRC are crucial to ensuring meaningful progress and protecting fundamental rights.



Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Former Chairman, National Human Rights Commission

I strongly advocate for the establishment of an independent NHRC, yet this aspiration remains largely unrealised. Although financial management within the commission has shown improvement, several challenges persist, such as insufficient resources mainly allocated budget code, a lack of autonomy, and limited reach across the country. Despite these constraints, the NHRC has tackled important human rights issues, including drafting legislation for the protection of domestic workers, addressing sexual harassment in educational institutions and workplaces, and combating child marriage.

Despite facing resource limitations, the NHRC remains steadfast in its commitment to human rights advocacy by filing petitions on critical issues. However, structural reforms are essential to enhance its power and authority, secure adequate resources and allocation to the appropriate code, and ensure greater transparency. For the NHRC to make a meaningful and lasting impact, it must function as a top-tier oversight body capable of effective coordination with state institutions, more specifically articulating a mechanism when the recommendations made by the NHRC is not complied with or paid attention by the government. As the primary interface between the government and human rights enforcement, the NHRC must be equipped with the tools and capacity necessary to fulfil its role effectively.



Anowarul Haq, Assistant Secretary, Democratic Governance Portfolio, UNDP Bangladesh

Human rights often revolve around the dynamics between the powerful and the powerless. A commission may steer clear of controversial issues, but its effectiveness must be critically evaluated. A strong NHRC alone cannot advance human rights; it requires collaborative efforts with the civil society organisations (CSOs) and human rights defenders.

The NHRC must transform into a credible, independent body that is accountable to the people. Its complaint mechanism must be strengthened and supported by digitalisation. The NHRC Act, 2009, requires amendments to overcome statutory limitations that is an obstacle of its independence. Furthermore, the selection process for NHRC officials must be transparent, ensuring alignment between legislative frameworks and the services required by the people.

Given Bangladesh's complexities—including rural-urban divides, resource constraints, and increasing private sector investments—human rights should be approached in a decentralised manner. The NHRC should collaborate with human rights defenders and the media. For Bangladesh to be recognised as a strong democracy, the state, market systems, and civil society must form a cohesive partnership.



Tanjim Ferdous, In-Charge, NGOs & Foreign Missions, Business Development Team, The Daily Star & Moderator of the Session

The NHRC has the potential to serve as an impartial defender of peoples' rights. At this juncture, the interim government's commitment to human rights reform provides a unique and timely opportunity to pursue meaningful changes.

Mahmudul Hasan, Project Manager, Lubna Yasin, Human Rights Expert, Sabrina Sharmin, Communications and Knowledge Management Expert of Strengthening Institutions, Policies and Service (SIPS) project, UNDP Bangladesh were present in the discussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

» The reform of the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh should not occur in isolation. Instead, it must be positioned as an integral component of a broader political reform agenda that prioritizes and enforces zero tolerance for all forms of human rights violations.

» The National Human Rights Commission Act 2009 should be amended to address statutory restrictions and ensure independence by removing limitation.

» The NHRC must be granted expanded powers, including the authority to investigate, recommend legal action, file writs, and hold state offenders accountable.

» The appointment process in the NHRC must be transparent and prioritise the selection of qualified experts, such as a Chief Justice (former), advocates, legal scholars, or human rights defenders.

» The rules, in particular, for mediation and conciliation and recruitment rules under the NHRC Act 2009 should be reviewed and/or formulated to enhance the Commission's efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate.

» The NHRC must be granted greater financial independence.

» Strengthen collaboration with civil society and other human rights defenders to ensure the inclusion of marginalised communities and position the NHRC as a transparent, people-centric organisation.

» Establish a tribunal-like panel within the commission to ensure justice and accountability.

» Specialised 'Adibasi Cell' should be established within the NHRC.

» Coordination between the NHRC and the judiciary must be enhanced.

» Enhance the NHRC's complaint mechanism by integrating robust digital systems to streamline accessibility, tracking, and resolution of cases.

‘Everybody was hungry to win’

Bangladesh men's Under-19 team successfully defended their ACC U-19 Asia Cup title on Sunday after beating eight-time champions India in the final in Dubai, UAE. For the team's head coach Naveed Nawaz, it was the second title with the Young Tigers, having previously won the ICC U-19 World Cup in South Africa in 2020 during his first term. The 51-year-old Sri Lankan spoke with *The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan* after the successful campaign, shared insights on their performance in the event and the plans going forward. Here are the excerpts:

The Daily Star (DS): After getting dismissed for 198 in the final, what was the discussion in the dressing room? **Naveed Nawaz (NN):** We knew that we were about 20 to 30 runs short because the par score on the ground was about 230. But we had drawn up plans against most of the Indian batters. In our discussions we said that our only chance was to get them all out. The plan was to attack and try to get wickets. We went all out and I think the boys executed the plans really well.

DS: How do you rate the performance of Azizul Hakim Tamim both as a cricketer and captain? Do you see him leading the team in the World Cup in 2026? **NN:** Tamim was brilliant throughout the tournament. We have identified his skills as a leader and of course as a player as well. That's the reason he is the captain. It's too early to say whether he's going to lead in the World Cup. But so far, he has captained in two series and has done really well. The boys as well as the staff have a lot of confidence in him.

DS: The pacers were sensational throughout the tournament. How high do you rate the current pace attack? **NN:** The fast bowling has been really good. [AI] Fahad, [Iqbal Hossain] Emon, Maruf Mridha – they have made



a lot of impact. Also, because of the fact that we played in Dubai, it helped the fast bowlers a bit. I think they have shown maturity. There are a few things we need to work on with them which will be done during the camps. They are still improving.

DS: The body language of the players was positive throughout the tournament and they showed aggression when needed. How did they achieve this mindset?

NN: That is something we discussed before the final. We discussed about the intensity that we should carry onto the field, especially when playing against India. A lot of it was obviously due to the body language they showed. Everyone was hungry to do well, they were hungry to win.

DS: Some players of the current squad like Shihab James and Maruf Mridha were part of last year's U-19 Asia Cup winning side as well. Are they in the plans for the next U-19 World Cup?

NN: Actually, James and Maruf aren't eligible to play in the next World Cup. So, they will move on and will be in the HP programme for couple of months. Our squad will continue with the others.

DS: Do you want to test more players in the upcoming series or stick with the current group and form the World Cup squad around them?

NN: There are a few areas we are still looking at before forming the final squad, which we will not do for at least another six to seven months. The Youth Cricket League is coming up and will probably end by February-March. There are still a couple of positions open. We are still on the lookout for talent.



Liton Das' last six ODI innings: 4,2,0,0,1*,6

The poor form of Liton Das, who was named as Bangladesh's captain for the three T20Is against the West Indies, continues as the top-order batter could only make four off 19 deliveries in the Tigers' second ODI against the Windies at Warner Park in St Kitts yesterday. Trying to pull a Jayden Seales delivery, Liton toe-ended a simple catch to Evin Lewis at backward point in the eighth over.

PHOTO: CWT

‘Long-desired’ NCL T20 takes flight today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's local cricketers had long been seeking an opportunity to showcase and develop their Twenty20 skills in a tournament beyond the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the country's premier franchise T20 league. That "desire" is set to become a reality as the inaugural edition of the National Cricket League (NCL) T20



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Prize money: Tk 20 lakh for the tournament winners.

Format: Four matches per day in a round-robin league format until December 19.

Playoff schedule: Qualifiers and eliminators on December 21 and 22; final on December 24 at SICS.

tournament kicks off today in Sylhet.

Last year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board's cricket operations department initiated the plan, holding several meetings between the tournament committee, selectors, and operations. After much deliberation, the board identified a window for the tournament, which is exclusively for local players.

It is hoped that the NCL T20 will help local talents hit their stride early and improve their performance in the BPL.

"The local players had been desiring this for a long time. We know we have a busy international schedule, but with some effort, it wasn't difficult to find room for this tournament," a BCB official told *The Daily Star*.

The eight-team tournament will be held in Sylhet, with the final scheduled for December 24. In today's morning fixtures, both beginning at 9:30 am, Dhaka Division will play Sylhet Division at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS), while Dhaka Metro will face Barishal Division at the Sylhet Outer Stadium (SOS). Later in the day, Rangpur will take on Chattogram at SICS at 1:30am, after Khulna and Rajshahi start competing at 1:00 pm at SOS.

The eight team captains gathered

yesterday for a photoshoot at SICS. Rangpur skipper Akbar Ali spoke about the players' anticipation for the tournament.

"We have been hoping for this tournament for quite some time, especially a T20 event that isn't the BPL and is exclusively for local players. It's a great initiative, and I'm optimistic it will be competitive and help players prepare for the BPL," Akbar told reporters on Tuesday.

Although the national team players are unavailable due to their engagement in the ongoing white-ball series in the West Indies, national skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto is set to play for Rajshahi, while former ODI captain Tamim Iqbal will represent Chattogram.

"We want to show our worth on the field," said Chattogram captain Yasir Ali. "Having a senior player like Tamim Iqbal will boost our side, and I'm sure he'll give his best," he added.

Tigers make wholesale changes for WI T20s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh made wholesale changes in their squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against the West Indies, notably including emerging team pacer Ripon Mondol and bringing back Afif Hossain and Shamim Hossain for the first time in a year. The series will run from Dec 16-20.

Ripon earlier represented Bangladesh in three matches during last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China while

Bangladesh squad: Liton Das (capt), Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Afif Hossain, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Jaker Ali Anik, Shamim Hossain, Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Tanzim Sakib, Hasan Mahmud, Ripon Mondol

Afif and Shamim played their last T20I against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui last year.

Apart from these three, left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed got his first call-up to the T20I side since July last year while Soumya Sarkar and Hasan Mahmud returned after missing out on the series against India.

The selectors also named wicketkeeper-batter Liton Das as the skipper for the series, after regular skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto failed to get full fitness. Towhid Hridoy is also missing the series due to injury while Mustafizur Rahman has taken a leave. Shoriful Islam and Rakibul Hasan, who were also part of the last India series, couldn't retain their spots.

Lewy leading Barca charge on Dortmund return

AFP, Barcelona

Robert Lewandowski's revival has been a key to Barcelona's strong start to life under Hansi Flick as the striker returns to Dortmund to face Borussia in the Champions League on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Pole has netted 23 goals in 21 games across all competitions this season, taking Barcelona top of the Spanish league and up to third in the European standings.

They lead last year's Champions League finalists Dortmund, who, like Barcelona, have four victories from five games, on goal difference before their meeting in Germany.

Lewandowski cut his teeth in top level European football with Dortmund between 2010 and 2014, driving them to the 2013 final. He arrived at Barcelona in 2022 and after a strong first campaign, his performance dipped last season.

Hansi Flick's arrival gave both the team and the veteran striker fresh impetus and until a recent wobble in form, both have thrived.

Despite his lethal form in front of goal, Lewandowski's presence in Barcelona's side does have one drawback – in part given his age, the striker has not been able to maintain his team's objective of pressing opponents as consistently as Flick would like.

Barcelona also recently threw away a two-goal lead at Celta Vigo, with Real Madrid gobbling up the distance between the sides at the top of the table that the Catalans had established.

Barca's recent issues will be thoroughly analysed by Dortmund ahead of the clash at the Westfalenstadion.



Man City seek UCL comfort

Manchester City's malaise leaves the English champions in the unusual position of fretting over qualification for the knockout stages of the UEFA Champions League ahead of a tricky trip to Italian giants Juventus on Wednesday. City have won just once in their past nine games in all competitions, leaving them fourth in the Premier League and 17th in the 36-team Champions League table. With their Premier League title defence not looking promising, City would seek some comfort in Europe by ensuring a win in Turin tonight and avoid sliding any further down the Champions League standings.

Juventus and City have faced each other on six previous occasions in Europe. After losing their very first meeting in September 1976 (1-0 in the UEFA Cup), Juventus have gone unbeaten in each of the last five, winning three and drawing two.

In fact, City's current five-match winless run against Juventus is their joint-longest against any single opponent in major European competitions. They also went five without a victory against Barcelona between 2014 and 2016.



PHOTO: REUTERS

FEDERATION CUP 2024-25

Mohammedan stumble, Abahani soar in openers

SPORTS REPORTER

The new season of Federation Cup kicked off with contrasting fortunes for title contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani, as the two heavyweights featured in Group B matches at different venues yesterday.

Last season's runners-up Mohammedan suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to Rahmatganj MFS in Dhaka, while 12-time champions Abahani cruised to a commanding 3-0 victory over Chittagong Abahani in Cumilla.

Mohammedan, who hold 11 Federation Cup titles, came into their opener riding high on confidence after defeating Bashundhara Kings 1-0 in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter just days ago. However, they were undone by Rahmatganj, a minnow possessing the giant-killers tag.

The result could be considered an upset for Mohammedan, even though they had suffered two defeats and one draw against Rahmatganj in their last five Federation Cup meetings between 2015 and 2023.

The match, held at Bashundhara Kings Arena, saw Rahmatganj goalkeeper Mamun



Alif in inspired form, thwarting several attempts by Mohammedan forwards, including Ghanaian Boateng Ernest and Nigerian Emmanuel Sunday.

The decisive moment came in the 82nd minute when Rahmatganj's Rajon Howlader found the net with a well-taken near-post drive. Mohammedan's frustrations boiled over in the 85th minute when Jahid Hasan Shanto received a red card for striking Egyptian forward Mostafa Hammad, leaving the Black and Whites unable to mount a late comeback.

Coach Alfaz Ahmed's decision to rest six

players, including key forward Souleymane Diabate – ahead of Saturday's league clash against arch-rivals Abahani – appeared to backfire as his side failed to find cohesion or sharpness in the attack.

Meanwhile, at Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium, Abahani executed a clinical performance against Chittagong Abahani. Forward Suman Reza gave the Sky Blues an early lead in the 17th minute with a header that narrowly crossed the line after hitting the far post, sparking a near seven-minute halt in play as the port city side contested the decision.

After the interval, Mohammad Ibrahim doubled the lead in the 76th minute, capitalising on a long ball before making a darting run, slotting home with a powerful strike. Defender Yeasin Khan added the finishing touch in the 86th minute, tapping in a low cross from Enamul Islam Gazi to seal the victory.

While Abahani's form suggests they are early favourites for the title, the defeat adds early pressure on Mohammedan, who now face an uphill battle in the five-team group stage.



Indian Coast Guard detain 79 Bangladeshi fishermen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The Indian Coast Guard reportedly apprehended two Bangladeshi fishing trawlers along with 79 crew members and fishermen.

The owning firms of the trawlers, FV Meghna 5 and FV Layla 2, claimed that their vessels were apprehended while fishing near the Sundarbans in Bangladeshi waters around 11:00am on Monday.

Commodore Maksud Alam, director general of the Department of Shipping (DoS), said that they are verifying whether the trawlers had crossed the maritime border mistakenly.

He added that the Bangladesh Coast Guard is in communication with their Indian counterparts regarding the matter.

Abid Hussain, office secretary of the Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association, also claimed that the trawlers were fishing in Bangladeshi waters when they were apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard.

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On a boat, two people, who are barely visible due to thick fog, catch fish in the Halda river in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila. The photo was taken near Madhunaghat area on Monday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Step up to build new Bangladesh

Yunus urges women

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the country's women to come forward to materialising the dream of building a new Bangladesh.

He made the call while speaking at a women's conference held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare jointly organised the conference, marking the Human Rights Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Prof Yunus said the new generation of women has the potential to create exemplary history before the world.

The girls of other countries cannot show the strength and courage that the girls of Bangladesh have shown in the July-August revolution, he said.

The chief adviser said all the girls in Bangladesh should take to the streets one day, and that could be December 10.

Chaired by Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid, the conference was addressed, among others, by Women and Children Affairs Secretary Mantaz Ahmed and the girls who led the July-August uprising.



INDIAN FOREIGN SECY'S VISIT

Good start for mending ties

Say foreign policy analysts

PORIMOL PALMA

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to Dhaka and his meetings with top officials have created a new scope to rebuild the two countries' relations, which have seen strains since the political changeover on August 5, foreign policy analysts said.

The free, frank and candid discussions, in which both sides were able to speak their minds, were imperative to clear the smoke and start afresh, they said.

During his one day visit on Monday, Vikram Misri called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, and held the annual Foreign Office Consultation (FOC), which covers all aspects of bilateral relations.

It was the first high-level official talk after the ouster of Awami League regime and Sheikh Hasina taking shelter in India, which is known as strong supporter of the former Bangladesh prime minister for her secular policy and guaranteeing India's security concerns.

Alleged repression against minorities post-August 5 and Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari's arrest in Bangladesh triggered demonstrations in various parts of India. Meanwhile, attacks on the Bangladesh mission in Agartala and the desecration of the Bangladesh flag in Kolkata sparked widespread demonstration in Bangladesh.

Additionally, Dhaka accused the Indian media spreading false propaganda against Bangladesh and the July uprising. Bangladesh foreign ministry also summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma last week in this regard.

"Amid all these, the FOC brought diplomacy back on track. This is a good start for building mutual trust," said Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, former professor of international relations at Dhaka University.

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Reduce VAT on newsprint, ensure press freedom

Noab urges Media Reform Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday met the Media Reform Commission and spoke for press freedom, independent journalism, and reduction of VAT on newsprint.

During a views-exchange meeting with the commission, they demanded the necessary reforms in the Bangladesh Press Council and Department of Films and Publications (DFP) and underscored the necessity of lessening politicisation in newspaper ownership.

Kamal Ahmed, chief of the commission, stressed that the media should be free from any political influence so that they can work for the interest of the people.

He underlined the need for media free from political influence given the grievance expressed over the failure and controversial role of many

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

REGIONAL RESISTANCE

PART 7

During the 1971 Liberation War, a number of regional forces emerged across Bangladesh. Research suggests that dozens of such forces actively participated in the war. Just as the freedom fighters trained under the sub-sectors and the Bengal Regiment fought valiantly, these regional forces also displayed immense courage in battles against the Pakistani army. In this month of victory, we bring you the stories of some of these heroic forces.

Shibbari Youth Camp & George Bahini

AHMAD ISTIAK

One of the largest training camps for freedom fighters during the Liberation War was set up in Shibbari of Gangarampur in West Bengal by George JM Das, a retired Bangalee soldier of the East Pakistan Rifles (EPR).

Over 2,500 freedom fighters were trained at this camp during the early stages of the war. Additionally, he formed a separate force known as the George Bahini.

George, a legendary figure known as "George Bhai" across Dinajpur, was a trainer, an organiser in the early stages of the war, and later a freedom fighter.

In September of this year, The Daily Star visited several upazilas in Dinajpur and spoke to over 10 freedom fighters of George Bahini and learnt about the story of this unique force, which had been largely forgotten.

The heroic exploits of George and his force are documented in

several books. "Dinajpur George Bahinir Obodan O Mahanayak George Das" is a book dedicated to George and his force. Additionally, "Dinajpur Iitias Somogro" and "Muktijuddhe Brihottor Dinajpur Zila" also mention their contributions. George joined the EPR in 1959. In 1969, the Pakistani army sent him to forced retirement from the rank of lance corporal, citing a leg injury. During his military service, George received specialised training in field engineering, training, and explosives.

FORMATION

According to the book "Dinajpur George Bahinir Obodan O Mahanayak George Das", the day after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic speech on March 7, a Sangram Parishad was formed in Dinajpur. At that time, George decided to begin training the local youths to prepare for the impending struggle.

Immediately following the March 25 massacre, George travelled from Birol to Dinajpur Sadar. The next night, with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



BFIU seeks account details of Sheikh Hasina, Rehana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has sought information on the bank accounts of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana.

The anti-money laundering agency has also sought details of the accounts linked to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust, according to a letter sent to banks last week.

Hasina serves as the chairperson of the trust while Rehana is a trustee.

Banks have been instructed to submit all the relevant information, including transaction records, account opening forms and other related information within five working days, the BFIU letter stated.

Additionally, banks have been asked to provide account details of Chowdhury Jafarullah Sarafat, a well-known television commentator, as well as his brother Chowdhury Habibullah Sarafat and sister Dalia Chowdhury.

The three are siblings of Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat, chairman of the board of trustees of Canadian University of Bangladesh and a notable beneficiary of the Awami League regime.

Banks have been instructed to submit all the relevant information, including transaction records, account opening forms and other related information within five working days.



Illegal parking of three-wheelers and goods-laden pickups on the Feni-Noakhali-Laxmipur regional highway near Madonmohan High School causes traffic congestion on the road every day. The photo was taken at Chowmuhani Bazar in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Tigers under the cosh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh were staring at a first ODI series defeat against the West Indies in 10 years after being bowled out cheaply in the second match at Warner Park in St Kitts yesterday.

Having lost the first match of the three-match series by five wickets at the same venue on Monday, the Tigers got bowled out for 227 runs in 45.5 overs after being asked to bat first.

Jayden Seales was the wrecker-in-chief with four wickets for 22 runs from nine overs while the rest of the West Indies bowlers got into wickets column as Bangladesh failed to get any momentum in their innings.

A fighting 62 off 92 balls from veteran Mahmudullah Riyad coupled with 46 from opener Tanzid Tamim 45 from Tanzim Sakib ensured that the Bangladesh bowlers had something to bowl at.

The West Indies openers, in reply, got off to a flying start, reaching 109 for no loss in 20 overs, with Brandon Kings (52 not out) and Evin Lewis (49 not out) in the crease.

Bangladesh had last lost an ODI series against this opposition back in 2014 before racking up four consecutive series victories.

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