



IMF lowers growth forecast for Bangladesh

B1



5 die of dengue, 274 get hospitalised

P3



UN envoy warns Syria conflict not over yet

P7



Shamim shows his niche as finisher

P11

Admin getting even heavier at the top

Supernumerary promotions result in over 3 officials against one post

BAHARAM KHAN

After the interim government took over, the number of officials in the upper echelon of the civil administration has become over three times the posts.

Giving officials promotions without vacant posts caused the number of additional secretaries, joint secretaries, and deputy secretaries to swell to this state.

Experts say this is upsetting the balance of the civil administration which would take years to recover from, because promotions given to officers cannot be taken back.

The situation in the administration is also angering officials of other cadres, most of whom only get promoted once there is a vacancy. They say officials of administration cadre are getting undue benefits and raises through supernumerary promotions.

Against an approved post for 150 additional secretaries, the ousted Awami League government had promoted 395

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The army took position at the Tongi Bishwa Ijtima ground around noon yesterday as Gazipur police banned the movement of more than one person within a 3km radius of the ground. The ban was placed following a violent clash between the followers of Maulana Saad and Maulana Zubair over taking control of the ground. At least four people were killed while around 50 were injured.

4 killed in clash over control of Ijtima ground

50 others hurt; all forms of gatherings banned in the area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people were killed and 50 others injured early yesterday in a clash between two factions of Tablighi Jamaat over control of the Ijtima Maidan, a large field in Tongi where thousands of Muslim devotees congregate every year.

The clash broke out between the followers of two Tablighi leaders -- Maulana Zubair Ahmad and Maulana Saad -- around 3:00am, said Iskander Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tongi West Police Station.

After meeting leaders of both groups at the Secretariat, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said four people were killed in the incident.

A senior police officer, requesting anonymity, said three people died in the early hours, while another died in the morning.

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IMF to give \$645m in fourth tranche

Govt seeks \$750m of additional funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Monetary Fund will give Bangladesh \$645 million in the fourth tranche under the \$4.7 billion loan programme, taking the total disbursement to \$2.31 billion.

government verbally requested the IMF to provide \$3 billion in fresh loans for replenishing foreign currency reserves.

The government ultimately sought \$750 million, the IMF staff team said in a statement at the conclusion of its 16-day visit to Dhaka.

WHAT IMF SAYS ABOUT BANGLADESH

- Economic activity slows; inflation still high
- GDP growth projected at 3.8% for FY2025
- Reserves under pressure due to capital outflows
- Tax revenues decline; spending pressures increase

However, no decision has been made yet on Bangladesh's request for additional funds under the existing programme, as the visiting IMF staff team concluded its third loan review yesterday.

After assuming office, the interim

"Amid significant macroeconomic challenges, the authorities requested an augmentation of SDR 567.2 million (approximately \$750 million) in IMF financial support to Bangladesh," said the IMF staff team led by Chris Papageorgiou.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BUSINESS

Beximco lays off 40,000 workers at 15 factories

Beximco Group has laid off nearly 40,000 workers across its 15 apparel units, citing a lack of work orders for its export-oriented garment and textile factories.

Company notifications issued on December 15 informed all officials, employees and workers that the factories would enforce layoffs from December 16.

"The factories cannot continue operations as we are unable to open LCs for raw material imports," said Osman Kaiser Chowdhury, director of Beximco Group's Finance and Corporate Affairs Division.

STORY ON B1

HC clears Babar in 10-truck arms haul case

5 others including ex-DG of DGFI also acquitted; ULFA leader Paresh's death sentence commuted to life imprisonment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted former state minister for home affairs Lutfozzaman Babar and five others, who were sentenced to death by the trial court, in a case filed over the sensational 10-truck arms haul in Chattogram.

Two separate cases were lodged with Karnaphuli Police Station a day after the arms were seized at Chattogram Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 2, 2004 during the BNP Jamaat government's tenure.

The arms and ammunition included 4,930 sophisticated firearms, 840 rocket launchers, 300 rockets, 27,020 grenades, 2,000 grenade-launching tubes, 6,392 magazines and 11.41 million bullets.

One case was filed under the Special Powers Act 1974 for smuggling of firearms and the other was lodged under the Arms Act for illegal possession of firearms.

Yesterday, the HC acquitted the six people, including Babar, of the



SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Focus on reforms, not revenge

Tarique urges BNP activists

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged his party leaders and activists to respond to their oppressors by making the party's 31-point proposal a success, rather than resorting to reprisal and revenge.

"If you want to respond to the injustice, oppression, and suppression that have been done to you, you should not imitate what they [Awami League] have done. If we do so, there will be no difference between them and us. To give a response effectively, we must make our 31-point proposal a success," he said while virtually addressing BNP workshops.

The workshops, titled "31-Point State Structure Reform Proposal and Public Engagement," was organised by the



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Incessant monsoon rains had left several villages in Khulna's Dumuria upazila waterlogged, as the river drainage system was obstructed due to the collection of silt. After over four months, the situation remains the same and people have to now wade through ankle-deep cold water. Inset, a family using a boat to commute in the upazila's Teligati village. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

AL's edn policy to be scrapped

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The interim government has decided to cancel the education policy adopted in 2010 during the Sheikh Hasina government's tenure, describing it as "improper and unimplementable".

Since the country's independence, it is the sixth education policy scrapped by successive governments, according to education ministry officials.

"We have decided to scrap the current education policy. We will soon declare a new education commission to formulate a new education policy. We are confident

that the members of this panel will do a wonderful job," said Prof Aminul Islam, special assistant to Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud.

"The new commission will ensure that no controversy centring the new policy arises," Prof Aminul told The Daily Star, adding that they will announce the names of the commission members soon.

When asked about the reasons behind scrapping the 2010 policy, Prof Aminul said it was "totally improper and it will not bring any good."

Prof Aminul, who enjoys the status of state minister, said that many major features of the current education

policy remain unimplemented, which proves that it is "unimplementable".

While talking at Daffodil International University yesterday, Prof Aminul said the new commission will comprise distinguished, renowned, talented, and skilled individuals from both national and international arenas.

Efforts were underway to bring transformative changes through increased budget allocations and other forms of support, he added.

A top education ministry official said that they initiated the move to scrap the education policy and formulate a new one recently. The

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা মহানগরীর বায়দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণে সরকার মহানগরী হতে পুরাতন বাস, মিনিবাস, ট্রাক, কাভার্ডভ্যান প্রভৃতি মোটরযান অপসারণের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছে। উক্ত সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়নের নিমিত্ত আগামী মে/২০২৫ হতে প্রাথমিকভাবে মহানগরী হতে ২০ (বিশ) বছরের অধিক পুরাতন বাস, মিনিবাস এবং ২৫ (পঁচিশ) বছরের অধিক পুরাতন ট্রাক, কাভার্ডভ্যান প্রভৃতি মালবাহী মোটরযান ঢাকা মহানগরী হতে অপসারণ করতে হবে। এ বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কাম্য।

GD- 1226

বিআরটিএ

KL to work with Dhaka to address Rohingya crisis

Malaysia minister calls on Yunus in Cairo

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia is looking forward to strengthening its ties with Bangladesh, said Malaysian Higher Education Minister Zambry Anel Kadir yesterday.

According to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, Kuala Lumpur is also willing to work with Dhaka to address the Rohingya crisis.

The Malaysian minister said these while paying a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the St Regis Hotel in Cairo, Egypt's capital.

They discussed many issues, including the recruitment of Bangladeshis in Malaysia and the expansion of higher education ties, the release added.

Kadir also said Kuala Lumpur would continue to support Bangladesh's inclusion as a sectoral dialogue partner of Asean.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus arrives in Cairo to attend the D-8 summit. Egyptian Public Business Sector Minister Mohamed Shimi received him at Cairo International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

Raped, tortured for 3 months, girl dies in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An eighth grader who was allegedly abducted, raped, and tortured for over three months, has succumbed to her injuries at her village home in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila.

The girl was a student at Bakchanda Fazil Madrasa in Nandail.

According to the girl's family, Hossain, 19, of the adjacent Kuchuri village used to tease the girl. As the girl refused his advances, he, also a tenth grader at a local madrasa, and his unidentified accomplices abducted the girl on June 1.

Over the next three months, Hossain repeatedly raped and tortured her keeping her at an unknown place, they added. She was tortured to the extent that her right eye was severely damaged.

On September 6, the girl, belonging to a poor family, was left adjacent to her house in a critical state.

The girl was first taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for treatment. Later, she was referred to an eye hospital in Dhaka where the doctors removed the affected eye for the safety of the other.

She was later sent home where she died Tuesday.

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IMF to give \$645m in fourth tranche

FROM PAGE 1

The SDR (Special Drawing Rights) is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of its member countries.

If the IMF executive board approves the request for additional funds, its total loan package for Bangladesh will reach \$5.3 billion from the existing \$4.7 billion.

The formation of an interim government has "fostered a gradual return" to economic normalcy in Bangladesh, the statement said.

Economic activity in Bangladesh has slowed significantly and inflation remains elevated. Capital outflows, particularly from the banking sector, have put pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

Additionally, tax revenues have declined, while spending pressures have increased, it pointed out.

"These challenges are further exacerbated by stress in parts of the financial sector."

Real GDP growth is projected to slow to 3.8 percent in fiscal 2024-25 due to output losses caused by the public uprising, floods and tighter policies but is expected to rebound to 6.7 percent in fiscal 2025-26 as policies relax.

Inflation is anticipated to hover around 11 percent (annual average year-on-year) this fiscal year before declining to 5 percent next fiscal year, supported

by tighter policies and easing supply pressures.

"However, the outlook remains highly uncertain, with risks skewed to the downside. To address the emerging external financing gap and persistently high inflation, near-term policy tightening is crucial."

Fiscal consolidation should prioritise the swift implementation of additional revenue measures, such as removing tax exemptions while restraining non-essential spending.

Coupled with monetary tightening, greater exchange rate flexibility and safeguarding foreign exchange reserve buffers will strengthen the economy's resilience to external shocks.

Bangladesh's low tax-to-GDP ratio calls for urgent tax reforms to establish a fairer, more transparent system, focusing on rationalising exemptions, improving compliance and separating tax policy from administration.

A comprehensive strategy is also needed to curb subsidy spending and address arrears in the electricity and fertiliser sectors, the statement said.

"Addressing vulnerabilities in the banking sector is essential."

Immediate priorities include accurately assessing defaulted loans, ensuring the effective implementation of existing regulations and formulating a roadmap for financial

sector restructuring, it said.

Key actions involve conducting an asset quality review and adopting a recovery and resolution framework aligned with global standards.

Simultaneously, the authorities should advance risk-based supervision, while legal reforms are needed to strengthen corporate governance and regulatory frameworks.

"Institutional reforms to enhance the Bangladesh Bank's independence and governance will be critical for the successful implementation of financial sector reforms."

Enhancing governance, along with greater transparency, is critical to improving the investment climate, attracting foreign direct investment and diversifying exports beyond the garment sector, the statement said.

Furthermore, building resilience to climate change is vital to reduce macroeconomic and fiscal vulnerabilities.

Strengthening institutional capacity and optimising spending efficiency will aid in achieving climate goals.

The government should focus on implementing climate-sensitive fiscal reforms and investing in sustainable, resilient infrastructure.

Furthermore, robust management of climate-related risks will reinforce the stability of the financial sector, it added.

4 killed in clash over control of Ijtema ground

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Officials said the two factions blamed each other for the violence.

Against this backdrop, Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed a ban from 2:00pm onwards on all forms of gatherings, processions, and rallies in Kamarpara, Abdullahpur, Uttara Sector-10, and the areas along the banks of the Turag.

Border guards and army personnel have been deployed in the area.

Zubair's supporters said Saad followers attacked them with knives, hammers, and cricket stumps after 3:00am when they were fast asleep.

Saad followers, on the other hand, told reporters that while they were preparing to go to sleep in their tents by the road between Kamarpara and Sluice Gate, Zubair's men attacked them around 3:30am.

Teams of law enforcers have also been deployed near Kakrail Masjid, the headquarters of Zubair-faction in the capital.

HOW THE CLASH ERUPTED

According to locals, Saad followers were trying to enter the Ijtema ground to hold a five-day "Jor-Ijtema" from December 20.

As Zubair followers were already there, Saad followers failed to enter the field. And stayed outside. After 3:00am, hundreds of devotees crossed the Kamarpara Bridge and entered the Ijtema ground. Zubair followers then tried to stop them, leading to a clash, said locals.

Locals and witnesses said Zubair supporters threw brick chunks at Saad followers who retaliated.

For almost an hour, the groups hurled bricks and stones at each other. Saad followers eventually forced Zubair's men to leave.

In a video message around 4:30am, Muaz bin Noor, who is known as a

Saad supporter, said, "We are now in control of the Ijtema Maidan. One of our brothers has been martyred in an attack by Zubair followers."

Officials identified three of the deceased as Aminul Islam Bachchu, 70, of Kishoreganj; Taizul Islam, 65, of Bogura; and Belal Hossain, 60, of Dhaka. They could not identify the other victim as of filing this report at 12:30am today.

At least 40 injured individuals were treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, according to sources.

After meeting the home adviser, Mamunul Haque, secretary general of Khelafat Majlish and a follower of Zubair, told reporters, "Zubair's supporters do not want chaos. Many have termed it a clash between the two factions. But it's not. Rather, Saad's men inflicted casualties on us. Those involved in the murders should be arrested by today. There is video footage of those involved."

In 2017, a rift developed between the leaders of Tablighi Jamaat, the organiser of the Biswa Ijtema. Factions of Zubair, based in Kakrail Masjid, and Saad, who is from India, later organised Ijtema in two phases.

The feud came to light in November 2017 when two factions clashed at Kakrail. The following year, there was a clash between the two factions over gaining control of the Kakrail Masjid.

In July 2018, late Hefazat-e-Islam leader Ahmad Shafi, popularly known as Maulana Shafi, formally extended support to the Zubair faction.

MEETINGS AT SECRETARIAT

Home Adviser Jahangir held separate meetings with leaders of both groups.

Reza Arif and several others from Saad group, held a nearly one and a half hours long meeting with the adviser starting at 11:00am. Advisers

of the ministries of land, industries, information, and religious affairs, and special assistant to the chief adviser on defence and national integration development, and special assistant to the home adviser attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Reza said, "Of course, we, as Muslims and citizens of the country, regret what happened. A fight between Muslims and Muslims is not right. We sincerely apologise. I request my fellow devotees to leave the [Ijtema] ground."

He added that the advisers requested the leaders to vacate the ground to prevent further escalation of tension.

"We decided to leave the place so that no more problems arise," he said.

He expressed hope that Zubair's men would also leave the ground.

"We will make every effort necessary to ensure no such incident happens in the future."

Later in the day, the advisers held a meeting with Zubair followers led by Mamunul Haque.

After 2:30pm, Mamunul along with the home adviser addressed the media.

He described Saad followers as terrorists and demanded a ban on their activities.

Mamunul said, "The Ijtema of the Zubair followers will definitely be held. But there is no scope for Saad followers to hold Ijtema."

The home adviser said if the two sides solve the problems through talks, then the Saad followers would be able to participate in Ijtema.

The government has not cancelled the date of Ijtema, he said, adding "Let them discuss."

The adviser further said that the attackers would face justice. "There is no scope to spare killers under any circumstances."

Admin getting even heavier at the top

FROM PAGE 1

officials. And now this government has promoted another 131 officers who have been deemed deprived during the previous regime, bringing the total to 467.

The picture is very similar when it comes to the 250 posts for joint secretaries. During the previous regime 650 officials held these positions and now the interim government has promoted 226 more, making the total 861.

It is the same in the case of deputy secretaries -- 450 posts, 1,450 officials during the previous government and now there are 1,599.

After the previous regime was toppled, officials previously deprived had hoped that they would get promoted. Which has happened, but it has created the new problem of top-heavy administration.

Abdul Awal Mazumder, a retired secretary, told this paper, "It'll take years to fix this imbalance in the civil administration that was caused by too many promotions."

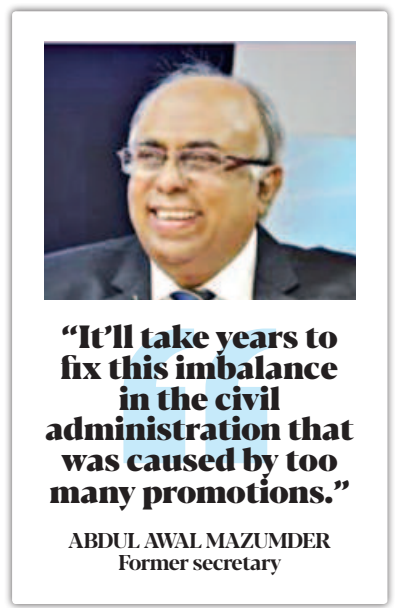
"Provided that the person is qualified and there is a vacancy, only then that person should be promoted. If this can be done, the balance could be protected."

When asked for comments, former secretary and NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman told The Daily Star, "The practice of rewarding party loyalists with promotions became a bad tradition under the previous government. However, it is unclear from what perspective the current government has decided on these mass promotions."

He further stated, "The government could have promoted qualified officers who were previously deprived due to political reasons. Instead, like the previous administration, this government has also promoted en masse, putting unqualified individuals on par with deserving ones. This diminishes the respect for truly competent officers."

Senior Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration Mokhesur Rahman, said, "It is true that there are more officials than required in some higher positions. We are also addressing the cases of those who were deprived during the autocratic government."

Regarding irregularities, he said, "Before I took charge, there were some



"It'll take years to fix this imbalance in the civil administration that was caused by too many promotions."

ABDUL AWAL MAZUMDER
Former secretary

irregularities in promotions. However, no convicted officer will be promoted in future."

Siraz Uddin Miah, principal secretary to the chief adviser and the second-highest official in the administration, came down heavily on civil administration officials.

During an event organised by the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association at Dhaka's Biam Auditorium on November 16, he said, "With regret, I must say that since taking charge, I have received complaints from officers at various levels about personal grievances and dissatisfaction, but no proposals considering the bigger perspective."

Currently, there are 26 cadres in the public administration.

Among them, administration, foreign affairs, and police cadre officers get supernumerary promotions, which is promotions without vacant posts.

Most of these promotions are made in the administration cadre.

Officials of agriculture, health, education, information, roads, and railways only receive promotions when posts are vacant.

Now, officials of these cadres want what the administration cadres have been getting, promotions even if there are no vacant posts.

Omar Faruq Dewan, coordinator

of officers of 25 cadres, except admin, seeking benefits similar to that of the administration cadre, told The Daily Star, "The officers who joined alongside us in the administration cadre are receiving promotions even without vacancies on top of better benefits. Why should we be left out?"

"We also want regular promotions against vacancies, but this must be done equally across all cadres."

PROMOTION OF GUILTY OFFICIALS

Prof Siddiqui Rahman, a former director of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research and a member of the 2010 Education Policy Formulation Committee, said it was "unfortunate" that their recommendations have remained "unimplemented."

"The 2010 education policy had some good recommendations for the betterment of education in the country. The new education policy framers can

AL's edn policy

FROM PAGE 1

ministry is likely to send the names of members of the new education policy commission to the Chief Adviser's Office within two to three working days.

Prof Siddiqui Rahman, a former director of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research and a member of the 2010 Education Policy Formulation Committee, said it was "unfortunate" that their recommendations have remained "unimplemented."

"The 2010 education policy had some good recommendations for the betterment of education in the country. The new education policy framers can

have a look at it and if they find these good, they can take it," he said while speaking to this newspaper.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), hoped that the members of the new commission would emphasise modernising and increasing the quality of education.

They should recommend measures to control growing discrimination in education, she said while speaking to The Daily Star.

The new commission should also make recommendations on ensuring free of cost education up to class 8, adequate salary for teachers and the

improvement of their quality of work, she said.

The policymakers will need to take steps to have a comprehensive education law like neighbouring India, Sri Lanka and Nepal have, she added.

The first education policy was formulated in 1972 under the leadership of Qudrat-e-Khuda but it was not fully implemented. Later, successive governments formed commissions and committees to formulate new education policies -- one led by Majid Uddin Ahmed in 1983; one by Prof Shamsul Haque in 1997; another led by MA Bari in 2001 and Prof Moniruzzaman Miah in 2003.

HC clears Babar in 10-truck arms haul case

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arms smuggling case, observing that there is nothing in the police report as to who had smuggled the arms from whom and where.

The five others who got acquittal are former director of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) Maj Gen (ret'd) Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury; ex-CUFL managing director Mohsin Talukder; former CUFL general manager (admin) Enamul Hoque; former additional secretary of industries ministry Nurul Amin; and Jamaat leader Motiur Rahman Nizami.

Nizami was executed in May, 2016 for crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The other acquitted people, however, were not freed from jail since they had been sentenced to life imprisonment in the illegal arms possession case and their appeals are pending with the HC, Babar's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

All the 14 accused in the arms smuggling case had been sentenced to life imprisonment in the arms possession case by the lower court, the lawyer noted.

The HC commuted the death sentence of Paresch Barua, military

commander of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), a separatist group fighting for an independent Assam, to life imprisonment because evidence "is available against him". The HC also said the judgement on Paresch was based on a Supreme Court decision, evidence on record, and circumstances.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Nasreen Akter also commuted death sentences of six other convicts to 10 years' imprisonment in the case.

The six are former NSI director wing commander (ret'd) Shahab Uddin; former NSI deputy director Maj (ret'd) Liakat Hossain; ex-NSI field officer Akbar Hossain Khan; local smuggler Hafizur Rahman; labour supplier Deen Mohammad; and trawler owner Haji Sobhan.

The HC also commuted the Tk 5 lakh fines slapped on each of the six by the trial court to Tk 10,000 each.

In this case, former director general of the NSI Brig Gen (ret'd) Md Abdur Rahim was sentenced to death and fined by the trial court. Yesterday, the HC in its judgment declared his appeal abated (ended) as he had died earlier. However, the HC imposed a fine of Tk 10,000 on him. The successors of Rahim will have

to pay the fines, Shishir Manir said.

The HC bench delivered the verdict after holding hearings on the death references and appeals in the case for 13 working days.

Lawyers SM Shahjahan, Shishir Manir, Mohammad Ahsan, Sadhan Kumar Banik and Md Mohiuddin argued for the appellants while Deputy Attorney General Sultana Akter Rubi and assistant attorneys general Mahfujul Awal and Shamima Akhter Banu represented the state during hearings.

HC OBSERVATIONS

Delivering the verdict, the HC observed that the purpose of the trial was "to convict the guilty and at the same time to protect the innocent".

In this case, the HC found multiple lacunae concerning the investigation, a lack of due diligence and coercion of evidence.

The police charge sheet against submitted the very sheet against people who may just be connected to uploading the arms, the HC said.

"It has not been mentioned in the police report about the country of origin of the arms and it has not been mentioned to that to whom it was going to be delivered. It has not been mentioned by which vessel it was brought into Bangladesh."

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Polls should be within 4 to 6 months

Says BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next parliamentary election should be held within four to six months, said Salahuddin Ahmed, a member of the BNP's standing committee, yesterday.

The interim government's main and first task is to hold free, fair, and participatory elections, and for that, some legal, institutional, and field reforms are necessary, he told reporters after inaugurating a medical camp at Mohakhali's Korail slum.

"Based on our observation and analysis, it should not take more than four to six months. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the interim government not to use any tactics on the road to democracy."

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's recent speech on the election roadmap failed to meet public expectations, Salahuddin said.

"The public had expected the chief adviser of the interim government to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Domestic workers seek legal protection, dignity

Share ordeal at Star-CAMPE roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"When I am thirsty, my employers do not let me drink water from a clean glass. They only offer me a dirty one that is designated for house helps. Even though I clean their sofa everyday, I am not allowed to sit on it. During Eid or other festivals, if I ask for a holiday, they refuse. If I accidentally break anything, they demand compensation from me," said Laiza Banu, a domestic worker who resides in a slum in the capital.

"There are no fixed working hours. Even when I am sick, if I ask for a leave, they threaten to fire me. If I lose my job, then how will I raise my children and pay for their education?" she added.

Another domestic worker from the same slum, Salma Akhter said that she was forced to keep working even when she was pregnant. If she even makes the slightest of mistakes, her employers torture her physically by slapping her. Other times, they just make her feel stupid.

The two house helps shared the stories of their struggles at a roundtable titled "Protect domestic workers and improve their quality of life: What we can do?" which took place at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

The event was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) in collaboration with Oxfam in Bangladesh and sponsored by the European Union.

Alongside Laiza and Salma, numerous other house helps were present at the event and shared their own stories and struggles. They



Participants at the roundtable titled "Protect domestic workers and improve their quality of life: What we can do?", jointly organised by The Daily Star and CAMPE at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

demanding that their profession be included under Bangladesh Labour Law as soon as possible so that their rights are secured.

Other speakers stressed the need for the immediate implementation and monitoring of The Domestic Workers' Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid, the chief guest of the event, said that this issue should have been solved years ago.

"How can people neglect the humiliation faced by domestic workers from a human

perspective? We must understand that as fellow human beings, they also need health, education and holidays. The state can only protect them by making laws. Often times, many children are also engaged in domestic work, which should be completely banned as they are more likely to be abused," she noted.

"We are trying to create a structure through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to address the violence faced by house helps. There can also be a separate authority for domestic workers as well," she added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Hajj registration deadline extended by eight days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to a poor response in hajj pre-registration, the government on Tuesday extended the registration deadline for eight days, which begins today.

This will be the final deadline for hajj registration, said the religious affairs ministry in a notice.

The deadline will end on December 26.

During this period, intended pilgrims can make a preliminary registration by depositing Tk 3 lakh. Then the final registration will have to be completed by paying the full amount of the hajj package.

According to the notice, the deadline was extended considering special circumstances and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Mikel Changma lodges complaint against Hasina

DU CORRESPONDENT



United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) leader Mikel Changma yesterday lodged a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with his enforced disappearance.

He went missing in April 2019 from Dhaka and returned home two days after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5 this year.

In his complaint, Mikel shared his experience of five years of captivity. He presented his statement to ICT Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Five die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people died from dengue while 274 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the latest, the death toll rose to 556 while the number of cases reached 99,295, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Currently, 1,348 dengue patients are undergoing treatment across the country. Of them, 836 are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 97,665 patients have so far been released throughout the country.

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 19				
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	3:45	5:22	7:00
JAMAT 5:55	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

Only 3pc teachers trained in pre-primary edn: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers lack the capacity to employ effective learning methods, particularly at the pre-primary and secondary education level, as only three percent of teachers received specialised training in pre-primary education, said a study by Educo Bangladesh.

Moreover, only one or two teachers in secondary schools of semi-urban to rural areas received training on generating and delivering multimedia materials effectively, the study noted.

Also, around 60 percent of teachers said they did not participate in any mental or physical well-being sessions, it added.

The findings of the study, titled "Child Rights and Wellbeing Situational Analysis", were unveiled in a ceremony held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

The primary data of the study was collected through

interviews and focus group discussions with children, parents, teachers, government stakeholders, and experts from 11 districts -- Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Mymensingh, Gazipur, Dhaka, Shariatpur, Barishal, Barguna, Satkhira, Moulvibazar, and Cox's Bazar.

Few rural teachers use multimedia tools
60pc of teachers lack well-being support
60pc of children with disabilities don't attend school
42pc drop out during transition to secondary education

The research also used secondary data from national surveys, reports, academic journals, and databases.

The findings were presented by Mohammad Adnan Rahman, portfolio manager of Inspira Advisory and Consulting Limited.

He highlighted major issues faced by children in areas such as education, protection, and well-being, such as child marriage and child labour.

Around 88 percent of children aged one to 14 years were subjected to either physical punishment or psychological aggression by their caregivers, the study shared.

According to the study, around 42 percent of students dropped out while transitioning to secondary education from primary education due to academic struggles, financial constraints, and the need to earn money often leading to a lack of motivation.

Due to the lack of motivation, most children do not have a happy time at school, it said.

Furthermore, 50 percent of children did not participate in extracurricular activities, while 75 percent of parents did not know about the ambitions of their children, it added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Can't save all rivers in limited time'

Says Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will not be able to evict land grabbers from all the rivers and waterbodies of the country within its tenure, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

"It is not possible to clean all the waste from the last 53 years within four months, or even within one and a half years," she added.

"If we want to clean the Buriganga, where there are around 3-6 metres of plastics and polythene, who has the machinery needed to clear these?" she asked.

Rizwana was speaking as the chief guest at a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



A fire broke out at Dhaka's Korail slum yesterday afternoon. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately, and no casualties were reported.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES HC delivers first-ever rule on adult custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court for the first time pronounced a judgement addressing the issue of guardianship and custody of an adult person with intellectual disabilities.

A civil suit was filed by the person's father against the maternal aunt under Section 21(1) of the Mental Health Act 2018, seeking guardianship and custody, according to Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust.

Previously, the Senior District Judge Court, Dhaka, ruled in favour of the aunt. Following the father's petition, the HC issued a rule requiring the aunt to explain why custody should not be given to the father.

Upon hearing the parties, Justice AKM Zahid Sarwar discharged the rule, stating that mental illness is distinct from intellectual disability, and the Mental Health Act does not apply in cases of guardianship for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Senior Advocate Sara Hossain, representing the maternal aunt, said the judgement is a significant step in interpreting the 2013 Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act. She highlighted that the 2013 Act aligns with Bangladesh's obligations under the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, emphasising autonomy, independence, and equal rights for individuals with disabilities.



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Domestic workers

FROM PAGE 3
Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of CAMPE, mentioned that domestic workers lack rights, dignity and security. Since there is no legal recognition, no field can be created for them. In the case of child domestic workers, this situation is even worse. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies and chairperson of the Labour Reform Commission, said, “Most house helps are migrants who come to the capital from various cities and villages. They are also the ones subjected to the most harassment and torture. If we had a register of all these workers, it would help us to track them and reduce multiple complications. Moreover, they should be included in the government’s equality scheme. Additionally, they

should be given various trainings to improve their skills.”
“If we truly want a Bangladesh free of discrimination, we must first eliminate this discrimination that exists in every household,” he added.
Dr Fouzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, stressed the need for recognising care services and the value of domestic helps.
Shirin Parveen Haq, founding member of Naripokkho and Abul Hossain, acting coordinator of Domestic Workers Rights Network also spoke at the event moderated by Muhammad Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGO and Foreign Mission at The Daily Star.

**Names have been changed to protect the identities of the individuals.*

Four freelancers

FROM PAGE 5
Bijendranath Roy, 67, told The Daily Star that they were struggling to access government services due to their lack of knowledge about computers and the internet. Thanks to these four youths, they are now able to acquire knowledge to use computers and apply for the services they need.
Musa Mia, 62, another farmer from Chalbala village, echoed the same.
Sujan Kumar Roy told The Daily Star that they are

providing free computer and online training to farmers out of a sense of responsibility. They are also providing freelancing training to young people for free. So far, 100 farmers and 100 youth have accessed these trainings in just three months.
Sayed Abul Kashem said that it is their dream to make sure that all farmers and youngsters from their area are skilled at using computers and navigating the digital space.

Intellectuals

FROM PAGE 5
The intellectuals themselves became adversaries of intellectual practices,” said Tusher.
He said there are a few exceptions among them who deserve to be celebrated.
Alleging that the intellectuals never had any vision for the state, Tusher said, “If they worked from a state-project perspective, no matter which government was in power, the people would be safe. But these intellectuals have never propagated such basic ideas.”
He said throughout history, the intellectuals have been like this.
Arif Sohel, member secretary of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, said, “The events of December 14, 1971, must be viewed within the historical trend of the systematic annihilation of our knowledge systems and intellectual practice. This very tendency was upheld by the Awami government from 1972 to 1975 and has been maintained over the past 15 years.”
Tuhin Khan, a member of Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said, “Awami League has changed the narrative of the intellectual assassinations of 1971 and, in turn, created a factory of intellectual annihilation themselves. Through the July uprising, we have shattered that narrative.”

Only 3pc teachers

FROM PAGE 3
Most parents who participated in the study thought that their children’s opinions were not valuable.
Children with disabilities and children from indigenous communities are particularly falling behind, the study notes.
It said around 60 percent of children with disabilities do not attend school, which is attributed to societal and personal obstacles, alongside infrastructural limitations. Lack of awareness and motivation among parents also play a massive role here.
Meanwhile, tailored teaching methods are not used while teaching children from indigenous communities who do not use Bangla as their first language, which creates a massive obstacle.
The study also made several recommendations to enhance the quality of education, recommending the development of scientific learning materials for early childhood, while localising learning materials and teacher training.
The study also advocated for increasing awareness among parents regarding children’s rights and well-being.
It also recommended designing a Child-Centered Social Support (CCSS)

programme for vulnerable children and establishing School Counselling Systems (SCS) in schools.
The need for systemic reform and collaboration among government bodies, NGOs, and communities was also emphasised.
At the event, Abdur Rahim, director of programme at Educo Bangladesh, emphasised creating a safer and more equitable world for all children in Bangladesh.
Speaking as chief guest, Mantaz Ahmed, senior secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said, “We have the responsibility to ensure every child in Bangladesh grows up safe, healthy, and empowered.”
Anwar Hossain, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, was also present as special guest.

Mikel Changma lodges complaint

FROM PAGE 3
The prosecutor told journalists that they accepted Mikel’s complaint and will begin an investigation into the matter soon.
“Mikel was detained in a secret detention centre, known as ‘Aynaghar.’ He was freed after five years and four months,” said Tajul.
“Michael shared his

Can’t save all rivers

FROM PAGE 3
roundtable, titled “Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Way Forward,” organised by the Bangladesh Agriculture Reporters’ Forum, at Jatiya Press Club.
However, she said they have initiated the process of evicting grabbers and identified 21 canals in Dhaka where they will start the eviction process soon.
The adviser said the fertility of around 78 percent of land has reduced due to the excessive use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides.
She urged a strict policy regarding the use of pesticides and chemicals in food production.
Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, secretary of agriculture ministry, said they are developing an app named “Khamari” to help calculate the amount of

fertiliser required and which crops will grow by how much depending on the farmer’s land, its fertility, and weather conditions.
Abdul Awal Mintu, former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said, “We don’t have a chance to increase land, but we can increase our production by increasing the productivity by adopting new technologies.”
Dr Ali Afzal, general secretary of Bangladesh Seed Association, said increasing temperatures, water scarcity, irregular rainfall, prolonged droughts, and reduction in groundwater levels are severely damaging agricultural production.
Rafiqul Islam Sabuj, president of Bangladesh Agriculture Reporters’ Forum, presided over the discussion.

Polls should

FROM PAGE 3
present a detailed roadmap with specific dates, timelines, and necessary reforms -- that expectation remains unmet.”
Meanwhile, at a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, AZM Zahid Hossain, another standing committee member, said the statement made by the chief adviser’s press secretary regarding the national election has created “confusion in people’s minds.”
“Which statement from the interim government should we believe? The chief adviser said the polls could be held at the end of 2025 or early 2026. The very next day, his press secretary stated polls are expected to take place by June 30, 2026. So, who gave him [press secretary] this authority?” he asked.

Hajj registration

FROM PAGE 3
requests from hajj agencies and pilgrims.
However, it was stated that no further extensions will be granted after this.
As of yesterday, around 53,828 hajj quota remained unfulfilled as the previous deadline for hajj registration for the next year ended on December 15, said sources.
As per the agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, 1.27 lakh Bangladeshi pilgrims can perform Hajj in 2025.

**Save the Children**

Date: December 19, 2024

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children


Invitation for Tender

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting the tender from interested, experienced and bona fide service providers for Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) 3 Development. For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

Description, submission time & date:				
SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule & Place	Last date of Tender Submission
1	Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) 3 Development	IFT/SCI/BDCO/ FY-24/(Manual)/ 0008	24/December/2024 at 3:00 PM through ZOOM Meeting (Details in tender Document)	January 12, 2025 at 3.00 PM

Special Instruction:
(a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/Services/Works will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. (b) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Director of Supply Chain

**World Health Organization**
Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)


The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites Expression of Interest from the interested Companies/Institutes/NGOs in Bangladesh for Pre-qualification of Suppliers for the following services:

1. EOI/BAN/2024/001: To Conduct HPV coverage evaluation survey 2025.
Deadline for the submission of EOI: **14:00hrs, 05 January 2025.**

Interested Companies/Institutes/NGOs can view and download the relevant EOI documents from: <http://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

This Request for Expression of Interest is not a solicitation, and replying to it does not guarantee that a vendor will be invited to any solicitation by WHO. No further details of the planned solicitation will be made available to vendors prior to the issuance of solicitation documents.

Interested parties are requested to submit their EOIs in the prescribed templates in a sealed envelope as per the instructions provided in the EOI documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(I)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212.

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GD-1224

**আইসিটি সেন্টার**
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি


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- Online UPS-এর ব্যাটারী ক্রয় ও স্থাপনা সংক্রান্ত। (এক হাজার মাত্র)

প্রতিটি কাজের সিডিউল ক্রয়মূল্যের সমাপরিমাণ অর্থ (অন্যেবর্তযোগ্য) পরিচালক, আইসিটি সেন্টার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অনুকূলে অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্পোরেট শাখার “বিবিধ ফান্ড” ০২০০০০২২৩৮৪৮৮ হিসাব নম্বরে জমা দিয়ে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে নিম্নাধিকারকারীর দপ্তর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। দরপত্র আগামী ২২-০১-২০২৫ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.৩০টার মধ্যে কোষাধ্যক্ষ দপ্তর, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে রাখা টেন্ডার বাক্সে ফেলতে হবে (দুপুর ১২:০০টায় টেন্ডার খোলা হবে)। ভান্ডারোপে দরপত্র পড়ানো যেতে পারে, তবে সেক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে কোষাধ্যক্ষ দপ্তরে পৌঁছাতে হবে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলের সংক্ষেপে সরবরাহ করা হবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে দর্শনো ছাড়াই দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা রাখে। এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি <https://www.ru.ac.bd/itcenter/notices/> লিংকে পাওয়া যাবে।

প্রফেসর ড. মো. হাফিজ ইসলাম
পরিচালক, আইসিটি সেন্টার
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-1217

**ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি (ইউসিবি)**
কাওরান বাজার শাখা, ঢাকা।
অর্থগণ আদালত আইন ২০০৩ এর ১২ ধারা মোতাবেক

বন্ধকী সম্পত্তি নিলাম বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি, কাওরানবাজার শাখা, ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরানবাজার ঢাকা-১২১৫ এর ঋণগ্রহীতা ব্যাংক ইউকে এনো প্রোভাইস লিমিটেড, ঠিকানাঃ ফ্লাট ৫-১২, এডমিরাল-এনআইবি টাওয়ার, বাজী-৯৯, রোড-১১, ব্লক-সি, বন্দানী বা/এ, ঢাকা, ফান্ডির মোহনা ভাবনিপুর, বিনিয়োরচাল, গাজীপুর এর কর্তৃক গৃহীত ঋণের জামানত হিসাবে নিম্ন তফসিলভুক্ত সম্পত্তি রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত বন্ধকী দলিলমূলে ব্যাংকের নিকট বন্ধক রাখা আছে এবং রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত আমোক্তার দলিলমূলে নিম্ন তফসিলভুক্ত সম্পত্তি আদালতের আদেশ ছাড়াই বিক্রয়ের ক্ষমতা ব্যাংকের প্রদান করা আছে। ঋণগ্রহীতা মঞ্জুরীর পরে শর্ত মোতাবেক ঋণ পরিশোধ না করায় বিগত ২৬/১১/২০২৪ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ফেলাপি ঋণ বাবদ ব্যাংকের পাতনা মোট টাকা ৩৮০,৩১,৪৪,৮৯২.২৫ (টাকা তিনশত আশি কোটি একশত লাখ ত্রাশ্রিংশ হাজার আটশত বিনানব্বই টাকা পঁচিশ পয়সা) সহ অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক খরচ ও আদায়কালতক সুদ আদায়ের নিমিত্তে নিম্ন তফসিলভুক্ত সম্পত্তি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য অগ্রাধী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে নিম্ন বর্ণিত শর্তাদিতে সাদা কাজে/পাত্রে ছাড়া ঠিকানাসহ পূর্ণাঙ্গ ঠিকানা উল্লেখ পূর্বক সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ১২/০১/২০২৫ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ইউসিবি, কাওরান বাজার শাখায় রক্ষিত বাক্সে সরাসরি অথবা রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত ডাকযোগে দরপত্র জমা দিতে হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। প্রত্যেক দরপত্রদাতাকে উক্ত দর অনুর্ধ্ব ১০.০০.০০০/- (দশ লক্ষ) টাকা হইলে উহার ২০%, উক্ত দর ১০.০০.০০০/- (দশ লক্ষ) টাকা অশেষা বাক্ষি এবং অনর্ধ্ব ৫০.০০.০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ) টাকা হইলে উহার ১৫% এবং উক্ত দর ৫০.০০.০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ) টাকা অশেষা অধিক হইলে উহার ১০% এর সমাপরিমাণ টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডার জামানত স্বরূপ ইউসিবি, কাওরান বাজার শাখার অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্য www.ucb.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাইবে।

বন্ধকী সম্পত্তির তফসিল

All that piece and parcel of the land measuring more or less (5.25+17.50+9.00+40.25+70.00+55.00) Decimal in Total = 197.00 (One Hundred Ninety Seven) Decimal along with all structures have already been constructed or to be constructed thereon, situated within District - Gazipur, Police Station & Sub-Registry Office- Sadar, having J.L Nos. C.S - 03, S.A-03, R.S-03 & Mouza - “Mohona Vobanipur”, pertaining to the Khattians & Dags are given in the table below:

Deed No. & Dated	Khattian Nos.			Dag Nos.		Mutation & Jot	Area of Land (in Decimal)
	C.S	S.A	R.S	C.S	R.S		
Deed of Sale No. 1900 dated 10.02.2021 11.02.2021	06	408	351	564	2780	401/286, 408/391 & 404 (Shilpo)	5.25
	06	401	286	563	2794		17.50
	06	401	286	563	2791		9.00
	06	401	286	563	2791		40.25
Deed of Sale No. 1899 dated 10.02.2021 11.02.2021	06	401	286	561	2794	401/286, 408/391 & 404 (Shilpo)	70.00
	06	401	286	562	2791		55.00
Total land measuring							197.00

Butted and bounded by (for the land measuring 142 decimals): On the North: Road of Union Parishad On the South: Chunguya Aluminium, On the East: Chunguya Aluminium, On the West: Samiul Ahsan, Badal & Others.
Butted and bounded by (for the land measuring 55 decimals): On the North: Road, On the South: Phoenix Poultry, On the East: Phoenix Poultry, On the West: Badal, Solaiman & Others.

ব্যবস্থাপক, ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি, কাওরান বাজার শাখা, ঢাকা।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা কার্যালয়
রাঙ্গুনিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম
E-mail: rangunia@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-উপঃস্বঃকমঃ/এমএসআর টেন্ডার/রাঙ্গু/চট/২০২৪-২৫/১৫৪১ তারিখঃ ১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪খ্রিঃ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, রাঙ্গুনিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম এর স্মারক নং-ইউএইচসি/রাঙ্গুনিয়া/চট্টগ্রাম/এমএসআর/২০২৪-২৫/১৫৪১, তারিখঃ ০৪/১২/২০২৪খ্রিঃ মূলে এমএসআর ই-জিপি টেন্ডার আইডি নং-১০৪৫৫৩৮, ১০৪৫৫৩৯, ১০৪৫৫৪০, ১০৪৫৫৪২, ১০৪৫৫৪৫, ১০৪৫৫৪৭ মূলে এমএসআর সংক্রান্ত ই-জিপি টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা হয়েছিল। তাহা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নোটিশটি স্থগিত করা হইল এবং পরবর্তীতে পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে পুনরায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করা হইবে।


ডাঃ জয়নাব জমিলা
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা
রাঙ্গুনিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম

GD-1225

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Pirojpur PWD Division
ee_peroj@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.7900.150.1.8.1102 Date: 18/12/2024

e-Tender Notice
(Tender No. prj/pwd/2024-25/app-70)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following works.

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Procurement method	Tender last selling date & time	Tender security last submission date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	1053544	Sanitary repair work including plastering, painting, roof patent stone, installation of MS gate in Pirojpur CI Para quarter.	OTM	31-Dec-2024 16:00pm	01-Jan-2025 11:00am	01-Jan-2025 12:00pm

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 form the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 01-Jan-2025 at 11:00am. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).


Md. Khairuzzaman
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Pirojpur

GD- 1216


Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Sirajgonj Polytechnic Institute, Sirajgonj
Web: www.spisg.gov.bd
E-mail: principal.spi@gmail.com

Memo No. 57.03.8800.301.07.034.24-956 Date: 17/12/2024

Invitation for e-Tender

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of Package & Ref. No.	Last date & time for selling document	Tender/proposal closing date & time	Tender/proposal opening date & time
1.	1041 679	SPI/ASSET/GD-01, Memo No: 57.03.8800.301.07.034. 24-901 Date: 25/11/2024	05 January, 2025 17:00	06 January, 2025 14:00	06 January, 2025 14:00
2.	1042 881	SPI/ASSET/GD-03, Memo No 57.03.8800 301.07.034.24-902 Date: 25/11/2024	05 January, 2025 17:00	06 January, 2025 15:00	06 January, 2025 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to as mentioned in IFT. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529, +8801762625530, +8801762625531).


Md. Fazlul Hoque
Principal
Sirajgonj Polytechnic Institute
Sirajgonj
Telephone: 02-587752017

GD- 1218

Intellectuals broadly driven by self-interest

Speakers tell Anti-Discrimination Student Movement discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from a few rare exceptions, intellectuals and civil society members of this country are broadly anti-people, who only aspire for benefits but have little sense of responsibility towards the society, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They further said the deposed Awami League government bought off the intellectuals, poets, and writers and largely used them as cultural tools.

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement organised the discussion titled "The Legacy

of Intellectual Assassination (71-24)," at its Bangla Motor office in Dhaka.

The members of civil society and intellectuals prioritise their own safety and desires, always aligning themselves with a particular political party, said Sarwar Tusher, joint convener of Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

"Awami League bought off those known as progressives and created an atmosphere against intellectual practices. There was no space for dissent. The government ensured that alternative thinkers could not express their views.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Fishermen cook in a small boat on the Shibsa River in the western Sundarbans of Khulna. They earn their livelihood by catching fish and crabs in the region's canals and rivers, braving harsh weather and life-threatening risks after obtaining permits from the Forest Department. During these trips, they spend days living, cooking, and sleeping in their small boats. The photo was taken yesterday.

Four freelancers empower farmers with digital skills

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

On paper, the concept of a fully digital Bangladesh can sound wonderful. In many cases, it promises an exciting future where we can be rid of long queues and time-consuming government applications.

However, for those unfamiliar with the digital realm, the process can be daunting and often times difficult to adopt.

For example, the applications for government incentives, paying taxes and land disputes are all online now. However, farmers are not used to using computers or even navigating

the digital landscape.

As a result, they often have to rely on others to access these services, leaving them in a difficult predicament.

Thankfully, four young freelancers in Lalmonirhat have come forward to support these farmers with their expertise.

They developed their skills at the IT centre at Chaparhat area of Kaliganj upazila in Lalmonirhat. They are providing training and familiarising farmers with using computers and navigating the internet. Alongside this, they are also working to empower people by providing training for those



interested in freelancing.

The four youths are Sujan Kumar Roy, Sayed Abul Kashem, Bishal Roy and Dipak Barman.

All of them have been engaged in freelancing for the last 7-8 years. Their success in the industry has inspired numerous others to also turn to freelancing as a career.

One farmer from Dalgram village, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

MODHUMOTI MODEL TOWN Rajuk to remove Illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk has decided to demolish illegal structures in the Modhumoti Model Town housing project within the next two weeks.

The move comes in response to a writ petition filed by Bela in August 2004, which argued that the project violated the Environment Conservation Act, Town Improvement Act, and Rajuk regulations.

On October 14, Bela issued a legal notice to Rajuk's chairman, resulting in the eviction drive.

"We will carry out the drive to recover the wetland," said Rajuk Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Md Siddiquir Rahman Sarker.

CHANGE MAKER



খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় খুলনা

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক/স্নাতক(সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২১ অথবা ২০২২ সালে অনুষ্ঠিত এসএসসি/সম্মান এবং ২০২৩ অথবা ২০২৪ সালে অনুষ্ঠিত এইচএসসি/সম্মান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের মধ্যে যাদের ফলাফল খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন ইউনিটে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ করে কেবল তারা ২০২৪-২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক/স্নাতক(সম্মান) প্রথম বর্ষে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে। এছাড়া ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের ২০১৯ অথবা ২০২০ সালে অনুষ্ঠিত এসএসসি/সম্মানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ইউনিটে ভিত্তিক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। A ও B ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় শুধু বিজ্ঞান বিভাগের শিক্ষার্থীরা এবং C ও D ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় বিজ্ঞান, মানবিক ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগের শিক্ষার্থীরা অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।

আগামী ১০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ থেকে ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ (রাত ১১.৫৯ মিনিট পর্যন্ত) খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি সফটওয়্যার ওয়েবসাইট <https://admission.ku.ac.bd> এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে ভর্তির আবেদন করা যাবে। আবেদনকারী অনলাইনে ভর্তির আবেদন পূরণ করে জমাদানের সময়ে নির্ধারিত ফি প্রদান করবে। পরবর্তীতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার পূর্বে পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য Admit Card ডাউনলোড করতে পারবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় আবেদন করার নিয়ম, বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য, এবং আবেদন ফি জমা প্রদানের পদ্ধতি খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট <https://admission.ku.ac.bd>-এ ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় পাওয়া যাবে।

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক/স্নাতক(সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়সূচী নিম্নরূপ:

ইউনিট	তারিখ
C - (কলা ও মানবিক + সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান + আইন + শিক্ষা + চারুকলা স্কুল)	১৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ বৃহস্পতিবার
D - (ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন স্কুল)	১৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ বৃহস্পতিবার
A - (বিজ্ঞান, প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা স্কুল)	১৮ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ শুক্রবার
B - (জীব বিজ্ঞান স্কুল)	১৮ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ শুক্রবার

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক/স্নাতক(সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ফি নিম্নরূপ:

ইউনিট	হার *
A - (বিজ্ঞান, প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা স্কুল)	১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র) টাকা
B - (জীব বিজ্ঞান স্কুল)	১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র) টাকা
C - (কলা ও মানবিক + সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান + আইন + শিক্ষা ও চারুকলা স্কুল)	১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র) টাকা
D - (ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন স্কুল)	৭০০/- (সাতশত মাত্র) টাকা

* ছাপাত্ত ও চারুকলা বিষয়ে ভর্তিচ্ছু শিক্ষার্থীকে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট (A ও C) এর আবেদন ফি'র সাথে অতিরিক্ত ২০০.০০ (দুইশত) টাকা প্রদান করতে হবে।

Signature
১৮/১২/২০২৪
(প্রফেসর ড. এস এম মাবুবুর রহমান)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

GD-1221

DHAKA-JASHORE BR to launch two trains next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway is finally launching commercial operation of trains on Dhaka-Jashore route via the Padma Bridge next week.

The two new intercity trains on Dhaka-Jashore and Dhaka-Khulna routes will be launched from December 24, Nahid Hasan Khan, director (public relations) of BR told The Daily Star last night.

The 169km line will cut short the travel time by half. It takes around eight hours to reach Khulna, while it would take less than four hours from now, officials said.

The Padma Bridge Rail Link Project is the biggest BR project in terms of cost, over half of which is being provided by China as a loan. The Dhaka-Bhanga section was opened in October last year and five trains are being operated through this section.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Department of Women's Affairs 36/3, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka E-mail : dwadhaka@gmail.com

Memo No. 32.01.0000.001.07.437.24- 1120

Date: 18/12/2024.

e-Tender Notice

Sl. No	Tender ID No	Package No	Reference No	Description of Goods	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	1050472	01	32.01.0000.001.07.437.24	Brand Desktop computer set, Laser Printer, UPS and other accessories	29.12.2024 16:00.	30.12.2024 11:00	30.12.2024 11:00

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

Signature
18.12.2024
(Most. Nilufar Rahman)
Deputy Director (Admin)
Department of Women's Affairs
(1st Floor)
36/3, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka
Phone : 58310770.

GD-1215



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Chattogram City Corporation

ময়লা আবর্জনা নালা
নর্দমায় ফেলবেন না

Tiger Pass, Chattogram
www.ccc.org.bd

নিয়মিত পৌরকর
পরিশোধ করুন

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.38.24.646

Dated: 19/12/2025

eTender Notice CCC.MECH.Dec-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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to particular date specified on tender notice.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	CCC.MECH 394	Details of supplying spare parts of 30 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation.	1038676	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
2	CCC.MECH 38-002-25	Details of Engine overhauling, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of excavator no. 15 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038703	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
3	CCC.MECH 38-002-427	Details of Renovation/Repair parts of Eicher dump truck no. 004727, 004777, 004646 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038708	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
4	CCC.MECH 86	Details of Engine overhauling, Body Cabin and renovation/repair related parts of Truck no. 500530 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038657	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
5	CCC.MECH 266	Details of Engine overhauling, cabin, denting and renovation/repair related parts of Water Voucher no. 11-0041 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038656	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
6	CCC.MECH 38-002-486	Details of hiring 05 (five) unit CNG Taxi for Dengue eradication program under Chattogram City Corporation	1038692	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
7	CCC.MECH 38-002-428	Details of renovation/repair Horn, Break show, clutch, head light, fuel pump of Eicher Dump Truck no. 004721, 004640, 004642 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038709	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
8	CCC.MECH 1109	Details of Engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of Aerial lift no. 11-0002 (Model: TATA 607) under Chattogram City Corporation	1038655	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
9	CCC.MECH FN. 38-002-196	Details of suspension, denting painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of Single cabin Mitsubishi pickup no. 11-0395 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038666	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
10	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-397	Details of supplying spare parts of TATA aerial lift no. 11-0002, 11-0004 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038674	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
11	CCC.MECH 310-part	Details of supplying spare parts of 26 official and Conservancy vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1038673	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
12	CCC.MECH 38-002-752/16	Details of renovation/repair spare parts of 9 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1038649	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
13	CCC.MECH 112/16	Details of supplying front wheel bearing, steering column bearing, steering wheel pinion, steering rack pinion, wheel chain, back wheel bearing, supporter plate and fan belt for Roller no. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 under Chattogram City Corporation	1050172	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
14	CCC.MECH 38-002-432	Details of hiring 05 (five) unit CNG Taxi for Miking program under Chattogram City Corporation	1038693	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
15	CCC.MECH 1152/17	Details of Body Cabin, Denting painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of 274302 (Model: 10.75) under Chattogram City Corporation	1038658	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
16	CCC.MECH FN. 875	Details of Engine overhauling, Body cabin Denting Painting, outfitting and renovation/Repair related parts of Dead Body Transportation no. 05-0034 under Chattogram City Corporation	1048640	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
17	CCC.MECH 38-002-430	Details of renovation/repair parts of excavator no. 18 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038702	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
18	CCC.MECH 38-002-449	Details of engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of Eicher dump truck Chassis no. 387560 (Model: 10.75 India) engaged in garbage removal under Chattogram City Corporation	1038711	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
19	CCC.MECH 38-002-450	Details of Renovation/repair body cabin and related parts of dump truck no. Dhaka metro 14-2710 engaged in road development under Chattogram City Corporation	1038710	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
20	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-487	Details of hiring 01 (one) unit two storied bus and 02 (two) unit city bus for evacuation operation under Chattogram City Corporation	1038689	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
21	CCC.MECH 38-002-447	Details of Engine overhauling and renovation/repair related parts of excavator no. 13 (Model: Volvo) under Chattogram City Corporation	1038694	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
22	CCC.MECH 38-002-386	Details of Renovation/Repair parts of Double Cabin Pickup no. 11-0015, 11-0014, Car no. 11-0721, 11-0503 and Jeep no. 11-2964 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038688	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
23	CCC.MECH FN 38-002-471	Details of Engine overhauling, Gear Box, Body Cabin Denting Painting, outfitting and renovation/repair related parts of Mitsubishi Truck No. 4010 under Chattogram City Corporation	1038644	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
24	CCC.MECH 38-002-638	Details of supplying spare parts of 25 official vehicles under Chattogram City Corporation	1038680	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30
25	CCC.MECH 160 B	Details of Renovation/Repair cooling system and related parts of Navana CNG filling station located at Dampara Yard under Chattogram City Corporation	1054143	02-Jan-2025 13:30	02-Jan-2025 14:30

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

CCC/PRD-29/24-25
(SIZE: 12" X 4 COL)

Md. Touhidul Hassan
Executive Engineer (Mech)
On behalf of Superintendent Engineer (Mech)
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram

GD-1222



TOM CRUISE receives US Navy's top civilian award

Tom Cruise has received the US Navy's highest civilian honour in recognition of his "exceptional contributions" to the armed forces through his film roles.

His portrayal as the charismatic lead in the 1986 blockbuster *Top Gun* propelled him to superstardom. The movie's immense popularity not only shattered box office records but also significantly boosted military recruitment rates.

Tom Cruise was honoured with the Distinguished Public Service Award at a ceremony held on December 17 at Longcross Film Studios in Chertsey, Surrey.

The 62-year-old actor conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for the "remarkable recognition."

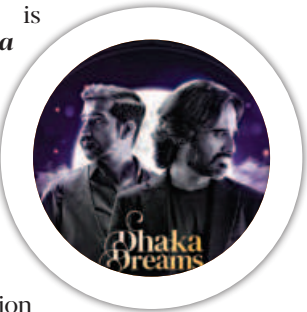
Kaavish to headline two-day concert in Dhaka

Pakistani band Kaavish is set to headline *Dhaka Dreams*, a two-day concert on January 10 and 11, 2025, at Senapranagan. Organised by Blue Brick Communications, the event features Bangladeshi acts Level Five, Shunno, Armeen Musa, and the Ghashphoring Choir.

A special collaboration between Arnob and Indian playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan is also planned.

Kaavish, known for *Nindiya Re* and other soulful hits like *Faasle*, *Tere Bina*, and *Tere Pyaar Mein*, will perform live in Dhaka for the first time. The concert will open with Level Five and Shunno, followed by Kaavish. The second night includes Armeen, Sunidhi, Arnob, and Kaavish.

Tickets are priced at Tk 4,000, available on TicketBhai's website.



Jaya Ahsan starrer ‘Putulnacher Itikatha’ to compete at Rotterdam film festival

The Suman Mukhopadhyay directorial film *Putulnacher Itikatha*, also known as *The Puppet's Tale*, is set to compete at the Big Screen Compilation line-up at the 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR).

The film will be competing alongside other movies, such as *The Assistant*, *Back to the Family*, *Bad Painter*, ¡Caigan las rosas blancas!, *Gowok: Javanese Kamasutra*, *De idylle*, *Macai*, *Orenda*, *L'oro del Reno*, *Our Father – The Last Days of a Dictator*, *Raptures*, *Soft Leaves*, and *Yasuko, Songs of Days Past*.

Based on the iconic novel by Manik Bandopadhyay, the film stars Abir Chatterjee, Jaya Ahsan, Parambrata Chattopadhyay, and Dhritiman Chatterji, among others.

In this film, Jaya portrays the character of Kusum, while director Suman brings the pre-independence era to life on screen, highlighting the late 1930s to early 1940s.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

The Art of Resistance

The Art of Resistance exhibition features a compelling collection of works by Bangladeshi artists. Through thought-provoking paintings and bold political cartoons, the event highlights art's critical role in confronting injustice and advocating for equality and human rights.

Date: December 13-21
Time: 4pm - 8pm
Venue: The Daily Star

‘Laapataa Ladies’, ‘Boli’ fail to make Oscars shortlist

Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury's directorial Bangladeshi film *Boli* and Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* were submitted for the Best International Feature Film category at the 97th Academy Awards but failed to secure spots on the Oscars shortlist.

Meanwhile, Netflix's *Emilia Pérez* and Universal Pictures' *Wicked* have emerged as frontrunners in the race, with *Emilia Pérez* earning six mentions and *Wicked* securing four across various categories.

British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri's *Santosh*, representing the UK and starring Shahana Goswami and Sunita Rajwar, made it to the International Feature shortlist. The category also includes entries like *Emilia Pérez* (France), *I'm Still Here* (Brazil), and *Universal Language* (Canada), among other strong contenders.

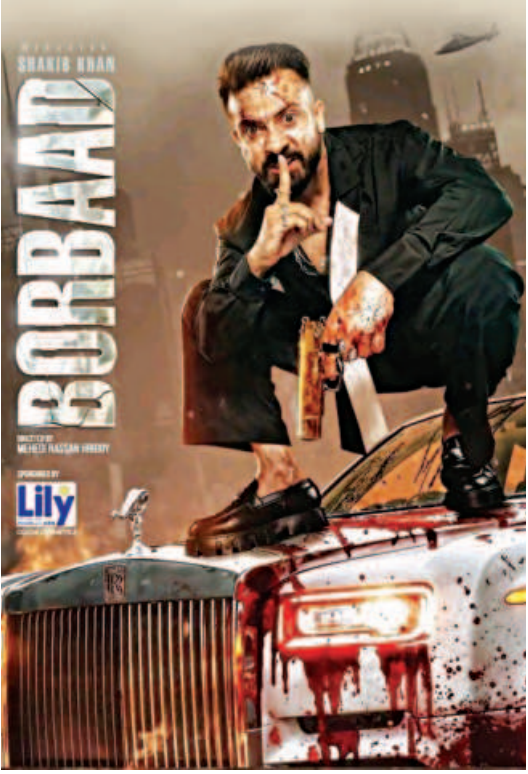


SHAKIB KHAN steps up the aggression in ‘Borbaad’ poster

Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan has stunned fans with his rugged action hero look in the upcoming thriller *Borbaad*, directed by debutant Mehedi Hassan Hridoy. The film's motion poster, revealed yesterday on Shakib's official Facebook, promises "Bengali cinema's ultimate action-violence saga."

Set for Eid-ul-Fitr 2025, *Borbaad* boasts a Tk 15 crore budget, with 80 percent of filming abroad. Bollywood choreographer Ravi Varma will oversee action sequences.

Co-starring Idhika Paul and Jishu Sengupta, *Borbaad* is expected to redefine Dhallywood's action genre, with production beginning this month. Fans eagerly anticipate this ambitious project, which insiders believe could be a game-changer for Bangladeshi cinema.



COUNTRYWIDE

Commercial ginger cultivation in sacks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers in different districts under Rangpur region are now gradually opting to cultivate ginger in sacks on commercial basis as many of them are earning a good profit from the spice item.

Meanwhile, seeing ones success many other farmers are also getting interested in ginger farming in plastic sacks.

By cultivating ginger in such method, not only farmers are benefiting, but the country's dependence on ginger import is also decreasing day by day.

Local agriculture department, however, sees a bright prospect for commercial cultivation of ginger in sacks on a large scale.

Currently, Bangladesh Spices Research Centre is encouraging farmers to cultivate ginger variety Bari-1 and Bari-2 using the sack method.

According to Bangladesh Spices Research Centre, the country has a demand of nearly 2,40,000 tonnes of ginger annually.

Of them, the country only produces about 80,000 tonnes of ginger, while the rest 1,60,000 tonnes has to be imported from other countries.

At present, about 30 percent of locally produced ginger comes from the sack method.

Agriculture officials said ginger cultivation, using sack method, is gradually becoming popular among local farmers as many of them are earning a good from it.

If more people opted to do so, the country's demand can be fulfilled with locally produces ginger in the next few years.

Farmer Alamgir Hossain Babu of Ramdas village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said he cultivated Bari-1 variety of ginger in 1,200 sacks on an abandoned land couple of months ago.

Farmers are getting 1.5kg to 2kg of ginger from each sack, spending Tk 45 to Tk 50 per sack, Babu said, adding that currently each kg of ginger is selling for Tk 180 Tk 200 in local markets.

Moreover, ginger cultivation, applying sack method, does not require any extra labour and supervision.

"Now I am encouraging other farmers in my locality to cultivate ginger using this method so that they can use their abandoned land," Babu said.

Farmer Asir Uddin of the village said being inspired by his neighbour Babu he also cultivated ginger in 200 sacks and placed those in one of his unused land. Afzal Hossain, senior scientific officer at Lalmonirhat Spice Research Sub-Centre, said they have supplied Bari-1 and Bari-2 varieties of ginger seeds to farmer in different areas of Rangpur region so that they can cultivated those in plastic sacks.



Farmer Alamgir Hossain's backyard booming with ginger plants in sacks. The photo was taken from Ramdas village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila recently. PHOTO: STAR

Tigers push

FROM PAGE 12

He credited this growth to the interim government's targeted initiatives to resolve expatriates' challenges and foster confidence among them.

The adviser said efforts were being made to end harassment of expatriates, reduce migration costs, and create new opportunities for sending skilled workers to European countries.

He said the government is working to ensure that expatriates get the respect and support they deserve.

Recalling expatriates' significant contributions to the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, Asif Nazrul lauded expatriates for their sacrifices.

ACC starts

FROM PAGE 12

Evidence of suspicious and unusual transactions of Tk 548.8 crore was found in 82 bank accounts linked to Nizam. According to the ACC, Hazari amassed illegal assets worth Tk 18.72 crore, Akhtar said.

ACC Deputy Director Nurul Huda filed the case. The complaint says Tk 280.14 crore was deposited and Tk 268.66 crore withdrawn from Hazari's accounts, leaving a current balance of Tk 12.61 crore.

He also filed a case accusing Durjoy of acquiring illegal assets worth Tk 11.21 crore.

The complaint says Durjoy misused his power to obtain Tk 4.22 crore from Manikganj Power Generation Limited.

Officers have been investigating Hazari and Durjoy since September.

Voting rights of expatriates must

FROM PAGE 12

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Most returned home

FROM PAGE 12

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Syria conflict not over yet, warns UN envoy

Malaysia FM to be fined for smoking at eatery

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

www.mnhpw.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Memo No. 25.00.0000.016.26.001.24-526

Date: 18.12.2024

1	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Housing and Public Works
2	Agency	:	Ministry of Housing and Public Works
3	Procuring entity name	:	Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works
4	Invitation for	:	Hiring of 01 Sedan Car Vehicle for 2nd Court of Settlement
5	Procuring entity district	:	Dhaka
6	IFT Ref. No.	:	25.00.0000.016.26.001.24-526
7	Date	:	18.12.2024

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method	:	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and source of funds	:	GoB (Non-Development)
10	Development partners (if applicable)	:	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/program code (if applicable)	:	N/A
12	Tender Package No.	:	Mohpw/2024-25/02
13	Tender package name	:	Hiring of 01 Sedan Car Vehicle for 2nd Court of Settlement
14	Publication date	:	19.12.2024
15	Tender last selling date (must be the date prior to the day of tender closing date)	:	05.01.2025
16	Tender closing date and time	:	06.01.2025; Time: 03.00pm
17	Tender opening date and time	:	06.01.2025; Time: 03.00pm
18	Name and address of the offices Selling tender document (principal) -Receiving tender document -Opening tender document	:	Ministry of Housing and Public Works
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	:	On demand of tenderer

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Eligibility of tenderer	:	As mentioned in the Tender Document
21	Name of services	:	Hiring of 01 Sedan Car Vehicle for 2nd Court of Settlement
22	Brief description of services	:	Hiring of 01 Sedan Car Vehicle including Driver, Fuel, etc. for 2nd Court of Settlement.
23	Price of tender document	:	1000/-

Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/ months
01	Hiring of 01 Sedan Car Vehicle for 2nd Court of Settlement (Minimum 1500-1800CC- Minimum 05 Seater, Model: Not before 2017)	Dhaka Metropolitan Area	25,000/-	12 (twelve) months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

24	Name of official inviting tender	:	Md. Hamidur Rahman Khan
25	Designation of official inviting tender	:	Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka,
26	Address of official inviting tender	:	Room No. 202, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	:	Phone: 02-55100520, 02-9546255, 02-9512231; Email: adlsecadmin1@mohpw.gov.bd
28	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings (Details of Procuring Entity/Authorized Officer).		

18-12-2024

Md. Abdur Rahman Tarafder
Additional Secretary (Admin-1)
Ministry of Housing and Public Works
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
Phone: +8802-55100520

GD-1220

UCB ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি (ইউসবি)
কাগজান বাজার শাখা, ঢাকা।

অর্থশ্রম আদানাত তারিখ ২০০৩ এর ১২ দ্বারা মোতাবেক
বন্ধকারী সম্পত্তি নিলাম বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিভাগ


এছাড়াও বর্ণনামতে অর্জিত অন্য জ্ঞানানো যাইহোক যে, ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি,
 কাগজানবাড়ী শাখা, ১০৬, কাজী মাসুদ হাসান এভিনিউ, কাগজানবাড়ী ঢাকা-১২০৭ এর ক্ষেত্রেইয়া
 স্টোরিজের তেলেশুমের ফিল্ড নির্দিষ্ট ও ডকুমেন্টার টাইটেল ইউনাইটেড প্রাইমেটরি, রিকানা ১) একটি
 টেক্সচার, ২৪, ক্যানা আউটফোর্ড এভিনিউ (৫৯ টাক), ঢাকা, ২) বাড়ী নং-১০৬, রোড নং-১০৬/এ, ক্যানা
 টেক্স-১২০৬, ৩) চন্দন দ্বারা সুরক্ষিত (১২৮৪ টাক), টি-৮৮, ১০১০, পেটেন্ট-১০১, ভক্তা, ঢাকা-১২০০
 এবং (৪) বাড়ী নং-১০৬, রোড-১০৬, ক্যানা, ঢাকা-১২০৬ এর কর্তৃত্ব প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে পারেন কিনা তাই
 অনুসন্ধান করুন। উপস্থাপিত বন্ধকারী নিম্নলিখিত ব্যাঙ্কের দায়িত্ব নিয়ে আছে এবং প্রেরিতভাবে
 আমোদজনক নিম্নলিখিত: যুক্তি অনুসন্ধান করুন। উক্ত বন্ধকারীর মধ্যে রয়েছে ১৬৬/১২/১০২৪ ই. তারিখ পর্যন্ত
 ঋণের জন্য ব্যবহারযোগ্য লোন মোট টকা ৩৮৭.০২, ১২,৪৪৪.০৬ (টকা) ছয়টি সাধারণ কোর্সে দুই বছরে
 হাজার হাজার পাঁচশ পঞ্চাশটির টাকা ছয় বছর। বর্তমান অনুমান করা হয়েছে যে আমানতগুলির সুদের পরিমাণ
 নির্দেশিত নিম্ন তফসিলকৃত নির্দেশ দিয়ে গঠিত হবে এবং আইন প্রকৌশলের নির্ধারিত নিম্ন বর্ণিত শর্তাবলি
 সূচনা করে/যাতে/যেই স্থায়ী হিসাবের পৃথক হিসাবের উপস্থাপিত পূর্বক নিম্নলিখিতের মধ্যকার আমানত করা যাইহোক।
 আশ্রয়ী ১২/১০/১০২৪ তারিখ বিবেচিত ১০০% খতিয়ার হয়ে ইউসবি, কাগজান বাজার শাখা ১০৬ তারিখের ব্যাঙ্কে
 সরাসরি অথবা রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত অবস্থানে দেওয়া টাকা হিসাব হয়েছে এবং এটি নির্দিষ্ট ধারণা ৪.০০ খতিয়ার হয়ে
 একজনকৃত আমানতের সময়ে (স্মি কেটে ইউসবি) দেওয়া হলো হয়েছে। দেয়াতালন তফসিলকৃত এবং এ
 প্রদর্শিত ট্রান্সাক্শনের মধ্যে যে অন্য সদস্য দানের কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা, সেখানে প্রেরিত ট্রান্সাক্শনের মধ্যে যে
 অন্য তফসিলকৃত ব্যাঙ্ক অধিকৃত ও অভিজ্ঞতা অধিকতর হাজার করা হয়েছে, তবে কোন ট্রান্সাক্শনের মধ্যে যে
 অন্য তফসিলকৃত প্রদর্শনীয় নয়। প্রত্যেক নিম্নলিখিতের উদ্ভূত হয় ১০০.০০% (শেষ মান) টাকার
 হিসাব উত্তর ১০%, উদ্ধৃত হয় ১০০.০০% (শেষ মান) টাকার হিসাব এবং সুদ ১০০.০০% /
 (পাশাপাশি) টাকার হিসাব ১০% এবং উদ্ধৃত হয় ১০০.০০% (পাশাপাশি) টাকার হিসাব অথবা
 হিসাব উত্তর ১০% এর সমস্তমাত্রা টাকার ব্যাঙ্ক ট্রান্সাক্শন বা গে-অর্ডার আমানত স্বল্প ইউসবি, কাগজান বাজার
 শাখা অনুসরণ করে/যেই নির্দেশিত থাকে এবং দেয়াতালন তফসিলকৃত এবং এ বর্ণনিত প্রদর্শনের
 সংগ্রহ করা দেয়াতালন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করে এবং উক্ত প্রদর্শনের সাথে আরও অন্য তফসিলকৃত
 হয়েছে বা। এপ্রদর্শনকারী ব্যক্তিরা www.ucb.com.bd ডকুমেন্টে পাওয়া যাবে।

বন্ধকারী সম্পত্তির তফসিল

a) All that premises of 08 (eight) floor being No. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th& Ground Floor, Total floor space measuring (1810.26+2182.67+2182.67+2182.67+2126.39+2182.67+2126.39+2309.20+3348.62) respectively = 20451.26 (more or less) and with 3 (three) Nos. of Basement, space measuring (1536.528+1536.528+1536.528)= 4609.58 sq. ft., Total Floor Space Measuring (20451.26+4609.58) = 25060.84 sq. ft. on the 18 (eighteen) storied residential building, along with car parking space on the Basement and right for common space with other facilities along with undivided and non-demarcated proportionate share of scheduled land measuring 5.13 (five point one three) decimal out of 10.26 (ten point two six) decimal, situated within District- Dhaka, Police Station & Sub-Registry Office- Gulshan, Mouza- Gulshan, being Plot No. 35 (thirty five), Road No. 133 (one hundred thirty three), Gulshan (South Avenue) Commercial Area Layout Plan prepared by erstwhile Dacca Improvement Trust at present Rajdhani Unnayan Katrippakkha (RAJUK) and more particularly delineated on the plan annexed with the Original Lease Deed No. 2939 dated 05.09.1977; Mutation Separation Case No. 96/2014/2015 dated 11.11.2014, Plot Ar. ^{১৯৬}/_{১০০}

b) All that premises of 01 (one) floor being No. A-13, floor space measuring 2444.85 sq. ft. (more or less) on the 14 (fourteen) storied non-residential building with Basement, along with car parking space and right for common space with other facilities along with undivided and non-demarcated proportionate share of scheduled land measuring 0.65 decimal out of 9.07 (nine point zero seven) decimal land, situated within District-Dhaka, Police Station & Sub-Registry Office- Gulshan, Mouza- Sabek-Lalsara, Ali: Banani R/A, being Plot No. 99 (ninety nine), Block-C, of the Layout Plan of Banani Model Town prepared by erstwhile Dacca Improvement Trust at present Rajdhani Unnayan Katrippakkha (RAJUK); Mutation Separation Case No. 58/7021/2017 dated 26.07.2018, Plot Ar. ^{১৫৭}/_{১০০}

ব্যবস্থাপক, ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি, কাগজান বাজার শাখা, ঢাকা।


Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited

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- No 3rd division/class (equivalent GPA/CGPA) in any academic result is acceptable.

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Set a new benchmark for migrant welfare

Our workers must be protected from abuse and corruption

Since taking over in early August, the interim government has taken a few positive steps to recognise the contributions of migrant workers and address their grievances. However, these isolated attempts fall far short of the comprehensive reforms needed across the labour migration process. As a result, feelings of neglect persist among the workers. This is why news of the record \$24.24 billion in remittance earned up to November 2024 feels less like a triumph for migrants and more like a reminder of how the state continues to view them: as mere economic tools to boost its foreign reserves.

On the occasion of the International Migrants Day, *The Daily Star* talked to a number of migrant workers who expressed frustration over the lack of measures to ensure their welfare. Oneworker said, “They (Bangladesh authorities) don’t care about how we live, our health issues, or whether we are safe. Their only concern is how much money we send.” Even the embassies, he added, “do not respect us; they treat us like slaves.” Such sentiments are rooted in years of systemic corruption, irregularities and mismanagement suffered by migrants. Reports of fraudulent recruitment practices and exorbitant migration costs remain alarmingly common. Once abroad, workers also face abuse, contract violations, and poor living conditions, with little recourse or support from the authorities.

The interim government has a chance to change this narrative and ensure that our workers receive the support they deserve. There are many issues that need to be fixed, from recruitment to reintegration. While the need for increasing remittances—through upskilling workers and deterring the reliance on informal channels such as hundi—is understandable, it is secondary to tackling the exploitative practices that plague the life cycle of migrant workers, directly affecting their wellbeing. The time has come to shift the focus from what migrants can do for the country to what the country can do for them. The formation of a commission to undertake this task, as recommended by experts, is an essential first step in that direction.

One area that needs urgent attention is the costs of migration. It is unacceptable that Bangladesh remains one of the costliest countries for migration, with aspiring workers often paying up to six times the government-stipulated costs due to corrupt practices and intermediaries. Moreover, they are also harassed while getting a passport, completing medical check-ups, etc. Clearly, stricter oversight of recruitment practices is crucial. The plight of workers stranded or mistreated abroad is another pressing concern. From Malaysia to the Gulf states, thousands face exploitative conditions, delayed salaries, and even threats of deportation. The government must enforce stricter monitoring of our recruitment agencies and embassies, and negotiate better protections with destination countries. Additionally, it must ensure proper reintegration for returning migrants who often struggle to rebuild their lives after years abroad.

There is a lot that needs to change, and for that, all relevant departments and agencies must undergo a cultural and operational overhaul. The interim government, and any administration that follows, must understand that we cannot honour our migrant workers without a full recognition of their rights and dignity.

Inflation is pushing us to the brink

Quick, effective measures needed to curb the menace

A recent study has revealed a rather distressing picture of inflation’s impact on the lives of ordinary people. The study, conducted by the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), found that high inflation over the last two years has pushed at least 78 lakh people into poverty, with 38 lakh of them slipping into extreme poverty. A further one crore people are at risk of falling below the poverty line if the current inflationary pressure continues. This does not bode well for a country undergoing a massive political transition, underscoring the need for a comprehensive action plan to bring the situation under control as soon as possible.

Bangladesh has been battling high inflation for more than two years now, a situation caused by external shocks but made more severe and persistent due to delayed and shortsighted decision-making—such as excessive money printing by the previous regime, etc. Overall inflation has remained above nine percent since March 2023. In November this year, inflation hit a staggering 11.38 percent, while food inflation soared to 13.8 percent. The persistently high prices of essentials have been causing financial distress for citizens, a majority of whom have yet to recover from the shock of reduced income caused by the pandemic and other factors, including natural disasters. As a result, many households have been forced to cut back on basic needs such as education and healthcare, and even on daily food intake. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), around 3.77 crore people experienced food insecurity in 2023.

We need prompt, effective measures that can support the poor as well as help curb inflation. For immediate relief, social protection programmes must be beefed up to provide support to those who urgently need it. This should include cash support and/or provision of basic essentials at subsidised rates. For a long-term remedy, the government must take a multipronged approach. Public spending, for example, has to be adjusted to prevent wastage, while government resources should be used more effectively to support social protection programmes as well as to create jobs for those suffering due to reduced income opportunities. Simultaneously, the government must employ measures to complement its ongoing efforts to curb inflation, such as strengthening market management to prevent price manipulation and monitoring supply chains to stop extortion.

The interim administration has a mammoth task ahead. To deliver on its promises, including stabilising the economy, it must make prudent and timely decisions to bring the raging inflation under control. This is also vital for a smooth political transition.

Reform imperatives of our police



Muhammad Nurul Huda
is former IGP of Bangladesh Police.

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

The police reform of Bangladesh requires an in-depth examination of the police organisation, its mandate, its functional dynamics. It also highlights the need to establish effective structures to oversee police performance and ensure the realisation of the organisational mission. The reform process has to touch all ranks and be all inclusive, calling for a commitment and sense of purpose from the political executive since what is involved is basically a redetermination of the whole governance paradigm.

Every organisation, whether public or private, can perform well only if it is founded on valid organisational principles. In the case of Bangladesh police, these principles were not followed over the years, resulting in a corrupt, inefficient, and highly politicised force. Increasingly, the police were rendered agents of the political executive rather than instruments of a democratic state. The selective application of law against opponents, whether political or personal, at the behest of influential individuals, became the norm rather than the exception. People perceived the police as agents of the party in power, not as members of an organisation publicly maintained to enforce the rule of law.

The key question relevant to the reform is: what kind of organisation will the police of Bangladesh need to meet the law-and-order challenges of the 21st century? As a first step, the responsibility of maintenance of law and order will need to rest unambiguously with the police. The police hierarchy must be made responsible not only for the organisation and the internal administration of the force but also exclusively for all matters connected with maintaining law and order. In short, policing operations should no longer be subjected to general control and direction from outside the police department.

Steps will be required for rendering the police professionally competent, operationally neutral, functionally cohesive, and organisationally responsible for all its actions. This, in turn, will lead to efficient police operations, better decision-making,

improved discipline within the force, and revamped accountability mechanisms. The role, duties, and responsibilities of the police must be orientated to prioritise service function, ensuring that the prevention and detection of crime serve a social purpose. The reform strategy should seek to solicit voluntary support and



FILE PHOTO: AFP

Police try to disperse protesters in Dhaka during the quota reform movement.

cooperation of the people.

The sole purpose of the police is to enforce the laws of the land without fear or favour towards anyone. Therefore, it is crucial to render the police politically neutral. Such neutrality has been achieved in other countries by placing the police under apolitical control, thereby creating a buffer between political expediency and law enforcement. Without such a buffer, influential individuals will never allow the police to perform their mandated duties.

Police accountability is a subject of great contemporary significance. The increasingly sophisticated range of coercive, scientific, and technical apparatus at the command of police requires stricter accountability controls. Bangladesh urgently needs statutory commission institutions like the Independent Police Complaints Authority in Britain or the Public Safety Commission system in Japan. The Independent Police Complaint authority in Britain consists of members of civil society and is

mandated to inquire into serious complaints against police. One of the most important functions of Japan’s Public Safety Commission System is to ensure that police operations remain uninfluenced by the party in power. The apolitical public safety commissions at national and regional levels are designed to insulate the police from the debilitating effects of political control.

For quite some time, there has been reluctance among senior police officials to recognise the necessity of viewing police forces as organisations fundamentally similar to any other enterprise or business. The police organisation must, therefore, evolve a shared vision and understanding of a common mission increasingly focused



FILE PHOTO: AFP

Police try to disperse protesters in Dhaka during the quota reform movement.

on meeting community expectations.

The first order of business is to enact a new police act to replace the present archaic legislation enacted in 1861. This act is weak across almost all parameters that govern democratic police legislation. It has made it easier for others to abuse and misuse the police organisation. People in positions of power have been able to do so because the act grants the government authority to exercise superintendence over the police without defining the term “superintendence” or prescribing guidelines to ensure legitimate use of power. The act does not establish institutional arrangements to insulate the police from undesirable external control, pressures, and influences. It also fails to recognise the government’s responsibility to establish an efficient and effective police force. Furthermore, it does not require the setting of objectives or performance standards, nor does it establish independent mechanisms to monitor and inspect police performance.

COP29 outcomes bear consequences for Bangladeshi children

Rana Flowers
is UNICEF representative in Bangladesh.

Farzana Faruk Jhumu
is a UNICEF youth advocate and climate activist.

Amanullah Porag
is a young climate activist.

RANA FLOWERS, FARZANA FARUK JHUMU and
AMANULLAH PORAG

With the focus on climate finance, COP29 concluded on November 24 in Baku, Azerbaijan, with a \$300 billion annual pledge by developed nations until 2035. The amount will go to support developing nations such as Bangladesh in adapting to the climate emergency. While a step in the right direction, the outcome fell short, paling in comparison to the actual needs. Bangladesh alone requires \$176 billion to implement its climate action plan to meet the Paris Agreement goals—known as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). What’s more, COP29 failed to clarify where these funds will come from, and the annual Global Stocktake dialogue—meant to assess the collective progress to inform the next round of NDC—was postponed until June 2025. This delay is especially concerning, given the critical role the NDCs play in driving climate progress when international mitigation negotiations are failing to reach consensus.

For children in Bangladesh, the most exposed in the world to climate and environmental hazards, these

outcomes signal a dire “code red” for both their present and their future. Every year, extreme weather events—floods, heatwaves, and cyclones—continue to offer no respite. This year has been particularly unprecedented and devastating. During monsoon season, the worst floods in 34 years swept through the homes, schools, and villages of over 20 lakh children in eastern Bangladesh. These tragedies came on the heels of earlier disasters, including June floods in northern Bangladesh and Cyclone Remal in May—the three combined emergencies affected over 1.8 crore people, including 70 lakh children. Flooding, along with increasingly severe storms, has a direct impact on children: it increases stunting; drives pre-term pregnancy complications; and results in increased maternal and newborn mortality. This is not just a science reality. It is killing women and children, and this alone should be the justification for action.

Meanwhile, children are growing up in an increasingly unhealthy environment that is taking a heavy toll on their health and development.

Emissions are a driving factor for the climate crisis, but also a damaging factor for children’s health. In 2021 alone, air pollution was responsible for over 235,000 deaths in Bangladesh. Higher temperatures is another harmful outcome of the climate crisis. Heatwaves, which are becoming more frequent and intense, reached record-breaking temperatures of 43 degrees Celsius in April and May. These extreme temperatures forced nationwide school closures and worsened the learning loss, especially for most vulnerable children, who have no access to digital means of education.

But this crisis is not just about rising temperatures or polluted air and water—it is about injustice. Children in Bangladesh are paying the highest price for a crisis they did not cause. Developed countries are responsible for the bulk of global emissions, yet it is countries on “ground zero” like Bangladesh that face the worst consequences.

These disparities become even more glaring as the 2030 deadline looms just five years away. While countries largely postured and avoided the urgency of the 1.5 degrees Celsius target and Sustainable Development Goal 13 for Climate Action at COP29, children in Bangladesh cannot afford to wait another year. Stronger actions are desperately needed to protect their rights, lives, and futures. Climate finance must be accessible, transparent, and sufficient. We need infrastructure—schools, hospitals, and water systems—that

The goal should be to establish a police force subject to the rule of law rather than the whims of the party in power. The police should intervene in the lives of citizens only under limited and controlled circumstances and must be held publicly accountable.

Historically, policing in Bangladesh has largely been a one-sided affair, with communities having little to no say in local policing plans and strategies that affect them most. The idea that “police are the people, and people are the police” has not taken root in the region. Unfortunately, the Police Act of 1861 was silent on the issue of community consultation. Instead, it focused on the responsibility of communities to ensure order, with the entire community facing collective punishment if any member stepped out of line.

An inefficient and outdated administrative legacy is undermining reforms supported by numerous national and international expert missions. For too long, the basic functioning of the police has remained unchanged. What is needed is to make improving the quality of law enforcement a permanent and integral part of the national agenda.

An enlightened and determined political leadership, high levels of public support, and a motivated and well-led public sector are critical for change. Equally, if not more importantly, a civil society that demands and supports higher standards of police performance is essential for reform.

The core issue today is not what the police does, but why it does what it does. It is time to make the police work for the people.

Over the last few decades, public opinion leaders have responded to the growing policing crisis with traditional approaches. They have blamed the police officers, protested against abuses of authority and corruption, and levelled criticism at the police without showing the necessary will or support to change its design.

The police reform debate seems to be attracting a wider and more serious audience. These issues are receiving focused and sustained attention in the media. If the goal is to make quality policing a way of life, then we need to begin by restructuring the existing police framework. The police constable must be transformed into a responsible official providing essential services to the community. The existing police setup must be replaced with a system that strives to be customer-friendly. There must be a shared sense of mission and clearly understood organisational goals, as well as citizens’ inclusion in police decision-making processes.

can withstand climate shocks. Stricter environmental laws must be enforced to control pollution. Most importantly, as young people in Bangladesh continue to speak up on the devastating impacts of climate change, their voices must be central in decision-making; they want and should be a part of driving the solutions. To do this, UNICEF joins their call for i) a youth climate envoy in the office of the chief adviser and ii) a climate youth advisory body to be officially consulted on inclusion of children and young people in the NDCs, and to support the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to create a dynamic plan of action.

For children and young people, inaction is not an option. There are many demands at this time, but this is not a focus and investment that can be addressed at a later date—it has to start now, or it will be too late. Echoing the statement from UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell at the conclusion of COP29, UNICEF is working with the Interim Government of Bangladesh, partners and the private sector to ensure tangible climate actions for children. Looking ahead, we, along with young people demanding change, urge the interim government to embed and prioritise children’s rights in the country’s next round of NDC.

To avert catastrophe, we must act now—with children’s rights at the heart of every decision. The future is theirs, and it’s time we give them the tools to secure it.

Bangladesh’s dark chapter of abduction and torture



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H.M. NAZMUL ALAM

The term “enforced disappearance” carries with it a harrowing silence—an emptiness that is louder than any scream. Behind the faceless statistics and clinical reports lies an abyss of grief, fear, and unspeakable torment. The interim report by the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances has finally given shape to the shadows, unmasking one of the darkest chapters in Bangladesh’s contemporary history under Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League regime. From 2009 to 2024, a systematic machinery of abduction, torture, and killing unfolded like a grotesque opera of state violence.

The numbers alone are enough to chill the bones—1,676 complaints of enforced disappearances registered over 15 years, with 758 cases reviewed so far. These figures, however, are mere echoes of untold stories. The lives that have been erased or shattered cannot be quantified. What makes this ordeal even more disturbing is its systematic and well-organised nature—an invisible machinery of surveillance, kidnapping, and annihilation, fuelled by political orders and weaponised institutions.

The commission has revealed that disappearances occurred in five horrific stages: target selection, surveillance, kidnapping, torture, and execution or release. Victims were dragged from their homes or streets into unmarked vehicles, blindfolded and cuffed before disappearing into the ether. The darkness that engulfed them was literal and metaphorical—secret prisons where light and hope were extinguished. Stories of abuse uncovered by the commission defy human comprehension. Lips sewn shut without anaesthesia, electric shocks to the ears and genitals, bodies buried in rivers, and corpses left for trains to mutilate—such horrors belong in the annals of medieval tyranny, yet they happened here, in modern Bangladesh.

The commission speaks of nine secret prisons run by entities such as DGFI, RAB, and CTTC—facilities reminiscent of historical gulags or infamous detention centres of

military juntas. This is not just a Bangladeshi tragedy. It is a human tragedy.

“When the truth is buried underground, it grows, it chokes, it gathers such an explosive force that on the day it bursts out, it blows up everything with it,” said the French writer Emile Zola. The victims of enforced disappearances are not only individuals but the truth itself—buried, gagged, and annihilated by a regime that operated beyond accountability.

Enforced disappearances have been a recurring curse across the world, often carried out under the guise of political stability or national security. The haunting parallels with Latin America’s military dictatorships are undeniable. In Argentina during the “Dirty War” (1976-1983), an estimated 30,000 people were forcibly disappeared. The Argentinian military junta, like the Awami regime, abducted citizens at night, detained them in secret prisons, and dropped their bodies into rivers or seas. “They are neither dead nor alive. They are disappeared,” said

From 2009 to 2024, a systematic machinery of abduction, torture, and killing unfolded like a grotesque opera of state violence. The numbers alone are enough to chill the bones—1,676 complaints of enforced disappearances registered over 15 years, with 758 cases reviewed so far.

Jorge Rafael Videla, Argentina’s military dictator, offering a scary encapsulation of the erasure of human identity.

This eerily resembles the commission’s report—victims abducted at night, bodies weighed with cement bags and thrown into

the Buriganga and Shitalakshya rivers. Such methods are not born from chaos but are orchestrated with diabolical precision. The parallels remind us that tyranny wears the same face across borders.

The horrors of enforced disappearances have long been reflected in art and cinema, where fiction blurs uncomfortably with reality. In *The Secret in Their Eyes* (2009), an Argentinian film inspired by the Dirty War, we

and others.

In *The Nightingale of Tibet* (2011), the titular character symbolises resilience against oppression. The story speaks to the silencing of voices and the erasure of cultural and individual identities—a theme that echoes in Bangladesh, where victims of disappearance have been framed as criminals and subjected to false charges under draconian laws like the Digital Security Act.

uncanny way of piercing through darkness, even when regimes attempt to suppress it with violence and fear.

To understand enforced disappearances, one must confront the silence. It is not only the silence of the abducted but also the silence forced upon their families—a silence that gnaws at the soul. A mother waiting for her son, a wife searching for her husband, a child growing up without a father—these silences are louder than the state’s propaganda or the click of handcuffs in the dark.

“The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is the duty of the living to do so for them,” wrote Lois McMaster Bujold. For the victims who were thrown into rivers, buried in unmarked graves, or mutilated beyond recognition, justice remains elusive. Yet their families refuse to give up.

Bangladesh’s recent signing of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances is a step forward, but mere paperwork cannot heal the wounds or bring justice to the victims. The abolition of RAB, as recommended by the commission, would be a symbolic first step—but what about the accountability of the architects? The report hints at the responsibility of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the “instructor of disappearances.” History will judge her legacy not by her rhetoric but by the bloodstains that cannot be washed away.

The interim report is not the end of this story. It is a crack in the wall of silence. The truth will emerge, piece by piece, no matter how deeply it has been buried. The families of the disappeared deserve more than condolences. They deserve justice, accountability, and the return of dignity to the names that were erased.

In times of darkness, art, history, and literature remind us of resilience. The words of Seamus Heaney echo for Bangladesh today: “History says, Don’t hope / On this side of the grave. / But then, once in a lifetime / The longed-for tidal wave / Of justice can rise up, / And hope and history rhyme.”

The commission’s findings are the first wave—a warning bell that the silence is breaking. The stories of those disappeared will not remain in the shadows. As the river currents carry their lost bodies, let their memories rise above the tides, a testament to the cost of truth and the undying resilience of those left behind. Bangladesh must confront its past, for only then can it build a future where no one vanishes into the night, never to return.



To understand enforced disappearances, one must confront the silence—not only of the abducted, but also the silence forced upon their families. FILE PHOTO: STAR

see justice denied in the shadow of political corruption. A line from the film resonates deeply: “You can change everything about yourself—your face, your family, your city, your country—but there’s one thing you can’t change: you can’t change your passion.” For the families of the disappeared in Bangladesh, their passion for truth remains unshakable, despite the state’s attempts to erase their loved ones from memory.

Similarly, the American film *Rendition* (2007) explores the terror of enforced disappearances under the pretext of counterterrorism. The protagonist, rendered to a foreign country for interrogation, becomes a victim of a faceless system that denies him identity or justice. The parallels are unsettling—the commission’s findings reveal Bangladeshi victims handed over to India under international conspiracies, as in the cases of BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed

The commission’s findings do not shy away from naming the architects of these horrors. The involvement of institutions such as RAB, DGFI, DB, and CTTC paints a grim picture of state-sponsored terror. Lower-ranking officers claim ignorance about their actions, while higher officials supervised and ordered these atrocities. This dissonance—between blind obedience and orchestrated cruelty—exposes a system rotten to its core.

The commission goes further, highlighting cross-border operations with Indian security forces. This revelation adds a layer of geopolitical intrigue to the disappearances, turning Bangladesh into a theatre of international complicity.

History has shown us that regimes that wield enforced disappearances as a weapon eventually crumble under the weight of their crimes. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “There is no god higher than truth.” Truth has an

Democracy needs civil society to thrive



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ASINUR REZA

Civil society in Bangladesh recently demonstrated its strength during the July-August uprising. When the coordinators of the anti-discrimination students’ movement were detained in July 2024, civil society groups—including university teachers, artists, journalists, and human rights defenders mobilised to demand their release. Their protests brought attention to human rights violations, such as brutal crackdowns and arbitrary arrests, bolstering public resolve. Despite oppressive measures like internet shutdowns, university dormitory evacuations, and night raids on protesters, civil society’s actions became a rallying force, re-energising the movement in late July.

This spirited intervention contrasts sharply with civil society’s broader inaction over the past decade. From 2013 to mid-2024, Bangladesh witnessed flawed elections, rampant corruption, enforced disappearances, and systemic governance failures. While civil society organisations (CSOs) like Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Center for Governance Studies (CGS), and a few others have continued to raise alarms, many professional networks and NGOs remained silent or complicit, aligning with the former regime’s “development” narrative. This raises critical questions about civil society’s role in fostering democratic accountability.

Several factors have contributed to the erosion of civil society’s influence in Bangladesh. Repressive laws, including Section 57 of the ICT Act and its successor, the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA), fostered fear and self-censorship. These laws, with vague provisions criminalising actions deemed offensive or detrimental to public order, were weaponised to silence dissent. Similarly, the Foreign Donations Regulation Act (2016) granted authorities significant control over CSO operations, limiting initiatives critical of government policies. These restrictions, coupled with bureaucratic delays, undermined the

independence of many CSOs.

Moreover, funding constraints further weakened civil society. Most Bangladeshi CSOs rely heavily on foreign donations, which often prioritise service-based programmes like healthcare and education over rights-based initiatives promoting democracy and governance. Grassroots organisations, already resource-strapped, struggle to survive in such an environment. The NGO Affairs Bureau’s stringent oversight exacerbates these challenges by delaying or denying funding approval for initiatives that diverge from the government’s narratives. This dependency on external funding and the overly regulated approval process limits CSOs’ ability to advocate boldly for human rights and accountability.

Bangladesh’s challenges mirror a global trend of shrinking civic spaces. According to CIVICUS, the country’s civic space has been downgraded to “closed,” placing it among the most restricted in Asia last year. Crackdowns on activists, journalists, and opposition voices ahead of the January 2024 national elections contributed to this decline. Several studies and indicators echo these findings, showing significant barriers for CSOs engaged in human rights, transparency, and anti-corruption efforts. While Bangladesh excels in service-oriented activities, its civic space for rights-based advocacy has been increasingly constrained over the years. The July uprising, marked by immense bloodshed and sacrifice, successfully ousted the autocratic regime on August 5, sparking hope for reopening civic spaces. The interim government is making efforts to restore these spaces, but the deep divisions within society pose significant challenges, requiring sustained time and effort. However, recurring incidents of mob lynching remain a major concern, hindering the development of a liberal and inclusive civil society.

Historically, civil society has been instrumental in advancing democracy worldwide. In Poland, the Solidarity Movement resisted communist rule and

ushered in democracy. In South Africa, civil society organisations and grassroots activists dismantled apartheid through decades of advocacy. The US Civil Rights Movement, led by groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, achieved landmark victories for racial equality. Similarly, the Indian National Congress began as a civil society-led initiative, mobilising a non-

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violent movement under Gandhi to secure independence and lay the foundations of democratic governance. Bangladesh itself boasts a proud history of civil society-driven transformation. Organisations like BRAC and Grameen Bank have significantly contributed to poverty alleviation and women’s empowerment, gaining global recognition. However, in recent years, many professional groups—journalists, academics, and cultural figures—have prioritised personal gains over their roles as defenders of democracy.

Addressing these shortcomings requires a multifaceted approach to reinvigorate civil society’s capacity and independence. Diversifying funding sources is crucial. Over-reliance on foreign donors sometimes compromises CSOs’ autonomy and subjects them to political interference. Domestic philanthropy and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives can bridge this gap, fostering sustainable funding models. Encouraging local contributions can also strengthen CSOs’ accountability to their communities.

The government must also create an enabling environment for civil society. This involves repealing or reforming restrictive laws like the DSA (rebranded as the Cyber Security Act a year ago) and the Foreign Donations Regulation Act, which stifle dissent and undermine CSO independence.

Although the government channels a significant portion of donor funds to CSOs, widespread corruption in allocation often diverts resources to organisations unlikely to challenge authority. Policy reforms are urgently needed to ensure transparency and direct these funds toward initiatives that hold power accountable and benefit the public. Transparent mechanisms for allocating government-administered funds can ensure these resources are used meaningfully.

Equally important is the need for civil society to maintain impartiality and objectivity. CSOs must resist aligning with political factions and focus instead on their mission to promote democratic values, accountability, and social justice. This requires a cultural shift within civil society, emphasising integrity and courage over expediency.

The successes of civil society in other parts of the world offer valuable lessons for Bangladesh. During the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia in 1989, civil society organisations united diverse groups around democratic goals, achieving a peaceful transition from authoritarianism. Similarly, civil society’s role in transitional justice in Chile and Argentina in the 1990s underscores its ability to hold governments accountable and promote transparency.

These examples demonstrate that even in repressive environments, resilient civil society institutions can drive meaningful change. As Nelson Mandela aptly noted, “If we want any significant development, we must co-opt civil society.” For this to happen in Bangladesh, state institutions, private sectors, and international development partners must collaborate to ensure that civic spaces remain open and vibrant.

The stakes for civil society in Bangladesh have never been higher. Amid mounting challenges to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, civil society must rise to the occasion. As Larry Diamond, a renowned political sociologist, observed, civil society plays a vital role in limiting state power, fostering participation, and advocating for democratic values. These responsibilities are especially pressing in Bangladesh, where the erosion of civic freedoms threatens the very fabric of democracy.

Civil society matters. Its role as the conscience of a nation cannot be overstated. To safeguard democracy and ensure accountable governance, Bangladesh must protect and empower its civil society institutions.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS

1 College head

5 Rating units

10 Loosen, as laces

12 Wine grape

13 With 24-Across, New England patriot

14 Blown away

15 Uno plus due

16 Stroller user

18 Gloss target

19 Submitted, as an entry

21 A lot

22 Software surprise

24 See 13-Across

25 New England storm

29 Swindles

30 Like some boxes

32 Museum focus

33 Toe count

34 That lady

35 Mona Lisa feature

37 Refrain bit

39 Breaks, perhaps

40 Muscular power

41 Cold shower?
- 42 Garden areas

DOWN

1 Some love songs

2 Main dish

3 Wise goddess

4 Long of “Soul Food”

5 Narrow point of land

6 Light metal

7 Counterpart

8 Crew activity

9 Flight makeup

11 Sanction

17 Like some rural bridges

20 Russian rulers

21 Circus sights

23 Bristles at

25 Ordinary

26 Prompt

27 Fuel gas

28 Staggered

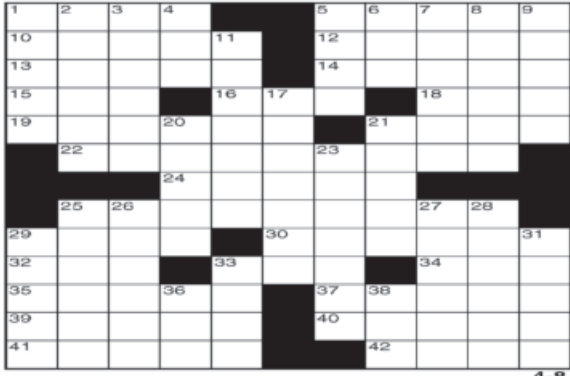
29 Play groups

31 Entices

33 Final, for one

36 “Life of Pi” director

38 Umbrella part



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

C	A	N	A	L	S	O	N	A	R
A	R	U	B	A	A	M	U	S	E
D	A	M	E	S	T	A	M	P	A
E	B	B	T	W	I	N	B	E	D
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S	A	R	A	T	I	E	R	S	
	O	I	L	C	O	T			
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S	U	E	A	G	O	O	R	E	
A	S	S	E	N	T	S	S	O	P
S	T	O	N	E	A	T	E	U	P
H	I	N	D	S	G	E	E	S	E
A	N	G	S	T	E	L	D	E	R

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
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PHOTOS: PALASH KHAN

EVENT REPORT

‘CATFISH AND AVATARS’: Discussions on cyber lives and cyber safety

Katerina Don, curator of HerStory Foundation, added that the group behind this project was founded by Saiq’a Chowdhury and is supported by Sister Library. She said, “Other group members include distinguished journalists, lawyers, academics, and software engineers.”

RAIAN ABEDIN

The phrases “cyber safety” and “cyber lives” may seem vague and not very well understood among Bangladesh’s netizens. Yet, every day it seems as if understanding the nuances of the lives we lead online has become crucial. On December 13, Sister Library hosted their newest event, ‘Catfish and Avatars’, which laid the groundwork for an open discussion about the many ways the platform provided by the internet, and social media in particular, has been subjected to abuse and misuse. The event was organised jointly by Star Books and Literature along with Sister Library, in a collaborative effort among experts to bring to light the problems around cyber safety.

The event was split into four segments, each of which delved deeper and deeper into the myriad of questions that arise with a topic such as this. The discussions took place in the presence of Sharmeen Murshid, Adviser to the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affair and the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Interim Government. There was, perhaps, no better person to partake in the conversations as all the talking points eventually led to an attempt to understand how women and minority communities have suffered greatly, especially in the last few months, due to a lack of regulation on the internet.

Kicking things off was a modest poetry session, with poems revolving around the theme of the Internet—the lives lived in it and the ways in which it has become a modern graveyard. Following this, came Barrister Priya Ahsan Chowdhury, who delved into the legalities of cyber safety, and the many issues that may arise with attempting to ban certain uses of language. After all, attempting to regulate what people say can be a slippery slope if not handled carefully. The talk was an in-depth session focused on the technical aspects of cyber safety from a lawyer’s perspective.

This was quickly followed up by the interactive part of the event: an intimate discussion session moderated by Nazia



Manzoor, Editor, Star Books and Literature, where all participants sat in a circle, bringing up different points of contention that come with cyber safety. Issues such as the spread of misinformation, and how that spreads mob hatred against minority communities as well as women were brought up. Furthermore, the discussions were taken to a policy level, bringing into question social media platforms like Meta and X’s policies in regulating social media abuse and misinformation.

Adviser Sharmeen Murshid wrapped up the discussions, highlighting every point that had been discussed. “The bottom line is regulation, sanction, definition,” she said, highlighting the importance of clarifying what we define as abuse in a cyber space before taking regulatory actions against it.

Katerina Don, curator of HerStory Foundation, added that the group behind this project was founded by Saiq’a Chowdhury and is supported by Sister Library. She said, “Other group members include distinguished journalists, lawyers, academics, and software engineers. The common objective here is to

share ideas and knowledge to expand our understanding of cyberspace in Bangladesh. This is triggered by an increase in technology-enabled online violence since the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe it is our responsibility to improve awareness of digital risks and rights.”

The discussions, though preliminary, paved a path for further conversations with experts, academicians, lawyers, policymakers, and many more to bring important changes to how we exist online.

The final segment of the event was a zine-making workshop, hosted by Sister Library’s Katerina Don. Zines, by now, have become synonymous with Sister Library’s identity; this event even showcased a zine compilation from a previous workshop held in August. After a long session filled with discussions on cyber safety, a workshop allowing for self-expression was a great way to further encourage conversations around cyber lives to continue.

Raian Abedin is a poet, a student of Biochemistry, and a contributor to The Daily Star.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION Redefining aviation safety culture

Review of ‘Research on Aviation Safety: Safety is a Mindset’ (Bartoman Somoy, 2024) by Air Commodore Munim Khan Majlish, BPP, psc.

TUSAR TALUKDER

Research on Aviation Safety: Safety is a Mindset by Air Commodore Munim Khan Majlish is a fresh look at the concept of aviation safety challenging standard ideas about safety. In the preface to the book, the author demonstrates that the existing safety policies and procedures are adequate for ensuring safety in aviation. However, these policies and procedures are not properly practiced or implemented in aviation organisations.

Majlish’s many years of experience of managing aviation safety has helped him develop the core

Majlish’s work underscores the importance of ongoing education and training in developing a safety aviation culture. The author emphasises that safety is not a one-time lesson but a continuous journey that changes with emerging problems and technological improvements.

ideas of the book. At the outset, the book provides a background in safety theory by shedding light on important models and frameworks that apply to flight safety. This theoretical foundation is supplemented with references to both old and new studies in the field.

One vital aspect about the book is that it presents real-life case studies and human stories to make its major arguments. Majlish uses real-life accidents to show how important it is to have a “safe” attitude. For example, he talks about times when good communication and the right attitude has kept bad things from happening. These case studies not only put the theory into real-life situations that people can relate to but also teach readers useful lessons that support the idea that good judgment is important for preventing or lessening accidents.

Majlish’s work underscores the importance of ongoing education and training in developing a safety aviation culture. The author emphasises that safety is not a one-time lesson but a continuous journey that changes with emerging problems and technological improvements. He calls for regular



training for aviation staff to refresh their expertise and instill a sense of vigilance and responsibility. Majlish recommends that training programs contain features addressing human variables such as fatigue management, stress management, and decision-making psychology. He argues that training can assist aviation professionals in developing a comprehensive understanding of safety that takes into account both technical and human factors.

Majlish calls for the transformation from a reactive to a proactive culture in aviation. He reprimands the tendency of adopting safety measures only after an incident occurs. Here defines a proactive safety culture as a commitment to recognising, assessing, and minimising possible dangers at all stages of aviation operations. One of his primary recommendations in this approach is to implement comprehensive safety management systems (SMS). These systems enable organisations to systematically document, monitor, and address safety risks. Majlish discusses how SMS frameworks can foster accountability and transparency and guarantee that safety efforts are deeply embedded in the organisational structure.

The author concludes with specific proposals to redevelop a safety culture in the aviation industry. He argues for strong leadership commitment to safety, safety audits, and ongoing learning activities that involve employees at all levels. He feels that top-down support is vital for building a safety-first culture, and encourages leaders to develop a tone of vigilance and accountability. He urges the introduction of safety award programs to honor employees who have that mindset.

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EVENT REPORT

UPL marks its 49th anniversary with book fair celebration

STAR BOOKS REPORT

The University Press Limited (UPL) celebrated its anniversary with readers, writers and well-wishers. The exchange of greetings was held from 4 PM to 8 PM at the UPL central office, located at Green Road in Farmgate area of Dhaka, on December 13 (Friday).

From 1975 to 2024, UPL has stepped into 49 years of responsible journey in building a society that thrives on acquiring knowledge. On this occasion, UPL congratulates all the readers, writers and well-wishers of the country. At the same time, the publishers hope that their journey to publish quality and contemplative books from the gathering of



PHOTOS: COURTESY

writers and readers will be longer. In order to develop the publishing house,

departments of the government were invited.

Among the guests who came to the UPL office to celebrate this occasion

was writer A. Qayyum Khan; writer and researcher Khaliqzaman Elias; Director General of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury; Shafi Ahmed; poet Nasrin Jahan; Sabina Faiz Chowdhury; journalist Kamal Ahmed; physician and public health expert Toufiq Joarder; teacher Professor Samina Luthfa; Professor Tanzimuddin Khan; writers Hasan Farooq, Millat Hossain, Syed Mahbubul Alam, Farooq Moinuddin, Dilwar Hasan, Syed Zakir Hossain, and Samia Haque; among many others. The guests visited the ongoing book fair at the UPL headquarters.

To mark the month of victory and the 49th anniversary of UPL, customers are getting up to 70 percent discount on selected books published by UPL at the book fair.

The book fair and this discount offer will run everyday from December 10 to 25 from 10 AM to 7 PM.

Soumya out for ‘3 to 4 weeks’

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh batsman Soumya Sarkar has suffered a finger injury during the second T20 International against the West Indies in St. Vincent yesterday, which may keep him out of action for around three weeks, according to a press release from Bangladesh Cricket Board. Soumya injured his right index finger while attempting a catch in the seventh over of the West Indies innings and did not take further part in the match.

The press release quoted national team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan as saying, “Soumya sustained a cut injury on his right index finger while fielding, which required five stitches. An X-ray was conducted after the match, revealing a subluxation in the affected area. His recovery may take about three to four weeks.”

Soumya was in good form with the bat of late, having scored 43 in the first match following a good show in the ODI series. He was run out for 11 in the second T20I.

Soumya’s injury will be a blow to Rangpur Riders’ campaign in the Bangladesh Premier League, which starts on Dec 30.

Shamim shows his niche as finisher

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh batter Shamim Hossain marked his return to the T20I fold with consecutive cameo knocks, paving the way for his team’s maiden bilateral T20I series win in the West Indies.

A T20 specialist of sorts, Shamim’s blistering 35 off just 17 deliveries gave Bangladesh crucial momentum in the second T20I in St Kitts yesterday, earning him the Player of the Match award.

The left-hander said he always had the confidence to play his game, and his stroke-play came to the ‘Tigers’ aid again, following a 13-ball 27 in a seven-run win in the series opener. However, a poor run of scores in the 2023 Asia Cup, played in the ODI format, had sealed Shamim’s fate as he was dropped from the ODI World Cup squad.

Although he had played crucial knocks against Afghanistan in July last year, by the T20 World Cup, Shamim’s fitness scores were in the red zone, leading to his exclusion from the event the following year.

However, during his absence from the national team, his strike rate became his standout feature. He found his niche as a lower-middle-order enforcer – a role he relishes and one that is increasingly important in Bangladesh’s T20I context.

“I’m so very happy. After a long time, I



PHOTO: CWT

am back in the national team, and I’m happy. My role is a finisher in the team, and my role is to hit the ball. In the last few months, I have worked hard,” Shamim said during the post-match ceremony yesterday.

“I didn’t think a lot about being dropped. I go about my life with a positive mindset,

and I like being happy. I knew that at any time I would make a comeback, and that was the confidence I had,” he added.

His relaxed demeanour complements the risks he takes late in the innings. He demonstrated his ability to handle pressure during the final of this year’s Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), where

his unbeaten 59 off just 24 deliveries gave Rangpur Riders a fighting chance.

Shamim scored at a strike rate of 140 during the BPL. In this year’s Dhaka Premier League, he smashed a whirlwind 86 off 43 for Legends of Rupganj against Partex Sporting Club, finishing the tournament with a strike rate above 113.

Shamim also impressed at the Emerging Asia Cup, where he struck 61 runs at an average of 61 and a strike rate above 138. When David Moore organised Bangladesh HP’s tour of Australia for the Top End T20 tournament, Shamim, already armed with national team experience, delivered steady 40-plus scores, maintaining his rhythm and confidence.

When he moved across his stumps yesterday to Obed McCoy and found the ropes at the Arnos Vale Stadium, Shamim displayed his inventiveness. His fast hands allow him to clear the ropes with both finesse and power when needed.

“I always think that, whatever situation the team is in, if I play well, we’ll reach a decent total. I played well in HP, the emerging team, and wherever I have played recently, I gained the confidence that, given an opportunity, I would do well,” he said.

“This is just the beginning. I have a long way to go; there is a long way left in my career,” Shamim added, as the Tigers will be hoping for more daring finishes from their enforcer at the death.

India’s ‘carrom ball’ champion Ashwin bows out

REUTERS

Batters around the world heaved a sigh of relief on Wednesday as Ravichandran Ashwin brought down the curtain on an international career that saw the India spinner take more than 500 Test wickets with an arsenal that included the dreaded ‘carrom ball’.

The 38-year-old was not selected for the opening Test against Australia in Perth but returned to the side for the day-night second match in Adelaide, where he took one wicket.

That would prove to be his final Test after Ashwin was again left out in Brisbane where India snatched a draw in a rain-blighted contest.

Ashwin’s 537 wickets from 106 Tests is the second highest by an Indian bowler behind Anil Kumble’s 619. He also played 116 one-dayers and 65 Twenty20 Internationals, finishing with 765 wickets across formats.

“This will be my last day as an Indian cricketer in all formats at the international level,” a composed Ashwin told reporters with captain Rohit Sharma by his side.

“I do feel there’s a bit of punch left in me as a cricketer, but I would like to express that and probably showcase that in club-level cricket.”

Since making his India debut in an ODI against Sri Lanka in 2010, Ashwin went on to fill the void created by the retirement of

Kumble.

A cerebral spinner with a fast bowler’s aggression, Ashwin grew to become a match-winner on India’s turning tracks, where his impeccable control and ability to bowl long spells made him a huge asset.

Obsessed with the small details of his craft, the off-spinner constantly tinkered with his technique in his relentless quest for perfection.

Ashwin bowled leg spin in domestic cricket to expand his repertoire and mastered the ‘carrom ball’, in which he flicked the ball with knuckle.

The Indian was a big influence on his peers, with Australian spinner Nathan Lyon calling him one of his “biggest coaches” in the run-up to the ongoing series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Ashwin, who will return home on Thursday, also evolved into a decent Test all-rounder, hitting six hundreds in the format.

India captain Rohit said he convinced Ashwin to stay on for the pink ball Test in Adelaide after learning of the spinner’s retirement plans.

“I have created a lot of memories alongside Rohit and several of my other teammates, even though I have lost some of them (from the India side) over the last few years,” Ashwin said of his contemporaries.

“We’re the last bunch of OGs, if we can say that, left out in the dressing room, and I will be marking this as my date of having played at this level.”



ASHWIN’S CAREER IN NUMBERS

Tests: 106	Average: 33.20
Wickets: 537	Strike-rate: 40.4
Average: 24	T20Is: 65
Strike-rate: 50.7	Wickets: 72
5w/10w: 37/8	Economy rate: 6.90
ODIs: 116	Average: 23.22
Wickets: 156	Strike-rate: 20.1
Economy rate: 4.93	

Ashwin holds the record for most Player of the Series awards in Tests with 11 under his belt. It is the same as the number of times Sri Lanka’s Muttiah Muralitharan won the series best award but Ashwin took 27 matches and 16 series less than Murali.

The 38-year-old also sits second on the list of most five-wicket hauls in the format after Murali (67). His 37 fifters are equal with Shane Warne and he has a better strike-rate and average than the Australia great.

Dhaka, Sylhet stay alive

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Division and Sylhet Division kept their hopes of qualifying for the ongoing National Cricket League T20’s playoffs mathematically alive after wins against Rajshahi Division and Barishal Division respectively in the penultimate round matches in Sylhet yesterday.

Riding on a brilliant 62 off 39 balls by opener Zawad Abrar, Dhaka chased down a target of 141 with 29 balls to spare to beat Rajshahi by seven wickets at the Sylhet Outer Stadium, knocking out their opponents. Rajshahi could only earn two points from their six games.

Meanwhile, in a low-scoring encounter, Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby’s unbeaten 30-ball 18 propelled Sylhet to a two-wicket win over Barishal after they were set a target of 109 runs in the other match at the same venue.

Both Dhaka and Sylhet, having four points to their tally, now not only need big wins over their today’s last round opponents Barishal and Rajshahi respectively but also have to hope that Chattogram Division and Khulna Division, who have six points from six games, lose to Dhaka Metro and Rangpur Division in their respective last matches.

Dhaka Metro and Rangpur have already qualified for the playoffs.

In yesterday’s other matches, Dhaka Metro beat Rangpur by seven wickets to remain the only undefeated side in the tournament while Khulna beat Chattogram by five wickets.



Ukrainian shuttlers seek ‘peace’, a path home

Displaced by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, women’s shuttlers Polina Buhrova and Yevheniia Kantemyr have fought to keep their badminton dreams alive. Once based in Kharkiv, near the Russia-Ukraine border, the duo fled shortly after the war began three years ago, leaving behind families still grappling with uncertainties.

Federer pays tribute to Fraser

Australian tennis great Neale Fraser was honoured with a state funeral on Wednesday with Roger Federer among those paying tribute to “a true legend”. Fraser, a former world number one and winner of 19 Grand Slam titles during the amateur era, died aged 91 earlier this month.

Shaheen to play for Barishal in BPL 11

Pakistan’s ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi will play for reigning champions Fortune Barishal in the upcoming 11th edition of Bangladesh Premier League T20, scheduled to start on December 30.

**Read full stories on The Daily Star website*

Vinícius aims dig at critics after FIFA The Best award win

AGENCIES

Vinicius Junior hit back at his critics after winning FIFA’s The Best men’s player of the year award on Tuesday, accusing his detractors of trying to “invalidate” and “diminish” him.

Real Madrid and Brazil forward Vinicius, 24, took the 2024 prize – which is voted on by a combination of national team coaches and captains, journalists, and fans – with 48 points, ahead of Manchester City midfielder Rodri who earned 43 points and Madrid teammate Jude Bellingham with 37 points.

It comes after Rodri beat Vinicius to the Ballon d’Or, which is organised by France Football and UEFA, leading Real Madrid to boycott the ceremony in protest.

“Today I write to the child who has seen so many idols lift that trophy,” Vinicius posted on Instagram. “His time has come. Or rather, my time has come. The time to say ... yes, I am the best player in the world and I have fought hard for it.

“They have tried and tried to invalidate me, to diminish me. But they are not ready. No one is going to tell me who I should fight for, how I should behave. When I was at Sao Goncalo, the system didn’t care about me. It almost swallowed me up.

“I won for myself, for my family. With a lot of support along the way: Flamengo, Real



Madrid, the Brazilian national team, my hundreds of teammates over the years ... the people who accompany me every day in my routine, those who admire me ... The best player in the world.”

Vinicius won The Best – for the first time – after a 2023-24 season which saw him help Madrid win a LaLiga and Champions League double.

Barcelona’s Aitana Bonmati won the women’s award, with Carlo Ancelotti being named men’s coach of the year.

In October, Vinicius reacted to missing out on the Ballon d’Or: “I’ll do it 10x if I have to. They’re not ready,” he wrote.

Madrid’s delegation had opted not to travel to the Ballon d’Or ceremony in Paris when it emerged that Rodri was likely to win, with none of the club’s multiple nominees or officials attending.

President Florentino Perez criticized the Ballon d’Or voting system – which involves 100 journalists from different countries – in a speech at Madrid’s AGM last month, saying “nobody knows who they are” and arguing the award should be “independently organised” and voted on by “people who are well-known.”

Neymar was among the stars to praise Vinicius after his triumph on Tuesday, encouraging his compatriot to “keep flying” in an Instagram story.



Players of defending champions Juventus celebrate after reaching the quarterfinals of the Coppa Italia with a comfortable 4-0 home win over Cagliari on Tuesday, thanks to goals from Dusan Vlahovic, Teun Koopmeiners, Francisco Conceicao and Nicolas Gonzalez.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 19th December (Thursday), 2024 for Corporate Booking.

From 20th December (Friday), 2024 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01969-910100



