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IMF presses for more reforms to unlock \$750m



Lifeline by boat faces dry season challenges



Myanmar's junta pushed polls plan in talks with neighbours



Munna finds success as coach in Malaysia

Framed by AL regime, they're in the clear now

Accused in political cases finally getting acquitted; law ministry seeks list of such cases

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

After 13 years of legal battle, BNP leader Moinul Islam and seven others have been acquitted in a case filed over arson, vandalism, and assault on law enforcers in Mohakhali.

Moinul is a joint convener of Banani Thana committee of Jubo Dal, BNP's vouth wing.

At least 30 leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations were accused in the case filed with Gulshan Police Station in 2011.

On December 28 last year, a little over a week before the national election, a Dhaka court sentenced Moinul and seven others to 42 months in prison.

Following an appeal, the Special Judge's Court-1 of Dhaka on November 19 this year overturned the verdict citing flaws in the

"We are now seeing judicial confirmation of what political parties have long alleged, that cases were filed for harassment." TAWOHIDUL HAQUE

Associate Prof of DU

eternal

KHADIM

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

trial court judgment.
"The trial court did not properly scrutinise the evidence. The judgment was neither legally nor factually sound," the special judge court said in its verdict.

The prosecutor failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubts, it added.

Moinul's lawyer Eltut Mish said, "My client did not get justice from the trial court. Besides, only seven witnesses testified and most of them were police personnel.

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and other D-8 leaders pose during a photo session at the D-8 summit at the New Administrative Capital of Egypt yesterday.

3 youths try to rob bank, end up in detention

Police say suspects used toy pistols

RAKIB MADBER

Two boys aged 16 and a 22-year-old man brandishing "toy pistols" kept the entire nation in suspense yesterday afternoon while trying to rob a bank being inspired by "video games and movies".

After a three-hour-long standoff at the Jinjira branch of Rupali Bank in Keraniganj, they surrendered to law enforcers, claiming they wanted to rob the bank to save a patient suffering from terminal kidney disease and to buy an

Police recovered Tk 18 lakh in cash, four toy pistols, and two knives from their possession.

Ahammad Moyeed, superintendent of police of Dhaka, disclosed the preliminary findings while talking to reporters at Keraniganj Model Police Station last night.

The 16-year-old suspects' identities were not revealed for legal reasons. The 22-year-old youth was identified as Lion Molla Nirob from Gopalganj.

Citing statements made by the detainees during primary interrogation, SP Moyeed said they needed Tk 15 lakh to help the patient. "Police are now investigating and verifying the address of the patient

they have given. They had also planned to buy an iPhone with the remaining Tk 3 lakh," he said.

Witnesses, police, and Rab officials said three persons wearing masks entered the bank in the Chunkutia area around 2:00pm and held the **CA'S SPEECH**

No mention of election date frustrates BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP expressed its disappointment yesterday over the absence of a specific date for the next parliamentary polls in the chief adviser's recent address to the nation.

party urged the interim government to set an election date through dialogues with political parties and other stakeholders.

It also pointed out that conflicting statements from the chief adviser and his press secretary about the election timeline have created confusion.

"We had hoped that the chief adviser would come up with a clear election roadmap, but he did not do so. This has left us and the nation disappointed," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He was speaking at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the morning.

In an address to the nation on Monday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus hinted that the 13th parliamentary polls could be held either at the end of 2025 or in the first half of 2026.

However, his Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam on Tuesday said the next general election could be expected by June 30, 2026.

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Invest in youth to build tomorrow's economy

Yunus urges D-8; bats for 'two-state solution' for ending conflicts in ME



"It is not an issue that merely concerns the Muslims. ... It is about the universal pledge to protect the vulnerable. It is indeed our moral duty to stand by them, resolutely."

> **PROF YUNUS** on the plight of Palestinian people

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the D-8 countries to invest in youth and youth-based startups to build an economy of the future.

He also urged the D-8 to open result-oriented conversations involving the youths and youth-driven businesses and work in unison to improve the lives of people of the bloc.

The Nobel Laureate praised the theme of the summit "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Towards Shaping the Economy of Tomorrow" and said the youth and technology-driven businesses would be the driving force of future

He also offered Bangladesh's leadership in convening a multistakeholders meeting in 2025 in this regard.

"In the time of changing world of work, we need to rediscover and reposition learning regarding youth and work to redesign SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Hasina among 58 sued at ICT over Pilkhana BDR carnage

Families of 20 slain army officers filed the case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of 20 army officers who lost their lives in the 2009 BDR massacre lodged a complaint against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 57 others with the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday.

The complaint was submitted to ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam over the killings that took place at the headquarters of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (now Border Guard Bangladesh) in the capital's Pilkhana on February 25, 2009.

Apart from Hasina, her former defence adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and ex-army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed have also been named in the complaint, said lawyer SM Tasmirul Islam, who assisted the victims' families.

Speaking to the media after filing the complaint, the families called for the release of the innocent ex-BDR soldiers who have been imprisoned for years.

"Fifty-seven unarmed army officers were killed because of their patriotism,

POLLS PARTICIPATION 'No barriers for those compliant with the law' Says Badiul Majumdar

STAR REPORT

Badiul Alam Majumdar, chief Election of the System Reform Commission, yesterday said he sees no obstacles



for those who comply with the law and prepare accordingly to participate in future elections.

"This, however, falls under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission," he wrote in a Facebook post.

He added that the Awami League's electoral activities would depend on the resolution of the cases filed against its leaders. Many AL leaders, including the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, stand accused in murder cases, including those filed under the ICT Act.

Majumdar came up with the post to clarify the comments he had made earlier in the day after a dialogue with stakeholders at the Rangpur Deputy Commissioner's Office, organised by the Election Reform Commission.

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Scores of people from the low-income group had been waiting near the TNT field in the capital's Khamarbari for the TCB truck, so that they could purchase kitchen essentials at subsidised prices. However, as the truck arrived around 12:00pm and distribution went on till late in the afternoon, many missed the chance to go home and cook lunch for their families. The photo was taken yesterday.

honesty, and skill. This massacre was SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 EMBEZZLING TK 1,092CR ACC files case against S Alam's

son, 57 others STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case accusing Ahsanul Alam, former Islami Bank chairman and son of Mohammed Saiful Alam, and 57 others of embezzling Tk

1,092.43 crore. The money was taken from the bank in the form of loans issued to shell companies, an investigation has found, officials said.

Banking rules

Ahsanul Alam were violated and forged documents were used when the loans were issued, said the complaint.

Most of the other accused are former and current bankers who played a role in issuance of the loans from Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC's Chaktai Branch in Chattogram city, ACC Deputy Director Nazmus Sadat told The Daily Star.

The loans were taken by Murad Enterprise, a shell entity that resorted to forgery to get the money, officials said. ACC Deputy Director Yasir Arafat

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Settle issues of 1971 to take forward ties

Yunus tells Pakistan PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has urged Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to settle the issues of 1971 and help Dhaka move forward with its relationship with Islamabad.

"The issues have kept coming again and again. Let's settle those issues for us to move forward," Yunus told Sharif during a meeting at a hotel in the Egyptian capital Cairo on the sidelines of the D-8 summit

Prof Yunus said it would be nice to resolve things "once and for all for the future generations", according to the chief adviser's press wing.

Sharif said the 1974 tripartite agreement involving Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India settled things, "but if there are other outstanding issues", he would be happy to look at

Bangladesh has long been demanding that Pakistan formally apologise to Bangladesh for the genocide committed by the Pakistani military during the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus exchanges greetings with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif yesterday during a meeting with him at a hotel in Cairo on the sidelines of the D-8 summit.

PHOTO: PID

No mention

FROM PAGE 1

The BNP said since the new Election Commission has already been formed, there is no justification for delaying the next general election.

"It is possible to hold the election after completing the election-related reforms. Hence, the people expect a clear statement from the chief adviser on this matter," said Fakhrul.

The chief adviser has delivered five speeches to the nation since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5. Following each speech, the BNP has called for a clear election roadmap with a specific timeline.

Fakhrul said although the new EC has already been formed, the BNP does not see any preparations for the general election.

He said the CA in his speech mentioned a possible timeframe for the election, but failed to provide clear details about the election

roadmap. "The chief adviser referred to late 2025 or January 2026 as possible dates for the next general election, party caretaker government but his press secretary later stated that elections might observations. be held in June 2026. These contradictory statements will only cause confusion.

does not seem logical and it has left us disappointed.'

Asked whether political parties are prepared for elections, he replied that parties are always ready for elections. "Everything will become clear once the

election date is announced." Enquired the BNP would take any measures against former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque over the scrapping of the caretaker government

system, Fakhrul said, "Whenever the right time or opportunity arises, he [Khairul] will be brought to book."

The party welcomed the recent High Court verdict that scrapped part of the 15th amendment.

"We welcome appreciate this verdict," said Fakhrul.

BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed also spoke at the press

conference. On Tuesday, the HC scrapped part of the 15th constitutional amendment that abolished the nonsystem. It also gave some

Fakhrul said the HC recognised that the next elected parliament will be the "We are uncertain about only appropriate forum for which statement is correct. It amending the constitution.

Hasina among 58 sued

FROM PAGE 1

Chattogram

District Office-1.

a deliberate and planned attempt to destroy the Armed Forces and the BDR, and prolong Sheikh Hasina's autocratic regime. The bodies of the victims were burned. Such brutal killings are consistent with crimes against humanity," said

Nehreen Ferdousi, wife of late Col Mujibul Hoque, requested all not to call the 2009 incident a mutiny. "It was a killing and part of a

On November 23, 2021,

that Chaktai branch lent

Tk 966.65 crore to Murad

Enterprise just six days after

the firm opened an account

there, according to the

committee did not follow

Some of the other accused

are former Islami Bank

directors Selim Uddin, Fasiul

ACC files case

Integrated

The bank's investment corruption.

filed the case with ACC's the ACC yesterday decided

Alam, Kazi Shahidul Alam, the ACC headquarters in

planned conspiracy."

son of late Col Quadrat Elahi, shared, "I studied law only to avenge my father's murder. I will fight against my father's

Rakin Ahmed Bhuiyan, son of late Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, said the 2009 incident was a conspiracy to kill the skilled army officers, destroy the army and BDR, and undermine the country's sovereignty.
"It pains me deeply to

that Awami League General

transport minister Obaidul

Quader, Salman F Rahman,

and former chairman of the

National Board of Revenue

Nazibur Rahman, and six

others were involved in

the standard investigative filed accusing former Quader and Nuri wanted procedure, it adds.

filed accusing former Quader and Nuri wanted to give the contract to a

Majumder of amassing illegal

vice president Tanvir Ahmed. General (prevention) Akhtar and its managing director

At a press briefing at

wealth worth Tk 25.35 crore.

speak of how they murdered Advocate Sakib Rahman, my parents. When I asked an officer if I could see their bodies, he advised me against it, warning that I wouldn't be able to bear it.

"Why were they killed? They were killed because they loved and defended their country. They were targeted and killed as part of a conspiracy. We demand justice. You cannot fathom how I have been living alone since then.

A press release issued by

allegations that Quader

secretary ABM Amin Ullah

during procurement of 137

complaint, a process of

purchasing buses for the

20km specialised lane between Dhaka airport and

company of their preference.

They failed to do it and

IFIC

Bank

delayed the entire process.

Former

According to

to investigate allegations and former road transport

Secretary and former road Nuri indulged in corruption

Another case has been Gazipur stopped because

the complainants alleged that Sheikh Hasina identified officers who might stand in the way of her autocratic rule, and planned a massacre to strengthen her grip on

The ICT is scrutinising the complaint to assess whether the accusations against the 58 individuals fall under the purview of the International Tribunal Crimes Abdullah Al Noman, a prosecutor of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

In another development, Hossain said there were Shah Alam Sarwar face accusations of violating loan approval procedures and enabling embezzlement through fraud.

The loans to Blue Moon Trading Ltd, Exim Business Everest Enterprise, Ltd. Glowing Construction & Engineering Ltd, International Ltd, and Skymark International Ltd amount to Tk 1,907 crore.

Ex-NBR chairman d of bribery Nazibur is ac and corruption.

Former lawmaker Elias Uddin Mollah is accused of grabbing 700 acres of and Sirajul Kabir, and former the capital, ACC's Director chairman Salman F Rahman government land in Mirpur and amassing illegal wealth.

Framed by AL regime

FROM PAGE 1

"All the witnesses lied before the court," he told The Daily

The Daily Star has found that in at least 12 other violence-related cases. hundreds of BNP leaders and activists were accused and convicted and then those convictions were overturned.

On October 28, 2017, police filed a case accusing 26 leaders and activists of the BNP, and 80 to 90 unidentified people of illegal gathering and assault on law enforcers.

November 20 On last year, a Dhaka court sentenced 25 of the BNP activists to two years in prison. The court delivered the verdict after hearing the testimonies of four cops and a civilian.

One of the convicts, Main Uddin, appealed against the verdict and was acquitted on November 21 this year.

BNP Joint Secretary General Habib Un Nabi Khan Sohel was acquitted on November 25 this year in a case filed with Paltan Model Police Station over violence in February 2018.

He was sentenced to two years in prison on December 20 last year, a little over two weeks before the polls. The court delivered the verdict based on five testimonies, all of which were made by police.

Now, the law ministry has taken a step to address problem people

Invest in youth

accused in criminal cases for their political identities. On December 3, it asked all public prosecutors for lists of political cases filed during the Awami League's rule from January 6, 2009, to

August 5, 2024. HIGH ACQUITTAL RATE As per police data between

July and September, at least 22,222 cases were resolved across the country. These cases were filed when the AL was in power.

CASES FILED

(2009 to Sept 2024)				
Murder	59,823			
Theft	1,23,167			
Robbery	23,016			
Abduction	10,419			
Rape	69,938			

In these cases, percent of the accused were acquitted.

SOURCE: PHO

Legal experts attribute the high acquittal rates to flawed cases, insufficient evidence, and poor investigations.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi said half the cases in which people got acquitted were political and many people were framed in those.

"The fascist [Awami League] government focused its energy on political cases,

other cases. Now steps are being taken to resolve these cases, which is why acquittal merit of the cases.... rates may have increased," he

The absence of witnesses, flawed seizure lists, and outof-court settlements also lead to the acquittal.

He cited examples of narcotics cases in which pedestrians or homeless people listed as witnesses did not appear during the trial procedure. Of the cases resolved in

July-September, 9,078 were disposed of in July alone. Of these, there were

convictions in 2,852 cases (31.42 percent), acquittals in 5,826 cases (64.18 percent), and out-of-court settlements and withdrawal of charges in 400 cases (4.41 percent). In August, 6,211 cases

were disposed of with 69.25 percent of them ending in acquittal. The following accused were acquitted.

The conviction in cases filed with police stations under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police was lowest among all metropolitan cities between July, August, and September 22.08 percent. 13.36

Tawohidul Haque, an associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research,

percent, and 12.82 percent.

and postponed hearing of said, "The high acquittal rates definitely questions about the legal "We are now seeing

judicial confirmation of what He recommends that

prosecutors thoroughly evaluate the cases to ensure that innocent individuals are not punished. He also cautioned against influential individuals exploiting legal loopholes or applying undue influence to evade justice. WHAT POLICE ARE DOING

The police are taking steps to improve investigation standards and conviction rates. At a recent meeting at the Police Headquarters, top officials asked their junior colleagues to focus on

The PHO

"Senior officials closely

Last week, Inspector

'No barriers for those compliant with the law'

After the discussion, when a journalist asked if AL could participate in the polls, he replied, "Like you, we too are waiting to see. I don't see any barriers and neither have I observed any deliberate obstacles for them [to participate]."

Stressing the need for an inclusive election, he also said, "Any party that is prepared to contest [the polls] will be able to do so without any barriers. I hope, all parties will participate in the election."

In his post, Majumdar said the media had misquoted him, "which is undesirable".

Hours after the dialogue in Rangpur, the Antidiscrimination Students' Movement in a press release sharply rejected his

spokesperson the platform, wrote, "The Awami had unlawfully League manipulated the last three elections to hold on to power. Allowing a party that has tarnished Bangladesh's electoral system to participate in the election is a direct affront to the people's aspirations

.... It would undermine the

sacrifices of the July uprising

martyrs. In the release, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement called on Majumdar to retract his statement and take appropriate measures to prevent the AL from participating in the election.

response, Majumdar wrote, "Following the discussions, some local journalists asked me about future polls. I stated that commission would

propose necessary reforms to electoral laws, rules, and regulations to ensure fair, impartial, and participatory elections.

"Unfortunately, media outlets misinterpreted my statement and published misleading news He also wrote that the

AL government was ousted on August 5 through a mass uprising that saw immense sacrifice and deaths of many students and others. He said that over the years he too played a role towards that ouster and was harassed in many ways.

Majumdar added that the misinterpretation (of his words) saddened him, and that such propaganda is tantamount to disrespecting the blood of martyrs Abu Saeed and Mir Mugdho.

however, stated

that the dialogue with the stakeholders in Rangpur was successful.

discussion, that Majumdar also said, "This election will be festive with the participation of all political parties. No party will face any obstacle.'

Speaking about past polls, he observed the elections under political party-led governments had obstructed the Election Commission from functioning impartially.

He then assured that this time, the election officials would be free from influence and able to conduct a fair, transparent and unbiased

that the Election Reform Commission plans to submit reform proposals to the chief adviser by December 31, after discussions with all political parties and stakeholders.

"Things often evolve too fast and get difficult for

Majumdar also mentioned

that most of them thrive chain.

said, "In the D-8 countries,

Mentioning Bangladesh's market.

the manufacturing landscape of D-8 nations, Prof Yunus said that artificial intelligence, machine learning, data

driven tools and applications have come up with a new

horizon of opportunities to

proposed

specific actions for youth

Firstly, building

develop efficiency.

development.

deepening

the economy of tomorrow," he said, warning about the risks of governments falling behind of the pace of the

FROM PAGE 1

governments to comprehend and also to implement. But we must keep on recalibrating our efforts to match the difficulties," he said. He called on the countries

to build on their heritage and take advantage of the digital revolution that has been with us for years, including using On SMEs, Prof Yunus said

within informal economies, but aspire to grow and connect to the global supply Praising the competitive nature of SMEs, Prof Yunus

collectively we possess enough wealth to stand by these SMEs. With our modest support, we can shape a virtuous 'cycle of good', for them and for our people. We need to let money flow to them," he said.

median age of just 27 years, he said every year, around two and a half million young people enter the labour Pointing to the low skill level of millions of workers in

impact-driven connections between universities and knowledge equivalent institutions and the youth.

functional,

Secondly, he proposed thinking deeply about how to skill up millions of young adults in workplaces as well as confronting the challenge of re-skilling millions at

different vocational streams,

on a continuous basis.

He proposed thinking of a cooperative learning agenda that can complement the national undertakings of the D-8 countries.

Yunus thanked all the member states for supporting Bangladesh during presidency of the bloc and wished Egypt the best for taking the role. End brutalities

Palestine, Lebanon Prof Yunus also called upon

the international community to take decisive and collective actions to end the brutalities unleashed by the Israeli forces in Israel and Lebanon. "We call upon all actors

and stakeholders to take decisive and collective actions to end the brutalities," he said while addressing a special session on the Humanitarian Crisis and Reconstruction Challenges in Gaza and

Lebanon.

"From Cairo, we must voice our unity and unwavering commitment, in solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters, at this existential time in their history," the chief adviser said.

The massacres Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, are clear violations of international law and constitute war crimes. Those responsible must be held accountable, he added.

solution," he feared further escalation if hostilities in Lebanon continued. This may destabilise the whole region, impacting

global society and polity, not

Urging for the "two-state

just the economy, he added. He said Palestine has to emerge as a fully independent state based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem

as its capital. "It is not an issue that merely concerns the Muslims. Rather, a universal cause where human dignity is tested. It is about the universal pledge to protect the vulnerable. It is indeed our moral duty to stand by

them, resolutely." He said more than six million Bangladeshis are living across the Middle East, including in Lebanon and the violence is a threat to their safety and security.

beyond said humanitarian interventions, it is time to prioritise thinking of the reconstruction of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon.

political parties alleged. Cases were filed to harass people," he added.

quality of probes.

surveillance and supervision cells to ensure fair investigations. month, 8,224 cases were training programmes on disposed of and in 71.35 investigations are organised, percent of the cases, the said Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general.

> supervise the investigation of sensational or relatively important cases," he said.

General of Police Baharul Alam announced the formation of "monitoring and mentoring" committees involving retired officers in eight police ranges to enhance investigative

Murder case

FROM PAGE 14

and 50 others injured in the clash between the two groups. Meanwhile, Reza Arif, who

is looking after the foreign guests of Saad's faction, told The Daily Star that around 1,000 supporters of Zubair still occupied the Ijtema ground despite a ban on gatherings in the area after the deadly clash. Metropolitan Gazipur

Police Deputy Commissioner NM Nasiruddin told The Daily Star that after a meeting at the Home Ministry on Wednesday it was decided that 500 of Zubair's followers would stay in the field to protect their goods. Since Saad supporters have no belongings there, they cannot stay there, he added. Zubair faction's media

Habibullah coordinator Raihan said 300-400 followers were still guarding their belongings, while Saad faction media coordinator Md Sayem called the arrangement discriminatory. BLAME GAME

Thousands of Muslim devotees congregate during Ijtema every year in the Ijtema Maidan, a large field on the bank of the Turag river in Tongi. The two factions have been organising the Ijtema in two phases over the past few years due to the dispute.

Both factions in separate press conferences in the capital vesterday said that their phase of litema would be held as per the schedule.

officials and customers hostage to rob the bank. Sensing something bad

happened inside, the locals locked the gate from the outside and informed law enforcers, they said. Members of the police,

Rab, and army rushed to the

spot and started negotiating

with the alleged robbers to make them surrender. The security forces warned that a joint operation would be launched if the suspects refused to comply. After hours-long conversations, the robbers finally surrendered

The three robbers were whisked away on a microbus by members

around 5:15pm.

of police and Rab, Rabcommanding officer Kahalilur Rahman Hawlader told reporters on the spot around 5:30pm.

3 youths try to rob bank

casualties were No reported, and the bank authorities will assess the damage, he added. Matiur Rahman, a resident

of an adjacent building, said he and others rushed in front of the bank upon hearing about the robbery, and they locked the gate from outside. "As we tried to talk to

robbers, they brandished

their firearms at us and

asked us to leave the place.

They threatened to open fire

otherwise," he said. Matiur along with others then stepped back and waited to communicate with the

for the arrival of the law enforcers.

continued threatening to harm the hostages even after the arrival of the police and Rab. However, they appeared

Ismail Hossain Sheikh, a general manager of Rupali Bank, said the robbers held 10 bank officials, employees, and six customers hostage and demanded Tk 15 lakh for their release.

He said the robbers "No lost. From next Sunday,

to calm down slightly after the army personnel arrived. After visiting the bank,

"The robbers entered the bank posing as customers and immediately seized the phones of all the hostages. They used one of the phones bank officials for ransom," he bank money was

transactions will continue in this branch of the bank," said Ismail. The bank officials and customers who were held hostage by the robbers were

SP Moyeed said Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam gave instructions from the beginning of the incident to end the operation without any casualties. "That's why I talked to the robbers for a

long time." "To frighten us, they initially told us they had people outside. But there were none.'

DHAKA

Internet was shut down on Hasina's orders

Palak confesses at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology, has confessed to deliberately shutting down the internet nationwide during the July uprising on former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's orders.

His testimony was recorded by the International Crime Tribunal's investigation agency following a questioning session held on Wednesday, said Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam while addressing journalists at the tribunal yesterday.

"They [Hasina and Awami League lawmakers] wanted to ensure that Bangladesh was disconnected from the rest of the world to hide the instances of mass killings during the protests," Tajul said.

According to the chief prosecutor, Palak also said he had lied by saying that the internet blackout was caused by a fire incident in data centres in Dhaka's Mohakhali and destruction of telecommunication infrastructure by

"A WhatsApp group was created with International Internet Gateway service providers. A direct order was



Environmental activists, under the banner of the "Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement," demonstrate at the Panthakunja Park in the capital's Panthapath area yesterday, demanding an end to pollution and tree felling in the name of development projects.

'Improve within a month, or face consequences'

Adviser says 'heads will roll' if BRTA doesn't upgrade services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government action against Bangladesh Road Authority (BRTA) officials, including its chairman, if the authority fails to improve its services within a month, Road Transport and Bridges Ministry Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan announced yesterday.

He also suggested that BRTA could seek assistance from private service providers for vehicle fitness verification and driving licence issuance if necessary.

The adviser briefed the media on a series of decisions made at a meeting held at Bidyut Bhaban aimed at bringing discipline to the

DECISIONS FROM MEETING

- >> Remove buses over 20yrs old
- >> Remove trucks over 25yrs old
- >> Police to identify traffic congestion areas
- >> Tow illegally parked vehicles >> Loan assistance for new buses
- >> Encourage school buses for transport
- >> Company-operated buses on 9 routes

road transport sector, reducing traffic congestion, and curbing air pollution. The meeting was attended by four advisers and senior officials from police and other government agencies.

During the meeting, police were instructed to identify congestion-prone areas and take immediate action to improve traffic conditions, with a visible improvement expected within a

The adviser said that vehicles parked illegally, causing traffic congestion, will be towed as a punitive measure.

In line with a previous decision made in October, all buses over 20 SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

NIPAH VIRUS IN 2024 Five cases, five deaths!

All five people identified to be infected with the Nipah virus in Bangladesh so far this year have died, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). The victims include four men and one woman, with two of them being children

The IEDCR revealed these findings yesterday during a view-exchange meeting titled "Spread and Risk of Nipah Virus" at its auditorium.

In her keynote speech, Prof Tahmina Shirin of the IEDCR said that while winter brings seasonal delicacies, such as raw date palm sap, many remain unaware of the risks associated with consuming it. The sap, potentially contaminated by bats, is a primary transmission route for the virus in Bangladesh.

Highlighting surveillance data, Prof Tahmina said Nipah virus was first detected in the country in 2001. Since IEDCR began its surveillance in 2006, 334 cases have been reported, resulting in 245 deaths—a fatality rate of 71 percent.

This year's deaths include two individuals from Manikganj, while the others are from Khulna, Shariatpur, and Naogaon.

rate 71pc **☼** Since 2001, 343 patients identified, 245 died

Prof Tahmina said Nipah virus was first identified Malaysia 1998-99, spreading

Cases found in 4 districts this year

• Overall case fatality

to Singapore and later becoming endemic in Bangladesh and India from 2001. In 2023, 13 cases were reported across eight locations in the country, with the virus now detected in 34 districts.

"Raw date palm sap remains the primary vehicle of transmission in Bangladesh," she said. Twelve tertiary hospitals have observation centres for monitoring Nipah virus patients, she added.

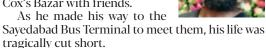
Symptoms of Nipah infection include fever, which may appear within eight days of consuming contaminated sap. The virus can also be transmitted to infants through breastfeeding, and neurological complications may persist in survivors for extended periods.

Prof Tahmina advised, "Before consuming fruits and vegetables, they must be washed thoroughly. Any fruit bitten by bats, animals, or birds should be avoided." She called for heightened awareness, particularly in upazila- and district-level hospitals, where testing facilities remain unavailable. With no vaccine currently available, the Nipah virus continues to pose a significant health risk nationwide.

A dream trip ends in tragedy

RAFIUL ISLAM

Kamrul Hasan, 23, stepped off a bus on the Mayor Hanif Flyover on Wednesday night, eager for a long-awaited trip to Cox's Bazar with friends.



Unknown assailants attacked Kamrul, stabbing him repeatedly in the chest before fleeing with some of his belongings. A passerby later found him lying on the street and gasping for air, and contacted his family using a phone number Kamrul provided.

Kamrul's father, Imam Hossain, rushed to the spot after being informed, only to find him in a

"My son left the house excited for a trip to Cox's Bazar with his friends... but he came back to us as SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Continue struggle to safeguard independence Tarique urges party activists

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman has urged party activists to continue their struggle to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty.



"Today's war is to protect independence and sovereignty, and we are all fighters in this war. To win this war, we must continue our struggle relentlessly," he said while virtually addressing a workshop titled "31 points for repairing the state structure and public involvement".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

MJF condemns systematic failure to end child abuse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has expressed outrage over the ongoing incidents of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, particularly girl children.

The organisation said so in light of the recent death of the 10th-grade madrasa student in Nandail upazila, who endured months of continuous rape and physical torture before succumbing to her injuries.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, condemned the incident as a reflection of systemic failure in protecting children.

"This incident is not just a singular tragedy; it reflects systemic negligence and a failure to protect our children," Shaheen Anam said. "Children, especially those from low income

families, are disproportionately vulnerable to such atrocities. The lack of accountability and urgency in addressing these issues is appalling," she added.

Referring to a report by Ain O Salish Kendra which states that over 222 children were raped from January to November 2024, she said, "The justice system and preventive mechanisms are failing our children. This is unacceptable."

"Child abuse is not an isolated issue -- it is a societal crisis that requires urgent and concerted efforts. We owe it to our children to act now," she added.

MJF has long been advocating for stronger measures to combat child abuse. Their recommended measures include strengthening child protection systems, increasing the accountability of law enforcement agencies, and enhancing judicial responsiveness.

The organisation has called on the government, civil society, and all stakeholders to collaborate in ending the culture of impunity surrounding child abuse and to prioritise the safety and well-being of children across the country.





Stakeholders urge specialised credit for small farmers



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Small farmers and agro-businesses in Bangladesh are facing significant barriers in terms of accessing loans. This can be solved by creating specialised credit products for them, said speakers at an event yesterday.

These remarks were made at a stakeholder consultation workshop, hosted by USAID's Feed the Future (FtF) Bangladesh Inclusive Access to Finance Activity (IAF), implemented by Palladium International in partnership with SAJIDA Foundation.

Policymakers, high officials from financial institutions, and other stakeholders came together at the event to validate the preliminary findings of the assessment "Access to Finance Landscape and Inclusive Development in Bangladesh".

Kazi Rafiqul Hassan, Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank, Joseph Lessard, Director, Office of Economic Growth, USAID Bangladesh and Nasir Ahmed, Chief of Party at FtF spoke at the event, among others.

Alexis Polovina, Farzana Yasmeen, and Farhad Hossain from the USAID mission attended the workshop.

Internet was shut

communicated through this group to shut down report against several the internet immediately. They were asked to confirm after completion of the Ahsan, yesterday, but the order," said Tajul.

Tajul said interrogation was done in the full presence of lawyers. "There was a glass partition investigation agency, and his lawyers. This is as per torture or coercion.

The prosecution was expected to submit a probe government including Maj Gen Ziaul bench granted them an the additional two months.

The bench, led by tribunal chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza between Palak and the Mozumder and members Justice Md Shofiul Alam Mahmood and Judge the international standard. Md Mohitul Haq Enam There is no scope for Chowdhury, passed the

A dream trip ends

FROM PAGE 3

Hossain, his voice cracking observed him having a

nearby hospital, and from Hospital, where doctors Hossain. declared him dead.

Noakhali and was living with his family in the Rayerbagh area. He used to run a cloth shop on a footpath in the Maniknagar

was the family's hope. My son dreamed of creating a better future for all of us. He had been very excited about his upcoming trip as he hardly found the time to go

anywhere," Hossain added. On Wednesday evening,

Kamrul packed his bag a lifeless body," said and left home. His mother heated exchange with He was first taken to a someone over the phone.

She never imagined it there he was shifted to would be the last time she Mugda Medical College would see him alive, said

According to his family, Kamrul, the eldest of Kamrul was carrying a FROM PAGE 3 four siblings, hailed from smartphone and Tk 10,000 years old and trucks over that with him. The murderer 25 years old must be only took away his phone and Tk 3,000.

The family would later leaders find Tk 7,000 inside one agreed to this decision, of his pockets, smeared in and advertisements were blood.

Police suspect it to be a mugging incident but are not ruling out other motives.

"We are trying to arrest those responsible for the murder," said Subinspector Atikul Islam of Jatrabari Police Station.

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender title: Procurement of Cleaning Services

Invitation Ref. No. & Date: icddr,b/SCM/GoB/OTM/Pkg#PS-04/2024-25 Published in: The Daily "Ittefaq" & "Daily Star" on November

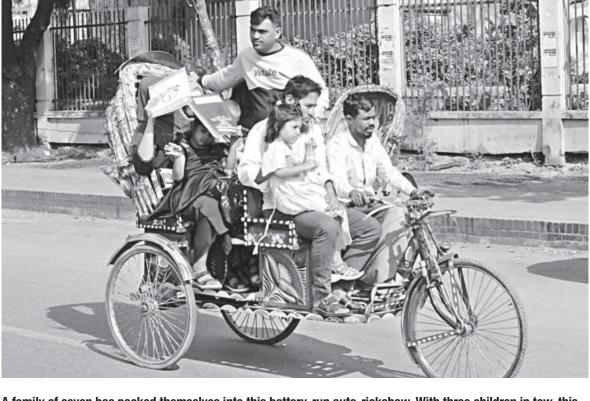
10, 2024 and Addendum published on 04-12-2024.

► Plot Size : 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 Katha.

The above tender for Procurement of Cleaning Services is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.



Senior Manage Supply Chain Management Tel: 02-222277001-10, 16340 Ext. 4405/4400



A family of seven has packed themselves into this battery-run auto-rickshaw. With three children in tow, this risky behavior could endanger their lives in the event of an accident. The photo was taken on Satmasjid Road

Prawn production declines due to feed costs, fry shortage

Bagerhat district is renowned for important export commodity 1,800-1,900 per kg. besides being a popular delicacy across the country.

the decline in recent time due to farmers wary.

The local shrimp cultivators' association believes that the country's export volume of prawns could be tripled is these issues are addressed and resolved.

Giant freshwater prawns, locally known as 'golda chingri', have distinctive tiger-striped brown or black shells, can reach lengths of 35-40 centimetres each, and just four or prawns can weigh up to total one kilogramme.

However, these prawns take around a year of care to reach their full size, thereby requiring a lengthy cultivation process. Medium and

association

already

vear.

Meeting

fitness tests.

reported that

removed by May next year.

have

published in national

newspapers yesterday to

vehicle owners, if needed,

to secure bank loans for

purchasing new buses, he

Schoolauthorities will be

encouraged to use school

buses for transporting

students in a bid to reduce

traffic jams, with a directive

from the edication ministry

expected soon.

The government will

assistance to

Transport

announce it.

provide

added.

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat large-sized prawns are usually exported, while smaller-sized prawns are sold domestically at Tk commercially producing giant 700-800 per kg. Larger prawns freshwater prawns, which is an currently fetch a market price of Tk

Many farmers engaged in prawn farming in Kachua upazila of The production volume of giant Bagerhat have expressed concerns freshwater prawns has been on over the adverse impact of shortage of high-quality fries and soaring shortage of good quality prawn cost of feed on the production of fries and rising cost of feed, making this much sought after export item.



"We are struggling to source good quality fries, while the cost of feed has skyrocketed. This is disrupting the production of prawns and hindering export potential," said Gopal Das, a local prawn farmer.

The adviser also revealed Kabir as saying.

bus operations will be

launched on nine routes in

the capital on a pilot basis

starting February 25 next

participants accused the

BRTA of poor service,

particularly the long delays

in issuing driving licences

and the inadequate vehicle

allegations against BRTA...

If I cannot shut BRTA down,

I will take action against

each and every employee

of BRTA, including its

chairman, if they fail

to improve service," a

participant quoted Fouzul

"There are countless

Fakir Mohitul Islam Sumon, president of Bagerhat Shrimp Cultivators' Association, stressed for government support to address the issues. "If farmers have access to high-

quality prawn fry and reasonably priced feed, the production could be increased by three times. Additionally, government-led training programmes for farmers could help improve yields and exports," he said.

The Department of Fisheries, however, suggested the farmers to modernise their farming practices to boost production. "By using subsidised electricity, improving feed quality, and ensuring virusfree fry production, farmers can enhance prawn size and yields considerably. Increasing pond depth and adopting modern farming techniques will also help in this regard. We are encouraging farmers to shift from traditional to modern farming methods to improve productivity and export capacity," said ASM Russel, district fisheries officer in Bagerhat.

situation.

"Heads will roll."

Environment

controlling

even vear.

1

482-琴DFD

জিডি-১২৩০

AIR POLLUTION

consequences if BRTA fails

to improve, he warned,

MEASURES UNDERWAY

Sveda Rizwana Hasan said

efforts were underway to

provide some relief from

would not be possible

within a day, month, or

brick kilns in the Ashulia

area as a major source of

air pollution in Dhaka

and mentioned that they

were considering declaring

Ashulia a brick kiln-free

She highlighted the

pollution,

Adviser

pollution

NU unveils new ICT building

STAR REPORT

The National University (NU) is set to enhance its Information, Communications, and Technology (ICT) services, benefiting both affiliated colleges and students, said a press release.

The announcement came from Vice Chancellor Prof ASM Amanullah at the inauguration of a new ICT building on the NU campus.

Dr Amanullah emphasised the importance of modernising the university to meet global demands and improve access to ICT knowledge.

He also highlighted the need for training faculty and officials abroad to further develop their professional skills. The VC called for cooperation in making NU a key player in national development.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence to honour the martyrs of the Anti-Discrimination Student

Special guests included Pro-VC Prof Md Nurul Islam and Treasurer Prof ATM Jaforul Azam. The event was chaired by Shahnewaz, the ICT department's directorin-charge, with deans, staff, and faculty members also in

Continue struggle

The workshop, part of a nationwide programme, is underway. Only you can was organised by BNP's training affairs committee in Muktarpur, Munshiganj, yesterday evening. It was attended by designated representatives of the party highlighted from Manikganj, Narsingdi and Munshiganj.

Tarique stated that the conspiracies of allies of the ousted dictator have not ceased.

"Many BNP leaders and activists have been killed, imprisoned, or subjected to enforced disappearances in their fight to establish democracy," he said.

He added that due to inflicted by the dictatorial regime, party members Improve within a month, or face consequences in paddy fields.

the political rights of the election.

people and to strengthen their economic foundation lead this struggle because you are the strength of BNP," he told party members.

The acting chairman contributions establishing multi-party and parliamentary democracy.

He further said, "The mischief of individuals continues, whether outside or within our party, or even beyond our borders. Many are eyeing the country's financial and natural resources with greed." Tarique Rahman

the oppression and torture asserted that the country's safety lies in the hands of those who prioritise were often forced to flee, national interests above all sometimes seeking refuge else. He called on party activists to earn the trust "Now... the struggle to and confidence of the rebuild the country has people to secure victory begun. The fight to restore in the upcoming general

Affordable beef

package will help people a lot," said Baki Billah, a customer.

Earlier on November 24, the market was jointly launched by the upazila administration and Amra Kalaparabashi, a voluntary organisation.

There is also a donation box placed in the market, where people can leave some goods for those who are financially struggling to get essential items.

Nazrul Islam, a member

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন

চিনি শিল্প ভবন, ৩, দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh www.bsfic.gov.bd

Amra Kalaparabasi, said. "Our initiative aims to provide some relief to both farmers and buyers as they can buy and sell goods in this market without involvement of any syndicates."

Echoing him, Md Rabiul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer of Kalapara, said, "Syndicates have continuously increased the prices necessities through market manipulation. That is why such a farmers' market is so important."

ফ্ল্যুট বিক্ৰয়

বসুন্ধরা ডি- ব্লকে ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের সিঙ্গেল ইউনিটের সেমি ফেয়ারফেস নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিঃ। ०১१०8-১१००१৮ ०১१०8-১१००१७

ফ্ল্যুটি বিক্ৰয় আগারগঁও জনতা হাউজিং-এ ১৩২৫ বর্গফুটের দক্ষিণমুখী নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট

ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্ৰয় বসুন্ধরা এল- ব্লকে একই বিভিং এ ১৫২০

told reporters that BRTA

had been given one month

to improve. If it fails to do

for issuing fitness clearance

and driving licences were

deemed inadequate, and

the authority was advised

to involve private garages,

driving schools, and police

In response to questions

whether

government would seek

private services, he said that

BRTA was failing to meet

its responsibilities, causing

public suffering and

indulging in corruption.

He stressed that everything

must be done to change the

the

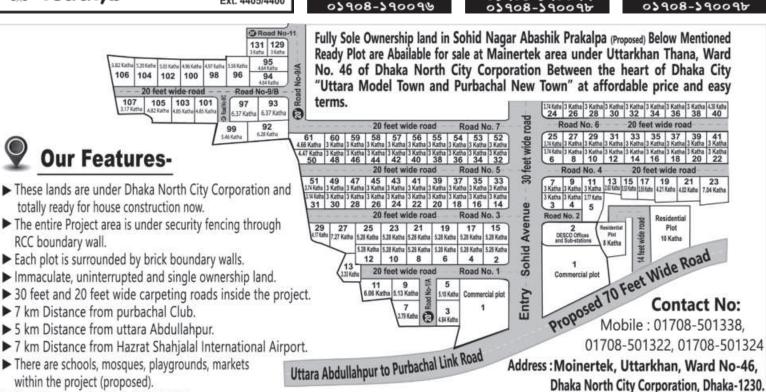
in these processes.

about

BRTA's arrangements

so, action will be taken.

বর্গফুটের ৩ টি রেডি ফ্র্যাট। ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।



৪ পৌষ ১৪৩১ স্মারক নম্বরঃ ৩৬.০৪.০০০০.০৫৬.০৪.০২২.১৮-২৭৫ ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪খ্রিঃ

অফিস স্পেস/ফ্লোর ভাড়া দেয়ার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন এর অধীন শেখ মোজতবা এন্ড কোং (মোন্তফা ম্যানশন), ৪৬. ইমামগঞ্জ, ঢাকায় ৪র্থ তলা বিশিষ্ট ভবন এর নীচতলা ২৮০০ বর্গফুট কম/বেশী ফ্রোর স্পেস খালি রয়েছে। এই ফ্রোর/স্পেস অফিস হিসেবে ব্যবহারে আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠিত ব্যাংক/বীমা/আর্থিক ও ব্যবসায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত প্যাড ভাড়া দেওয়ার জন্য দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের সকল প্রকার শর্তাবলি সম্বলিত প্রতিসেট সিডিউল ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) মুল্যের বিনিময়ে হিসাব বিভাগ (ক্যাশ), চিনিশিল্প ভবন-১ (৮ম তলা) হতে আগামী ২২-১২-২০২৪ হতে ০৮-০১-২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্র চিনিশিল্প ভবন-১ এর ৬ষ্ঠ তলায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাব্রে আগামী ০৯-০১-২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২,৩০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ আনোয়ার কবীর সচিব

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন secretary@bsfic.gov.bd

ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৫৮৬৮

Affordable beef packages at Krishak Bazar

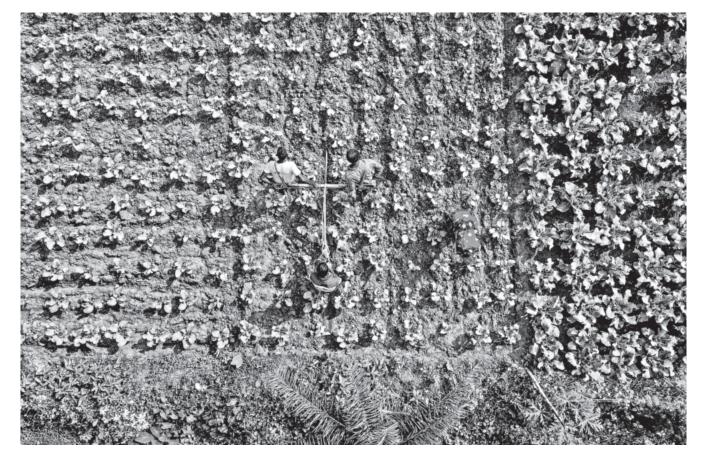
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rampant inflation over the last year has resulted in many items like beef, oil and eggs almost become luxury items for the average Bangalee families. For many, it almost becomes a choice between eating something like beef for a day or surviving

To provide some relief to consumers, the Krishak Bazar (Farmers' Market) in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila recently launched a beef combo package with two options -- one where customers can purchase 200 grammes of beef along with three pieces each of potatoes, onions and green chillies for Tk 200, or just 500 grammes of beef for Tk 325.

After the package was launched, it received overwhelming response from local consumers.

"This is a very good initiative at a time when spiraling prices of essentials have left people grappling to make both ends meet. Normally, beef is not sold in markets below 1 kg in quantity, which makes it difficult for people from middle or lowincome families to buy beef. Therefore, this SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Farmers in Khulna use a manual plow to keep the base of their cauliflower plants free from weeds. This activity helps the plants grow faster and ensures an overall good yield. The photo was taken from the Chakundia village of Dumuria upazila of Khulna recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

NAZIRPUR'S FLOATING MARKET

Lifeline by boat faces dry season challenges

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

On the canals of Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila, men can be observed selling vegetables straight from their boats at the Boithakata floating market.

"I have been coming to the market every Tuesday and Saturday to sell vegetables since my childhood. We mainly rely on boats to communicate to different areas within the upazila as we don't have any feasible alternatives in the absence of proper rural roads connecting the areas," said Iskandar Ali, 65.

Md Abual Hossain, another vegetable seller, echoed him.

Numerous others were seen coming to the market from different areas in the upazila

including Manoharpur, Sonapur, Padmadubi, Beel Pakuria, and Dumuria, Madhubhanga villages -- all using boats to buy and sell an array of goods such as rice, puffed rice, plant saplings and

Almost all activities in the market, including transactions, are conducted on boats.

buying or selling goods, as it is the only convenient mode of transport in this area," said Nanna Mia, a local.

Vast areas within Daulbari, Dobra, Kolardoania and Malikhali unions of Nazirpur upazila; Boldia union of Nesarabad upazila in Pirojpur, and some areas under Barishal's Banaripara upazila are mostly marshland. Thus, they do not have well-developed rural road communication, thereby making boats the most important mode of transport in the area. As a result, boats are an important part of the local economy.

While the boats can usually serve this purpose without any issues, the dry season

often negatively impacts this. During the dry season, the water level in the marshes and canals falls, making it difficult for

"We are largely dependent on boats for the dry season is approaching. As a result, upazila," he said. using boats to sell our harvest can sometimes be difficult when water in these canals dry up,"said Abdur Razzak, a local resident.

boats to naviage the water.

Mizanur Rahman, a businessman at Boithakata Bazar, said there is only one road from the market that connects to the Nazirpur upazila headquarters. Other than that, there is no direct road communication facility in the area. "It would have benefitted the people of the region significantly if the various areas could be connected through rural road networks."

Contacted, Arup Ratan Singha, upazila nirbahi officer of Nazirpur, said they are aware of the poor road communication facilities

Date: 19/12/2024

within four unions under the upazila. "We have addressed this issue in our monthly development meeting. The upazila administration will communicate with departments concerned of the government "Crops are usually harvested when for developing the rural road networks in the

> "Presently, we are prioritising renovation of the around 17km Nazirpur-Boithakata road that connects the four unions with the upazila headquarters," the UNO also said.

> "The upazila administration has some limitations in conducting construction of roads and bridges. On the other hand, the Local Government Engineering Department can do these development works on a larger scale," he added.

> Contacted, BM Mahmudul Hasan, upazila engineer of LGED in Nazirpur, could not provide any information in this regard as he had joined the office only a month back.

We are largely dependent on boats for buying or selling goods, as it is the only convenient mode of transport in this area.

NANNA MIA, a local

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd. ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1) Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.14

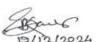
GD-1232

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

SI. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1030845	Supply of Jockey Pump for fire water system.	18/12/2024	05/01/2025, 15:45	06/01/2025
2	1037101	Supply of Metering Tank for Water Treatment Plant.	18/12/2024	05/01/2025, 15:45	06/01/2025
3	1041888	Spare parts of Switchgear and Protection System.	19/12/2024	09/01/2025, 15:00	09/01/2025
4	1041615	Spare Parts of Battery & Battery Charger System.	19/12/2024	09/01/2025, 15:00	09/01/2025
5	1049814	Procurement of PAC/24-25	19/12/2024	08/01/2025, 15:30	09/01/2025

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1) NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

National University, Bangladesh Head Office: Board Bazar, Gazipur

Procurement & Store Department Memo No. PSD40-0/00074/2024/1/2598 Date: 19/12/2024

e-Tender Notice

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

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Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Procurement nature, type & method	Online tender notice publication and closing date					
1.	1049605	Purchase of Paper, Stationary and Toiletries Goods for National University	Goods NCT OTM	19-Dec-2024 16:00 09-Jan-2025 14:00					
2.	1049203	Purchase of Steel Trunk for Examination Department in National University	Goods NCT OTM	19-Dec-2024 12:00 07-Jan-2025 12:00					

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

> Md. Parvez Sazzad Director (In-charge) Procurement and Store Departm National University, Bangladesh E-mail: procurement@nu.ac.bd

JOURNO KILLING Former cop placed on 5-day remand

UNB, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday placed former additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Sadeq Kawsar Dastagir on a five-day remand in connection with the killing of journalist ATM Turab during the July uprising.

Additional Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Momen ordered the remand while Dastagir was produced before the court.

Advocate Abdur Rob, lawyer for the plaintiff, said a seven-day remand had been sought, and the court granted five days.

A Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) team arrested Dastagir from Sherpur on Wednesday.

The murder case was filed by the deceased's brother Abul Hasan Md Azraf on August 19.

TIMING **DECEMBER 20**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-25 12-45 3-45 5-24 7-00 JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30 SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

Students' fair price shop draws good response

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

Students from the Kachua upazila in Bagerhat recently came up with a fair price shop initiative in the Signboard area. The initiative drew a large crowd on Friday as customers flocked to the spot to purchase essential commodities at significantly lower prices.

Organised by Kachua General Students' Society and supported by "Cholo Paltai", the shop aimed to provide fresh produce directly from farmers to consumers, bypassing intermediaries.

The shop, which opened at 9:00am and operated until stocks lasted, offered items like potatoes and onions in limited quantities and other vegetables without restrictions. Imported onions were sold at Tk 90 per kg, lentils at Tk 100 per kg, bottle gourd Tk 20-30 each, green chillies at Tk 70 per kg, aubergines at Tk 60 per kilogram, potatoes at Tk 70 per kg, sweet pumpkin at Tk 30 per piece, hyacinth beans at Tk 60 per kg, and four



Imran Hajra, a representative of the student society, explained, "Farmers normally sell their produce at low prices, but consumers pay a premium due to middlemen. We buy directly from farmers and sell to consumers at lower rates."

Moniruzzaman, organisational secretary of Cholo Paltai, said, "If students run such shops on weekends, both farmers and consumers will benefit, and syndicates will lose their grip on the market. Last week, we sold goods through a similar shop. Today, we purchased produce worth Tk 30,000 directly from farmers." Customers expressed great satisfaction with the initiative.

Nazim Sheikh, one customer, said, "The prices are much lower than the market. I've bought several items and will return every Friday.

Another buyer, Rahman Sheikh, said, "In the market, green chillies are Tk 80 per kg, but here it's Tk 70. This initiative is a blessing for ordinary people and should continue. The fair price shop has proven a win-win for farmers and buyers, sparking hope for a more equitable system."

SAINT MARTIN'S ISLAND Man's tied-up body washes ashore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A semi-decomposed tied-up body of a man was recovered from the north beach of the St Martin Island of Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The hands, legs, and mouth of the body were bound with rope, said Sub-Inspector Abdur Baten, in-charge of the island's police outpost.

The body was washed ashore in the morning, he said, adding that the person might have been killed 8-10 days before. There were several stabbing marks on the body, he said.

"We sent the body to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy," he said.



Office of the Director Planning, Development & Works Sylhet Agricultural University, Tilagor, Sylhet-3100 Tel: 02-996642193

No. SAU/PDW/APP-2024-25/308/24/442

Date: 19/12/2024

e-GP Re-Tender Notice

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

Name of packages	Publication date & time	Tender ID	Downloading the e- Tender documents up to and closing date
Construction of Retaining Wall of Central Lake (Mural to Auditorium and Boishaki Chottor to Auditorium)	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1053918	07-01-2025; 11:00 Hrs 07-01-2025; 12:00 Hrs
Construction of Pre-Loading of Main Road (Main Gate to Boishaki Chottor) including RCC Link Road Beside Main Gate	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1054135	07-01-2025; 10:30 Hrs 07-01-2025; 12:30 Hrs
Earth filling in front of PMAC Veterinary Teaching Hospital	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1054259	07-01-2025; 12:00 Hrs 07-01-2025; 15:00 Hrs
Repair and Maintenance works of Abdus Samad Azad Hall	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1049638	07-01-2025; 12:00 Hrs 07-01-2025; 15:30 Hrs

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.eproucre.gov.bd) is required.

Prof. Dr. Md. Siddiqul Islam

Director (Additional Charge) Planning, Development & Works Sylhet Agricultural University, Tilagor, Sylhet-3100 Phone: 02-996642193

GD-1234



বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ শহীদ ল্যান্স নায়েক মুন্সী আব্দুর রউফ

আমাদের অনুপ্রেরণা বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ শহীদ ল্যান্স নায়েক নুর মোহাম্মদ শেখ

আত্মত্যাগ চিরস্মরণীয় হয়ে থাকবে।

বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ শহীদ ল্যান্স নায়েক মুস্সী আব্দুর রউফ ১৯৪৩ সালের ০৮ মে করিদপুর জেলার বোয়ালমারী থানার (বর্তমানে মধুখালী) সালামতপুর বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ শহীদ নূর মোহাম্মদ পেখ ১৯৩৬ সালের ২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি নড়াইল জেলার মহিষ্পোলা গ্রামে জন্ম গ্রহণ করেন। তাঁর পিতার নাম মোহাম্মদ আমানত (বর্তমানে রউফ নগর) প্রামে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। তাঁর পিতার নাম মুক্সী মেহেদি হাসান এবং মাতার নাম মুক্সিন্দ্রেছা। মুক্সী আব্দুর রউফ ১৯৬৩ শেখ এবং মাতার নাম জেন্লাতুল্লেছা। নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ ১৯৫৯ সালের ২৪ মার্চ তৎকালীন ইস্ট পাকিস্তান রাইফেল্স (ইপিআর) এ যোগ দেন। তিনি ১৯৭১ সালের ০৮ মে তৎকালীন ইস্ট পাকিস্তান রাইফেল্স (ইপিআর) এ সৈনিক হিসেবে যোগ দেন। তিনি ১৯৭১ সালে চউগ্রামে ১১ নম্বর উইং এ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধের ৮ নম্বর সেক্টর, যশোরের অধীনে সক্রিয়ভাবে অংশগ্রহণ করেন। ২৫ মার্চ ১৯৭১ এর পর যখন মুক্তিবাহিনীকে সুসংগঠিত করা শুরু হয় তখন নিয়োজিত থেকে মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সক্রিয়ভাবে অংশগ্রহণ করেন। ১৯৭১ সালের এপ্রিল মাসে ৮ম ইস্ট বেঙ্গলের একটা অংশ এবং তৎকালীন তিনি যশোর জেলার ঝিকরগাছা থানার গোয়ালহাটি গ্রামে স্থাপিত একটি ক্যাম্পের অধিনায়কের দায়িতু পান। নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ ১৯৭১ সালের ০৫ সেন্টেম্বর ইপিআরের কিছু সদস্য পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে হানাদার বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধকালে মুন্সী আব্দুর রউফ কোম্পানির মেশিনগানার হিসেবে রাঙামাটির 🛛 দুজন সঙ্গী নিয়ে গোয়ালহাটি গ্রামের অনতিদূরে ছুটিপুর ঘাঁটি টহল দেওয়ার সময় পাকবাহিনী তাঁদের আক্রমণ করে। নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ তাঁর টহল দলটিকে মহালছড়ি নৌপথে প্রহরারত ছিলেন। কোম্পানিটি বুড়িঘাট চিংড়ি খালপাড়ের প্রতিরক্ষায় নিয়োজিত ছিল। ০৮ এপ্রিল শক্রপক্ষের ২য় কমান্ডো রক্ষার প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করেন। পাকবাহিনীর গুলিতে সহযোদ্ধা নানু মিয়া গুরুতর আহত হলে নূর মোহান্মদ শেখ হাতে এলএমজি এবং কাঁধে গুরুতর আহত ব্যাটালিয়নের একটি কোম্পানি ৬টি ৩ ইঞ্চি মর্টার ও ৩টি লঞ্চ নিয়ে প্রতিবক্ষা এলাকায় চুকে পড়লে ল্যান্স নায়েক মুন্সী আন্দুর রউফ তাঁর নিজের সঙ্গীকে নিয়ে শক্রবাহিনীর দিকে গুলি ছুঁড়তে ছুঁড়তে নিরাপদ জায়গায় সরে যেতে থাকেন। হঠাৎ শক্রর দুই ইঞ্চি মর্টারের আঘাতে তাঁর হাঁটু ভেঙে চুরমার



অবস্থান থেকে একাই শক্রপক্ষের ২টি লঞ্চ ও ১টি স্পিভবোট পানিতে ভুবিয়ে দেন। ফলে প্রায় ২ প্লাট্টন শক্র সৈন্য সম্পূর্ণ নিশ্চিহ্ন হয়ে যায়। তাঁর সঙ্গীরা যেন প্রতিরক্ষা ঘাঁটিতে পৌছাতে পারে সেজন্য মারাত্মক আহত অবস্থায়ও নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ গুলি চালাতে থাকেন এবং এক সময় মৃত্যুর কোলে ঢলে গোলার আঘাতে নানিয়ারচরের বাছড়ি নামক স্থানে তিনি শাহাদত বরণ করেন। বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ মুলী আব্দুর রউফের সমাধি পার্বত্য রাঙ্জামাটি জেলার নানিয়ারচরে। তাঁর পড়েন। যশোরের শার্শা থানার কাশিপুর গ্রামে এই বীর যোজাকে সমাহিত করা হয়। নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ নিজের প্রাণের বিনিময়ে সহযোজাদের জীবন রক্ষা করেছিলেন। তাঁর অপরিসীম বীরতু, সাহসিকতা ও দেশপ্রেমের জন্য বাংলাদেশ সরকার তাঁকে সর্বোচ্চ সম্মান সূচক 'বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ' খেতাবে ভূষিত করে। স্বাধীনতা অর্জনে এই মহান বীরের এই অপরিসীম বীরতু, সাহসিকতা ও দেশপ্রেমের জন্য বাংলাদেশ সরকার তাঁকে সম্মান সূচক 'বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ' খেতাবে ভূষিত করে। স্বাধীনতা অর্জনে এই মহান বীরের আত্মত্যাগ চিরস্মরণীয় হয়ে থাকবে।





बाक्जी वाध्यादन

00 Calls 7807

বর্ভার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি) দিবস-২০২৪ উপলক্ষ্যে আমি এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আন্তরিক হুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন 'সীমান্তের অতন্ত্র প্রহরী' বিজিবি'র রয়েছে বীরতু, ঐতিহ্য ও গৌরবমণ্ডিত সমৃদ্ধ ইতিহাস। আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর রয়েছে অবিস্মরণীয় অবদান। ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চ

কালরাতে হানাদার বাহিনী ঢাকার পিলখানাস্থ তৎকালীন ইপিআর সদর দপ্তর আক্রমণ করে। মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ এবং বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ মুপী আব্দুর রউফ্সহ এ বাহিনীর ৮১৭ জন অকুতোভয় সদস্য আত্মোৎসর্গ করে দেশপ্রেমের অনন্য দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছেন। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে গৌরবময় অবদানের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ এ বাহিনীকে ২০০৮ সালে স্বাধীনতা পদকে ভূষিত করা হয়। মুক্তিযুদ্ধসহ দেশমাতৃকার প্রয়োজনে বিভিন্ন সময়ে বিজিবি'র যে সকল সদস্য আন্তত্যাগ করেছেন আমি তাঁদের গভীর শ্রন্ধার সাথে শ্বরণ করছি এবং তাঁদের আত্রার মাগফিরাত ও শান্তি কামনা করছি।

সীমান্তের সার্বিক সুরক্ষার পাশাপাশি দেশের সার্বভৌমতু ও অথভতা রক্ষায় বিজিবি'র সদস্যগণ সততা, নিষ্ঠা ও শৃঞ্জলার সাথে তাঁদের ওপর অর্পিত দায়িত্ব পালন করে যাচ্ছেন। দীমান্ত এলাকায় চোরাচালান রোধ, মাদক ও মানব পাচার প্রতিরোধসহ দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ আইন-শৃঞ্জলা রক্ষা এবং যে কোনো জরুরি পরিস্থিতি ও দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলায় এ বাহিনীর দক্ষতা এবং পেশাদারিত জনআস্থা অর্জনে সক্ষম হয়েছে। জুলাই-আগস্টে ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুখান পরবর্তী সময়ে সীমান্তে অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ ও বহির্গমন রোধ, সীমান্তবর্তী সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের নিরাপত্তা বিধান, শিল্প কারখানায় নিরাপত্তা প্রদানসহ সারাদেশের আইন-শৃঞ্জলা পরিস্থিতি নিয়ন্ত্রণে বিজিবি প্রশংসনীয় ভূমিকা পালন করে যাচ্ছে।

আমি আশা করি, দেশের স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত অক্ষুণ্ন রাখতে বিজ্ঞিবি'র সদস্যগণ দেশপ্রেমে উদ্বুদ্ধ হয়ে সর্বক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ শৃঞ্চালা বজায় রেখে পেশাদারিত্বের সাথে তাঁদের ওপর অর্পিত দায়িতু পালন করবেন।

আমি বর্তার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ- এর অব্যাহত সাফল্য কামনা করি। বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

> by broughout মোঃ সাহাবুদ্ধিন





'বর্ভার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি) দিবস-২০২৪' উদ্যাপন উপলক্ষ্যে এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও ওভেছো।

বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ ২২৯ বছরের ঐতিহ্যবাহী ও সমৃদ্ধ ইতিহাসের অধিকারী একটি সুশৃঞ্জল আধা-সামরিক বাহিনী। আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর সদস্যদের বীরোচিত ভূমিকা অবিশ্বরণীয়। এ বাহিনীর দুইজন বীরশ্রেষ্ঠসহ ১১৯ জন সদস্যের বীরভূপুর্ণ খেতাব অর্জন এবং ৮১৭ জন সদস্যের আত্মত্যাগ স্বাধীনতার ইতিহাসকে করেছে সমৃদ্ধ। বিজিবি'র ইতিহাস তাই আত্ম-প্রত্যয়, ত্যাগ ও গৌরবের ইতিহাস।

দেশের সীমান্তের নিরাপত্তা ও শান্তি রক্ষা, সীমান্ত এলাকায় মাদক, চোরাচালান, নারী ও শিশু পাচার প্রতিরোধসহ দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ আইন-শৃঞ্জলা রক্ষা, সন্ত্রাস-জঙ্গিবাদ দমন এবং দুর্যোগকালীন পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলায় বিজিবি'র ভূমিকা অত্যস্ত প্রশংসনীয়। পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠায় এবং মায়ানমারের অভ্যন্তরে চলমান সংখাতের জেরে সীমান্তে উদ্ভূত পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলাসত মাধানমার থেকে প্রাণভয়ে পালিয়ে আসা সেদেশের সীমান্তরক্ষী বাহিনীর সদস্যদের আশ্রয় ও নিরাপত্তা প্রদান এবং তাদেরকে স্বদেশে প্রত্যাবর্তনে বিজিবির ভমিকা জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পরিমন্তলে ব্যাপক প্রশংসিত হয়েছে। জলাই-আগস্টে ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুখান পরবর্তী সময়ে নিরাপত্তা জোরদারের মাধ্যমে সীমান্ত দিয়ে বিতর্কিত ব্যক্তিবর্গের পলায়ন রোধ ও আটক, সীমান্তবর্তী সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের নিরাপত্তা বিধান, অভ্যখানে আহত ছাত্র-জনতার চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা, শিল্প কারখানায় নিরাপত্তা প্রদানসহ সারাদেশের আইন-শৃঙ্গলা পরিস্থিতি নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং সাম্প্রতিককালে ভয়াবহ বন্যা পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলায় বিজিবির ভূমিকা সর্বমহলে প্রশংসিত হয়েছে।

আমি আশা করি, মাদক ও সন্ত্রাসমৃক্ত উন্নত-সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ার প্রত্যয়ে বিজিবির সদস্যগণ সততা, শৃঞ্জলা ও নিষ্ঠার সাথে দায়িত্ব পালনের মাধ্যমে এই বাহিনীর সুনাম ও মর্যাদা বৃদ্ধিতে ভূমিকা রাখবেন।

আমি বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ-এর অব্যাহত অগ্রযাত্রা এবং সর্বাঙ্গীণ সাফল্য কামনা করি।

CHam

লেফটেন্যান্ট জেনারেল মোঃ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম চৌধুরী (অব:)





ানদীর প্রধান উপদেষ্টার বিশেষ সহকারী খনটো মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্ৰজাকত্ৰী বাংলাদেশ সৰকাৰ

'বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি) দিবস-২০২৪' উদ্যাপন উপলক্ষ্যে এ বাহিনীর সকল

২২৯ বছর পুরনো 'সীমান্তের অতন্দ্র প্রহরী' বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ একটি ঐতিহ্যবাহী প্রতিষ্ঠান। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ভূমিকা অবিশ্বরণীয়। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ৮১৭ জন সদস্য তাঁদের জীবন উৎসর্গ করেছেন। এ বাহিনীর দু'জন বীরহেষ্ঠসহ ১১৯ সদস্য বীরত্বপূর্ণ খেতাবে ভৃষিত হয়েছেন। ২০০৮ সালে 'স্বাধীনতা পদক' প্রাপ্তি মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর বিশেষ অবদানেরই স্বীকতি।

দেশের সীমান্ত সুরক্ষা, সীমান্ত দিয়ে চোরাচালান প্রতিরোধ, মাদক, নারী ও শিশু পাচার রোধসহ দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ আইনশৃঞ্জলা রক্ষায় বেসামরিক প্রশাসনকে সহায়তা প্রদান এবং দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলায় বিজিবি'র ভূমিকা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এবং প্রশংসনীয়। পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে শান্তি ও সম্পীতি প্রতিষ্ঠায় এবং বাংলাদেশ-মায়ানমার সীমান্তে চলমান পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলায় ও নতুন করে রোহিলা অনুপ্রবেশ রোধে বিজিবি ওরুতুপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখছে। জুলাই-আগস্টে ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুখান ও বিজয় পরবর্তী সময়ে রাজধানী ঢাকাসহ সারাদেশের জননিরাপত্তা হানিকর কর্মকাভ প্রতিরোধ, সীমান্ত দিয়ে বিভর্কিত ব্যক্তিবর্গের পলায়ন রোধ ও আটক, সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের নিরাপত্তা বিধান এবং শিল্পকারখানায় নিরাপত্তা প্রদানসহ সাম্প্রতিককালে দেশের দক্ষিণ-পূর্বাঞ্চলে সংঘটিত ভয়াবহ বন্যা পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলায় বিজিবি'র ভূমিকা সর্বমহলে প্রশংসিত হয়েছে।

আমি আশা করি, 'সীমান্তের অতন্ত্র প্রহরী' বিজিবি'র প্রতিটি সদস্য মাদক ও সন্ত্রাসমূক্ত নিরাপদ বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে সততা, নিষ্ঠা ও শৃহুলার সাথে দায়িত পালন করবেন।

আমি বিজিবি'র অব্যাহত সাফল্য এবং সর্বাঙ্গীণ মঞ্চাল কামনা করি।

COVOR মোঃ খোনা বৰস চৌধুৱী





বাংলার মাটি তার সম্ভানদের রক্ত, ঘাম ও অসীম আজ্বত্যাগে নিজেকে রাঙিয়ে রেখেছে। এই মাটির সুরক্ষা ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণে অবিচল থেকেছে সীমান্ত রক্ষাকারী বাহিনী, যার রয়েছে ২২৯ বছরের এক মহাকাব্যিক যাত্রার ইতিহাস। ব্রিটিশ আমলে গঠিত 'রামগড় লোকাল ব্যাটালিয়ন' থেকে তরু করে আজকের 'বর্ডার গার্ভ বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি)' পর্যন্ত, এই বাহিনীর প্রতিটি ধাপ বাংলাদেশের মানুষের জন্য গর্বের প্রতীক। রাষ্ট্রের পরিবর্তন, মানচিত্রের রূপান্তর এবং বাহিনীর নাম পরিবর্তিত হলেও তাঁদের আত্মত্যাগ ও দায়িতুবোধ কখনোই বদলায়নি।

১৭৯৫ সালে ব্রিটিশ ইস্ট ইভিয়া কোম্পানি চট্টগ্রামের পাহাড়ি সীমান্ত সুরক্ষার জন্য 'রামগড় লোকাল ব্যাটালিয়ন' গঠন করে। স্থানীয় যুবকদের নিয়ে গঠিত এই বাহিনী প্রথম থেকেই সীমান্ত এলাকায় শৃঙ্গলা রক্ষা ও শত্তুর আক্রমণ প্রতিহত করার দায়িত পালন করে। ৬ পাউভ গোলার ৪টি কামান ও দু'টি অনিয়মিত অশ্বারোহী দল নিয়ে এই বাহিনীর যাত্রা পুরু। প্রথম দিকে সীমান্ত চিহ্নিতকরণ, লুসাই বিদ্রোহ দমন ও মগ দস্যু দমন ছিল এই বাহিনীর মূল কাজ। এই বাহিনী গুধুমাত্র অস্ত্র হাতে যুদ্ধ করেনি বরং শৃঞ্জলা ও আজ্মত্যাগের মূর্ত প্রতীক হয়ে উঠেছিল। ১৮৬১ সালে সময়ের চাহিদা ও পরিবর্তনের শ্রোতে বাহিনীর নাম পরিবর্তন করে 'ফ্রন্টিয়ার গার্ডস' রাখা হয়। নাম পরিবর্তনের সাথে সাথে বাহিনীর কার্যক্রমও বিস্তৃত হয়, যেখানে তারা শত্তুর আক্রমণ প্রতিহত করার পাশাপাশি সীমান্ত এলাকায় শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠার কাজ করে। ১৮৯১ সালে বাহিনীর নাম পরিবর্তন করে 'বেঙ্গল মিলিটারি পুলিশ' রাখা হয়। আধুনিক অস্ত্র ও প্রশিক্ষণে সক্ষিত এই বাহিনী প্রথম বিশ্বযুদ্ধে ব্রিটিশ সেনাবাহিনীর সঙ্গে মেসোপটেমিয়া ও আফগানিস্তানের যুদ্ধে অংশ নেয়। তাদের বীরত ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যের উচ্চপর্যায়ে প্রশংসিত হয়। মেজর গোপাল চন্দ্র দাস এবং তার সহযোদ্ধারা এই সময় 'আবর মেডেল' ও 'অর্ডার অফ ব্রিটিশ ইন্ডিয়া' অর্জন করে, যা বাহিনীর গৌরবময় ইতিহাসে এক উজ্জ্ব অধ্যায় হিসেবে যুক্ত হয়। ল্যান্স নায়েক ফুলি রাম তার অসামান্য বীরত্বের জন্য 'ইভিয়ান অর্ডার অব মেরিট' পদক লাভ করেন। ১৯১৪ সালে 'কোমাগাটা মারু শিখ দাঙ্গা' দমনকল্পে বাহিনীর ভূমিকা বিশেষ গুরুত্ব পায়। হাওড়ায় দাঙ্গা প্রতিরোধে তাদের অসাধারণ কর্মদক্ষতা বাহিনীকে অনন্য উচ্চতায় প্রতিষ্ঠিত করে। একই বছরে বক্সাদার ও হুগলিতে দু'টি নতুন ডিটাচমেন্ট ক্যাম্প স্থাপন করা হয়, যা বাহিনীর কার্যক্রমকে আরও বিস্তত করে। ১৯১১ সালে মিশমি মিশনে অংশগ্রহণের মাধ্যমে বাহিনীর গৌরবময় ইতিহাসে একটি নতুন অধ্যায় যোগ হয়। এই মিশনে শক্রকে সফলভাবে প্রতিহত করে দেখানোর পর, বাহিনীর সদস্যদের জন্য ব্রিটিশ সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে প্রশংসা বার্তা আসে। সূবেদার মেজর গোপাল চন্দ্র দাস "অর্ডার অব ব্রিটিশ ইন্ডিয়া" পদক লাভ করেন এবং দিল্লি দরবারে তাকে বিশেষ সম্মাননা প্রদান করা হয়। ১৯৪<mark>৭ সালে</mark> ভারত বিভক্তির পর, পূর্ব বাংলার অংশটি পাকিস্তানে পড়ে এবং বাহিনীর <mark>নাম</mark> পরিবর্তন করে 'ইস্ট পাকিস্তান রাইফেলস্ (ইপিআর)' রাখা হয়। নতুন নামে বাহিনীটি সীমাস্ত সুরক্ষা ও অভ্যস্তরীণ শৃহ্বালা রক্ষার কাল্প তরু করে। ১৯৫৮ সালে ভারতীয় বাহিনীর সাথে এক সংঘর্ষে মেজর তুফায়েল মোহাম্মদ শহীদ হন, যার বীরড়ের জন্য তাঁকে পাকিস্তানের সর্বোচ্চ সামরিক খেতাব 'নিশান-ই-হায়দার' প্রদান করা হয়। এই ঘটনা বাহিনীর ইতিহাসে একটি গৌরবময় অধ্যায় হিসেবে যুক্ত হয়।

মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সেই মহাকাব্যিক অধ্যায়ে আকাশে বন্ধ্রধনি আর মাটিতে রক্তের শ্রোত মিলেমিশে রচনা করেছিল এক অমর সুর। তৎকালীন ইপিআরের অকুতোভয় সদস্যরা ছিলেন একেকজন জীবন্ত কিংবদন্তি। হাতে সাধারণ মানের অস্ত্র, কিন্তু হৃদয়ে ছিল অসীম সাহস, অগাধ দেশপ্রেম আর বীরতুের অগ্নিশিখা। তাঁদের আত্মত্যাগের সেই মহিমা যুগে যুগে বাঙালির হৃদয়ে হয়ে থাকবে এক অক্ষয় দীপশিখা। ১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চের সেই ভয়াল রাতে, যখন ঢাকার পিল্<mark>যানায়</mark> ইপিআর সদর দপ্তরে হানাদার বাহিনীর নিষ্ঠুরতম আক্রমণ নেমে আসে, তখনও তাঁরা নতজানু হয়নি। বুড়িগঙ্গার পাড়ে জিঞ্জিরায় রচনা করেন প্রতিরোধের প্রথম অধ্যায়। পরবর্তী নয় মাসে বাংলাদেশের ১১টি সেষ্টরে ছড়িয়ে পড়ে তাঁদের বীরত্নগাথা। চট্টশ্রাম, রাজশাহী, কৃষ্টিয়া, যশোর, ময়মনসিংহ, দিনাজপুর, ঠাকুরগাঁও, রংপুর ও সিলেটের রক্তাক্ত মাটিতে তাঁরা রচনা করে বাঙালির বীরতের ইতিহাস। ইপিআরের প্রায় ৮ হাজার বাঙালি সদস্য, যাঁরা বুকের তাজা রক্তে দেশের মানচিত্র অঞ্চন করেছিলেন তাঁদের রণকৌশল ও আত্মত্যাগের কাহিনী বাঙালি জাতির প্রতিরোধ সংগ্রামে যুগিয়েছে অনুপ্রেরণা। সম্মুখ যুদ্ধ, গেরিলা অভিযান কিংবা আত্মঘাতী আক্রমণ প্রতিটি অপারেশনে তারা দেখিয়েছেন অকল্পনীয় বীরত। এ বাহিনীর শহীদ ল্যান্স নায়েক নুর মোহাম্মদ শেখ এবং শহীদ ল্যান্স নায়েক মুন্সী আব্দুর রউফ বাঙালি জাতির শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তান, যাঁদের বীরতের স্বীকৃতি 'বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ' স্বেতাব আমাদের গৌরবাখিত করেছে। এ বাহিনীর আরও ৮ জন বীর উত্তম, ৩২ জন বীর বিক্রম, ৭৭ জন বীর প্রতীক তাঁদের বীরতুগাঁখা দিয়ে ইতিহাসের পাতায় স্থান করে নিয়েছেন। মুক্তিযুক্তে ইপিআরের ৮১৭ জন বীর সৈনিকের শাহাদত আমাদের স্বাধীনতার ইতিহাসকে করেছে অমোচনীয়। বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধে অসামান্য অবদানের জন্য সরকার ২০০৮ সালে বাহিনীকে প্রদান করে 'স্বাধীনতা পদক'। তৎকালীন ইপিআর সৈনিকদের হিমালয়সম মনোবল আর অসীম আত্মত্যাগ জাতির জন্য অনস্ত প্রেরণার উৎস। তাঁদের মহাকাব্যিক বীরতে আলোকিত এ বাহিনী আজও দেশমাতৃকার সেবায় নিয়েজিত থেকে পূর্বসূরিদের গৌরবগাঁখা ধরে রেখেছে। তাঁদের আত্মত্যাগের অমর কীর্তি আমাদের স্মৃতিতে চির অস্তান হয়ে থাকবে।

স্বাধীনতার পর, ইপিআর নতুন নামে 'বাংগাদেশ রাইফেগস্ (বিডিআর)' হিসেবে আত্মপ্রকাশ করে। বাহিনীটি সীমান্ত সুরক্ষার পাশাপাশি দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপন্তা ও দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলায় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে। বন্যা, ঘূর্ণিঝড় ও অন্যান্য প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের সময় রাইফেলস্ বাহিনী সাধারণ মানুষের পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে তাদের সহায়তা করে। সীমান্ত রক্ষা করতে গিয়ে প্রতিবেশী ভারতের সাথে বেশ কয়েক দফা প্রাণঘাতী সংঘাতের ঘটনাও ঘটেছে। ২০০১ সালের এপ্রিল মাসে বড়াইবাড়ি ও পাদুয়া সীমান্তে সংঘর্ষের ঘটনা বাংলাদেশের সীমান্ত ইতিহাসের অন্যতম উল্লেখযোগ্য অধ্যায়। কুড়িগ্রাম জেলার রৌমারী উপজেলার বড়াইবাড়িতে ভারতীয় সীমান্তরক্ষী বাহিনী বিএসএফ বাংলাদেশের ভূখণ্ডে অনুপ্রবেশ করে বিশৃঞ্চলা সৃষ্টির অপপ্রয়াস চালালে বিডিআর প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তোলে। চার দিন ধরে চলা এই সংঘর্ষে তিনজন বিডিআর সদস্য শহীদ হন এবং ১৬ জন বিএস<mark>এফ</mark> সদস্য নিহত হন। একই সময়ে, সিলেটের গোয়াইনঘাট উপজেলার প্রতাপপুর সীমান্তের পাদুয়াতে সংঘর্ষ হয়, যেখানে বিভিআর বিএসএফের विचान (प्रत्यंत प्रार्तराचीप्राक तकारा कीरफर प्राप्त प्रथनरचन श्रेतिस्य (प्रया । ১००० ক্রপে দেয়। এই দ'টি ঘটনার মধ্য দিয়ে বিভি আখাউড়া উপজেলার হীরাপুর গ্রামে আরেকটি সংঘর্ষের ঘটনা ঘটে। ভারতীয় সীমান্তরক্ষী বাহিনী বিএসএফ ও কিছু স্থানীয় বাসিন্দা বাংলাদেশের ভূখণ্ডে অনুপ্রবেশ করে বিশৃঞ্জলা সৃষ্টির অপপ্রয়াস চালালে বিভিআর তাতে বাধা দেয়। সংঘর্ষে বিএসএফের একজন কর্মকর্তা ও একজন সদস্য নিহত হয়। বাংলাদেশের ভূখও রক্ষার জন্য বিভিআরের এই ভূমিকা তাঁদের সাহসিকতার আরেকটি জ্বলম্ভ উদাহরণ। ২০০৯ সালে পিলখানা হত্যাকাণ্ড বাহিনীর ইতিহাসে একটি কালো অধ্যায় হিসেবে রয়ে যায়। এই দুঃসময়ের পর, বাহিনীটি পুনর্গঠিত হয় এবং ২০১০ সালে নাম পরিবর্তন করে 'বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি)' রাখা হয়।

বর্তমানে এই বাহিনী উন্নত প্রযুক্তি ও আধুনিক সরঞ্জামাদি ব্যবহার করে চোরাচালান দমন, মাদক, অস্ত্র ও নারী-শিশু পাচার রোধে সক্রিয় ভূমিকা পালন করছে। ২০১৭ সালের রোহিঙ্গা সংকটের সময় বিজিবি'র মানবিক ভূমিকা জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে প্রশংসিত হয়। রোহিঙ্গা শরণার্থীদের নিরাপত্তা ও খাদ্য সর্বরাহ নিশ্চিত করতে বিজিবি যে ভূমিকা পালন করেছে, তা বাহিনীর ইতিহাসে এক অনন্য দষ্টান্ত হয়ে থাকবে। ২০২৪ সালে বাংলাদেশ নানা চ্যালেঞ্চ ও পরিবর্তনের সাক্ষী হয়েছে। এই সময়ে দেশের জনগণের নিরাপন্তা, আইন-শৃঞ্জলা ও মানবিক সহায়তা নিশ্চিত করতে বিজিবি গুরুতুপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছে। তাদের সাম্প্রতিক কর্মকাণ্ড তধু সীমান্ত রক্ষার মধ্যেই সীমাবদ্ধ নয় বরং জাতীয় সংকট মোকাবিলা ও জনকল্যাণমূলক কাজে তাদের দক্ষতা ও পেশাদারিত প্রশংসনীয়। বর্তমানে বিশেষ করে ৫ আগস্টের অভ্যত্থানের পর দেশের বিরাজমান পরিস্থিতিতে বিজিবি সীমান্তে চোরাচালান, মাদক পাচার এবং অবৈধ পারাপার রোধে আরো কঠোর অবস্থান গ্রহণ করেছে।

আধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ও বিশেষ প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে সীমান্ত এলাকা মনিটরিং করে বিজিবি সফলভাবে চোরাচালান রোধ করছে। সীমান্তে স্মার্ট সিকিউরিটি সিস্টেম স্থাপনের ফলে সীমান্তবর্তী এলাকা ও জনসাধারণের নিরাপত্তা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। বিজিবি'র এই ভূমিকা গুধুমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় সম্পদ রক্ষায় সহায়তা করেনি বরং সীমান্ত এলাকার আইন-শৃঞ্চলা প্রতিষ্ঠায়ও উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা রেখেছে।

দালনে বিজিবি'র মানবিক ও গুরুতুপূর্ণ ভূমিকা। ২০২৪ সালের অন্যতম শ্বরণীয় ঘটনা ছিল ছাত্র আন্দোলন, যেখানে শিক্ষার্থীরা তাদের অধিকার আদায়ে রাস্তায়



নেমে আসে। এই আন্দোলনে অনেক জায়গায় সংঘর্ষ ও বিশঙ্খলা তৈরি হলেও বিজিবি শান্তি রক্ষায় অনন্য দষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছে। শিক্ষার্থীদের সুরক্ষা নিশ্চিত করতে বিজিবি মাঠে নামে এবং মানবিক আচরণ প্রদর্শন করে। (১) আন্দোলনরত শিক্ষার্থীদের নিরাপত্তা দেওয়ার পাশাপাশি বিজিবি আহতদের হাসপাতালে পৌছে দেওয়া, চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদান এবং তাদের পুনর্বাসনের কাজ করেছে। (২)

অনেক জায়গায় বিজিবি'র সদস্যরা শান্তিপূর্ণ সমাধান আনতে মধ্যস্থতা করেছে। ৫ আগস্ট ২০২৪ তারিখ সকাল থেকে ঢাকার প্রবেশদ্বারে বিজিবি নিষ্ক্রিয় ভূমিকা পালন করে ছাত্র-জনতাকে সমর্থন করেছে। (৩) ছাত্র-জনতার ন্যায্য দাবিকে শ্রন্ধার সাথে বিবেচনা করে আন্দোলনে

তাদের পাশে থেকে বিজয় অর্জনে সহায়তা প্রদান করেছে বিজিবি সদস্যরা। এই মানবিক ভূমিকা শুধু আন্দোলনকে শান্তিপূর্ণভাবে সমাধানে সাহায্য করেনি পাশাপাশি বিজিবি'র প্রতি মানুষের আস্থা ও ভরসা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে।

সীমান্তে বিভর্কিত ব্যক্তিদের আটক। ছাত্র-জনতার আন্দোলনে বিতর্কিত বা দেশবিরোধী কার্যক্রম পরিচালনাকারীদের বিরুদ্ধে সীমান্তে বিজিবি কঠোর পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করে এবং সুনির্দিষ্ট তথ্যের ভিন্তিতে অভিযান পরিচালনা করে বিতর্কিত ব্যক্তিদের আটক করে। বিজিবি'র এই ধরনের কার্যক্রম দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপন্তা ও সীমান্ত সুরক্ষায় বড় অবদান রাখার পাশাপাশি জনমনে স্বস্তি ফিরিয়ে আনে। বন্যার সময়ে উদ্ধারকাজ ও ত্রাণ বিতরণ। ২০২৪ সালে জুলাই-আগস্ট অভ্যত্থানের পরপরই বাংলাদেশ ভয়াবহ বন্যা



পরিস্থিতির সমুখীন হয়, যেখানে লাখ লাখ মানুষ তাদের ঘরবাড়ি হারিয়ে দিশেহারা হয়ে পড়ে। এমন দুর্যোগময় পরিস্থিতিতে 'বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি)' তাদের জনকল্যাণ ও সেবামূলক ভূমিকা দিয়ে নতুন করে মানবিকতার দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছে। সাধারণত সীমান্ত রক্ষা ও দেশের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করাই বিজিবি'র প্রধান দায়িতু। তথাপিও সাম্প্রতিক বন্যায় বিজিবি সদস্যরা তাদের দায়িত্বের গত্তি পেরিয়ে মানুষের সেবায় নেমে আসে। (১) বন্যাকবলিত এলাকাগুলোতে বিজিবি ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত পরিবারগুলোকে উদ্ধার করে নিরাপদ স্থানে স্থানান্তর করে। (২) বিজিবি'র উদ্যোগে বন্যায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত মানুষদের ত্রাণ ও খাদ্যসামগ্রী বিতরণ করা হয়। (৩) বন্যা দুর্গত অসহায় মানুষদের বিনামূল্যে চিকিৎসাসেবা ও ওমুধ প্রদান নিশ্চিত করা হয়।

রাষ্ট্রীয় নিরাপত্তা ও আইন-শৃঞ্জলা রক্ষায় অন্তর্বতী সরকারকে সহায়তা। ২০২৪ সালে অন্তর্বতীকালীন সরকারের অধীনে রষ্ট্রীয় নিরাপত্তা ও আইন-শৃঞ্জলা রক্ষায় বিজিবি গুরুতুপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। দেশের শান্তি-শৃঞ্জলা রক্ষায় তাদের এই ভূমিকার জন্য প্রশংসা করছে সাধারণ মানুষ। ২০২৪ সাল বিজিবি'র কার্যক্রমে এক নতুন মাত্রা যোগ করেছে। সীমান্ত রক্ষা থেকে শুরু করে জাতীয় সংকট মোকাবিলা এবং জনকল্যাণমূলক কার্যক্রমে বিজিবি অসাধারণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। তাদের কার্যক্রম তথু দেশপ্রেমের উদাহরণ নয় বরং দেশের মানুষের হৃদয়ে আস্থা ও বিশ্বাদের প্রতীক হয়ে উঠেছে। বিজিবি'র এই ভূমিকা জাতির জন্য অনুপ্রেরণা এবং ভবিষ্যৎ কার্যক্রমের মাইলফলক হয়ে থাকবে।

২২৯ বছরের সুদীর্ঘ ইতিহাসে বিজিবি'র নাম, কাঠামো ও দায়িত্বের ক্ষেত্র বিভিন্ন পরিবর্তনের মধ্য দিয়ে গেছে। কিন্তু বিজিবি'র কাজের প্রতি অঙ্গীকার সবসময় দৃঢ় থেকেছে। বিজিবি একটি পেশাদার বাহিনী যা দেশের সীমান্ত রক্ষা, আইন-শৃঙ্গলা বজায় রাখা এবং জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে। সীমান্তে চোরাচালান দমন, অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ রোধ এবং দেশের সার্বভৌমত রক্ষা করা তাদের মূল দায়িতের মধ্যে পড়ে। তবে, তাদের কাজ ওধু সীমান্ত রক্ষা পর্যন্ত সীমাবদ্ধ নয়, তারা দেশীয় দুর্যোগ বা সংকটে মানুষের পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে মানবিক সহায়তা প্রদান করে, যা দেশের জনগণের কাছে আরও বেশি মূল্যবান হয়ে ওঠে। বিজিবির সীমাস্ত রক্ষার এই দীর্ঘ যাত্রা আমাদের শিখিয়েছে যে, সময় এবং পরিস্থিতি যাই হোক না কেন, কর্তব্যের প্রতি অবিচল থাকা কতটা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। বিজিবির প্রতিটি সদস্য আমাদের জন্য একটি আদর্শ, একটি প্রেরণা। তাদের

ত্যাণের প্রতি শ্রদ্ধা জানিয়ে আমাদের উচিত নিজেদের অবস্থান থেকে দেশের সেবা করা এবং এই গৌরবময় ইতিহাসকে চিরকাল ধরে রাখা। সীমান্ত রক্ষার সুদীর্ঘ ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্য আমাদের অনুপ্রাণিত করে, আমাদের সাহস জোগায় এবং আমাদের শেখায় কীভাবে দেশকে ভালোবাসতে হয়। বিজিবির এই আত্মত্যাগ এবং বীরত্নের ইতিহাস চিরকাল অক্ষুন্ন থাকবে, আমাদের গর্বের উৎস হিসেবে।







প্রধান উপদেষ্টা ০৫ পৌৰ ১৪৩১

বর্ভার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি) দিবস-২০২৪ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে আন্তরিক হুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাই।

বর্ডার গার্ভ বাংলাদেশ একটি ঐতিহাবাহী প্রতিষ্ঠান। আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ভূমিকা অবিস্মরণীয়। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে অসামান্য বীরত্বের জন্য এ বাহিনীর দু'জন বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ ল্যান্স নায়েক নূর মোহাম্মদ শেখ এবং ল্যাপ নায়েক মূপী আব্দুর রউফসহ ১১৯ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্য খেতাবপ্রাপ্ত হয়েছেন। মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ৮১৭ জন অকুতোভয় সদস্য তাঁদের জীবন উৎসর্গ করে বিজিবি'র ইতিহাসকে করেছেন মহিমান্বিত।

স্বাধীনতা পরবর্তী সময়ে দেশের ভৌগোলিক অখণ্ডতা ও সার্বভৌমতু অক্ষুন্ন রাখার পাশাপাশি সীমান্ত সুরক্ষা, চোরাচালান রোধ, মাদক ও নারী-শিত পাচার রোধে বিজিবি 'সীমান্তের অতন্ত্র প্রহরী' হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করে যাছে। জুলাই-আগস্টে ছাত্র-শ্রমিক-জনতার গণঅভ্যুখান পরবর্তী সময়ে সীমান্তবর্তী এলাকাসহ সারাদেশের আইন-শৃঞ্জলা পরিস্থিতি নিয়ন্ত্রণে এবং সাম্প্রতিককালে দেশের দক্ষিণ-পূর্বাঞ্চলে ভয়াবহ বন্যা পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলায় বিজ্ঞিবি'র ভূমিকা সর্বমহলে প্রশংসিত হয়েছে।

বিজিবি'র সদস্যরা দেশের স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমতৃ সমুদ্রত রাখতে সর্বোচ্চ দেশপ্রেম, নিষ্ঠা, আন্তরিকতা ও পেশাদারিত্বের সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করবেন-এটাই সকলের প্রত্যাশা।

আমি বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ-এর সার্বিক সাফল্য এবং উন্তরোপ্তর সমন্ধি কামনা করছি।







মাননীয় প্রধান উপদেষ্টার প্রতিরক্ষা ও চীয় সংহতি উদ্ভৱন বিষয়ক বিশেষ সহকারী প্ৰসাহাৰ বাংলাদেশ সৱকাৰ

'বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ দিবস-২০২৪' উদ্যাপন উপলক্ষ্যে এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আন্তরিক ওভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

বর্জার গার্জ বাংলাদেশ একটি আধা,সাম্মবিক বাহিনী হিসেবে সীমার বন্ধায় অভান প্রহরী হিসেবে দায়িতু পালন করে আসছে। এ বাহিনীর রয়েছে ২২৯ বছরের সমৃদ্ধ ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্য। কালের বিবর্তনে ও প্রয়োজনে বিজিবি আজ দেশের শৌর্য-বীর্যের প্রতীক। ামাদের মহান মক্তিয়দ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ভমিকা অবিশ্বরণীয়। মক্তিয়দ্ধে অসামান্য বীরতের জন্য এ বাহিনীর দু'জন বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ ল্যান্স নায়েক নর মোহাম্মদ শেখ এবং ল্যান্স নায়েক মুন্সী আব্দুর রউফসহ ১১৯ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সদস্য খেতাবপ্রাপ্ত হয়েছেন। মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ৮১৭ জন অকুতোভয় সদস্য তাঁদের জীবন উৎসর্গ করে বিজিবি'র ইতিহাসকে করেছেন

দেশের সীমান্তের নিরাপত্তা রক্ষা, মাদক, চোরাচালান, নারী ও শিশু পাচার প্রতিরোধের পাশাপাশি দেশের যে কোনো দর্যোগকালে জনসাধারণের পাশে থেকে উদ্ধার ও ত্রাণ তংপরতায় বিজিবি সদস্যরা অত্যন্ত নিষ্ঠা ও আন্তরিকতার সাথে তাদের দায়িত পালন করে যাচেছ। জননিরাপত্তা ও জনকল্যাণে এ বাহিনীর অবদান বর্তমান প্রেক্ষাপটে অনস্বীকার্য। দেশের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা ও স্থিতিশীলতা রক্ষায় বিজিবি বর্তমান সময়ে অত্যন্ত ওরুতুপূর্ণ ভমিকা রেখে জনগণের আন্তা অর্জনে সক্ষম হয়েছে।

আমি আশা করি, বিজিবি সদস্যগণ সততা, শৃঙ্খলা ও কর্তব্য নিষ্ঠার মাধ্যমে তাদের উপর অর্পিত দায়িতু পালন করে এ বাহিনীর মর্যাদা উত্তরোত্তর বৃদ্ধি করবে। আমি বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ এর অব্যাহত অগ্রযাত্রা এবং সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি। মহান আল্লাহ আপনাদের সহায় হউন।







বঠার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ

'বর্ভার পার্ত্ত বাংলাদেশ (বিজিবি) দিবস-২০২৪' উপসংক্ষ্যে এ বার্হিনীর সকল অফিসার, জুনিয়র কর্মকর্তা, অন্যান্য পদবির সৈনিক ও অসামরিক সদস্যকে জ্ঞান্যই আন্তরিক ওডেক্স্যে ও অভিনন্দন।

বিজিবি দিবসের এই তভক্ষদে আমি গভীর শ্রন্ধার সাথে স্মরণ করছি এ বাহিনীর সকল অকুতোভয় সৈনিকদের

মাণ্ডিখনাক কামনা করছি।
ফুলিখ ২.১৯ বছরের ঐতিহ্যবাহী 'বর্ডার গার্ড বালোদেশ' বর্তমানে একটি আধুনিক, ফুলুজল ও সুস্থাতিত বাহিনী
হিন্তের ব্রতিজিত হয়েছে। দেশের ৪,৪.২৭ বিজোমিটার সুদীর্ঘ সীমান্ত এহরার মাধ্যমে দেশের অবছরা ও
সার্বক্রীমত্ত বক্ষার সুমান দারিক্ত অকার ঘূলতা ও সহকারার সাম্যে পালন করে আগছে 'বীমান্তের অকল্প রাহরী'
বর্ত্তার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ। সোধানালার প্রতিরোধ, মানক ও নারী-দিশ লাচার রোধসহ যেকোনো আন্তর্তারীয়ান্ত
অপরাধ নদনের নাশানালি দেশের অক্যান্তরীর আইনলুজনা রক্ষা এবং প্রাকৃতিক সুর্বোগনহ যেকোনো আন্তর্তারীয়ান্ত
অপরাধ নদনের নাশানালি দেশের অক্যান্তরীর অবানালার বাক্ষা এবং প্রাকৃতিক সুর্বোগনহ যেকোনো জনবার
সিরিন্তির মোকাবিলার মাধ্যমে অনাধানে জানমানের নিমাপতা বিধানে বিজ্ঞানি সকলের আত্ত্য আর্থান করাতে সক্ষম
যাছে। বর্তমান প্রক্রাণার্কী অনুরাধীর অবানা অবানীয়ার বাক্ষান্তর প্রত্তারীয়ার স্থানি করাতে সক্ষম
যাছে। বর্তমান প্রক্রাণার স্থানী সুরক্ষা, কেথানালক্ষান্তর বালীরিত্তা করাত্তার ক্রামান স্থান্তর আর্থানালার বিভিন্ন সন্ত্রাসী সংগঠনের বিক্রমে অভিনালন পরিচালনা এবং পাহাত্তী-বাছালী সংশ্রীতি বক্ষার বিভিন্ন জনসাক্রের তার ভাকনক্যান্তর স্রামান সংগালিক স্বায়াত ভিত্তিক পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলা এবং প্রাপত্তার প্রাধান মাধ্যমানেরে অভান্তরে চালামান সংগালের জেবে স্বায়াতে ভিত্তক পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলা এবং প্রাপত্তার প্রোধন্য মাধ্যমানারের প্রত্তার চিনামানারের স্থানাক্র বিভান করাত্ত বুলিনাক সক্ষান্তর পরিহাতনে ব্যাপক প্রশাস্ত্রীক মাধ্যমানের ক্রেন্তর গালিবার বিভান করাত্তর বিভান ক্রামান্তর সীমান্তর্জন বানান্তর সীমান্তর্কার বানান্তর সীমান্তর্কার বানান্তর সীমান্তর্কার বানান্তর সীমান্তর্কার আনান্তর স্থানান্তর প্রায়ক্ষ বানান্তর প্রায়ন্ত্র বানান্তর প্রায়ন্তর স্বায়ান্তর বানান্তর বানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর সানান্তর্বাত্ত বানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর আর্থানান্তর বানান্তর সীমান্তর্বাত্ত বানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর প্রায়ন্তর সানান্তর বানান্তর সানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর মানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর সানান্তর সান্তর বানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর স্বায়ন্তর স্বায়ন্তর সানান্তর স্বায়ন্তর স্বায়ন্ত্র করে নান্তর বানান্তর আর্ত্তন্তর স্বায়ন্তর স্বায়ন্তর স্বায়ন্ত্র স্বায়ন্তর স্বা আহনপূৰ্ণনা পাৱস্থাত শাৱস্থা, সামান্ত সাতে বিভাকত আন্তৰ্গাৰ সমান্তৰ বোৰ ও আক্তৰ, নামন্তৰকা আনাকৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় বিজিত্ত জৰুপৰ্য স্থাপনা, হাসপাতাল ও শিক্ষ কাকখনাৰ নিৰ্দাপন্ত বিধান, জ্বাস্থানে আহত ছাত্ৰ-জনভাৱত চিকিমনাৰ বাবস্থা ও পুনৰ্বামন, দুৰ্গাপুজানৰ সংখ্যালয় সম্প্ৰদায়েৰ নিৰাপত্তা বিধান আহু মাজিতট্টোন ক্ষমভানহ যৌখ অভিযান পৰিতালনায় বিজিবিৰ দক্ষতা ও পেশাদানিত্ব বাগক সমাদৃত হয়েছে। এছাড়া সাম্প্ৰতিকভালে দেশের দক্ষিশ-পুৰক্ষিত্ৰল জ্বামাহ বলান্ত্ৰ অভিযান্ত কংগৰতা, আপনাম্প্ৰীয় বিভৱন এবং বিনামুল্যো চিকিমনানেৰা প্ৰদানে বিজিবিশ্ব ভূমিকা দেশবাসীর ব্যাপক প্রশংসা কুড়িছেছে।

সভতা ও সত্যবাদিতা, আনুগভ্য, নিষ্ঠা এবং শৃক্ষান্য এই চাবটি গুণের সমন্বয়ে বিশ্বিবি'র প্রতিটি সদস্যকে অর্পিত যেকোনো নায়িত্ব পাগনের মাখামেই বিন্ধিবিকে 'সীমান্তের নিরাপন্তা ও আছার প্রতীক' এ রূপ নিতে হবে। আমি বিন্ধিবি'র সকল সদস্য এবং তাদের পরিবাহবর্ষের সর্বাঙ্গীণ সাঞ্চন্য ও কল্যান কামনা করন্তি।









EDITORIAL

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Civil service must not repeat past mistakes

High number of supernumerary promotions raises concerns

It is quite disturbing that the problems that plagued the administration under the ousted Awami League government continue to persist despite promises of change following the mass uprising. According to a report, since the interim government took charge, the number of officials in the upper echelons of public administration has ballooned to over three times the number of approved posts. Thanks to the surge, there are now 467 officers against the 150 additional secretary posts, 861 officers against 250 joint secretary posts, and 1,599 officers against 450 deputy secretary posts. The surplus is largely due to unchecked supernumerary promotions without actual vacancies, which have made the administration further top-heavy. While most of the new promotions may have been intended to address grievances from the AL era, it has ended up creating fresh challenges.

Besides disrupting hierarchy and balances in the administration, this practice causes various logistical challenges, inefficiencies, as well as inter-departmental discord, thanks to feelings of deprivation by other officers. It also means increased burden on the tax-paying citizens. Meritocracy and accountability are the two biggest casualties in such a situation, which is totally unacceptable. Currently, the public administration has 26 cadres. Among them, administration, foreign affairs, and police cadre officers get supernumerary promotions, with the first receiving the majority of promotions. In contrast, officials from other cadres are promoted only when positions are vacant.

Recovering from the fallout of supernumerary promotions may take years as promotions, once given, cannot be taken back. While addressing past grievances over deprived benefits and promotions is important, it must not be at the expense of meritocracy and accountability. Our report cites some cases where officers, once punished for corruption, have been promoted after August 5. The committee formed to address grievances among administration cadre officers deemed to have been deprived in the past also recently recommended compensations, including retrospective promotions, for 764 of them. Surely not all grievances are justified, or deserving of selective intervention, especially if it involves providing unethical benefits or forgetting past transgressions.

Compounding this issue is the controversy surrounding the recent recommendations of the Public Administration Reform Commission. The commission's proposals—including introducing exams for promotions to deputy secretary and joint secretary positions, and ensuring a 50:50 ratio between administration and non-administration cadres for deputy secretary promotions-have sparked outrage among various cadre groups. While these measures aim to promote fairness and competence, resistance from entrenched interests threatens to derail the ongoing reform drive.

This calls for decisive but carefully-thought-out interventions from the authorities, including the reform commission which must prioritise the interests of citizens while formulating policies. The higher authorities also must resist the temptation to appease any interest group, and undertake comprehensive reforms in public recruitment and promotion processes to restore trust in the civil service.

Identify all martyrs of the mass uprising

How else can we honour them for their sacrifices?

The delay in identifying hundreds of individuals killed during the July-August uprising is quite disappointing. According to a Prothom Alo report, 80 unclaimed bodies were buried in July and 34 in August at the burial ground adjacent to the Rayerbazar Mass Killing Site Memorial by the volunteer organisation Anjuman Mufidul Islam. Despite clear evidence that some of the graves at the cemetery contain the remains of those killed in the uprising, the exact number remains

Anjuman Mufidul Islam reported burying 515 unclaimed bodies between January and November, an average of 47 per month. In July, however, the number surged to 80. In August, 34 bodies were buried, with no burial requests made during the first 11 days due to the unrest. Identifying those who died in the protests requires investigation and DNA testing, but progress has been slow. As a result, many protest victims buried in Rayerbazar remain unidentified, leaving their families unable to locate their loved ones' graves or claim compensation. While some families have confirmed through personal efforts that their relatives were buried as unclaimed bodies at Rayerbazar, they remain unable to identify the specific graves.

One such victim is Mahin Mia. His brother, Abdul Jabbar, recounted that they had both participated in a protest at Town Hall in Mohammadpur on July 18. When Mahin did not return home, Abdul searched police stations and morgues in surrounding areas before learning, through photographs from Anjuman Mufidul Islam's office, that Mahin had been killed and buried in Rayerbazar. Fifteen days after Mahin's death, his wife gave birth to their only child. Unfortunately, such heartbreaking stories are quite common, but we are yet to have a comprehensive list of those killed during the uprising.

As of December 18, the Health Directorate's website listed the names and identities of 860 individuals who were killed. Earlier, the health subcommittee for the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement reported 1,581 deaths based on available data. This discrepancy suggests that nearly half of those killed remain unidentified. It is crucial for the government to preserve the graves of the martyrs, including those at Rayerbazar, to allow families to identify them. The government established a Special Cell on the Mass Uprising to create a final list of the deceased, and on November 10, it issued a public notice requesting relatives of individuals who were killed, went missing, were buried as unclaimed, or died during treatment between July 15 and August 5 to register their names. However, as an official from the cell has noted, no significant applications have been received.

Therefore, it is high time the government stepped up efforts to identify those killed. Preserving the memories and graves of these martyrs is essential to honour their sacrifices and provide closure for their families.

Election in first half of '26 is not unreasonable, but Dec '25 is doable

The chief adviser should consider the first option



Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star

MAHFUZ ANAM

Prof Muhammad Yunus has put the election train on track with the option of reaching its destination either in December 2025 or in the first half of 2026. For a country that did not have a proper election for 15 years-three rigged elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024—a six-month time gap should not worry us much. But considering the overall situation, including the economy, lack of investment, law and order, and people's eagerness to see an elected government and parliament installed as early as possible, we think Prof Yunus and his interim government should opt for the first of the two options he has suggested.

And this is why.

The main aim is to have both reforms and an election. Reforms, because we just cannot go back to the past practice of holding an election then allowing the winning party to do whatever it wishes, especially if it has a two-thirds majority. We must amend the constitution to restore checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judiciary, curtail the unilateral power of the prime minister, make the judiciary functionally independent, make the various statutory bodies like the National Human Rights Commission, Information Commission and Election Commission independent, make the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, etc autonomous, and ensure freedom of speech and of the media, among other things. A fundamental reform would be to make the parliament functional and enable it to hold the executive genuinely accountable.

However, as important and crucial as the reforms are, one cannot postpone the elections much further. We need to move away from a makeshift arrangement of an interim government to a more stable one of an elected government, fully backed by the constitution that will give the new government all the legality, legitimacy and prestige of any democratic government in the world. An election is necessary to restore the world's faith in Bangladesh that we can wade through whatever challenges

prove to the world.

Both can be achieved within the next 12 months.

All the main six reform committees, the most important ones as stated by the chief adviser himself, are scheduled to submit their reports by the end of 2024 or maximum by January next

THE THIRD VIEW to comply with the dates suggested farsighted one. by the chief adviser. He also said he would be able to complete updating of the voter list within the next two months. If the Election Commission goes for the more elaborate process of updating the voter list by doing a door-to-door verification process, it still should not take more than six or seven months, which will take us at best to July or August next year.

So, both in terms of the completion of the reform processes and in terms of preparation for the election, the coming 12 months appear sufficient from all counts to go for the polls. Also, the fact that the winter season has traditionally been preferred for

future tenure—a most appreciable and hitherto unprecedented gesture. He also expressed his support for a bicameral legislature for the future. Both these suggestions have farreaching political consequences for us, and clearly shows that the acting chief of today's BNP is thinking ahead. The party's 31-point programme, holding the general elections because which was prepared some time ago, lavs out clearly what the BNP proposes to do once in power. However, we are

> the moon before the election and then forgetting everything once in power. But given the July-August uprising, we hope things will be different this Jamaat has extended a conditional support to the chief adviser's polls plan, with the secretary general saving, "Despite our initial reluctance regarding the delay, we will remain patient as long as the chief adviser honours his commitment to hold elections... we are ready to cooperate

with him." This clearly shows that

Jamaat is not in any hurry. The reason

is obvious: the more time it gets,

the more will Jamaat, as the second

used to our political parties promising

Even before the submission of

the constitutional commission's

recommendations, Tarique has said

he and his party will recommend

two terms for the prime minister, to

be fixed by the constitution. As the

person who may hold that position,

if voted so, he was in fact putting

restrictions on his own possible

biggest party right now, be organised when the election comes. It is our view that smaller parties will acquiesce to the chief adviser's mid-2026 timeline as they may not expect too much from the election and are better off now in terms of being treated on an equal footing with

all others.

Among the most interesting political developments that are likely is the new party planned by the students. It will be interesting to see them emerge as a political force, get voters' support by joining the election, and participate in the governance process, being elected MPs. The new party may bring about a refreshing change in our political scene with new and bold ideas aimed at removing discriminations from our society. However, they would prefer more time to be able to organise themselves better, and hence are opposed to an early election.

Whatever the differing stances of various political parties may be, people in general would, we think, prefer to exercise their franchise to



FILE VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

year. The chief adviser's suggestion about the formation of a consensus commission is, in our view, a brilliant innovation that will help us move towards a stable future. The consensus commission will engage with all the political parties to reach consensus on which recommendations are to be implemented by the interim government-through ordinanceand which are to be left for the elected government. Achieving a consensus among all parties will be a major political goal, which has not been achieved since the allparty charter during the fall of the Ershad government in 1990. Since the chief adviser himself will chair the consensus commission, we feel confident that a positive outcome will certainly emerge.

Coming back to the timeline, if the commission starts its work following the submission of reports by December-January, the interim government will have nearly 10 months to move towards the election.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin said on Tuesday that of the reduced prospect of natural disruptions like rain, floods, cyclones, etc must not be overlooked.

The actors in the political field today are Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islami, and numerous smaller political parties. The new entry, which is likely to be a significant player, is the political party of the student groups that played a decisive role in toppling the old regime. They have declared their intention of forming a political party within a very short time, with its own student wing.

BNP is the party waiting at the doorstep of assuming power. Therefore, its eagerness to push for the earliest timetable for the election is predictable. The speech by Tarique Rahman, the party's acting chairman. on December 18, urging his party members to focus on "reforms and not revenge" deserves commendation. He further said, "If you want to respond to the injustice, oppression and suppression done to you, you should not imitate what they [Awami League] have done. If we do so, there will be no a situation may provide and still the Election Commission has been difference between them and us." This elect their government, something continue in the path of democracy. preparing for the election from the day is a highly refreshing and welcome they have been deprived from for the This is the most important thing to of their taking office, and it is ready position, and a very powerful and last 15 years.

The hidden cost of workplace oppression



is a human rights activist.

TASLIMA TINNI

Beneath the surface of professional relationships lies a troubling culture of psychological oppression, domination, and exclusion. Workplace intimidation remains pervasive and deeply entrenched. Unlike physical violence, this invisible sadism leaves no bruises but profoundly impacts mental health, career progression, and organisational well-being. Alarmingly, such dynamics are not exclusive to male supervisors; women in authority often perpetuate these behaviours, inadvertently upholding patriarchal systems that resist genuine gender equity.

Workplaceviolenceisoftennarrowly defined as physical altercations or blatant harassment. Yet its most insidious form manifests through psychological harm rooted in power imbalances and gender oppression. This systemic violence festers in environments where dominance is normalised, dissent discouraged, and authority unchecked. It corrodes not

broader integrity of workplace culture. At the core of professional hierarchies lies an unequal relationship between supervisors and subordinates. Supervisors, regardless of gender, often misuse power through harmful behaviours shaped by societal conditioning and organisational structures. Male supervisors may psychological violence to

reinforce patriarchal dominance, while female supervisors may adopt authoritarian methods to align with patriarchal leadership standards. This misuse of authority, cloaked as "tough love" or "professional rigour," creates what can be termed "invisible viciousness"-subtle, pervasive, and difficult to challenge.

This harm manifests in various wavs: silencing employees. undermining contributions, blocking career advancement, or perpetuating microaggressions that erode confidence. The psychosocial toll is immense, leaving victims grappling with stress, diminished self-worth, anxiety, and depression. These emotional wounds often go unacknowledged, extending far beyond the workplace and impacting broader organisational potential. As long as these behaviours remain overlooked, true equity and inclusion will remain elusive.

Workplace violence is an extension just mental well-being but also the of societal patriarchy. Historically, workplaces were designed by men, for men. Despite progress, gendered power structures persist, with male supervisors dominating not just through overt acts but also through systematic exclusion of women and gender minorities from decisionmaking, career development, and leadership opportunities.

For women, this psychological

violence has severe consequences. who are labelled "difficult" for Being undermined in meetings or dismissed sends a message that their voices do not matter. Such experiences foster a culture of silence and fear, stifling ambition and creating long-term mental health challenges. Women are often made to feel lucky to have a seat at the table instead of empowered to lead it. This diminishment chips away at confidence, amplifies stress, and fuels burnout, yet it is rarely addressed in workplace policies.

One significant arena for this invisible violence is participation in decision-making. Women frequently find their ideas sidelined or accredited to male colleagues, their expertise dismissed, or their efforts blocked. For supervisees under patriarchal leadership, this violence takes the form of micromanagement, constant monitoring, or outright dismissal of their capabilities. Such domination fosters isolation, silences dissent and discourages victims from speaking up due to fear of retaliation.

Internalised patriarchy compounds these issues, as societal norms pit women against each other as competitors rather than collaborators. Women leaders face a double bind: labelled "too soft" or "too aggressive," they often adopt harsher leadership styles to prove their competence. Studies show women managers are 40 percent more likely than men to face criticism for their leadership approach, prompting authoritarian behaviours that perpetuate patriarchal systems.

Organisational blind spots further enable harm. Emotional harassment is addressed in only 20 percent of global workplace policies, and accountability is often weak unless scandals emerge. In patriarchal cultures, leadership is supervisees—particularly women-

challenging authority. This toxic cycle sustains inequality and undermines workplace well-being.

Despite moral and legal obligations to address workplace violence, existing safeguards are ill-equipped to handle gender-based psychological violence. Policies typically focus on overt harassment, ignoring subtler forms of harm. Worse, reporting mechanisms often retraumatise victims, especially when the accused is a supervisor with institutional backing.

To create truly inclusive and safe workplaces, organisations must adopt a holistic view of violence. Safeguards must extend to subtle oppression, holding supervisors accountable for exclusion, favouritism, or verbal abuse. Anonymous reporting systems, gender-sensitivity training, and external audits are essential to identify and address systemic power abuses.

Real change requires acknowledging the prevalence psychological violence and dismantling its roots in patriarchal power structures. It is not enough to celebrate token achievements or count women in leadership roles. The real work lies in confronting the invisible barriers perpetuating harm, particularly in supervisor-supervisee relationships.

True gender equality demands more than policies-it requires a cultural shift in how power is understood, shared, and exercised. Only by addressing the systemic violence woven into workplace hierarchies can organisations create environments that foster equity, inclusion, and well-being. collective psychosocial addressing these dimensions, the cycle of invisible equated with dominance, silencing violence will continue to sabotage the progress we desperately need.

Our expectations of this government should match its competence



a former international human rights lawyer and head of research at Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), is the author of the novel In the Light of What We Know.' His Facebook handle is @ZiaHaiderRahmanBD.

ZIA HAIDER RAHMAN

However lacklustre the interim should temper expectations: in the government might seem today, it is still the best government one could have hoped for in August, Amid the chaos, an administration was cobbled together and appointments made with only such care and political acumen as an academic and his confidantes could muster under pressure.

Prof Muhammad Yunus was, of course, the right person at the right moment. He brought huge symbolic power, and, more importantly for a mandate, he enjoyed the respect of the student movement that had led the revolution, suffered for it, and had thereby come to define the nation's moral compass. But, even as we fully supported Yunus's leadership, older observers no doubt recalled the professor's abortive attempt 17 years ago to start a party. The hope this time around was that an older and wiser Yunus would enlist enough talent to make up for any shortfall in capability and vision.

The availability and conscription of talent has been an issue. In the first few months, a number of senior appointments were made only for the appointee to withdraw their name within days. And there has been a failure to recruit people with requisite skills into poorly paid government and agency roles relating to finance and economics, such as at the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.

Moreover, if diaspora associations of Bangladeshis are to be believed, the interim government has failed to avail itself of the country's brain drain of talented Bangladeshis who left for American universities and then went on to develop skills in demanding professional roles abroad, but who, apparently, stood ready to return and provide their services *pro bono* publico. But quality was never the priority in exigent circumstances. This was and remains an emergency government.

If we grasp that our expectations were unrealistic, a decline in our expectations of the interim government need not entail a sense of disappointment. In a recent interview with the editor of this daily, the chief adviser issued a corrective, again, when he said, "We are not rulers but facilitators." This is hardly the revolutionary rhetoric of radical reform; our expectations should correspond accordingly.

What expectations, then, should we have? Told repeatedly to vest hope in various commissions, we might have looked to their terms of reference. But, despite promises, terms were never published, and it now appears none of the commissions received any.

Mercifully, if promises are kept, we are only two or so weeks from recommendations key commissions. But, again, we

same aforementioned interview, the chief adviser emphasised that recommendations would be acted on if and only so far as consensus among political parties allowed. In recent comments, he added that another commission would be formed, this time to build such consensus. And, in a dramatic turn, he indicated that elections might come as early as the end of 2025, which immediately had many wondering whether anything more than anaemic reforms could achieve sufficient political consensus to be pushed through in under a year.

political party might seem slow in coming, but, in fact, both the student movement and the government may regard it as in their respective interests to delay such launch. For one thing, the movement would lose its authority as the nation's independent moral compass above the party fray. For another, since this authority brought Prof Yunus on stage, a fully fledged student political party would deprive the interim government of some of its moral patronage, mandate, and advisers. The prospect is not fanciful of the student movement taking to the streets again, later in the year, this time to demand an ambitious reform programme. It's not even too much of a stretch to imagine the interim government privately welcoming this as a means to overcome institutional sclerosis and break through political resistances to the substantial reform it might

wish to carry through. There are also global reasons to

throated launch of a new student demagogues have marched in with little more to offer than a pretence of upsetting the applecart.

I mention all this because speaking to the business community has concentrated my attention on economic missteps, as has recognising that it's rare—some would say unheard of—for a country to secure liberal democracy without first finding a firm economic foundation. I can't think of any.

Since August, there have been too many economic errors and missed opportunities. One of the world's leading venture capital operations visited Bangladesh to discuss investment in the country. They were not taken seriously, I'm informed, by that tired old Dhaka elite we're all familiar with, an elite that stands to lose some privileges when or if Bangladesh enters the next phase of economic development, a phase in which, among other things, investment capital must be better able to reach the best and the brightest, and, incidentally, stem the drain of talent.



Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus is sworn in as the chief adviser of the interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin in Dhaka on August 8, 2024.

short timetable than leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement, and the Bangladesh Students' Union all demanded that key reforms be completed before holding elections.

It is increasingly apparent that the student movement could emerge next year as the interim government's greatest critics. Driven by a sense of justice, not least to honour the sacrifices of their peers, will students abide anything less than radical reforms? Adviser Nahid Islam, for instance, has scarcely been shy with talk of banning political parties and punishing journalists deemed to have aided the former regime. His public remarks have often been hastily followed by other advisers' efforts to roll back what he said.

The dynamic between the interim government and the student movement may yet decide the former's fate. To some, a full-

aspires to have liberal democracybroadly speaking, democratic pluralism with the rule of law and protections for the rights of minorities—it will be swimming against the global current. These days, the US, France, Germany, and a host of other countries (such as South Korea) are hardly resounding advertisements liberal for democracy. Liberal democracy is losing or loosening its moorings, in countries where one might once have naively thought a version of liberal democracy had achieved permanence, marking an end to a history of grand, ideological

The theme throughout is the failure of a global economic order to deliver to most citizens; the majority in the US, the UK, France and elsewhere have seen no real growth in household incomes in decades—in the case of the US, for well over three decades. In a climate of economic insecurity one keen to see the nation flourish and disappointment, right-wing would want its return.

No sooner had the chief adviser manage our expectations of the I reflect more and more on what mentioned the prospect of a interim government. If Bangladesh brought us here in the first place. Against a backdrop of massive and rising youth unemployment and an economy stalling for two years after a long period of growth, students took to the streets protesting a quota system that blocked one of the few routes to a measure of personal economic security.

Change will take time and will require competences yet to come. We can look forward to the imminent recommendations of commissions, we can even hope for great things in the years ahead, but we should temper our expectations of the administration before us now. Unless we shift our horizons and look to the longer term for transformation, the risk of disappointment will loom large. Such disappointment is the breeding ground for the authoritarianism that has swept over so much of the world. Bangladeshis already know what authoritarianism looks like. No

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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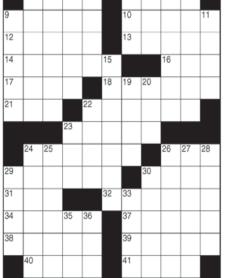
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36 Dissenting



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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

REMEMBERING SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED A life fulfilled

one of Bangladesh's most distinguished economists and a celebrated public intellectual, is founder and chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

REHMAN SOBHAN

Oxford, though our paths had Chattogram, a position that placed him within a distinct social circle. However, Abed had already begun to transcend those boundaries. Mutual friends, Viqar and his wife, had spoken to me about his involvement in relief efforts following the devastating cyclone of 1970. He had mobilised a group of like-minded individuals to address the crisis, which deeply impressed me. Here was a corporate executive stepping beyond his domain to directly engage with a national

Unbeknownst to me, Abed's commitment was only deepening. When the Liberation War erupted, he made the remarkable decision to resign from Shell, relocate to London, and immerse himself in the cause. London was a hub of activity for the liberation movement, with numerous groups working under the leadership of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury. The environment was fragmented, with each faction pursuing its agenda, often casting aspersions on others' motives. It was in this complex setting that I reconnected with Abed.

Abed sought me out at Oxford, accompanied by his close associate Marietta. They were actively channelling resources to those affected by the genocide in Bangladesh. His approach twofold: immediate relief long-term planning. Even amid the uncertainty of July-August 1971, Abed was optimistic about liberation and was already contemplating the kind of society we would want to build in a free

Bangladesh. discussions were speculative as the future of Bangladesh remained unclear. The economy was in disarray, and the social fabric had been torn apart by war. Yet, what stood determination become a catalyst for change. He belonged to a new generation that sought not merely envision

I first met Fazle Hasan Abed at aimed to empower the landless by enabling them to sell water to briefly crossed before. At the time, landowners, faltered due to the he was an executive at Shell in entrenched power hierarchies in rural Bangladesh. Still, Abed's willingness to take risks, adapt, and learn remained unshakeable.

I vividly recall his support when I sought to establish the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The idea was modest: to create a platform for public discourse and policy innovation. Abed was among the first to back the initiative, contributing generously and without hesitation. His commitment to fostering dialogue and intellectual growth was emblematic of his broader vision: encouraging systemic change through collective effort and shared knowledge.

One defining aspect of Abed's leadership was his adaptability. He understood that sustainable development required innovative, self-sustaining models rather than perpetual reliance on donor funding. He was acutely aware of shifting donor priorities and adept at aligning BRAC's initiatives with emerging trends.

An illustrative example was the one-room schoolhouse initiative. My cousin, Kaniz Fatema, was involved in this project, which drew inspiration from successful models in Pune, India. Abed strategically delayed scaling up the programme until education became a priority for the donor community. When the time was right, he secured significant investments, transforming it into a cornerstone of BRAC's work.

Abed's entrepreneurial spirit extended beyond BRAC. He understood the importance of aligning his initiatives with global trends and donor interests. When

the world's focus shifted from microfinance to education in the 1990s, Abed capitalised on the moment. His one-room school project, which began as a modest experiment, grew into cornerstone BRAC's educational endeavours. Abed was more than a social



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (April 27, 1936 - December 20, 2019) SOURCE: BRAC

transformation but to actively participate in it.

After liberation, Abed returned to Sylhet. There, he embarked on what can only be described as a revolutionary journey, immersing himself in rural Bangladesh—a stark contrast to his previous corporate life. The challenges were that impactful change could be immense: a shattered economy, devastated communities, and a nascent government struggling to take shape. Yet, through trial and error, Abed persevered. Whether experimenting with microfinance, initiating one-room schools or rebuilding livelihoods, he was guided by a singular principle: bringing about incremental, sustainable change. His work in Sylhet laid the foundation for BRAC, which would go on to become the world's largest NGO.

Each step Abed took was original and daring. He did not merely adopt tried-and-tested methods; he invented new pathways. His approach to microfinance, for example, emerged as a pioneering model that would eventually enduring inspiration, reminding uplift millions. Yet, not all his experiments succeeded. The deep

entrepreneur; he was a visionary leader who could have excelled in any corporate boardroom. His business acumen, coupled with an unwavering commitment to social justice, made him a transformative figure. He was a pioneer of social entrepreneurship, demonstrating achieved through innovative, sustainable practices. His initiatives improved the lives of millions, not only in Bangladesh but globally.

What distinguished Abed was his relentless pursuit of fulfilment. He derived satisfaction not from wealth or accolades, but from the tangible impact of his work. By the time of his passing, Abed had touched countless lives, leaving behind a legacy of hope and progress.

In reflecting on his life, I am struck by the profound sense of accomplishment he must have felt. Fazle Hasan Abed departed this world as a fulfilled human being—a rare and extraordinary achievement. His life serves as an us of the power of vision, resilience, and unwavering commitment to tube-well programme, which the greater good.

Almost 90pc of Tk 2,254cr loan to Sikder Group sours

FROM PAGE 14

companies of the business ensure that the loans are without collateral, with Tk 438.46 crore now outstanding.

without collateral; its family until September -outstanding amount is Tk 238.56 crore

The Dilkusha branch against Tk 54.85 crore to recover the money as per collateral value; its dues the central bank circular. now stand at Tk 228.70 crore, the inspection report showed.

disbursed Tk 150 crore the inspection report said. to Sikder Group against Tk 11.11 crore as collateral value; the outstanding amount is Tk 248.73 crore. It issued nine bank guarantees worth Tk 153.80 crore to the group against only Tk 8.69 crore as margin.

As per Credit Risk for banks introduced by the Bangladesh Bank, the obtain invoices related to

other

violence against the anti-

discrimination student-

FROM PAGE 14

institutions.

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GD-1229

disbursing the amount. some cases, the mortgaged Besides, the lender must any being used for the approved overvalued. purposes.

did not follow this, as per the report.

A bank can take legal disbursed Tk 103.04 crore action against borrowers In practice, FSIB waived the interest of Sikder Group.

This activity went The Banani branch against depositor interest,

> inspection found that the loans or investment accounts of the borrower were not properly classified and the lender did not report to the credit information bureau in line with the guidelines of the central bank.

It also found that the Management guidelines loans or investments were disbursed without adequate collateral and bank was supposed to in some cases, scheduled properties were not the purpose of the loans mortgaged against the

a close ally of the fascist

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will take further necessary

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According

reasons statement, if any professional

misusing her card justified, they can

cancelling the journalist does not consider

and smuggling information regime, and spreading government rumours.

negative role, inciting writing. The department

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properties accepted by the bank as collateral were

bank issued However, FSIB -- whose pay orders in favour of The Dhanmondi branch board consisted of five companies of the group for disbursed Tk 174.92 crore members of the S Alam the purchase of Murabaha investment without confirming the actual purchase and sale, which is a violation of Shariah compliance.

It repeatedly extended the tenure of the loans and repayment period and grace period for the client --without following any rules and regulations.

The illegal loan facility to Sikder Group, whose director Parveen Haque Sikder was an AL MP, was provided in exchange for an interest waiver facility to S Alam Group from the National Bank, The Daily Star has learnt from FSIB officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the

As many as 169 current investment before sanction letter and in related to the Sikder Group, comment,

according to the inspection

In 2021, the ailing National Bank, then controlled by the Sikder family, waived Tk 2,283 crore as interest on the loans of eight companies of the S Alam Group.

As of September, the total outstanding loans of FSIB stood at Tk 60,272.17 crore. Of the sum, Tk 12,948.13 crore has become defaulted, which is 21.48 percent of its disbursed loans, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

The majority loans of were taken out by S Alam Group, whose chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam was also the chairman of FSIB until September.

Mohammad Mannan, who succeeded Alam as FSIB's chairman in September, declined to comment on the issue.

FSIB Managing Director Syed Waseque Md Ali and Sikder Group directors and former officials of FSIB Parveen Haque Sikder were directly involved in and Rick Haque Sikder the loan's irregularities could not be reached for

Four migrants die trying to reach Canary Islands

AFP, Madrid

Spanish rescuers yesterday said four sub-Saharan African migrants died attempting to reach the Canary Islands, the latest tragedy in a record year of irregular arrivals in the Wednesday evening.

Atlantic archipelago.

The maritime rescue service said a helicopter picked up one dead migrant and a survivor in Moroccan waters 70 nautical miles east of the island of Lanzarote on

াইলার্ডেন ক্রিবের বিশ্বর

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ সরকারী কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয় আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

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> প্রশান্ত বৈদ্য উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন-৩)



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি মেরামত নং-০১/২০২৪-২০২৫

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8.		এহের স্বতাধিকারীর জেলা	2	পুলিশ সুপার, ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-			
Q.		প্রশাসনিক অনুমোদনের স্মারক ও	:	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা'র স্মা তারিখ ঃ ২২-১০-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।		0,50,8505.080	984,000,5540,5
b .	দরপত্র	মাহবানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	2	मातक नर-२३२४ है,	ग्रातिच-28/३०३१	B 🕾 I	
۹.	দরপত্রে	র পদ্ধতি	8	উন্মক্ত দরপত্র।			
ъ.		ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	8	রাজস্ব খাত।			
b.	দরপত্র	বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	8	০৭/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাক	লীন সময় (ছটির দিন	ব্যতীত)।	
۵٥.	দরপত্র ।	দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	8	০৮/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ বেলা ঃ ১২.৫			
22.	দরপত্র	বাক্স খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	8	০৮/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৪.০০			
32.	দরপত্র	মূল্যায়নের তারিব ও সময়	8	০৯/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১১.০০	ঘটিকায়।		
30.	সিভিউন	বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	o১। গ্র্যাভিশনাল ইন্সপেক্টর জেনারেল , ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স , উত্তরা , ঢাকা। o২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় , গাজীপুর জেলা।			
\$8.	দরপত্র	দাখিলের দ্বান ও ঠিকানা	8	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-২, গাজীপুর।			
	করতে হবে। মাধ্যমে সিভিউলের নির্ধারিত মূ কোন সিভিউল ক্রম করা যাবে ব কর্তৃক (সত্যায়নকারীর নামের র নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেল (৪) ২০,০০,০০০/- (বিশ লক্ষ) টাব পরিশোধের সার্টিফকেট (টিআই রেজিন্ট্রেশনের সার্টিফকেট (৬) পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ ক্রি অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা দ্ববপ্র সিভি				া (২) সকল কাগজ গ লৈ থাকতে হবে) সত আর্থিক সচ্ছলতার ঘণ লর ছিতি আছে মর্মে ব এন নম্বর উল্লেখসহ) পুলিশ বিভাগের নিম া (১০) কালো ভালিব	পত্রের ফটোকপি প্রথ চ্যায়িত করে দাখিল পক্ষে বিগত তিন ম ঢাংক লেনদেনের বি (৬) জাতীয় পরিঃ র্যাণ মেরামত কাজে	াম শ্রেনির গেজেটেড কর্মকত করতে হবে (৩) হালনাগা মাসের লেনদেনসহ হালনাগা বরনী (৫) হালনাগাদ আয়ব চয়পত্র (৭) নবায়নকৃত ভ্যা ব পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (১
36.				কাঞ্জের বিবরণ			
	গ্ৰন্থ নং	কাজে	न्न ना	¥	দরপত্রের জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীম
	3.	ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-২, গাজীপুরের পুলি	न न	াইল ক্যান্টিনের মেরামত কাজ	20,000/-	@00/-	১৪ (চৌদ্দ) দিন
	۹.	ইডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-২, গাঞ্জীপুরের পু			b,000/-	000/-	১৪ (চৌদ্দ) দিন
39.	taxet a	পোস্ট মেরামত কাজ। আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	8	মোঃ মিজানুর রহমান, পুলিশ সুপ	7		
		আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	-	The state of the s	13.1		
Str.	100.00		8	ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-২, গাজীপুর।			
29.	দরপত্র ' মাধ্যম	প্রাহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের	2	20 03020-390600 E-ma	ail: lp2.sp@police	.gov.bd	
20.	বিশেষ	ণঠাকনা	১. দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খোলার দিন অনিবার্য কারণবসতঃ অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী অফিস খোলার দিন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খোলা কার্যক্রম অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ২.কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহে এবং দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোনো কারণ দর্শানো				

বাতীত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

दिमाः भिकानुत त्रहमान) २५११ বিপি-৭৯০৬১১০৭৪১ পুলিশ সুপার ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-২, গাজীপুর।

Graft allegations against Tulip

The allegation triggered a political storm in the UK with the government defending her and the opposition calling on her to come clean.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has given his full support to Tulip Siddiq, reports The Guardian.

official Starmer's spokesperson said the prime minister had full confidence in Siddiq and confirmed that she would continue to handle anticorruption issues.

"The minister has denied any involvement," he said. "Obviously, I can't speak to the Bangladeshi anticorruption commission. and also can't comment unconfirmed media

A source close to Siddiq said these were "trumped up charges".

The Conservatives in the UK immediately seized on the allegations, saying that Hasina and family it was "the latest stain on Keir Starmer's judgment,' reports BBC.

Conservative shadow home office minister Matt Vickers said: "The fact Labour's anti-corruption minister is reportedly embroiled in a corruption case is the latest stain on Keir Starmer's judgement.

"It is high time she came clean. The British public deserve a government that is focused on their priorities, not distracted by yet another scandal."

submission the ACC of Bangladesh has alleged that Siddiq "instrumental in managing the affairs and meetings coordinating with Russian government

The

the £10b Rooppur Power Plant Project deal and members received "30 percent of the embezzled funds in exchange for their mediation".

from 2013 Footage appears to show Siddiq attended the deal's signing by Hasina and Russian at the Kremlin, recorded by the Associated Press.

The BBC understands that Siddiq has not had any contact with the ACC as part of the investigation.

Syed Faruk, who runs the UK branch of Hasina's Awami League party, said the claims were

"fabricated". Siddiq was elected MP for in 2015, the north London of targeting constituency neighbouring opponents.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's seat of Holborn

and St Pancras. Corruption allegations and convictions against top leaders of ousted governments are not new

in Bangladesh. Hasina's predecessor prime minister, Khaleda Zia faced similar charges, President Vladimir Putin which she also dismissed as politically motivated. As did ex-president Hussain Muhammad Ershad, who seized power as head of the army during a bloodless coup in 1982.

Bangladeshi judiciary's independence has long been questioned.

Government often bring judicial reshuffles, with ruling Hampstead and Highgate parties regularly accused

Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) 67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

BCPS No. 355/2024/29556 Date: 12-12-2024

Schedule of FCPS Part-I, FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS written examinations - January, 2025.

FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS and MCPS Examinations.

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
All Subjects	Paper – I	01.01.2025 (Wednesday)	9.00 A.M.	BCPS,
	Paper – II	02.01.2025 (Thursday)	to 12.00 Noon	Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

FCPS Mid-Term Examination

	Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
1. 2. 3.	Anaesthesiology Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics Dermatology & Venereology	Paper – I	01.01.2025 (Wednesday)	9.00 A.M. to 10.40 A.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
11. 12. 13. 14. 15.	Haematology Medicine & Allied Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied Ophthalmology & Allied Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Paediatrics & Allied Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Psychiatry & Allied Radiology & Imaging Radiotherapy Surgery & Allied	Paper – II	02.01.2025 (Thursday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	

FCPS Part-I Examination

Subject	Date & Day	Time	Venue	
Medicine & Allied	04.01.2025 (Saturday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
Biochemistry Dental Surgery (Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics and Prosthodontics) Dermatology & Venereology Microbiology Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Pathology Pharmacology Physiology Psychiatry & Allied Radiology & Imaging	05.01.2025 (Sunday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212	
1. Anaesthesiology 2. Anatomy 3. Community Medicine 4. Family Medicine 5. Forensic Medicine 6. Haematology 7. Ophthalmology & Allied 8. Paediatrics & Allied 9. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 10. Radiotherapy 11. Surgery & Allied 12. Transfusion Medicine	06.01.2025 (Monday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212	

Program for OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS well in advance,

The list of the examinees and the name of the venue of the OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS on the day before examination (after 8.30pm).

The Admit Card for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be available through online only from 20 December 2024 to 02 January 2025 (till completion of the written examination) and for the FCPS Part-I examination will be available through online from 20 December 2024 to 06 January 2025 (till completion of the FCPS Part-I examination). Please visit BCPS website (exams.bcps.edu.bd) and login password protected profile and print admit card. Please contact examination department by 27 December, 2024 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card. Admit Card of January 2025 session is a prerequisite for entering the examination hall.

- No Admit Card will be issued after the deadline.
- No Admit Card will be printed and distributed from BCPS campus.

Instructions for Examinees

- Examinees are requested to report no later than 40 minutes before the scheduled time Carrying mobile phones/laptops/tabs/wrist watch/calculator/other electronic devices/bags/packets/water bottles/beverage cans/lighter/coins/metal objects other than
- keys by the examinees is prohibited. Carrying such materials shall be subject to expulsion from the examination Examinees are not allowed to write anything on the admit card/instruction sheet or keep any other papers. These may lead to the cancellation of the paper
- · FCPS (Final) written qualified examinees have to submit an "Information Update Form" immediately after publication of the written result through a link (https://sds.bcps.edu.bd/bcps-erp/exam-info-update). It is mandatory to submit the form. If found, incorrect information and an incomplete form, the examination will be held up/legal action will be taken against the candidate



GD- 1228

INTERNATIONAL

Won't halt Syria military activity until Kurd fighters 'disarm' Says Turkish defence ministry source

AFP, Istanbul

Ankara will push ahead with its military preparations until Kurdish fighters "disarm", a defence ministry source said yesterday, stressing Turkey faces an ongoing threat along its border with northern Syria.

The comments came as concerns grew over a possible Turkish assault on the Kurdish-held Syrian border town of Kobane, also known as Ain al-Arab, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Manbij.

Turkey has thousands of troops in northern Syria and also backs a proxy force there which has engaged in ongoing clashes with the SDF, a US-backed Kurdishled force that Ankara sees as an extension of its domestic nemesis, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

> Turkey backs a proxy force in northern Syria which has engaged in ongoing clashes with **US-backed SDF**

"The threat posed by the terrorist organisation to our borders and our operation areas in Syria continues," the source said.

PKK/YPG terrorist "Until the organisation disarms and its foreign fighters leave Syria, our preparations and measures will continue within the scope of the fight against terrorism."

Turkey accuses the YPG (the People's Protection Units) -- which makes up the bulk of the SDF -- of being affiliated with the PKK which both Washington and Ankara consider a "terrorist" group.

Since 2016, Ankara has carried out several major operations against the SDF.

But Turkey believes Syria's new rulers and Ankara-backed rebels "will liberate the regions occupied by the terrorist organisation PKK/YPG," the ministry source said.

The fighting between Turkish-backed factions and Syrian Kurdish fighers comes more than a week after rebels toppled Syria's longtime strongman Bashar al-



Yemeni firefighters douse oil tanks with water at a power station that was hit by an Israeli airstrike in the Houthi-run capital

Israel committing 'acts of genocide'

Says HRW over restriction of Gaza water supply

MSF accuses

Israel of 'ethnic

cleansing' in Gaza

REUTERS, The Hague

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday that Israel has killed thousands of Palestinians in Gaza by denying them clean water which it says legally amounts to acts of genocide and extermination.

"This policy, inflicted as part of a mass killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, means Israeli authorities have committed the crime against humanity of extermination, which

is ongoing. This policy

also amounts to an 'act of genocide' under the Genocide Convention of 1948," Human Rights Watch said in its report.

Israel has repeatedly rejected any accusation of genocide, saying it has respected international law and has a right to defend itself after the cross-border Hamas-led attack from Gaza on October 7, 2023.

In a statement on X. Israel's foreign ministry wrote: "The truth is the complete opposite of HRW's lies."

Although the report described the deprivation of water as an act of genocide, it noted that proving the crime of genocide against Israeli officials would also require establishing their intent. It cited statements by some senior Israeli officials which it said suggested they "wish to destroy Palestinians"

which means deprivation of water "may amount to the crime of genocide".

In a separate report released yesterday, Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

accused Israel of causing widespread devastation in Gaza and noted "signs of ethnic cleansing" in the north of the Palestinian territory.

"What we have found is that the Israeli government is intentionally killing Palestinians in Gaza by denying them the water that they need to survive," Lama Fakih, Human Rights Watch Middle East director told a press conference.

Five killed as Indian soldiers battle rebels in J&K

AFP, Srinagar

Indian security forces in Kashmir yesterday killed at least five suspected gunmen in ongoing clashes, the army said, the latest outbreak of violence in the disputed Muslimmajority Himalayan region.

"Five terrorists have been neutralised by the security forces in the ongoing operation", the Indian army's Chinar Corps said, adding that two soldiers had been wounded in the firefight.

Half a million Indian troops are deployed in the far northern region, battling 35-year insurgency in which tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebels have been killed, including at least 120 this year.

Myanmar junta pushed polls plan in talks with neighbours

Sri Lanka navy to aid boat of 100 Rohingya refugees

REUTERS, Bangkok

The top diplomat of Myanmar's ruling junta briefed neighbouring countries on its plans to hold an election next year amid an escalating civil war, including potentially inviting foreign poll observers, Thai officials said yesterday.

The junta's Foreign Minister Than Swe outlined a political roadmap and progress on election preparations, including a population census and registration of 53 political parties, said Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa.

"He said there is an intention to invite foreign (election) observers, such as from neighbouring countries," Maris told reporters, referring to Than Swe and providing details of a rare explanation to the international community by the Myanmar junta.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's navy said yesterday it was heading to aid a group of around 100 Rohingya refugees from war-torn Myanmar adrift in a fishing trawler off the Indian Ocean island.

US imposes more sanctions over Pak missile program Islamabad terms the move 'biased'

AFP, Islamabad

government

Pakistan's said yesterday that US sanctions imposed on state-owned and private companies over its longrange ballistic missile programme were "biased" and had "dangerous implications" for regional

The United States announced on Wednesday that four Pakistan companies would be hit by the measures "in light of the continuing proliferation threat of Pakistan's long-range missile development".

The South Asian nation became one of the few countries to openly possess nuclear weapons in 1998, more than two decades after India, its neighbour and arch-rival with which it has fought several wars, announced its atomic capabilities.



Supporters of various left-wing organisations shout slogans during a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, India yesterday, condemning Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Indian social reformer Dr B R Ambedkar in

100 N Korean soldiers dead in Ukraine war

Says South Korea; 1,000 more injured

REUTERS, SEOUL

At least 100 North Korean troops deployed to Russia have been killed with another 1,000 injured in combat against Ukrainian forces in intense fighting in the Kursk region, a South Korean lawmaker said yesterday citing the country's spy agency.

The heavy losses are attributed to the lack of experience by North Korean troops in drone warfare and unfamiliarity with the open terrain where they are taking part in the battle, a member of parliament Lee Seongkweun told reporters.

Lee was speaking after a closed-door briefing by the National Intelligence Service (NIS) to parliament.

the troops killed from that made by a Russia in the war.

US military official who cited several hundred casualties is because of the relatively conservative analysis by the NIS, Lee said. "There was a report that there have been at least 100 deaths and the injured are approaching 1,000," he said.

There are indications that the North is preparing for additional deployment, Lee said, including intelligence of the country's leader Kim Jong Un overseeing training.

The report echoed comments by US and Ukrainian officials that North Korean losses are heavy and that Russia was using them in large numbers in assaults in Kursk, a Russian region where Ukraine launched a cross-border incursion in August.

More than 10,000 North Korean The discrepancy in the estimate of troops have been deployed to help

MASS RAPE TRIAL Pelicot's exhusband jailed for 20 yrs in France

REUTERS, Avignon

A French court yesterday found all 51 defendants guilty in a drugging-andrape case that horrified the world and transformed the victim, Gisele Pelicot, into a stirring symbol of resilience and courage.

Pelicot's ex-husband of 50 years, Dominique Pelicot, had pleaded guilty to drugging her repeatedly for almost a decade to rape her and to offer up her unconscious body for sex to dozens of strangers.

A panel of five judges sentenced him to the maximum 20 years in jail.

াপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

শারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০০.১৩.০২.৫০৫২.২০২৪

তারিখঃ ১৭/১২/২০২৪ খ্রি.

ঃ ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঃ

21	মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগ	8	ছানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, ছানীয় সরকার বিভাগ।
21	সংখ্যুর নাম	8	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
01	দরপত্র আহবানকারী বিভাগ	8	সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
81	ক্রন্য পদ্ধতি	8	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM), সিলগালা যুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান।
¢1	ইজারার মেয়াদ	8	কার্যাদেশের তারিখ থেকে পরবর্তী ০১ (এক) বছর।
હા	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	00	ব্যক্তির ক্ষেত্রে- (ক) পাসপোর্টের সাইজের ছবি-০২ কপি (খ) ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর, চেয়ারম্যান/১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি (গ) হালনাগাদ টি,আই,এন সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে (ঘ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (ঙ) ইজারা দরের ৩০% সমুদর পে-অর্ভার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে, ২৫% অর্থ ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে সমন্বয় করা হবে এবং বাকী ৫% অর্থ জামানত হিসেবে সংরক্ষিত থাকবে (চ) সিডিউল্কয়ের চালানের ফটোকপি।
٩١	সিডিউলের টাকা জমা দেয়ার খাত	8	মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, চলতি হিসাব নং-২০০০১৭৮৩৯ (বিবিধ), সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ, নগর ভবন শাখা।
Ъ١	দরপত্র বিক্রিব ছান	00	বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ; ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পতি বিভাগ, হিসাব বিভাগ ও সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
۱ ه	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার ছান	8	বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ; ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পরি বিভাগ ও সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
۱ ٥٥	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	8	প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ৪র্থ তলা, রুম নং-৩২৫, নগর ভবন, ঢাদসিক।

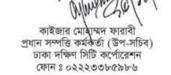
১১। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের তারিখ, দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও খোলার সময় নিমুরূপ ঃ

রপত্র আহ্বানের দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের পর্যায় শেষ তারিখ		দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র বাব্র ও খাম খোলার তারিখ ও সময় (দরদাতার উপস্থিতিতে)
১ম পর্যায়	৩০/১২/২০১৪ খ্রি.	৩১/১২/২০২৪ খ্রি. সকাল ৯.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০ টা পর্যন্ত	৩১/১২/২০২৪ খ্রি. দুপুর ২.৩০ টা
২য় পর্যায়	১৫/০১/২০১৫ খ্রি.	১৬/০১/২০১৫ খ্রি. সকাল ৯.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০ টা পর্যন্ত	১৬/০১/২০২৫ খ্রি. দুপুর ২.৩০ টা
৩য় পর্যায়	৩০/০১/২০১৫ খ্রি.	৩১/০১/২০২৫ খ্রি. সকাল ৯.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০ টা পর্যন্ত	৩১/০১/২০১৫ খ্রি. দুপুর ২.৩০ টা

১২। কাজের বিবরণ:

ক্র. নং	ইজারার বিবরণী	সরকারী মূল্য	সিডিউল মূল্য	
٥٥.	মালিটোলা পার্কের অভ্যন্তরে কফি শপ ও পাবলিক টয়লেট	২,৯৪,৭৩৩/-	3,200/-	এ বিষয়ে যাবতীয়
٥٤.	জ্যোড় পুকুর খেলার মাঠের পশ্চিম অংশে নির্মিত কফিশপ এবং পাবলিক টয়লেট	4,87,020/-	١,٥٥٥/-	শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী নগর ভবনের ৪র্থ
00.	মৌলভীবাজার কাঁচাবাজার	-\০০৪, ৩৫, ৩৫	20,000/-	তলায় সম্পত্তি
08.	শনির আখড়া কাঁচাবাজার	১,৪৫,৩০,২৩৪/-	২৯,৮০০/-	বিভাগ হতে
00.	উত্তর পশ্চিম যাত্রাবাড়ীছ আইডিয়াল স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ সংলগ্ন পাবলিক টয়লেট	-/990, 48, 0	3,800/-	- (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) জানা
06.	১০ নং , আউটফল স্টাফ কোয়ার্টারের পুকুর	৫,৭৬,৯৯৪/-	3,500/-	যাবে।

১৩। বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলীঃ সরকারী ছুটি/অনিবার্য কারণবশত নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে ও একই সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যেকোন দরপত্র/সমুদয় দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ রাখেন। টেভার সংক্রান্ত



ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১৬৪/২০২৪-২০২৫

LAW REVIEW

Revisiting the Draft Personal Data Protection Act 2023



DR. MD. TORIQUL ISLAM

In digital age, personal data fuels the online ecosystem while also raising privacy concerns. To address this issue, Bangladesh aims to strengthen its data privacy framework by adopting the draft Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (PDPA). The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (EU) serves as a global benchmark for data protection, influencing privacy laws worldwide through its robust framework and the European Commission's adequacy status. However, the current draft of the PDPA falls short of the GDPR's rigorous standards for the following to the identification of the natural

The first concern is regarding the by the government in the official To align with global best practices, it is recommend a minimum two-year grace more emphasis on 'personal' data over period for preparation. For instance, 'data' as a whole.

the EU GDPR was adopted on 14 April 2016 and took effect on 25 May 2018, providing over two years for compliance preparation.

The draft Act also inadequately emphasises 'personal data' over 'data'. Indeed, the primary focus of a robust data protection law is 'personal data,' as it seeks to protect individuals' privacy and prevent the misuse of their personal information. To effectively protect 'personal data,' it must be explicitly defined. However, the draft PDPA's definition of personal data in section 2(o) is ambiguous, covering legal persons along with natural persons and lacking any reference

Furthermore, the draft PDPA lacks a clear articulation of the key data protection principles established by the OECD Privacy Guidelines of 1980, which were later adopted by dominant data protection regulations, such as the GDPR. To align with global standards, the PDPA should explicitly incorporate GDPR-aligned principles, including lawfulness, fairness, transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity and confidentiality, and accountability.

The next concern is regarding an independent data protection board. provisions for establishing an independent data protection authority are essential for the persons it seeks to protect from data unbiased enforcement of privacy breach. Conversely, the GDPR in Article laws and the protection of citizens' grace period. Section 1(2) of the latest 4(1) precisely defines 'personal data' rights. While Section 35 of the draft draft of the PDPA, states that the bill as any information that can identify a PDPA details the composition and will take effect on a date specified natural person, directly or indirectly. operations of the Data Protection PDPA grants foreign data subjects in enhancing global trade relations. Board, it lacks explicit guarantees of Bangladesh the same data protection gazette. International best practices necessary that the proposed bill puts the agency's independence. Without rights but lacks details on enforcement The writer is an Assistant Professor clear safeguards for autonomy, there and exceptions. The PDPA should

could undermine its impartiality as a regulatory body.

Moreover, the draft PDPA conflates 'anonymised' and 'pseudonymised' data, although they are distinct. Pseudonymised data can still identify individuals through additional information and remains subject to data protection laws, while anonymised data cannot be traced back and is not subject to these laws. Hence, the PDPA should clarify that these terms are not interchangeable.

Yet another area of concern is the data localisation principles that by default,' which integrate privacy the draft bill embodies. Sections 50 and 51 of the draft PDPA restrict the transfer of government-classified data outside Bangladesh, except in specific circumstances like international trade or under international agreements. While data localisation policies can be motivated by privacy and security concerns, they often fail to effectively protect data privacy and can negatively impact economic activities, as demonstrated by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Section 28 of the draft PDPA mandates data-fiduciary (upatta iimmadar)to notify the Data Protection Board within 72 hours of a data breach, enforcement. similar to the GDPR. However, it lacks provisions for notifying affected individuals in high-risk cases that could impact data subjects' fundamental rights. The draft should be amended

criteria for foreign data subjects, and potential limitations to enhance clarity and transparency.

The draft PDPA excessively relies on rule-making powers, which may lead to broad, potentially misused interpretations. Without mandatory publication requirements, there's risk of executive overreach. Before Parliamentary approval, the PDPA's rule-making provisions should be limited, well-defined, and transparent. The bill also lacks any specific provision on 'data protection by design and measures from the outset, ensuring automatic protection of personal data. While Article 25 of the GDPR mandates this, the current PDPA should also include similar provisions.

Yet another area of concern is the many exemptions that the bill provides for. Section 33 of the draft PDPA grants exemptions to government agencies for specific data processing activities, including crime prevention or investigation, health data, research, and journalism. Section 34, however, permits additional exemptions via the official Gazette, raising concerns about transparency and potentially weakening data protection

In conclusion, while the draft PDPA represents a positive step towards establishing a comprehensive data protection regime in Bangladesh, it requires significant improvements

While the draft PDPA represents a positive step towards establishing a comprehensive data protection regime in Bangladesh, it requires significant improvements to align with global standards. The adjustments outlined in this write-up will strengthen Bangladesh's data protection framework, align it with international standards, and help secure an adequacy decision from the European Commission, thereby enhancing global trade relations.

to include such provisions, ensuring to align with global standards. The transparency, accountability, and alignment with the international best practices.

is a risk of conflict of interest that clearly outline enforcement processes,

adjustments outlined in this writeup will strengthen Bangladesh's data protection framework, align it with Notably, the draft bill also falls international standards, and help short on protecting rights of foreign secure an adequacy decision from data subjects. Section 17 of the draft the European Commission, thereby

> at the School of Law, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

LAWS OF WAR

Understanding the Syrian Armed Conflict

MD. SIAM SHAFI

Rebel forces, particularly Havat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and the Syrian National Army (SNA), carried out an offensive that ended the 50 years of the Assad family's authoritarian rule in Syria. An armed coalition, supported by both state and nonstate actors, was involved in this offensive.

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) classifies two types of armed conflicts: International Armed Conflict (IAC) and Non-international Armed Conflict (NIAC). Common Article 2 of the Geneva Conventions defines international armed conflicts as all instances of declared war or any other armed conflict that may occur intervention is involved. This requires between two or more high contracting parties (i.e., States), whether or not one party recognises the state of war. On the other hand, Article 1 of the Additional Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions defines non-international armed conflict as all instances of armed conflict that may occur between state forces and non-state forces or between such non-state forces in the territory of any high contracting party (i.e., State). We cannot simplistically categorise the Syrian conflict as either IAC or NIAC alone as the Syrian conflict simultaneously demonstrates the traits of both IAC and NIAC.

Many armed forces were involved in the Syrian conflict, including state and nonstate actors. The Assad regime received support from Russia and Iran to fight against many rebel factions. HTS is the Sunni Islamist paramilitary organisation that led the recent offensive and overthrew of Assad. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) is a Kurdish-dominated coalition of ethnic militias whose military aim is to defeat IS, which controls the northeastern part of Syria. The Free Syrian Army (FSA), a loose umbrella group of armed northern Syrian opposition factions, formed the Syrian National Army (SNA), a Turkishbacked coalition, which collaborated with other rebels, including HTS, to overthrow

The involvement of a foreign state in a non-international armed conflict presents a significant challenge for IHL in classifying these types of armed conflicts. A noninternational armed conflict becomes an international armed conflict when foreign "overall control" on part of the foreign state as stated by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia Appeal Chamber in the Prosecutor v Dusko Tadic case. According to the Tadic Appeal Chamber decision, the degree of support, such as military, financial, logistical,

> The involvement of a foreign state in a noninternational armed conflict presents a significant challenge for IHL in classifying these types of armed conflicts. A non-international armed conflict becomes an international armed conflict when foreign intervention is involved.



political, etc., is required to transform an instructions for the commission of specific NIAC into an IAC. The Appeal Chamber

further stated that: "In order to attribute the acts of a military or paramilitary group to a state, it must be proved that the state wields overall control over the group, not only by equipping and financing the group but also by coordinating or helping in the general planning of its military activity. Only then can the State be held internationally accountable for any misconduct of the group. However, it is not necessary that, in addition, the State should also issue, either to the head or to members of the group,

acts contrary to international law."

Therefore, when a foreign state supports a non-state party through military, financial, logistical, political, and other means, we can say that the foreign state has overall control over that non-state armed group, thereby transforming an NIAC into an IAC.

The initial nature of the Syrian conflict was non-international, as it involved the Assad government and certain rebel groups. However, the question remains whether the conflict will remain noninternational following the intervention of foreign states that have supported the rebel **BRAC university.**

and the Shia Islamist militia Hezbollah backed the Assad regime. Various state parties, including Turkey, Israel, the United States, the Netherlands, and many others, backed the rebel groups. Turkey has played a crucial role as the primary external supporter of the rebel faction since 2011. Turkey has provided arms, military, and political support to rebel factions, the majority of which still operate under the Syrian National Army (SNA) banner. Also, Turkey maintains a military presence in northwest Syria and extends support to certain rebel factions, including the SNA. In addition to providing the groups with the necessary equipment, it seems that Turkey was also actively coordinating and assisting in the planning of their overall military operations. The supply of modern weapons, strategic assistance, and the verifiable increase in military capabilities suggest a further degree of overall coordination. In my opinion, this level of coordination goes beyond the provision of mere material support and transforms the character of the Syrian conflict from NIAC to IAC.

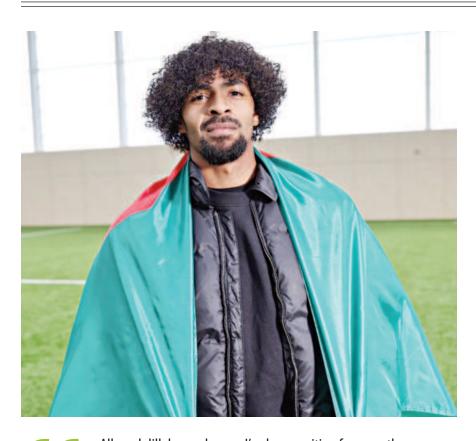
groups through various means. Iran, Russia,

In conclusion, the International Humanitarian Law does not provide any explicit provision for neatly distinguishing a non-international armed conflict (NIAC) from an international armed conflict (IAC). In author's view, factual categorisation classifies situations like the Syrian conflict as international, while a specifically legal categorisation classifies it as noninternational.

The writer is final year law student,

T Sports BPL football Abahani vs Bashundhara Live from 2:30 pm

Sony Sports 5 U-19 Women's Asia Cup India vs Sri Lanka Live from 7:30 am Bangladesh vs Nepal Live from 12:00 pm



Alhamdulillah, good news. I've been waiting for more than oneand-a-half years for this news to come. He will definitely be a great addition and a big boost for the team. I'm very happy for him and Bangladesh, I think he himself is feeling honoured and even more proud to represent Bangladesh now.

JAMAL BHUIYAN, Bangladesh captain

Leicester City's Hamza now Bangladesh's too

"Hi everyone. It's Hamza here. So happy that everything's over the line. Can't wait to play for Bangladesh. Hopefully see you guys soon."

Hamza Choudhury's video message

"Hamza Choudhury has officially made the decision to represent Bangladesh at international level. The Leicester City player has been flying the flag for Bangladeshi footballers everywhere since making his Premier League debut in 2017.

"Back then, Choudhury became the first player of Bangladeshi heritage to play in the top flight of English football. But today's news marks the first time in history a Premier League footballer will play for the Bengal Tigers.

"Every step Choudhury has taken in his career has led him to this milestone moment. From annual visits to his local village back home in Bangladesh as a kid, to captaining and winning the FA Cup with his boyhood club, Leicester City. In an exclusive interview with VERSUS, the 27-year-old discusses his decision to represent Bangladesh, what can be done to make football more accessible for South Asian footballers and the responsibility that comes with being the first Bangladeshi to play in the Premier League."

HAMZA CHOUDHURY'S SOCIAL MEDIA POST

All the players and the whole nation have been waiting for him. It is a very positive news for the national team and the nation. Hamza plays in the world's strongest league, EPL, for Leicester City and his decision to represent Bangladesh will encourage other overseas and local players.

> **TOPU BARMAN** National team defender

NCL T20 league phase ends with plenty of promise

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Cricket League (NCL) T20 has provided a laudable setting for Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to gauge performances in the shortest format with plenty of new names coming into focus and selectors getting to see players perform

The tournament itself carries weight in terms of readying players for international cricket. In the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the main goal of franchises is not to develop talents to serve the greater interest of Bangladesh cricket, but to field the team that gives them the best chances of lifting the trophy.

Even in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL), a competitive fervor overtakes everything as teams overlook young players in favour of aged stars who provide more solidity.

But young players getting sidelined in these competitions has resulted in the creation of a weak pipeline of players in the T20 format for Bangladesh, for which the Tigers have struggled plenty in international cricket.

The NCL T20 has given local players a platform to highlight their capabilities. A player like Akbar Ali for instance, who has not yet lived up to the promise he showed at the Under-19 level, batted at number five in six off his seven innings at the NCL T20 for Rangpur Division and has accumulated 201 runs averaging 50.25 and a strike close to 160



Usually, Akbar bats at number seven in all competitions and as a result finishes lower down the run-scorer's charts. But in the NCL T20, the right-hander, like many others, has flourished.
A BCB official said, "This time a lot of players

are batting higher, Akbar is batting at five. NCL is our tournament, so we can request teams to play some players in certain roles and positions. The selection panel had sought that opportunity with how players had been distributed."

A youngster like Jishan Alam has made a atement, finishing as the top-scorer in the group phase with 281 runs for Sylhet Division and even Under-19 team player Azizul Hakim Tamim has made an impression, finishing fourth in the run-getter's list, much to the delight of the

"We are overall very satisfied with how the tournament has went so far," selector Abdur Razzak told The Daily Star. "We have been able to see a lot of players... It has opened up opportunities for us to watch players and they are proving what they can do."

Yesterday, on the final day of the group-stage in Sylhet, Khulna Division and Chattogram Division joined previously qualified Dhaka Metro and Rangpur Division in the knockout stage. Dhaka Division, despite a 19-run win over Barishal Division, finished fifth with Chattogram edging them in net run rate.

Champions Trophy to be in hybrid model

AFP, KARACHI

India will play next year's Champions Trophy matches on neutral ground after refusing to visit tournament host and arch-rival Pakistan, the International Cricket Council said Thursday following weeks of wrangling.

The announcement ended a month-long standoff after India told the ICC it would not send its team to Pakistan because of security fears and political tensions.

Under the agreement, Pakistan will also play in upcoming ICC tournaments hosted by India in other countries, yet to be decided.

"India and Pakistan matches hosted by either country at ICC Events during the 2024-2027 rights cycle will be played at a neutral venue, the ICC Board confirmed," said a statement released by the council.

"This will apply to the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 (hosted by Pakistan)."

PCB had earlier refused to play the Champions Trophy on a hybrid model but backed down after settling on neutral venues for both sides.

The agreement will extend to the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 hosted by India, and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

The Champions Trophy will also feature Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Denied as a player, Munna finds success as coach in Malaysia

ANISUR RAHMAN

Mohammad Moynul Islam Munna, a Bangladeshi coach who has carved out a career in Malaysia, hardly had a moment to spare as he shuffled from court to court, giving instructions to his Malaysian students who are taking part in ongoing Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Paltan.

Munna, a former junior level shuttler from Bangladesh, arrived in Dhaka as a coach of the seven-member Malaysian contingent taking part in the competition.

His arrival set a rare precedent in the country's badminton, as a coach from Bangladesh, a nation very much in the backwaters of the sport, training a team from Malaysia, who are a leading force in badminton globally, is unusual to say the

Munna's incredible journey from being a Bangladeshi shuttler to a coach in Malaysia began from a rejection he suffered around a decade ago. In 2014, he was denied participation in the National Badminton Championship held in Sylhet, a rejection that disillusioned him and made him search for opportunities

national championship at the eleventh hour. After that, I broke down mentally and left the country the next year," Munna told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

With the help of his coach at the Knit Concern Club Ohiduzzaman Raju, who is also a former national badminton team player, Munna left for Malaysia in 2015 to try his luck as a coach.

The going was not easy for Munna at first, he had to toil hard to establish himself as a coach in Malaysia.

But his hard-work paid off as he became the head coach of the Mauritius badminton team in 2022, a post he held till this year's June before returning to Malaysia to join a prominent academy.

"They [Malaysians] did not accept me initially because I was a coach from Bangladesh. I had to prepare myself over



one-and-half years. I am now the senior assistant coach of New Vision Badminton Academy after working there as a junior team coach," said the Level-1 badminton coach.

Even though he is no longer involved "I wasn't allowed to take part in the 2014 in the local badminton scene, Munna felt sad at seeing Bangladeshi shuttlers, one after another, crashing out of the competition, knowing very well from personal experience the many difficulties a week except Sunday. How can you expect and challenges faced by the badminton players from Bangladesh.

"As a professional coach, I must support my players. But of course, it feels bad when to work in Bangladesh subject to getting you see the Bangladeshi players getting a suitable offer.

eliminated one after another.

"Bangladeshi players like [Khandokar Abdus] Soad, [Abdul Hamid] Lukman, Gourab [Singha] and [Abdul Jahir] Tanvir are talented but they don't get proper training round the year, neither from the federation nor the government. But, if you look at other countries, they have proper training facilities, dormitories and even provide salaries.

"The Bangladeshi players bear their own costs. They play for hire in localities but don't get to play in international tournaments. Everyone just wants to play for hire. It is impossible to progress if you don't have a big aim and don't play in international tournaments."

The lad from Sylhet's Baraikandi area, who once represented Bangladesh at iunior international level, said, "Bangladeshi players are not just lagging behind in training, they are also lagging behind in technique, fitness and spee

"There are good local coaches in Bangladesh and they need to be utilised. You will never get any result on the back of only one or two months' training ahead of international events."

Comparing the badminton scene in Malaysia and Bangladesh, Munna said, "Malaysians start playing badminton from childhood with their family investing a lot on them before the sponsors come in to support the players.

"Our players in Malaysia practice six days something good from the Bangladeshi players on the back of only one month's training," said Munna, expressing desire

'Winning titles at Real easier than elsewhere'

AGENCIES

Carlo Ancelotti became the most decorated coach in Real Madrid's history on Wednesday, after the team's 3-0 victory over Pachuca in the FIFA Intercontinental Cup final made it 15 trophies won with the club.

In two spells in charge at Madrid -- between 2013 and 2015, and from 2021 - Ancelotti lifted three

Champions League trophies, two LaLiga titles, two Copa Reys, two Spanish Supercopas, three UEFA Super Cups, two Club World Cups, and now the Intercontinental Cup. The previous

record was held by the legendary Madrid coach Miguel Munoz,

who spent 14 years in charge between 1960 and 1974, winning two European Cups, nine league titles, two Copas del Rey and one Intercontinental Cup.

Ancelotti drew level with Munoz in August, when Madrid won the UEFA Super Cup, beating Atalanta 2-0.

He will next have the chance to add to his trophy haul in January, when Madrid will take part in the Spanish Supercopa in Jeddah, squad with the best players in the world."

The Italian reflected on a brilliant year in which the team won four trophies.

"It has been a fantastic year, and we have had different difficulties throughout the year, injuries... We have finished this year very well, to be honest, and this gives us the confidence we needed and the motivation to continue to have very good results

in 2025. AncelottiHe is the

only coach to have won the league title in Europe's 'big five leagues' -- in Spain with Real Madrid, in Italy with AC Milan, in Germany with Bayern Munich, in England with Chelsea and in France with Paris Saint-Germain.

Ancelotti is also

the only manager to have won five Champions Leagues, having twice won the competition as AC Milan coach in 2003 and 2007.

The Italian, though, admitted that its easier winning titles with the Spanish giants than with any other club in the world.

"I want to be honest. Winning titles at Real Madrid is easier than elsewhere: you have a fantastic club, a fan base that pushes and a



A Bangladesh Police defender catches a Fire Service & Civil Defence raider during the opening match of the Victory Day Kabaddi Competition at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali handball Stadium in Paltan yesterday, with Police winning the match by 56-28 points. Six teams each are participating in both men's and women's competitions, which will come to an end on December 24.





AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

Expert agency should probe it

HC observes

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court in the full text of its verdict in the August 21 grenade attack cases has observed that the cases should be referred to the home ministry for a fresh probe by a proper and expert investigation agency.

"It is a heinous tragic incident in the history of this country, where a lot of people, including Ivy Rahman, then Awami League leader, lost their lives. This killing needs to be investigated properly and independently in order to have a fair justice for the departed soul, which has totally been absent till date in this case," the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain said in the 79-page full text of the verdict released yesterday.

On December 1, the bench delivered its verdict clearing BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar and all the others convicts in two cases filed over the gruesome August 21, 2004, grenade attack.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka delivered the verdicts in the two cases on October 10, 2018, sentencing 19 people, including Babar, to death. Tarique, now in London, and 18 others were handed life imprisonment while 11 others got prison sentences of different terms.

In the full text of the judgement released yesterday, the HC bench observed, "In view of the above factual aspect of this case, it can safely be said that the impugned conviction was based mainly on a mere presumption without having any legal or corroborative evidence."



A female greater painted-snipe, otherwise known as Rostratula benghalensis, spotted in Manikganj recently. The shorebird species is widely distributed across wetland habitats of Africa and southern Asia. They live solitarily or in pairs, but can sometimes also be found in large groups. The males and females are easily distinguishable from each other as the females are more boldly coloured and are bigger in size. The females are also polyandrous, meaning they can have more than one mate at a time, while the males are the ones in charge of incubating the eggs and caring for the young.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Hamza cleared to play for Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anxious wait and anticipation of football-loving people of Bangladesh is finally over r.



O V e r .
Leicester City FC midfielder
Hamza Choudhury has
officially been acknowledged
as eligible to play for the
Bangladesh national team
by world football's governing
body, FIFA, yesterday.

The 27-year-old midfielder himself broke the news to his fans through a video message shared by the Bangladesh Football Federation.

"Hi everyone. It's Hamza here. So happy that everything's over the line. Can't wait to play for Bangladesh. Hopefully see you guys soon," Hamza said in the video.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Come up with viable roadmap for Rohingya repatriation Dhaka asks Naypyidaw

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday asked Myanmar authorities for a viable roadmap to a safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingya people within a specific time.

"Bangladesh has every interest to see lasting peace, stability and democracy in Myanmar, and a conducive environment in Rakhine State for the Rohingya to have confidence to go back there in safety and dignity," Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said at an informal ministerial consultation with Myanmar and its five neighbouring countries.

The meeting was held in Bangkok, said a foreign ministry statement.

He also offered Bangladesh's support for rebuilding the Rakhine State economy when the time is right.

Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa chaired the meeting attended by Myanmar Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister U Than Swe and delegations from India, China, Laos and Cambodia.

More than 80 percent of Rakhine State and the 271-km border with Bangladesh are controlled by the armed group Arakan Army.

Since July this year, some 60,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh joining the already a million Rohingyas, most SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK

Almost 90pc of Tk 2,254cr loan to Sikder Group sours

Show bank records till October this year

CREDIT PROVIDED WITHOUT

repayment capacity

Evaluation of mortgaged

Any review of loan

proposals

Risk analysis

collateral

Verification of

MD MEHEDI HASAN

As much as 89.3 percent of the credit extended by First Security Islami Bank, when controlled by the major Awami League beneficiary S Alam Group, to AL-affiliated Sikder Group by violating

banking rules and regulations has become defaulted.

The bank provided the loan facility to the business group without any review of the loan proposals, verification of the client's repayment capacity, risk analysis and evaluation of the client's mortgaged properties or collateral — all major

violations of banking rules and regulation, documents show.

The loans were disbursed by the

The loans were disbursed by the Senanibash, Dilkusha, Banani, Dhanmondi and Kawran Bazar branches of the Shariah-based lender between 2009 and January this year.

The bank disbursed Tk 1,025.47 crore as funded loans and Tk 167.47 crore as non-funded loans (bank guarantee)

against collateral valued at Tk 149.15 crore collateral and Tk 8.69 crore cash.

In the 15 years, FSIB recovered Tk 573.86 crore from the borrower during the 15 years, leaving the total liabilities of the business group at Tk 2,254 crore including interest or profit, documents showed. Of

the sum, Tk 2,013 crore has defaulted.

The loan irregularities came out in a recent inspection by the internal control and compliance division of the bank based on the financial statement of October.

The Senanibash branch disbursed Tk 337.24 crore to six Sikder Group against

companies of the Sikder Group against Tk 83.19 crore collateral. The outstanding amount is Tk 1,099.63 crore.

Besides, the branch issued five bank guarantees worth Tk 13.67 crore to two companies of Sikder Group against only Tk 1 crore as margin. No other collateral was taken against the non-funded loan facility.

ren against the non-funded foan facility. The Kawran Bazar branch disbursed SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Murder case filed over Ijtema ground clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A murder case was filed yesterday over the clash between two factions of Tabligh Jamaat at Biswa Ijtema ground in Tongi SM Alam Hossain, a resident of

SM Alam Hossain, a resident of Kishoreganj and follower of Kakrail Mosque-based Tabligh leader Maulana Zubair Ahmed, filed the case with Tongi West Police Station in the afternoon, said Habib Iskandar officer-in-charge of the police station.

Alam named 29 followers of Delhibased Tabligh leader Maulana Saad Kandhalvi and hundreds of unidentified others as accused in the case, the OC told The Daily Star last night.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused tried to tarnish the image of Islam, embarrass the government and obstruct the first phase of Ijtema scheduled to be held by the followers of Zubair from January 31 to February 2.

Defying decisions taken in meetings with home ministry officials on November 4 and 7, Saad's followers are trying to gather their fellows at the Ijtema ground for Jor Ijtema, a preparatory event, from December 20 to 24, Alam said in the case statement.

Alam mentioned in the complaint that provocative statements of the accused led to attacks on followers of Zubair who were sleeping or guarding the ground around 3:00am on December 18.

At least four people were killed SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Five killed as truck crushes autorickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five people, including three of a family, were killed and two others injured in a road traffic accident at Pekua upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Pekua upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The accident occurred when a CNG-run three-wheeler carrying the victims collided head-on with a dumper truck around 7:30am in the Dhaniakata area on ABC regional road, said Mohammad Sirajul Mostafa, officer-in-charge of Pekua Police Station.

The deceased included Firoz Ahmad, 49, of

The deceased included Firoz Ahmad, 49, of Madhya Madarsha area of Chattogram's Hathazari upazila; his wife Shaheen Aktar, 29; and their sixmonth-old child Jahedul Islam.

The others were Monirul Mannan, 22, driver of the three-wheeler and resident of Dhaniyakata area; and another passenger Abdur Rahman, 32, of Sonali Bazar area of the upazila's Ujantia union.

Graft allegations against Tulip make headlines in UK

AGENCIES

Several news outlets in the UK yesterday reported on the corruption charges brought against UK Treasury's Economic Secretary Tulip Siddiq by Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).



The ACC accused her

and family members of embezzling billions as part of a deal for a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh -- Rooppur Power Plant Project.

Tulip Siddiq, 42, who is responsible for tackling corruption in UK financial markets, is alleged to have brokered a deal with Russia in 2013 that overinflated the price of a new nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.

The allegation is part of a wider investigation by the ACC into Siddiq's aunt, Sheikh Hasina, who was deposed as prime minister of Bangladesh in August. SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

US welcomes interim govt's election plan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has welcomed the interim government's announcement of holding the national election between late 2025 and mid-2026, and said it will monitor the timing.

"We welcome the steps that have been taken by this interim government of Bangladesh to prepare for elections that ultimately will allow the Bangladeshi people to choose their own government representatives," US State Department Spokesperson Vedant Patel told a press briefing in Washington DC on Wednesday.

Last Monday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus announced the possible time of the national election.

Patelsaid the US will "continue to monitor the timing" and encourage the respect for the rule of law over the course of the whole election process,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



The Press Information Department (PID) will

reconsider cancelled accreditation cards of journalists in applicable cases.

The PID issued a statement in this regard yesterday after a number

of accreditation cards had been cancelled recently. The statement said that the reasons for card cancellation included long delays in renewing the cards, more cards than the quota for an institution, yellow journalism, and being used as a political tool of the previous government

for personal gains.

It said journalists also lost accreditation for being accused in criminal cases, being arrested and imprisoned for various reasons, receiving cards on political considerations by unprofessional individuals

SEE PAGE 10 COL1



A Palestinian girl carries water containers on a broken wheelchair in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, as Palestinians wait to collect water following a Human Rights Watch report that says Israel's deprivation of water in Gaza is an act of genocide. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Mahboob Zaman



Syed Farhad Ahmed



Ziaur Rahman

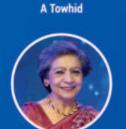




















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Adnan Imtiaz Halim











Rafiqul Islam Rowly





Syed Mamnun Quader



Sinthia Sharmin Islam Mahmudul Hasan Sohag









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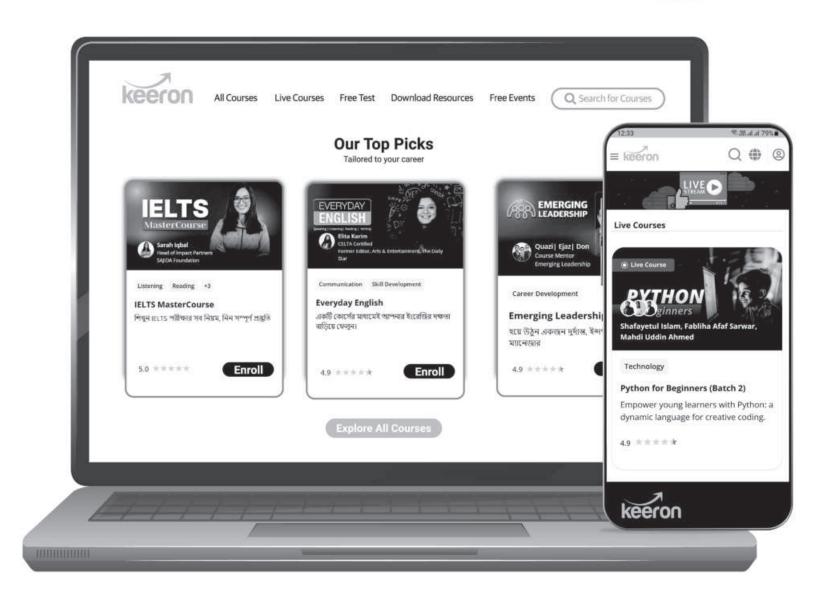
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*The information covers the period between September 2023 and November 2024.

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