



Dhaka asks Delhi to send back Hasina

India confirms receipt of note verbale, says 'no comment at this time'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has sent a diplomatic note to the Indian government, saying that Dhaka wants ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina sent back.

"We sent a note verbale [diplomatic message] to the Indian government, saying that the Bangladesh government wants her [Hasina] back here for the judicial process," Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon.



Earlier in the morning, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam said his ministry had written to the Bangladesh foreign ministry, asking it to facilitate the return of Hasina from India.

"We have sent a letter to the foreign ministry regarding her extradition. The process is currently underway," he told reporters at an event at the Border Guard Bangladesh headquarters in Dhaka's Pikhana.

On how she would be returned, Jahangir said it would be done under a prisoner-exchange agreement with India. The Indian media in the evening reported that the country's Ministry of External Affairs received a note verbale from Bangladesh in connection with the extradition request for Hasina.

The ministry, however, refrained from commenting on the matter yesterday.

"We confirm that we have received a note verbale from the Bangladesh High Commission today in connection with an extradition request. At this time, we have no comment to offer on this matter," India Today quoted Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal as saying at a press briefing.

Hasina stands accused in over a hundred cases and is facing a multitude of charges, including murder, genocide

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A man tries to warn an auto-rickshaw from crossing over the rail tracks, while a group of people behind him are pushing away mobile shops as a train approaches. Many such shops are set up right on the tracks near the Jurain Rail Gate, posing various risks to the people. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Non-lethal weapons to be suggested for cops

Says Police Reform Commission Chairman Safar Raj Hossain

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Police Reform Commission is poised to submit its report with recommendations, including freeing law enforcement agencies from political influence, according to its Chairman Safar Raj Hossain.

It would also recommend the use of only non-lethal weapons by law enforcers following the standards set by European countries in crowd control to prevent loss of lives, he said in a recent interview with this newspaper.

He said that the commission



would recommend guidelines for law enforcers in light of the High Court Division and Appellate Division directives on the arrest of any suspect without a warrant and how to treat and interrogate a suspect on remand.

The commission, constituted on October 3, has a 90-day timeline to submit its report. Its chief confirmed that the draft is ready and on track for submission to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus by December 31. If delays occur, he said they will be minimal.

He expressed satisfaction with

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7 stabbed to death aboard cargo vessel

Lone survivor of attack in Chandpur can't speak

STAR REPORT

Seven crew members were killed in a brutal attack aboard a bulk carrier in the Meghna in Chandpur early yesterday.

Unidentified assailants stabbed the victims in their sleep with sharp weapons on MV Al-Bakhera, police said based on initial findings.

The vessel laden with fertiliser had run aground in Haimchar area.

Responding to a 999 call, a team of river police went to

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People will have to take to streets for voting rights

Says Mirza Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People will have to take to the streets, the way they did on August 5, to realise their voting rights, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a gathering in Thakurgaon yesterday.

"Do you genuinely want change? Or do you want the Awami League again? If you don't, then, we will have to take to the streets, like we did on August 5," he said during a rally at Shibganj Degree College ground.

"We have to demonstrate to realise our rights to vote, food, justice, and dignity.

"This is your country, and it is your responsibility to

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For the poor, inflation means a daily struggle

2024

THE YEAR THAT WAS

SUKANTA HALDER

As inflation greets Bangladeshis at breakfast time, even the humble paratha becomes a symbol of struggle. Once hearty and filling, it now arrives thinner and lighter — a daily reminder of the unending calculations between hunger and affordability.

Last year, a simple meal of three parathas and a plate of daal cost Tk 39. Today, this modest breakfast demands Tk 50, as spiralling prices threaten the most vulnerable — day labourers, marginal farmers and transport workers.

For Mofazzal Hossain, a 45-year-old rickshaw puller in Mirpur's Duaripara area, breakfast used to mean rice, vegetables and an occasional slice of fish. Now, it's a cup of tea and a single biscuit. His earnings have plummeted from Tk 500-Tk 600 a day to Tk 350-Tk 400. Feeding his family of six has become a painful arithmetic, where every meal is a trade-off. "I hardly remember the last time we ate meat," he says quietly, staring at his hands.

Mofazzal's plight mirrors that of many others across Dhaka and beyond. In Karwan Bazar, Sattar Mia, a 38-year-old day labourer, often begins his day with an empty stomach. Once earning Tk 600 daily, he now struggles to make Tk 400. The rising cost of basics has forced him to skip breakfast at times, pushing his first meal to late morning. "Sometimes I eat at eleven. Sometimes later," he says with a rueful smile. "It hurts, but what can be done?"

Their struggles are echoed in the latest statistics. Food inflation soared to 14.1 percent in July, nearly doubling from January's 7.76 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. But behind the numbers lies human suffering. The statistics cannot capture the quiet sacrifices happening in homes like Sattar's where sending money to the village is scarcely possible.

For Bangladesh's working poor, each day begins with a painful negotiation as essentials like sugar and cooking oil climb ever higher in price: What can be sacrificed? What can still be afforded? For them, inflation is not just an economic phenomenon — it's a test of survival. They sustain lives shaped by resilience and struggle.

In Barishal, grocery vendor

nutritional and health conditions, with long-term consequences for children's growth and education.

She further said the interim authorities have implemented several measures aimed at easing inflationary pressures. These include raising policy rates as part of monetary tightening, rationalising public expenditure by prioritising only critical development projects

ITEMS	YESTERDAY'S PRICE (KG/LITRE)	PRICE INCREASE IN A YEAR
	TK 50-55	7.14%
	TK 163-165	4.13%
	TK 50-75	4.17%
	TK 180-200	2.70%
	TK 45-50	7.95%

SOURCE: TCB

Shambhu Nath Saha observes a shift in purchasing behaviour. Customers who once bought five litres of cooking oil now opt for one or two, and those purchasing two kilograms of sugar now settle for one. "Someone who used to spend Tk 2,000 on groceries is now spending Tk 1,000 or Tk 1,200," he says.

Economists warn of serious implications. Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, points out that lower food intake will affect

and removing tariffs on certain essential imports.

Fahmida, however, believes that winning the inflation battle hinges on improving the supply chain and increasing product availability in the market, a process that demands both time and sustained effort.

Price volatility had plagued neighbouring countries like India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, which have managed to bring food inflation down to about 5 percent, according

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In your guidance we found direction; in your vision we find strength.

In loving memory of
LATE M. A. HASHEM
(1943-2020)

FREEZING OF ASSETS S Alam threatens int'l legal action against govt: FT

STAR REPORT

S Alam Group owner Mohammed Saiful Alam has initiated a legal effort as a Singaporean citizen to recover financial losses he claims were caused by the Bangladeshi government freezing his assets and harming his investments, The Financial Times reports.

The dispute stems from actions taken by the interim government following the ousting of prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Alam says his family's bank accounts were frozen, they were subjected to travel bans, and they lost control of their companies, all while facing investigations for alleged money laundering without formal notification.

S Alam has sent a "notice of dispute" to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and key advisers, warning that if the matter is unresolved within six months, he will pursue international arbitration under a 2004 bilateral investment treaty between Bangladesh and Singapore.

The December 18 notice states that the family obtained permanent residence in Singapore in 2011 and citizenship between 2021 and 2023. It adds that they all renounced their Bangladeshi nationality in 2020.

The notice was sent by lawyers of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, an American law firm, according to the FT report.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

As Dhaka remains consistently at the top of the list of cities with the most hazardous air, the AQI yesterday too was 114, meaning it was still unhealthy to breathe in. The photo was taken at the smog-filled Naya Bazar Road in the capital yesterday morning.

Non-lethal weapons

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the commission's work, particularly its focus on recommending the use of non-lethal weapons to prevent tragedies like those during the July uprising. "Our ultimate goal is to ensure that no life is lost, even in small scale incidents," he said.

Acknowledging the deep-rooted problem of political influence on law enforcement agencies, Safar Raj, a retired secretary, said that when a political government comes to power, it tends to consolidate control over all institutions, including the police.

"The issue is complex and wide. You cannot just pull out police from this," he said.

"There will be recommendations on the entire matter, which I cannot summarise in a single word," he said when asked if their report would include suggestions to free the police from political influence.

During its 15-year rule, the previous AL government used law enforcement as a tool to suppress opposition and dissent. Some police officers acted as party loyalists, securing lucrative postings and engaging in corruption, sidelining competent officers. During the July-August protests, police indiscriminately used lethal weapons, causing massive casualties.

The chief of the Police Reform Commission stressed the importance of reducing corruption and ensuring accountability through exemplary

punishments for offenders. "If law enforcers face tough consequences for wrongdoing, others will refrain from engaging in similar misconduct."

He also highlighted the role of civil society and the general public in holding officials accountable, drawing comparisons with practices in advanced democracies.

Safar Raj said the commission would recommend the use of force in line with UN guidelines and the standards of European countries, which employ modern technologies for crowd control to prevent loss of life, even if injuries occur.

Noting that police officers deployed to UN missions receive training in non-lethal techniques, he hoped that similar training could be organised for all officers gradually.

The commission's report will propose guidelines following High Court Division and Appellate Division directives regarding arrests without warrants under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the treatment of individuals on remand under Section 167 of the CrPC.

These directives include: police officers must disclose their identity and present ID cards after arresting the suspects; reasons for arrests must be recorded in a register; relatives of the arrestee must be informed within an hour; detainees should have access to a lawyer or relatives; no torture of the arrestees during interrogation

on remand; interrogations during remand must occur in a designated room with a transparent glass wall, where a lawyer or relative can observe the proceedings.

The commission chief said amendments to existing laws of 1898 may be necessary, a responsibility that would fall to the law ministry.

On the demand for operations of police under a commission, he said a proposal for such a commission has been pending since 2007 as laws were not enacted in this regard during the then caretaker government and the past 15 years of political government.

"We are making recommendations, but there needs to be political will to implement those," he said, mentioning that parliament is not functional now, so an ordinance can be promulgated to implement their recommendations.

He said they have received a proposal from the inspector general of police that suggests a commission like that of Sri Lanka, where the National Police Commission is vested with wide powers pertaining to the appointment, promotion, transfers, disciplinary control and dismissal of police commissioners.

Replying to another query about public complaints against police, he said it was a very important issue and that the reform commission would bring this up in its report so that the complaints against police officers could be addressed properly.

For the poor, inflation means

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to media reports. Fahmida expressed optimism that Bangladesh could achieve similar results, though not without sustained effort.

"To address inflation in the current context, the focus must be on improving supply chains and increasing the availability of products in the market," she said.

Fahmida also emphasised the importance of expanding open market sales of essential goods and broadening social safety net programmes to alleviate the burden on vulnerable populations. "These measures are crucial to mitigating the impact of rising prices on millions of households," she said.

A study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies reveals a striking shift in dietary patterns in rural areas amid rising food costs. The daily average rice consumption per person climbed to 412 grams in 2023, up from 349 grams in 2022.

In stark contrast, the consumption of protein-rich foods like mutton and beef has plummeted. The study found that daily average consumption per person dropped to just 0.28 grams of mutton and 4.02 grams of beef, down sharply from 1.23 grams and 10.25 grams, respectively, the previous year. These changes reflect the difficult trade-offs many households make to cope with inflationary pressures.

Inflation remained persistently high in recent years under Sheikh Hasina's government, a trend worsened by supply chain disruptions. These disruptions were fuelled by social and political unrest leading up to the August transition in the political regime, further intensifying the economic strain on households.

In Dhaka, fruit vendor Nur Islam Sheikh sees a similar trend. Apples that sold for Tk 180 per kg a year earlier now cost Tk 300, and customers who bought three kilograms now haggle for two.

Outside the capital, the situation is grimmer. Samiul Islam, a 40-year-old microbus driver in Dinajpur, earns a stagnant monthly income of Tk 15,000. Rising food prices have altered the family's equation, forcing them to cut down on meals and essentials.

"Sometimes, I skip meals so that my children don't go hungry," Samiul says. In Kushtia, Babul Kumar Acharjee, a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver, echoes this sentiment. His family now lives on rice, vegetables and daal, with meat a distant memory.

Mehedi Hasan, a welding mechanic in Shimulia, a village in Kushtia, struggles with frequent borrowing for daily needs. "Amid the struggle, I now have to ask for money from my relatives even for smaller needs," he said.

Liton Ghosh, who runs a modest roadside eatery in Dhaka's Tejuri Bazar, is a quiet reflection of how small businesses are adapting to rising costs. His words, like his meals, echo the struggles of the poor recalibrating to survive.

Liton recalls a time not so long ago when he could serve three parathas with vegetables for Tk 39. Today, the same plate costs Tk 50 – but with smaller portions. "The parathas are a bit smaller now, and the portion of vegetables has also been reduced."

[Our Dinajpur Correspondent Kongkon Karmakar and Kushtia Correspondent Anis Mondol contributed to this report.]

7 stabbed to death

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the vessel around 3:00pm and recovered five bodies from crew quarters, said Superintendent of Chandpur River Police Md Mushfiqur Rahman.

"The assailants attacked the victims with sharp weapons and left ... They did not take anything," he told The Daily Star over the phone, adding that the attack was probably carried out early yesterday.

Three critically injured individuals were also rescued, but two of them died at the Chandpur 250 Bed General Hospital.

Lone survivor Jewel Rana, 23, of Faridpur, was transferred to Dhaka for better medical care.

Jewel's throat was slit. Police tried to talk to him, but he could not talk. He could only write his name and a mobile phone number on a piece of paper before he was rushed to Dhaka in an ambulance.

Upon reaching Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 8:00pm, Jewel underwent a surgery and an artificial breathing tube was inserted in this throat, reports our DMCH correspondent.

Doctor Siraj Salek said Jewel lost a lot of blood and his treatment and recovery would take time.

Among the dead are MV Al-Bakhera master Kibria, 60, engine operator Salauddin, 55, helmsman Aminul Munsil, 40, and crew members Sajibul, 35, Azizul, 40, and Majedul Islam.

Doctor Md Anisur Rahman, a resident at the Chandpur 250-Bed General Hospital, said all the victims were stabbed and all but one died of blood loss.

Mahbub Morshed Diplu, a partner of the ship's owning firm Bristy Enterprise, said MV Al-Bakhera, manned by eight crew members, had loaded 720 tonnes of urea fertiliser

from the KAFCO jetty on the southern bank of the Karnaphuli on Saturday night and set sail for Baghabari in Sirajganj on Sunday morning.

He told The Daily Star that they last spoke to engine operator Salahuddin around 8:30pm on Sunday. He said Salahuddin told them that MV Al-Bakhera was in a convoy of 40 to 50 vessels.

Diplu said there was nothing unusual about the phone conversation.

"When we tried to contact the vessel yesterday morning, no one responded," Diplu told The Daily Star. They later asked a nearby vessel, MV Mugni-3, to have their crew members go to MV Al-Bakhera and see what was wrong.

The crew members of MV Mugni-3 discovered the bodies and the wounded in the afternoon and called 999, he added.

Nazmul Hossain Rubel, manager (operation) of MV Al-Bakhera's local agent SS Shippers and Traders, said they usually call the master of the vessel at 10:00am every morning when the ship is in passage. Failing to contact the master, they informed the owner.

After visiting the scene, Additional Superintendent of Police of Chandpur Sudipto Roy in the evening said they were not considering it as a case of robbery. It appears to be a premeditated murder, he said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industries has expressed condolences to the families of the crew members.

It also formed a probe committee. In a statement, it said the 4-member committee led by an additional secretary of the ministry was instructed to submit a report within the next five working days clearly mentioning the motive, the extent of damage and liability, and how to prevent such incidents in future.

People will have to take to streets for voting rights

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the protect it. If needed, we have to fight once more for the country and the people. Let us unite in the days ahead."

Fakhrul also criticised a section of people for creating confusion through their statements.

"Some people, especially those who are in responsible positions, are making misleading and provocative statements. Stop confusing people. Enough is enough, we suffered greatly and shed our blood."

About the national polls, the BNP leader said, "We want to hold a peaceful election where people can cast their votes freely and elect their candidates as per their choice. And those elected will bring changes in the governance system."

The BNP does not want to take revenge, said Fakhrul, adding that it wants to build a new Bangladesh with all.

Mentioning 15 years of party's struggle, the BNP secretary general said its leaders and activists were subjected to immense oppression, and false cases were filed against them.

"Even now, our party activists have to appear before the court. But many try to say that the BNP cannot do anything. But the situation [after August 5] has arisen because of our 15 years of struggle."

Regarding the reforms, Fakhrul said discussions are being held in this connection. "Do you understand what reform means? I don't understand. But I only understand that reform means some changes."

"What does change mean? It has to be ensured that I can cast my vote, and people's issues are discussed in parliament."

In another development, the BNP yesterday held meetings with leaders of Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) and Gono Odhikar Parishad (Faruk-Jaman faction) at the party chairperson's office in Gulshan.

The meetings focused on the current political situation, elections, and reforms, according to the BNP.

Leaders of the three parties said the chief adviser should discuss with political parties before announcing the election.

"We were not aware of the indication of election time made by the chief adviser. This was not discussed with any of us," said Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP standing committee member, while briefing reporters after the meeting.

"We are unaware of the reason behind the extended timeframe for the election. We don't find any justification for it."

Highlighting the importance of timely polls, Khasru said, "The BNP believes that the people of Bangladesh are eagerly awaiting the upcoming election, which is important."

NDM Chairman Bobby Hajjaj said, "We want to see the election held within a logical time. We expect a clear roadmap from the interim government."

"There is no need for delays regarding the election. No government can make significant decisions without the people's mandate. It's not just about the election date but also about the time needed to complete the essential tasks," he added.

Faruk Hasan, acting member secretary of Gono Odhikar Parishad, said the timeframe given by the chief adviser is unclear.

Russian forces capture another village in eastern Ukraine

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday said it had captured the village of Storozheve in eastern Ukraine, near the town of Velyka Novosilka which its troops is apparently trying to encircle.

"As a result of decisive action by troop units... the settlement of Storozhevo has been liberated," the defence ministry said in a statement, using the Russian name of the village.

Russia has been advancing steadily in the Donetsk region where Storozheve is located, against outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian forces.

Storozheve and Velyka Novosilka are close to the southern front line, which has remained largely static but where Ukraine says Russia is planning a fresh offensive.

Nine killed in Iran as bus, fuel truck collide

AFP, Tehran

At least nine people were killed yesterday when a bus collided with a fuel truck in Iran's southeast, state media reported, the second mass casualty road accident within days.

Mohammad Mehdi Sajjadi, head of the Red Crescent Society in Sistan-Baluchestan province, told the official IRNA news agency that "nine people lost their lives and 13 others were injured in the accident in which a bus collided with a fuel truck near Zahedan."

On Saturday, 10 people were killed when a bus plunged into a ravine in Iran's western Lorestan province.

3 teens killed in bike crash

They were returning home after attending a wedding ceremony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Three teenage boys lost their lives early yesterday when the motorcycle carrying them collided with a roadside electric pole in Cumilla's Sadar upazila when they were returning home after attending a wedding ceremony.

The victims were identified as Ahad Hossain, 14, son of Md Khalil; Emon Hossain, 16, son of Monir Hossain; and Emon Hossain, 15, son of Zakir Hossain, said Mohinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station.

According to police and local sources, the incident took place around 1:00am in the Araiara area.

On information, the police recovered the bodies following the accident, said the OC.

The bodies have been handed over to their families after the police completed necessary legal formalities.

Panama rejects Trump's threat to take control of Canal

AFP, Panama City

Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino on Sunday dismissed recent threats made by US President-elect Donald Trump to retake control of the Panama Canal over complaints of "unfair" treatment of American ships.

"Every square meter of the Panama Canal and its adjacent areas belongs to Panama and will continue belonging to Panama," Mulino said in a video posted to X.

Mulino's public comments, though never mentioning Trump by name, come a day after the president-elect complained about the canal on his Truth Social platform.

"Our Navy and Commerce have been treated in a very unfair and injudicious way. The fees being charged by Panama are ridiculous," he said.

Trump also complained of China's growing influence around the canal, a worrying trend for American interests as US businesses depend on the channel to move goods between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"It was solely for Panama to manage, not China, or anyone else," Trump said. "We would and will NEVER let it fall into the wrong hands!"

The Panama Canal, which was completed by the United States in 1914, was returned to the Central American country under a 1977 deal signed by Democratic president Jimmy Carter.

Panama took full control in 1999. Trump said that if Panama could not ensure "the secure, efficient and reliable operation" of the channel, "then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to us, in full, and without question."

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and crimes against humanity over the killings during the July uprising that resulted in her ouster on August 5.

India and Bangladesh signed a treaty in 2013 regarding extradition. The treaty was amended in 2016.

The treaty states, "Extradition may be refused if the offence for which it is requested is an offence of a political character." Another ground for refusal of extradition is if the charges being pressed have not been "made in good faith, in the interest of justice".

It, however, says certain offences, like murder, "shall not be regarded as offences of a political character" for the purposes of the treaty.

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain since the interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus assumed power following Hasina's ouster and flight to Delhi.

India has repeatedly expressed concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Dhaka dismissed Indian media reports on the attacks as "exaggerated".

Earlier, on October 17, a three-member International Crimes Tribunal bench led by its Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mazumdar issued arrest warrants for 46 people, including Hasina and former minister Obaidul Quader, in separate cases.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam had earlier said they would seek to bring back Hasina in time to stand trial.

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TREE FELLING FOR EXPRESSWAY Protests ongoing, no solution even after eleven days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists continued their sit-in protest at Panthakunja Park for the eleventh day yesterday, demanding an end to the destruction caused by the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project.

The protest escalated when demonstrators blocked Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan's car for nearly ten minutes after discussions failed to resolve the issue.

"We will not end our protest until our demands are fulfilled," said Amirul Rajiv, convener of the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement. The group is calling for an immediate halt to tree cutting and destruction in the park and restoration of its environment and biodiversity.

Earlier, Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan reportedly left discussions in anger, prompting protesters to prevent his car from leaving. The situation was defused by Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan, who urged protesters to remain calm.

Rizwana Hasan assured them of further dialogue, saying, "We will discuss ways to increase greenery in the park and hold another meeting on Thursday to seek a resolution."

Despite the assurances, Rajiv expressed frustration over the lack of progress. "Even after eleven days, no viable solution has been proposed, nor have the advisers provided answers about alternative green spaces nearby," he told The Daily Star.

Protesters are demanding an immediate halt to tree cutting and the restoration of Panthakunja Park, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Advisers express solidarity with environmentalists during their sit-in protest at Panthakunja Park, which entered its eleventh day yesterday. The protesters demand an end to tree felling and environmental destruction caused by the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

World Bank to continue support for key reforms

Outgoing country
director tells CA

BSS, Dhaka

Outgoing World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh, Abdoulaye Seck, yesterday reaffirmed the WB's support for key reform initiatives of the interim government.

Seck made the commitment during a farewell call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka.

Yunus thanked Seck, who will retire in January, for his contributions to World Bank-supported projects in critical sectors. Seck said, on December 19, the WB approved nearly \$1.2 billion in financing to help Bangladesh strengthen climate resilience and environmental sustainability, as well as improve health, nutrition, and water and sanitation services in Chattogram.

BDR carnage to be probed again

Commission formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a seven-member commission to re-investigate the 2009 BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) massacre.

Adviser to Home Affairs Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury announced the formation after attending the BGB medal-award ceremony at Pikhana Headquarters.

Former BGB Director General Maj Gen ALM Fazlur Rahman will lead the commission, which includes two members from the armed forces, one civil servant, one Dhaka University teacher, one Jagannath University teacher, and one police officer. The chief adviser approved the commission on Sunday.

Earlier, on December 17, the adviser said a re-investigation committee would be formed within five working days to examine the killings during the BDR massacre.

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TK 2,384.7 CRORE ILLEGAL WEALTH ACC sues former ministers, lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed cases against nine individuals, including two former cabinet members of the Awami League government, two lawmakers, and a former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, over illegal wealth amounting to Tk 2,384.70 crore.

ACC Director General (Prevention) Akhtar Hossain confirmed the developments during a press briefing at the ACC headquarters.

Former Food Minister Qamrul Islam has been accused of owning Tk 6.29 crore in assets beyond his known income. Additionally, Tk 21.18 crore in suspicious transactions were conducted through 15 bank accounts linked to him and his companies. His wife, Tayeba Islam, son Dr Tanzir Islam, and daughter Shegufta Islam have been asked to submit their asset statements.

Two cases have been filed against former State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Mahibbur Rahman and his wife, Fatema Akter. Mahibbur is accused of amassing Tk 7.64 crore in illegal assets and laundering Tk 23.72 crore through 23 bank accounts. Fatema allegedly acquired Tk 3.92 crore illegally and laundered Tk 15.51 crore through 11 accounts.

Former lawmaker Showkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon has been accused of

possessing illegal assets worth Tk 35.98 crore, while his legal income stands at just Tk 1.11 crore. His wife, Rawnak Rahman, has also been charged with holding Tk 2.52 crore in illegal assets and has been asked to submit her asset declaration.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FORMER MINISTERS/LAWMAKERS

- Qamrul Islam: Illegal assets worth Tk 6.29 crore; Tk 21.18 crore in suspicious transactions
- Mahibbur Rahman: Tk 7.64 crore in illegal assets; Tk 23.72 crore laundered
- Showkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon: Illegal assets worth Tk 35.98 crore
- Jannat Ara Henry: Tk 57.13 crore in illegal assets; Tk 2,002.66 crore and USD 13.78 crore in suspicious transactions

Cases were filed against Jannat Ara Henry, former lawmaker, and her husband, Sirajganj District Council Chairman Shamim Talukder. Henry is accused of acquiring Tk 57.13 crore in illegal assets and conducting suspicious transactions worth Tk 2,002.66 crore and USD 13.78 crore through 35 bank accounts. Shamim allegedly possesses illegal assets worth Tk 20.47 crore.

Need a year for judiciary reforms

Asif Nazrul says at CGS dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government can complete the necessary reforms in the judiciary within a year, law adviser Asif Nazrul said yesterday.

He revealed plans to enact a law regarding the appointment of High Court judges this month, establish a judiciary secretariat within three months, and set up a permanent prosecution service within six months. "If we are given at least a year, we will complete these tasks," he said.

Reforms must be protected by strong consensus to prevent future repeal by any government, he added.

He was speaking at a dialogue titled "Democratic Reconstitution: On Judiciary", organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the CIRDP auditorium.

The High Court has the power to adjudicate any matter it desires, but this immense power has been used during Sheikh Hasina's fascist regime to consolidate power, Asif Nazrul added.

Referring to the case of Jagannath University student Khadijatul Kubra under the Digital Security Act, he pointed to a concerning example of judicial delay. "Despite the High Court granting bail, the Appellate Division has indefinitely delayed her bail application, leaving her imprisoned without cause," he said.

Asif also linked the judiciary's role in human rights violations to the lack of free and fair elections. "If free elections were held, the judiciary would not have become so ruthless and oppressive. When elections do not exist, arbitrary oppression becomes the norm," he added. He emphasised the need to prioritise electoral reform to combat such issues.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

JULY UPRISING A step towards equality, justice

Says Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The July Mass Uprising was not an isolated event but a step towards realising the nation's vision of equality, social justice, and human dignity, said former caretaker government adviser Sultana Kamal yesterday.

She was speaking at a programme titled "Student Forum for Strengthening Women's Rights and Inclusive Governance," organised by NETZ Bangladesh in association with DASCOH Foundation and Manob Kallyan Parishad at the Liberation War Museum auditorium in the capital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

IJTEMA CLASH Saad followers accuse home adviser of bias

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Followers of Maulana Saad Kandhalvi have accused Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Jahangir Alam Chowdhury of bias, claiming that Helazat leader Mamunul Haque is exacerbating the ongoing conflict between the two factions of Tablighi Jamaat instead of helping to resolve it.

They were holding a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, under the banner of "General Members and Ulemas of Tablighi Jamaat, Bangladesh."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Sonargaon hotel embraces the holiday spirit with festive decorations -- including a gingerbread house and a Santa Claus figure -- ahead of Christmas to be celebrated tomorrow. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

"Those who are in the grave Allah shall raise to life"
-Al Quran 22:5-7

On eternal journey : 24th December 2019
Rukhsana Samad

... So go on Ma, On your eternal journey...
We will wait, We will live, We shall breathe until our time is over and We shall meet... Love you forever

Children : Faisal Son, Denebe, Raveen, Tanzia Daughter

Father : Syed Zillur Rahman Husband : Towhid Samad

Saad followers Prepare to face trial

FROM PAGE 3

The group presented a 10-point demand, calling for the withdrawal of cases filed against their senior members and the unconditional release of their spokesperson Mufti Muaz bin Nur. They also demanded an end to the oppression, assaults, and legal actions targeting Saad's followers, and called for the Kakrail mosque and Bishwa Jtama grounds to be handed over at the appropriate time.

The Saad faction warned that failing to uphold religious and constitutional rights could lead to severe anarchy. They urged the chief adviser, rather than the home adviser, to mediate a reconciliation meeting with elders from both factions.

Other demands from Saad's followers included ensuring an unbiased environment for Tablighi activities at Kakrail Mosque, Tongi Jtama grounds, and mosques nationwide. They also called for swift visa processing for foreign participants, better arrangements for Bishwa Jtama, and stronger measures to protect worshippers, journalists, and prevent the misuse of madrassa students in violence.

FROM PAGE 5
Dhaka Central Shaheed Minar.

"We will ensure the trial of the perpetrators of genocide committed in the country [during the movement in July-August]. We have not retreated even an inch from that stance," added Nahid.

At the funeral, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser of Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said, "The number of martyrs is increasing. Let's

Health cadre

FROM PAGE 5

sector's ability to serve public interests.

Meanwhile, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, head of the Public Administration Reform Commission, defended the proposal on December 17, calling the inclusion of education and health cadres in the civil service "irrational." He argued these are specialised sectors that should operate independently of the cadre structure.

The association urged the government to reconsider the proposal and ensure a collaborative approach to reform.

never forget our brothers' dreams. We're not able to bring the martyrs back to their parents, but we can assure them that justice will be served."

Arafat's brother, Hasan Ali, conducted the janaza.

The CA's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam, Special Assistant for the Health and Family Welfare Ministry Prof Md Sayedur Rahman, and Arafat's father Shahidul Islam also joined the janaza.

A step towards

FROM PAGE 3

Reflecting on the sacrifices made during the uprising, Sultana Kamal said, "We must envision where we want to take this country, why so many lives were lost, and why we aspired to achieve a distinct identity for ourselves."

She emphasised the importance of pursuing the aspirations outlined in the Declaration of Independence, saying, "Our collective dream is not clear to everyone. We should remember our vision for a society of equality, social justice, and human dignity—a dream shared by all, including the youth."

She added, "The July Uprising happened to bring that dream closer to reality. It was not an isolated movement. Our dream is to live a life of dignity, achieved through quality education and a commitment to these ideals."

Bangladesh women's national football team

captain Sabina Khatun also spoke at the event, highlighting the challenges faced by women. "Rights and freedom help a woman move forward. I have faced harsh criticism for playing football in shorts. Many families still view women as a burden and make excuses to deny them education. We must break free from this mindset," she said.

Shahidul Islam, director of NETZ Bangladesh, in his opening remarks, called for building a just society. "The younger generation must be made nonviolent and active for the wellbeing of society and humankind," he said.

Additional Secretary Syed Mamunul Alam, Joint Secretary Prakash Kanti Chowdhury, and Zinat Ara Haque, national coordinator of the We Can Alliance, also addressed the programme.

A documentary on preventing child marriage was screened at the beginning of the event.

Police reforms must

FROM PAGE 5

Participants outlined several actionable recommendations to enhance public safety and police accountability.

"They agreed on the urgent need to reform the outdated Police Act of 1861 to reflect modern democratic principles and security challenges.

Strengthening collaboration between the police and communities, particularly engaging youth and women, was emphasised to foster trust and shared responsibility for security.

Advancing digitised police operations through modern tools was highlighted as a means to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Recommendations also included establishing independent oversight mechanisms, such as a

Police Service Commission, to combat corruption and build public confidence through impartial oversight.

Participants agreed that police reform must align with justice governance reforms to ensure the effective functioning of the criminal justice chain.

Ensuring equitable access to justice for vulnerable groups, including refugees and marginalised communities, was identified as a priority.

Gender-sensitive training for police personnel and increasing the representation of women in law enforcement were proposed to enhance inclusivity and responsiveness.

Upgrading infrastructure to better address the needs of women and children was also highlighted as an urgent requirement.

Prof M Tamim joins IUB as vice chancellor

STAR REPORT

Prof M Tamim, a professor of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, joined Independent



University, Bangladesh (IUB) as its vice chancellor yesterday, said a press release.

A circular from the Ministry of Education dated December 17 announced that the president appointed Prof Tamim as the vice chancellor of IUB for a four-year term.

Prior to joining IUB, Prof Tamim served as a professor of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering and as the dean of the Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

He completed his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Buet, earned his master's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, and obtained his PhD in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Alberta, Canada.

Need a year

FROM PAGE 3

Mujahidul Islam Selim, former president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, highlighted the need for economic reforms and the strengthening of law enforcement agencies.

"The judiciary must be free from the influence of party politics and financial power," he said.

BNP Vice Chairman Advocate Nitai Roy Chowdhury called for reforms in the lower courts, where most harassment occurs. "Politics has gone to smugglers, goons, and bureaucrats. It must be taken back to politicians," he said.

Barrister Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director of BLAST, called for judicial harassment to be recognised as a subject of research. She emphasised the need for the judicial system to guarantee the right to bail, ensuring that every person has access to it if applicable. Hossain also pointed to the lack of women's representation in the Supreme Court and the absence of provisions for disabled individuals.

"We should be ashamed that disabled people are being overlooked in the courts," she added. Prof Borhan Uddin Khan from Dhaka University's Law Department suggested that efforts should focus on reducing the influence of

political parties within the judiciary.

"True independence lies in the mindset of judges, not in the laws," he said, calling for procedural changes to expedite trials and reduce case charges.

Advocate Muhammad Tajul Islam, Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), prioritised the digitisation of the courts to streamline the judicial process. He also pointed to the politicisation of the judiciary as a major cause of corruption within the courts.

Zillur Rahman, Executive Director of CGS, said reform discussions have been ongoing since the 1990s. "Now, the word 'reform' has become a despised term. Institutions have failed to function properly, and if the judiciary had functioned correctly, we would have seen a fair election," he said.

Mumira Khan of CGS chaired the event, which was attended by speakers from various sectors.

Protests

FROM PAGE 3

the cessation of Hatirjheel's filling with the removal of expressway pillars to restore the reservoir, and the cancellation of the expressway segment from Karwan Bazar to Palashi with accountability for the officials involved.

BDR carnage

FROM PAGE 3

Addressing the ceremony, Jahangir Alam highlighted BGB's 229-year legacy, commending its professionalism in border security, maintaining law and order, and supporting the civil administration during emergencies and natural disasters. "As a symbol of confidence for the people of Bangladesh, the BGB must remain a vigilant guard of the border," he said.

Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddique delivered the welcome address, with Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Khuda Baksh Chowdhury and Home Ministry Secretary (Routine Duty) Nasim Ahmed attending as special guests.

During the event, 32 BGB members were honoured for outstanding contributions, receiving medals, including 12 Border Guard Bangladesh Medals (BGBM) and 24 President Border Guard Medals (PBGM).

The adviser later attended a reception for freedom fighters and their families, hosted by BGB.

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 24

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

EXIM
BANK

Export Import Bank of Bangladesh PLC.

Registered Office: "EXIM Bank Tower", Plot # 15, Road # 15, Block # CWS (C), Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Price Sensitive Information

In connection with earlier news disseminated in both the stock exchanges, on 18.03.2024, we would like to inform that considering the present situation of Export Import Bank of Bangladesh PLC., the Board of Directors of the Bank, in its 209th meeting held on 23.12.2024 commencing from 3:00 PM, has decided not to carry out the amalgamation/merger of Padma Bank PLC. with Export Import Bank of Bangladesh PLC.

By order of the Board

Sd/-

Dated, Dhaka

Md. Monirul Islam

23 December, 2024

Company Secretary

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Lalmonirhat.

+Tel: 0591-61770, FAX: 0591-61770

email: eerhdal@yahoo.com, eelal@rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will accept in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (PE), RHD, Road Division, Lalmonirhat for:

Repairing Work By Provides Aggregate Base type-1, DBS Base Course And DBS-Wearing Course At 60th(p) 61st (p) and 62 nd(p) Km of Barabari-Lalmonirhat-Burimari (N-509) National Highway Road, Under Road Division, Lalmonirhat During The Year 2024-2025.

Sl no	Tender ID no	Tender ref. no	Tender last selling	Tender closing date	Tender opening date
1.	1054536	eGP-18/EE/LRD/LTM/2024-2025	05-Jan-2025 17:00	06-Jan-2025 13:00	06-Jan-2025 13:00

Reference No. 1781
Date: 22-12-2024

(Md. Abdul Momen)
ID No. 100448
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat.

GD-1252



বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

ডোয়েল চকুর সড়ক, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা - ১০০০

www.shishuacademy.gov.bd

বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমিতে জানুয়ারি-ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে

জুনিয়র ও সিনিয়র শাখায় ভর্তি চলছে

বয়সসীমা ৬ থেকে অনূর্ধ্ব ১৮

- জুনিয়র শাখা : ৬ থেকে অনূর্ধ্ব ১২ বছর
 - সংগীত ৪ বছর
 - নৃত্য, চিত্রাঙ্কন ও সৃজন, আবৃত্তি ও উপস্থাপনা শৈলী, গিটার ৩ বছর
 - তবলা, নাটকলা, ইংরেজি ভাষা শিক্ষা ২ বছর
 - দাবা, কম্পিউটার, সুন্দর হাতের লেখা, বেহালা, বাঁশি ১ বছর
- সিনিয়র শাখা : ১৩ থেকে অনূর্ধ্ব ১৮ বছর
 - উচ্চাঙ্গ সংগীত, রবীন্দ্র সংগীত, মজরুল সংগীত, লোকসংগীত, ভরতনাট্যম, কথক নৃত্য, মণিপুরী নৃত্য, সৃজনশীল ও লোকনৃত্য, ২ বছর
 - আবৃত্তি ও উপস্থাপনা শৈলী, চিত্রাঙ্কন ও সৃজন, নাটকলা ১ বছর
 - কম্পিউটার স্কিল ভেটেলপমেন্ট : ফ্রিলান্সিং ও গ্রাফিক্স ডিজাইন

বিশেষ চাহিদাসম্পন্ন শিশুরা চিত্রাঙ্কন ও সৃজন বিষয়ে ভর্তি হতে পারবে। ইশারা ভাষায় ক্লাস নেওয়া হয়।

কেন্দ্রীয় কার্যালয়ে ভর্তি চলবে ০১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ থেকে ৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত

ক্লাস শুরু ১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫

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তথ্যের জন্যঃ ০২-৪১০৫২২২০

GD-1241



খুলনা পানি সরবরাহ ও পয়গনিষ্কাশন কর্তৃপক্ষ

Khulna Water Supply & Sewerage Authority

৭ নং কাজলেক্ট জেটি বাট রোড, জোড়াগেট নিকটবর্তী, খালিশপুর, খুলনা-৯০০০

স্মারক নংঃ ৪৬.০৭.০০০০.০০৩.০৭.১৭.৬২.২৪.৪৬০

তারিখঃ ২৩/১২/২০২৪

Re-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1055359	KWASA-G-PumpMotor-24-25	Supply of 5 Nos. 10 HP Submersible Pump Motor Set for financial year 2024-2025.	20-Jan-2025 17:00	21-Jan-2025 11:00	21-Jan-2025 11:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

(Signature)
Khan Salim Ahmed
Superintending Engineer
Khulna WASA

Phone No. +88-02 477702973

GD-1248

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

KUSHTIA

E-mail: ee_kus@eedmoe.gov.bd

Memo No:- EE/EED/Kushtia/7016/Non-Govt./TMED/2022-2023/04

Date:-23.12.2024Eng.

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. xen/eed/kus/7016/Non-Govt./TMED/01/2024-2025

(Limited Tendering Method)

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

Sl No	Tender ID	Name Of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01	1028434	EED-KUS-CON-TMED-7016-2022-23-PW-01 Construction of One Storied Academic Building with Four Storied Foundation In/c Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Chitholia Dakhil Madrasa Under Mirpur Upazila at Kushtia District.	08.01.2025 17:00	09.01.2025 12:00
02	1028435	EED-KUS-CON-TMED-7016-2022-23-PW-02 Construction of One Storied Academic Building with Four Storied Foundation In/c Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Bibi Acheya Khatun Girls Alim Madrasa Under Kumarkhali Upazila at Kushtia district.	08.01.2025 17:00	09.01.2025 12:00
03	1054667	EED_KUS_CON_TMED_7016_2022-23_PW_03 Construction of One Storied Academic Building with Four Storied Foundation In/c Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Quatul Islam Kamil Madrasa Under Sadar Upazila at Kushtia District.	08.01.2025 17:00	09.01.2025 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline /Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fee's for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National System portal have to be deposited, online through any registered Bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Signature)
Subroto Kumar Paul
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department,
Kushtia.

Phone: 02477781538

GD-1255



Hill Film Festival: A celebration of Indigenous voices and global cinema

The 6th Hill Film Festival is set to take place in Rangamati from December 26 to 28, followed by its Dhaka phase from January 2 to 4. With each edition, the festival has grown in scale and significance, becoming a vibrant celebration of diverse cinematic voices.

This year, the 6th edition received submissions from 14 countries, with 60 films entered, including from Bangladesh, Iran, Turkey, Brazil, the United States, France, India, Taiwan, Finland, South Korea, Japan, South Africa, Vietnam, and Kyrgyzstan.

Of these, 37 films from 12 countries were selected, representing 15 languages and competing across seven categories: feature fiction, feature documentary, short fiction, short documentary, student, vlog, and experimental.

The festival aims to bridge the existing gap, providing a stage for Indigenous films and introducing them to wider audiences.

The programme also includes three curated sections—*Indigenous Mirror*, *Whispers From The Next Door*, and *Hill Film Festival Retrospective*—alongside special screenings and artistes' discussions.

Azmeri Haque Badhan steps away from 'MEYEDER GOLPO'

Actress Azmeri Haque Badhan has decided to be no longer a part of Lamia Chowdhury's highly anticipated film, *Meyeder Golpo*.

When asked about her departure from the film, Badhan shared with Daily Samakal, "I am no longer involved with the project, so I prefer not to discuss it further."



Lamia, addressing the situation, said, "Several factors come into play when making a film, and business considerations are one of them. Because of this and other reasons, we couldn't reach an agreement. The project that was planned with Badhan is currently not happening."

Despite this setback, Lamia remains hopeful about the film's future.

Bangladeshi short film makes it to Clermont-Ferrand Int'l Festival

This year, Bangladeshi director Rajib Rafi's short film *Once Upon a Time in Wari Bateshwar* has secured a spot in the competition category of the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.

Following the Cannes Film Festival, this event stands as France's second-most significant film festival.

This renowned short film festival is set to run from January 31 to February 8.

According to the filmmaker, the film is a



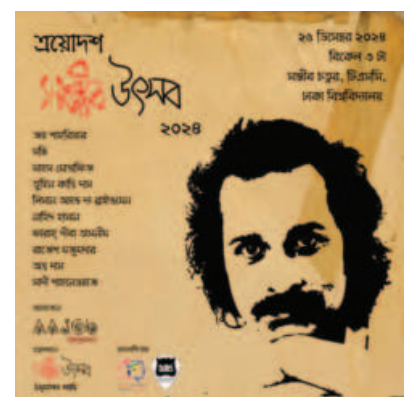
Mou in a double role for BTV anniversary

Sadia Islam Mou will be seen in a special drama celebrating the diamond jubilee (60th anniversary) of Bangladesh Television (BTV). Interestingly, she will be playing a dual role in the drama, titled *Shonar Shinduk*. The drama is scheduled to air on December 25 at 9:05pm.

Written by Ali Imran and filmed by Anwar Hossain Bulbul, the drama is produced by Mahbuba Ferdous.

Alongside Mou, the cast includes Golam Kibria Tanvir, Azam Khan, Faruq Ahmed, and Masud Rana Mithu, among others.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



The 13th Sanjeeb Festival, celebrating the birth anniversary of legendary lyricist and musician Sanjeeb Choudhury, will feature performances by artistes including Joy Shahriar, Sandhi, Sahas Mostafiz, Tuhin Kanti Das, Lisan & The Blindmen, Nahid Hasan, Farah Diba Tasnim, Rajesh Majumdar, and Ontu Das.

Date: December 25

Time: 3pm

Venue: Sanjeeb Chattar, TSC, Dhaka University.

MOSTAFA MONWAR, DEEPANWITA MARTIN star in Indian film on refugee crisis



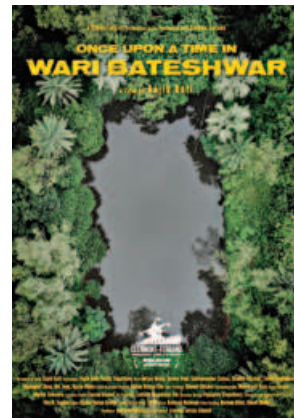
Bangladeshi actors Mostafa Monwar and Deepanwita Martin will lead the Indian film *The Clouds Wake No Clocks*, directed by Aniket Dutta. Co-written by Dutta and Roshni Sen, the film explores the struggles of a Rohingya family seeking refuge in India.

Produced by Christoph Thoke (Germany), Sebastian Popp, and Jeremy Chua (Singapore), the story follows Khalid, Sharmin, and



their eight-year-old son Shoab as they flee persecution, crossing the border into India. The film depicts their fight for survival in an unfamiliar land.

Monwar and Martin will portray Khalid and Sharmin in this international project, shedding light on a harrowing journey of displacement and resilience.



magical realist journey between the strange and the terrifying. The film, shot entirely with a drone, offers stunning visuals and a distinct non-human perspective.

Produced under the Khona Talkies banner, the project was led by producer Ashiq Mostafa, with Adnan Ahmed as the co-producer.

COUNTRYWIDE

Seed crisis worries Barguna potato growers

Demand 800 tonnes, BADC supplied 93 tonnes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Acute crisis of quality seeds in the ongoing potato cultivation season has become a cause of concern for the potato growers in different upazilas of Barguna.

Local potato growers are worried as Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) could not supply sufficient quantity of the seeds in the face of their growing demand.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), this year the demand for potato seeds in six upazilas of Barguna is nearly 800 tonnes but BADC supplied only 93 tonnes.

Many growers, who have prepared more lands than the previous year for potato farming, are the worst sufferers due to shortage of seeds.

Local farmers said due to BADC's failure to supply quality seeds many of them were compelled to buy substandard seeds at high prices from local markets.

DAE sources said this year a total of 975 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation in six upazilas of Barguna.

Of the land, 540 hectares are in Patharghata upazila, 140 hectares in Sadar, 128 hectares in Betagi, 70 hectares in Taltali, 62 hectares in

Amtali and 35 hectares in Bamna upazila.

Farmer Mohammad Hafiz of Sonali Bazar area in Patharghata upazila said usually potatoes grow well in sandy land and our area is on the shores of the Bay of Bengal.

Due to high potato prices in local markets more farmers opted for potato cultivation but the crisis of quality seeds has dashed their hopes, Hafiz said.

Mohammad Sobhan, another farmer of Uttar Rupadhan village, said quality of the seeds supplied by BADC is quite good, while each kg of seeds costs only Tk 65 Tk 70.

But due to crisis of quality seeds farmers have been buying substandard seeds from local markets at Tk 100 to Tk 110 per kg.

Another farmer Jahangir Khan of the area said he had a plan to cultivate potatoes in more land than before but could not do so due to unavailability of quality seeds.

More farmers would have come forward for potato cultivation if quality seeds were available, he added.

Contacted, Patuakhali BADC (Seed) Deputy Assistant Director Mohammad Nannu Mia said supply of potato seeds were a bit less at the beginning of the season, but later it was increased as per demand.

Tulip quizzed in UK over graft allegations

FROM PAGE 12

On Thursday, she welcomed the official to her office and gave her response to allegations that she helped her family embezzle up to £3.9 billion from the Russia-backed Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project.

Her explanation about the Russia deal was accepted at face value and the fact that her holding the meeting does not indicate that there is any kind of civil service investigation into her, the Sunday Times said.

According to the report, the Cabinet Office said: "As previously stated, the minister has denied any involvement."

Tulip, who represents the constituency of Hampstead & Highgate, was unavailable for comments.

As economic secretary to the Treasury, she is responsible for tackling corruption in the UK's financial markets.

Daughter of Sheikh Rehana, Tulip is accused of helping her aunt Hasina broker a corrupt deal with Russia for the £10 billion Rooppur plant in 2013.

The same year she posed for a picture with Russian President Vladimir Putin and her aunt at a signing ceremony for the deal, the report said.

Citing sources close to her, the Sunday Times said allegations that she co-ordinated meetings between Bangladeshi and Russian officials are "trumped-up charges" and "completely politically motivated".

She is said to have repeated this view — and her belief that she is the victim of a "political hit job" — during her discussion with the PET official.

According to a source, she explained that she visited Moscow more than a decade ago to see her aunt because it was easier to fly to Russia than Bangladesh.

However, on Saturday the Daily Mail said that fresh questions had been raised over a \$1 billion arms deal that was also signed at the meeting, the Sunday Times reported.

It also mentioned that the Mail said Hasina signed a deal for a \$1 billion loan to Bangladesh to buy Russian weapons and military equipment.

Tulip was a Labour

councillor at the time and became an MP in 2015. A party spokesman told the Mail: "The dealings of two countries from two years before Tulip became an MP have absolutely nothing to do with her."

Tulip, 42, has previously said that she only posed for Putin after he said: "Is your family here? I'd like a picture."

The Mail on Sunday reported that Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had a team of five officials gathering "documentary evidence" relating to Tulip and others, and was likely to write to them within weeks.

Depending on Tulip's response, investigators will decide whether to issue first information reports, which

would make her an official suspect.

It is understood that Tulip has not yet been contacted by any of the relevant authorities, the Sunday Times reports.

A source told the British newspaper that officials were nervous about the potential for further embarrassment arising from her close relationship with Hasina, who, since being ousted, has been accused of crimes against humanity, including killing hundreds of protesters. Hasina fled to India in August following an uprising.

Tulip does not deny being close to Hasina, and previously praised her aunt as a "great role model". Sunday Times mentioned in its report.

Outrage over humiliation of freedom fighter Gaza truce

FROM PAGE 12

"We have identified 10-15 people. They are residents of a village neighboring that of the freedom fighter. But we don't know their political identities yet."

Freedom Fighter Abdul Hai Kanu, who had to endure the humiliation, alleged the attackers were Jamaat activists.

On Sunday afternoon, hours after the incident, he left his ancestral home and took shelter in a relative's house in Feni.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Kanu's wife Rehana Begum said, "My husband left yesterday [Sunday] afternoon as he was scared and mentally devastated. Our house has been attacked twice since August 5 — first on August 19 and then on September 2 — by Jamaat activists."

Kanu is a resident of Ludiara village under Cumilla's Chaudagram and a former member of the Krishak League central

committee.

Police said he was accused in two cases — one for murder and another for defamation.

Yesterday, a video went viral on social media, in which a group of people ordered Kanu to leave the area by nightfall. They were seen putting a garland of shoes around his neck.

Kanu said he was on his way to buy medicine around 11:30am when one Hashem obstructed him and took him to Kuliara Primary School.

"They dragged me by the collar to the school, placed a sharp knife at my throat, and then threatened to kill me," he told The Daily Star. "They also beat me, forced me to wear a garland of shoes, and ordered me to leave the district by sundown."

He added, "Putting a string of shoes around my neck is similar to putting one around all freedom fighters in Bangladesh. I

want justice."

Kanu alleged that Abul Hashem and Wahidur Rahman, who are involved with Jamaat politics, led the attack.

Jamaat-e-Islami in a statement signed by Md Belal Hossain, publicity secretary of Comilla south unit, last night said it has expelled Abul Hashem and Wahidur Rahman. About the cases against him, Kanu said his political rival and former railway minister Mujibul Haque implicated him in "false cases".

Meanwhile, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing yesterday afternoon issued a statement condemning the incident.

"We strongly condemn the defamation of Freedom Fighter Abdul Hai in Chaudagram on Sunday. The police and local administration have been directed to investigate the incident and ensure the perpetrators are brought to

justice," reads a Facebook post from the CA press wing.

However, the post noted Kanu stands accused in nine cases, including one for murder.

"We urge everyone to refrain from taking the law into their own hands," it added.

Chaudagram Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Rahamat Ullah visited Kanu's home yesterday afternoon and assured he would be provided security should he return.

BNP leaders and activists of Chaudagram upazila and the municipality yesterday took out a procession to protest the humiliation of Kanu.

They demanded immediate arrest and trial of those responsible for the incident.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi in a statement condemned the incident and demanded punishment of the criminals.



Many growers, who prepared their lands for potato farming, face acute seed crisis. The photo was taken from Barguna's Patharghata upazila. PHOTO: STAR

UKRAINE WAR North Korea suffers 1,100 casualties

Says South Korea

AFP, Seoul

More than 1,000 North Korean soldiers have been killed or wounded in Russia's war with Ukraine, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said yesterday.

The new figure follows a report by Seoul's spy agency to MPs last week, which said at least 100 North Korean soldiers had been killed since entering combat in December.

Pyeongyang has sent thousands of troops to reinforce the Russian military, including to the Kursk border region where Ukrainian forces seized territory earlier this year.

"Through various sources of information and intelligence, we assess that North Korean troops who have recently engaged in combat with Ukrainian forces have suffered around 1,100 casualties," the JCS said in a statement.



Palestinian people and rescuers inspect the charred remains of a bus hit by an Israeli strike in the Mawasi area west of Khan Yunis city in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Inset, a Palestinian woman mourns next to a body during the funeral of Palestinians, killed in Israeli air strikes, at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis.



PHOTO: AFP



Joe Biden commutes sentences of 37 death row inmates

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden yesterday commuted the sentences for 37 out of 40 federal inmates on death row, converting them to life in prison without parole before he hands over power to President-elect Donald Trump on Jan. 20.

Biden's move will frustrate Trump's plan to resume a rapid pace of executions. Unlike executive orders, clemency decisions cannot be reversed by a president's successor, although the death penalty can be sought more aggressively in future cases.

Trump restarted federal executions after a nearly 20-year pause during his first term in office from 2017 to 2021.

Biden, who ran for president opposing the death penalty, put federal executions on hold when he took office in January 2021.

In recent weeks, he has faced pressure from congressional Democrats, opponents of capital punishment and religious leaders such as Pope Francis to commute federal death sentences before he leaves.

"Make no mistake: I condemn these murderers, grieve for the victims of their despicable acts, and ache for all the families who have suffered unimaginable and irreparable loss," Biden said in a statement.

NORTH GAZA GOVERNORATE

Only 12 trucks delivered food, water since Oct

Says aid group as the Palestinian enclave faces worsening humanitarian situation

AFP, United Nations

Just 12 trucks distributed food and water in northern Gaza in two-and-a-half months, aid group Oxfam said on Sunday, raising the alarm over the worsening humanitarian situation in the besieged territory.

"Of the meager 34 trucks of food and water given permission to enter the North Gaza Governorate over the last 2.5 months, deliberate delays and systematic obstructions by the Israeli military meant that just twelve managed to distribute aid to starving Palestinian civilians," Oxfam said in a statement, in a count that included deliveries through Saturday.

"For three of these, once the food and water had been delivered to the school where people were sheltering, it was then cleared and shelved within hours," Oxfam added.

Israel, which has tightly controlled aid entering the Hamas-ruled territory since the outbreak of the offensive, often blames what it says is the inability of relief organisations to handle and distribute large quantities of aid.

In a report focused on water, New York-based Human Rights Watch on Thursday detailed what it called deliberate efforts by Israeli authorities "of a systematic nature"



to deprive Gazans of water, which had "likely caused thousands of deaths... and will likely continue to cause deaths."

They were the latest in a series of accusations levelled against Israel - and denied by the country - during its 14-month offensive.

Oxfam said that it and other international aid groups have been "continually prevented from delivering life-saving aid" in northern Gaza since October 6 this year, when Israel intensified its bombardment of the territory.

"Thousands of people are estimated to still be cut off, but with humanitarian access blocked

it's impossible to know exact numbers," Oxfam said.

"At the beginning of December, humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza were receiving calls from vulnerable people trapped in homes and shelters that had completely run out of food and water."

Oxfam highlighted one instance of an aid delivery in November being disrupted by Israeli authorities.

"A convoy of 11 trucks last month was initially held up at the holding point by the Israeli military at Jabalia, where some food was taken by starving civilians," it said.

India police kill 3 Sikh separatist militants

AFP, Lucknow

Indian police said yesterday they had killed three Sikh militants fighting for a separate homeland known as "Khalistan", the struggle for which sparked deadly violence in the 1980s and 1990s.

The campaign for Khalistan was at the heart of a diplomatic firestorm last year after Indian intelligence operatives were linked to the killing of a vocal Sikh leader in Canada and an attempted assassination in the United States - claims New Delhi rejected.

In the latest incident, Khalistani rebels were killed after a gun battle in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh. The men were wanted for their alleged involvement in a grenade attack on a police outpost in Punjab this month.

Pilibhit police superintendent Avinash Pandey said officers had surrounded the men after a tip-off, with the suspects launching "heavy fire".

"In the retaliatory action, all three were critically injured and later died in hospital," he said.

Brokers prowling

FROM PAGE 12

When asked about Touhid's concerns, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury did not respond directly.

"If you go to the border, you will understand the situation. A war is happening there. You know the situation," he told journalists at the Pikhana headquarters of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday.

Sources claimed that small groups of Rohingyas enter Bangladesh almost daily, though larger groups cannot cross as they attract the attention of law enforcement.

Over 300 Rohingyas have been waiting in the Dhuri area of Ghumdhum in Bandarban's Naikhongchhari upazila to enter Bangladesh, according to local sources and Rohingya leaders.

A Rohingya leader in Teknaf, speaking anonymously, said, "Bangladeshi brokers are charging at least Tk 20,000 per person for entry. They are also collecting Tk 20,000 for every three or four children under 10."

Due to heightened security at the Naikhongchhari border, Rohingyas are attempting to enter Bangladesh through the Keruntoli border area in Teknaf by crossing the Naf River in small boats.

"Around eight to 10 people have been entering Bangladesh each night over the past three to four days," the leader added.

Regarding the influx of Rohingyas, Home Adviser Jahangir said, "We will not allow Rohingyas to enter Bangladesh under any circumstances."

He clarified that the 60,000 Rohingyas entered the country over the past one and a half to two years, rather than in the last two months as previously reported.

He further stated that the entire border area along Myanmar is under the control of the Arakan Army. "We can communicate unofficially with them. We are working to resolve the issue as soon as possible."

Enquired about the Rohingya repatriation, the adviser noted, "I cannot provide details. You [journalists] can enquire with the foreign ministry for more information. The chief adviser has appointed an expert, and we expect positive outcomes in the future."

A tense situation has developed among Rohingyas and locals at the Myanmar border after the Arakan Army claimed full control of Maungdaw district in Rakhine State on December 8.

Anowar Faisal, a resident of Noyapara village in Teknaf, shared, "We couldn't sleep on Friday and Saturday nights when airstrikes occurred. Our homes shook as bombs were dropped from aircraft."

Zubair of ARSPH warned that a new influx of Rohingyas could happen at any moment as those on the other side of the border are being tortured by the AA.

Adieu, doyen

FROM PAGE 12

Benegal passed away at Wockhardt Hospital at 6.38pm, said her daughter Pia.

"My father had been suffering from chronic kidney disease for several years but it worsened recently. That is the reason for his death," Pia said.

Benegal, celebrated for poignant and hard-hitting films like Ankur, Nishant, Mandi, Manthan and Zubeidaa, examined the main fault lines of Indian society, tackling issues of feudalism, caste, and women's emancipation, while ceaselessly experimenting with the cinematic form.

His vast filmography boasts several masterpieces that altered the course of Indian cinema. Some other notable works of Benegal include Bhumika, Mammo, Sardari Begum, Junoon Aarohan, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero and Well Done Abba.

He also made a film on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, "Mujib: The Making of a Nation" which was released in 2023.

In recognition of his thought-provoking

films addressing social issues, Benegal was honoured with the Indian government's prestigious award Padma Shri in 1976, two years after he made his directorial debut with Ankur, and the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award of the government, in 1991.

Benegal's third film Nishant (1975) earned a nomination for the Palme d'Or at the 1976 Cannes Film Festival. During his illustrious career, Benegal earned numerous accolades, including the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest honour in the field of cinema, in 2005 and an impressive 18 national film awards.

His Mammo (1994), Sardari Begum (1996), and Zubeidaa (2001), which collectively form a trilogy on Muslim women, also won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi.

Benegal has won the prestigious National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi a total of seven times.

Besides his daughter, the director is survived by his wife Nira.

"We will absolutely not allow there to be weapons in the country outside state control, whether from the revolutionary factions or the factions present in the SDF area."

Syria's new leader **Ahmed al-Sharaa**

S Alam threatens

FROM PAGE 2

It states that banks owned by S Alam have been restricted from lending and had their management teams changed, while deals they had in place have been cancelled by the government "arbitrarily and without due process".

"The value of the investors' investments has been destroyed, in whole or in part, through the acts and omissions of Bangladesh, its agencies and instrumentalities," the Quinn Emanuel notice states.

"Those acts and omissions, which are ongoing, have violated and continue to violate the investors' rights under [investment treaties] and the laws of Bangladesh, and give rise to the present dispute."

The Bangladesh government did not respond to a request for comments on the letter.

Ahsan H Mansur, who was appointed Bangladesh's central bank governor following the toppling of Hasina's regime in August, told the FT in October that Saiful Alam, his associates, and

other groups had siphoned money out of the banking system after taking over leading banks with the help of members of a powerful military intelligence agency.

Mansur, a former IMF official, alleged that they used methods such as loans to the banks' new shareholders and inflated import invoices as part of what he called the "biggest, highest robbing of banks by any international standards".

S Alam Group, which has interests in sectors including food, construction, garments, and banking, has said there is "no truth" to Mansur's allegations.

A spokesperson for Bangladesh's central bank said, "The issues are under investigation and the central bank has refrained from any comment for the betterment of the investigation outcomes."

Alam's letter is an early indicator of the hurdles Bangladesh's interim government faces in its attempts to reclaim money it says was taken out of the banking system under the regime of Hasina.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় সংকেত ও টেলিযোগাযোগ প্রকৌশলী এর দপ্তর
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

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বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
www.bpd.gov.bd
বায়বাহ্যিক (পরিচালনা) এর দপ্তর
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মোবাইল নংঃ ০১৩১৩০৯৬১৫৪

Reference No. 27.11.3677.462.62.034.24-674 Date: 21-12-2024

e-Tender Notice

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

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods	Tender publication date & time	Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing/ opening date & time
1	1051990	GR-13 APP2024-25 south	Procurement of Sodium Hypochlorite for the pretreatment of clarifier and cooling Tower of Bibiyana south 400MW, CCPP, BPDB, Habiganj.	24-12-2024 11:30	12-01-2025 16:00	13-01-2025 11:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.bpd.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) Contact No. (0172625528-31, 0171783947).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৫৮৫(২)/২৩/১২/২৪ (৬*৩)

Niranjani Paul
ID No. 7-0023
Chief Chemist
Bibiyana South 400MW, CCPP, BPDB
Nabiganj, Habiganj

GD-1258

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Bangladesh must remain alert

The situation in Myanmar is becoming more complex

The ongoing conflict in Myanmar between the military junta, the Arakan Army, and other rebel groups has thrown up yet another curveball for Bangladesh. The Arakan Army recently claimed to have captured the last Myanmar army outpost in the strategic western town of Maungdaw, thereby gaining full control of the 271-kilometre-long border with Bangladesh. In light of this development, Bangladesh has urged Myanmar to address the ongoing crisis in Rakhine State and along its borders, emphasising that it cannot negotiate with non-state actors like the Arakan Army.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain conveyed this message to Myanmar during an informal consultation held in Thailand on December 19. He also stressed that peace and stability in the region would remain unattainable without resolving the Rohingya crisis, which necessitates their safe and secure repatriation to Myanmar. According to the foreign adviser, at least 1.2 million Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh over the past seven years due to Myanmar's civil war and the persecution of Rohingyas. Moreover, Bangladesh recently had to accept over 60,000 additional Rohingyas through various unofficial channels, despite its decision to prohibit new arrivals. This has been attributed to corruption at the border, which has left the Bangladesh government with limited options.

Clearly, the situation is becoming increasingly complex and concerning for Bangladesh. Corruption along the border, facilitating the influx of Rohingyas and potentially fuelling drug, weapon, and human trafficking, poses a growing security threat. Therefore, it is imperative for the government to address these issues urgently before they escalate further. Moreover, given the current border situation, progress in the Rohingya repatriation process has completely stalled. But how long can Bangladesh continue to provide shelter to them, especially with foreign aid to support Rohingyas steadily dwindling in recent years? The economic, environmental, and social burdens Bangladesh is shouldering to accommodate the Rohingyas are becoming more unsustainable by the day. The potential for further destabilisation, both for Bangladesh and the broader region, continues to grow because of the conflict.

The recent escalation of violence in Rakhine has again raised fears of a revival of organised violence against members of the Muslim Rohingya minority community, similar to that which drove huge numbers of them to flee to Bangladesh in 2017. Under these circumstances, Bangladesh must be extra vigilant about securing its border with Myanmar. At the same time, with the aid of the international community, the government should persuade the Myanmar junta and the various rebel factions to reach a peaceful resolution through dialogue for the sake of restoring regional stability.

Proper reforms will strengthen the media

Proposed changes by media commission to address journalist vulnerabilities

We welcome the long-overdue official conversation on legislating protection for journalists in Bangladesh. The chief of the Media Reform Commission recently announced plans to recommend a new law to safeguard journalists, as well as amending 32 existing laws that hinder press freedom. Such initiatives are critical if we want a media industry that can truly serve as the fourth pillar of democracy, holding those in power accountable.

At a recent dialogue in Dhaka, the commission chief also underscored the importance of financial security for journalists, advocating for a minimum floor wage applicable nationwide. This statement coincides with the unveiling of findings from a Broadcast Journalist Center (BJC) survey that revealed that over half of the country's TV channels are failing to pay their employees on time, while at least 20 percent owe workers several months' salaries. The survey also found that less than 25 percent of channels provide provident funds, and only 10 percent offer gratuities. Similar challenges plague many print outlets as well. Alarming, especially outside Dhaka, journalists often have to juggle multiple roles—as reporters, ad procurers, and salespeople—leaving them vulnerable to corruption and exploitation.

Physical security remains another major concern. Reports of journalists facing attacks—sometimes fatal—while pursuing their work are far too frequent. We cannot forget the tragic death of Golam Rabbani Nadeem, district correspondent of *Banglanews24.com* and *Ekattor TV*, who was beaten to death after reporting on a local upazila parishad chairman's activities in Jamalpur. Equally haunting is the unresolved case of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi, who were murdered in their home 12 years ago, with justice still eluding their families.

In addition to these risks, journalists also face job insecurity. According to the BJC survey, at least 150 TV journalists lost their jobs this year alone. Expecting journalists to uphold high standards under such conditions is not only unrealistic, but also inhumane. This is why we applaud the Media Reform Commission's initiative to address these systemic issues. Reforms must ensure that the press is free from government interference and undue influence from powerful entities. Introducing a uniform code of conduct, aligned with international best practices, could help promote ethical and high-quality journalism.

Such measures are crucial to fostering a media landscape capable of holding power to account. We eagerly await substantive reforms that will enable journalists to thrive professionally and contribute to a more transparent, accountable society. Independent, fact-based journalism benefits everyone—and its sustainability depends on the authorities' commitment to ensuring journalists' well-being.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Vincent van Gogh chops off his ear

On this day in 1888, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cut off the lower part of his left ear with a razor while staying in Arles, France. He later documented the event in a painting titled "Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear."

Politics, patience and people's mandate



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at BRAC University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), and adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MANZOOR AHMED

The *chhatra-janata* uprising in July-August unexpectedly ended an entrenched authoritarian regime. A despondent nation had resigned itself to oligarchy, kleptocracy, and crony capitalism continuing for the foreseeable future. But brutal repression of the student protesters and the tyrant's hubris provoked the masses, already nursing long-accumulated grievances, to join the students' call to "march for justice." The students' demand for fairness in government job quotas turned into the people's agenda for nothing less than regime change and repair of the broken state. The interim government headed by Dr Muhammad Yunus was installed on August 8 with this popular mandate.

Politicians, talk-show pundits, and sundry analysts tend to forget this origin of the interim government. To define its job as that of arranging a parliamentary election and handing over the power to the winning party is tantamount to betraying people's trust and expectations and dishonouring the supreme sacrifices of the thousands who lost their lives and limbs during the uprising.

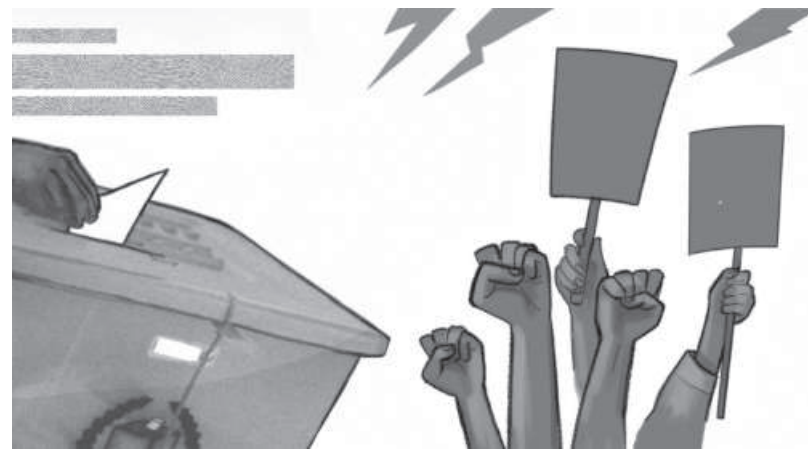
The political parties—particularly the BNP, the presumptive heir to the previous regime—are becoming increasingly impatient about a timetable for elections. When Nahid Islam, a student member of the advisory council, said politicians eager for a quick election may be impeding essential reforms initiated by the government, BNP Secretary-General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir slated him for taking an anti-politics position.

According to some media reports, BNP's followers or those using the party's name are replacing the extortionists, influence-peddlers, and *mastans* of the old regime. At the same time, BNP leaders are equivocal about the interim government's reform mandate, demanding that it limit its activities to keep the government functioning and prepare for and organise the parliamentary election. Other political parties, though not as intensely impatient, have joined this chorus.

As the parties clamour now to reclaim power through a quick

election, have they asked themselves if they promoted and practised democracy in their parties? What did they do when they were in power to ensure accountable governance to serve the public interest, stem corruption, and ensure fair elections and people's right to vote freely?

Historically, relatively fair polling occurred under caretaker governments. Political parties grudgingly accepted those; sometimes they tried hard to bypass or undermine the ground rules of the caretaker government. The major political parties had agreed



VISUAL: REHNUMA PRASHOON

to strengthen democracy after the downfall of the military-backed regime in 1990, but they quickly abandoned the pact and betrayed the nation once elected to power.

What assurance is there that the mindset and values of those who misbehaved in the past have really changed, especially when many of the old players remain in the game and few have expressed any contrition or willingness to engage in collective self-reflection?

The media and public discussion about the interim government's performance is dominated by alleged weaknesses, missteps, inefficiencies, and poor public communication about its objectives and strategies. Many may find these complaints justified, but how serious they appear depends on whether one considers the glass half-full or half-empty.

That Bangladesh stood at the brink of becoming a failed state, that

the current administration came just in time to halt the calamity, and that a reversal has begun do not often figure in public discourse. Is this something to do with the fact that major print and electronic media outlets are dependent on the financial sponsorship of business houses, often with links to political parties? Can the interim government's commission on media consider steps towards creating a more independent public alternative in line with the BBC in the UK or National Public Radio in the US?

A fair question is whether the interim government is hesitant to act decisively on the people's mandate, take on the task of making a new beginning towards "state repair," and create the conditions for fighting discrimination and injustice. Building a democratic polity with voting rights exercised freely by citizens is no doubt a key part of these conditions. Is the government letting the political parties and the less-than-independent

tired and old political parties that did not serve the nation well. Also, why can't the interim government renew and strengthen its mandate? It can take two pragmatic and purposeful steps.

First, the government can ask the newly established Election Commission (EC) to hold the local government elections at union, upazila, and district levels soon. Without political parties' undue powerplay, as seen in the past, the EC can properly conduct an independent election in which genuine people's representatives are likely to be elected. Resources can be provided at the local level to bring various essential services to people. This would be a dry run for democracy under the new dispensation and a way for the interim government to engage meaningfully with citizens.

Second, when the constitution reform commission report is ready, the government, following dialogue with political parties and civil society, can ask the EC to hold polls to form a constituent assembly to adopt a revision of the constitution. The parliamentary election can then be held under the revised constitution. The constituent assembly can consider the commission's recommendations on constitutional reforms as well as recommendations of other commissions. Some of the recommendations are likely to have legal implications that can be incorporated into the constitution.

Meanwhile, the government, media, and civil society would challenge the political parties to be more introspective about their own democratic culture and conduct. The government would also present its goals and plans and encourage citizens to express their views and exercise their democratic rights at the local government level and in constitution-making, and then in electing a new parliament once the revised constitution is adopted.

Students and youth can form their political party or a coalition of parties to stake out their place in the constituent assembly and eventually in parliament. The interim government can try to demonstrate a model for how a responsive and accountable government should be run and lay the groundwork for various reforms initiated. The government must spell out this agenda and the time frame for accomplishing these tasks with confidence derived from the people's mandate. It owes it to the martyrs and heroes of the "march for justice" to not let political parties' impatience for reclaiming power dictate the national narrative.

Ignoring biodiversity conservation will cost us



Dr Dwijen L Mallick is fellow at Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

DWIJEN MALLICK

Climate change is severely affecting natural resources, including forests, wetlands, floodplains, hill ecosystems, and biodiversity. Concerns about the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems have been expressed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and in the recent United Nations Conferences of the Parties (COPs). Uncontrolled human activities, trade and business, and climate change are affecting various ecosystems, their species composition, compactness, productivity, and ecosystem health, which in turn are undermining the livelihoods and well-being of millions of marginalised people and indigenous communities living in and around these ecosystems.

Climate change is causing sea-level rise, increased climate variability, temperature rise and heat stress, changes in seasons, and more frequent or intense droughts, wildfires, cyclones, heavy rain-induced floods, and landslides. These impacts are leading to increasingly severe social, economic, and ecological consequences. A recent report from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research on "10 Insights in Climate Science" has cautioned that climate change and extreme events are affecting all ecosystems, which is also happening in Bangladesh. The

National Adaptation Plan, published in October 2022, has identified 12 climate hotspots in the country with several climate stresses affecting both people and ecosystems.

A 2022 UN report states that forests cover approximately 31 percent of the Earth's surface. They are home to 80 percent of the terrestrial species of plants, animals, and insects. However, many wildlife species are extinct, and 22 percent of animal species are at high risk of extinction. Around 12 million hectares of forest land are lost every year due to heat stress, drought, and deforestation. The current high rate of deforestation, caused by human activities and climate change, poses serious threats to forests, biodiversity, and ecosystem health, on which the livelihoods of millions depend directly and indirectly. Additionally, human dependency on forests and ecosystems means that forests, along with natural vegetation, are a major sink of carbon, absorbing over 30 percent of anthropogenic CO₂. Forests and wetlands are also a major source of carbon emissions. Deforestation and the degradation of wetlands are causing rapid changes in both local and global climates.

Climate change is causing frequent and severe forest fires that further degrade forest resources and threaten wildlife and biodiversity. The key

challenges are fighting deforestation and stopping the degradation of ecosystems through regeneration, conservation, and the protection of ecosystems, wildlife, and biodiversity. One of the approaches to ecosystem regeneration is Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) with socio-ecological responses, which essentially meets the twin goals of ecological regeneration

integrated landscape-level forest and wetland management; restoration and conservation of forest, hill, and wetland ecosystems; better management of forest protected areas with communities (SUFAL in Bangladesh); agroforestry and conservation agriculture; climate-smart agriculture; and nature-positive, climate-resilient livelihoods. The EbA projects are generating significant social and ecological co-benefits, such as food and water security, resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health risk management, livelihood protection, disaster risk reduction (DRR), social protection, and gender equity. It is strongly felt that the planning and implementation of EbA and NbS through a locally-led approach may address many local and community needs, priorities, and sustainable development goals by reducing current and future risks of climate change, as well as enhancing resilience in both society and ecosystems.

A 2022 UN report states that forests cover approximately 31 percent of the Earth's surface. They are home to 80 percent of the terrestrial species of plants, animals, and insects. However, many wildlife species are extinct, and 22 percent of animal species are at high risk of extinction.

and enhancing social resilience to climate change.

The EbA approach is nested within Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate risk reduction, social protection, and resilient livelihoods by harnessing and enhancing ecosystem services from healthy ecosystems through conservation, protection, and regeneration of natural resources and ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems provide important ecosystem services that contribute to climate change adaptation. EbA focuses on the benefits that humans derive from biodiversity and ecosystem services to manage the risks related to climate change impacts.

The early examples of EbA include

The recent COPs under the UNFCCC have placed much importance on planning and implementing EbA with communities and actors, including ecosystem managers, local governments, and community organisations. EbA interventions should be planned and implemented with the active participation of vulnerable communities and actors, following the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles. Thus, the implementation of EbA in the degraded ecosystems of Bangladesh will certainly contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.293

Date: 23/12/2024

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1050449	Procurement of tools and consumables for ST System and Switchyard	15-Dec-2024	12-Jan-2025 15:30 PM	13-Jan-2025
2	1055650	Procurement of Heavy Chemicals through framework contract	23-Dec-2024	12-Jan-2025 15:30	13-Jan-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).

23/12/24

Engr. Md. Asad Halim
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-1256

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RHD,
ROAD DIVISION, JHALAKATHI.

E-mail: eejha@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No-35.01.4240.432.04.001.20-2024 (3)

dated: 23/12/2024

Invitation for e-Tenders

Sl. No	Name of Works	Tender ID No	Tender Security	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
01	05/e-GP/PMP-Roads/JRD/2024-2025 Periodic Maintenance Program For DBS Wearing Course work at Ch. 24+300 (Chatrakanda, Pingri) to Ch.29+963(Rajapur Medical More) km of Barishal-Jhalakathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna National Highways (N-807) (Jhalokathi Part) & DBS Wearing Course work at Ch.0+000 (Rajapur Medical More) km to Ch.12+347(Kanudaskathi) km of Rajapur-Bhandaria-Pirojpur Regional Highways (R-870) (Jhalokathi Part) Road under Jhalokathi Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	1052057	57,50,000/-	20-01-2025 05-00 PM	21-01-2025 12-00 PM

01. These are online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in e-GP portal.
02. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd)

23/12/24

(Shahriar Sharif Khan)
ID No-602247
Executive Engineer, RHD (c.c)
Jhalakathi Road Division.

GD-1253



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
রেঞ্জ ডিআইজির কার্যালয়
বরিশাল
www.police.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-বরিশাল/প্রশাঃ/৩৬-২০২৪/৮৩৬৩

তারিখঃ ২৩-১২-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ সালে রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়, বরিশাল এর বিভিন্ন মেসারস প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত পৃথক পৃথক খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র. নং	বিবরণ	সিডিউসের মূল্য	দরপত্র আবেদনের পরিমাণ
১।	মহাপলয়	৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা)	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার টাকা)
২।	দরপত্র নং	০২/২০২৪-২০২৫	
৩।	বিভাগ	পুলিশ বিভাগ	
৪।	সংরক্ষক	ডিআইজি, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, বরিশাল রেঞ্জ, বরিশাল	
৫।	দরপত্রের ধরণ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)	
৬।	অর্থের উৎস	পুলিশ বেতকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা	
৭।	কাজের বিবরণ	(১) বরিশাল ডিআইজির এর বাসভবনের অভ্যন্তরীণ রাস্তাসমূহের মেসারস কাজ (২) বরিশাল ডিআইজির এর বাসভবনের ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল সংস্কার ও সিঁড়িটাইলি লাইট স্থাপন কাজ (৩) বরিশাল ডিআইজির অফিসে আগত দর্শনাবলীর জন্য ওয়েটিং রুম তৈরির কাজ।	
৮।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ	১০-০১-২০২৫ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
৯।	সিডিউস বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১২-০১-২০২৫ খ্রিঃ ১৭:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১০।	সিডিউস বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ডিআইজি, বরিশাল রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়, বরিশাল এবং পুলিশ হুসারের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।	
১১।	দরপত্র জমাের স্থান ও তারিখ	ডিআইজি বরিশাল রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়, বরিশাল ১০-০১-২৫ খ্রিঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১২।	দরপত্র জমাের স্থান ও সময়	ডিআইজি বরিশাল রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়, বরিশাল ১০-০১-২৫ খ্রিঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা	
১৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তা	ডিআইজি, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, বরিশাল রেঞ্জ, বরিশাল।	
১৪।	দরপত্র জমাের শর্তাবলী	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় সীলমোহরকৃত পৃথক পৃথক খামে সীলমোহরকৃত পৃথক পৃথক খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।	

K.M. Shojeb

২৩/১২/২৪

কার্যালয়: বরিশাল
বিপি-৭৫০৮১২৫৭০
পুলিশ হুসার (অপারেশন)
অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্বে (এ্যাডমিন এ্যাড ফিন্যান্স)
পক্ষে ডিআইজি, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
বরিশাল রেঞ্জ, বরিশাল
ফোনঃ ০২৪৭৮৮৬০৯৪, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২৪৭-৮৮৩৪৩৫৭

GD-1250



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

হিউমান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ৫৭/২০২৪

তারিখ: ০৭ পৌষ ১৪৩২
২২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দি সিবিআইটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিমিটেড, গাজীপুর এ 'প্রধান প্রকৌশলী' পদে অস্থায়ীভাবে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শ্রেণি	বেতনস্কেল	ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী	১	৩য়	৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০	ক) যন্ত্রকৌশল/ভিডিওকৌশল বিষয়ে বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রী। খ) সরকারি উৎপাদন/প্রকাশনা বা বেসরকারি বৃহৎ শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্রধান প্রকৌশলী বা সমমান পদের অববাহিত পূর্ব পদে ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী ও তদূর্ধ্ব পদে ন্যূনতম ১৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। গ) সকল পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণিসহ যে কোন ২টিতে ১ম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। কোন পরীক্ষায় ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

০১। (ক) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী এস.এস.সি ও সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সিজিপিএ-এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবেঃ

৫.০০ পয়েন্ট কেলে	সমতুল্য বিভাগ
জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ
জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ
জিপিএ ১.০০ থেকে ২.০০ এর কম	তৃতীয় বিভাগ

(খ) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮-২ অনুযায়ী অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ-এর ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবে

অর্জিত সিজিপিএ		সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
৪.০০ পয়েন্ট কেলে	৫.০০ পয়েন্ট কেলে	
৩.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	প্রথম শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
২.২৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
১.৬৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.২৫ এর কম	২.০৬৩ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.৮১৩ এর কম	তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

(গ) O' Level এবং A' Level এর ক্ষেত্রে এ দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) এবং বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রাপ্ত ডিগ্রীর ক্ষেত্রে দেশী সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের (শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ উল্লেখসহ) তথ্য প্রদান করতে হবে।

- ০২। বয়স (২২/১২/২০২৪ তারিখে) সর্বোচ্চ ৫৪ বছর।
০৩। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে চাকরির আবেদনপত্র এবং আবেদনপত্রের সাথে পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ কপি রঙিন ছবি, ০৭ নং ক্রমিক বর্ণিত জীবন বৃত্তান্ত (সিডি) ও এ সংক্রান্ত দলিলাদি (একাডেমিক সনদপত্র, ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও অন্যান্য যাচিত দলিলাদির সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি) পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১), হিউমান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবর সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে আগামী ২৩/০১/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে অত্র কার্যালয় কর্তৃক গৃহীত আবেদনপত্র কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল করা হবে।
০৪। বেসরকারি বৃহৎ শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত থাকলে, কর্মরত প্রতিষ্ঠানের Hierarchy এবং Hierarchy-তে আবেদনকারীর অবস্থান উল্লেখপূর্বক উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়নপত্র ০৩ নং ক্রমিক যাচিত দলিলাদির সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
০৫। আবেদনে প্রদত্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। বিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে যদি স্বামীর ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করেন সেক্ষেত্রে উক্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে সনদ জমা দিতে হবে।
০৬। বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক ব্যতীত অন্য কেউ নিয়োগের জন্য উপযুক্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবেন না। বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নয় প্রার্থীর এরূপ জী বা স্বামী থাকলে অথবা বিবাহ বন্ধনের জন্য চুক্তিবদ্ধ হলে নিয়োগের জন্য অনুপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হবেন।
০৭। 'প্রধান প্রকৌশলী' পদে আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নবর্ণিত ছক অনুযায়ী জীবন বৃত্তান্ত প্রস্তুত করে চাকরির আবেদনপত্র ও তৎসংশ্লিষ্ট দলিলাদির সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।

জীবন বৃত্তান্ত	
ক্র. নং	বিবরণ
১।	(ক) প্রার্থীর নাম (বাংলায়) ; (খ) প্রার্থীর নাম (ইংরেজিতে) ; (ক) পিতার নাম (বাংলায়) ; (খ) পিতার নাম (ইংরেজিতে) ; (গ) স্বামীর নাম (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ;
৩।	(ক) মাতার নাম (বাংলায়) ; (খ) মাতার নাম (ইংরেজিতে) ;
৪।	বর্তমান ঠিকানা ;
৫।	স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ;
৬।	জন্ম তারিখ ;
৭।	বয়স (২২/১২/২০২৪) তারিখে ;
৮।	জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের নম্বর ;
৯।	জাতীয়তা ;
১০।	মোবাইল নম্বর ;
১১।	ই-মেইল ;
১২।	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ;

ক্র. নং	ডিগ্রী	শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ	পাসের সন	বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

১৩। অবসর গ্রহণের তারিখ (ইতোপূর্বে চাকরি হতে অবসর গ্রহণ করে থাকলে)।
১৪। অভিজ্ঞতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম	কর্মরত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	পদসংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগ/শাখার নাম	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী পদের সমমান কিনা (হ্যাঁ/না/তদূর্ধ্ব)	সংশ্লিষ্ট পদে কার্যকাল

আমি এ মর্মে ঘোষণা প্রদান করছি যে, উপরে বর্ণিত সকল তথ্যাদি সঠিক এবং নির্ভুল। বর্ণিত তথ্যে কোন ভুল/অসত্য প্রমাণিত হলে তার জন্য আমি দায়ী থাকব।

স্বাক্ষর

০৮। বর্ণিত পদের ক্ষেত্রে কোন কাগজপত্রাদির ঘাটতি থাকলে বা পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার ঘাটতি পাওয়া গেলে বা দুর্নীতি, অসত্য তথ্য প্রদান, কোন জাল সনদ দাখিল, অসদুপায় অবলম্বন, প্রতারণার আশ্রয় নিলে বা আবেদনপত্র গুরুত্বের (Substantive) ত্রুটি বা ঘাটতি দেখা গেলে বা প্রদত্ত তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যেকোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।

- ০৯। আলোচ্য পদে আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে কোন আবেদন ফি প্রদান করতে হবে না।
১০। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের স্ব-স্ব নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বনুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্রের মূলকপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় জমা দিতে হবে। অনাথায় প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে না।
১১। পদের সংখ্যা কম/বেশি হতে পারে।
১২। যাচিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার ভিত্তিতে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হবে।
১৩। বর্ণিত পদে শুধু মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে প্রার্থী বাছাই করা হবে।
১৪। অসম্পূর্ণ/ভুল তথ্য সম্বলিত আবেদনপত্র কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল করা হবে।
১৫। কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির কার্যক্রম যেকোন পর্যায়ে সংশোধন/স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৪-৩২৮৮
তারিখঃ ২৩/১২/২০২৪

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মোঃ জবদুল ইসলাম
পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১)

GD-1257



Nigar Sultana Joty celebrates her hundred on the final day of the opening round Women's Bangladesh Cricket League match in Rajshahi yesterday.
PHOTO: BCB

Records galore as Joty, Pinky hit tons

SPORTS REPORTER

The third and final day of the opening round of the Women's Bangladesh Cricket League witnessed two top national batters – Nigar Sultana Joty and Farzana Haque Pinky – scoring hundreds for their respective sides in the Central Zone versus North Zone match at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

Joty, the Central Zone skipper who resumed the day on 85, became the first Bangladeshi women's cricketer to score a hundred in the history of first-class competition during the opening hour of the day. She remained unbeaten on 153 off 253 balls to help her side post 387-8d and take a 147-run lead in the first innings.

Off spinner Jannatul Ferdous Sumona finished with 6-113 to become the second bowler after Central Zone's Nahida Akter to take a five-wicket haul in the match.

Later in the day, Pinky joined Joty in the list of century-makers with an unbeaten 102 off 226 balls. Pinky, Bangladesh's first centurion in women's international cricket, put up 196 runs in the opening stand with Ishma Tanjim (90 off 171 balls) to guide North Zone to 204-1 before both teams agreed on a stalemate.

'We always want to emulate each other's performance'

Farzana Haque Pinky credited her long-format preparation and practice, which helped her bat for extended periods, as the North Zone batter reflected on her brilliant performance with **The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan** yesterday. Pinky also discussed her rivalry with Nigar Sultana Joty, their mutual desire to play big innings, and the importance of the Women's Bangladesh Cricket League in preparing players for Test cricket.

Read Full Story On The Daily Star Website



Although Pinky could not become the first centurion in first-class cricket after getting dismissed on 86 runs in North Zone's first innings, Joty claimed that it was Pinky's patient knock of 246 balls that inspired her to such a milestone.

"In the first innings, the opposition players, especially the way Pinky was batting with so much time and patience and Ishma was batting so nicely that I felt that I needed to bat that way too," Joty admitted after the match.

The Bangladesh captain was happy to see batters ruling the roost and scoring big runs.

"It's a good sign that the batters score good runs whatever the format is. It's important to score runs. If they can score runs, it boosts the confidence. As we have a vital series coming up, I think the batters will get more confidence there," she added.

Meanwhile, in the day's other match, South Zone skipper Rabeya Khan came up with an inspiring all-round performance (70 runs and seven wickets including 5-18 in the second innings) to propel her side to a 10-wicket win against East Zone at the Bangla Trac Cricket Academy Ground.



NCL T20 FINAL Akbar, Naim look to cut loose

SPORTS REPORTER

Akbar Ali's Rangpur Division will pit their skills against Mohammad Naim's Dhaka Metro as the NCL T20 final unfolds at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium today.

The two sides have faced off twice already in the tournament, with Dhaka Metro winning the first encounter by seven wickets and Rangpur winning the second game – a virtual semifinal scenario – by four wickets in the first qualifier.

Rangpur will look to offset Metro's top-order with their all-rounders. Alauddin Babu, who is the second-highest wicket-taker in the tournament so far, has shone with all-round performances, while pacer Mukidul Islam will want to keep his improvement curve going.

In skipper Akbar, Rangpur have someone in the middle to really help the scoring rate, having batted at a strike rate of just over 150, averaging over 41.

Akbar's counterpart, Mohammad Naim, has been in fine form as the top run-scorer of the tournament

A year of chaos and clean sweeps in Tests

ASHFAQ UL ALAM

Cricket witnessed its busiest year in Tests in two decades in 2024, with 50 Tests taking place till now and three more set to begin on December 26 – not bad for a format that has supposedly been on a virtual deathbed for years in the eyes of many.

The last time the annual Test count had crossed the half-century mark was in 2004, in which 51 five-day matches took place. This year is set to end with 53 Tests – one fewer than 2002.

Had the weather been kinder in Greater Noida, India, in early September, or if the BCCI – the richest board in the world – had installed a modern drainage system at the Greater Noida Sports Complex, the Afghanistan-New Zealand one-off Test would not have been washed away, and the Test count in 2024 could have matched the tally from 2002.

As the jam-packed year in Tests winds down, it's natural to wonder which team have been the most dominant out of the 12 Test-playing countries.

The answer to this question, however, is not that straightforward.

England have won the most matches this year, nine, but they have also lost more than any other team, eight.

Australia have been mostly dominant this year in Tests, despite having suffered a loss to the West Indies at home in January; against a team who are currently bottom of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) points table.

The Aussies also did not play Tests outside their continent at all, as their

This year, 11 of 19 Test series have ended in clean sweeps: Australia clean swept New Zealand and Pakistan; New Zealand clean swept India and South Africa; Sri Lanka clean swept Bangladesh and New Zealand; Bangladesh clean swept Pakistan; India clean swept Bangladesh; South Africa clean swept Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; and England clean swept the West Indies.



only tour was to New Zealand, which surely helped them boost their numbers in the WTC table, where they are currently third.

At present, South Africa top the WTC table and are definitely a candidate for this year's best Test team.

But then again, in their only tour against a team considered one of the top sides, the Proteas suffered a 2-0 defeat in New Zealand.

The usually dominant India have also been inconsistent, suffering their first-ever series sweep in a three-match series against New Zealand in October-November.

Clean sweeps over South Africa and India may indicate that New Zealand have been the team to beat this year, but the Black Caps themselves were whitewashed at home by Australia and away in Sri Lanka this year.

And if one refuses to go too much into the details and looks at win percentages to determine who has been the best, the title would go to Ireland, who have won both of their one-off Test assignments against Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.

Even without counting Ireland's one-off successes as clean sweeps, 2024 has been the year of whitewashes in Tests.

Out of the 19 completed series this year, barring the two one-off series, 11 have ended in clean sweeps.

The high number of one-sided series may seem like the result of one or two teams being treated as whipping boys, but that has not been the case.

Australia have series sweeps over Pakistan and New Zealand – the latter have a 2-0 sweep over the Proteas and a 3-0 win over India to their name.

Both India and South Africa handed Bangladesh 2-0 series defeats, while the Tigers, just like the Aussies, whitewashed Pakistan at home. Bangladesh also drew a Test against the West Indies, who were beaten 3-0 in England.

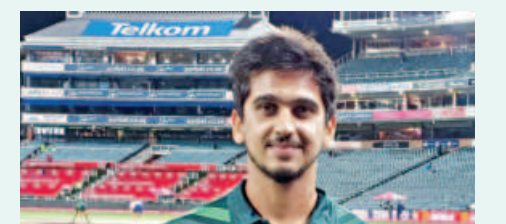
The chaotic results column is overall a good sign for Test cricket.

Bangladesh winning in Pakistan and the West Indies, India getting humbled at home by the Kiwis, and South Africa seemingly finding their spring back in the longest format are all positive indications of what's in store.

Even though the number of Tests is set to drop off in 2025 as the current WTC cycle comes to an end, neutral fans will hope to see the chaos sparked this year sustain, making every Test series in 2025 a must-watch.

AGENCIES

Opener Saim Ayub hit his second century of the series – and his third in five innings – as Pakistan completed a series clean sweep over South Africa with a 36-run win (DLS method) in the third ODI at the Wanderers Stadium on Sunday. Left-handed opening batsman Ayub made a sparkling 101 off 94 balls, featuring 13 fours and two sixes.



- 🇵🇰 Pakistan became the first team to whitewash South Africa in an ODI series in South Africa.
- 🇵🇰 This was only the third instance of Pakistan winning an ODI bilateral series in South Africa.
- 🇵🇰 It is also the second time they have whitewashed any team in the top 10 of the ICC men's team rankings outside Asia in a bilateral series featuring at least three games. They defeated the West Indies 3-0 away from home back in 2005.
- 🇵🇰 Pakistan have won their third straight ODI series under the captaincy of Mohammad Rizwan. All three victories have come away from home. They beat Australia and Zimbabwe by 2-1 margins before blanking the Proteas 3-0.

Rampant Liverpool and their Christmas Day curse

AGENCIES

Liverpool swept four points clear at the top of the Premier League as Mohamed Salah's masterclass inspired a memorable 6-3 rout of Tottenham on Sunday. Salah delivered a sublime performance featuring two goals and a pair of assists. The Reds were firing from all cylinders as Luis Diaz (2), Dominik Szoboszlai (1), and Alexis Mac Allister (1) all found the net as Arne Slot's side ran riot in north London. Despite their stellar form leading them to the top on Christmas Day, Liverpool would want to stay in the present rather than draw inspiration from the past to take the title as their previous record from December 25 does not evoke much confidence.



“Of course it means something, because you always prefer to be where we are at the moment ... but you know just as well as I know, because I've won the [Dutch] league once, how hard it is to win it. You have to keep on going, keep on going, every three days you have to be on top of your game, every minute of the game. That's why it's so hard to win it, because it's not always easy to show up every three or four days.”

Arne Slot
Liverpool manager

- 🇬🇧 Exactly half the time – in 16 seasons out of 32 – the team top of the Premier League table on Christmas Day has gone on to win the title.
- 🇬🇧 This is the seventh time Liverpool have stood first on December 25 but their only success since the top-flight's 1992 rebrand was in 2019-20.
- 🇬🇧 Liverpool have been in this position more than anyone else in English football history – 21 times, winning 11 of the previous 20.
- 🇬🇧 Going back to the Premier League era, Arsenal led the table over Christmas for a fourth time last season – and, like the previous three occasions, failed to lift the trophy.
- 🇬🇧 In contrast Chelsea and Manchester City – plus one-time winners Blackburn Rovers and Leicester City – have always won the title when they have led the pack at this stage.
- 🇬🇧 On four occasions a team have been outside the top four at Christmas and won the title – including last season. Manchester City were fifth at the time – six points behind Arsenal, albeit with a game in hand, and finished champions for a fourth successive time.
- 🇬🇧 The others to do so were Manchester United, having been fifth in 1996-97, Arsenal (sixth in 1997-98) and Pep Guardiola's City again (eighth in 2020-21).



Penalty corner specialist Ashrafur Islam shoots one at goal during the opening match of the Paragon Group Victory Day Hockey competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Ashrafur's five goals helped Navy trounce BKSP 8-2 as hockey returned to the blue turf after a seven-month gap.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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Outrage over humiliation of freedom fighter

Netizens, organisations demand punishment to perpetrators

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The assault and humiliation of a freedom fighter, around whose neck a garland of shoes was placed, have sparked outrage across the country. The incident took place in Cumilla's Chauddagram on Sunday.



Netizens and different organisations strongly protested the incident and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible.

Akhteruzzaman, officer in charge of Chauddagram Police Station, around 8:00pm yesterday, said, "We're conducting raids to arrest the culprits. But none could be detained till now."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Celebrated Pakistani artiste Rahat Fateh Ali Khan performs at the BPL Music Fest at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. A seven-hour-long musical show, also featuring local musicians and bands such as Xefer, Avoid Rafa and Miles, kicked off the first event of the music fest as part of Festival of Youth 2025.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Brokers prowling Myanmar border

Charging Rohingyas up to Tk 30,000 each to help enter Bangladesh illegally

MOKAMMEL SHUVO and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Amid the ongoing conflicts in Myanmar, Rohingyas are crossing into Bangladesh at different points of the 270km border between the two countries.

According to Rohingya leaders, brokers are allegedly facilitating these crossings in exchange for money, helping the refugees avoid detection by law enforcement and local authorities.

At the Bangladesh border, brokers charge Rohingyas between Tk 20,000 and Tk 30,000 each, while the Arakan Army (AA) demands Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000 at the Myanmar side of the border.

Mohammad Zubair, chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH), a refugee camp-based organisation advocating for Rohingya rights, told The Daily Star, "The Arakan Army demands 15 lakh to 25 lakh kyat from each Rohingya to allow passage to the border."

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, speaking to reporters in Dhaka on Sunday, noted the widespread corruption at the border, which aids the Rohingya's entry into Bangladesh.

"They are not entering through a single route; they are using multiple routes, making it very difficult for law enforcers to stop them," he said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



SHYAM BENEGAL (1934-2024)

Adieu, doyen of parallel cinema

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Filmmaker Shyam Benegal, a giant of Indian cinema and one of the guiding lights of the Parallel Cinema movement, passed away due to kidney-related ailments in Mumbai on December 23. He was 90.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Gaza truce talks make headway

Say Israeli, Palestinian officials; 20 killed in Israeli strikes

REUTERS, Cairo

Gaps between Israel and Hamas over a possible Gaza ceasefire have narrowed, according to Israeli and Palestinian officials' remarks yesterday, though crucial differences have yet to be resolved.

A fresh bid by mediators Egypt, Qatar and the United States to end the fighting and release Israeli and foreign hostages has gained momentum this month, though no breakthrough has yet been reported.

Meanwhile, at least 20 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes at a tent camp in the so-called "humanitarian zone" of

al-Mawasi yesterday, medics said.

A Palestinian official familiar with the truce talks said while some sticking points had been resolved, the identity of some of the Palestinian prisoners to be released by Israel in return for hostages had yet to be agreed, along with the precise deployment of Israeli troops in Gaza.

His remarks corresponded with comments by the Israeli diaspora minister, Amichai Chikli, who said both issues were still being negotiated. Nonetheless, he said, the sides were far closer to reaching agreement than they

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

ROOPPUR POWER PLANT Tulip quizzed in UK over graft allegations

STAR REPORT

UK Treasury's Economic Secretary Tulip Siddiq has been questioned by a Cabinet Office team on graft accusations brought by Bangladesh authorities.

Tulip, niece of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, agreed to attend a meeting with a representative of the propriety and ethics team (PET), reports the Sunday Times.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Today is the 51st Death Anniversary of Begum Firdaus Rizvi

We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

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