



Bureaucrats busy feuding over perks

Admin cadre demands reform commission be scrapped within 48hrs; admin, other cadres call separate rallies for Jan 4

BAHARAM KHAN and MD ABBAS

After the administration reform commission recently revealed recommendations it was considering, protests by officials of the admin and 25 other cadres have significantly intensified, affecting their work.

So far, officials have taken out processions, held press conferences, gone on strike which they termed "pen down", announced forming human chains today and called or threatened to hold rallies on January 4 in Dhaka.

On Sunday, admin officials left their offices, gathered inside the Secretariat, took out a procession towards the public administration secretary's office, and submitted a memorandum.

Former additional secretary and civil administration expert Firoz Mia strongly criticised the recent actions of the officials, stating, "What the cadre officials are doing is a clear violation of conduct rules. If they behave like trade unionists to secure personal benefits, what can the nation possibly expect from them?"

"Cadre officials are among the highest beneficiaries and most responsible officers of the state. If they resort to protests, threaten mass rallies, and engage in such movements, what lessons will the people or



The walkway by the Turag River in the capital's Ramchandrapur was built not only for people to enjoy daily strolls, but also to stop illegal encroachment of the banks while protecting the demarcation pillars. However, some cement companies have illegally constructed a structure right on the walkway to unload cement, which is not only obstructing pedestrian movement but also posing risks to the walkway's structural integrity. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MV AL BAKHERA Rab claims a coworker killed 7 crew members

STAR REPORT

The seven crew members of MV Al-Bakhera were killed by a fellow, Akash Mondal, who was allegedly frustrated over unpaid wages and mistreatment, the Rab claimed yesterday after his arrest.

He put sedatives into the food on Sunday night, rendering everyone unconscious, before murdering the vessel's master Kibria in Kibria's cabin with a fire axe in the wee hours of Monday, the Rab said.

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REFORM COMMISSION

ACC overhaul, amendments to law to be proposed

DIPAN NANDY

The reform commission for the Anti-Corruption Commission is focused on amending the ACC structure and related laws to enhance its capacity, efficiency, and independence.

The commission will recommend reducing the workload of the ACC's top-tier leadership, amending provisions of the ACC act that conflict with existing laws, and keeping the graft watchdog free from political and bureaucratic influence, according to sources within the reform commission.

The eight-member commission is working to submit its report within the January 7 deadline. Since its formation on October 3, it

has held around 30 meetings with different stakeholders.

According to sources, the commission will recommend expanding the current three-member ACC to a five-member body by amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004. It will also propose changes to several provisions of the ACC act to make it consistent with other related laws and regulations.

The commission may also suggest amending or repealing laws and provisions, including Bangladesh Civil Service Recruitment Rules-1981, the Income Tax Act-2023, and the Money Laundering Prevention Act-2012.

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ACC can't deliver without changes in politics, bureaucracy

Says Iftekharuzzaman

DIPAN NANDY

Iftekharuzzaman, the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh and also the head of the anti-corruption reform commission, recently shared with The Daily Star updates on the commission's activities.

The Daily Star: Tell us about the progress the commission has made so far.

Iftekharuzzaman: We have already talked to various stakeholders, particularly current and former officials of

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lower-grade employees learn?"

Admin and other 25 cadres are vehemently protesting against the commission's possible recommendations and have violated section 17(a), section 23(a), section 29(c), and section 30 of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, and sections 9(a), 9(g), and 9(j) of the Guidelines on Social Media Usage by Government Institutions, 2016, by taking to social media.

The government employees taking part in these protests could be subjected to disciplinary actions, experts have said.

Bangladesh Administrative Service Association of the incumbent admin officials and the BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, consisting former and current admin officers, yesterday held a protest to counter what they said "deep conspiracies

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17 houses of Tripura community ‘torched’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Seventeen houses of the Tripura community in Bandarban were burnt down in an alleged arson attack early yesterday.

According to the victims, unidentified miscreants fled after setting fire to the houses at Notun Tonghირი Tripura Para in Sarai union of Lama upazila at around 12:30am on Wednesday.

The attack occurred when the residents had gone to another village for prayers and Christmas celebrations, since there was no church in their area.

The Chief Adviser’s Press Wing “strongly condemned” the arson attack on the homes of the Tripura community.

Locals said 17 of the 19 houses of the Christian Tripura community were burnt to ashes.

They said the area had been inhabited by the Tripura community for a long time. But they were forcibly evicted a few years ago by people claiming the area had been leased out to the wife of a police official during the Awami League regime. Those people then planted trees in the village.

Notun Tonghირი Para’s headman Paisapru Tripura said, “We’ve been living here for three to four generations. A group of people introducing themselves as ‘the SP’s men’ evicted us four to five years ago.”

The “SP’s men” told the locals that Benazir Ahmed, who was the inspector general of police at that time, had leased the area in the name of his wife.

The residents came back and started living in newly built houses there following the fall of the AL regime, the locals said.

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Victims looking for what they could collect from the ashes after criminals torched 17 houses of the Tripura community in Bandarban's Lama upazila early yesterday. According to the victims, the houses were set on fire when the residents went to a church in another village for prayers and Christmas celebrations.

PHOTO: MONG SING HAI MARMA

ACC overhaul

FROM PAGE 1

Other recommendations may include proper implementation of the provisions of the ACC act, which stipulate the functioning of its prosecution team, repealing the controversial Section 54 of the ACC employees (service) rules, and limiting the absolute authority of the ACC secretary to transfer investigation officers, said multiple commission members.

ACC officials and employees have expressed concerns about Section 54 (2) of the service rules, which permits dismissal of employees with three months’ pay without a prior notice. Employees argue that this provision undermines their ability to conduct independent and impartial investigations.

Additionally, the reform commission is considering a proposal to establish integrated ACC district offices in all 64 districts, up from the current 36.

It will also make specific recommendations on enhancing the skills of the ACC officials and employees to strengthen the organisation’s capacity and efficiency.

Iftekharuzzaman, chairman of the reform commission, said they are on track to submit the report by the deadline.

“We have made significant progress in preparing the report, which will include recommendations for amending laws and regulations to enhance the ACC’s effectiveness. The scope of the commission’s activities may be expanded as part of these reforms,” he told The Daily Star.

He said issues such as the commission’s appointment process, the number of commissioners, and related matters are likely to be central to their recommendations.

“There should be a complete overhaul of the ACC, from top to bottom. The reform commission is struggling with the stranglehold of the bureaucracy; institutional capacity; internal governance, including ethical conduct and accountability of the commission ...,” said Iftekharuzzaman, also the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

He said the issues of coordination and information sharing between relevant institutions, especially on the high-level corruption and money laundering, remain a priority.

Above all, like any other country, the ACC cannot carry out its duties all by itself. That is why the reform commission is likely to address the question of transformative changes that are needed in the relevant state and non-state institutions in the national integrity system, he added.

38 die in Kazakhstan

FROM PAGE 12

route crashed near the city of Aktau. It belongs to Azerbaijan Airlines,” the Kazakh transport ministry said on Telegram.

Azerbaijan Airlines, the country’s flag carrier, said the plane “made an emergency landing” around three kilometres (1.9 miles) from Aktau.

The Kazakh ministry said its staff put out a fire which broke out when the plane crashed.

It said 150 emergency workers were at the scene.

Kazakhstan said it had opened an investigation into the cause of the crash, which was not immediately clear.

Azerbaijan Airlines initially said the plane flew through a flock of birds before withdrawing the statement.

“We cannot disclose any investigation results at this time,” the office of Azerbaijan’s prosecutor general said in a statement.

“All possible scenarios are being examined, and the necessary expert analyses are underway,” it added.

Rab claims a coworker killed 7 crew members

FROM PAGE 1

To avoid being caught, Akash hacked his seven other colleagues indiscriminately with the same axe, Major Sakib Hossain, a deputy commander of Rab-II, told a press conference at his office in Cumilla.

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested Akash, 26, who also goes by the alias Irfan, from Bagerhat’s Chitalmari on Tuesday night.

The Rab said it recovered a glove, a bag, empty blister packs of sleeping pills, a pair of jeans with blood stains, and seven mobile phones – five of the victims and two of Akash – during the arrest.

In a press release, the Rab said Akash claimed he had acted alone, but the matter could be confirmed after further investigation.

Besides Kibria, 56, the master of the ship, engine operator Salahuddin Mia, 41, helmsman Aminur Munsif, 42, and crew members Sajibul Islam, 29, Majedul Islam Mojib, 16, Sabui, 27, and Rana were killed in the attack. Another victim, helmsman Jewel, 23, survived with critical injuries.

The ship carrying 720 tonnes of urea fertiliser started for Sirajganj’s Baghabari from Chattogram on Sunday morning. The killings occurred in the Meghna river when they reached Chandpur.

Akash told Rab officials during primary interrogation that he had purchased three blister packs

containing 30 sleeping pills five days earlier.

Everyone except Jewel fell asleep after having dinner laced with the sedatives on Sunday night. Around 2:00am on Monday, Jewel and Akash anchored the vessel next to eight to 10 other vessels in the Sahara Beacon area of Chandpur.

After Jewel had his dinner and fell asleep, Akash first hacked Kibria to death around 3:30am, the Rab said.

He later decided to kill the others, fearing he might get caught if they informed the law enforcers about him, Rab said.

When all other anchored ships left for their destinations around 5:30am, Akash started up Al-Bakhera but he lost control of the vessel and at one point it ran aground in the Majhichar area. Akash then stopped a trawler and fled the ship.

Akash had been working in Al-Bakhera for about eight months. The employees of the ship had no leaves and there were delays in their payments, Akash told Rab.

Master Kibria used to embezzle their bills as well, he alleged. The ship’s master also used to get angry with crew members without any reason and sack them when he was displeased with anyone.

Akash told Rab that he had asked everyone on the ship to protest, but no one responded to his call. Then he decided to teach the master a lesson,

claimed Rab.

Major Sakib said they were investigating whether there are other reasons or anyone else involved in the incident, reports our Cumilla correspondent.

Responding to a 999 call, a team of river police went to the vessel around 3:00pm on Monday and recovered five bodies from crew quarters and three other wounded crew members, two of whom died later.

Lone survivor Jewel was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. His throat was slit.

Our correspondent from Chandpur adds, Mahbub Morshed Diplu, a partner of the vessel’s owner Brishti Enterprise, filed a case with Haimchar Police Station on Tuesday night in connection with the incident.

In the case statement, Mahabub mentioned that Jewel was unable to speak since he had severe injuries in his throat. Jewel, however, was able to write and through writing, he revealed that the ship had nine people on board, including Akash alias Irfan, not eight as reported earlier.

After the incident, police inspected the ship and seized a bloodstained fire axe, a knife, two smartphones, two feature phones, a wallet, Tk 8,000 in cash, a notebook, headphones, and a tablespoonful of curry, among other items, as mentioned in the case statement.

Mahbub told The Daily Star last night that the owners were unaware of how many people were onboard since the master usually hires crew members as per need.

lid on the matter, the dispute got reignited after deputy secretaries and above were given vehicle benefits in 2017.

The Hasina-led government at the time started giving interest-free car loans of up to Tk 30 lakh to each of them. They also received Tk 50,000 per month for vehicle maintenance and were required to repay about half the loan amount.

This benefit, however, was not extended to officials of other cadres.

Officials from the other 25 cadres also demanded similar benefits, but were denied. As a result, they moved their focus to increasing the ratio for promotion to deputy secretary.

After the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5 and the subsequent formation of the reform commission, officials of the 25 cadres have organised rallies in divisional cities, and held press conferences, roundtable discussions and other programmes to press home their demands.

An official of the information cadre told The Daily Star that the administration cadres not only receive car benefits but also enjoy promotions even when there are no vacant posts.

“Such privileges are unimaginable for officers of other cadres,” he said. An agriculture cadre official said after Hasina’s fall, there were promotions en masse to the ranks of deputy secretary, joint secretary, additional secretary, and secretary.

Even officers convicted in departmental cases got promotions. “Are the administration cadre officials only ones doing the government’s work?” the officer said. An education cadre officer added that 764 former administration cadre officers are likely to get promoted so that they get financial benefits and some of them could get contract-based appointments.

“How do you expect officers of other cadres to remain restrained?”

ACC can’t deliver

FROM PAGE 1

the Anti-Corruption Commission, prosecutors, lawyers and judges involved in anti-corruption activities. We are consulting representatives of the civil society, students, teachers and professionals.

We are trying to understand the challenges first. We sought suggestions from people through different channels – the response is very encouraging. We are hopeful that we will be able to complete our work within the stipulated time and submit our report to the government.

DS: When do you plan to submit the report?

Iftekharuzzaman: The stipulated timeframe is January 7. We must submit the report before that. We are currently working on drafting the recommendations. At the same time, we are gathering suggestions from various sources – a process that will continue until next week.

DS: You have often described the ACC as a “toothless tiger”. What recommendations would you make to change this?

Iftekharuzzaman: We already knew why the ACC is a toothless tiger. It became even clearer while working on the reform commission. We will recommend how to overcome this situation.

We observed that appointments to the ACC’s top positions have been politically influenced from the very beginning.

Subsequent appointments are made through deputation from the bureaucracy, primarily from the administration cadre.

As a result, the ACC’s upper tier remains hostage to politicians and bureaucrats.

The extent of mismanagement, inequality and corruption within the ACC is quite severe. These issues won’t be resolved overnight, but we will propose some strong recommendations to address these issues.

Furthermore, we are scrutinising the weaknesses in the ACC’s laws. When it comes to addressing high-level corruption, particularly money laundering, the ACC alone cannot play an effective role.

Institutions like Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, the National Board of Revenue, the

Four journos of a newspaper injured in attack

UNB, Dhaka

Four journalists, including the editor and managing editor of the Janabani newspaper, were injured in an attack by criminals near their office in the capital’s Banglamotor area yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place around 4:30pm when the journalists were on their way to the office.

The injured include Shafiqul Islam, editor and publisher of Janabani, Managing Editor Raju Ahmed Shah, Special Correspondent Bashir Hossain Khan, and online editor Ataur Hossain.

According to Bashir Hossain, a group of 20-22 men ambushed them.

“At first, we could not comprehend the situation. It appeared to be a pre-planned attack. We did not recognise any of them,” he said.

He further mentioned that earlier a person named Ramzan had come to the Janabani office and threatened the staff.

The attackers reportedly first inquired about their names before launching the assault. “The way they came at us suggested that someone had directed them to attack us,” Bashir added.

Criminal Investigation Department and the Attorney General’s Office are supposed to collaborate and coordinate efforts. However, this hasn’t been the case. Instead, unhealthy competition has persisted.

DS: All ruling parties have used the ACC as their tool. How do you think you will address this?

Iftekharuzzaman: Corruption on a large scale happens due to the collusion between political parties, bureaucrats and business interests. This collusion must be dismantled.

While the ACC act allows such dismantling, it is not enforced – we will recommend steps to ensure the enforcement. Additionally, we need to ensure not only the ACC’s complete independence but also its accountability and transparency.

Currently, the ACC submits an annual report to the president, which serves as little more than a collection of statistics.

There is no clear explanation of the types of complaints the ACC receives and why some complaints are rejected or why others are accepted. We will address these issues as well.

DS: After the 1990s and again during 2007-08, we saw many reform proposals. How confident are you that your recommendations will be implemented?

Iftekharuzzaman: When we took this responsibility, this was the exact question the entire commission and I had: will our recommendations remain merely paper documents?

If our recommendations lead to the establishment of a legally empowered ACC that adheres to ideal and global standards, then I can be optimistic.

However, for this to happen, positive changes must occur in politics, bureaucracy and business sectors. Without such changes, we cannot achieve an ideal ACC. Even an ideal ACC cannot deliver without changes in political and bureaucratic culture.

That being said, I am hopeful about positive outcomes.

The momentum created by the movement against inequality has provided us with a unique opportunity, which makes me optimistic.

But once again, breaking the collusion among these three sectors is crucial.

Pak air strikes kill 46

FROM PAGE 12

condition of anonymity.

A Taliban defence ministry statement late yesterday condemned the strikes, calling them “barbaric” and a “clear aggression”.

“The Islamic Emirate will not leave this cowardly act unanswered, but rather considers the defence of its territory and sovereignty to be its inalienable right,” the statement said, using the Taliban authorities’ name for the government.

Skirmishes on the frontier followed deadly air strikes in March by Pakistan’s military in the border regions of Afghanistan, which Taliban authorities said killed eight civilians.

A Barmal resident, Maleel, told AFP yesterday’s strikes killed 18 members of one family.

“The bombardment hit two or three houses, in one house, 18 people were killed, the whole family lost their lives,” he said.

He said a strike killed three people in another house and wounded several others, who were taken to hospital.

Taliban officials said the dead were local residents and people who had fled over the Pakistan border from the

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‘We want this political transition to be successful’

Says EU Ambassador Michael Miller in an interview with *Star*

PORIMOL PALMA

The European Union sees a sea of change in post-August 5 Bangladesh and aims to support the political transition, broadening and deepening its ties with the country amid global geopolitical shifts.

European Investment Bank (EIB) Vice President Nicola Beer will visit Dhaka in January to explore EU support for Bangladesh's development.

Bangladesh is undertaking reforms in various sectors following the July uprising.

“We are looking at all the possibilities... to support the reform ambitions of the interim government,” said EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller in an exclusive interview with *The Daily Star*.

“You have the potential to serve as a symbol of stability, hope, and fundamental rights. We want to collaborate with you to ensure this becomes a remarkable success story,” he said.

He expressed optimism about the progress in fundamental rights, democratisation, and rule of law in Bangladesh, aligning with EU values.

At least 19 EU diplomats met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka on December 9.

Miller said the EU is committed to making the political transition successful, emphasising the need for a democratic election.

We are looking at all the possibilities... to support the reform ambitions of the interim government. You have the potential to serve as a symbol of stability, hope, and fundamental rights. We want to collaborate with you to ensure this becomes a remarkable success story.

ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Under the Everything but Arms (EBA) scheme that provides duty benefits to the LDCs, Bangladesh's exports to the EU grew from €2.4 billion to €24 billion per year in the past two decades and some €2-3 billion in duties were saved annually.

With Bangladesh graduating out of LDC status by 2027, these benefits will end. The EU has another scheme called GSP Plus, which, however, is subject to stringent conditions of human rights, democracy, labour rights and environment.

The EU and Bangladesh are transitioning from their 2001 trade agreement to a Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership Agreement (CCPA), with negotiations starting in November.

Under the Global Gateway Initiative (GGI), the EIB has committed €400 million to renewable energy projects in Bangladesh. The January visit of EIB's Vice President is seen as a significant step to boost infrastructure, connectivity, and digitisation.

Now, with the political changeover in Bangladesh, the EU is doubling its efforts to work with Bangladesh.

“On the first hand, we have politically huge sympathy, huge interest... we want this political transition to be successful and we want it to end in a democratic election,” Michael Miller said.

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President Mohammed Shahabuddin exchanges greetings with the members of the Christian community at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Christmas. The president and his wife Rebeka Sultana hosted the programme.

PHOTO: PID

Strengthen bond of communal harmony

Says president

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday urged all to further strengthen the bond of communal harmony to make Bangladesh discrimination and corruption-free and build it a justice-based country.

He made this call at a greeting exchange programme with prominent Christian community people at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Christmas.

Shahabuddin said Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony, and called upon all to work together for the welfare of the country and its people.

The president and his wife Dr Rebeka Sultana hosted the event.

Earlier, the president cut a cake to mark the occasion and exchanged greetings with guests.

Early action key to dengue control

Experts emphasise year-round strategy to curb the menace

HELEMUL ALAM

As Bangladesh braces for another year with the threat of dengue looming, experts have urged the government to adopt comprehensive and year-round strategies to curb the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

The stakes are high, with 2024 already seeing 565 deaths and 100,558 cases from the mosquito-borne disease, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Experts emphasised the need to be proactive and said waiting until the monsoon season to combat dengue is no longer viable. Entomologists like Manzur A Chowdhury stress initiating anti-mosquito drives as early as January to eliminate Aedes mosquito populations before they proliferate.

“Authorities must identify dengue hotspots and implement targeted interventions such as

PROPOSED MEASURES

- Initiate anti-mosquito drives starting in Jan
- Implement larviciding, adulticiding, awareness campaigns
- Integrate surveillance for other Aedes-transmitted diseases

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Deploy dedicated ward-level personnel for fever detection, blood testing
- Declare dengue a reportable disease starting in Jan
- Strengthen mosquito control departments with modern equipment
- Prioritise hospitals in mosquito control campaigns
- Expand efforts to rural areas alongside urban centres

larviciding, adulticiding, and public awareness campaigns,” said Manzur.

Besides, Manzur said surveillance for other aedes-transmitted viruses, like chikungunya and zika, should be integrated into broader mosquito control efforts to prevent overlapping outbreaks.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University highlighted the urgent need to address issues like inadequate protection for hospitalised patients and the increasing number of cases outside Dhaka.

“The government must strengthen mosquito control efforts in districts like Barishal, Chandpur, Manikganj, and Gazipur, which are likely to see a rise in cases next year,” he warned.

LESSONS FROM KOLKATA
Bangladesh could look to Kolkata for a robust dengue management model, said experts.

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PK Halder walks out of Kolkata jail after over 2 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

More than two and a half years after his arrest by India's Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case, Bangladeshi businessman Prashanta Kumar Halder, known as PK Halder, walked out of jail after a special court in Kolkata granted him bail.

Apart from PK Halder, two of his associates, Swapan Mistry and Uttam Mistry, were also granted bail by the special judge, Prashanta Mukherjee, on Friday.

While PK Halder was required to submit a bail bond of Rs 1 million, Swapan and Uttam were ordered to provide a Rs 5 lakh bond each, according to the court order, a copy of which is with *The Daily Star*.

The bail bond was submitted by the petitioners on Monday evening, and PK Halder walked out of Presidency Jail on Tuesday.

In his order, the judge said that since the three petitioners had already undergone detention for a period extending up to one-third of the maximum sentence for the offence of money laundering, “this court is one of the considered view that in the absence of any admissible document or information with respect to first offence or judgment of conviction, the benefit of doubt should invariably go in favour of them.”

Consequently, the petitioners were entitled to

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India should stop border killings

Says Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

Border killings should never be accepted under any circumstances, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

Fakhru made the remark after arriving in Sylhet on a personal visit.

Speaking to the media at Sylhet Osmani International Airport, he said, “India should stop border killings. BNP has always demanded this, and we stand firm that border killings should never be accepted.”

He also said it is the collective responsibility of the people to build a country free from fascism. “BNP is committed to restoring democracy in Bangladesh,” he added.

Later in the day, the BNP secretary general visited the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Shah Paran (RA) and offered prayers.

Among others, BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Sylhet district BNP president Abdul Qayum Chowdhury, Sylhet metropolitan BNP acting president Rezaul Hasan Qays Lodi, Sylhet district BNP general secretary Emran Ahmed Chowdhury, and Sylhet metropolitan BNP general secretary Emdad Hossain Chowdhury were also present.



On a bright winter morning, children run freely with geese in the field. Their laughter and the gentle honking of the geese create a harmonious symphony of nature and innocence. The photo was taken in Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Driver hacks bus owner to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus owner was hacked to death last night allegedly by a driver in the city's Adabor area following an altercation over the daily rent for the vehicle.

The deceased is Shwapan Khan, 40, owner of Bhuiyan Paribahan, which runs on the Mohamadpur-Abdullahpur route.

Adabor Police Station Inspector (Investigation) Abdul Malek said the driver used to run a bus of the Bhuiyan Paribahan on a contractual basis.

Last night, an altercation broke out between the owner and the driver, Mohammad Sohel, over the daily rent. At one point, Sohel hacked the owner with a machete.

Shwapan was taken to the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital where a doctor declared him dead. Malek said the driver is on the run.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A woman catching shrimp fries in the Shibsa river. She sells those to traders at local markets, earning around Tk 800 for 1,000 fries. Many like her provide for their families through this. The photo was taken in Khulna's Dacope area recently.

We want this political

FROM PAGE 3

He said the EU is waiting for the reform commissions to conclude and then wants to help. Miller said the visit of the EIB vice president will look to explore how it can use financing to support Bangladesh's development.

"You get AAA-rated rates of lending interest rates, which you would not if you went to the market directly....," he added.

BANGLADESH'S REFORMS

The EU is engaging with Bangladesh's reform commissions to support their conclusions with financing and expertise, said Miller.

"We would support more transparency, accountability, and efficiency in using economic resources, addressing some of the structural impediments, policy challenges, or even how to ensure justice," Miller said.

FDI, LDC GRADUATION

Miller also said the EU can help Bangladesh by ensuring that the country has smooth LDC graduation, which is possible through protecting labour rights, environmental rights, and human rights.

"We are working with Bangladesh Bank to

provide very cheap loans to the RMG sector," he said.

The EU is also keen to boost its FDI to Bangladesh from only two billion euros now. However, that will need simplifying the business procedures here.

"We are waiting for a clear signal that Bangladesh is 'open for business' in the form of efforts to tackle frictions experienced by our investors," he said.

The EU will work with its member states and work with the European Chamber of Commerce, he said, adding that the interim government has the right intention to improve the business environment.

FORMAL MIGRATION

The EU signed an agreement titled "Talent Partnership Project" in July this year aiming to match EU labour needs with Bangladeshi workers' qualifications by upgrading relevant skills and providing additional training.

"The project will initially focus on the ICT, construction, textile/garment, shipbuilding, agriculture, and hospitality/tourism sectors, which are of particular interest to a number of EU Member States," Miller said.

Currently Germany and

Italy are active in this and eventually Romania and Greece will be coming in, he added.

GLOBAL GATEWAY INITIATIVE

In 2023, Bangladesh joined the GGI, an EU initiative for worldwide investment to set up networks of transport, energy, digital, research, education and even health – both through finance and expertise.

Miller said the EU wants to ensure that the partner countries including Bangladesh maintain fundamental rights of their citizens and don't end up being indebted.

"The EU lending is of extremely good value for Bangladesh and is always going to respect EU procurement rules so you get the best value possible for money and it is always going to give you very high-quality investments," he said.

"In Bangladesh, you see huge potential for these investments," he added.

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 26					
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					

PK Halder walks out

FROM PAGE 3

bail. "Hence, I allow the prayer for bail," the judge added.

The court imposed several conditions with the bail order for PK Halder and his two associates.

It said that they cannot leave India without prior permission from the court and must attend trial on every date as directed.

Additionally, the accused are required not to commit any further offence while on bail, tamper with evidence in the case, or threaten, induce, or promise witnesses to dissuade them from disclosing true

facts to the court. They must provide their contact number, email, and proof of residence (both present and permanent) to the court and surrender their passports if not already seized or impounded by another authority.

Halder, along with five others, was arrested in May 2022 from Ashoknagar in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district.

He has been accused of siphoning off nearly Tk 300 crore from four financial institutions in Bangladesh before fleeing to India. PK Halder declined to speak to reporters outside Presidency Jail.

Jatra Pala, a tradition

FROM PAGE 5

very end, even past midnight. That shows how deeply this art form resonates with us. But the venue was too small, and many had to sit on the roadside."

Schoolteacher Palash Roy of Khalsibunia village said, "Jatra Pala was once a powerful medium for promoting social harmony. It's heartbreaking to see it fade away due to economic struggles and changing times."

While the festival reignited interest in Jatra, it also exposed the challenges of preserving such a rich cultural tradition. Over the past 15 years, administrative restrictions had confined Jatra performances to indoor stages, stripping them of their traditional open-air allure. Many troupes struggled financially, with little to no government support.

"Artistes are eager to return to open spaces," said Faiz Zahir, director of the Department of Theater and Film at Shilpakala Academy. "That's where Jatra truly thrives – accessible to everyone, free

from barriers."

Shariful Islam Salim, general secretary of Nattyalok in Khulna, said, "The government must step in. Grants and honorariums are essential to keep troupes afloat. Without support, this art form will vanish."

BNP reinstates

FROM PAGE 3

14 luxury cars belonging to members of the S Alam Group – including brands like BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Porsche, and Range Rover – were moved from a warehouse in the city's Kalurghat Industrial Area on August 30 following the ouster of Awami League government.

These vehicles were used by the family of the group's Chairman Saiful Alam Masud.

The incident gained widespread attention after videos of the incident went viral on social media platforms.

The BNP also dissolved the convening committee of its Chattogram south district unit after the incident.

Early action key

FROM PAGE 3

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation operates the system throughout the year.

The city is divided into 144 wards and 16 boroughs, each managed by teams of vector control experts, including PhD holders in entomology.

Rapid Action Teams (RATs) and field workers monitor cases, eliminate breeding sites, and raise public awareness.

A ward-based database plays a crucial role in mapping high-risk areas such as ponds, construction sites, and water tanks.

When a dengue case is identified, RATs inspect and destroy breeding grounds at the patient's home and in 50 nearby houses within 24 hours.

Additionally, they conduct searches in at least 50 surrounding houses to ensure the containment of the virus.

Chief Vector Control Officer Dr Debashish Bishwas explained how the system ensures no dengue case goes unmonitored.

"We collect data from all private diagnostic centres, and patients receive their test results via SMS. This information is shared with our officers, enabling immediate action," he said.

This systematic approach has helped Kolkata maintain control over dengue outbreaks, keeping case numbers manageable even during peak seasons.

ADAPTING MODEL FOR BANGLADESH

To replicate Kolkata's success, experts recommend deploying dedicated personnel in every ward to identify fever patients and conduct blood tests. Establishing a hotline for reporting fever cases could streamline early

detection efforts.

Manzur stressed the need for modern equipment and effective chemicals for larviciding and adulticiding. He recommended declaring dengue a reportable disease from January, requiring doctors to provide the addresses of patients to facilitate targeted interventions.

Meanwhile, hospitals, often overlooked in anti-mosquito campaigns, must also be prioritised, said Bashar, as they can become hotspots for dengue transmission.

The government must also focus on decentralised efforts, prioritising urban and rural areas equally. Strengthening mosquito control departments and holding them accountable would be critical to achieving sustained results, Bashar added.

Man forced

FROM PAGE 5

detailed on Tuesday on suspicion of cattle theft. After being severely beaten, the two were released into the custody of the mother of one of them. While being taken away, locals intercepted them, and one of the victims was forced to drink the acid-limestone mixture."

"We have launched an operation to identify and arrest the culprits," the OC added.

JCD leader

FROM PAGE 5

Shahin Mia, Pavel's elder brother and a BNP activist, said, "Bayejid and his men killed my brother. We demand justice."

Bayejid could not be contacted for comments.

No case has been filed over the incident.

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
 (An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
 Website: www.dpdc.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ৮৭.৪০৪.৪০১.১০.০২.০০২.২০২৪.১৯৮

তারিখ: ০৮ পৌষ, ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ
২৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা
১	কমপ্লেন্সি সুপারভাইজর	১২ (বারো) টি
২	সুইচ বোর্ড অ্যাটেন্ডেন্ট	২০ (বিশ) টি
৩	সিনিয়র অ্যাকাউন্টস অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট	১৫ (পনেরো) টি

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত ডিপিডিসি'র ওয়েবসাইট www.dpdc.gov.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে এবং অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Architecture
Ministry of Housing & Public Works
Sthapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.architecture.gov.bd
Phone No- 02-223350954.

Memo No-General-115/2003/1755 /Stha

Dated-24-12-2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that the following tender have Published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No	Name of Works	Publishing Date & Time	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1.	1055836	DOA/egp/24-25/09	Supplying one (01) brand new 16-seater (including driver's seat) Microbus.	24-Dec-2024 12:00	13-Jan-2024 10:00	13-Jan-2024 11:00

The interested persons/firms/supplier may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get details of the tender.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) is required. Further information and guideline are available the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(S.M. Anisul Haque)
 Executive Architect
 (circle-co-ordination, Division-Services)
 Sthapatya Bhaban
 Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
 Phone No- 02-223350954.

Sonali Bank PLC
Credible & Smart

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Sonali Bank PLC announces a vacancy for the position of **Senior Consultant (Islami Banking)** in the rank of General Manager for a period of two years on contractual basis.

For detailed **Job Description and Instructions** to apply for the position, please visit our website: www.sonalibank.com.bd

- Application should be received not later than 24/01/2025.
- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

General Manager
 Sonali Bank PLC
 Human Resource Development Division
 Head Office, 35-42, 44 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
 Phone: 880-0247114926

GD-1272

সিগন্যাল বেস ওয়ার্কশপ
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-১২০৬
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। সিগন্যাল বেস ওয়ার্কশপের তত্ত্বাবধানে বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনীতে ব্যবহৃত বিভিন্ন টেলিযোগাযোগ সরঞ্জামাদি (ব্যাটারী ও পাওয়ার সরঞ্জাম এবং বিভিন্ন প্রকার টেলিফোন সেট) মেরামত করা হবে। অগ্রহী প্রকৃত মেরামতকারী সংস্থার নিকট হতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের বরাবরে দেশীয় মুদ্রায় সীলমোহরযুক্ত উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। মেরামতব্যব সরঞ্জামাদির তালিকাসহ বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্রের সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

২। আগামী ০৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (০৭৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) ৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ মাত্র) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রদানপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় বিনির্দেশ/শর্তাবলীসহ দরপত্রের সিডিউল অত্র অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। উক্ত সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক আগামী ১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ সকাল ১১০০ ঘটিকার সময় অত্র অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে দরপত্র ফেলাতে হবে এবং ঐদিন ১১৩০ ঘটিকার দরপত্রদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র বাব্ব খোলা হবে।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৭৯২
২৫/১২/২৪

ভারপ্রাপ্ত কমান্ডার
 সিগন্যাল বেস ওয়ার্কশপ
 ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

GD-1276

SHANTO-MARIAM UNIVERSITY
OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Vacancy for the Position of Treasurer

Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, the first design-based private university in this region, invites applications for the position of Treasurer.

The appointment will be given subject to approval of the Honorable Chancellor of the University and the tenure will be 4 (four) years from the date of joining.

Qualifications: Minimum Master's Degree preferably in Accounting/Finance/Economics, or MBA in Accounting/Finance. No Third Class, Division, or grade C at any stage of the educational level will be allowed.

Experience: As per the Private University Act 2010, a candidate is required to have at least 15 years of experience in professorial teaching, administration or financial management. Those who served as a Treasurer at a university will have an added advantage.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Overall supervision of the university funds, ensure recording of revenue and expenditure accounts. S/he will be responsible for preparing annual budget, financial management its discipline and maintaining accounts properly.
- Maintain Liaise with the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees regarding accounts and finance related issues.
- Prepare Periodic financial forecasts to facilitate the long-term financial planning, report on the financial state of the university to the Vice-Chancellor and the Board of Trustees.
- Provide strategic policy planning and advice to the Vice-Chancellor and the Board of trustees to promote fiscal transparency, ensure financial sustainability and maintain compliance with university policies, procedures and government regulations.
- Perform miscellaneous duties as assigned by the Vice-Chancellor and the Board of trustees.

Age Limit: Not exceeding 60 years, may be relaxed for exceptional candidates.

Salary and Benefits: An attractive salary and benefits package will be negotiated.

Application Procedure:

Applicants are requested to send their applications (addressing the Vice Chancellor), with a cover letter along with a curriculum vitae, two recently taken color photo, NID and copies of all academic and experience certificates by courier/hand or e-mail, to the following address by **January 15, 2025**. Applications may be sent to the E-mail: chairman_bot@smuct.ac.bd

Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology
 Plot-06, Road/Avenue-06, Sector 17/H-1
 Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Jatra Pala, a tradition rooted in rural winters

On a chilly December evening in Hatbati village, under the open sky, the air was filled with a sense of nostalgia and excitement. Wrapped in warm shawls and blankets, villagers from Batiaghata upazila in Khulna gathered at the District Satsang Ashram Centre to witness something that many thought was slowly fading away: a Jatra Pal performance.

Starting on December 19, the festival transformed Harbati village into a hub of activity. Each night till December 25, hundreds of spectators, young and old, flocked to the stage. Some brought makeshift stools while others simply sat on the ground, huddled together to ward off the cold.

"I hadn't seen a Jatra in years," said Tripti Bairagi, resident of Chak Soilmari village. "People stayed until th

SEE PAGE 4 COL



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A thick cloud of dust envelops the Khulna-Jashore highway, which remains in a long-neglected and dilapidated condition, posing health risks to people. The photo was taken in Khulna's Chengutia area yesterday.

ACCUSATION OF CATTLE THEFT

Man forced to drink acid mixture, later dies

A man died yesterday, a day after being beaten and forced to drink a mixture of acid, limestone, and sand, on allegations of cattle theft in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila.

Quoting the victim's relatives, Sarkar Tofail Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gowainghat Police Station, said Helal became severely ill yesterday morning and began vomiting.

Additionally, a teenager from Chagram Chatol Haor village, who was also tortured alongside Helal, is undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osman Medical College Hospital, the

The incident occurred at Radhanagar village on Tuesday, he added.

The teenager was forced to beat Helal with a stick.

OC Tofail further said, "They were
SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Take lead in building a humane nation

Calling upon the medical community to play their due role in societal development, Jamaat-e-Islami's Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman said doctors have the power to create a more humane nation.

Shafiqur urged doctors to take the lead in building

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

JCD leader beaten to death 'by BNP men'

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was beaten to death allegedly by some BNP men during a clash in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila on Tuesday night.

He was assaulted around 10:30pm by a group of BNP men, following a dispute, said Mehedi Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police in Narayanganj.

Later, Md Bayejid, general secretary of a BNP ward unit, intervened on Shuvo's behalf.

Bayejid, along with local BNP activist Jahangir and their followers, set out to find Aminul. On their way, they encountered Pavel and attacked him, said police.

Pavel was taken to a local private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Following Pavel's death, his followers set fire to three tin-shed houses belonging to members of the opposing faction.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

'We're on alert to prevent Rohingya infiltration'

Rohingyas attempt to infiltrate into Bangladesh daily, and the Coast Guard pushes them back, said Director General of the Bangladesh Coast Guard Rear Admiral Ziaul Haque yesterday.

He mentioned that Rohingyas are now using routes other than the Naf river to enter the country, often with the help of some locals.

He urged locals to assist the forces in preventing such infiltration more effectively.

He made the remarks while visiting the Myanmar border areas in Teknaf and Saint Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar.

"Teknaf and Saint Martin's are close to the Myanmar border, so the Coast Guard works around the clock to ensure security. The ongoing conflict between Myanmar's junta and the Arakan Army has intensified, with the junta forces facing defeats. While shelling across the border has

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Atomic Energy Centre
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, G.P.O Box No-164,
 Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
 Tel. No: 02-58610256; Fax : 88-02-58617946, E-mail : aecdbaec@gmail.com

Model of Vehicles:

- Non AC Minibus-2018 & above
- Ac Microbus-2018 & above
- Ac Car: 2018 & above
- **Body of Vehicles:**
Hino/Aftab automobiles/ Nissan motors/Obi motors /Uttara motors/Hiyee/corolla or similar quality.
- **Vehicles shall be minimum seated are given below:**
- Non AC Minibus-36 seat (No. of 03), AC Microbus- 10 seat (No. of 02), AC Car – 05 seat (No. of 01)
- Vehicles shall be in good condition according to satisfaction of committee.

Invitation for Re-Tender

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science & Technology
2. Agency	Atomic Energy Centre, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dhaka.
3. Procuring Entity Name	Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.
4. Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Invitation for	Tender
7. Invitation Ref No	39.01.2675.238.26.010.17
8. Date	22-12-2024
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) Type: National Competitive Tender (NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
11. Development Partners	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Tender Package No.	N/A
13. Tender Package Name	Hiring of Transportation Service
14. Tender Publication Date	26-12-2024
15. Tender Last Selling Date	07-01-2025 until 4.00 PM
16. Tender Submission date & Time	08-01-2025, 12:00 PM
17. Tender Opening Date and Time	08-01-2025, 12:30 PM
18. Name & Address of the office(s)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
-Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Accounts Officer, Accounts section, Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
- Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A
- Receiving Tender Document	Committee Room (1 st Floor), Tender Should be dropped into the tender box kept at the office of the Administrative Branch, Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
- Opening Tender Document	Committee Room (1 st Floor), Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
19. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Committee Room (1 st Floor), Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Date : 06-01-2025, 11.00 AM
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
20. Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) Up-to-date trade license (ii) Up-to-date Income tax clearing certificate (iii) VAT registration certificate (iv) Updated vehicle tax token, fitness certificate and Proposed vehicle registration certificate (v) Shall have minimum 03 (Three) years of specific experience in providing of similar Jobs and related services in Government / Semi-Government/Semi-Autonomous/Autonomous Organization/ Any recognized private company to be shown and attested copies of the relevant papers submitted with the tender and other as described in TDS. (vi) Non AC Minibus/ Ac Microbus/Ac Car shall be delivered according to documents submitted in line with tender document. (vii) Financial Solvency Certificate with Bank Statement (viii) Other detail instructions given into the tender schedule
21. Brief Description of Services	Bringing and dropping of the Officers and Staff of the Atomic Energy Centre, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, G.P.O Box No-164, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000 and their residence respectively through various routes as described in the Tender Document at Dhaka City.

22. How to Obtain Tender Document	Tender documents should be collected hand on cash payment of the amount (non-refundable) mentioned on all working days during office hours up to 07/01/2025 on written request to and permission from the undersigned with the application on the letter head pad of the firm.			
23. Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	TK. 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only payable in cash payment. (Non-Refundable)			
Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time in Weeks/ Months From date of Contract signing
24. 03	Mirpur-12,11,10 to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (Non AC Minibus-36 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	38,000/- (Thirty eight thousand Tk. only)	24 (Twenty Four) Months from the date of Contract Signing or as per contract
25. 04	Mirpur-14,13,10,2,1 to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (Non AC Minibus-36 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	38,000/- (Thirty eight thousand Tk. only)	
26. 05	Mirpur-2 (60 Feet) to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down.(Non AC Minibus-36 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	38,000/- (Thirty eight thousand Tk. only)	
27. 09	Mirpur-12,07,10(banarosipolli)-Mirpur 02- to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (AC Microbus- 10 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	30,000/- (Thirty thousand Tk. only)	
28. 10	Badshamia road-Demra to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (AC Microbus- 10 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	30,000/- (Thirty thousand Tk. only)	
29. 13	Oasis at isphani colony, Mogbazarto Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down.(AC Car- 05 seat) (The route is subject to change according to the residence of the director)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	24,000/- (Twenty four thousand Tk. only)	
Tender security Bank draft/ Pay order/ Bank guarantee (According to PSN-04 form the tender document) in favor of "Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka" from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.				
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
30. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Rokeya Begum, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.			
31. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Administrative Officer, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.			
32. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000			
33. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No:02-58610256; Fax No.: 88-02-58617946 E-mail:adminaecd@baec.gov.bd			
34.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders without any explanation. This tender shall be governed by "The Public Procurement Act 2006 and The Public Procurement Regulations 2008".			

(Signature)
 26/12/24
 (Rokeya Begum)
 Administrative Officer
 Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.

GD-1273

WHAT'S
THE HAPS?



Jolokabbo 5:
Musings in
Watercolour

Jolokabbo 5: Musings in Watercolour is a winter celebration through the luminous art of watercolour. Featuring works by 54 artists, the exhibition captures the season's beauty with a stunning mix of light and shadowy colours. Explore winter's charm through masterful depictions of golden fields, turquoise seas, and simple rural joys.

Date: December 21–January 18
Time: 10am–8pm
Venue: Ground Floor, 12 Madani Ave
The exhibition is open to everyone.

I'm a fan of Mehazabien's
performance: JAYA AHSAN

The team behind Mehazabien Chowdhury starrer **Priyo Maloti** hosted a special screening of the film on Tuesday. Celebrities, supporters, and journalists gathered to watch the actress' debut film on the big screen, including prominent actress Jaya Ahsan.

"I am a fan of Mehazabien's performance. I don't really get much time to watch other projects, but I always

make time to watch her work. I have seen her growth as an actress over the years," shared Jaya at the press meeting.

She added, "I got goosebumps after watching Mehazabien's performance. We all need to go through a journey. I believe she has completed that journey, and that's why she was able to deliver such a powerful and fitting performance in the film."



Elita
Karim's
'CHINI DER
CHAMOCH'
features collabs
with legends

Elita Karim has released her new album **Chini Der Chamoch** to wrap up the year on a musical note. The four-track EP includes lyrics by esteemed lyricist Shahid Mahmud Jangi and compositions by renowned musician Pilu Khan.

Popular musical personalities Naquib Khan, Bappa Mazumder, Asif Iqbal, Dilshad Nahar Kona, DRockstar Shuvo and Shafiq Tuhin, among others, were present at the album launching ceremony, which took place on Tuesday at a café in the capital.

Under the banner of Aajob Records, the album includes four tracks – **Prem Hobe Din Sheshe**, **Chini Der Chamoch**, **Bhalobashi**, and **Projapoti**. Amzad Hosen Bappy handled the mixing and mastering for all the songs.

Aishwarya Rai
featured in Academy
Museum's exhibition for
'Jodha Akbar'

Aishwarya Rai has recently been featured on the official social media platforms of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organisation responsible for the annual Oscars.

The Academy shared a video clip from the celebrated 2008 film **Jodha Akbar**, starring Aishwarya Rai, along with a special announcement. The video offers a glimpse of Aishwarya's exquisite lehenga, designed by Neeta Lulla, which is now showcased on a mannequin.

In **Jodha Akbar**, Aishwarya Rai played the role of Queen Jodhabai, with Hrithik Roshan portraying Mughal Emperor Akbar.

Academy shared the video with the caption, "Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's red wedding lehenga from **Jodha Akbar** is a masterpiece of design and tradition."



'Squid Game' returns
today, ready for a
triumphant Season 2

Debuting in 2021, Netflix's global sensation **Squid Game** quickly captivated viewers with its chilling premise of a high-stakes competition where financially struggling participants play childhood-inspired games for a shot at financial freedom.

The series became Netflix's most-watched show, earning critical acclaim and prestigious awards, including Primetime Emmy Awards for actor Lee Jung-jae and director Hwang Dong-hyuk.

The **Squid Game** franchise has officially expanded and its second season all set to premiere today to awaiting fans worldwide.

Lee Jung-jae is reprising his role as Gi-hun. Other returning stars include Wi Ha-joon, Lee Byung-hun, and Gong Yoo among other new cast members.



CHARLIE PUTH
announces new
album for early 2025

Singer-songwriter Charlie Puth recently announced during a fan Q&A that his fourth studio album is set for release in early 2025.

Fresh off completing an Asian tour last week, Puth humorously remarked on narrowing the wait between albums, saying, "So not five years, not four years — next year."

On Instagram, he expressed, "I'm

genuinely excited about what I've been working on... no one is pressuring me." Last November, Puth, who recently married Brooke Sansone, dropped a holiday single, titled **December 25th**, which he spontaneously created in his studio.

Although the festive track differs from the style of his upcoming album, Puth released it as a special treat for his fans.

COUNTRYWIDE

Locals repair 3-km
road thru' self-help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A group of people in Barlekha upazila joined hands to make a three-kilometre road suitable for vehicular movement as it turned from bad to worse in the last couple of years due to lack of renovation work for long.

While visiting the area recently this correspondent saw the all the potholes, developed on Kathaltali-Terakudi-Shimulia road, have been filled with mixer of cement and brick chips and made the important road much smoother than before.

Local people said the three kilometre-long concrete road from Kathaltali to Shimulia connects several thousand residents of at least 20 nearby villagers with the upazila headquarters.

Volunteers said they started the repair works in November and after several weeks of hard labour they were able to finish the job recently.

People living at different villages on both sides of the road said failing to get attention of the authorities concerned, despite repeated requests, local people took the matter into their own hands and started the renovation work.

Many volunteers worked tirelessly during the night time for several weeks and successfully fixed hundreds of potholes that have been causing serious trouble to the commuters for long, they said.



People in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila join hands to repair a local road themselves and at their own cost.

PHOTO: STAR

Usually, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) maintains the Kathaltali-Terakudi-Shimulia road, which serves as a crucial link to connect thousands of people with the upazila headquarters.

But due lack of maintenance work for years the important road developed numerous large and small potholes, which causes immense suffering to its regular users, especially after a little rain.

In the first week of November, some local youths led by one Shaheen Mia first decided to do the repair work on self-help basis, which would cost them Tk 1 lakh approximately.

Later, many other local residents including some auto-rickshaw drivers also joined them and collected the total amount of money from local community members.

One of the local residents Nazmul Islam, a banker, said under the guidance of Shaheen and Abdul Ahad, a skilled mason, local residents used to start the repair work around 10:00pm every night and continued the work till 4:30am the next morning with the aim to fill all the potholes along the three-kilometre-road so that people, who use the road regularly, doesn't have to face any trouble while travelling.

While talking, Shaheen said they decided to conduct the work at night to avoid the daytime traffic and not to disrupt vehicular movement.

Customs' sale

FROM PAGE 12
following auction regulations.

According to auction rules, it is not mandatory to identify the validity of the goods, he said.

"The port authority has issued several letters to remove the cargo as it contained a high-risk substance. The auction process had to be completed quickly considering the importance at the last stage of the auction. As a result, it was not verified whether it was suitable for use before the handover."

However, he acknowledged that the product should have been re-tested considering the health risks.

"We currently have no further obligations following the sale. However, we will communicate with the auctioneer to explore potential options," Hossain added.

Several companies who participated in the auction said that the customs gave extra benefits to SA Trading

& Co.

Subsequently, a person named Kibria Tanim from the Bhatiali area of Chattogram filed a written complaint on November 24 to the customs authority.

The complaint states that the bidder SA Trading & Co. released the chemical with four shipper-owned containers.

"There is no chance to take containers with auction goods. But the bidder is selling those containers in the market," the complaint said.

Without the chemical, the value of the four containers snapped up in October is around Tk 80 lakh. In 2022, the chemicals were also released with 10 containers, which were worth Tk 2 crore, it said.

The containers were sold in the market and the government lost approximately Tk 2.80 crore from the sodium glycerolate consignment, the complaint added.

According to the auction rules, the customs authority

has the right to auction off imported goods if the importers fail to release the goods on time. Customs will either hand over the containers to the shipping agent upon payment of customs dues or sell them separately if the shipping agent fails to pay the customs dues.

Contacted, Customs Deputy Commissioner (Auction) Mohammad Saidul Islam said: "There is no opportunity to take containers with the goods in the auction. The truth of this allegation is not certain. However, the matter will be investigated."

The SA Trading owner Ibrahim said: "These are not like other containers. Exporters have made those for storing the chemical."

The auction documents mention the four containers as SOC 20-foot containers. At least nine auction and import documents of Chattogram Port and customs mention the four containers as SOC containers with individual container numbers.

4 of 5 arrestees innocent

FROM PAGE 12
of them. They couldn't arrest the other identified attackers. The real perpetrators are being protected while innocent villagers like Jamal are being punished."

Contacted, police declined to comment on the allegation.

Meanwhile, the five arrestees were yesterday produced before a Cumilla court, which sent them to jail, said Jahir, sub-inspector of the court's General Recording Office.

Freedom fighter Abdul Hai Kanu was assaulted and humiliated by a group of people in Kuliara village of Cumilla's Chaudhagram upazila on Sunday.

A video that went viral on social media showed Kanu being forced to wear a garland of shoes while being

ordered to leave the area.

Hours later, he felt compelled to leave his ancestral home and take shelter in a relative's house in Feni.

Kanu alleged the attackers were Jamaat activists.

The incident sparked outrage across the country.

On Tuesday, police arrested the five on charges of being involved in the incident.

Jamal's arrest drew criticism from locals, who said he was being harassed for standing up for Kanu.

After Kanu was assaulted, Jamal posted a video statement on Facebook in support of the freedom fighter, locals said.

The Daily Star saw the video clip, in which Jamal said Kanu had a dispute with

former railways minister Mujibul Haque, which led to multiple cases filed against the freedom fighter.

Jamal added that Kanu was earlier forced to stay away from his village for around 14 years due to the rivalry with Mujibul.

Contacted, ATM Aktaruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Chaudhagram Police Station, declined to comment in this regard, saying it is an ongoing investigation.

"The freedom fighter's complaint was recorded as a case today [yesterday]," he said.

Meanwhile, the Cumilla's Additional Superintendent of Police Arafatul Islam could not be reached over the phone for comments despite repeated attempts.

So many people

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh, including the financial ones, were ruined by the fascist system.

"So, we think reforms are very important. So many people didn't sacrifice their lives just for an election or vote," said Asif, also youth and sports adviser, adding that estimates suggest over 2,000 people were killed and more than 20,000 injured during the uprising.

The families of the martyrs, along with those injured in the uprising, also want reforms, he said.

The interim government's stance on completing the reforms is very clear, the adviser said. Reform commissions were formed almost three months ago and would submit their proposals soon.

"We will go for the election after completing the reformative actions through discussions with the stakeholders," the adviser

said.

He added that the interim government would prioritise development activities in the "neglected" northern districts.

Long-term development projects will be taken up for the people of the areas so that they will get benefits even after the end of the interim government's tenure, he added.

Responding to a question about allegations that the injured victims of the uprising in Thakurgaon are not getting enough support, Asif said steps will be taken after discussion with the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation.

Thakurgaon acting deputy commissioner Shahin Sardar, Additional Superintendent of Police Liza Begum, Executive Engineer of LGED Mamun Biswas, and Balladangi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Polash Kumar Debnath, among others, were present at the event.

17 houses of Tripura
community 'torched'

FROM PAGE 2
Gungamani Tripura, a victim, said, "Our houses have been completely burned to ashes. We couldn't save anything."

"Today is supposed to be the happiest day of the year for us. I never imagined such a thing would happen to us on Christmas." He demanded exemplary punishment of the criminals.

Citing Bandarban police, the CA's Press Wing in a statement said the law enforcers sent their officers to the spot. Police have also carried out raids to arrest the culprits. An FIR has been filed over the incident.

The statement said the deputy commissioner and the police chief of the hill district would travel to the village this morning.

Sarai Union Parishad Chairman Md Idris said he had heard that at least 17

houses had been burnt by miscreants.

During a visit to the affected area, Lama acting upazila nirbahi officer Ruppayan Deb said he had asked the victim families to file a written complaint.

The UNO said he initially gave one blanket and one sack of rice to each family. He also said he would discuss the matter with the deputy commissioner and the upazila project implementation officer and then take the next steps.

Md Enamul Haque Bhuiyan, inspector (investigation) of Lama Police Station, said the law enforcers were working to bring the criminals to book after an investigation.

He mentioned that many complaints and counter-complaints over land in the remote area have been filed since the ouster of the AL regime on August 5.

Hamas, Israel blame each other for truce delay

REUTERS, Dubai

Hamas yesterday accused Israel of imposing “new conditions” that it said were delaying a ceasefire agreement in the war in Gaza, though it acknowledged negotiations were still ongoing.

Israel refuted the allegation, saying it was Hamas that was creating “new obstacles” to a deal.

Indirect talks between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the US, have taken place in Doha in recent days.

“The ceasefire and prisoner exchange negotiations are continuing in Doha under the mediation of Qatar and Egypt in a serious manner... but the occupation has set new conditions concerning withdrawal (of troops), ceasefire, prisoners, and return of displaced people, which has delayed reaching an agreement,” the Palestinian group said.



Palestinians inspect the site of Israeli bombardment on tents sheltering displaced people from Beit Lahia at a camp in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. The health ministry in Gaza said that 23 people had been killed in the Palestinian territory, taking the overall death toll to 45,361.

PHOTO: AFP

SYRIA, IRAQ Turkish military kills 21 Kurdish militants

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkish military killed 21 Kurdish militants in northern Syria and Iraq, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The ministry reported that 20 Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Syrian Kurdish YPG militants, who were preparing to launch an attack, were killed in northern Syria, while one militant was killed in northern Iraq.

“Our operations will continue effectively and resolutely,” it added.

The PKK, designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the European Union, and the United States, began its armed insurgency against the Turkish state in 1984. The conflict has claimed more than 40,000 lives.

Turkey regards the YPG, the leading force within the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), as an extension of the PKK and similarly classifies it as a terrorist group.

Putin ‘inhumane’ Says Zelensky as Russia pounds Ukrainian energy facilities on Christmas Day; half a million people in Kyiv left without heating

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia attacked Ukraine's energy system and some cities with cruise and ballistic missiles plus drones yesterday in an “inhuman” Christmas Day assault, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Nearly three years into the war, the strikes wounded at least six people in the northeastern city of Kharkiv and killed one in the region of Dnipropetrovsk, the governors there said.

Half a million people in Kharkiv region were left without heating, in temperatures just a few degrees Celsius above zero, while there were blackouts in the capital Kyiv and elsewhere.

“Today, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin deliberately chose Christmas to attack. What could be more inhuman? More than 70 missiles, including ballistic missiles, and more than a hundred attack drones,” he said.

“The targets are our energy infrastructure. They continue to fight for a blackout in Ukraine.”

Ukraine's air force downed 59 Russian launched missiles and 54 drones.



The Russian Defence Ministry said yesterday it had conducted a “massive strike” on what it said were critical energy facilities in Ukraine that support the work of Kyiv's military-industrial complex.

Russia has intensified attacks on the Ukrainian energy sector since spring of this year, damaging almost half of its generating capacity and causing prolonged blackouts.

Ukraine's air force said Kharkiv was attacked by ballistic missiles. Regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram there was damage to civilian non-residential infrastructure, without giving more detail.

Dnipropetrovsk Governor Serhiy Lysak said the fatality there occurred in an attack on regional power facilities.

“Since the morning, the Russian army has been massively attacking the Dnipro region. It is trying to destroy the region's power system,” he said.

Ukraine's Energy Minister German Galushchenko said on Facebook that Russia was massively attacking the power sector and that restrictions on electricity supply were in place.

CHINA MILITARY BUILDUP Japan FM raises ‘serious concerns’

AFP, Beijing

Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya yesterday raised “serious concerns” over China's military buildup as he met counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing, Tokyo said.

On his first visit to China since becoming Japan's top diplomat earlier this year, Iwaya told Wang that Tokyo was “closely monitoring the Taiwan situation and recent military developments”, according to his foreign ministry.

Meeting with Wang at Beijing's opulent Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, he also “expressed serious concerns over the East China Sea situation, including around the Senkaku Islands (and) China's increasing military activity”, Tokyo said.

Iwaya in addition called for the “swift release” of Japanese nationals detained by Chinese authorities.

“Opaqueness surrounding the anti-espionage law is causing Japanese people to think twice about visiting China,” he warned. But the two ministers also agreed to work towards a visit to Japan by Wang “at the earliest possible timing next year”.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement that the meeting would take place “at an appropriate time”, without mentioning discussions of Beijing's military manoeuvring or detained Japanese nationals.

Israeli air strike hits target in east: Lebanon

Yemen rebels claim ballistic missile attack on Israel

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's state media said an Israeli air strike targeted the Baalbek region in the east of the country before dawn yesterday, branding it a “violation” of the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

The truce went into effect on November 27 after more than a year of hostilities that began with the outbreak of the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Both sides have since accused the other of breaching the ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthi rebels said yesterday that they had fired a ballistic missile at central Israel, with Israeli forces saying they intercepted the attack.

The missile was aimed at the Tel Aviv area, the Iran-backed Houthis said. Yesterday's Israeli strike near the town of Tarya in Lebanon did not result in casualties, the state-run National News Agency said. A Lebanese security source said the strike targeted “warehouses believed to belong to Hezbollah”.

The war with Israel saw Hezbollah massively weakened but not crushed. A committee made up of the United States, France, Lebanon, Israel and United Nations peacekeepers is tasked with monitoring the ceasefire and ensuring violations are identified and dealt with.

CHRISTMAS ADDRESS Pope calls for ‘arms to be silenced’ across world

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Francis yesterday called for “arms to be silenced” around the world in his Christmas address, appealing for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan as he denounced the “extremely grave” humanitarian situation in Gaza.

He used his traditional “Urbi et Orbi” (“to the city and the world”) message to the world's 1.4 billion Catholics to call for talks for a just peace in Ukraine as the country was pumelled by Russian missiles on Christmas morning.

“May the sound of arms be silenced in war-torn Ukraine,” the 88-year-old pontiff said, his voice strained and breathless. “May there be the boldness needed to open the door to negotiation and to gestures of dialogue and encounter, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace.”

In front of thousands of the faithful gathered in front of St Peter's Basilica in Rome, also appealed for a ceasefire in Gaza and for the freeing of Israeli hostages held there by Hamas.

Francis extended his call for a silencing of arms to whole Middle East and to Sudan, which has been ravaged by a ravaged by 20 months of brutal civil war where millions are under the threat of famine.



Illegal migrants from Niger wait during a deportation operation in the Libyan capital of Tripoli yesterday. In the past few years, Libya and Tunisia have turned into North Africa's most popular departure points for migrants from sub-Saharan countries.

PHOTO: AFP

Panamanians protest Trump's threat

AFP, Panama City

Protesters in Panama on Tuesday burned an image of US President-elect Donald Trump following his threat to end control of the country's interoceanic canal be returned to Washington.

Dozens of demonstrators gathered outside the US embassy chanting “Trump, animal, leave the canal alone” and “Get out invading gringo,” as about 20 police officers guarded the compound.

Some in the crowd carried banners reading “Donald Trump, public enemy of Panama.”

“The (Panamanian) people have shown that they are capable of recovering their territory and we are not going to give it up again,” protester Jorge Guzman told AFP.

The canal, inaugurated in 1914, was built by the United States but handed to Panama on December 31, 1999, under treaties signed some two decades earlier by then-US president Jimmy Carter and Panamanian

nationalist leader Omar Torrijos.

“Panama is a sovereign territory and the canal here is Panamanian,” said Saul Mendez, the leader of a construction union that jointly organized the protest.

“Donald Trump and his imperial delusion cannot claim even a single centimeter of land in Panama,” Mendez added. Trump on Saturday slammed what he called unfair fees for US ships passing through the Panama Canal and hinted at China's growing influence.

Impeached South Korean president defies summons


AFP, Seoul

South Korea's suspended President Yoon Suk Yeol refused a summons to appear for questioning on Christmas Day, the second time he has defied investigators' demands in a week.

Investigators probing Yoon had ordered him to appear for questioning at 10:00 am yesterday, a demand he rejected. Yoon also failed to attend a hearing he was summoned to last Wednesday, giving no explanation for his absence.

The conservative leader was stripped of his duties by parliament on December 14, following a short-lived martial law declaration that plunged the country into its worst political crisis in decades.

Yoon faces impeachment and criminal charges of insurrection, which could result in life imprisonment or even the death penalty. The Corruption Investigation Office is expected to decide in the coming days whether to issue a third summons or ask a court to grant an arrest warrant to compel Yoon to appear for questioning.

 KARNAPHULI GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (A COMPANY OF PETROBANGLA) CHATTOGRAM, BANGLADESH			
"দেশ প্রেমের শপথ নিম্ন-বৃত্তিতিকে বিচার দিন"		তুলসি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অঙ্গীকার	
INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER			
01. Ministry/Division	:	Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.	
02. Agency	:	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).	
03. Procuring Entity Name	:	Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited.	
04. Procuring Entity District	:	Chattogram.	
05. Invitation for	:	Procurement of 6" & 8" Turbine Gas Meter with EVC.	
06. Invitation Ref. No.	:	28.15.0000.211.07.002.24	
07. Date	:	17.12.2024	
Key information			
08. Procurement Method	:	Open Tendering Method (OTM).	
09. Budget and Source of Funds	:	KGDCI Own Fund under Cash Foreign Exchange Resource.	
10. Time limit to selling tender document	:	26.12.2024 to 16.02.2025 (Between 09:00 am to 04:30 pm (BST) on all working days).	
11. Tender Last Selling Date	:	16.02.2025	
12. Tender Closing Date & Time	:	17.02.2025 at 11:00 am (BST)	
13. Tender Opening Date & Time	:	17.02.2025 at 11:15 am (BST)	
14. Name & Address of the office(s) Selling Tender Documents	:	Tender Documents will be available in the following KGDCI offices between 09:00 am to 04:30 pm (BST) on all working days: a) Accounts Department, Head Office, 137/A CDA Avenue Sholashahar, Chattogram, Bangladesh. b) Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrobangla, Petrocentre (13 th floor) 3 Kawan Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.	
15. Receiving Tender Document	:	Purchase Department, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited Head Office, 137/A CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chattogram, Bangladesh.	
16. Opening Tender Document	:	Purchase Department, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited Head Office, 137/A CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chattogram, Bangladesh.	
17. Pre-Tender Meeting	:	Not Applicable.	
Information for Tenderer			
18. Eligibility of Tenderer	:	The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 05 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services.	
19. Brief Description of Goods	:	6" & 8" Turbine Gas Meter with EVC (32 Nos.).	
20. Price of Tender Document	:	USD 42.00 or BDT 5,000.00 (Non- Refundable).	
21. Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Tender Security Amount	Time for completion of delivery
Single	Turbine Gas Meter with EVC	USD 3,300.00 or BDT 4,00,000.00	120 (One Hundred Twenty) days from the date of receipt of LC.
Procuring entity details:			
22. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	:	Deputy General Manager (Purchase)	
23. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	:	Deputy General Manager (Purchase) Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited. Head Office, 137/A CDA Avenue, Sholashahar Chattogram, Bangladesh. Cell: +8801730-728433, e-mail: dgmpurchase@kgdci.gov.bd	
24. Special Instruction	:	a) Tender must remain valid for 120 days after the date of tender submission Deadline. b) Due to unavoidable circumstances if the tender cannot be opened in the Scheduled date, tender will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time & venue.	
25. The Tender will be conducted and interpreted as per the Public Procurement Regulations-2008 and subsequent amendments.			
26. KGDCI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			
GD-1275			

Waterways must not be crime hotspots

Ensure fair investigation, justice for the seven-murder incident

We are shocked by the brutal murder of seven crew members aboard a cargo vessel in Chandpur that has left ship workers fearing for their lives. This tragic incident has once again turned the spotlight on the dangers lurking in our waterways as well as the many inadequacies in the sector, which must be addressed.

Reportedly, the tragedy occurred when eight crew members on the bulk carrier MV Al-Bakhra came under attack in Meghna River on Monday. Five died on the spot due to injuries inflicted by sharp weapons, while two succumbed after being taken to hospital. Only one survived and is under treatment. Grieving families, along with several workers' associations, have since demanded justice—and rightly so—as without accountability, such heinous crimes will continue to haunt our waterways.

There has been much speculation about the motive behind the killings. Law enforcers and ship staff noted that little was stolen from it, ruling out robbery as the primary cause. Meanwhile, Rab has arrested a crew member named Akash Mondal Irfan who, according to Rab, admitted to killing his colleagues out of frustration over unpaid wages and mistreatment. He allegedly sedated the victims with food laced with sleeping pills before stabbing them to death. This is an important lead, but further investigations are necessary to rule out all other possibilities and ensure credible trials.

While this incident may appear to stem from personal vendetta, ship workers have long raised concerns about the perils they face. A shipmaster has pointed out that this particular Meghna area is notorious for extortion. Non-compliance, in the absence of proper oversight, also leads to accidents. While waterways remain a popular option for transporting cargo in the country, extortions and robberies serve as a huge disincentive for the thousands of registered vessels. A Samakal report identified Narayanganj, Hatia, Bhola, Kishoreganj, and Sylhet as high risk areas, noting that transporting cargo from Sylhet to Chandpur often requires paying Tk 20,000-30,000 in extortion fees. Besides, in the last three months, there have been five reported robberies. Moreover, one labour association leader claimed that filing police cases is an issue as officers often dismiss incidents as outside their jurisdiction. Such negligence only emboldens criminals.

These issues need to be resolved. For now, we must demand proper compensation for the families of the victims of the Chandpur incident, many of whom were sole breadwinners. The financial assistance provided so far—Tk 20,000 from the district administration and Tk 10,000 from the River Police—is grossly inadequate. The government must step up in this regard, offer meaningful financial support, ensure swift punishment of the perpetrators, and work to eradicate crime from our waterways. Our rivers must not be crime hotspots.

Curb the menace of throwaway plastics

Tackling widespread pollution needs stringent action

It is deeply concerning that despite growing awareness of the dangers posed by single-use plastics, their use remains extremely high in Bangladesh. A recent study by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has found that the country consumes between 3.15 and 3.84 billion single-use plastic bottles annually, with a mere 21.4 percent being recycled. Both urban and rural areas are heavily dependent on plastic bottles, though in different ways. While urban areas see high consumption of water bottles, rural areas are increasingly witnessing the menace of soft drink bottles.

When this plastic waste is dumped into rivers, the consequences are disastrous. Rivers such as the Buriganga, Karnaphuli, and Meghna are already choking on plastic, rendering their waters toxic for aquatic life. As a study revealed earlier last year, at least 17 fish species and three shellfish species in three key rivers flowing through the Sundarbans are contaminated with microplastics. The health risks of such pollution for humans and ecosystems are immense.

Over the decades, successive governments have made plans to curb the use of throwaway plastics but these efforts faltered due to poor implementation. For example, although polythene bags were officially banned in 2002, they remain widely used. In January 2020, the High Court ordered a ban on single-use plastic products in coastal districts. Four years later, there has been no visible progress in its implementation.

After the interim government assumed office in August, the cabinet division, at the environment adviser's request, instructed government offices to replace single-use plastics with eco-friendly alternatives. The environment ministry also banned polythene bags, initially targeting superstores before expanding the ban nationwide. However, these measures have yielded little impact largely due to inadequate enforcement and the absence of viable alternatives. Moreover, after the recent order to stop using single-use plastics, domestic plastic manufacturers have reportedly lobbied for a delay in implementing the ban until 2030, citing potential disruptions to businesses and consumers.

Clearly, issuing directives without ensuring readiness among all stakeholders will not suffice. To effectively combat plastic pollution, the government must adopt a comprehensive, well-coordinated plan developed in consultation with key stakeholders including businesses and the general public. Solutions should focus on promoting eco-friendly alternatives, supporting waste management systems, and strictly enforcing anti-plastic policies. The urgency for robust action cannot be overstated considering the level that plastic pollution has reached across the country.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004

On this day in 2004, a tsunami hit the coasts of several countries of South and Southeast Asia killing an estimated 228,000 people across 15 countries.

Justice for enforced disappearance: Lessons from Argentina

Barrister Md Zahid Hasan Akhand
is a human rights lawyer, activist, and founder and head of Akhand and Associates.

MD ZAHID HASAN AKHAND

In Bangladesh, Argentina is more than just a footballing nation; it's a symbol of passion, resilience, and shared identity. The famous "Hand of God" moment and Maradona's dazzling 1986 World Cup victory are still celebrated with immense enthusiasm. But beyond the footballing legacy, there's another connection between the two nations—a shared pain and sorrow that ties them together in ways most would never expect.

Between 1976 and 1983, Argentina endured one of the darkest periods in its history, known as the "Dirty War" (*Guerra Sucia* in Spanish). The country was ruled by a military junta that used brutal tactics to eliminate perceived threats. Thousands of citizens, including political activists, intellectuals, union leaders, and students, were disappeared without a trace. These individuals, often the brightest and most outspoken members of society, were subjected to torture, imprisonment, and death. Their families, left in torment, had no idea whether their loved ones were alive or dead. This led to a profound trauma that still echoes in Argentina today.

In many ways, Bangladesh's modern-day struggle mirrors this painful past. Since Sheikh Hasina assumed power in 2009, Bangladesh has seen a troubling rise in cases of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, particularly between 2009 and 2022. Human rights organisations estimate that more than 3,000 people have vanished over the last decade, many of them political activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens who dared to challenge the government. The tactics used by Bangladesh's security forces, especially the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), are chillingly similar to those of authoritarian regimes, with violence wielded as a tool of political control. The Digital Security Act, introduced in 2018, further silenced dissent by criminalising free speech, in essence, and empowering the government to target critics.

Although the political contexts in Argentina and Bangladesh differ in many ways, both countries have been profoundly impacted by authoritarian rule and the heavy human cost of enforced disappearances. However, the paths they have taken to address these abuses and the extent to which justice has been served are markedly distinct.

After the fall of Argentina's brutal military dictatorship in 1983, the country began the long and difficult process of confronting its past. One



The families of the disappeared in Bangladesh, like the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, have refused to stay silent.

FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

of the most significant steps was the formation of the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (CONADEP), which investigated the enforced disappearances and human rights violations committed during the dictatorship. Their report, *Nunca Más* ("Never Again"), was a landmark document that detailed the scale of the atrocities and gave voice to the victims' families. For the first time, the suffering was acknowledged, and the public could no longer ignore the truth.

In the years that followed, Argentina took important steps towards achieving justice. Laws that had previously shielded military officials from prosecution, such as the Full Stop Law and the Law of Due Obedience, were repealed in 2003. In the subsequent years, former military officers were put on trial, and some were convicted of crimes against humanity, including torture, enforced disappearances, and murder. While justice was delayed, it wasn't denied. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a group of mothers whose children had disappeared during the dictatorship, became a powerful symbol of resistance, relentlessly demanding truth and accountability. Their courage and determination brought the issue of human rights violations to the forefront, forcing Argentina to reckon with its past.

In contrast, Bangladesh's struggle with enforced disappearances remains largely unresolved. In 2024, after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government, an interim administration led by

Muhammad Yunus signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). Later, a commission of inquiry into the disappearances was established. While

Daak movement continues to gain momentum. The group's members, many of them mothers, sisters, and wives have become the public face of resistance. Their constant presence at protests and public demonstrations is a testament to their refusal to let the truth be buried. Through their tireless efforts, the Mayer Daak movement has kept the issue of enforced disappearances in the national conversation, pushing for recognition of the victims and accountability for the perpetrators.

Bangladesh has not yet seen the same level of institutional reforms as Argentina, such as the creation of a national truth commission. However, the activism by Mayer Daak has the potential to spur a broader movement for justice, one that might eventually lead to formal inquiries, legal accountability, and reparations for the families of the disappeared. The group's insistence on truth and justice offers a glimmer of hope in the face of a long history of government oppression.

Both Argentina and Bangladesh have suffered through brutal authoritarian regimes that used enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings to maintain control. Argentina's eventual

Both Argentina and Bangladesh have suffered through brutal authoritarian regimes that used enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings to maintain control. Argentina's eventual commitment to justice, accountability, and truth has allowed the country to begin the healing process.

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With the right commitment and action, there is hope that Bangladesh can take meaningful steps towards healing, and the painful legacy of enforced disappearances can eventually be addressed. By learning from Argentina's example and ensuring accountability, recognition for the victims, and a genuine process of truth-telling, Bangladesh has the potential to move forward. While the journey may be long, it is not without hope. In time, the families of the disappeared may find the justice and closure they deserve, and the country as a whole can begin to heal from this dark chapter.

Act now to secure a future for Rohingyas

Hasina Rahman
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Adnan Junaid
is the regional vice president of IRC for Asia.

ADNAN JUNAID and HASINA RAHMAN

Recently, we travelled to Cox's Bazar, where around one million Rohingya refugees live in 33 congested camps. Among them are hundreds of thousands of children—more than 50 percent of the population—whose lives have been confined to these camps. These children have no memory of their homeland and are growing up without the basic rights every child deserves: education, safety, freedom, and opportunities for a brighter future.

As we watched children play in narrow alleys among endless rows of makeshift shelters, it became painfully clear—they are at risk of becoming a lost generation. But it doesn't have to be this way. These children have the potential to shape a better world. With proper support, they can rise as leaders, innovators, and contributors to humanity. Humanitarian organisations

collective responsibility to ensure these children have the opportunity to grow into empowered individuals, capable of shaping a better tomorrow.

The situation for youth in the camps is equally dire. More than 30 percent of Rohingya refugees are young people, packed with untapped energy and potential. Yet, with no access to formal education, employment, or income-generating activities, they are left idle and vulnerable to negative coping mechanisms.

Their frustration mirrors that of the youth in host communities, who also face limited opportunities. During our visit, we heard both Rohingya and Bangladeshi youth express a common desire: "We want to work, run businesses, do jobs, and lead meaningful lives."

Investing in these young people is

Life in the camps is precarious. Refugees experience extreme weather conditions due to climate change, including heatwaves, cyclones, floods, and fires while women and girls disproportionately face gender-based violence (GBV).

are working tirelessly to provide education, health, and protection services to these children, but they need support of others.

The world must not close its eyes to their plight. Every child, regardless of where they are born, deserves a chance to dream, learn, and succeed. It is our

investing in peace and progress. With IRC Bangladesh's support hundreds of youths are running small businesses, promoting social cohesion. But more needs to be done. Solutions can be drawn by collaborating with young people to become agents of change rather than victims of circumstances.

Life in the camps is precarious. Refugees experience extreme weather conditions due to climate change, including heatwaves, cyclones, floods, and fires while women and girls disproportionately face gender-based violence (GBV). Alarming statistics from the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System reveal that nearly



More than 30 percent of Rohingya refugees are young people, packed with untapped energy and potential.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

all GBV survivors in the camps are female, with physical assault and psychological abuse being the most reported incidents.

Adolescent girls face the threat of child marriage, while boys are forced into child labour. With a few alternatives, many take risky sea journeys in search of safety and a better life. The growing insecurity within the camps is a grave concern, voiced repeatedly by residents.

Despite these challenges, the government of Bangladesh has shown remarkable generosity in sheltering nearly one million refugees. Even with limited resources and its challenges, Bangladesh continues to offer refuge to

to address this forgotten crisis, as proposed during the recent UN General Assembly. The world must commit to sustainable solutions that ensure dignity, opportunity, and safety for the Rohingya while alleviating the burden on Bangladesh.

This is not just about one community or one country; it is about humanity. These children and youth are looking to us with hope that they, too, can one day live with freedom, dignity, and purpose. Let us not disappoint them.

The time to act is now. Together, we can transform despair into opportunity and create a future that reflects the best of humanity.

Corporate climate action must not be ignored



Md Zahurul Al Mamun
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ZAHURUL AL MAMUN

Today, environmental responsibility is no longer just a moral obligation but a business imperative, driven by the dual forces of public expectation and financial prudence. A survey by Cone Communications revealed that 87 percent of consumers would buy from a brand that advocates for issues they care about, while 61 percent of millennials consider a company's environmental and social goals when seeking employment. The message is clear: companies that fail to prioritise sustainability risk losing their market share and talent pool.

However, despite this growing corporate interest in climate action, the intersection of such efforts with global inequities remains critically overlooked. While multinational corporations proudly announce their climate goals, the real impact of their actions is often felt most acutely in vulnerable nations like Bangladesh—countries on the frontline of climate change.

The world's largest corporations are responsible for a disproportionate share of global carbon emissions. According to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), the top 100 companies account for a staggering 71 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. In theory, this concentration of responsibility means that corporate action could have an outsized impact in mitigating the climate crisis. However, the complexities of global supply chains, resource extraction, and waste management present serious challenges, especially when corporate climate strategies are applied to developing nations.

Companies like Unilever, Coca-Cola, and Logitech are positioning themselves as leaders in corporate sustainability. Their ambitious climate commitments—such as achieving net-zero emissions—are commendable on paper. But a deeper look reveals an uncomfortable reality about the fairness and feasibility of their efforts in regions of the Global South like Bangladesh, where local realities often clash with corporate ambitions.

While these corporate giants have the power to either mitigate or exacerbate the crisis, the ethical complexities and global inequalities surrounding their climate strategies demand a more critical examination, especially when applied to nations on the climate frontline. The path they

choose will profoundly shape the planet's future, but the complexity of corporate climate action raises unsettling questions: Are we witnessing genuine sustainability efforts, or is this another chapter of corporate greenwashing?

Take Unilever, for example. The company has made bold commitments to achieving net zero emissions across its value chain by 2039 and reducing absolute green house gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. Through initiatives like the Climate Transition Action Plan (CTAP) and a one billion euro investment in Climate & Nature Fund, Unilever has championed deforestation-free supply chains and sustainable farming practices. However, while the headlines are grand, the reality is far more nuanced.

Unilever's strategy depends heavily on its vast and fragmented supply chain, spanning 190 countries

The danger lies in the tendency for corporate climate action to prioritise global market demands over local environmental and social needs. For instance, the pressure to meet global net-zero targets often results in resource extraction, waste disposal, and economic burdens being shifted to countries like Bangladesh.

and countless suppliers, many of whom operate in regions with weak regulatory frameworks, which can provide little protection against environmental exploitation. The burden of meeting Unilever's climate goals often falls disproportionately on suppliers in developing nations, including Bangladesh, where environmental protections are lax, and local communities have limited capacity to shoulder additional costs.

Accusations of greenwashing continue to plague many corporate sustainability efforts, including those of Unilever. In 2021, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) launched an investigation into the environmental claims of

several multinational corporations, including Unilever, questioning whether their marketing practices were misleading consumers about the true environmental impact of their products. These concerns highlight a broader doubt about corporate transparency in sustainability efforts.

The challenge of greenwashing is

rather than a transformative change in business practices that could reduce the burden. Despite its sustainability rhetoric, a lawsuit filed in Washington DC in 2021 further accused Coca-Cola of making misleading claims about the recyclability of its plastic bottles, alleging that the company's sustainability promises were

footprints. The lack of robust e-waste management systems means that discarded electronic devices pose a growing risk to public health and the environment. Logitech, like other tech giants, must address these broader impacts if its sustainability efforts are to be truly meaningful.

Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable

resource extraction, waste disposal, and economic burdens being shifted to countries like Bangladesh. The benefits of these initiatives often accrue in the Global North, while the Global South pays the price.

One of the most problematic aspects of corporate climate action is the tendency to outsource responsibility to developing nations. While companies in the Global North race to achieve net-zero emissions and adopt greener practices, the costs—both environmental and economic—are frequently passed down to suppliers and consumers in the Global South. These dynamic risks create a new form of colonialism, where wealthy nations and corporations shift the burden of climate mitigation onto poorer countries, all while reaping the benefits of a "green" image.

This imbalance reinforces global inequalities: while consumers in wealthier nations can feel good about buying "sustainable" products, the environmental and social costs of producing these goods remain hidden, borne by those least able to bear them. In this sense, corporate climate action risks perpetuating the very injustices it seeks to address.

For Bangladesh, this reality is already playing out. Achieving its ambitious climate goals under the Paris Agreement will require significant financial and technical support—support that is unlikely to come from domestic sources alone. If multinational corporations genuinely want to contribute to Bangladesh's climate resilience, they must move beyond surface-level commitments and engage in meaningful, long-term partnerships that prioritise local needs and knowledge.

The climate crisis demands urgent, transformative action. While multinational corporations have a significant role to play, their sustainability efforts must be more than public relations exercises. To truly address the climate crisis, companies must embrace an integrated approach—one that acknowledges the inequalities embedded in global supply chains and prioritises ethical, long-term solutions.

Corporate climate action cannot be merely about offsetting emissions or recycling a few bottles. It must confront the systemic injustices that allow wealthy nations and corporations to benefit from the Global South's resources while leaving local communities to endure most of the climate impacts. Corporate climate action cannot simply be a public relations exercise—these multinational companies must be held accountable for the full spectrum of their environmental and social impacts.



Activists place washing machines in front of the Deutsche Bank headquarters to protest against greenwashing in Frankfurt, Germany on May 19, 2022.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

even more apparent in Coca-Cola's case. The company has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and aims to achieve a 25 percent reduction in absolute GHG emissions by 2030, paired with initiatives to use 100 percent renewable electricity and promote recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) in packaging. This positions the beverage giant as a major player in corporate climate action.

But Coca-Cola has long been the poster child of the plastic waste crisis, particularly in developing countries like Bangladesh, where single-use plastic contributes to mounting environmental degradation. The contradiction is glaring: how can a company build on a high-consumption, high-waste model aligning with sustainability principles? Coca-Cola's efforts to recycle and reduce waste in developing countries are often overshadowed by the sheer scale of plastic pollution that it generates. In Bangladesh, where waste management infrastructure is already overburdened, the influx of plastic waste from market leaders only exacerbates local environmental challenges.

The focus on circular economy initiatives, while important, often remains a public relations effort

deceptive. The plastic paradox—the tension between high-consumption models and sustainability goals—remains unresolved.

Logitech's push to become "climate positive" by 2030, having already achieved 94 percent of its renewable energy goals, meaning it plans to remove more carbon from the atmosphere than it emits, presents the tech company as a sustainability pioneer. It was the first consumer electronics company to place carbon impact labels on its products, a commendable step towards transparency. Yet, as with Unilever and Coca-Cola, the ethical implications of Logitech's climate strategy require closer scrutiny.

The tech industry's reliance on rare earth minerals and metals extracted from regions with lax environmental and labour regulations casts a shadow over its green credentials. Logitech's reliance on carbon offsets raises concerns. While offsets can play a role in compensating for residual emissions, they often distract from the harder work of reducing emissions at the source.

In countries like Bangladesh, which is becoming a dumping ground for e-waste, the tech industry's environmental impact goes far beyond operational carbon

nations, contributing less than 0.5 percent of global emissions while disproportionately suffering from the impacts of climate change. Against this backdrop, the involvement of multinational corporations in Bangladesh presents both opportunities and risks.

Multinational corporations could play a vital role in supporting Bangladesh's climate resilience. Unilever, for instance, could invest in climate-smart agricultural practices, supporting local farmers with sustainable irrigation systems and renewable energy infrastructure. Coca-Cola, given Bangladesh's growing waste management challenges, could promote circular economy models by establishing recycling facilities and eliminating plastic waste. Logitech, with its expertise in tech innovation, could help develop e-waste management systems, an area where Bangladesh urgently needs support. However, these initiatives must be grounded in local realities, ensuring that they benefit Bangladesh's most vulnerable communities.

The danger lies in the tendency for corporate climate action to prioritise global market demands over local environmental and social needs. For instance, the pressure to meet global net-zero targets often results in

Charting a path ahead for the RMG sector

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QUAMRUL AHSAN

Bangladesh has emerged as an economic success story, primarily through its booming ready-made garments (RMG) sector. The country's exports in this industry surged from \$23.5 billion to \$47.38 billion between 2013 and 2023, lifting millions out of poverty and gaining international recognition. Key factors driving this growth include a cost-effective workforce, dedicated entrepreneurs, strong financial systems, and political stability, resulting in a remarkable seven percent annual growth rate. Bangladesh is now the world's second-largest apparel exporter, solidifying its status in the global fashion market.

The Covid pandemic, global supply chain disruptions, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict have revealed the vulnerability of Bangladesh's economy, which relies heavily on a single industry. This dependence has resulted in insufficient revenue from other sectors to meet financial obligations. The country is facing high inflation and unemployment, largely due to poor policy decisions and a lack of economic diversification. Overall, Bangladesh is grappling with significant economic challenges.

Despite significant growth in the RMG industry, Bangladesh faces numerous challenges, particularly its impending transition from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026. Following this graduation and a subsequent three-year grace period ending in 2029, Bangladesh will lose its duty-free, quota-free, and preferential Rules of Origin benefits for apparel exports to the European Union, a crucial market that represents nearly half of its RMG exports.

The loss of LDC-specific trade preferences will raise Bangladesh's effective tariffs by approximately 5.7 percent, potentially causing a 14.3 percent drop in apparel exports, equating to a loss of \$5.37 billion annually. In response, Bangladesh has

launched an ambitious plan to reach a \$100 billion annual export target by 2030. This optimism is supported by the country's strong historical growth, policies to enhance backward linkages, product diversification, and a stable political environment, which collectively suggest a promising future for its



Bangladesh's economy relies heavily on the RMG sector, which faces numerous challenges.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

export sector.

To achieve its policy goals, the nation must strategically enhance value addition, particularly in the RMG sector. Currently, value addition has stagnated at 50-65 percent over the past decade. By increasing the use of domestic fabrics and yarns, Bangladesh could elevate this figure to 70-75 percent, which would significantly boost net export earnings.

Bangladesh produces 85 percent of the yarn needed for knitted cotton fabrics, but only meets 35 percent of the demand for woven garments and man-made fibre (MMF) based apparel domestically. The country faces challenges with limited domestic production of MMF materials. Enhancing the production of woven and non-cotton yarns and fabrics could significantly increase

Bangladesh's export earnings.

Bangladesh can boost its apparel manufacturing sector by leveraging MMF, such as polyester, to meet the growing global demand for non-cotton textiles. Currently, MMF constitutes 77.6 percent of global fibre production, while natural fibres, including

cotton, account for 22.4 percent. This trend is driven by consumer preferences for functional and stylish clothing, which MMF-based garments can provide. Additionally, MMF products typically command higher prices and can yield greater export revenue compared to cotton-based apparel.

Bangladesh currently holds a modest 16.9 percent share of MMF apparel exports, significantly less than China (42.8 percent) and Vietnam (46.9 percent). To enhance its position in the growing MMF market, Bangladesh needs to improve its MMF manufacturing capabilities. The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) aims to increase MMF-based garment production to 40 percent by 2030. By expanding MMF production, Bangladesh can better meet global demand,

diversify its ready-made garment sector, and enhance domestic value addition in the supply chain.

The rapid scaling of MMF production by 2030 faces three main challenges: the need for significant foreign capital investment, a shortage of specialised knowledge and skills in Bangladesh to operate the required capital-intensive machinery, and a lack of incentive programmes to attract investors to MMF manufacturing facilities.

The remarkable growth in MMF apparel exports of countries like China and Vietnam was significantly driven by foreign investment. Foreign investment brings in foreign currency, machinery, technology, and expertise to develop high value industries like the MMF. In Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) is responsible for attracting investment and should serve as the central coordinating body to streamline bureaucratic processes and instil confidence in foreign investors. BIDA should analyse successful markets and devise a comprehensive and best-in-class strategy. A major challenge for foreign investors in Bangladesh is the absence of downstream liquidity in the capital markets, which hinders their ability to exit or diversify

The rapid scaling of MMF production by 2030 faces three main challenges: the need for significant foreign capital investment, a shortage of specialised knowledge and skills in Bangladesh to operate the required capital-intensive machinery, and a lack of incentive programmes to attract investors to MMF manufacturing facilities.

their investments. BIDA should spearhead collaboration between government agencies and the private sector to address this issue.

Saleudh Zaman Khan, managing director of NZ Textile and a vice president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association,

shared in an interview how Bangladesh can rapidly gain a foothold in the highly competitive MMF apparel market, which is currently dominated by China and Vietnam. "Bangladesh government must adopt a fast-track strategic approach and offer substantial incentives to encourage the manufacturing of MMF and MMF-based garments," he said. "The incentive programmes must ensure the long-term sustainability of MMF manufacturing facilities by providing additional incentives to compete against foreign competitors, especially China and Vietnam," added Saleudh. He also emphasised that these incentives should be extended to both local and foreign investors in the MMF production sector, in-order to promote and reinforce the domestic supply chain.

Bangladesh's dependence on imported cotton and MMF poses risks such as price fluctuations, supply chain issues, and geopolitical tensions. To mitigate these challenges, establishing a strategic reserve for cotton and MMF is recommended, allowing for a reliable raw material source during disruptions. This reserve would require specific storage facilities for at least a six-month supply and could be developed without direct investment by incentivising suppliers to store their inventory within the country. This approach would help spinning mills access materials quickly and cost-effectively, saving on inventory costs while ensuring prompt delivery.

Finally, Bangladesh needs to broaden its economic base, and the government should enhance research funding in science and technology to reduce dependence on the garment sector. Bangladesh's graduation from LDC status will allow the country to diversify its product offerings and strengthen its supply chain for higher-value goods. This transition encourages the use of advanced technology and automation to boost productivity and profitability. To comply with stricter origin requirements, particularly the "double transformation" criterion for the EU market, establishing strong backward linkages will be essential once preferential trade access ends.



THE SHELF

2024: The year of literature in translation

Although translated literature surged with unrivalled popularity in 2023, it was not until this year that readers finally opened their arms to possibilities beyond country bounds. In 2024, the market for literature in translation rose to its peak, making pathways for more chance releases in the imminent year.

Hospital
Sanya Rushdi, Arunava Sinha (Translator)
Seagull Books, 2023

Allow us to cheat a little as we include this literary masterpiece from the year before. Originally published in 2023, Sanya Rushdi's *Hospital* gained better footing after the noteworthy nomination for The Stella Prize in 2024. Readers are known to proclaim that *Hospital* has been one of the best translations coming out of Bangladesh in the last few years. In Melbourne, Australia, a woman in her late 30s has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, following her third episode of psychosis. The protagonist, Sanya, a student of psychology herself, questions the credibility of the evaluation and ponders whether there might be a better way to fix this. Fix her. A division of opinion persists, the humane margin between patients and doctors collides. Through

eerily sombre, reflective conversations, she navigates the uncertainty of her illness, haunted by the possibility of another episode. Based on true events and initially written in Bangla, *Hospital* is a raw and intimate exploration of one woman's struggle to reclaim her identity in a world quick to label her.

More Days at the Morisaki Bookshop
Satoshi Yagisawa, Eric Ozawa (Translator)
Harper Perennial, 2024

You can seldom go wrong with a Japanese-translated novel, and thanks to the widespread fanfare gathering around the first book in this series, we now have another instalment to look forward to. The beloved Japanese bookshop and its adjacent coffee shop in the Jimbocho neighborhood of Tokyo are back again, and along with it returns the darling cast of characters—some old, some new. Takako has finally moved out of the shop in search of her lost individuality, her relationship with her uncle, Satoru thriving like never before. In his book about books, Satoshi Yagisawa weaves a heartfelt tale about the bonds people create through a shared love of words. We find an old man wearing the same mouse-coloured sweater day after day and we come across another collecting books solely

for the authors' official stamps, and we have Satoru, with the support of his niece Takako, facing a bittersweet decision about the future of their family bookshop. Working together, their journey leads them back to their roots, stirring memories and emotions once long buried. Stay tuned to trace the budding romance as well!

Kairos
Jenny Erpenbeck, Michael Hoffman (Translator)
New Directions, 2024

Winner of The International Booker Prize in 2024, *Kairos* by Jenny Erpenbeck is an agonising, discomfiting work of fiction centering around partners destined to be doomed in the failing years of East Germany. A classic love affair of a 19-year-old girl and a much older married writer, the couple traverse the complexities of fervent adoration, growing up and a finite romance through a tumultuous political change, against the backdrop of the crumbling GDR and its dissolution in 1989. In her distinctive style, Erpenbeck captures the sweeping arc of their relationship hauntingly, entwining it with the collapse of an entire mankind, its ideologies fading away as Katharina and her lover try to find their place in a new reality. For fans of Sally Rooney

and Samantha Harvey, *Kairos* would be an appropriate pick.

The Book Censor's Library
Bothayna Al-Essa, Ranya Abdelrahman (Translator)
Restless Books, 2024

A darkly imaginative satire, *The Book Censor's Library* dives into the shadowy world of banned books, secret libraries, and the suffocating grip of an all-seeing government. The new book censor spends his days scrutinising manuscripts for forbidden content—references to queerness, unapproved faiths, or life before the Revolution. At night, he relays vivid, insistent dreams about characters from the very books he marked red. Unbeknownst to his wife and daughter, the hidden corners of his house grow musty in silence, novels he is not permitted to own assembling an army. Luring him in, entangling him in an underground network of rebels, secret booksellers and outlaw librarians, fighting to preserve their culture and history. With piercing insight, Bothayna Al-Essa brings this dystopian sphere to life, blending Orwellian oppression with Carroll-like absurdity and Kafkaesque unease. More than a story, this is a love letter to books and a chilling reminder of what is at stake when freedom of expression is threatened. A time-sensitive treat for sure!

My Heavenly Favourite
Lucas Rijneveld, Michele Hutchison (Translator)
Faber & Faber, 2024

To conclude, ticking this list off is an absolute fan-favourite, a new, exhilarating novel from the highly-acclaimed author of *The Discomfort of Evening*. When the summer of 2005 burns as hot as the inside of a barn, a farmer's 14-year-old daughter forms an implausible alliance with the local veterinarian who tends her family's cows. At 49, the vet is burdened by a past he cannot escape, while the girl yearns to lose herself in a world of stupendous imaginations. Their shared stories, meant to heal and distract, spiral into a dangerous obsession, with a confession at its heart that could shatter their tightly knit Dutch community. Bold and unforgettable, *My Heavenly Favourite* mesmerises with its lyrical prose and unrelenting exploration of human vulnerability.

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FROM PAGES TO PIXELS

Translating magic: Netflix's bold journey to bring Macondo to life

Netflix's adaptation of Márquez stands as a testament to the power of mise-en-scène in evoking magical realism. The series' use of color palettes—vivid yellows, lush greens, and ethereal blues—mirrors the sensory richness of Márquez's descriptions. The interplay of light and shadow, particularly in scenes set in the jungle or the Buendía household, creates an atmosphere that feels both grounded and otherworldly.

NASEEF FARUQUE AMIN

Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (originally published in 1967) has long been heralded as a masterpiece of magical realism and a cornerstone of Latin American literature. With its labyrinthine narrative structure, cyclical temporality, and socio-historical depth, the novel potentially posed unique challenges for adaptation into visual media. Netflix's recent mini-series adaptation has drawn praise for its aesthetic fidelity and creative vision, but a deeper analysis through the theoretical frameworks of narratology, adaptation studies, and film craft reveals the nuanced dynamics at play in translating Márquez's literary cosmos into the language of cinema.

Márquez's novel employs a non-linear, cyclical temporality, reflecting the inescapable patterns of history and the inevitable repetition of familial fate. This intricate narrative architecture—featuring flashbacks, foreshadowing, and fragmented chronology—raises significant challenges for adaptation. Series directors and writers offer us a simplified yet respectful interpretation of the structure. By beginning with José Arcadio Buendía's backstory and opting for a more linear unfolding of events, the adaptation embraces what Linda Hutcheon identifies in her seminal *A Theory of Adaptation* (2006) as the "reinterpretive" nature of adaptation. While this choice sacrifices some of the novel's temporal fluidity, it serves a dual purpose: it aligns the narrative with the demands of visual storytelling and enhances accessibility for a global audience unaccustomed to Márquez's literary style. However, this decision also raises questions about the adaptation's fidelity to the novel's thematic essence. The cyclical narrative in Márquez's work is not merely a stylistic device but a reflection of the deterministic



PHOTO: COLLECTED | DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

forces—history, memory, and myth—that govern the lives of the Buendía family. By linearising the narrative, the series risks losing the depth of this thematic resonance. Yet, moments like the rain of yellow flowers and the ethereal ascension of Remedios the Beauty reclaim the novel's temporal magic, using visual motifs to evoke the cyclical interplay of life and death.

Netflix's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* exemplifies this perspective by reframing Márquez's prose through the language of cinema. The series employs what André Bazin describes as the "aesthetic specificity" of film—its ability to manipulate space, light, and movement—to translate Márquez's magical realism into visual terms. The rain of yellow flowers following José Arcadio Buendía's death and the haunting beauty of Macondo's jungle landscapes are not merely acts of replication but

visual reinterpretations of Márquez's imagery. By foregrounding such moments, the series underscores the idea that magical realism in film is not an act of mimicry but of transformation. The surreal is made tangible through cinematography, set design, and visual effects, allowing the viewer to inhabit a world that hovers between the real and the imaginary. Yet, adaptation theory also compels us to question what is lost in this transformation. Márquez's prose relies heavily on the interiority of its characters and the omniscient, impassive voice of its narrator, which lends an almost biblical gravitas to the events of the novel. While the series captures the external drama of the Buendía family's saga, it struggles to fully convey the interior monologues and existential reflections that underpin the novel's emotional and philosophical weight.

Netflix's adaptation of Márquez

stands as a testament to the power of mise-en-scène in evoking magical realism. The series' use of color palettes—vivid yellows, lush greens, and ethereal blues—mirrors the sensory richness of Márquez's descriptions. The interplay of light and shadow, particularly in scenes set in the jungle or the Buendía household, creates an atmosphere that feels both grounded and otherworldly. The sound design also deserves special attention. The auditory landscape—featuring the hum of insects, the rustle of leaves, and the occasional strains of haunting music—anchors the viewer in Macondo's physical and emotional geography. This multisensory approach aligns with Gilles Deleuze's concept of the "time-image," where cinematic techniques are used to evoke the subjective experience of time, memory, and history.

However, the series occasionally

falters in its pacing and editing. The novel's sprawling narrative, with its myriad characters and subplots, creates challenges for episodic storytelling. Certain characters, such as Colonel Aureliano Buendía, receive expanded arcs that flesh out their motivations and historical contexts, yet others are rendered peripheral, diluting the interconnectedness that defines the novel's family saga.

From a literary perspective, the series honors Márquez's themes of love, loss, and the inexorable pull of history, even as it alters the narrative structure to suit the cinematic medium. From a filmic standpoint, the adaptation exemplifies the creative possibilities of translating magical realism into visual form, using the tools of mise-en-scène, cinematography, and sound to craft an immersive experience. Yet, the adaptation also highlights the tension inherent in adapting a novel so deeply rooted in its medium. While the series captures the external beauty of Márquez's world, it occasionally struggles to convey the internal depth of his characters and the philosophical underpinnings of his narrative. This gap underscores the limitations of cinema as a medium for capturing the full scope of literary complexity, even as it celebrates the unique strengths of visual storytelling.

For me, Netflix's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is not merely an adaptation but a reinterpretation, a dialogue between literature and cinema that honors the spirit of Gabriel García Márquez's work while reimagining it for a new audience. It invites viewers and readers alike to reconsider the boundaries of storytelling and the transformative power of adaptation, leaving us to ponder the enduring legacy of Macondo and the Buendía family in a medium Márquez himself approached with cautious reverence.

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‘Forward-looking’ Jaker

Building on a breakthrough year

Bangladesh batter **Jaker Ali Anik**, fresh from a month-long West Indies tour, has had a breakthrough year, integrating into the national team across all formats. Despite a lacklustre T20 World Cup performance, the 26-year-old shone in the Caribbean, scoring consistently across formats. In an exclusive interview with **The Daily Star’s Abdullah Al Mehdi**, Jaker reflected on his latest assignment, team’s mindset, and his evolving game, among other things. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

THE DAILY STAR (DS): According to you, how was the West Indies tour from the team’s perspective?

JAKER ALI (JA): It was outstanding for us, as a team. After not playing well in the first Test, we made a comeback in the second. In the ODIs, we played well in most of the games, but maybe the bowling unit did not perform as they are used to... but they proved themselves again [in T20Is].

DS: What are your feelings about the T20I series win?

JA: The coach [Phil Simmons] told us not to give any quarters, and told us before the third game that we will only realise what we have done when we get back home. Now I am realising it since returning.

DS: Do you now feel more accomplished with your power-hitting game?

JA: The last T20 innings [72 not out] is special because bowlers were not bowling in my comfort zone. After the first One-Day [International], Windies bowlers realised that it’s free for the taking when they bowl at my stumps during the slog overs. You could see how wide they were bowling. Scoring runs against the tide was something special. I saw their plans and changed my stance. They were trying to bowl

wide yorkers or slower, and I shuffled to get closer.

DS: Senior assistant coach Salahuddin talked about needing more consistency. What did he say about changing mindset?

JA: He gave clear concepts like always. The biggest thing is he allowed us to play our natural game... to play with freedom. I will talk about a small incident. In the second ODI, we made only 227. In the meeting, he said, ‘Look, if we score 220 in such wickets, we will lose. If we don’t show intent, we will lose anyway. So if we show intent and score only 150 and lose, it’s not a problem. But we must play for 300 plus.’ In the third game, you saw the changes [as the Tigers scored 321].

DS: How do you see this year’s gains in making Test and ODI debuts along with playing in a World Cup?

JA: Actually, I don’t think about these things. Whatever took place has ended, whether good or bad. I am a forward-looking person. Obviously grateful for the good things, but I won’t be dawdling on it. I think I have to look forward to doing things better. Working on fitness currently.

DS: You are often criticised for being limited with your off-side shots. What do you make of it?

JA: It’s not important that I have to play through the offside. What’s important is that I score runs. I never felt like that; instead, I play to my strength, and that’s what I would continue. My strength is to get close to the deliveries. The bat swing makes it such that often I play through the on side, but I always aim to play straight. I know exactly how to play my game, and it’s not like I have to play only through the off side or only the leg side. In that microsecond of time, I have to find a way to hit it... It’s all practice and mindset.

DS: It’s said that you used to practise commentary in your childhood so you can talk when taking player-of-the-match awards?

JA: Yes, I used to practise that. Like how I am going to be when I win the man-of-the-match award. I was a big fan of Bangladesh cricket growing up, and these things happening for real give me joy.

DS: Your thoughts on ODIs going forward, especially with the Champions Trophy coming up?

JA: Given the mental strength the team has right now, I feel we will do something good in the Champions Trophy. Something big. We have good chances.



South Africa aim for place in WTC final

REUTERS, Pretoria

South Africa are within touching distance of a place in next June’s World Test Championship final at Lord’s but must win at least one of their two Tests against Pakistan, which start with the Boxing Day encounter in Pretoria today.

A run of five successive Test victories in the last five months – over the West Indies, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – has catapulted South Africa to first in the WTC standings and given them a strong chance of a place against either Australia, India or Sri Lanka in the one-off final in London.

They get two chances to advance to the WTC final, hosting a second Test at Newlands in Cape Town from January 3-7, and with home advantage and a winning record against Pakistan will be expected to do so.

The young South African side have exceeded expectations and gained momentum since success in Guyana in August set them on a winning streak.

Meanwhile Pakistan have never won a Test series in South Africa, and lost their last seven Tests there.

The tourists also arrived without coach Jason Gillespie, who dramatically quit this month and has been replaced by former fast bowler Aqib Javed.

But a home series triumph over England in October will have boosted Pakistan, as will the 3-0 whitewash of South Africa in a One Day International series that concluded at the weekend.

BPL teams set to gear up

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Kings are set to kickstart their training for the much-awaited upcoming season of the Bangladesh Premier League, starting December 30.

The charges of former Australia pacer Shaun Tait – who had featured for the same franchise during his playing days – will begin honing their skills at 1:00 pm at the National Cricket Academy Ground in Mirpur.

Chittagong will follow Dhaka Capitals, who will start practice at 11:00 am at the same venue under the watchful eyes of former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud.

Meanwhile, Fortune Barishal, Durbar Rajshahi, and recent Global Super League winners Rangpur Riders will begin training on Friday, with holders Barisahl gearing up for BPL’s 11th edition at the PKSP in Rugpanj.

The remaining two franchises, Sylhet Strikers and Khulna Tigers, will kickstart their preparations on December 28.

U-19 players set for BPL boost

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to allow its U-19 players to feature in the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League T20 after several franchises expressed their interest to sign few cricketers from the current crop for the 11th edition of the meet, scheduled to start on December 30.

“We have already issued clearance for them. We have decided to allow them in the senior-level games. We will also allow them to play in the DPL as well. There are eight to nine cricketers who will play in the DPL,” BCB’s game development manager AEM Kawser told The Daily Star yesterday.

“The maturity and the courage of the players will definitely improve while playing in such a tournament. I think they can learn a lot from the senior players,” he added.

Five U-19 cricketers including skipper Azizul Hakim Tamim and pacer Iqbal Hossain Emon, who were part the Asia Cup winning squad in the UAE, featured in the just concluded National Cricket League T20 held in Sylhet, showcasing notable performances that caught the eyes of the franchises.

Azizul, who represented Khulna Division, finished with 237 runs in nine matches at a strike rate of 136.99 with two fifties, becoming the fifth-highest run-getter, while another U-19 batsman, Zawad



Abrar, who played for Dhaka Division, scored 105 runs in three matches at a strike rate of 141.89 with one half-century.

Pacers Maruf Mridha and Emon took five wickets each for Dhaka Metro and Dhaka Division respectively while pacer Al Fahad took one wicket in the lone game he played for Sylhet Division.

It was learnt that since many of these cricketers weren’t even listed in BPL players’ draft, some franchises asked for them through e-mails to the BCB.

Pacer Maruf, who won’t be eligible for the next U-19 World Cup in 2026,

was already picked from the draft by Chittagong Kings while some other franchises like Rangpur Riders are in serious attempt to get the services of Azizul.

Meanwhile, few other franchises have also shown interest to include Emon and Zawad in their BPL squads.

Kawser informed that they have rescheduled the U-19 side’s upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, further adding that they have already drawn a programme for the rest of the U-19 cricketers who won’t feature in the BPL.

“We have actually deferred the U-19 team’s tour of Sri Lanka [scheduled in January]. We may play the series before the next Asia Cup, which will be held in December next year,” he said.

“From January 6, we have a three-week fitness and skill camp. The Mirpur stadium and the athletics track of Bangabandhu National Stadium will be used for the fitness camp. Fitness test, running session will be conducted there. The skill camp will be held in Khulna which will start from January 10.

“They will train there and also play some intra-squad practice games. Those who will not be playing in the BPL, will be in the camp,” he said, adding that some players who performed well during the U-17s’ recent tour of Sri Lanka are likely to be called up for this camp.

Army off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

The Hockey Players Welfare Unity (HPWU) surrendered a lead to suffer a 2-1 defeat to title aspirants Bangladesh Army in Paragon Victory Day Hockey competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

National defender Amirul Islam gave HPWU the lead from a penalty stroke in the 21st minute before Army bounced back to level the margin, with Abdul Malek scoring from open play in the 32nd minute.

Though both teams fought neck and neck in the third quarter, Army established their control in the fourth and final quarter, thanks to have better fitness and endurance than their opposition, who just got together to play in a short notice.

Army scored the winning goal four minutes from time when Ahsan Habib converted a penalty corner.

Despite the defeat in their last group match, HPWU, a team comprising some current and former national players, have the chance of reaching the semifinal as they have beaten Bangladesh Air Force 4-3 in their first match while Army and Air Force will square off in the last match.

In the day’s other match, BKSP thrashed Bangladesh Police 5-0 in their last group match. Police will play their last match against favourites Bangladesh Navy, who beat BKSP 8-2 in their opening match.

‘YOU HAVE MY WORD’

Slot’s Christmas message to supporters

AGENCIES

Christmas Premier League chart-toppers Liverpool are overwhelming favourites to see off struggling Leicester on Boxing Day.

Ahead of Thursday night’s Anfield clash, the Reds hold a four-point lead in the Premier League, have a perfect record in the Champions League and are into the Carabao Cup semifinals.

“We are still just about in the first half of the season but we are getting close to the point where everyone will have played half of their fixtures and that is a moment when we will have a clearer idea of where we are all at,” wrote Slot on Liverpool website.

“This is why I have consistently said that judgements before this stage are not a true representation. It is only when each team has played one another and the fluctuations of form and fortune have evened themselves out that we will start to have a better understanding of how we are all performing.

“For this reason – and many others besides – I want to finish this first half of the campaign as strongly as we possibly can. No prizes will be given out during this period but as with the Champions League group, the longer you can be in and around the top positions, the stronger a platform



you can give yourself to build going forward.

“Of course, I would not be so naive to believe that other clubs do not have the exact same objective no matter where they are in the table. Leicester will see this spell as a chance to push themselves up the table and for this reason they will come to Anfield looking to make life as difficult as they possibly can for us.

“I also know from experience how tough it can be playing against Ruud van Nistelrooy’s teams and my expectation is that Leicester will increasingly start to play in his image the longer they get to work with him. This adds to the challenge that we will face but as with every other challenge

we have faced already this season it is one that we should look forward to.”

Slot continued: “I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our supporters a Happy Christmas. I have still only been at Liverpool for six months or so but in that short space of time I have learned very quickly why our fans are regarded all around the word as being very special.

“I hope that you have enjoyed the football that the team has played so far and you have my word that we will keep on working as hard as we possibly can to keep on improving. There is a lot of football still to be played so hopefully the second half of the season can be as good – if not even better – than the first half.”



Cristiano Ronaldo enjoys a festive family dinner in matching outfits, celebrating the Christmas spirit, while fellow sports stars Lionel Messi, Pat Cummins, and MS Dhoni spread festive cheer with warm wishes to their fans on social media yesterday.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

THE NATION'S
LARGEST ROD
MANUFACTURER

★★★★★

WITH MORE CAPACITY, WE ARE MORE READY
TO BUILD TOMORROW'S BANGLADESH

HIGHEST
SELLING
CEMENT

for more than
20
YEARS

‘4 of 5 arrestees innocent; culprits being shielded’

Says freedom fighter who was humiliated, assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Four of the five people arrested over the assault and humiliation of freedom fighter Abdul Hai Kanu were not involved in the incident, the victim said yesterday.

“One of them even spoke in my favour after the incident. I think police arrested them to show that many people have been arrested,” Kanu told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

The arrestees are Ismail Hossain Majumder, 43; Jamal Uddin Majumder, 58; Ilias Bhuiyan, 58; Abul Kalam Azad, 48; and Imtiaz Abdullah Sajjad, 19.

Of them, only Ismail Hossain Majumder was involved, Kanu said, adding that two of the arrestees were actually listed as witnesses in his police complaint.

He added, “I’d submitted a written complaint with Chaudhagram Police Station, accusing 10 named people. But police arrested only one



Abdul Hai Kanu

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



DEAR SANTA... Elated children gather around Santa Claus as he distributes chocolates among them on the occasion of Christmas Day in the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

So many people didn’t sacrifice lives just for polls

Says Asif Mahmud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

So many people sacrificed their lives in the July uprising not just for an election, Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said yesterday.

Asif, adviser to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives, was a key organiser of the student movement that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

Talking to journalists after distributing winter clothing among the destitute in Thakurgaon’s Baliadangi upazila in the morning, he noted that the one-point demand of the movement was to depose Hasina and abolish the fascist system.

He said that the institutions of



SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Customs’ sale of 14-yr-old chemical poses health hazard

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The Chattogram Custom House has auctioned off 14-year-old sodium glycerolate, which is used in cosmetics and pharmaceutical products, without conducting any quality assessment to determine its usability, raising concerns about potential health risks.

Using cosmetic products made with dated sodium glycerolate can cause cancer and skin disease, according to experts.

Earlier in 2011, 14 containers of sodium glycerolate were brought into Bangladesh but the importer never released the consignment from the port, The Daily Star has learnt from port officials informed with the matter.

The customs authority then put the chemical product up for auction several times but found no takers until SA Trading & Co. snapped up 10 containers in 2022 and the other four containers in October this year.

However, the quality of the product has deteriorated significantly due to its being stored

at the port for a long time, as per a laboratory report by Chattogram University’s chemistry department from July 2022.

The lab report – which was signed by Debashis Palit, the head of the department then, and Mohammad Nasir Uddin – also recommended not using the product as a substitute for glycerine.

“We usually discourage the use of the chemical beyond two years from the production date,” Palit told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Mohammad Ibrahim, the proprietor of SA Trading & Co., said: “Customs auction means it is safe for use. Otherwise, customs could not have sold it. As a result, I can sell it to anyone.”

Multiple officials involved in the customs auction have verified that no additional laboratory report was obtained beyond the one issued in July 2022 to identify the product in the consignment before the sale to SA Trading & Co at the auctions.

Chattogram Custom Commissioner Md Zakir Hossain maintains that the chemical was sold off

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Pak air strikes kill 46 in Afghanistan

Taliban say most of dead are children, women, vow to retaliate

AFP, Kabul

Pakistan air strikes in an eastern border region of Afghanistan killed 46 civilians, the Taliban government said yesterday.

A Pakistan security official said the bombardment targeted “terrorist hideouts”.

The strikes were the latest spike in hostilities on the frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with tensions escalating since the Taliban seized power in 2021.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP that Pakistan bombed four areas in the Barmal district of eastern Paktika province.

“The total number of dead is 46, most of whom were children and women,” he said, adding that six more people were wounded, mostly children.

Neither Pakistan’s foreign ministry nor its military have responded to a request for comment.

But a senior Pakistan security official said the strikes were on “terrorist hideouts” using jets and drones and that they killed at least 20 militants from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the country’s homegrown Taliban group.

“Arguments from Afghan officials claiming civilians are being harmed are baseless and misleading,” he added, speaking on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Khaleda may visit London early Jan

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to be flown to London in the first week of January for better treatment.

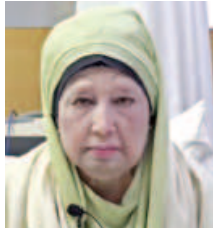
Prof AZM Zahid Hossain, Khaleda’s personal physician and the party’s standing committee member, told BSS that preparations were underway to take her to London in the first week of next month at the advice of her medical board.

However, the date has not been finalised yet, he added. “The former prime minister will go to London by an aircraft equipped with modern medical facilities. A team of doctors, some family members, and private assistants will accompany her.”

Khaleda will first go to London to visit her son Tarique Rahman. After staying there for a few days, she will fly to the United States for treatment of liver complications.

Her doctors said preparations have been completed for the BNP chief’s treatment at the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital in East Baltimore, Maryland, US.

The BNP chief has already obtained visas for the UK and the US. Earlier, the party submitted a list of 15 people, including party leaders, doctors, and nurses, to the foreign ministry as Khaleda’s entourage members. The UK visa process for all of them has been completed.



A drone view shows emergency specialists working at the crash site of an Azerbaijan Airlines passenger plane near the city of Aktau, Kazakhstan yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

38 die in Kazakhstan plane crash

29 survive; probe launched; cause of crash not known yet

AFP, Astana

An Azerbaijan Airlines passenger jet crashed yesterday in western Kazakhstan, killing 38 of the 67 people on board, officials said.

The Embraer 190 aircraft that was supposed to fly northwest from the Azerbaijani capital Baku to the city of Grozny in Chechnya in southern Russia but instead flew across the Caspian Sea and went down near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan.

The plane’s course on the Flight Radar website showed it flying away from its normal route and then circling over the area where it eventually crashed near Aktau, which is an oil and gas hub on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea.

“The situation is not very good, 38 dead,” Russia’s Interfax news agency quoted Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Kanat Bozumbayev as saying.

The Kazakh emergency situations

ministry reported that “29 survivors including three children have been hospitalised.”

Azerbaijan Airlines reported that 67 people were on board – 62 passengers and five crew members.

The Kazakh transport ministry said the plane was carrying 37 nationals from Azerbaijan, six from Kazakhstan, three from Kyrgyzstan and 16 from Russia.

“A plane doing the Baku-Grozny

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“আপনার স্মৃতি আমাদের হৃদয়ে
চির অম্লান”

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু

জন্ম: ১ জানুয়ারী ১৯৪৯, মৃত্যু: ২৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২০

আপনার বর্ণাঢ্য কর্মময় জীবন এবং সকল ক্ষেত্রে আপনার সফলতা আমাদের এগিয়ে যাওয়ার প্রেরণা। প্রতিযশা প্রকৌশলী এবং বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সমাজ সেবক ও শিক্ষানুরাগী আউটরাইট গ্রুপ, আউটপেস স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড এবং আর. এ. স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড এর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান, অস্ট্রেলিয়ান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কুল ও ইস্টার্ন ইউনিভার্সিটির পরিচালনা পরিষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক, ক্রীড়াঙ্গনের মোহামেডান ক্লাবের প্রাক্তন একনিষ্ট সংগঠক প্রকৌশলী মরহুম মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু সাহেবের চতুর্থ মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী গতকাল ২৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪। আগামী ২৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ রোজ শুক্রবার বাদ আছর খিলগাঁও বটতলা বায়তুল ফালাহ্ জামে মসজিদে (খিলগাঁও চৌরাস্তা, ঢাকা-১২১৯) দোয়া মাহফিলের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন, সহকর্মী ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে যোগদান করে মহান আত্মাহুর দরবারে তাঁর আত্মার শান্তির জন্য দোয়া করতে সনির্বদ্ধ অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

পরিবারের পক্ষে- ডাঃ রেহানা খানম (স্ত্রী), প্রকৌশলী রাজীব হায়দার (বড় পুত্র), রেজওয়ানা সিলভী (কন্যা), প্রকৌশলী রুবায়েত হায়দার (ছোট পুত্র), রুবাবা কাওসার (বড় পুত্রবধূ), প্রকৌশলী তওহীদ এজাজ (জামাতা), রাহীফ হায়দার (নাতি) ও রিদওয়ান তওহীদ আহমেদ (নাতি) এবং

প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের পক্ষে সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ।