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## YUNUS PAYS TRIBUTE TO JIMMY CARTER, MANMOHAN SINGH



Left, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus writes a message of mourning in the condolence book opened at the US embassy in Dhaka marking the death of former United States president and fellow Nobel Laureate Jimmy Carter, who died on Saturday. Right, the chief adviser also wrote a condolence message for former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away last week, at the Indian High Commission.



PHOTO: PID

## ACC reopens Padma Bridge graft probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has reopened its investigation into alleged corruption conspiracies involving the Padma Bridge project.

The inquiry will focus on seven individuals, including former Bridges Division secretary Mosharrar Hossain Bhuiyan, ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain said.

The allegations date back to 2012, when the World Bank, a potential financier of the project, accused several parties of corruption in the awarding of contracts. This prompted the Sheikh Hasina-led government to launch a probe.

The ACC filed a case on December 17, 2012, accusing seven individuals following its initial inquiries.

Although then communications minister Syed Abul Hossain and former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury were implicated in the early stages, their names were left out when the case was filed. The allegations, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# Rights situation worsens in 2024

3 organisations say in annual reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The human rights situation in Bangladesh deteriorated in 2024, with widespread fear gripping the population, according to reports from three human rights organisations.

They said law enforcement agencies resorted to indiscriminate firing on protesting students during the mass uprising, killing hundreds.

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), and Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) released their annual reports yesterday, drawing on media sources to highlight the year's key issues.

The reports criticised excessive use of force by law enforcers during the protests, sparked by the controversial January 7 election, boycotted by the BNP and several other political parties.

They also highlighted the quota protests, which ultimately led to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government.

ASK reported the use of disproportionate force during the mass uprising, resulting in hundreds of deaths. The

organisation demanded impartial investigations into allegations of disappearances, abductions, extrajudicial killings, custodial torture, and deaths to ensure justice and accountability.

MSF urged law enforcement agencies to adopt responsible measures to minimise casualties and avoid excessive force.

It also called for an end to obstruction of free journalism,

albeit at a reduced rate.

ASK recorded 21 such deaths. MSF documented 22 deaths in 16 incidents of crossfire or shootouts involving police, Rab, and joint forces, alongside nine custodial deaths.

ASK commended the interim government's establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

However, it reported two cases of enforced disappearances in 2024, with one individual still missing.

MSF highlighted 13 cases of abduction, allegedly by law enforcement impersonators, with several victims later shown as arrested.

Minority communities faced targeted violence, with ASK documenting 521 attacks on homes or businesses, 92 incidents of idol vandalism, and four deaths, including three Hindu victims.

MSF reported 261 attacks on minority groups last year.

Mob violence also saw a sharp rise, with MSF recording 146 deaths and 126 injuries in mob beatings, up from 51 deaths in 2023. ASK reported 128 fatalities from mob beatings. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

stating that such actions violate the right to information and freedom of expression.

HRSS stressed the importance of protecting fundamental and constitutional rights by improving law and order, warning that failure to address these issues would further deteriorate the human rights situation.

Both ASK and MSF noted that extrajudicial killings persisted,



## No need to repeal 1972 Constitution

Says Gono Odhikar Parishad president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad (GOP) President Nurul Haque Nur yesterday said rather than repealing the 1972 Constitution, it should be amended through discussions with all stakeholders to implement necessary changes.

He made these remarks during a press conference at the party office in Alrazi Complex.

During the conference, GOP leaders addressed the current political situation in the country, announcing a commitment to work together and set aside past divisions in their pursuit of building a new Bangladesh.

Nur emphasised the importance of unity, saying that the party has come together for the greater good, despite some lingering reluctance from a few individuals, whom he hopes will eventually join.

Nur highlighted that there is no need to repeal the 1972 Constitution, which has already been amended 17 times. He remarked, "A nation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# 2024: continued struggle against DENGUE

The year saw 575 deaths, 1,01,214 cases; 2nd in terms of fatalities, 3rd in cases

HELEMUL ALAM

The year 2023 was one of dengue devastation, breaking all previous records. As the new year approached, there was much discussion about improving the situation. However, it turned out to be all talk and no show, as dengue still claimed hundreds of lives in 2024.

In terms of fatalities, this year recorded the second-highest death toll, with at least 575 lives lost, coming second only to 2023. The number of cases ranked as the third highest to date, with 1,01,214 new cases. Most of the deaths were recorded in Dhaka.

In 2023, a record 1,705 deaths and 3,21,179 cases were recorded. Experts had called for urgent, year-round measures, but 2024 proved those warnings went largely unheeded.

TOLL IN NUMBERS

Among this year's fatalities, 51.1 percent were female and SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	: 575
Female deaths	: 51.1pc
Male deaths	: 48.9pc
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	: 1,01,214
Female cases	: 36.9pc
Male cases	: 63.1pc

## 46TH ANNIVERSARY Leadership and structural issues plague JCD

SAJJAD HOSSAIN



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the pro-BNP student wing which has been facing criticism for outdated leadership, is set to observe its 46th founding anniversary today.

Many believe relying on older leaders and irregular members could harm JCD's future.

JCD also faces issues like lack of democratic practices and internal conflicts, raising concerns among student leaders about a potential leadership crisis.

Founded in 1979 by Ziaur Rahman, JCD has operated under a draft constitution since the late 1990s, with no progress made in the past 28 years.

However, JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir said the draft constitution will be finalised soon.

Over the last 24 years, JCD has held only one council - in 2019, highlighting a lack of democratic practices and the development of effective leadership. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Mob violence also saw a sharp rise, with MSF recording 146 deaths and 126 injuries in mob beatings, up from 51 deaths in 2023. ASK reported 128 fatalities from mob beatings.

**যমুনা ব্যাংক**

# নতুন ঠিকানায়

যমুনা ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর মহাখালী শাখা ০৯ জানুয়ারি, ২০২৫ থেকে নতুন ঠিকানায় কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

**পুরাতন ঠিকানা:**  
মহাখালী শাখা  
আলতাফ টাওয়ার, ৩৪, মহাখালী বা./এ  
বীর উত্তম এ. কে. খন্দকার রোড  
শুলশান, ঢাকা।

**নতুন ঠিকানা:**  
মহাখালী শাখা  
সিডিল সার্কিট টাওয়ার (৯ম, ২য় ও ৩য় তলা)  
৭০, বীর উত্তম এ. কে. খন্দকার রোড  
শুলশান, ঢাকা।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও পুঁজোদাতাদের মহাখালী শাখার নতুন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করে, সব ধরনের ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণ করার জন্য সর্বিনয় অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

## 2025, a new era for the judiciary

Hopes chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed has expressed optimism that 2025 will mark a new beginning for the judiciary in Bangladesh, following the implementation of reforms outlined in the roadmap he announced on September 21, 2024.

"The chief justice expressed his hope that in 2025, the judiciary of Bangladesh will be completely free from the influence of the executive and enjoy the benefits of its institutional independence and thus,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

আপনার আস্থাই  
আমাদের প্রেরণা  
নিরাপদে ব্যাংকিং হোক  
আমাদের সাথে

**বিশ্বের সর্বোচ্চ সংখ্যক প্রকল্পপূর্ণ ব্যাংকের সাথে** রিলেশনশিপ ম্যানেজমেন্ট (আর এম) চুক্তির মাধ্যমে বৈদেশিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা নিশ্চিত করা হচ্ছে।

**ডিজিটাল ট্রান্সফর্মেশনের লক্ষ্য** অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির সহায়তায় আইটি, ক্রেডিট কার্ড, ডেবিট কার্ড, এমএফএস, এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং, ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং ও এটিএম সেবাসমূহ প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।

**বিনিয়োগের বিপরীতে** অর্জিত মুনাফা, কোম্পানি সুশাসন, নিয়মিতাত্ত্বিক ঝুঁকি ব্যবস্থাপনায় শীর্ষ।

**পঞ্চদশ ৩০ বছর**, পরিপক্বতা, স্থিতিশীলতা এবং সুসংহত করণের প্রতীক।

**সকল শাখায়** ইসলামিক ব্যাংকিং সেবার জন্য নিবেদিত ডেস্ক।

**সকল তারল্য সুদকে** শীর্ষ স্থানীয় ব্যাংক হিসেবে ৩০ বছর সুবান বজায় রেখেছে।

**গ্রাহকের আস্থার** ফলস্বরূপে আমানত এবং বৈদেশিক ব্যাংকিং প্রতিবন্ধিতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে।



**১৬২০৬**  
১৯৭৪-০৯-০৯-২০২৪

**সাইথইস্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
একটি স্থানীয় ব্যাংক