

No need to repeal 1972 Constitution

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achieves independence only once; 71 cannot be compared to 24.”
He also called for comprehensive support for those injured during the Quota movement and the July uprising.
Addressing the government's shortcomings, Nur pointed to issues such as declining law and order, the flight of officials, and alarming

incidents like fires in the Secretariat.
Nur commended the chief advisor's initiative to universalise a declaration drafted by students, which he believes has prevented further division in the nation.
He concluded, “Unity is indispensable for building the new Bangladesh of tomorrow. Rash decisions in this situation could set the country back. The

nation must be governed with unity and solidarity.”
GOP General Secretary Rashed Khan said the declaration of the mass uprising should be built on national unity, involving all parties, organizations, and stakeholders.
GOP Joint General Secretary Hasan Al Mamun and Faruk Hasan, a key organiser of the 2018 Quota movement, also spoke.

2025, a new era

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by devoting itself to the service of the people as an independent organ of the state, the judiciary will be able to fulfill the aspirations of the people of July-August revolution of 2024,” a Supreme Court press release said yesterday.
The chief justice revealed that a comprehensive action plan for judicial reform will be adopted by 2025.
Significant strides have already been made toward this goal, including the establishment of a separate secretariat for the judiciary, the formation of an independent council for the appointment of SC judges, and the development of transfer and posting policies for subordinate court judges.
Furthermore, following the resolution of the review petition concerning the constitution's 16th amendment, the Supreme Judicial Council of Bangladesh has been reconstituted under the chief justice's leadership and is currently functioning at full capacity.
According to the SC press release, the chief justice has already taken various initiatives to ensure transparency and accountability of judicial services for the litigants by eliminating all forms of corruption from the judiciary as soon as possible.

Mustard offers hope for better days

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna



As winter unfolds in Bangladesh, the landscape transforms into a vibrant canvas painted with fields of golden mustard flowers, signaling not only the beauty of the season but also the resilience of farmers seizing agricultural opportunities.

In Sirajganj, this annual spectacle reflects a surge in mustard cultivation, as local farmers expand their fields despite a national trend toward increased onion and other crop production.
Md Shamim Sheikh, a farmer from Baghabari in Shahzadpur upazila, said, “Mustard is always profitable due to its low production costs.”

This year, he has planted mustard on three bighas of land, facing rising labor and fertilizer costs that now exceed Tk 5,000 per bigha. “There's little risk of loss with mustard, especially since onions and other crops often lead to setbacks,” he said.
In flood-prone regions like Sirajganj, seasonal floods can wreak havoc, but farmers have adapted by preparing their land for mustard cultivation once the waters recede.

“After harvesting paddy, our fields are often under water, leaving us with no options for further crops. But once the water is gone, we turn to mustard on the vast riverbank lands,” said Md Sharif Hossain from Choto village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.
Last year, Sharif was disappointed with his Amon rice harvest, prompting him to dedicate his entire five bighas to mustard this season. Now, his fields, along with many

others in the area, are a brilliant yellow, creating a striking contrast against the winter sky.
The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) reported a significant increase in mustard cultivation this year, with 87,125 hectares allocated for producing 144,000 tonnes, a rise from 85,170 hectares in the previous year.
Md Ahsan Shahid Sarkar, deputy director of DAE, Sirajganj, said, “Farmers here have cultivated the largest area of mustard again this year. With 30 to 40 percent of fields submerged for months, we can only manage two crops a year.”

This shift towards mustard is not merely a trend but a necessity for many flood-affected farmers seeking reliable yields, he said.
While Sirajganj celebrates its achievements, neighbouring districts like Pabna are facing setbacks. “Last year, we cultivated 45,043

hectares of mustard in Pabna and aimed to maintain that level this year. However, we have only managed to cultivate 44,890 hectares,” said Md Ashikur Rahman, a development officer with DAE, Pabna.

He attributed the decrease to the rising popularity of onions, with an expected production of 66,867 tonnes of mustard this year.

At the national level, the DAE has set target of 1.164 million hectares for mustard cultivation, aiming for a total production of 1.726 million tonnes. Yet, as of December 23, only 1.014 million hectares have been cultivated, fulfilling 87.08 percent of the target.

Md. Nizamul Haque Patowari, deputy director of the crops wing at DAE headquarters, said, “Our goal is to increase mustard production to reduce reliance on soybean imports. We are actively working to enhance mustard cultivation nationwide.”

Leadership and structural issues

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Younger members are now calling for fresh faces in leadership, but many senior leaders, mostly in their early forties, resist these changes, according to JCD insiders.
Nasir Uddin addressed concerns about older leadership, saying over the past 15 years, the organisation faced severe persecution under the previous government. This made it difficult to hold council meetings or form new committees.
“As we could not form committees regularly, we ended up with older leaders. Also, experience was prioritised to strengthen the leadership,” he said.

courses at Dhaka University and other institutions, others have no active student status.
Among the women members, some are irregular students or have dropped out of their studies years ago.
JCD President Rakibul Islam enrolled at Dhaka University in the 2006-07 academic year, while Nasir Uddin joined in 2007-08.
Other senior leaders, such as Senior Vice-President Abu Afsan, enrolled in 2006-07, Senior Joint General Secretary Shyamal Malum in 2007-08, and Organising Secretaries Amanullah Aman and Sharif Pradhan in 2009-10 and Jahangir Alam in 2007-08.
A university degree is typically completed within eight years, meaning most senior JCD leaders' regular student life ended 6 to 9 years ago.
The committee formation process has also faced criticism regarding transparency.
On June 15 last year, a 257 member JCD central committee was announced. However, the declaration lacked the signatures of the JCD president and general secretary; it only bore the signature of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.
Meanwhile, the organisation's inability to

maintain discipline and professionalism has led to violent incidents on campuses.
On December 24, JCD announced a 230 member convening committee, sparking protests from those excluded.
Following the announcement, tensions escalated at Dhaka College, as the college unit accused the president and general secretary of favouritism and mismanagement.
Protests were brought out, while seven cocktail explosions were reported on campus.
Amid such concerns, JCD is set to observe its anniversary. It will hold a discussion today, with BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman as the chief guest.

Rights

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Journalists faced severe repression, with MSF recording 740 cases of assault and repression, including five fatalities. ASK reported 531 assaults, with seven journalists killed.
The organisations emphasised the need for accountability and structural reforms.
They called for compensation and medical treatment for victims of the mass protests, alongside protections for journalists and minority communities.

Journalist

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Narail from Lohagara. When I reached Sheikh Russell Bridge, unknown criminals attacked me with sharp weapons, wounding my abdomen, legs, and hands. They fled immediately after the attack.”
Local journalists issued a statement denouncing the attack and demanding the quick arrest and prosecution of those responsible.
OC Sajedul said that they launched an investigation, and efforts are underway to identify and nab the culprits.

2024: continued struggle against dengue

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48.9 percent male. Hospitalisation data revealed that 63.1 percent of patients were male, while 36.9 percent were female. Health professionals linked the high mortality rate to severe complications like multi-organ failure, shock syndrome, and delayed hospitalisation, often exacerbated by pre-existing conditions.
Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, explained that many patients arrived at hospitals in critical condition. “Shock syndrome following fever often led to multi-organ failure. Persistent shock typically causes liver damage, followed by kidney failure, leaving patients with little chance of survival,” he said.
Patients with comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, or chronic lung diseases were particularly vulnerable, with delayed treatment compounding their risks.
Dr Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said

70 percent of fatalities this year were caused by the Dengue Den-2 virus, which is linked to more severe outcomes.
WHY THE NUMBERS REMAIN HIGH
Experts blame irregular anti-mosquito campaigns for this year's high numbers, a situation exacerbated by a vacuum in local government leadership.
Following the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024, 12 city corporation mayors, 330 municipality mayors, and numerous zilla and upazila parishad chairpersons were removed. Their absence led to disrupted mosquito control efforts, as interim administrators struggled to implement effective measures.
Climate change also played a significant role. Warmer, more humid conditions extended the breeding season of Aedes mosquitoes.
Entomologist Manzur A Chowdhury explained

that the ideal temperature range for Aedes mosquito activity is between 16°C and 30°C, conditions that persisted well into November. Rainfall patterns have also shifted, contributing to year-round mosquito breeding.
Professor Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said, “Extended rainy seasons and altered humidity levels have enabled Aedes mosquitoes to adapt, changing their seasonal dynamics,” he said.
A CALL FOR ACTION
As Bangladesh enters another year with dengue looming large, experts have stressed the need for proactive, comprehensive measures. Waiting until the monsoon season is no longer an option.
“Anti-mosquito drives must begin as early as January,” said Manzur A Chowdhury.
“Identifying hotspots and implementing targeted interventions like larviciding, adulticiding,

and public awareness campaigns are essential.”

Manzur also emphasised integrating surveillance for other mosquito-borne diseases like chikungunya and Zika into broader control strategies to prevent overlapping outbreaks.
Professor Kabirul Bashar underscored the importance of expanding mosquito control efforts beyond Dhaka. “Districts like Barishal, Chandpur, Manikganj, and Gazipur are likely to see rising cases next year. The government must act swiftly,” he warned.

Experts also advocated better protection for hospitalised patients and public education campaigns to help citizens recognise warning signs, such as severe abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, or reduced urination.
A sustained, year-round approach is essential to avoid repeating this year's tragic toll in the future, experts said.

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Position Vacancy Announcement
Position: **Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, FSN-9**
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, FSN-9** in the Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA).
Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: January 16, 2025; 04:30PM.
For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website: <http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers> and www.bdjobs.com
D-01

Flat Sale
@ Park Road, Baridhara Diplomatic Zone, 3800 sqft (approx.) at 2nd floor. 2 car parks with servant room n wash. Genuine buyers only. Contact # **01896 111367 or 01713 120964**

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 1
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি
Mutual Trust Bank PLC
you can bank on us
Corporate Head Office: MTB Centre, 26, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka- 1212
E-mail: info@mutualtrustbank.com
DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL INFORMATION
Syed Manzur Elahi **Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury**
This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB), at its 314th meeting held on Thursday, December 26, 2024, have unanimously elected **Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi** as Chairman, and **Mr. Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury** as Vice-Chairman of Board of the bank, with effect from January 01, 2025.
By Order of the MTB Board of Directors
Sd/-
RAIS UDDIN AHMAD
GROUP COMPANY SECRETARY
MUTUAL TRUST BANK PLC.
Dated: Dhaka January 01, 2025
www.mutualtrustbank.com

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
কম/বেশি ৫,৭৯২ (পাঁচ হাজার সাতশত বিরানকই) পিস কল ক্রয় ও সরবরাহের টেন্ডার নোটিশ
কাজের নামঃ সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর কর্পোরেট সোস্যাল রেসপন্সিবিলিটি (সিএসআর) এর আওতায় কম/বেশি ৫,৭৯২ (পাঁচ হাজার সাতশত বিরানকই) পিস কল উল্লেখ দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ক্রয় ও সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত অগ্রাধী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর ওয়েবসাইট www.sonalibank.com.bd এর Tender Board এবং এ ডিভিশনের নোটিশ বোর্ড দেখার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।
ফোনঃ ২২৩৩৮৪৬৪২ (অফিস)
মোবাইলঃ ০১৭০৮-১৫৯০১৯/০১৯৬৮৮৯৫১০৪
জিডি-০৩
মোঃ ফেরদৌস সেরনিয়াবাত
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

BANGLADESH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
National Science & Technology Complex, Agargaon, Dhaka 1207
Website: www.bas.org.bd, Email: office@bas.org.bd
Election of Associate Fellows (AF) of BAS 2024
Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) announces the Election of Associate Fellows (AF) 2024 as below:
Young scientists who are below 45 (forty five) years of age on 31 December 2024 having Ph.D/D.Sc./FCS/FRCS/MRCP/MRCVS/MD/MS/MPHil or equivalent degree in science streams and are of exceptional talent and promise, and have contributed to science and technology in recognized field, are eligible for election as Associate Fellows (AF) of BAS. Application/nomination for the above Associate Fellows, with CV mentioning academic and professional record must reach the Secretary of the Academy by **30 January 2025** at the latest.
Nomination of young scientist for election as Associate Fellows (AF) can also be made by the Fellows of the Academy before the deadline.
Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan
Secretary

ACC reopens
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however, led to Abul Hossain's resignation and Mosharraf Hossain being sent on forced leave.
In 2014, the ACC submitted a final report recommending that all seven accused be cleared, citing a lack of evidence. Despite this, the World Bank withdrew its 1.2 billion dollar financing for the project.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ঃ বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় অন্যান্য ভাতাদিসহ টাঃ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০১৫) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান হলের ১টি শূন্য এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেটিভ অফিসার পদ পূরণের জন্য ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে রেজিস্ট্রারের দপ্তরে প্রাপ্ত্যাব্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। প্রার্থীদের এস.এস.সি/এইচ.এস.সি/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/জিপিএ ৫ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম ৩.৫ এবং সিজিপিএ ৪ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম ৩.০০ সহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী থাকিতে হইবে। প্রার্থীদের সরকারী বা সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে কমপক্ষে ছয় মাসের কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হইতে হইবে। অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীর গোপনীয় প্রতিবেদন সন্তোষজনক সাপেক্ষে চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া যাইতে পারে। প্রার্থীর বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বৎসর হইতে হইবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
রেজিস্ট্রারের অনুকূলে প্রদেয় ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এবং শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতার (যদি থাকে) সকল সার্টিফিকেট ও প্রশংসাপত্রের সত্যায়িত প্রতিলিপিসহ ৮ (আট) প্রস্থ দরখাস্ত আগামী ২৩-০১-২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রারের (২০তম নং কক্ষ) নিকট পৌছাইতে হইবে।
জিডি-১১

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
পূনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় অন্যান্য ভাতাদিসহ টাঃ ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- বেতন স্কেলে (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০১৫) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্রিমিনোলজি বিভাগ-এর ১(এক)টি ক্রাইম ল্যাব বিশেষজ্ঞ শূন্য স্থায়ী পদ পূরণের জন্য ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে রেজিস্ট্রারের দপ্তরে প্রাপ্ত্যাব্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। প্রার্থীকে এস.এস.সি ও এইচ.এস.সি/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/জিপিএ ৫ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম ৩.৫ অথবা সিজিপিএ ৪ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম ৩.০০ সহ কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে মাইক্রোবায়োলজি/জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/বায়োকিমিস্ট্রি/এপ্রাইড কেমিস্ট্রি বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী থাকিতে হইবে। প্রার্থীকে সরকারী বা সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে কমপক্ষে ৬ (ছয়) মাসের কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হইতে হইবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত করিতে হইবে। প্রার্থীর বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর হইতে হইবে। চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীর গোপনীয় প্রতিবেদন সন্তোষজনক সাপেক্ষে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া যাইতে পারে। ইতঃপূর্বে যাহারা আবেদন করিয়াছেন তাহাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
রেজিস্ট্রারের অনুকূলে প্রদেয় ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এবং শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, মার্কেসিট ও প্রশংসাপত্র, কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ, অন্যান্য অভিজ্ঞতা ও যোগ্যতার (যদি থাকে) সত্যায়িত কপি সহ ৮ (আট) প্রস্থ দরখাস্ত আগামী ২০-০১-২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (২০তম নং কক্ষ)-এর নিকট পৌছাইতে হইবে।
জিডি-০৬