

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 21, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 8

MAGH 7, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 20, 1446 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00

Trump returns to White House

Promises 'golden age'; Prof Yunus, Putin, Starmer, Trudeau, Zelensky congratulate him

AGENCIES

Donald Trump vowed a new US "golden age" as he took the oath for a historic second presidential term yesterday, but focused most of his dark inaugural speech on touting hardline policies to reverse what he called "American decline".

In an often divisive address, the 47th president took aim at illegal immigration and the culture wars as he capped the most remarkable comeback in US political history.

"The golden age of America begins right now. From this day forward our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world," Trump said in the US Capitol, where his inauguration was held indoors for the first time in decades due to freezing weather.

The Republican also referenced the assassin's bullet that grazed him at a rally during his victorious election campaign, saying: "I was saved by God to make America great again."

While promising renewal, Trump harshly denounced what he said had been a "betrayal" of Americans by a "radical and corrupt establishment" under outgoing President Joe Biden.

"America's decline is over," said Trump. Biden -- who had earlier hosted Trump and his wife Melania at the White House for tea -- watched stony-faced as his political nemesis read the last rites over his single term in office.

- Trump vows to declare national emergency at US-Mexico border
- He is expected to pull the US out of the Paris climate deal
- Says 'God saved me to make America great again'

Trump also set out his foreign policy stall, saying he wanted to be a "peacemaker and a unifier" -- but then saying the United States was "taking back" the Panama Canal and warning he would make liberal use of trade wars.

He also vowed to "plant the Stars and Stripes" on the planet Mars.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

Surrounded by family members, Donald Trump is sworn into office by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts as Melania Trump holds the Bible in the US Capitol Rotunda yesterday in Washington, DC. Trump takes office for his second term as the 47th president of the United States.

Jt Interrogation Cell evidence destroyed after August 5

Says commission probing enforced disappearances in report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Evidence of "Aynagar" was destroyed even after August 5, 2024, to hide the complicity of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), said the commission investigating enforced disappearances in its report to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

The commission was formed on September 15, 2024, and it inspected the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) housed inside the DGFI headquarters on September 26, 2024.

At the time of the commission's visit, Maj Gen Muhammad Faizur Rahman was the director general of the DGFI. He was made the DG on August 11, 2024, replacing the AL-era DGFI chief Maj Gen Hamidul Haque. Faizur was replaced on October 17.

"The post-August 5 partial structural alterations of the JIC at the DGFI headquarters include walls that have been painted over where prisoners testified that they had carved out their details," said the report, a section of which was shared with the media by the Chief Adviser's Press Wing yesterday.

"The then director general of the DGFI assumed his role several days after August 5, 2024. And yet, at least some of this evidence manipulation was carried out as recently as the day before our visit because we found the paint wet at the time of our visit. The wet paint and incomplete structural modifications clearly indicated a hurried attempt to conceal crimes," said the report.

"While the then DG argued that he was not directly involved in crimes committed before his tenure, his immediate response to manipulate

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Freed Palestinian prisoner Nidaa Zaghebi is greeted by her daughters in Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday, after her release from an Israeli jail as part of a hostages-prisoners swap and a ceasefire deal in Gaza. Inset, the body of a deceased Palestinian is transported on a donkey-drawn cart near the rubble of collapsed buildings in Beit Lahiya, in the northern Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP





PHOTO: ANIMAL WELFARE TEAM OF DHAKA UNIVERSITY

PAWS AND COMPANIONSHIP

A surprising friendship in the city

SK MEHEDI HASSAN

As the CNG-run auto-rickshaw pulled away, I stepped onto the culvert, the cool evening air wrapping around me like a cloak. Just ahead, a pack of stray dogs roamed the street, their loud barking echoing in the quiet night. A jolt of fear shot through me; this was not the first time I had encountered them, but each meeting felt uniquely unsettling.

One dog, likely the leader of the pack, caught my eye. It approached me with a confident swagger, its dark fur gleaming under the streetlight. My heart raced, imagining the sharpness of its teeth and the potential for danger. The moon was hidden behind thick clouds, shrouding the night in darkness, and I was only yards away from a graveyard. If the pack decided to chase me, I could easily tumble into the muddy, polluted Ramchandrapur Canal flowing beneath the culvert.

As I stepped forward, the leader snarled, "g-r-a-w, g-r-a-w!" My heart skipped a beat. The streets of Dhaka at night transformed into a kingdom for stray dogs, their bravado magnified

in the dimly lit, quieter environment. They marked their territory, barking and howling as if the city belonged to them.

I made my way across the culvert, which was more than half occupied by the pack. When I glanced back, I saw the leader following me, its eyes



glowing ominously in the low light. I froze, feeling the chill of fear creep into my bones. I silently prayed the dog would lose interest. With a deep breath, I managed to move away slowly, and gradually, the pack faded from view. It was a night ruled by anxiety.

Stray dogs often form small packs at night, scavenging for food in garbage piles and street corners. Unlike

pampered indoor dogs, these strays lack consistent access to food, shelter, and medical care. Their lives revolve around survival, often leading them to become bolder in their night-time explorations.

The following night, I approached my walk home with a new strategy.



As I neared the culvert, I decided to offer some snacks to the "platoon commander". To my surprise, the dark-coloured dog showed signs of gratitude, wagging its tail and sitting beside me. At that moment, I felt a sense of connection and wondered what I should name him. Kalu seemed fitting.

Just then, a loud bark rang out

from a distance, and Kalu responded in kind. I could almost picture their conversation: the distant dog inquiring, "What's going on over there?" and Kalu replying nonchalantly, "Nothing to worry about."

On another occasion, Kalu greeted me with a friendly demeanour, as if to say, "Hi, buddy," and surprisingly escorted me all the way to my home. Normally, I avoid walking the streets late at night, cautious of the potential dangers lurking in the shadows. But with Kalu, the innocent stray by my side, I felt a newfound sense of security.

With each encounter, I realised that perhaps these stray dogs were not just wild beasts, but rather, resilient survivors navigating their urban jungle. As I continued my late-night walks, Kalu became a comforting presence, reminding me of the unexpected friendships that can emerge even in the most unlikely of circumstances.

In the heart of Dhaka, under the watchful gaze of the moon, a bond was forming -- one that turned fear into companionship in a city teeming with life.

New uniforms unveiled

FROM PAGE 1
attacks after their excessive use of force leading to the deaths of hundreds of protesters during the July uprising.

Over the years, police have been criticised for being used as a tool to silence voices, restrict free speech, and maintain control over the political landscape. These not only undermined the integrity of the police but also eroded public trust in law enforcement agencies.

As for the Rab, the Police Reform Commission formed by the interim government has even proposed assessing the need for Rab by reviewing its past activities and allegations of human rights violations, such as extra-judicial killings.

The commission also recommended introducing measures to combat custodial torture, legal harassment by the police, extortion, arbitrary arrests, and enforced disappearances.

According to officials, the police provide three sets of uniforms to their around 2.14 lakh members every year. Around 5,000 people work in Rab on deputation from different forces, including the armed forces. They also get three sets of uniforms in a year. Some 51,000

Ansar, and 17,000 Battalion Ansar personnel get two sets of uniforms every year.

TEARGAS FOR BGB

The advisory committee also approved the purchase of non-lethal weapons, such as stun grenades and teargas, for Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Adviser Jahangir said these purchases would be made very soon.

Referring to recent tension at the Chapainawabganj border, he said, "You have seen that the BSF [India's Border Security Force] has non-lethal weapons, but the BGB does not have these."

Last Saturday, tension flared over an altercation between Indian and Bangladeshi citizens over the cutting of tree branches and harvesting paddy. Hundreds of people from both countries gathered at the border, and they threw brick chunks at each other.

BSF fired teargas and stun grenades to control the crowds, according to BGB officials.

In reply to a question about lethal weapons, Jahangir said, "They [BGB] already have lethal weapons. Whether they will use those weapons or not will depend on the situation."

Asked how India will take Bangladesh's move to buy non-lethal

weapons for the BGB, he said, "There is no scope for India to consider this negatively as they already have these weapons."

Asked about border agreements with India, he said foreign-related issues generally progress slowly. "There is a director general-level conference between the BSF and BGB in February. We have also formed a committee led by our home secretary to scrutinise and identify at which points the problems are."

The home ministry then would send a letter to the foreign ministry, and the foreign ministry would inform India that Bangladesh wants these agreements to be revisited.

Earlier this month, the home adviser accused the previous government of granting India unequal opportunities leading to disputes over barbed wire fencing at 160 locations along the border.

FOREIGNERS

The advisory committee also discussed the issue of foreign nationals overstaying in Bangladesh.

"We issued a circular stating that many people in our country are residing illegally or have overstayed their visas. Previously, the official number of such individuals was 49,226, and this figure has now decreased to 33,648," Jahangir said.

up new areas of cooperation, said a spokesperson at the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday evening.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also congratulated Trump whose team helped broker a Gaza ceasefire deal -- saying the "best days of our alliance are yet to come".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, "President Trump is always decisive, and the peace through strength policy he announced provides an opportunity to strengthen American leadership and achieve a long-term and just peace, which is the top priority."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "Congratulations, President Trump. Canada and the U.S. have the world's most successful economic partnership. We have the chance to work together again -- to create more jobs and prosperity for both our nations."

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, "For centuries, the relationship between our two nations has been one of collaboration, cooperation and enduring partnership ... Together, we have defended the world from tyranny and worked towards our mutual security and prosperity."

Trump returns to White House

FROM PAGE 1
NATIONAL EMERGENCY

The billionaire -- at 78 now the oldest person ever to take the presidential oath -- was set to kickstart his new term with a host of executive orders.

"I will declare a national emergency at our southern border" with Mexico, Trump said to loud cheers inside the ornate Rotunda hall, vowing to deport "millions and millions" of illegal immigrants.

Trump said his government would recognize "only two genders, male and female," ending the current practice of providing a third gender option in some settings.

He will also pull Washington out of the Paris climate accord aimed at halting global warming.

While Trump was a political outsider at his first inauguration in 2017 as the 45th president, this time around he was surrounded by America's wealthy and powerful.

The world's richest man Elon Musk, Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon chief Jeff Bezos and Google CEO Sundar Pichai all had prime seats in the Capitol alongside Trump's family and cabinet members.

Musk will lead a cost-cutting drive in the new administration.

Former presidents Barack Obama, George W Bush and Bill Clinton all attended the ceremony with their spouses -- except for ex-first lady Michelle Obama who pointedly stayed away.

Trump is just the second president in US history to return to power after being voted out, after Grover Cleveland in 1893.

Another notable factor is Trump's criminal record, related to paying a porn star hush money during his first presidential run -- and a string of far more serious criminal probes that were dropped once he won the election in November.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "Congratulations, President Trump. Canada and the U.S. have the world's most successful economic partnership. We have the chance to work together again -- to create more jobs and prosperity for both our nations."

Prof Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government in Bangladesh, congratulated Trump on taking office and expressed his strong belief that the two countries will work to open

up new areas of cooperation, said a spokesperson at the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday evening.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also congratulated Trump whose team helped broker a Gaza ceasefire deal -- saying the "best days of our alliance are yet to come".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, "President Trump is always decisive, and the peace through strength policy he announced provides an opportunity to strengthen American leadership and achieve a long-term and just peace, which is the top priority."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "Congratulations, President Trump. Canada and the U.S. have the world's most successful economic partnership. We have the chance to work together again -- to create more jobs and prosperity for both our nations."

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, "For centuries, the relationship between our two nations has been one of collaboration, cooperation and enduring partnership ... Together, we have defended the world from tyranny and worked towards our mutual security and prosperity."

Jt Interrogation Cell evidence destroyed

FROM PAGE 1
evidence underscores the coercive power of this culture of impunity," added the report.

"His actions, ostensibly to shield perpetrators of past crimes, went against his own self-interest and professional integrity."

"During Sheikh Hasina's rule, a culture of impunity became entrenched within the security forces. It was evident in our conversations with the officers of both civil and military forces that not only did most of them never expect to be ever held accountable for their crimes, they also did not necessarily view the crimes as crimes."

Talking about the security forces, the report stated, "Enforced disappearances of people accused of being terrorists, for instance, were regularly brushed aside [by officials it interviewed] as insignificant and not worthy of the commission's attention. Similarly, custodial torture was nonchalantly described as a routine matter, indispensable to crime fighting."

"This pattern of doctoring of evidence and non-cooperation was not isolated to the DGFI. Across various security forces, evidence of crimes spanning over 15 years has been systematically manipulated. It was done not only by those in power till August 5, 2024 ..., but also by those who assumed leadership afterwards."

90-day interim govt proposed

FROM PAGE 1
a National Constitutional Council (NCC) to handle appointments of constitutional bodies like the Anti-Corruption Commission and Election Commission, and the three chiefs of army, navy, and air force.

The NCC will also appoint the chief adviser of the interim government for which the reform commission outlined a detailed procedure.

The first option is to select a suitable citizen of Bangladesh, provided that seven out of nine members of the NCC vote in favour. However, none of the NCC members will be eligible for the post of chief adviser.

If the first option is not feasible, the council may opt to appoint a former chief justice or a former judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division. This decision requires the support of six of the council's nine members.

If the council fails to agree on either of the two options, the president may be appointed as the

"It reveals the pervasive and coercive nature of the culture of impunity, which compels even those not originally directly involved in the commission of offences to protect and perpetuate it."

The report said that some prison guards used to be kind towards victims but were compelled to commit crimes.

"Whilst many prison guards shared the cruelty of their high-ups, a number of prison guards were reportedly kind--sharing food, information, and expressing empathy by acknowledging the innocence of the detainees. To the prisoners, they excused their inability to confront the injustice they personally oversaw by pleading that they were slaves to command."

The report quoted the testimony of a survivor who was thrown in front of an oncoming vehicle.

The victim, a supporter of Jamaat-e-Islami, recounted how a police officer, while throwing him in front of the oncoming vehicle, apologised for doing so by saying, 'Please forgive me. I have no choice', said the report. The person survived because the vehicle was able to swerve at the last moment.

The report said that women were forcibly disappeared along with their children. "For example, one female victim we interviewed was detained for a month while she was pregnant, with her three-year-old and

18-month-old children incarcerated alongside her. She reported being beaten by a male officer despite being pregnant," said the report.

"A young child we interviewed recalled being held in CTTC [Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit] along with her mother when the child had been only six years old."

The report narrated another case in which a mother and her young daughter were picked up and detained overnight at the then Rab 2 headquarters.

"The next day, the daughter was thrown out of a vehicle onto the streets. According to the family, an imam found the child and returned her to them. We took this girl, now a grown-up, to suspected Rab facilities, where she was able to definitely identify one of the rooms where she had been held that night. Her mother never returned," it said.

"In one harrowing account, a male victim described how his wife and newborn baby were brought to a police station, where the child was reportedly denied milk from its mother as a form of psychological torture directed at him," said the report.

The report went on to say that it is highly likely that a significant portion of security personnel did not directly engage in these crimes of their own volition but were compelled to do so by their power-hungry supervisors.

fair, and impartial polls.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Prof Ali Riaz, head of the Constitution Reform Commission, said, "The recommendation for the formation of the caretaker government aims to appoint a chief of the interim government who is acceptable to all."

He added that the proposal also aims to ensure the participation of all stakeholders so that the government alone cannot unilaterally impose decisions regarding the interim government's formation.

Additionally, the process would ensure that the opposition's stake is recognised and upheld during the formation, he said.

The reform commission emphasised that the selection of advisers for the interim government should not rest solely with any individual or single institution. Instead, this critical responsibility should be entrusted to the NCC, as proposed by the commission, Prof Riaz opined.

Yunus flies to Switzerland to attend WEF

AGENCIES

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus left Dhaka for Davos, Switzerland early today on a four-day official visit to attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.



An Emirates flight carrying Yunus and his entourage left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 1:00am, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shahjul Alam told BSS.

During his visit, the chief adviser is expected to hold bilateral talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Finland President Alexander Stubb, King Philippe of Belgium, and Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, among others.

A separate dialogue on Bangladesh will also be held at the WEF where global business leaders and CEOs of various international organisations will join, reports UNB.

Besides, top officials of the European Central Bank, Meta and Amnesty International are also

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Touhid leaves for China on 4-day official visit

Trade, economic issues on agenda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday left for China on a four-day official visit aiming to add a new dimension to the existing Dhaka-Beijing relations as the two countries celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations this year.



This is his first bilateral official trip and it will focus on lowering interest rates on loans, exchanging hydrological information, advancing medical treatment cooperation, and encouraging greater Chinese involvement in resolving the Myanmar situation.

Touhid will sit with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and jointly launch the programme for the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. He will also meet Chinese Communist Party leaders

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Pubali Bank's Collection/Corporate Account
Your Key to Seamless Supply Chain Management
Seamless Integration among Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors and Retailers for achieving Fast and Real-Time Supply Chain Management

AAA Rated Bank



পুবালী ব্যাংক পিছলসি.
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Best Financial Institution
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.

ISO/IEC 27001:2022

Islamic Banking services are provided through online from all our branches and sub-branches (deposit & withdrawal only)

Invisible power pulls strings in country

Anu Muhammad tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An invisible government always determines Bangladesh's policies without ever stepping into the limelight, said eminent economist Professor Anu Muhammad yesterday.



If they are not held accountable, and if the economy continues to follow their prescribed path, as it is now with the interim government relying on the IMF and World Bank, then what will change?

organised jointly by the quarterly journal "Sarbojanakotha" and the German-Bangladesh Forum.

The former Jahangirnagar University professor alleged that policies enabling Sheikh Hasina's "looting and money laundering development model" were formulated by the World Bank, IMF, and their affiliates.

"Those who supported and praised

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

"There are various issues within the state that need to be addressed. To build a Bangladesh free from discrimination, we must explore these aspects and bring about a comprehensive change in planning. When you attempt to bring about that change, you will realise that there is an invisible government... that formulates policies for Bangladesh but never comes to the discussion," he said.

He made these remarks at a seminar titled "From Autocracy to Democracy: In Search of an Equitable Bangladesh", held at Dhaka University. The event was



The new Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Bangladesh, Tracey Ann Jacobson, at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

US renews pledge to support govt
Chargé d'Affaires meets CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Bangladesh, Tracey Ann Jacobson, yesterday reiterated her country's support for Bangladesh's interim government on various issues, including development and counter-terrorism.

"We are prepared as a nation to support your government on a variety of issues," Jacobson told Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus during a meeting at the state guest house Jamuna.

The chief adviser spoke about ongoing reform initiatives in Bangladesh,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Mostofa Jalal on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former Awami League lawmaker Dr Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin on a five-day remand in a case filed over the death of trader Abdul Wadud during quota reform protests in New Market area on July 19 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Joshiya Islam passed the order after Investigation Officer Amzad Hossain Talukder, an inspector of Detective Branch, produced him before the court.

The magistrate also rejected his bail petition.

On August 21 last year, Abdur Rahman, brother-in-law of Wadud, filed the case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 129 others. A DB team arrested Mostofa in Dhaka early yesterday.

Rallies, demos bring Dhaka to a standstill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four protests in Dhaka yesterday left parts of the city paralysed, causing severe gridlock and immense suffering for commuters. Demonstrations were held in Mohakhali, Shikha Bhaban, Agargaon, and Shaheed Minar, with varying demands disrupting daily life.

In Mohakhali, CNG auto-rickshaw drivers staged a sit in protest around 12:30pm, blocking the road in front of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority office in Banani.

The drivers pressed for a nine-point demand, including immediate implementation of a Tk 900 daily deposit rate set by the BRTA, registration for 5,000 additional CNGs from 2007, approval of 15,000 additional CNGs, Tk 10 lakh compensation for work-related deaths, and the freedom to form unions under ILO rules.

They also called for proper parking spaces, lane access on highways, and amendments to anti-worker transport laws.

The blockade caused a standstill

on the Mohakhali-Banani road and connecting routes, including the Banani-Airport Road. Commuters were left stranded for hours, with some resorting to alternative routes.

"I was stuck in traffic at Banani-II for an hour before taking the expressway," said private employee Rawshan Ali.

The protest ended around 2:00pm, allowing traffic to gradually return to normal.

Meanwhile, in Shahbagh, hundreds of job seekers rallied in front of the National Museum around 11:30am, demanding the age limit for government job applications be raised to 35 years for men and 37 years for women.

They cited recommendations from the Public Administration Reforms Commission, which proposed increasing the age limit from the current 32 years set by the interim government.

The demonstrators marched towards the Secretariat around 3:30pm but were intercepted by police near the Shikha Bhaban. A scuffle ensued as

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Traffic at key intersections in Dhaka came to a standstill yesterday as protesters with different demands blocked at least four important intersections of the city. The photos were taken in Banani, Shahbagh, and Shaheed Minar areas.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, AMRAN HOSSAIN



Hilly areas neglected in climate efforts
Rizwana tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's hilly districts have been neglected in the climate change interventions, though the areas face a devastating impact, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

"When we talk about climate change and adaptation, yes, we do talk about Cox's Bazar and the coastal areas... We really don't talk about the hill areas where climate change also has a devastating impact," she said.

She made this remark while addressing the national-level launching event of a project titled "USAID Host and Impacted Community Resilience Activity" at a city hotel. This five-year US \$70,199-activity will be



implemented in four districts -- Cox's Bazar and three Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) districts -- to empower the communities to improve well-being and resilience.

Rizwana said areas rich in natural resources in Bangladesh, such as Cox's Bazar and the hilly districts, have become conflict-prone zones due to inadequate interventions. "In other parts of the world, where local culture is respected and natural resources are protected, these regions are seen as assets," she said.

She highlighted the potential of e-commerce platforms to boost local economies by improving the visibility of products such as bamboo, cane, handicrafts, honey, and indigenous fruits from Cox's Bazar and the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

She called for training, financial support, better product quality, and the establishment of exhibition and marketing centres in major cities to expand market access.

Rizwana urged government, NGOs, and international partners to work together in promoting local products.

US Charge d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting Bangladesh in building resilience in climate-vulnerable regions.

Must reorganise BNP for rebuilding nation: Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday emphasised reorganising the party with talented, diligent, honest, and productive people to rebuild the country as it has been battered by autocratic rule.

"We strongly believe that we will get the people's support (to form a government). After that, we must rebuild our country. If we do not reorganise the party properly, we will not be able to rebuild the country," he said.

He made the remarks while virtually addressing the BNP's primary membership renewal programme.

Tarique formally launched the programme by submitting his party membership renewal form online during an event at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office.

The BNP leader said their party has already presented a 31-point proposal for overhauling and rebuilding the state.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Voting rights to be restored at any cost
Says CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The nation must unite in the struggle to restore voting rights, said Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

He also stressed that public participation is essential for fair and inclusive elections.

Speaking at the launch of the "Voter List Update Programme-2025" at the Savar Upazila Parishad Auditorium, he said, "The day people can vote freely, without fear or intimidation, will mark the true establishment of voting rights. But we cannot achieve this alone; it requires collective effort."

The CEC highlighted the importance of an accurate voter list as the foundation of free and fair elections.

লেজার পাইল্স, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্টকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনক্ষপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোক্ষপি।



বেইটি সিলেছেন আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতি সম্পন্ন পাইলিয়ার কলোরেকটাল সার্জন।

কলোরেকটাল সার্জিটিক বিশ্বাসে সভাপতি অপারেশন সম্পর্কে সার্জন।

সম্পাদনায় : ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক

এমবিবিএস, এফসিপিএস, এফআইসিএস (সার্জারি), এফসিপিএস (সার্জারি), এফসিপিএস (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং), এফসিএণ্ডেস (প্রত্যক্ষ), এফসিএণ্ডেস (প্রত্যক্ষ) কলোরেকটাল সার্জন।



ডাঃ ফজলুল হক কলোরেকটাল হসপিটাল লিঃ

৭২৬ সাত-মসজিদ রোড, (দিনগাহ মসজিদের বিপরীতে) ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।

০১৭৬৪৬৭১০৭২০, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৩-৬, ০২ ৮১০২১৫৫, ০২ ৮১০২১৬৬৮

www.profdrakmfazlulhaque.com

www.facebook.com/Prof.AKM.Fazlul.Haque

Probe 470-acre US renews pledge

FROM PAGE 5

state of Tk 180 crore in revenue, he added.

According to the report, the land ministry of the then Awami League government allocated 470 acres of beach land from three mouzas in Sitakunda upazila to Bashundhara Group for building petrochemical facilities, an oil refinery, an LPG plant, and a port terminal.

The re-categorisation of the land by the ministry reduced the land's value significantly. The present value of 470 acres of sandy class land stands at about Tk 235 crore, while Bashundhara was given a long-term settlement at around Tk 55 crore, depriving the government of around Tk 180 crore in revenue, the report said.

FROM PAGE 3

the government's efforts to build political consensus on the July proclamation, and plans for the next general election.

Regarding the July proclamation, the chief adviser said he expects political parties to reach a consensus by early February.

"So far, I have not heard any dissenting voices," he said. "My job is building a consensus. I am not pushing any ideas," he said.

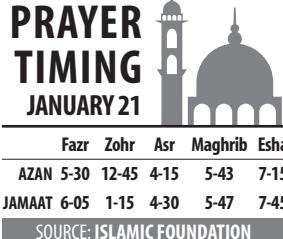
Once political parties agree to the reform proposals, the government will request them to sign it, creating a July Charter.

Jacobson expressed concerns about the arrest of some journalists and reports of violence against

religious minorities.

In response, Yunus said his government is committed to ensuring justice for all.

During the hour-long meeting, the chief adviser and the US Charge d'Affaires also discussed Dhaka's ties with its neighbours, progress on resolving the Rohingya crisis, and the security situation in Myanmar.



SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Invisible power pulls strings in country

FROM PAGE 3

Hasina's government for implementing these policies must also take responsibility for their role. At that time, what did the World Bank, IMF, and Asian Development Bank say? They claimed it was a development miracle, an outstanding achievement by Hasina," he added.

"This is not limited to minority religions. Even within the Muslim community, different sects and schools of thought are also being attacked. For instance, Sufi shrines [mazars] have faced attacks, as have Sufi centres [darbars]. Baul songs and Baul culture have also come under attack. Temples, sculptures, and various forms of artwork have been targeted as well," he said.

He said such an environment of intolerance was not the reason people had sacrificed their lives or launched these movements.

He also called for the cancellation of harmful or financially burdensome power projects. "There are many international examples of such agreements being terminated, and similar actions can be taken in Bangladesh as well," he said.

In a critique of the government's fiscal policies, he highlighted the imposition of VAT on various goods while noting that there is no duty on equipment imported for coal-based power generation.

Speaking at the event, Professor Dr Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan of DU's International Relations department said, "Universities have been established that do not meet the qualifications to be called universities. Some of these institutions do not even have a library, yet vice-chancellors are being appointed, and recruitment trading

religious communities are often used as scapegoats for various actions, such as land grabs and the consolidation of power. "Whenever there is a change in power or government, they come under attack," he added.

He said these institutions represent global capitalism and imperialism, acting as patrons of the country's billionaire class, guiding and legitimising their actions.

"So, they must be held accountable. If they are not held accountable, and if the economy continues to follow their prescribed path, as it is now with the interim government relying on the IMF and World Bank, then what will change?" he questioned.

The economist said the current state of key sectors -- education, health, energy, railways, water resources, and rivers -- has been shaped by the projects initiated by these institutions.

Although freedom of expression was one of the central demands of the mass uprising, the suppression of dissent has not stopped, he said.

"It was also a major issue during the previous government. At that time, people couldn't freely express their opinions, and doing so often came with significant risks and dangers. The mass uprising took place to change that situation. However, after the uprising, it has been noticed that a new phase of obstructing freedom of expression, orchestrating violence, exerting pressure, and issuing threats and attacks has started. In many cases, this is being done in the name of religion," he said.

He further elaborated that individuals of different

worth millions of takas is taking place. By recklessly establishing universities in every district, higher education is being destroyed."

Samina Lutfu of DU's Sociology department highlighted gender inequality, especially following the 2024 mass uprising, where women who led the movement were subjected to cyberbullying and attacks.

"Despite women making up 51 percent of the country's population, they remain marginalised," she added.

Kallol Mostafa, an engineer and writer, emphasised that Bangladesh remains the

only nation where the minimum wage is below the poverty line despite 41 percent of the wealth being controlled by 10 percent of the population. He argued that direct taxes on the wealthy must be increased to reduce inequality.

Researcher Maha Mirza, Dr Moshahida Sultan, an associate professor at Dhaka University, and Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid also spoke.

The seminar was presided over by Anu Muhammad, the editor of Sarbojonakotha.

Sujit Chowdhury delivered the welcome address, while Bithi Ghosh moderated the event.

Rallies, demos

FROM PAGE 3

officers erected barricades to prevent them from proceeding. The protesters then staged a sit-in, disrupting traffic in the vicinity.

Sub-inspector Mahfuzur Rahman of Shabagh Police Station stated, "Protests near the Secretariat are prohibited. We had to stop them to maintain order."

At the Central Shaheed Minar, over 200 students from Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salimullah Medical College gathered around 11:30am, demanding the republication of medical admission test results for the 2024-25 academic year. They also called for the abolition of irrational quotas, including the freedom fighter quota.

In Agargaon, the Automobile Workshop Owners Association formed a human chain in front of the National Board of Revenue, protesting a VAT increase from 10 percent to 15 percent.

Chanting "We don't want VAT, we want a VAT-free life," their demonstration slowed vehicle movement on one side of the road.

Following the protest, the NBR reportedly agreed to withdraw the VAT hike.

Must reorganise BNP

FROM PAGE 3

"To implement it, we must unite and reorganise our party by bringing talented individuals to the forefront.

We need to unite those who are hard-working, have integrity and ideals, and involve them in the party," he said.

Tarique called upon party leaders to organise and unite all party workers across the country. He also urged the BNP rank and file to put their best efforts into overhauling the party.

Addressing the programme, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said training

for BNP activists is essential, as it appears they are drifting away from politics.

"Yesterday (Sunday) we marked the birth anniversary of our founder Ziaur Rahman. Our workers there shouted slogans in the name of different leaders from Dhaka south and north. This is not politics. It cannot be politics," he said.

Fakhrul said, "We must now make political training compulsory in every upazila and district. This must be done with urgency."

He also said the party must take steps to transform itself into an ideal political organisation.



টেলা ১১৮ সেকেন্ডের গত নং-৫ ও ১৪ তে, ৫ ও ৩ কাঠামো প্রেরে উপর নির্মিত হয়েছে বিজ্ঞ করা হবে।

যোগাযোগঃ ০১৬৭১২ ০২০৫৭২



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি

POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

(An Enterprise of Bangladeshi Power Development Board)



Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212

স্বারক নং-২৭, ১১, ১০০০, ৬৬০, ১, ১০০, ২৮, ১১০

www.powergrid.gov.bd

তারিখঃ ১১/০১/২০২৫

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

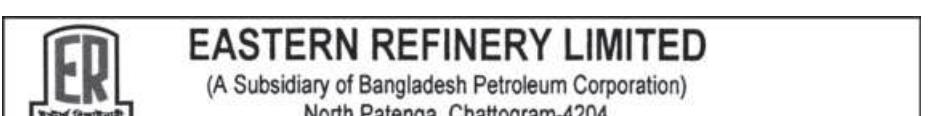
পাওয়ার জিএমডি, ঢাকা (পূর্ব) দক্ষরের আওতাধীন নিয়ন্ত্রিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হচ্ছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1038375	27.21.0000.850.07.001.24.2146; Dated:29.12.2024	CC & Cement Concrete tiles work in front of Control room, Roof Tiles Work of Control Room and making a Garage at Meghnaghat 230 kV Grid SS under GMD, Dhaka (East), Power Grid.
1055087	27.21.0000.650.07.001.24.2129; Dated:22.12.2024	Drainage, grass, shrubs and jungles clearance work in the stone-free area inside Sonargaon 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD Dhaka (East) Office.
1057209	27.21.0000.650.07.001.24.2045; Dated:29.12.2024	Supplying Metal Archway Gate, Hand Metal Detector and Vehicle Search Mirror in different Grid Sub-Station's under GMD, Dhaka (East), Power Grid.

আয়োজন করার প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোহাম্মদ এমরান আলী

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, ঢাকা (পূর্ব)



EASTERN REFINERY LIMITED

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

North Patenga, Chattogram-4204

BANGLADESH

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER

ERL hereby invites offers from reputed Suppliers/Manufacturers/Agents/Distributors for the supply of the following goods in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereafter:

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division		
2. Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation		
3. Purchaser Name	Eastern Refinery Limited		
4. Purchaser District	Chittagong		
5. Invitation for	Goods		
6. Reference Number	a) ERL/PUR/IT- 11/2025 b) ERL/PUR/IT- 12/2025 c) ERL/PUR/IT- 13/2025 d) ERL/PUR/IT- 14/2025 e) ERL/PUR/IT- 15/2025 f) ERL/PUR/IT- 16/2025 g) ERL/PUR/IT- 17/2025		
7. Date	19 January, 2025		
KEY INFORMATION:			
8. Procurement Method	International Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION:			
9. Budget and Source of Funds	Eastern Refinery Limited (Own Fund)		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION:			
10. Tender Document Last Selling Date	(a), (b), (c), (d) 02 March, 2025, 16:00 Hrs (e), (f), (g) 03 March, 2025, 16:00 Hrs		
11. Tender Closing Date and Time	(a), (b), (c), (d) 03 March, 2025, 11:15 Hrs (e), (f), (g) 04 March, 2025, 11:15 Hrs		
12. Tender Opening Date and Time	(a), (b), (c), (d) 03 March, 2025, 11:30 Hrs (e), (f), (g) 04 March, 2025, 11:30 Hrs		
13. Offer Validity	120 Days (from the date of tender opening)		
NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE (S):	i) Accounts Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. Phone: 880-2-333301261-7 ii) ERL Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban, 2 nd Floor, 1/1 Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Phone: 880-2-3391990-3391991		
14. Tender Document Selling Address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
15. Tender Receiving Address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
16. Tender Opening Address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
17. Eligibility of Tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet		
18. Brief Description of Goods:			
Name	Price of Tender Document(Non-refundable)	Tender security	Shipment validity
a) Various Seamless & ERW Pipes	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 220,000.00 Or, USD 1800.00	75 Days
b) Spares for Chinese Cooling Tower	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 18,000.00 Or, USD 150.00	75 Days
c) Swivel Joint for Roof Drain of Crude Oil Storage Floating Roof Tank	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 100,000.00 Or, USD 830.00	75 Days
d) Single Phase AC Motor for HP Actuator of Ebara STG	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 60,000.00 Or, USD 500.00	75 Days
e) Spares for Paharpur Cooling Tower	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 20,000.00 Or, USD 165.00	75 Days
f) Various Fire Fighting Equipment	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 120,000.00 Or, USD 1000.00	75 Days
g) Corrosion Inhibitor NALCO EC 107A.15	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 40,000.00 Or, USD 335.00	75 Days
PURCHASER DETAILS:			
19. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Siddique Rahman		
20. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Assistant General Manager (Purchase)		
21. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
22. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone : 880-233301261-7, Ext. 380 Email : agmpurchase@erl.gov.bd , officer@erl.gov.bd , md-office@erl.gov.bd		
23. a) The Purchaser reserves the right to reject			

PHOTO:
SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'Daagi' is for everyone

TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actress Tama Mirza has begun shooting for Shihab Shaheen's *Daagi*. The film is being shot in Syedpur, Rajshahi, and other parts of the country.

This project marks the second collaboration between the Tama and Nisho duo after *Surongo*, which marked the latter's debut on the silver screen. In this film, Shahiduzzaman Selim will notably be seen as an antagonist.

Sharing her experience about the shoot, the actress said, "Whatever we've filmed so far has turned out amazing," shares Tama. "We'll finish shooting soon since this film is slated to release this Eid-ul-Fitr."

On working with Afran Nisho for the second time, the *Friday* actress shares, "Nisho bhai is an exceptional actor. As a person, he's equally wonderful. We received



a very positive response for *Surongo*, and I'm hopeful about *Daagi* as well."

Tama mentioned that *Daagi* is a film for all types of audiences. "It has a compelling family-oriented storyline, on top of which viewers will get to witness an extraordinary narrative," she added. "I believe that *Daagi* will be one of the best films in Afran Nisho bhai's career," says a confident Tama.

In her longstanding career so far, this project is Tama's first collaboration with renowned director Shihab Shaheen. Regarding the filmmaker, she remarked, "He's an outstanding director, and everyone knows of his calibre. Honestly, the production arrangement flatters a brilliant synergy between the director, Afran Nisho bhai, and myself. Shihab bhai has also actively worked to present me uniquely. I truly believe this Eid release will leave a mark on everyone's heart," she concluded.

Tamalika Karmaker reveals marriage in heartfelt anniversary post

Tamalika Karmaker, renowned for her impactful performances in theatre and television, has confirmed her marriage after keeping it private for over a year. The actress, who has been living in New Jersey for the past five years, made the announcement through a social media post this Monday. She wished her husband, Pravin, a "Happy Anniversary" along with a photo of the couple, revealing a personal milestone that had been kept out of the public eye.



Chris Martin apologises for British colonialism at Mumbai concert

Coldplay frontman Chris Martin surprised fans at the band's concert in Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium on Saturday by apologising for Britain's colonial past in India. Pausing between songs, Martin thanked the audience for attending and reflected on the band's connection with India, noting it was their fourth visit to the country. He then said, "Thank you for forgiving us for all of the bad things that Great Britain has done," addressing the nation's colonial history. Fans praised Martin's gesture, describing it as sincere and healing. Coldplay's India tour began in Mumbai and will continue with two more shows in the city before moving to Ahmedabad for performances on January 25 and 26.

Jaya Ahsan, Pritom and Elita tease musical film

Netizens are in for a treat as Jaya Ahsan, Pritom Hasan and Elita Karim have announced an exciting collaboration.

"It's my first project with both Jaya Ahsan and Elita Karim. We're coming up with something very special," said Pritom Hasan to The Daily Star. "In the video, Jaya apa will be seen portraying a character that will feature prominently in a future project." The musician also

mentioned that he will reprise a character that he had played before, in the video.

Elita Karim praised the filmmaking team led by Sadia Islam Roza and shared her joy over the positive responses they've received. "In times of prevalent negativity, such support inspires me to work harder and push creative boundaries," she added.



PHOTO: COURTESY

NEWS

Govt forms committee

FROM PAGE 1

Parbatai Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS).

Even after 27 years, many major sections of the accord are yet to be implemented.

Following the July uprising, demands to implement the treaty resurfaced.

According to the notification, the reconstituted committee will monitor and supervise the implementation process of the agreement, formulate and implement programmes for resolving matters such as the surrender of arms and granting of amnesty under the agreement, coordinate the activities

of all relevant ministries, departments, subordinate government and semi-government bodies, autonomous organisations, and authorities related to the implementation process, and provide necessary advice and directives.

Additionally, it will address and resolve issues related to the implementation of the agreement and make recommendations to the government if necessary.

The committee will also oversee activities related to the repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees, as well as the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons.

The Ministry of Chittagong Hill

Tracts Affairs will provide secretarial support to the committee.

Furthermore, all ministries and departments are required to comply with the decisions and directives of the Implementation Committee and take necessary measures accordingly.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the agreement, the Implementation Committee may form sub-committees as needed, with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs providing necessary assistance and covering all related expenses.

The notification states that the committee will start its activities promptly.

The defence had also argued that the amendment which created the tribunal was invalid, saying the government had no power to make such amendments. Ziaul's counsels also argued that the addition of enforced disappearance as a crime under the tribunal's scope was unconstitutional and thus called for acquitting the former major general.

The prosecutor said that the challenge regarding the legitimacy of the tribunal itself was not a matter for the tribunal to decide and should have been taken up before the constitutional court. Challenging the constitutionality of a court before the same court is unheard of, he said.

Citing articles 47(3) and 47(A) of the constitution, Tajul said that "those accused of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes do not have fundamental rights" and cannot file writ petitions either. He said if there were laws conflicting with these constitutional provisions, those laws would be deemed invalid as they are protected by the constitution. Therefore, the defence arguments are not tenable.

The chief prosecutor concluded that the petition was likely filed to gain media attention and create controversy around the tribunal. They suggested that the tribunal should impose exemplary punishment and fines on Ziaul's lawyers and reject this petition.

The ICT sent Tanzil Ahmed, former assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and Akram Hossain, former constable, to jail after showing them arrested in a case filed on charges of crimes against humanity over the July-August massacre that aimed to quell the student-led mass uprising.

Nayeemul Islam Khan was the founding editor of the newspaper. He was followed by Matiur Rahman, Benazir Ahmed, Abed Khan, and currently, Shyamal Dutta, who is now behind bars.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Dhaka

Bhorer Kagoj

FROM PAGE 12

A journalist of the newspaper seeking anonymity said that since August 5, 2024, a group of journalists supporting BNP have been trying to establish control in the newspaper, and they intensified their efforts when its editor was sent to jail.

On Sunday, a group of journalists, along with union leaders and outsiders, held a demonstration in front of the newspaper's main office, he added.

In response, the owner issued the shutdown notice.

A senior journalist at Bhorer Kagoj clarified that no employee had unpaid salaries.

However, the issue arose because some journalists, hired on a consolidated basis, were demanding wages as per the 8th Wage Board since the beginning of their job, leading to the conflict, he added.

No journalists from Bhorer Kagoj wanted to make any comments on the record.

Bhorer Kagoj is considered one of the leading newspapers that established a new trend in journalism in the 1990s for its novel features, magazines, and supplements.

The major Bangla daily went to print on February 15, 1992, from Dhaka.

Nayeemul Islam Khan was the

founder of the newspaper. He was followed by Matiur Rahman, Benazir Ahmed, Abed Khan, and currently, Shyamal Dutta, who is now behind bars.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Dhaka

Union of Journalists (DUJ) expressed dismay in light of the newspaper's abrupt closure without prior notice.

Yesterday, in a statement, DUJ President Sohel Haider Chowdhury and General Secretary Akter Hossain said the sudden closure notice of the 34-year-old newspaper disheartened the working journalists and staff there.

"If the notice is enforced, many journalists will lose their jobs and struggle to sustain their livelihoods amidst rising living expenses and inflation. Such decisions can never be considered acceptable," the statement said.

Therefore, the DUJ has urged the authorities to reconsider their decision.

Analysts say China is worried about the advance of anti-junta forces which have pushed the military

Task force for using AI

FROM PAGE 12

By merging traditional methods such as community workshops and meetings with contemporary digital campaigns utilising social media and online platforms, the CSBCC&R would create a unified and impactful communication strategy to drive social change, attitudes, norms, and practices.

Regarding AI utilisation, the draft report says a major strategic emphasis is required within key sectors such as education, health, agriculture, and public institutions to facilitate the widespread adoption of digital and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

For instance, employing satellite sensing technology can enable effective crop early-warning systems to improve agricultural practices, while distance education can ensure that learning continues uninterrupted regardless of geographical barriers.

"By integrating these advanced technologies, we can enhance quality, efficiency and access across multiple sectors, ultimately improving outcomes for the entire population," said the report.

Moreover, the report says utilising digital and AI technologies effectively would help bridge the existing digital divide.

This involves reducing data costs, increasing access to affordable smartphones – implemented with appropriate safeguards for age-specific content – and fostering the growth of a robust domestic software and hardware ICT industry.

"By promoting widespread digital access, we can empower citizens, enhance digital literacy, and stimulate innovation within the ICT sector," the report mentions.

The task force also recommended introducing an automatic traffic signalling system for streamlining the urban transport system.

Such a system is a fundamental requirement for any major city worldwide; yet attempts to implement the system in Dhaka have faced challenges, often collapsing due to resistance from vested interests, it said.

This initiative should be regarded as a "low-hanging fruit" because it is both actionable and capable of yielding immediate benefits.

Besides, it said the current model of public transport in Dhaka, characterised by multiple ownership

of bus services, has led to significant confusion and chaos on the roads, directly impacting public safety and convenience.

A transition to a single-owner bus service franchise that unites all the fragmented owners into one provider has been recommended as a solution to end urban bus transport chaos.

This should be marked by a move to put drivers on a fixed salary rather than on a commission.

Key focus areas of the report include pilot projects to demonstrate reform potential, initiatives in infrastructure, education, health, and governance, leveraging digital technology, and fostering youth engagement.

It critiques past governance and economic mismanagement while proposing a human-centered development strategy.

The draft report has suggested for public hospital reform in Dhaka with real-time monitoring and user feedback, rural school and clinic reform tailored to address rural challenges, and revitalisation of the Buriganga river as a symbolic and urgent environmental project.

Besides, for institutional reforms, it said creation of new bodies like the Regulatory Reform Commission, and Centre for Global Excellence in STEM education.

Moreover, it recommended for strategic overhaul of Bangladesh Biman, including potential renaming as "Bangladesh Airways" as well as restructuring or replacement.

Yunus flies

FROM PAGE 2

expected to meet the chief adviser.

Bangladesh will highlight its efforts for an improved business and investment climate during the annual meeting of the WEF in Switzerland to attract the global business leaders and investors giving them a confidence to explore the opportunities that Bangladesh offers.

Yunus, who will lead the Bangladesh delegation, will focus on business and investment opportunities during his series of engagements there.

Chief Adviser's Special Envoy on International Affairs Lutfey Siddiqi and Principal Coordinator on SDG Affairs Lamiya Morshed are accompanying Yunus.

The chief adviser is set to return home on January 25.

Ex-NTMC chief

FROM PAGE 12

The defence had also argued that the amendment which created the tribunal was invalid, saying the government had no power to make such amendments. Ziaul's counsels also argued that the addition of enforced disappearance as a crime under the tribunal's scope was unconstitutional and thus called for acquitting the former major general.

The prosecutor said that the challenge regarding the legitimacy of the tribunal itself was not a matter for the tribunal to decide and should have been taken up before the constitutional court. Challenging the constitutionality of a court before the same court is unheard of, he said.

Citing articles 47(3) and 47(A) of the constitution, Tajul said that "those accused of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes do not have fundamental rights" and cannot file writ petitions either. He said if there were laws conflicting with these constitutional provisions, those laws would be deemed invalid as they are protected by the constitution. Therefore, the defence arguments are not tenable.

The chief prosecutor concluded that the petition was likely filed to gain media attention and create controversy around the tribunal. They suggested that the tribunal should impose exemplary punishment and fines on Ziaul's lawyers and reject this petition.

The ICT sent Tanzil Ahmed, former assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and Akram Hossain, former constable, to jail after showing them arrested in a case filed on charges of crimes against humanity over the July-August massacre that aimed to quell the student-led mass uprising.

Nayeemul Islam Khan was the

founder of the newspaper. He was followed by Matiur Rahman, Benazir Ahmed, Abed Khan, and currently, Shyamal Dutta, who is now behind bars.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Dhaka

Union of Journalists (DUJ) expressed dismay in light of the newspaper's abrupt closure without prior notice.

Yesterday, in a statement, DUJ President Sohel Haider Chowdhury and General Secretary Akter Hossain said the sudden closure notice of the 34-year-old newspaper disheartened the working journalists and staff there.

"If the notice is enforced, many journalists will lose their jobs and struggle to sustain their livelihoods amidst rising living expenses and inflation. Such decisions can never be considered acceptable," the statement said.

Therefore, the DUJ has urged the authorities to reconsider their decision.

Analysts say China is worried about the advance of anti-junta forces which have pushed the military

out of vital borderlands and started making inroads towards the central city of Mandalay.

The military seized power from Myanmar's civilian government in February 2021, plunging the country into crisis.

China fears chaos along its more than 2,000-kilometre-long border with Myanmar would jeopardise investment and trade.

Beijing previously brokered a ceasefire deal in the northern borderlands in January 2024, but the deal broke down a few months later.

China is worried about the advance of anti-junta forces which have pushed the military

out of vital borderlands and started making inroads towards the central city of Mandalay.

Houthi will only target Israeli-linked vessels
Says the Yemeni group after Gaza ceasefire

REUTERS, London

Yemen's Houthi will limit their attacks on commercial vessels to Israeli-linked ships after the Gaza ceasefire came into effect, according to the Yemen-based Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center (HOCC).

The HOCC, which liaises between Houthi forces and commercial shipping operators, said in an email sent to shipping industry officials dated January 19 that it was stopping "sanctions" against vessels owned by US or British individuals or entities, as well as ships sailing under their flags.

"We affirm that, in the event of any aggression against the Republic of Yemen



by the United States of America, the United Kingdom ... the sanctions will be reinstated against the aggressor," the email said. "You will be promptly informed of such measures should they be implemented."

The HOCC said they would stop targeting Israeli-linked ships "upon the full implementation of all phases of the agreement".

Many of the world's biggest shipping companies have suspended shipping through the Red Sea and have diverted their vessels around southern Africa to avoid being attacked.

The Iran-backed Houthi have carried out more than 100 attacks on ships since November 2023 and sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least four seafarers.

The Houthi have targeted the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which are joined by the narrow Bab al-Mandab strait, a chokepoint between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

Biden pre-emptively pardons Trump foes

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden yesterday issued pre-emptive pardons to former Covid-19 advisor Anthony Fauci and retired general Mark Milley to shield them from "politically motivated prosecutions" under the Trump administration.

In an extraordinary move in his last hours in the White House, Biden gave similar pardons to members, staff and witnesses of a US House committee probing the violent January 6, 2021 US Capitol attack by Donald Trump's supporters.

"These public servants have served our nation with honor and distinction and do not deserve to be the targets of unjustified and politically motivated prosecutions," Biden said in a statement.

"These are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing."

Trump, who was set to be sworn in yesterday, has repeatedly promised "retribution" against his political opponents and threatened some with criminal prosecution.

Fauci became the face of the country's fight against the Covid

pandemic, but his straight-talking takes on the disease in Trump's first term brought him into conflict with the Republican.

It also turned the scientist into a hate figure for many on the right, including Elon Musk, Trump's ally, who repeatedly called for Fauci to be prosecuted.

Trump was enraged after Milley, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Trump's first term, told journalist Bob Woodward that Trump was "fascist to the core" and "the most dangerous person to this country."



Office of the Registrar
Islamic University
Kushtia-Jhenaidah, Bangladesh
Phone: +88-0247786704 (Office), 02-47783489 (Residence)
PABX: +88-02477786710-02477786715/2206 (Office)
Fax: +88-02477786705
E-mail: registrar@iu.ac.bd, Website: www.iu.ac.bd

রেজিস্ট্রারের কার্যালয়
ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
কুষ্টিয়া-জেনাইদাহ, বাংলাদেশ
ফোন: +৮৮-০২৪৭৯৭৮০০-০২-৪৭৭৮০৮০৮ (ৰাজা)
পিএফটেল: +৮৮-০২৪৭৯৭৮০০-০২৪৭৯৮৬৭১৫/২০৬ (অফিস)
ফ্যাক্স: +৮৮-০২৪৭৯৭৮০০
ই-মেইল: registrar@iu.ac.bd, Website: www.iu.ac.bd

স্মারক নং: প্রশান্ত/ইবি-২০২৫/২৮১

Ref. No.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ: ২০/০১/২০২৫

Date:

ক্রমিক	বিভাগের নাম	পদের নাম, সংখ্যা ও বেতন ক্ষেত্র	আবেদনের বিষয়
০১.	আল-কুরআন এন্ড ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ	প্রভাষক ০৫টি ছাত্রী [২০০০-৫০৬০/= ঘোড়-৯]	আল-কুরআন এন্ড ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ
০২.	সোসায়াল ওয়েলফেয়ার	প্রভাষক ০৪টি ছাত্রী [২০০০-৫০৬০/= ঘোড়-৯]	সোসায়াল ওয়েলফেয়ার
০৩.	ফার্মেসি	প্রভাষক ০২টি অঞ্চলীয় (এর মধ্যে ০১টি অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) ও ০১টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) [২০০০-৫০৬০/= ঘোড়-৯]	ফার্মেসি
০৪.	বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	প্রভাষক ০২টি (এর মধ্যে ০১টি ছাত্রী ও ০১টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) [২০০০-৫০৬০/= ঘোড়-৯]	বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
০৫.	জিওগ্রাফি এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্ট	প্রভাষক ০২টি অঞ্চলীয় (এর মধ্যে ০১টি অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) ও ০১টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) [২০০০-৫০৬০/= ঘোড়-৯]	জিওগ্রাফি এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্ট

আবেদন ফরম, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী অঞ্চলীয় ব্যাংক (পিএলসি), ইবি শাখা, কুষ্টিয়া এবং
ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের website: www.iu.ac.bd এ প্রাপ্ত যাবে। আবেদনপত্র অগ্রামী ১৪/০২/২০২৫ তারিখের
মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার, ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া (অফিস চলাকীন সময়ে) ব্যাবর পৌছতে হবে।

১৪/০১/২০২৫
(এইচ.এম. আলো হাসান)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

What Trump 2.0 could mean for the world

REUTERS, Washington

Donald Trump's second presidential term could have huge implications for US trade policy, climate change, the war in Ukraine, electric vehicles, Americans' taxes and illegal immigration.

MORE TARIFFS

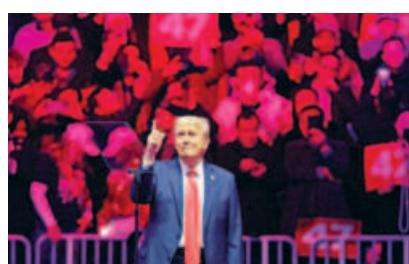
Trump has said he will issue executive orders on his first day in office to impose a 25 percent tariff on all imports from Canada and Mexico if the two US neighbours do not clamp down on the flow of drugs into the US and people entering the country illegally.

Trump has also called for a global tariff of at least 10 percent on all goods imported into the US, a move he says would eliminate a \$1-trillion annual trade deficit.

MASS DEPORTATIONS

Trump has vowed to reinstate his first-term policies targeting illegal border crossings and to forge ahead with sweeping new restrictions.

He has pledged to limit access to asylum at the US-Mexico border and to embark on the biggest deportation effort



in American history, which would likely trigger legal challenges and opposition from Democrats in Congress.

He is expected to try to revoke protected legal status for some populations such as Haitians or Venezuelans, but would try to seek a congressional deal to protect "Dreamers" - children of parents who came to the country illegally.

DRILLING AWAY

Trump has vowed to increase US production of fossil fuels by easing permitting and expanding drilling on federal land. He has said he would support widespread oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Trump has pledged to create a National

Energy Council to coordinate policies to boost US energy production, led by his pick for interior secretary, former North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum.

TAX RELIEF

Along with his trade and energy agendas, Trump has promised to slash federal regulations that he says limit job creation. He has pledged to extend personal income-tax cuts that he signed into law in 2017 but which are due to expire on December 31, and he has proposed a number of individual and corporate tax cuts beyond those enacted in his first term.

A PUSH TO END WARS

Trump has been critical of US support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, and has said he could end the war in 24 hours if elected although advisers concede it will likely take months if not longer. He has suggested Ukraine may have to yield some of its territory if a peace deal is to be struck.

Trump is likely to push for historic normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, an effort he made during his 2017-2021 presidency and which Biden has also pursued.

South Korea's Yoon shuns questioning Security tightened after court rampage

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol yesterday refused to be questioned by investigators under a probe into whether he committed insurrection, as dozens of his supporters faced being charged over a violent rampage on a court building.

Authorities said security was being beefed up at the Seoul Detention Centre where Yoon is being held as a pre-trial inmate and at the Constitutional Court which is holding an impeachment trial to decide whether to permanently remove him from office.

Yoon became the first incumbent South Korean president to be arrested last week over his short-lived declaration of martial law on December 3.

On Sunday, he was formally processed for detention, including having his mugshot taken, after a court approved a warrant, citing concern the suspect could destroy evidence.

Following the midnight ruling, Yoon supporters stormed the Seoul Western District Court building early on Sunday destroying property and clashing with police who were at times overpowered by a mob wielding broken barricades to attack them.

Taliban deputy FM calls for girls' high schools to open

REUTERS, Kabul

The Taliban's acting deputy foreign minister called on his senior leadership to open schools for Afghan girls, among the strongest public rebukes of a policy that has contributed to the international isolation of its rulers.

Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai said in a speech at the weekend that restrictions on girls and women's education was not in line with Islamic Sharia law.

"We request the leaders of the Islamic Emirate to open the doors of education," he said, according to local broadcaster Tolo, referring to the Taliban's name for its administration.

"In the time of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the doors of knowledge were open to both men and women," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Inclusive Services and Opportunities for Human Capital Development and Livelihood Project
Room No. 811, 7th Floor, Paribahan Pool Bhaban, Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000
www.mowca.gov.bd

Date: 20.01.2025

Memo: MoWCA/ISO/Recruitment/07/2025.10

Advertisement for Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Selection of Individual Consultant (National)

Ministry/Division	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)
Agency	MOWCA
Procuring entity name	Project Director, Inclusive Services and Opportunities for Human Capital Development and Livelihood Project (HCDLP) under Inclusive Services and Opportunities Project (ISO)
Expression of Interest for selection of	Selection of Individual Consultant (National)
Procurement method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)
Budget and source of fund	Development Budget; International Development Association (IDA) and GoB
Development partner	IDA (World Bank)
Project/program name	Inclusive Services and Opportunities for Human Capital Development and Livelihood Project (HCDLP) under Inclusive Services and Opportunities Project (ISO)
Place of EOI submission place	Project Director, ISO for HCDLP, Room No. 811, 7th Floor, Paribahan Pool Bhaban, Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.
EOI closing date & time	10th February, 2025, at 12:00pm (EOI shall have to be submitted through standard application from which is available at the website of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) (www.mowca.gov.bd) within EOI closing date and time. Copies of all educational, professional and experience certificate shall have to be submitted with EOI).
EOI opening date & time	10th February, 2025, at 12:00pm

The detailed information is given below:

Package No.	Name of Position & No. of Position	Duration	Qualification	Required experience & scope of services
-------------	------------------------------------	----------	---------------	---

MoWCA/ ICS-01 Financial Management Specialist 01 (One) 36 Months (Approx.) Must be M. Com/ MBA in Accounting/ Finance.

MoWCA/ ICS-03 Procurement Specialist 01 (One) 24 Months (Approx.) At least a bachelor's degree in engineering, or a Master's in Procurement/Business Administration/Commerce/ Economics/ Finance/ Law or other related fields

MoWCA/ ICS-05 Gender Specialist 01 (One) 48 Months (Approx.) Must be Masters in Sociology, Gender Studies, Human Resources, Anthropology, or any other related subject.

Detailed information about Experience and Scope of Services are available in ToR

- The Project Director now invites eligible applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Comprehensive curriculum vitae including desired remuneration and attached verifiable credentials demonstrating qualifications and professional experience).
- Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and Request for Expression of Interest (REOI

BB must help stabilise forex market

Stability is vital to minimise risks

More than seven months after introducing the crawling peg exchange rate system to stabilise the foreign exchange market, the Bangladesh Bank has decided to be more flexible with the rates. According to a report in this daily, it is now allowing banks to trade foreign currency freely. However, this decision comes with a caveat, which is proving to be a headache for the banks.

According to the report, while the central bank has permitted banks to negotiate foreign currency rates following market trends—based on the recommendation of the International Monetary Fund—it still maintains a firm grip on the trade. To be exact, it is still operating with an unofficial mid-rate, which climbed to Tk 119 per dollar from Tk 117 on December 31. Bank insiders say this is preventing banks from truly negotiating the rates, undermining the central bank's intent to liberalise the trade. As a result, while banks are officially quoting around Tk 121-122 per dollar, the actual rates charged to importers range between Tk 125 and Tk 128, according to a cement mill's managing director. Moreover, under the new exchange rate regime, banks are required to maintain uniform rates for remittances and export earnings, which is causing them to lose out on profits, a private bank official said.

This discrepancy is concerning, as it has worrying consequences beyond shrinking profit margins for banks. For example, importers are increasingly using a workaround system where banks show an official rate while selling dollars to some importers, but a portion of that currency is sourced from exchange houses and aggregators. This is akin to hundi, which is illegal in Bangladesh. The mismatch in exchange rates also poses a risk to the country's prospect of remittance earnings, which hit a record \$2.64 billion in December thanks to flexible exchange rates. But under the new system, remitters are more likely to turn to unofficial channels to send money to their families. If that happens, the economy will take a hit, and it will be bad news for our already shaky foreign exchange reserves.

Under this circumstance, it would be prudent for Bangladesh Bank to let go of all its control. As economists have repeatedly suggested, the central bank should allow the market to determine exchange rates while enforcing strict monitoring to prevent illegal trading and manipulation. This approach not only aligns with global best practices, but also offers an opportunity to stabilise our volatile forex market and shore up confidence in our currency.

End constant assault on nature

Save the forests of Durgapur and Kalmakanda

Words alone cannot express our frustration over the relentless destruction of forests, rivers, and hills. Despite repeated appeals from environmentalists, the devastation continues unchecked, even when there is a so-called pro-environment government in place. Illegal logging and encroachment by powerful quarters have already erased or degraded many of our natural and reserve forests over the past decades. Among them are the forests of Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazilas in Netrakona—adjacent to the Garo Hills of Mymensingh—that have long been plundered right under the nose of local authorities.

A recent report in this regard paints a grim picture of these forests. It cites local residents who allege that the authorities have not only turned a blind eye to illegal logging and encroachment but, in some cases, forest officials have themselves colluded with those responsible. These once-thriving ecosystems—home to over 100 wild species, including elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, and hanuman langurs, and rich with indigenous trees like Segun, Gazari, Sal, Jarul, and Shirish—have now been reduced to mere shadows of their former selves. The introduction of harmful exotic species in the forests has worsened the problem. Human-elephant conflicts, driven by habitat destruction, have also intensified.

This pattern of deforestation is not new. Over the years, many forests have been cleared not just by unscrupulous individuals but also by government agencies for housing projects, football training centres, roads, etc. Data from the Divisional Forest Office in Mymensingh reveals a dramatic decline in forest cover across the division, including parts of Jamalpur, Sherpur, and Netrakona. Once spanning over 71,000 acres, including 38,911 acres of reserved forest, Mymensingh alone has lost 24,895 acres to encroachment in the past three decades. This is deeply concerning.

If deforestation continues at this pace, we will soon have too little forestland left to sustain the ecological balance necessary for our survival. Moreover, we risk failing to meet our commitment to halt deforestation by 2030 under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. The fast deteriorating climate crisis will only magnify the consequences of this environmental neglect.

We, therefore, urge the interim government to take decisive steps to stop illegal logging and encroachment and to restore our forest ecosystems. Since taking office, Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has made numerous pledges for environmental protection. It's time to turn those promises into action.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



First commercial Concorde flight

On this day in 1976, generating a sonic boom as it traveled through the atmosphere at supersonic speed, the Concorde, a commercial aircraft built with funding from the British and French governments, began regular service.

EDITORIAL

Current dynamics of the economy, reform and elections



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun
is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.
Views expressed are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KATUN

The student-led mass movement in July-August 2024 marked a significant turning point in Bangladesh's socio-political and economic history. This movement emerged in response to widespread grievances among people from all walks of life. Unemployment reached alarming levels, leaving millions of youth disenchanted and directionless. Under the false narrative of a growth miracle, economic discrimination further deepened societal divides, with wealth concentrated in the hands of a few while the majority struggled to make ends meet. The absence of democracy was palpable, with limited opportunities for citizens to express their choices through free and fair elections. Fundamental rights, including freedom of speech, were systematically curtailed, fostering an environment of fear and suppression. Corruption was pervasive across all levels of governance, eroding public trust and stifling economic, social, and political progress.

In the wake of the movement, an interim government was formed amid high expectations from all quarters. It was entrusted with the dual responsibilities of steering the nation towards economic stability and implementing political and institutional reforms. However, that journey has been fraught with challenges.

Political parties wholeheartedly supported the interim government and displayed prudence by appreciating its efforts to address the country's accumulated problems over decades. However, as time progresses, some have called for the national election as soon as possible as the reform process continues simultaneously. The students—aspire to form their political entity and participate in the upcoming national election—favour delaying elections until substantial reforms are implemented. It is widely believed that students desperately need time to organise their parties, which has so far proven to be tough for them. Many citizens, who have had enough of the defective and dysfunctional political system that gave rise to autocracy and rampant corruption undermining all rights, also want the election after substantive reforms.

Several reform commissions were established to chart a path towards a democratic and just society. Their recommendations addressed critical issues, including constitutional, electoral, anti-corruption, and police reforms. Other commissions are also set to place their recommendations to the chief adviser. However, implementing these recommendations requires political consensus and commitment—a daunting task given the divergence of positions on reforms and the interests of political parties.

Established to chart a path towards a democratic and just society. Their recommendations addressed critical issues, including constitutional, electoral, anti-corruption, and police reforms. Other commissions are also set to place their recommendations to the chief adviser. However, implementing these recommendations requires political consensus and commitment—a daunting task given the divergence of positions on reforms and the interests of political parties.



FILE VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

The proposals of some commissions, particularly those regarding the constitutional reform, have given rise to many discussions as to which proposal recommendations should be included and which should not. Removing secularism as a pillar of the constitution, reducing the minimum age of election candidates to 21 years, and introducing a two-tier parliament with a national assembly and senate are some of the issues that sparked debates, reflecting the diverse perspectives within the nation. Such debates are healthy and can contribute to refining the proposals. Moreover, as reform is a continuous process, there should always be opportunities for improvement.

A close observation of the current discussions of reforms and elections in Bangladesh reveals that some are trying to sequence these two crucial tasks: reforms first, then the election. But in reality, the interplay between reforms and elections cannot be phased. Reform and elections are not mutually exclusive—both can be pursued in parallel. Reform is a

uncertainty about the political situation remains high. The tax-GDP ratio, a critical indicator of fiscal health, remained disarmingly low at less than eight percent, while the implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) lagged behind targets. Meanwhile, the World Bank has projected that economic growth during the ongoing FY2024-25 will be 4.1 percent. Even without the World Bank's prediction, economists can say that such low growth is not unexpected during a turbulent year when investment and production were low, and severe floods hampered economic activities.

Although an increase in exports and remittances halted the freefall of foreign exchange reserves, the overall volume of forex reserves remained insufficient to support robust import growth. Depreciation of the taka further compounded economic difficulties, raising the cost of imports and hindering investments and production. Meanwhile, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) struggles to

meet its revenue collection targets, exacerbating fiscal constraints. Missing the NBR target has persisted for about a decade due to high tax evasions, a narrow tax net, illicit financial flows, and several undue tax exemptions to specific business groups, organisations, and individuals over several years. The perceived fear among the public of complexities and harassment by the tax department, and the lack of adequate services in return for tax contributions, further discourage compliance. The government's limited fiscal space also curtailed its ability to expand social safety nets for the poor and low-income households, which are most vulnerable to inflationary pressures.

The interim government expanded its responsibilities to encompass a wide array of issues within a limited period. Though initially, the interim government's tenure was unclear, many felt that an unelected and non-political government consisting of well-meaning but inexperienced people—some of whom ran non-government organisations (NGOs) while others were senior retired bureaucrats—cannot govern the country for long unless backed by the military. Along with political uncertainty and economic challenges, the law and order situation weakened and must be improved to ensure people's safety. Rent seeking, corruption, bribes, and administrative hassles have not disappeared either.

Although public expectations for the interim government have been initially high, it is evident that patience is waning due to the slow pace of progress on these pressing issues.

Uncertainty about the fate of reform proposals is also a critical issue. A national consensus commission, led by the chief adviser, plans to engage with political parties and stakeholders to identify areas of consensus and recommend actions. This is critical since the reform agenda will have to be implemented by the elected government. However, concerns over the implementation of reform proposals remain. Will the elected government accept reform recommendations fully or partially? What if the elected government sets aside the reform proposals altogether and designs its reform agenda conveniently? What will be the oversight and accountability mechanism for implementing reforms?

While the interim government's intention to tackle political and economic challenges is commendable, the task appears daunting. Striking a balance between the demands of reform, the organisation of a free and fair election, and economic recovery has thus far proven to be a formidable challenge for it.

Outsourced workers and WPPF



Mokarramus Shaklan
is an advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He can be reached at legalethos@outlook.com.

MOKARRAMUS SHAKLAN

The Workers' Profit Participation Fund (WPPF) under the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, is a progressive mechanism designed to ensure that employees share in their company's profits.

However, this author has observed a concerning trend where WPPF obligations are being imposed on principal companies for outsourced employees—a move that seemingly contravenes the explicit provisions of the law.

When a principal company—a company that outsources work to a contractor—is directed to establish a Workers' Participation Fund (WPPF) that includes outsourced employees, it overlooks the fundamental principles of employment relationships under the Labour Act. This misunderstanding arises from a failure to recognise the distinctions between regular employees and outsourced workers, which has been addressed in key judicial precedents.

Section 23(1)(jha) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, defines a beneficiary (of a company's profit) as any individual, including apprentices, employed by a company for at least nine months—excluding owners, partners, or board members. However, this seemingly straightforward definition raises critical questions about its application: does it include only direct employees, or can it extend

to workers hired through third-party contractors?

The phrase in the definition, "ukto company-te...nijukto rohiyachen" (employed in the company), implies a direct relationship between the employer and the employee. Such an interpretation suggests that workers who are employed and supervised directly by the company qualify as beneficiaries. Outsourced employees, on the other hand, who are recruited and managed by contractors, typically fall outside this scope. This interpretation aligns with the intent of the legislature to prioritise workers who are integral to the company's operational structure over those connected indirectly.

Sections 232-234 of the Act, governing the WPPF, unequivocally apply to workers employed directly by the company. Section 2(49) reinforces this by defining a "worker" as someone directly engaged by the employer.

Meanwhile, Section 3A, introduced in a 2013 amendment, acknowledges contractors as employers and mandates their registration with the government. Workers hired under these arrangements are explicitly categorised as employees of the contractor, not the principal company.

Courts in Bangladesh have frequently employed the "control and supervision" test to evaluate

the employment relationship. If the principal company exercises significant authority over an outsourced worker's tasks, hours, or overall performance, the worker may be deemed an employee of the company. However, when such direct control is absent, the worker's employment remains firmly with the contractor.

A pivotal decision in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in 2020 clarified the distinction between employees of a principal company and those employed by contractors. Justice Muhammad Imran Ali emphasised that merely working on a company's premises or under an outsourcing agreement does not establish a direct employer-employee relationship. Instead, the contractor is responsible for ensuring statutory benefits, such as appointment letters, leave, and service records.

The court also underscored the legitimacy of outsourcing as a business model while cautioning against its misuse to undermine workers' rights. If contractors fail to meet their obligations, the aggrieved workers must seek remedies against the contractors—not the principal company.

We must adhere to the legal framework and avoid imposing undue obligations on principal companies. Instead, it should be ensured that contractors fulfill their statutory responsibilities, including the establishment of WPPFs for their employees.

Furthermore, companies facing such wrongful impositions should challenge these directives through legal avenues. Courts have consistently upheld the clear distinction between direct employees and outsourced

workers, reinforcing the principle that employment obligations must follow the employer-employee relationship as defined by law.

Leveraging judicial precedents, such as the landmark case *Md Fazlul Haque Sarder vs Grameenphone Limited*, provides valuable insights into resolving ambiguities and aligning practices with the law, ensuring fairness and transparency.

Additionally, embracing technology can further enhance compliance by streamlining processes like worker registration, benefits distribution, and performance monitoring. To address the challenges of the modern labour market, the Ministry of Labour and Employment should embrace digital transformation through online registration systems, e-governance tools, and digital compliance platforms. These advancements can simplify processes, make it easier for businesses to meet their obligations, and enhance regulatory oversight.

The definition of "beneficiary" under the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, is both inclusive and specific, ensuring that those who are directly employed by a company receive their rightful share of profits under the WPPF. However, outsourced employees remain outside this ambit unless their employment relationship meets strict legal criteria. Judicial clarity on this issue underscores the importance of adhering to statutory obligations and protecting workers' rights at a time when outsourced workforces are being increasingly used.

By delineating the roles of principal companies and contractors, the law strikes a balance between business practices and labour welfare, fostering a more equitable and transparent system for all stakeholders.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



First commercial Concorde flight

On this day in 1976, generating a sonic boom as it traveled through the atmosphere at supersonic speed, the Concorde, a commercial aircraft built with funding from the British and French governments, began regular service.

Trump's America First doctrine and its ripple effects on Bangladesh



Dr Rakib Al Hasan
is a physician, author, activist and international award winning
youth leader of Bangladesh. He is the founder and executive
director of the Centre for Partnership Initiative.
He can be reached at md.rakibalhasan.bd@gmail.com.

RAKIB AL HASAN

The potential return of Donald Trump to the White House for a second term has reignited discussions about the global implications of his policies, particularly on trade, defence, immigration, and geopolitics. For Bangladesh, a strategically located South Asian nation, these shifts demand careful analysis and a proactive approach to managing its bilateral relationship with the US. While Trump's first presidency (2017-2021) introduced a "transactional" approach to diplomacy under the "America First" doctrine, his potential comeback could exacerbate existing challenges and create new opportunities for Dhaka.

Trade dependency and diversification

The US is Bangladesh's single largest export market, with the ready-made garment (RMG) sector accounting for over 80 percent of exports to the US. In 2022, Bangladesh exported \$10.41 billion worth of goods to the US, underscoring the importance of maintaining favourable trade relations. However, Trump's protectionist policies and potential demands for stricter compliance with labour standards or supply chain transparency could complicate this dynamic.

During his first term, Trump withdrew from multilateral trade agreements and emphasised bilateral deals, often using trade relations as leverage for broader political goals. This approach could have serious repercussions for Bangladesh, which relies on preferential trade agreements and access to foreign markets for its economic growth. The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme for Bangladesh, suspended in 2013, might face further delays under another Trump administration.

Bangladesh must diversify its export markets beyond traditional partners, particularly in Europe and North America. Additionally, improving compliance with international labour and environmental standards is imperative. Efforts to upgrade worker safety and rights—initiated after the Rana Plaza tragedy—need renewed

vigour. Dhaka should also actively engage in economic diplomacy, presenting itself as a stable and reliable partner in an era of shifting global trade dynamics.

Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific

Bangladesh's geographic position along the Bay of Bengal makes it a focal point in the growing US-China rivalry. Trump's Indo-Pacific Strategy was a cornerstone of his foreign policy during his first term, aimed at countering China's growing influence through alliances and regional partnerships. Bangladesh, while maintaining close economic ties with China, also participates in regional security initiatives and dialogues with the US.

A more assertive Trump presidency could escalate the militarisation of the Indo-Pacific, compelling Bangladesh to make difficult choices. While the US would likely push for closer defence cooperation under the guise of countering Chinese influence, Bangladesh must balance this with its dependency on Chinese investment in infrastructure and technology. The country's involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has already drawn scrutiny from Washington, making this balancing act even more delicate.

Bangladesh should prioritise its strategic autonomy, refraining from being drawn into the binary US-China competition. By advocating for a multipolar Indo-Pacific, Dhaka can position itself as a neutral, peace-promoting state. Moreover, targeted military and economic cooperation with the US, particularly in areas like maritime security and counterterrorism, can strengthen bilateral ties without alienating China.

The Rohingya crisis: Keeping the global focus alive

One of Bangladesh's most pressing humanitarian challenges is the Rohingya crisis. Hosting over one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, the country faces immense social, economic, and environmental pressures. Trump's first term was marked by limited engagement in

humanitarian crises, and a second term could see further withdrawal from multilateral efforts.

Bangladesh's appeals for international support, particularly for Rohingya repatriation, have been met with mixed responses. While the US has provided significant financial assistance, it has not taken a leadership role in addressing the root causes of the crisis. Trump's scepticism

by domestic political considerations and lobbying efforts. Statements that appeared dismissive of Bangladesh's progress and contributions not only strained bilateral relations but also reinforced negative stereotypes. Additionally, the Bangladeshi diaspora in the US, which plays a vital role in cultural and economic exchanges, remains an underutilised asset in countering such narratives.

opportunities in the US.

Bangladesh must advocate for the fair treatment of its nationals, emphasising their contributions to the US economy and society. Strengthening bilateral agreements on labour mobility and skills development can also mitigate the impact of restrictive immigration policies. Additionally, fostering educational and cultural exchanges can build bridges between the two nations.

One of Bangladesh's long-standing challenges is the limited capacity of its diplomatic apparatus to engage effectively with major global powers like the US. While its missions in Washington DC and New York have made strides in recent years, there remains a significant gap in expertise, resources, and strategic planning.

Dhaka should establish specialised units within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to monitor US policy developments and coordinate lobbying efforts. Enhancing the capabilities of its diplomatic missions—through training programmes, recruitment of subject matter experts, and increased funding—will be critical in navigating the complexities of Bangladesh-US relations. Collaboration with international think tanks and advocacy groups can also amplify Bangladesh's voice in Washington.

Opportunities amid challenges

While Trump's presidency presents significant challenges, it also offers opportunities for Bangladesh to strengthen its partnership with the US. The Bay of Bengal's strategic importance and Bangladesh's growing role in regional geopolitics make it a valuable ally in Washington's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Additionally, Trump's transactional approach to diplomacy provides an opening for Bangladesh to negotiate targeted agreements that align with its national priorities. Areas such as renewable energy, digital technology, and climate resilience offer potential avenues for collaboration.

Crafting a resilient strategy

The prospect of a second Trump presidency underscores the need for Bangladesh to adopt a proactive, multifaceted approach to managing its relationship with the US. By prioritising economic diversification, strategic autonomy, and diplomatic engagement, Dhaka can navigate the uncertainties of this new era while safeguarding its national interests. In a world increasingly defined by competition and unpredictability, resilience and foresight are key to a brighter future for Bangladesh-US relations.



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

The prospect of a second Trump presidency underscores the need for Bangladesh to adopt a proactive, multifaceted approach to managing its relationship with the US.

of international institutions like the UN could undermine collective efforts to hold Myanmar accountable for its actions, leaving Bangladesh with fewer avenues for recourse.

To ensure continued support, Bangladesh must adopt a multi-pronged strategy. This includes engaging US lawmakers, think tanks, and advocacy groups to keep the Rohingya crisis on Washington's agenda. Simultaneously, Dhaka should explore partnerships with other countries and organisations to create a global coalition advocating for a durable solution. Highlighting the regional security implications of prolonged refugee displacement can also attract US attention, given its strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific.

Challenges for Bangladeshi migrants

Trump's hardline stance on immigration, including restrictions on H-1B visas and enhanced scrutiny of migrants from Muslim-majority countries, has created challenges for Bangladeshi nationals in the US. A second term could see the continuation or expansion of these policies, impacting both skilled professionals and students seeking

Bangladesh needs to invest in public diplomacy, showcasing its achievements in economic growth, poverty reduction, and climate resilience. Initiatives to engage the Bangladeshi diaspora—through cultural festivals, business forums, and academic collaborations—can create a positive narrative and build goodwill. Furthermore, the establishment of Bangladesh-focused programmes at US think tanks and universities can enhance the country's visibility and influence in US policymaking circles.

Challenges for Bangladeshi migrants

Trump's hardline stance on immigration, including restrictions on H-1B visas and enhanced scrutiny of migrants from Muslim-majority countries, has created challenges for Bangladeshi nationals in the US. A second term could see the continuation or expansion of these policies, impacting both skilled professionals and students seeking

Perils of Panthakunja Park



Naim Ul Hasan
is coordinator of the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement.

NAIM UL HASAN

Champa (40) has been running a tea stall for the last 16 years beside the Kathalgagan wall of Panthakunja Park, under the shade of a banyan tree. It is the only surviving tree in the western part of the park. Once a lush green haven in the middle of the busiest spot in the city, the park is now being stripped of its greenery due to the construction of the elevated expressway extension project, which has been mired in controversy from the start. A Tk 19.2 crore project was undertaken for the "beautification" of the park in 2018, but it has since been halted. DSCC argued that the renovation work was stopped as the pillars of the expressway might fall within the park's area.

Building an elevated expressway was not a priority in the 2005 Strategic Transport Plan. Other infrastructure projects, such as commuter trains and Bus Rapid Transit, were at the top of the list. Still, the previous government initiated the elevated expressway project in 2011. The project was supposed to be completed by 2014, but it was extended to 2016 and finally to 2024. The main design for the expressway was changed multiple times due to a lack of coordination among different government entities, including both the north and south city corporations, RAJUK, and the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority. The main idea behind the expressway was to let people travel through Dhaka on a circular road, bypassing the already cursed city traffic. However, multiple design revisions resulted in placing the expressway ramps inside the city, which worsened the situation for city dwellers. It is incomprehensible why such a project was undertaken with foreign loans, as it may benefit only a small section of society while imposing economic, environmental,

and social burdens on the entire population.

The previous government filled up a waterbody in the metropolitan area, violating the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010, and built more than 30 pillars for the expressway project, ignoring widespread protests and warnings from experts and environmental activists. According to media reports, the filling up of parts of Hatirjheel Lake, the delicate water retention system of the area, disrupted the

these anti-people, anti-environment projects, undertaken in violation of the country's constitutional laws, would be reassessed, reevaluated, and ultimately canceled. But to our surprise, the elevated expressway project was resumed this month, and a huge portion of Panthakunja Park was stripped of its natural beauty. The entire area now lies barren. Kingfishers and dove birds keep circling the area, searching for their lost habitat. After the tall gogon shirish trees were cut down, a colony of kites lost their home and has now taken refuge on the metro-line cables.

It may sound cliché to write about the importance of parks and open spaces in the city, but it seems that even after the fall of an autocratic regime, the challenges for environmental activists remain the same. Dhaka has less than seven percent of the tree coverage that a geographical area

North City Corporation (DNCC) has 23 parks for its 54 wards. The utter disregard for the maintenance of these parks was evident during the previous regime. From Suhrawardy Udyan to Anowara Park, Tajuddin Park, and the trees of Satmasjid Road, environmental destruction was widespread. Now, during the interim government's term—a government responsible for fulfilling the people's mandate—the trees of Panthakunja have been destroyed mercilessly.

Leaving aside the destruction of the park, how will the construction of the expressway impact the roads below? The environmental impact assessment of the report itself states that building this expressway will have dire consequences on the streets below, particularly in the Palashi and Katabon areas. One can easily assume that upon completion of the project, the entire route of the expressway—

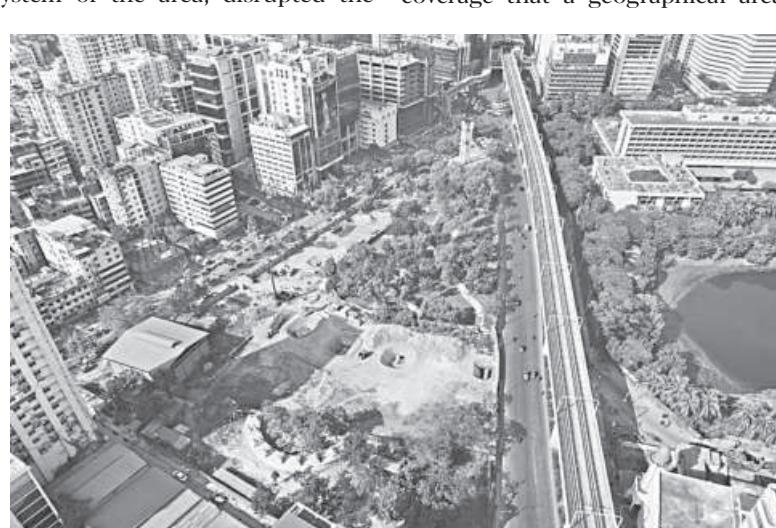
through Hatirpool Bazar, Katabon, Dhaka University, Palashi, and BUET—will seriously impact traffic and the environment underneath, as has been seen with several other flyovers in the city.

The sit-in protest by the activists of the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement, which began on December 14 last year, has now been going on for 40 days. On the 11th day, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Adilur Rahman Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, visited Panthakunja Park and Anowara Park.

They promised to free up Anowara Park by March 25, 2025, as per the demands of the activists. They also promised to organise a meeting with the protesters regarding the issue of

Panthakunja Park. On January 2, the protesters were allegedly attacked by environmental activists, including many from Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and Green Voice. Braving threats of attack, severe cold, mosquitoes, dust, and noise pollution, the activists of the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement are continuing their peaceful protest, halting the construction of the elevated expressway. We have yet to hear from the advisers regarding this issue.

As a country at the forefront of the climate catastrophe, we seriously need to rethink our approach to the environment. The question remains: will the interim government reevaluate these environmentally destructive projects, or will it be business as usual? If the implementation of such projects continues, what has truly changed after the July revolution?



The elevated expressway project stripped the Panthakunja Park of its natural beauty.

PHOTO: PLABON AMIN

natural water flow and reduced the lake's capacity to absorb excess rainwater. As a result, waterlogging in the area has worsened, causing irreparable damage to biodiversity and aquatic life. Unfortunately, the previous government had shameless support from certain so-called environmental activists, some of whom were involved in the elevated expressway's landscaping.

After the fall of the fascist regime, one would have expected that all

should ideally have, against the recommended 25 percent. Parks in cities help maintain and protect the environment, encourage active lifestyles, reduce health costs, make cities more resilient, manage stormwater, mitigate flooding, increase community engagement, reduce crime, and, of course, cleanse the air and improve public health. However, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has only 27 parks for its 75 wards, while Dhaka

North-West Power Generation Company Limited

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)

Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-3)
NWPGL, Sodabab, Sirajganj-6700.

Date: 20/01/2025

e-Tender Notice

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

SL. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1058099	Procurement of Carbon Brush, Variable Frequency Drives and Other Equipment	20/01/2025 12:00 PM	10/02/2025 12:00 PM	10/02/2025 2:30 PM
2	1063146	Procurement of Spares for Transformer & Generator Protection System	20/01/2025 12:00 PM	10/02/2025 12:00 PM	10/02/2025 3:00 PM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shyamal Das

Plant Manager (S.E.)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCP (Unit-3)
NWPGL, Sodabab, Sirajganj-6700.
Contact No.: +880177736401

Shyamal Das
Plant Manager (S.E.)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCP (Unit-3)
NWPGL, Sodabab, Sirajganj-6700.
Contact No.: +880177736401



Dhaka Capitals' Liton Das continued his merry run of form since being snubbed from Bangladesh's Champion Trophy squad as he scored a 48-ball 70 -- his third fifty-plus score in four matches -- to help his side set up a six-wicket win against Sylhet Strikers in a Bangladesh Premier League group-stage fixture at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cabrera focused on performance over results

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation, led by new president Tabith Awal, perhaps reappointed coach Javier Cabrera with the big dream of progressing beyond the Asian Cup Qualifiers. However, the 40-year-old Spaniard, now in his third stint, has chosen a more of a pragmatic route, focusing on consistent performances rather than lofty expectations.

Bangladesh have been drawn in a relatively easier group in the 2024 Asian Cup Qualifiers, facing India (ranked 126), Hong Kong (155), and Singapore (160) -- a contrast to the 2022 edition, where they were grouped with stronger teams such as Bahrain and Kyrgyzstan. While Cabrera's last campaign saw



Bangladesh lose all matches in a centralised venue, this edition will follow a home and away format.

"It is a strong group, but not as strong as it was in the 2022 edition. Still... we do think we have options to compete against them and win if we perform, especially at the level we are able to perform at home," Cabrera told reporters at the BFF premises yesterday, after being handed a contract extension till April 2026.

Asked whether there is any plan to uplift the performance of the national team, who had a lean year in 2024, Cabrera said, "Honestly, performance-wise, I am not looking at the results... If you focus on the results, there is always an opportunity to criticise. The truth is that the team were able to perform against very strong teams [like Australia, Palestine and Lebanon] in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, and we were able to maintain that level of performance against Maldives. I am sure we are going to achieve something important from the Asian Cup Qualifiers."

Bangladesh managed only two wins in eight matches in 2024, beating Bhutan and Maldives. Looking ahead, Cabrera plans a four-week training camp, potentially in Saudi Arabia, to prepare for their Asian Cup Qualifiers opener against India in March. He stressed the importance of a match-by-match approach, noting that both the qualifiers and the upcoming SAFF Championship in June will be pivotal for the team.

"It is [going to be] a huge challenge against India, and I am now focused on that," he said.

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Wide yorkers are one of the key weapons in the arsenal for bowlers trying to stem the flow of runs in T20s. Dhaka Capitals had a set Liton Das at the crease and skipper Thisara Perera has the knack for incredible cameo knocks. Both plundered runs with some scintillating bat speed during their game against Sylhet Strikers in Chattogram on Monday.

However, those two were not the only difference-makers in the game, for Sylhet had conceded 25 runs in extras during the last six overs alone -- including sixes hit off no balls -- which significantly helped in their bid to end the innings as close to 200 as possible.

Dhaka had reached the end of the 14th a 101 for three at a cumbersome pace. Liton and Thisara got into the act and notched a whopping 81-run stand off just 28 deliveries. While credit goes to both batters, 20 of those runs came through extras in that partnership and they were just the ignition Dhaka needed to reach the eventual score of 196 for six.

Sylhet bowlers bowled 11 wides during the game. Spinner Tipu Sultan alone bowled four wides. Left-arm pacer Ruel Miah matched him with four more. Two of

those came in the 16th over against Liton, one producing a bye run as well. Ruel bowled two wides, one producing bye runs again in the 19th over. 19 runs had come off that over.

Bowling had been pretty ordinary and it allowed for 95 runs to be scored off the last six overs. With pacer Al Amin Hossain getting injured during warm up, Sylhet could not replace the player, leading to a diminished bowling attack.

The game did get tight in the end though as Sylhet fought tooth and nail but with

23 needed off the last over, they fell short by just six runs. Afghanistan's Samiullah Shinwari was one of the batters in that final over. He did not quite get the number of extras right but said it made the difference.

"Yes of course, upset because we were

very close to the match and it was very near. We played really well, I think we gave 15-20 runs in extras, that's where the main point is. We bowled very well, we fielded very well and we batted very well. But it's a part of the game, we still have four games to play. So we believe that we can do our best in the

coming matches," Shinwari said after the game.

Opposition skipper Thisara was happy to win what was only his side's only second victory. He felt players are not robots and extras can happen.

"Sometimes it can happen, we are not robots. So failure can happen. But if we can minimise the extras, it will definitely help the team," he said.

Wides have been aplenty in the BPL this season and many of those have way too misdirected that wicketkeepers have often struggled to keep them from running for boundaries. This issue has been a point of contention since the beginning, something which gained wide traction after Australian cricket writer Jarrod Kimber the issue in one of his podcasts.

He brought into notice a game where Dhaka's Alauddin Babu conceded eight runs in one delivery, conceding three wides in a row. Apparently, a lot of money had been bet on the score being over 78.5 and after 9.5 overs in that game, the score was 72. It had seemed impossible for the batting side to get over 78.5 run threshold after 9.5 overs, yet it happened.

Whatever, the suggestions are the extras do not bode well either on BPL's more formidable stars nor the tournament itself.



BPL's wide problem becomes 'main point' in Sylhet's loss

"We are being the worst team, maybe, in the history of Manchester United. I know that you want headlines, but I'm saying that because we have to acknowledge that and to change that. Here you go, your headlines."

Manchester United coach Ruben Amorim said after a 3-1 defeat to Brighton & Hove Albion on Sunday, a result which left the Red Devils in 13th place and on course for their lowest finish in the Premier League.



Champions League giants scrap for knockout spots

AFP, Paris

A year of unprecedented pressures on the global football calendar begins with a Champions League first, as two rounds of matches in Europe's elite club competition take place in January and some of the continent's biggest names face a scrap to avoid a humiliating exit.

There is no bigger game this week than Paris Saint-Germain against Manchester City, with two clubs who have transformed the face of football over the last 15 years at risk of early elimination.

Qatar-backed PSG and Abu Dhabi-backed City, the latter winners of the Champions League two years ago, have stumbled their way through this first season since the tournament's expansion.

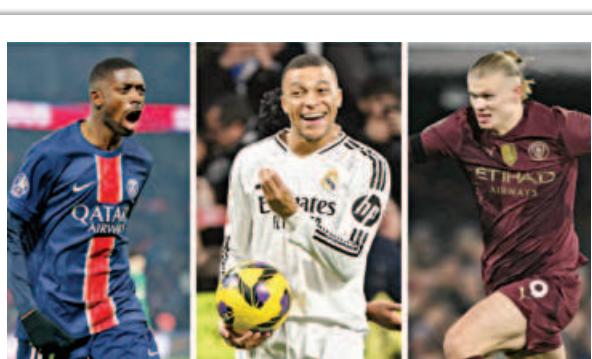
City have taken just one point from their last three Champions League games and lie 22nd in the 36-team standings.

PSG, semi-finalists last season, are a point behind City in 25th place, and therefore in greater danger of going out given that only the top 24 advance to the knockout phase.

That would be deeply embarrassing for them, and particularly humiliating for Nasser al-Khelaifi, PSG's Qatari president. He was instrumental in driving the changes to the Champions League as chairman of the influential European

Club Association and a member of UEFA's Executive Committee.

The new format initially drew criticism. It was seen as a way of pandering to the demands of clubs like PSG and City to have more games and more revenue, while reducing the prospects of them going out early on.



It has not turned out that way, and PSG have been hampered by a difficult draw that has already seen them play Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and Bayern Munich, and lose to all three.

If PSG lose to City, they will be under severe pressure in their last game against Stuttgart on January 29, when 18 matches take place simultaneously.

City will similarly be in grave danger if they lose in Paris, although one win from their last two matches may suffice to reach the play-off round, with 10 points

expected to be enough.

Reigning champions Real Madrid are also in a slightly uncomfortable position. They lie 20th with nine points having lost half their six games.

Games against Red Bull Salzburg and French upstarts Brest should allow them to advance, but Real will likely also have to prepare for a two-legged play-off in February, as only the top eight progress directly to the last 16 in March.

Inter Milan, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich, Atletico, Juventus and Benfica are also challenging for Champions League knockout berths while having the Club World Cup to come.

Contrast that with Liverpool and Barcelona, the only teams that have already guaranteed places in the knockout phase. They both look set to skip the playoffs in February and neither will be at the Club World Cup.

The consequences could be significant going into next season, as clubs who have been able to give their players a full close-season break could have a big advantage.

This Champions League has created space for outsiders to impress, most notably Brest, who are poised to progress.

The top 14 places in the standings are nevertheless occupied by clubs from Europe's "Big Five" leagues in England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Seismic weekend in PL title race

AFP, Manchester

Liverpool extended their lead at the top of the Premier League in dramatic fashion as two late Darwin Nunez goals beat Brentford before Arsenal stumbled at home to Aston Villa.

At the other end of the table, Manchester United and Tottenham are looking over their shoulders at the relegation zone after dismal defeats on Sunday.

On an emotional day at Old Trafford, United paid tribute to one of their all-time greats in Denis Law. The home support then witnessed another example of how far United have fallen as Brighton stormed to a third consecutive victory -- this time by a 3-1 margin -- at the Theatre of Dreams, where they had never won prior to 2022.

Tottenham, meanwhile, are two places below United in 15th after a 3-2 defeat at Everton. Yet, the struggles of the three promoted clubs -- Southampton, Leicester City, and Ipswich Town -- looks set to save both fallen giants from a relegation battle.

Manchester City's 6-0 stroll against Ipswich at Portman Road took them back into the top four, but only five points separate the champions from Fulham in 10th, while Bournemouth brought fifth-place Newcastle's winning streak to a stunning halt to further their case for a first ever European campaign next season.

Nottingham Forest may still harbour dreams of a title challenge. A 3-2 win over Southampton on Sunday took Nuno Espirito Santo's team level with second placed Arsenal. But third-placed Forest are unlikely to last the course to leave Liverpool closing in on just a second league title in 35 years.

Sinner defies dizziness to reach quarterfinal

AFP, Melbourne

Jannik Sinner battled dizzy spells on Monday to reach an Australian Open quarter-final against Alex de Minaur, admitting a long interruption when he accidentally broke the net was "big, big luck".

The world number one and defending champion dropped a set before coming home 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 against Danish 13th seed Holger Rune on Rod Laver Arena.

Sinner struggled in the hot Melbourne conditions, his hand visibly shaking and his heart rate taken in the third set before he left court for a medical timeout.

There was then a bizarre 20-minute delay when Sinner demolished the metal brace that secures the net to the floor with a thunderous serve early in set four.

"I was not feeling really well. You know, I think we saw that today I was struggling physically,"

QUARTERFINAL LINE-UP

MEN'S SINGLES

Tommy Paul (USA) v Alexander Zverev (GER)
Novak Djokovic (SRB) v Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)
Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) v Ben Shelton (USA)
Jannik Sinner (ITA) v Alex de Minaur (AUS)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

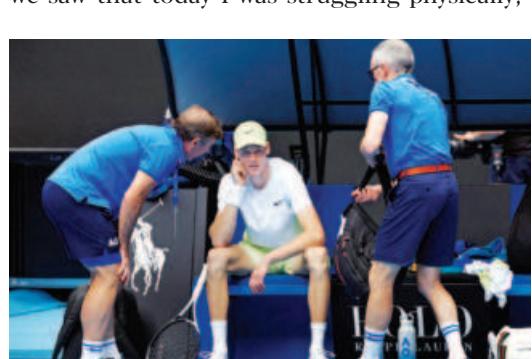
Coco Gauff (USA) v Paula Badosa (ESP)
Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) v Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)
Madison Keys (USA) v Elina Svitolina (UKR)
Iga Swiatek (POL) v Emma Navarro (USA)

said Sinner, 23, who is bidding to become the first Italian man to win three Grand Slam crowns.

He refused to say exactly what was wrong with him, only that he was "not there health-wise" and had been "a bit dizzy at times".

He admitted that the time off court in air-conditioning while officials repaired the net helped him refresh.

"I was lucky today that... 20 minutes off court, you know, trying to get back physically, putting some cold water in my head, it was very helpful. It was big, big luck to me today."



বাংলাদেশ সাবমেরিন ক্যাবলস পিএলসি (বিএসসিপিএলসি)

১৯১১/১, তেজগাঁও-গুলশান লিংক রোড, ঢাকা-১২০৮

ফোনঃ ৮৮০২ ২২৬০৩০৩১৫, ৮৮০২ ২২৬০৩০৩১৬

ফ্যাক্টরিঃ ৮৮০২ ২২৬০৩০৩২২,

ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.bsccl.com.bd

নগদ লভ্যাংশ ও আয়কর সনদ বিতরণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, কোম্পানির ১৬তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঘোষিত ৮০% নগদ লভ্যাংশ বিধি মোতাবেক সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণের বাকি হিসাবে গত ২৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ প্রেরণ সহজে যে সকল লভ্যাংশ ওয়ারেন্ট এসেছে তার বিপরীতে এমআইসিআর লভ্যাংশ ওয়ারেন্ট বিতরণের নিমিত্ত প্রস্তুত রয়েছে। তাহারা সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণকে কর্তৃত হালসনসহ বিগত তিনি অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঘোষিত লভ্যাংশের আয়কর সনদ ও পরিবোধের মাধ্যম সংক্রান্ত তথ্য কোম্পানির তথ্য বাতানোর মাধ্যমে নিমিত্ত প্রস্তুত রয়েছে।

এমআবস্থায়, বিএসসিপিএলসি'র যে সকল সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডার/বিনিয়োগকারীগণ এখনো ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঘোষিত ৮০% নগদ লভ্যাংশ বিধি মোতাবেক অন্তরিলে কোম্পানির প্রধান কার্যালয়ে অফিস চলাকীন সময়ে উপযুক্ত প্রমাণকসহ হাজির হয়ে বিশিষ্ট নগদ লভ্যাংশের ওয়ারেন্ট প্রেরণে বিগত সমস্যাহীনসহ সংগ্রহের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুমতি করা হচ্ছে। একইসাথে সকল সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণকে বর্তিত লভ্যাংশের আয়কর সনদ ও পরিবোধের মাধ্যম সংক্রান্ত তথ্য কোম্পানির তথ্য বাতানোর মাধ্যমে সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত প্রস্তুত রয়েছে।

উপরুক্ত বিষয়ে যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সম্ম

The 'insult' of Dhaka clubs and the reality of Bangladesh cricket

ASHFAQ UL ALAM

The Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) status as the most famous and influential cricket club in the world is one of the few undisputed facts in the game's storied history.

Founded in 1787, this London-based club dictated cricket in England and played a pivotal role in the game's expansion across the Commonwealth nations. But as the game got bigger, even the mighty MCC had to step back on its authority on the game in England and the globe.

Although the MCC remains the custodian of the laws of the game, it has no formal position in the ICC. And in England, MCC is now just one of the 41 members of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The crux of the matter is this: currently 76 out of 171 councillors in the BCB, who get to elect directors in the BCB

While the MCC swallowed its pride and accepted the changes wrought on by time, the local cricket clubs in Dhaka are seemingly too proud to accept the reality judging by their collective outrage at the rumoured changes in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) constitution that are yet to be proposed.

"The contribution of our clubs in the Dhaka League, the clubs' contribution to cricket development and producing players since the time of independence till now, has been insulted in this proposed constitution.... This is unacceptable," Rafiqul Islam Babu, veteran cricket organiser from Dhaka, told reporters last week.

elections, and 12 out of 25 board directors come from Dhaka-based clubs.

After the ouster of the Awami League government which led to Nazmul Hassan Papon stepping down and Faruque Ahmed taking up the role of the BCB president, a five-member constitution reform committee led by BCB director Najmul Abedeen Fahim was formed.

It has been rumoured in the media that the committee will propose to reduce the number of councillors from Dhaka to 30 and the number of directors to four. It is also rumoured that it would propose increasing the number of directors from other divisions and districts from 10 to 13 and also reducing the total number of directors to 21.

It has also been rumoured that it would propose to abolish the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM).

The purpose behind these propositions is quite evident. For decades, Dhaka has dictated how the country's cricket would run as the current system does not allow outsiders to rise through the ranks in the board.

By reducing the influence of Dhaka-based clubs, the board in theory could begin the process of decentralising cricket, which has long remained a pipe dream.

However, the Dhaka-based clubs, which range from Premier Division clubs to the Third Division teams, don't see it that way. Some irate organisers have called it an insult and some have even

called it a conspiracy against them.

They are so enraged that they have begun protesting the proposed changes before those even have been submitted for discussion.

They have declared they won't take part in any cricket and have done exactly that by not partaking in the Dhaka First Division Cricket League, which was supposed to begin yesterday.

The club representatives have already presented a three point demand to the BCB president, which are: the immediate cancellation of the proposed amendments, the dissolution of the committee and the resignation of the committee convenor Fahim.

The ferocity of their response is centred on the purported belief that these Dhaka clubs have built the foundation of Bangladesh cricket and for that reason deserve their privileged status.

But no other club has done more for cricket in the world than MCC. If they could take a step back, asking the same from these Dhaka clubs is not a sacrilegious ask like some organisers are purporting it to be.

In reality, hiding behind their righteous rage is the fear of losing their iron grip on Bangladesh cricket.

If accepted, these propositions, which at the moment are rumours as the committee has yet to submit anything to the BCB, could balance the scales which have been unfairly tilted to favour certain groups and create an opportunity for more checks and balances.

The Dhaka clubs most likely won't stand down easily, starting off a standoff that could continue for a while.

But the current cricket board led by Faruque Ahmed, who himself has been at the helm due to post-August 5 reforms, would do well if it withstood the pressure from the Dhaka clubs and implement these much-needed reforms before time runs out.

SHORT CORNER

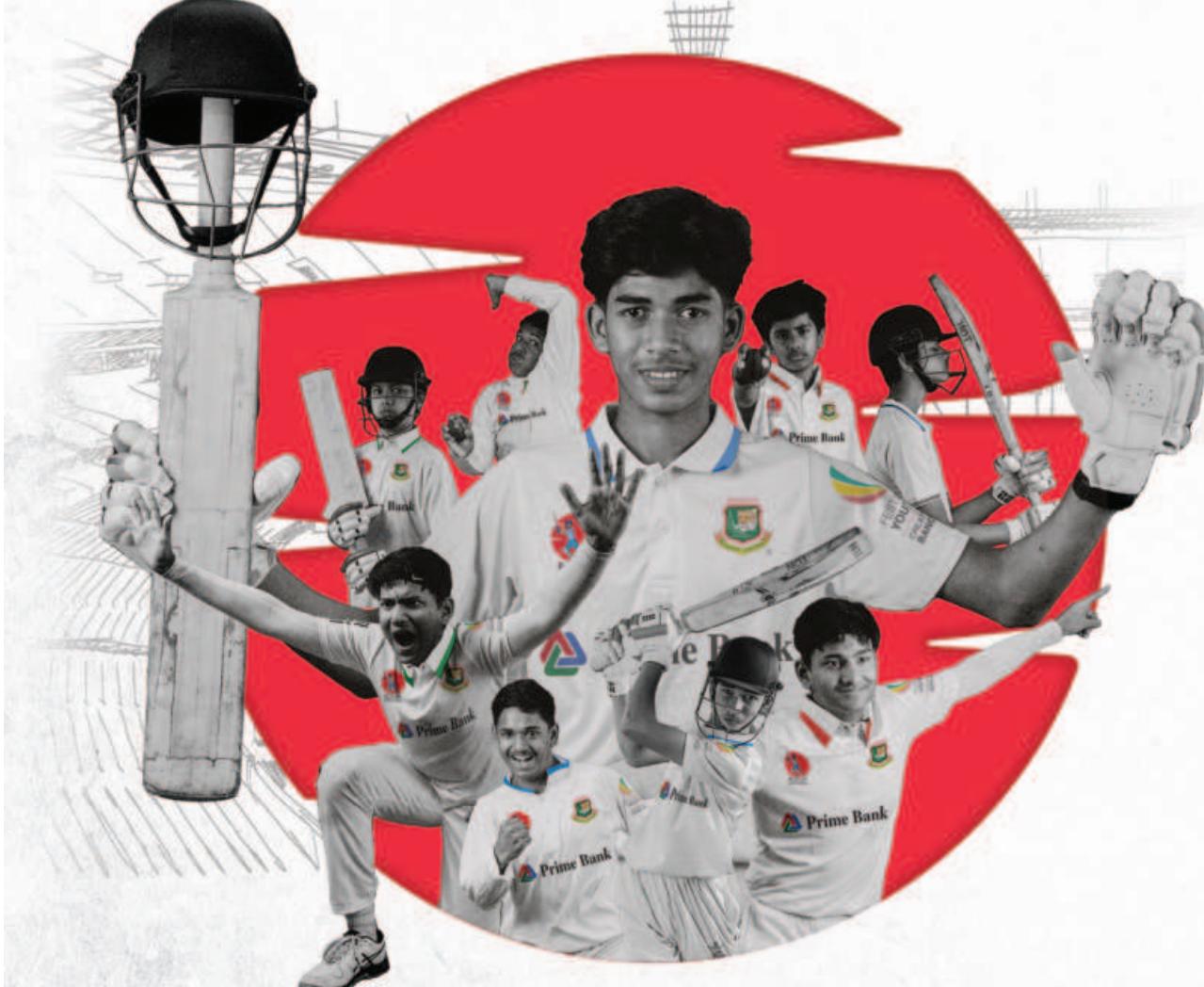
Direct WC qualification becomes tougher for Tigresses

Bangladesh women's cricket team suffered a nine-wicket drubbing against West Indies in the first ODI of the three-match series at the Warner Park in St Kitts on Sunday. Home captain Hayley Matthews stole the show as she claimed 2-41 with the ball before smashing an unbeaten 104 off 93 balls in a dominant chase. Chasing 199, West Indies made light work of the target, cruising to 202-1 in just 31.4 overs. Earlier, Matthews and her bowlers laid the groundwork for the victory by restricting Bangladesh to 198-9. In a bid to secure a direct spot in this year's ICC Women's World Cup in India, Bangladesh need to win remaining two matches to leapfrog New Zealand and qualify.

Bangladesh U19s suffer heartbreak against Australia

Bangladesh women's Under-19 team nearly pulled off a victory over Australia but eventually succumbed to a narrow two-wicket defeat in their Group D match of the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup at the YSD-UKM Cricket Oval in Bangi, Malaysia today. Sent to bat, Afia Ashima Era top scored with 29 off 34 balls and opener Sumaiya Akter Suborna made a run-a-ball 13 as Bangladesh hobbled to 91-9 in their 20 overs after being asked to bat first. In reply, Australia had cruised to 50-1 inside eight overs before Jannatul Maoua initiated a comeback for Bangladesh. Jannatul picked up three wickets in three successive overs as Australia lost five wickets for 17 runs which reduced them to 67-6 in 13.1 overs. Anisa Akter Soba and Habiba Islam Pinky scalped once each to reduce Australia to 86-8 inside 18 overs. But Ella Briscoe and Tegan held their nerves, and remained unbeaten on 11 and three respectively to take Australia over the line.

Read full stories on [The Daily Star's website](#).



3,157
SCHOOLS

5,544
MATCHES

67,535
STUDENTS

OUR FOOTPRINT SINCE 2015

Prime Bank



**10th EDITION OF
THE BIGGEST
NATIONAL SCHOOL
CRICKET TOURNAMENT
BEGINS!**



Prime Bank
**NATIONAL SCHOOL
CRICKET TOURNAMENT**

Since 2015 Prime Bank in partnership with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has been organizing National School Cricket Tournament.

Over the past 10 years, this initiative has helped the youngsters in their journey of determination, perseverance, and relentless pursuit of excellence, helping them pave their path to glory!

**THE NATION'S
LARGEST ROD
MANUFACTURER**

BSRM building a safer nation

**SHAH
CEMENT**

**Superbrands
LARGE BUSINESS**

**HAT-TRICK OF
Superbrands
AWARD**

Bhorer Kagoj pulls plug on print edition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily Bhorer Kagoj, one of the leading newspapers of the 1990s, has announced the termination of its print publication.

The newspaper issued a notice yesterday stating, "The Bhorer Kagoj authority has

ভোরে কাগজ

decided to shut the main office of the newspaper from today under Section 12 of the Labour Act-2006, due to reasons beyond the owner's control."

Bhorer Kagoj online remains operational.

The decision comes in the face of protests in the last few days by some journalists of Bhorer Kagoj, including a few pro-BNP ones, demanding salaries according to the 8th Wage Board and payment of arrears from their date of appointment, said sources at the newspaper.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

GOVT SERVICE DELIVERY

Task force for using AI, social media

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A task force formed by the planning ministry is going to recommend the formation of an independent centre for delivering government services via social media and utilising artificial intelligence (AI).

Such proposals came against the context that influence of both social media and artificial intelligence has been on the rise in Bangladesh alongside other parts of the globe.

The 12-member task force, led by KAS Murshid, former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, has finalised a draft report.

The nearly 600-page report will be submitted to Planning and Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud in a couple of days, said ministry officials.

The ministry formed the task force in September last year to develop strategies to boost the economy and mobilise resources for equitable and sustainable development.

The draft report provides strategic recommendations for addressing pressing challenges and facilitating equitable and sustainable development in Bangladesh under the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus.

It emphasises short-term pragmatic interventions and long-term reforms across sectors, addressing economic growth, governance, public service delivery, and environmental sustainability.

The draft report says the name of the centre will be the Centre for Social and Behavioural Change Communication and Research (CSBCC&R).

It added that the establishment of the independent centre is essential to addressing the fragmented nature of current efforts in this critical area.

Currently, various departments handle communication initiatives without a cohesive strategy, leading to inefficiencies, and missed opportunities.

The CSBCC&R would centralise these efforts, providing a structured platform for both traditional media and digital communication strategies.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Hossain Ali has opted for a unique way to sell vegetable and flower seedlings. He collects seedlings of gourd and bean and other plants from Pirojpur's Swarupkathi and sells them on a boat for Tk 40-120 each in different areas of Khulna. The photo was taken in the Kheyaghata area of Rupsha upazila recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

NORTH OF MYANMAR
Military, minority armed group agree ceasefire
Says China foreign ministry

REUTERS, Beijing

The Myanmar military and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) signed a formal agreement for a ceasefire that began on Saturday, China's foreign ministry said, halting fighting near the border of both countries.

The two sides held talks in China's southwestern city of Kunming where they thanked Beijing for its efforts to promote peace, ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said during a regular news briefing yesterday.

"Cooling down the situation in the north of Myanmar is in the common interest of all parties in Myanmar and all countries in the region, and contributes to the security, stability and development of the border areas between China and Myanmar," she said.

China will continue to actively promote peace and dialogue and provide support and assistance to the peace process in northern Myanmar, Mao said.

The MNDA is one of several ethnic minority armed groups fighting to repel the military from what they consider their territories.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Fragile Israel-Hamas ceasefire holding

90 Palestinian detainees freed on first truce exchange

AGENCIES

A fragile ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war was holding yesterday, following the dramatic exchange of three hostages for 90 Palestinian prisoners in an agreement aimed at ending more than 15 months of offensive in Gaza.

The three hostages released Sunday, all women, were reunited with their families and taken to hospital in central Israel where a doctor said they were in stable condition.

Hours later in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian prisoners released by Israel left Ofer prison on buses, with jubilant crowds celebrating their arrival.

The next hostage-prisoner swap would take place on Saturday, a senior Hamas official told AFP.

As the ceasefire took effect, thousands of displaced, war-weary Palestinians set off across the devastated Gaza Strip to return home.

In the northern area of Jabalia, hundreds streamed down a sandy path, heading to an apocalyptic landscape piled with rubble and destroyed buildings.

"We are finally in our home. There is no home left, just rubble, but it's our home," said Rana Mohsen, 43.

In the town of Beitunia, near Ofer prison, Palestinians cheered and chanted as buses carrying them arrived, with some climbing atop and unfurling a Hamas flag.

"All the prisoners being released today feel like family to us. They are part of us, even if they're not blood relatives," Amanda Abu Sharkh, 23, told AFP.

Now attention is starting to shift to the

rebuilding of the coastal enclave. "We are searching for 10,000 martyrs whose bodies remain under the rubble," said Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson of the Palestinian Civil Emergency Services.

At least 2,840 bodies were melted and there were no traces of them, he told Reuters.

Residents and medics in Gaza said that for the most part the ceasefire appeared to be holding, although there were isolated incidents. Medics said eight people had been hit by Israeli fire since yesterday morning in the southern city of Rafah, without giving details of their condition.

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots against suspects who approached troops deployed according to the ceasefire agreement.

Minutes after the truce began, the United Nations said the first trucks carrying desperately needed humanitarian aid had entered the Palestinian territory.

UN relief chief Tom Fletcher said 630 trucks had entered into Gaza, with 300 of them headed to the north of the territory.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said it was moving full throttle to get food to as many Gazans as possible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the first phase a "temporary ceasefire" and said Israel had US support to return to the war if necessary.

Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said its adherence to the truce would be contingent on the enemy's commitment.

The offensive's only previous truce, for one week in November 2023, also saw the release of hostages held by Hamas in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

of them headed to the north of the territory.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said it was moving full throttle to get food to as many Gazans as possible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the first phase a "temporary ceasefire" and said Israel had US support to return to the war if necessary.

Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said its adherence to the truce would be contingent on the enemy's commitment.

The offensive's only previous truce, for one week in November 2023, also saw the release of hostages held by Hamas in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

of them headed to the north of the territory.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said it was moving full throttle to get food to as many Gazans as possible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the first phase a "temporary ceasefire" and said Israel had US support to return to the war if necessary.

Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said its adherence to the truce would be contingent on the enemy's commitment.

The offensive's only previous truce, for one week in November 2023, also saw the release of hostages held by Hamas in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

JULY ATROCITIES

Ex-NTMC chief's counsels challenge ICT's jurisdiction

Order on petition to be delivered tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers of sacked army major general Ziaul Ahsan, accused of crimes against humanity at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), challenged the tribunal's jurisdiction over atrocities during the July uprising.

They also called for an acquittal of the former head of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC).

The defence team, which includes Ziaul Ahsan's sister Naznin Nahar and senior lawyer M I Farooqui, filed a petition challenging its judicial authority.

The three-judge court, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Majumdar, held a lengthy hearing on the matter and set January 22 for an order on the petition.

Lawyers from both sides spoke to the media after the proceeding. Naznin said that the tribunal was formed in 1973 to prosecute war criminals, as explicitly stated in Article 150 of the constitution. The tribunal was established to try those responsible for the crimes during the 1971 Liberation War. However, the tribunal is now trying cases related to events from July-August, which was a political conflict, not a war, she pointed out. Therefore, she said, they had filed a petition challenging the tribunal's authority to try such cases.

She also said that the High Court judges currently sitting in the tribunal should remain there, as they do not have jurisdiction over the tribunal.

Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam said the defence petition's main argument was that the tribunal had no authority to try crimes against humanity because no war had taken place in Bangladesh during July or August last year.



Ziaul Ahsan

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Textile dye wastewater discharged by garment factories in Savar's Vakurta union flows through a canal and into the Turag River, a major waterway in the Dhaka district. These industries are required by law to have effluent treatment facilities so that they don't pollute the environment with the waste they generate. However, these factories are violating that regulation and inconsiderately dumping untreated effluents into a river that is already severely polluted. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

শোক সংবাদ

বারিশাল জেলার বাকেরগঞ্জ উপজেলার কৃতিস্থান বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সিআইপি এবং প্রিটি এন্প অব ইভান্সিজ এর সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোহামেদ আলী তালুকদার ফরাক গত ১৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ইং রাত আনন্দিনিক ১০৫০ ঘটকায় চেলাইয়ের একাপোনো হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় শেষ নিষ্পত্তি ত্যাগ করেন (ইমালিলাই ওয়াইলাই ইলাইহা রাজিউন)।

গত ১৮ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ইং বাদ এশা মরহুমের প্রথম নামাজের জানাজা গুলশান কেন্দ্রীয় জামে মসজিদে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। বিত্তীয় নামাজের জানাজা গুলশান কেন্দ্রীয় জামে মসজিদে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। তাঁর বাস হয়েছিল ৭৩ বছর এবং তিনি জী. চার ছেলে ও দুই মেয়েসহ অবস্থা আবার জন্ম, স্ব-কর্মী, পুঁজীয়া ও শুভনৃদ্যুম্ব জোখে গোছে।

আমাদের প্রান্তিয় চেলাইয়ের মহোদয়ের মৃত্যুতে প্রিটি এন্পের সকল বর্ষকর্তা ও কর্মচারীগণ গভীরভাবে শোকাত অবস্থা ও বিদেশী আবার শক্তি করেন। করাই এবং শোকাত পরিবারবর্গের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদন ও সহানুভূতি জ্ঞাপন করাই হল মহান আল্লাহ তায়ালা ওলার পরিবারের সদস্যদের এই শোক সহ্য করার তোকিক দান করেন এবং মরহুমকে জান্নাতুল ফেরদোস নাসৰ করেন। - আমিন

প্রিটি এন্পের সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ