



# 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.

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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 "Aynaghar" 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

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# New uniforms unveiled for police, Rab, Ansar

Home adviser says the change symbolises need for a shift in law enforcers' mindset, behaviour

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recognising the need for a change in the image of the law enforcement agencies, the government has finalised new uniforms for Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion, Ansar, and VDP.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury disclosed the decision after it was approved at a meeting of the Law and Order Advisory Committee at the Secretariat yesterday.

Police, Ansar, and Rab representatives wearing 18 different uniform prototypes were present in the meeting. Finally, three colours were chosen -- "iron" for police, "olive green" for Rab, and "wheat gold" for Ansar.

Asked why the government is changing the uniforms, Jahangir said that the change in uniforms symbolises the need for a shift in the law enforcers' mindset and behaviour.

"Alongside the uniforms, they must change everything, their mindset, behaviour, and conduct.

"The most important focus should be on tackling corruption. If we can eliminate corruption in this country, many of our problems will be resolved," he added.

Besides widespread corruption by the police,

## ADVISORY PANEL DECISIONS

➤ Govt allows BGB to use non-lethal weapons, including tear gas, stun grenades at borders

➤ Bangladesh to request India to revisit border agreements

➤ 33,648 illegal foreign nationals have to complete paperwork by Jan 31

➤ Action against companies who do not secure proper permission to employ foreigners

their actions targeting opposition leaders and activists drew huge flak over the past decades.

The interim government started the process of picking new uniforms for the police and other law enforcement agencies immediately after taking charge in August last year as the law enforcers were hit by a lack of morale after the uprising.

They faced harsh criticisms and deadly

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# 90-day interim govt proposed to oversee polls

Constitution Reform Commission outlines chief adviser selection process

## MD ABBAS

The Constitution Reform Commission has proposed an interim government system to oversee elections and outlined a comprehensive framework for the selection of this government's chief.

The interim government, commonly known as a caretaker government, will take over after parliament is dissolved, and ensure a smooth transition to a newly elected government. It will remain in office until the next elected government takes oath, according to the commission's proposal.

The head of the election-time government will be referred to as chief adviser. The appointment of the chief adviser will have to be finalised either 15 days before the expiry of the current assembly or within 15 days of its dissolution, recommended the reform commission, which submitted its report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on January 15.

The tenure of this government would be 90 days. However, if the national election is held before the time frame (90 days), the tenure would expire soon after the prime minister of the newly elected government is sworn in.

The commission made another suggestion of forming

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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 Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

# IMPLEMENTING CHT PEACE ACCORD

## Govt forms committee to monitor the process

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has reconstituted a three-member Implementation and Monitoring Committee to oversee the implementation process of the CHT Peace Accord.

Foreign Affairs Advisor Md Touhid Hossain has been made the convener of the new committee, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (Coordination Wing-1) on January 12.

The other two members are Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, president of the PCJSS, and Sudatta Chakma, senior secretary (equivalent rank) and chairman of the Taskforce for Tribal Refugee Affairs.

The CHT Peace Accord was signed on December 2, 1997, between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, formed by the government, and the

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Current dynamics of the economy, reform and elections

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

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## জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

QR Code স্ক্যান করুন, বিএসটিআই প্রদত্ত মান সনদের বিষয়ে নিশ্চিত হোন

- অবৈধভাবে বিএসটিআই'র লোগো ব্যবহার/নকল রাখকল্পে বিএসটিআই পণ্যের মান সনদের সাথে QR Code (Quick Response Code) প্রবর্তন করেছে;
- পণ্যের মোড়কে/লেবেলে বিএসটিআই প্রদত্ত QR Code ব্যবহার করুন;
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- পণ্যের নাম ও ছবি (Pictorial view);
- লাইসেন্স নম্বর ও মেয়াদকাল।

➤ QR Code স্ক্যান করে উপরোক্ত বিষয়গুলো নিশ্চিত হয়ে মানসম্পন্ন পণ্য ক্রয় করুন।

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বিএসটিআই, ঢাকা  
ফোন: +৮৮-০২-৫৫০৩০০৯২





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.

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 Shafiqul 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

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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

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New uniforms unveiled

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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.

Jt Interrogation Cell evidence destroyed

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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.

“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 CTC [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 definitively 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.

Trump returns to White House

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**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.

**GLOBAL LEADERS’ REACT**

For the rest of the world, Trump’s return means expecting the unexpected.

Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Trump ahead of the inauguration and said he was open to talks on the Ukraine conflict – which Trump did not mention during his speech.

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 Zelenskyy 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.”

90-day interim govt proposed

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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

chief adviser, but only if the council reaches a unanimous agreement.

If these options are not materialised, the last retired chief justice will be considered for the role of the chief adviser.

If the last retired chief justice declines, the council will sequentially approach previously retired chief justices in reverse order of their retirement until a willing candidate is identified.

If none of the former chief justices accepts the appointment, the council will then consider the most recently retired judge from the Supreme Court’s Appellate Division. The council will continue to work backwards until it finds a suitable and willing candidate.

The chief adviser will be supported by an advisory council that must not exceed 15 members. This advisory council will work collectively to ensure that the interim government fulfils its primary mandate of conducting free,

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.



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# 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.

"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



**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 "Sarbojonakotha" 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

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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: PTB

## 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,

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## 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 Joshita 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, Abdul 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, Shikkha 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 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 Shikkha Bhaban. A scuffle ensued as

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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 Chargé 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

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 পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনস্কপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি।**

পেটের খাদ্যনালী ও মলদ্বারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত যাওয়া, মলদ্বারের ফিস্টুলা, এনালফিশার, রক্ত আমাশয় (Ulcerative Colitis), **লেজার পাইলস অপারেশন, সবুজ পাইলস অপারেশন**, মলদ্বারে বার বার অপারেশনে ব্যর্থ হওয়ার কারণ, বাধাগ্রস্ত মল ত্যাগের জন্য (Obstructed Defecation) STARR অপারেশন, পেটের ভিতরে খাদ্যনালীর ক্যান্সার (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, পায়ুপথ ক্যান্সার (Rectum Cancer) মলদ্বার না কেটে অত্যাধুনিক স্ট্যাপলিং পদ্ধতিতে পেটে ব্যাগ না লাগিয়ে অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোস্কপিক পদ্ধতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, শিশুদের পায়খানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যাধুনিক ও বিশ্বমানের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হলে বইটি পড়ুন।

**বইটি লিখেছেন আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতি সম্পন্ন পাইওনিয়ার কলোরেকটাল সার্জন**

**কলোরেকটাল সার্জিরে বিশ্বব্যাপী অধিক সংখ্যক সফল অপারেশন সম্পন্নকারী সার্জন-**

**অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এ. কে. এম. ফজলুল হক**

এমবিবিএস, এফসিপিএস, এফআইসিএস  
ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কলার (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র), ফেলো কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি (সিগাপুর)  
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ), কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি বিভাগ,  
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল ইউনিভার্সিটি।

**সম্পাদনা : ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক**

এমবিবিএস (এসএসএমসি), এফসিপিএস (সার্জারি),  
এফসিপিএস (কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি)  
এফআরসিএস (ইল্যাব), এফএসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র), এফএসসিআরএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র)  
কনসালট্যান্ট ল্যাপারোস্কপিক, লেজার ও কলোরেকটাল সার্জন

**ডাঃ ফজলুল হক কলোরেকটাল হসপিটাল লিঃ**

৭২৬/এ, সাত-মসজিদ রোড, (ঈদগাহ মসজিদের বিপরীতে) ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।  
☎ ০৯৬৪৬৭১০৭২০, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৩-৬, ০২ ৪১০২৩১৫৫, ০২ ৪১০২৩১৬৮  
www.profdrakmfazlulhaque.com



## 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 Chargé d'Affaires also discussed Dhaka's ties with its neighbours, progress on resolving the Rohingya crisis, and the security situation in Myanmar.

PRAYER TIMING					
JANUARY 21					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:43	7:15	
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:47	7:45	
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 said.

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

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.

"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

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 Sultana, 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.

## 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.

## 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 Shabbagh 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.

**বাড়ি বিক্রয়**  
উত্তরা ১১ম সেক্টরের রোড নং- ৫ ও ১৪ তে, ৫ ও ৩ কাঠার পুটের উপর নির্মিত ছাফলা বিল্ডিং বিক্রয় করা হবে।  
যোগাযোগঃ ০১৭৯২ ০২৪০৭২



## INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### School of Pharmacy and Public Health

#### Department of Pharmacy

- Professor
- Lecturer

**Application Deadline**  
**Monday, February 3, 2025**

For detailed information and to apply, please visit: <http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub> or scan the QR code





### Expression of Interest (EOI)

**Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar and/or Bhasan Char Island**  
Ref. WFP/BDCO/EOI/25/001

**Empowering Lives, One E-Voucher at a Time**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is transforming food assistance for Rohingya communities in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island, through its innovative Value Vouchers (E-voucher) system. Using WFP Food Assistance Cards, beneficiaries enjoy the freedom to select from a wide range of perishable and non-perishable food, as well as some non-food items, from the E-voucher shops.

**Opportunity Alert!**

WFP is calling on experienced and dynamic local food retailers and wholesalers to partner in delivering impactful food assistance via the Electronic Voucher Programme. Join us in supporting the displaced communities and driving sustainable change in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island.

**Submit Your Expression of Interest Today!**

Retail partners will be responsible for:

- Procurement of food (and some non-food items). WFP-contracted retailers will be encouraged to procure fresh and perishable items from local producers in the Cox's Bazar district to support the local economy and/or in the Bhasan Char Island & other neighboring areas in Bangladesh.
- Implementation of a full logistics plan to transport, storage, quality check and distribute the commodities to the Cox's Bazar district (Ukhlyas, Teknaf) and/or Bhasan Char (Noakhali District)
- Running the distribution points (Electronic voucher shops) in line with the humanitarian principles/code of conduct. Strict food quality and safety standards must be implemented and maintained at all stages of the supply chain.

Interested and reputable organizations working in the food retail/wholesale business sector or relevant sector, who have the supply chain expertise and capacity to provide the services mentioned above, are kindly requested to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) to the email address: [baniprocurement@wfp.org](mailto:baniprocurement@wfp.org) by the mentioned deadline.

**Minimum Requirements:**

1. Legal registration, Trade License, VAT, or can acquire all required legal licenses needed for companies to trade in Bangladesh. (Relevant documents to be submitted)
2. Company with a minimum of 3 (three) years' experience as an established business. (Retail/Wholesale business experience is preferred) with a good understanding of the supply chain of the food commodity market in Bangladesh. Appropriate documentation (copy of Contract /Work order) to substantiate the vendor have minimum 02 (two) years of experience in similar type of works.
3. Bank Statement of company for last 2 (two) years.
4. Payment from WFP is every 15 days, twice in a month.
5. Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and/or store maintenance.
6. Ability to provide store operations manuals (including back office, logistics, etc.) in the required language.
7. Ability to comply with Bangladesh and WFP food quality standards.
8. Readiness to allocate staff to outlet locations as per the demand operation.
9. Ability to establish a well serviced warehouse for storage and quality handling.
10. Ability to store 1 (one) month food items at the warehouse.
11. Company with a minimum of 10 cores monthly working capital dedicated to the WFP E-Voucher Programme in Cox's Bazar and/or a minimum of 2 cores monthly working capital dedicated to the WFP E-Voucher Programme on Bhasan Char.
12. Willingness to improve service quality by learning and applying data analytics for business; the retail business efficiently, maintaining uninterrupted food supply, delivering high-quality service whilst maintaining cleanliness and hygiene levels.
13. Ability and willingness to procure locally produced fresh food (vegetables, eggs, chicken, live fish etc.) from the local farmers.
14. Ability to adhere to WFP's humanitarian principles and standards, including nondiscrimination against beneficiaries, and data protection requirements.

**Deadline for submission:** 10 February 2025 at 16:00 hrs Dhaka Time

**Email Subject must contain the "Ref. WFP/BDCO/EOI/25/001"; with your interest in any area/both areas:**  
**Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar and/or Bhasan Char Island Or**  
**Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar Or**  
**Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Bhasan Char Island**

### NOTICE

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH**  
**HIGH COURT DIVISION**  
**(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)**  
**COMPANY MATTER NO. 1701 OF 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF: **Khan Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman** ..... Petitioner  
**-VERSUS-** Respondent

**Averroes Limited and others**

Notice is hereby given that an application for winding up for the company namely Averroes was filed under section 241 read with Section 245 of the Companies Act, 1994 and it was moved before the competent Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and the Hon'ble Company Bench comprising of his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the application on 17.12.2024 and by the same Order restrained the respondent Nos.2 to 4 from operating the Company's Bank Account maintained with respondent No. 6-City Bank PLC, bearing Account No. 1422513615001, except for the staff salary and other incidental expenses of the company with the approval of the present petitioner i.e. the Chairman of the company for a period of 02 (two) months from date. The learned Court also directed the petitioner to file affidavit-in-compliance by 25.1.2025. The Register of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (respondent No. 5) was also directed to transmit the record of the respondent No. 1-company, (Averroes Limited) to the Hon'ble Court within 04(four) weeks from the date of receipt of the order. Anyone interested in the matter may appear in the above said matter either personally or through appointed Advocate. Copy of said application may be obtained from the under signed on payment of prescribed fees.

**(Md. Badruddoza)** Barrister-at-Law, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mcherba Plaza, 33, Tophkhana road Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Mobile: 01711540084

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Regional Director  
Directorate of Technical Education  
Barishal Division  
E-mail: [rdbarishal@gmail.com](mailto:rdbarishal@gmail.com), Web : [rd.barisal.gov.bd](http://rd.barisal.gov.bd)

Memo No: 57.03.0651.000.000.07.0000.25-35 Date: 20-01-2025

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

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

Tender ID	Description of Goods	Type/ Method	Tender opening date & time
1061467	Procurement of office Equipment (Code: 4112310)	NCT, OTM	05/02/2025 Time: 12.00
1061636	Procurement of Computer and Related (Code: 4112202)	NCT, OTM	05/02/2025 Time: 12.30

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

**১০/০১/২০২৫**  
**Md. Abul Fazal Mir**  
Regional Director (joint Secretary)  
Office of the Regional Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Barishal Division,  
Phone: +8802478830214 GD- 215

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়**  
**তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।**


**(নিয়ম নং-০১/০২২৫) বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ের ভাঙ্গা, নষ্ট ও অকেজো বিভিন্ন ইলেকট্রনিক সামগ্রী, আসবাবপত্র ও বিবিধ মালামাল নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আগামী ২৮.০১.২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ পূর্বর ১২:০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে। শর্ত সর্বসিক্ত দরপত্র সিটিউল নির্ধারিত বি. পরিশোধপূর্বক ২৩.০১.২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ অফিস ভাঙ্গালাইন সময় নিলামকারী মেসার্স কে এম কর্পোরেশন, ৩০৬, স্টাফ রোড, মারিগাবাদী, চট্টগ্রাম হাটে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আগ্রহী ক্রেতাপাল মালামালসহ আগামী ২৫.০১.২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকায় পরিদর্শন করতে পারবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্যের জন্য মেসার্স কে এম কর্পোরেশন এর ম্যানেজার জনাব মোঃ মোরশেদ মোবাইল নং-০১৬-২৪৯৮৩২১৪ এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

বিস্ত: যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/ বাতিল করার কামতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংশ্লিষ্ট করেন। এ ছাড়া নির্ধারিত দরপত্র সিটিউলে উল্লিখিত সকল শর্ত প্রতিপালন করতে হবে।

**এ. কে. এম. মনিরুজ্জামান**  
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)  
প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়  
ফোনঃ +৮৮০২৪৭০২৪৮০৫  
ই-মেইলঃ [dir15@cao.gov.bd](mailto:dir15@cao.gov.bd)

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## BANGLADESH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES


National Science & Technology Complex, Agargaon, Dhaka 1207  
Website: [www.bas.org.bd](http://www.bas.org.bd)

### Academy Awards in Science and Technology

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) announces the following awards in Science and Technology as stated below:

- 1. BAS Gold Medal Award 2024**  
Two awards, one for Physical Sciences including Engineering & Technology and another for Biological Sciences including Agriculture & Life Sciences, will be given in each of the following two groups:
  - a) Senior Group for Scientists aged 40 years or above on 31 December 2024
  - b) Junior Group for Scientists aged below 40 years on 31 December 2024
- 2. BAS-National Professor Dr. M. Innas Ali Memorial Gold Medal Award 2024**  
For a distinguished scientist with outstanding achievement in any branch of Science and Technology. There is no age bar.  
Bangladeshi scientists and technologists who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding scientific and technological work may apply for the above awards. Heads of research institutions/respective Deans of Universities/ Fellows of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences may nominate candidates for the awards or Candidates themselves may apply through their Heads of institutions directly. Each nominee/candidate is required to submit 7 copies of their bio-data along with a list of publications, technologies, patents and photocopy of 1st page of each of the important publications.  
**Note:** Those who were awarded Gold Medal in any of the above categories including BAS-Dr. MO Ghani Memorial Gold Medal and BAS-Dr. Sultan Ahmed Choudhury Science and Technology Gold Medal earlier are not eligible for nomination for any of the categories. However, gold medal awardees in category 1 under junior group may be nominated for award in the senior group, if eligible. Any one candidate may apply for only one of the categories.  
Application/nomination for the above awards must reach the Secretary of the Academy by **20 February 2025** at the latest.

**Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan**  
Secretary



## 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:

	Ministry/Division																																
1.	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division																																
2.	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation																																
3.	Purchaser Name Eastern Refinery Limited																																
4.	Purchaser District Chattogram																																
5.	Invitation for Goods																																
6.	Reference Number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ERL/PUR/IT- 11/2025</li> <li>b) ERL/PUR/IT- 12/2025</li> <li>c) ERL/PUR/IT- 13/2025</li> <li>d) ERL/PUR/IT- 14/2025</li> <li>e) ERL/PUR/IT- 15/2025</li> <li>f) ERL/PUR/IT- 16/2025</li> <li>g) ERL/PUR/IT- 17/2025</li> </ul>																																
7.	Date 19 January, 2025																																
<b>KEY INFORMATION:</b>																																	
8.	Procurement Method International Open Tendering Method																																
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION:</b>																																	
9.	Budget and Source of Funds Eastern Refinery Limited (Own Fund)																																
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION:</b>																																	
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)																																
<b>NAME &amp; ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE (S):</b>																																	
14.	Tender Document Selling Address i) Accounts Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. Phone: 88-02-33301261-7 ii) ERL Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1/1 Pioneer Road, Kakrai, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Phone: 880-2-8391990, 8391991																																
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.																																
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17.	Eligibility of Tenderer As per Tender Data Sheet																																
18.	Brief Description of Goods:																																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Price of Tender Document(Non-refundable)</th> <th>Tender security</th> <th>Shipment validity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) Various Seamless &amp; ERW Pipes</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 220,000.00 Or, USD 1800.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Spares for Chinese Cooling Tower</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 18,000.00 Or, USD 150.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Swivel Joint for Roof Drain of Crude Oil Storage Floating Roof Tank</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 100,000.00 Or, USD 830.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Single Phase AC Motor for HP Actuator of Ehara STG</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 60,000.00 Or, USD 500.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Spares for Puharjur Cooling Tower</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 20,000.00 Or, USD 165.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f) Various Fire Fighting Equipments</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 120,000.00 Or, USD 1000.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g) Corrosion Inhibitor NALCO EC 1007A.15</td> <td>Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set</td> <td>Tk. 40,000.00 Or, USD 335.00</td> <td>75 Days</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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 Ehara STG	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 60,000.00 Or, USD 500.00	75 Days	e) Spares for Puharjur 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 Equipments	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 120,000.00 Or, USD 1000.00	75 Days	g) Corrosion Inhibitor NALCO EC 1007A.15	Tk. 1000.00/-set Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 40,000.00 Or, USD 335.00	75 Days
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19.	Name of Official Inviting Tender Md. Siddiqueur Rahman																																
20.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender Assist. 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: 880-233301261-67, Ext. 380 Fax: 880-233301269, Website: <a href="http://www.erl.gov.bd">www.erl.gov.bd</a> Email: <a href="mailto:genpurchaser@erl.com.bd">genpurchaser@erl.com.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:officeerl@erl.com.bd">officeerl@erl.com.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:bd-office@erl.com.bd">bd-office@erl.com.bd</a>																																
23.	a) The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/ opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.																																

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BNP leader arrested for sexual harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pubna

An expelled BNP leader was arrested on the charge of sexual harassment in Sirajganj Sadar upazila on Sunday.

A local court sent the arrestee to jail on Sunday afternoon, police confirmed yesterday.

The arrestee, Juel Rana, hailing from the Char Solimabad area in Chowhali upazila, was the organising secretary of the Chowhali upazila unit of BNP before he was expelled from the post on January 14.

Juel allegedly sexually harassed a young boy in his village on January 11, said Jiaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chowhali Police Station.

The victim's father filed a case against Juel with the police station. Juel has been in hiding since then, added the OC.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab arrested Juel from Sirajganj town and later handed him over to police, the OC said.

The Sirajganj district unit of BNP expelled Juel from his post for violating the party's decorum.

Tobacco cultivation surge sparks alarm



S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Tobacco cultivation in the Rangpur region has increased significantly this year, with 19,250 hectares of land now under cultivation, up from 13,349 hectares last year, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension.

The department has expressed concern over this rise, noting that the cultivation area stood at 10,820 hectares in 2023.

Officials report that 60 percent of the region's tobacco is produced in Lalmonirhat, followed by 20 percent in Rangpur, 15 percent in Nilphamari, and 5 percent in Gaibandha.

Farmers, meanwhile, cite the high profitability of tobacco as a reason for its increased cultivation.

Sejab Ali, a farmer from Tiparbazar village in Aditmari, expanded his tobacco farming from four bighas last year to seven this year, earning Tk 2,77,200 from 33 maunds of tobacco in 2024 while spending Tk 86,000.

Abdul Quader, a veteran farmer from Mominpur village in Rangpur Sadar, has

been cultivating tobacco for 39 years and noted a sharp rise in its production this year. He doubled his cultivation from five to 10 bighas, attributing the trend to higher market prices and the support provided by tobacco companies, including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and interest-free loans.

Omar Faruk, agriculture officer of Aditmari upazila, criticised tobacco companies for encouraging cultivation, which he said depletes soil fertility and hampers food production.

Obaidur Rahman Mandal, additional director of DAE in Rangpur, said tobacco cultivation, though lucrative for farmers, harms the soil, environment, and human health.

He said the DAE cannot take firm measures as tobacco cultivation has not been officially banned, adding that its unchecked growth poses a severe risk to agriculture. Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner HM Raqib Hayder said measures to curb tobacco cultivation would be taken in consultation with the agriculture department, and the matter has been reported to higher authorities.

US Coast Guard team to visit Ctg port today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A delegation from the United States Coast Guard is scheduled to visit Chattogram Port today to evaluate its security and operations related facilities.

The four-member delegation of US Coast Guard, led by Lt Commander Khiem Nagy, arrived in Dhaka on January 18 on a six-day visit under its International Port Security (IPS) programme.

The team, during its two-day visit to Chattogram, will meet Chattogram Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, and inspect and assess if the port's security measures are in place and related facilities including private off-docks comply with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, sources said.

The team will visit different port facilities, a private off-dock Ispahani Summit Alliance Container Terminal Ltd, another private ICD named Incontrade Container Ltd, and Patenga Container Terminal of the port.

Ctg-Cox's Bazar route gets 2 new trains from Feb 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two new intercity trains will start operating on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar route from February 1.

Bangladesh Railway issued a letter in this regard yesterday, and instructed its departments to allocate manpower, locomotives, coaches for the trains' operation.

The trains – Saikat and Prabal express – will have 743 seats each, said the letter signed by Kamal Akter Hossain, additional chief operating superintendent of BR (East Zone).

BASHUNDHARA GROUP Probe 470-acre Ctg land allocation: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to form a committee to investigate allegations of irregularities in allocating 470 acres of land in Chattogram to Bashundhara Group by misclassifying the land as wetlands.

The land secretary, cabinet secretary, chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, director general of Land Records and Survey Department, and divisional commissioner of Chattogram have been directed to comply.

The committee has been asked to submit a report to the court within three months, stating its progress.

The HC also issued a rule asking why the land allocation to Bashundhara Group should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Mubina Asaf issued the order after hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Kawsar in December last year as public interest litigation.

The petition was based on a report published on October 10 by the online portal "Bangla Outlook," titled "Bashundhara allocated land by showing them wetland."

The petitioner challenged the legality of the allocation and sought an order of probe into the allegations. Lawyer Kawsar moved the writ petition before the HC himself.

After the HC order, he told The Daily Star that the land, originally classified as sandy beach land, was reclassified as wetland to facilitate its allocation.

This reclassification resulted in a long term lease at a significantly lower cost, depriving the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চশিক্ষা বিভাগ

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট

১/ক, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা ১০০০

[www.imli.gov.bd](http://www.imli.gov.bd)

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১.	বিভাগ/মন্ত্রণালয়	মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	সংস্থা	আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
৩.	সম্প্রদায়িক সভা	পরিচালক, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট, ঢাকা
৪.	সম্প্রদায়িক সভার মেলা	ঢাকা
৫.	যে বাস্তবের জন্য দরপত্র	১। আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক ত্রয় ২। আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি ত্রয়
৬.	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	৩৭.২৬.০০০০.১০৭.১৮.০০১.২৪-৬৪(২) ও তারিখ ২০-০১-২০২৪
৭.	যোগাযোগের নথি নং	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (Open Tendering Method)
৮.	বাছোটি তথ্যের সূত্র	রাষ্ট্রপতি নির্দেশ (বাংলাদেশ সরকার)
৯.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নাম	১। আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক ত্রয় ২। আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি ত্রয়
১০.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রকাশের তারিখ	২১/১১/২০২৪
১১.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ	০৫/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন শনি
১২.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	০৪/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা- ০১:০০টায়
১৩.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা- ০২:০০টায়
১৪.	দরপত্র দলিল বিজ্ঞপ্তি	প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা, দফা নং ৩০৬, সেগুন-৩, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
১৫.	(ক) দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
১৬.	(খ) দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	সম্মেলন কক্ষ (৩য় তলা), আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
১৭.	কাজের সূত্রের বর্ণনা	(ক) দরপত্রের সাথে বাংলাদেশ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট, আয়ের সমস্ত সরকারি কর গণনা করা হবে। (খ) কাজের পরিধি, টেন্ডারের যোগ্যতা এবং অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে উল্লেখ থাকবে।
১৮.	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্যাকেজ-১ কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক (হেডসেট-১০টি, ল্যাপটপ-১টি, প্রিন্টার-১টি) প্যাকেজ-২ বিভিন্ন কাস্টমার-১টি, ফিউসবলবার কাস্টমার-১টি, ফটোকপি মেশিন-১টি
১৯.	টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিগতি	আমরা প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা নির্ধারণের নাম <i>০০০০/-</i> (শীতল) টাকা প্রদানপূর্বক প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিগতি সত্যকৃত হবে এবং পরবর্তীতে দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। প্যাকেজ ১-এর ক্ষেত্রে ২০,০০০/- (দুইশ হাজার) টাকা পরিচালক, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট এর অনুমোদিত কর্মসিদ্ধিগতি প্যাকেজ পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্যাকেজ ২-এর ক্ষেত্রে ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা পরিচালক, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট এর অনুমোদিত কর্মসিদ্ধিগতি প্যাকেজ পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দাখিল করতে হবে।
২০.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	পরিচালক, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট, ফোন ৮-৩১১৩৪৬
২১.	কোনো কারণে দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	পরিচালক, আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট, ফোন ৮-৩১১৩৪৬

গ্রেফেন্ডার ড. মুহাম্মদ আব্দুল্লাহ

পরিচালক

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট



**Office of the Project Director**

Reviving the Technology of Muslin Yarn & Muslin Fabrics 'the Golden Heritage of Bangladesh' (2nd Phase) Project

Bangladesh Handloom Board


BTMC Bhaban (3rd Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

[www.bhb.gov.bd](http://www.bhb.gov.bd)

**Invitation for Tenders (OTM)**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Textiles & Jute
2	Agency	Bangladesh Handloom Board
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Selection of agency for the procurement of manpower on Outsourcing basis. (Non-Consultancy Service)
6	Invitation Ref. No.	24.05.0000.548.14.002.24-03, Date: 20.01.2025
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), NCT
8	Budget & source of funds	Development Budget, GoB
9	Project name	Reviving the Technology of Muslin Yarn & Muslin Fabrics 'the Golden Heritage of Bangladesh' (2nd Phase) Project.
10	Tender Package No.	Service-02
11	Tender publication date	21.01.2025
12	Tender last selling date	03.02.2025 at 04.00pm
13	Tender closing date & time	04.02.2025 at 12.00pm
14	Tender opening date & time	04.02.2025 at 1.00pm
15	- Selling tender document - Receiving tender document - Opening tender document	Project Director Office, Reviving the Technology of Muslin Yarn & Muslin Fabrics 'the Golden Heritage of Bangladesh' (2nd Phase) Project, BTMC Bhaban (3rd Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
16	Eligibility of tenderer	i) Any Manpower supplying agency having up-to-date trade license, income tax submission certificate & VAT registration certificate with e-BIN. ii) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 3 (Three) years. iii) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least 2 two contract of similar nature (Manpower Supply), complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of three (3) years each with a value of at least of Tk. 5,00,000.00 (Five lac) shall be required. iv) The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 5,00,000.00 (Five lac) over the last 03 (three) years. v) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 5,00,000.00 (Five lac) vi) Other qualifications as mentioned in the Tender documents.
17	Brief description of services	Supply of 1 (one) Office Assistant-cum-Computer Operator and 1 (one) Office Sohayok on outsourcing basis.
18	Price of tender document	Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand) only.
19	Pkg. No.	Identification of package
20	Service-02	2 Nos. outsourcing manpower
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Location Dhaka Tender security Tk. 15,000.00 Completion time 12 months Phone: 02-55012769
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

Project Director



**বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানি লিমিটেড**

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

**Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd.**

(A Company of Petrobangla)

**INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NOTICE**

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFL), A Company of Petrobangla
3.	Procuring Entity	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFL)
4.	Procuring Entity Code	----
5.	Procuring Entity District	Brahmanbaria
6.	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Ref. No. BGFL/GOODS(FP)/221(R) Dated January 19, 2025
7.	Invitation for	Procurement of Ball Bearing, Bushing & Coupling under <b>Group-A</b> , Seamless Stainless Steel Tubing & Tube Fittings, Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe, Stud Bolt with Nuts, Pressure Gauge Snubber, Pressure Gauge & Blind Flange under <b>Group-B</b> , Direct Spring Pressure Relief Valve and Ball Valve under <b>Group-C</b> and Portable Pneumatic Calibrator under <b>Group-D</b> .
8.	Procurement Method	Single stage two-envelope open tendering (International Competitive tendering)
9.	Budget & Source of Fund	Own Fund of BGFL
10.	Tender Publication Date	January 20, 2025
11.	Tender Selling Date & Time	a) Tender documents will be available between 09:00 hrs & 15:00 hrs (BST) on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from January 21, 2025 to February 18, 2025. No extension in closing date for selling of tender documents will be allowed. b) <b>Place:</b> BGFL's Liaison Office at Petrocentre (14 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 3 Kawan Bazar C/A, Dhaka. c) <b>Price of Tender Document:</b> Tender documents will be sold on payment of USD 20.00 or BDT. 2,400.00 (Non-refundable)
12.	Tender Closing Date & Time	a) <b>Date &amp; time:</b> February 19, 2025 up to 14:15 hrs (BST). b) <b>Place:</b> BGFL Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400.
13.	Tender Opening Date & Time	a) <b>Date &amp; time:</b> February 19, 2025 at 14:30 hrs (BST) in presence of the Tenderer's representatives, if any. b) <b>Place:</b> BGFL Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400.
14.	Date, Time & Place for Pre- Tender meeting	Not Applicable
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer	Reputed firms, manufacturers and suppliers from all countries except Israel with the following international experience : (a) Tenderer must have overall minimum 05 (five) years experience. (b) If the tenderer is not the manufacturer himself, the tenderer must submit Authorization Letter from the manufacturer or manufacturer's authorized distributor to prove the quoted materials are genuine. (c) Tenderer shall have experience in supplying similar materials to other than the Tenderer's own country. (d) Manufacturer shall have minimum 10 (ten) years experience in manufacturing the offered products. (e) Manufacturer shall have valid ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 certificates as well as tenderer shall have valid ISO 9001 certificate.
16.	Description of Goods	Ball Bearing, Bushing & Coupling under <b>Group-A</b> , Seamless Stainless Steel Tubing & Tube Fittings, Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe, Stud Bolt with Nuts, Pressure Gauge Snubber, Pressure Gauge & Blind Flange under <b>Group-B</b> , Direct Spring Pressure Relief Valve and Ball Valve under <b>Group-C</b> and Portable Pneumatic Calibrator under <b>Group-D</b> .
17.	Tender Security Amount	Group-A: USD 590.00 or BDT. 71,500.00 Group-B: USD 540.00 or BDT. 66,000.00 Group-C: USD 410.00 or BDT. 50,000.00 Group-D: USD 1,550.00 or BDT. 1,90,000.00 In the form of Bank Guarantee only
18.	Delivery Time	120 days from the date of L/C opening for Group-A, Group-B & Group-C and 180 days from the date of L/C opening for Group-D
19.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Ashrafur Alam
20.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Operation) & General Manager (Technical Services)-Additional Charge
21.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFL), Head Office, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400, Bangladesh, Telephone no. +880 1711-807979 E-mail: prbgfcl@gmail.com / dgmpf@bgfcl.org.bd
22.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	
Special Information	i) Tenders must remain valid for 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of closing of the tender. ii) The tender security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty eight) days from the date of closing of the tender. iii) In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. declared holiday, etc. tender will be received and opened on the following working day. iv) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. v) Tender submitted by e-mail will be rejected. Likewise photocopy of e-mailed tenders will also be rejected. vi) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders or annul the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected tenderers. vii) This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rule 2008. The aforesaid notice is also available at BPPA website @ <a href="http://www.cptu.gov.bd">http://www.cptu.gov.bd</a> , Petrobangla website @ <a href="http://www.petrobangla.org.bd">www.petrobangla.org.bd</a> and BGFL website @ <a href="http://www.bgfcl.org.bd">www.bgfcl.org.bd</a> .	

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4 ColumX13"

Engr. Md. Ashrafur Alam  
General Manager (Operation) and  
General Manager (Technical Services)-Additional Charge





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."

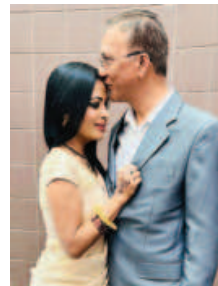
Tama mentioned that *Daagi* is a film for all types of audiences. "It has a compelling family oriented storyline, on top of which viewers will get to witness an extraordinary narrative," she added. "I believe that *Daagi* will be one of the best films in Afran Nisho Bhai's career," says a confident Tama.

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 flaunts 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

Parbatya 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.

## Touhid leaves

FROM PAGE 12

and deliver speeches at the China Institute of International Studies and the Shanghai Institute of International Studies.

Moreover, Touhid will visit Chinese industries and engage with business representatives in China in order to increase Chinese investments in Bangladesh.

Key priorities for the visit include renegotiating loan terms, such as reducing interest rates from the current 2-3% to 1%, waiving commitment fees, and extending grace periods from 15 years to 30 years, according to a foreign ministry official.

Duty-free access for Bangladeshi products following its graduation from the Least-Developed Country (LDC) bracket in 2026, as well as increased Chinese investment and higher exports to China, will also be pursued.

"Economic issues will dominate the discussions. Bangladesh's trade and economic relations with China are vital," Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said at a pre-departure briefing.

Bangladesh will also seek Chinese assistance with Rohingya repatriation, as well as support in the railways, shipping, and health sectors, he added.

During a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen on Sunday, Touhid said Dhaka wants Beijing to designate at least three to four top-tier hospitals in Kunming, close to Bangladesh, to provide improved medical treatment to visiting Bangladeshi citizens.

He said Bangladesh is prepared to provide land and logistical support for establishing a full-fledged tertiary-level Chinese hospital in Purbachal, on the outskirts of Dhaka.

## 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.

## Military, minority armed group agree ceasefire

FROM PAGE 12

It is part of the so-called Three Brotherhood Alliance, with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Arakan Army, that launched an offensive against the military junta in late October 2023 seizing swathes of territory near the border with China.

The MNDAA, made up of ethnic Chinese, said last July it had taken control of a major military base near the Chinese border.

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.

## 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 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 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.

## 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 Lutefey Siddiqi and Principal Coordinator on SDG Affairs Lamiya Morshed are accompanying Yunus.

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



Houthis will only target Israeli-linked vessels

Says the Yemeni group after Gaza ceasefire

REUTERS, London

Yemen's Houthis 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 Houthis 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 Houthis 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.

# 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 normalisation of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, an effort he made during his 2017-2021 presidency and which Biden has also pursued.

## ‘Thank God I’m outside’ Gaza families celebrate after prisoners released by Israel

AGENCIES

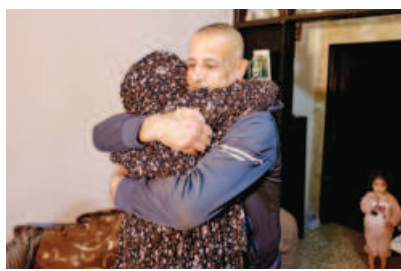
About 90 Palestinian prisoners have been released in exchange for three Israeli hostages handed over by Hamas to Israel, as part of Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal aimed at ending 15 months of offensive.

The prisoners, most of whom were freed in the early hours of yesterday from Ofer prison in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, were welcomed by thousands of people celebrating, waving the flags of Palestine and Hamas.

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

Mothers, fathers, siblings and friends had waited for hours in the cold to embrace their loved ones as part of the agreement.

Among those released was Shatha Jarabaa, 24, who was arrested over a



social media post criticising the "brutality" of Israel's campaign in Gaza. "I'm very happy! Thank God I'm outside. They treated me very bad in prison. It was horrible," she told the Guardian.

She was greeted by her father, Nawaf Jarabaa, 63, who said earlier: "I'm happy, but not too happy ... My daughter was arrested simply for expressing her ideas ... The thing that bothers me the most is

that people think that the Israelis have only behaved this way towards us since 7 October, but the truth is that it has always been like this."

His anticipation was also tempered by the fact that two other children were not included in the deal.

Another prisoner released was Ahmad Khsha, 18, who was arrested in January 2024 in Jenin. "They arrested me because my brother died during a shootout in Jenin. After he died, they arrested me. They raided our cells on Saturday before releasing us and threw teargas at us. They tortured us in the cell, every day. They also tortured and mistreated the women."

Osama Shadeh, who was waiting to be reunited with his 17-year-old daughter Aseel, said: "It's hard to describe the emotion we're feeling at this moment."

## 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.

## 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."

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কুষ্টিয়া-ঝিনাইদহ, বাংলাদেশ  
ফোন: +৮৮-০২৪৭৭৭৮৬৭০৪ (অফিস), ০২-৪৭৭৭৮৬৮৯ (বাস)  
ফ্যাক্স: +৮৮-০২৪৭৭৭৮৬৭০৪-০২৪৭৭৭৮৬৭১৫/২২০৬ (অফিস)  
ই-মেইল: registrar@iu.ac.bd, Website: www.iu.ac.bd

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**Islamic University**  
**Kushtia-Jhenaidah, Bangladesh**  
Phone: +88-02477786704 (Office), 02-477783489 (Residence)  
PABX : +88-02477786710-02477786715/2206 (Office)  
Fax : +88-02477786705  
E-mail: registrar@iu.ac.bd, Website: www.iu.ac.bd

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### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় বেতন ভাতাদিসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের ছাত্রী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক	বিভাগের নাম	পদের নাম, সংখ্যা ও বেতন স্কেল	আবেদনের বিষয়
০১.	আল-কুরআন এন্ড ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ	প্রভাষক ০৫টি স্থায়ী [২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/= গ্রেড-৯]	আল-কুরআন এন্ড ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ
০২.	সোস্যাল ওয়েলফেয়ার	প্রভাষক ০৪টি স্থায়ী [২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/= গ্রেড-৯]	সোস্যাল ওয়েলফেয়ার
০৩.	ফার্মেসি	প্রভাষকঃ ০২টি অস্থায়ী (এর মধ্যে ০১টি অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে ও ০১টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) [২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/= গ্রেড-৯]	ফার্মেসি
০৪.	বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	প্রভাষকঃ ০২টি (এর মধ্যে ০১টি স্থায়ী ও ০১টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) [২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/= গ্রেড-৯]	বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং
০৫.	জিওগ্রাফী এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্ট	প্রভাষকঃ ০২টি অস্থায়ী (এর মধ্যে ০১টি অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে ও ০১টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে) [২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/= গ্রেড-৯]	জিওগ্রাফী এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্ট

আবেদন ফরম, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী অগ্রাধিকারিত (পিএলসি) ইবি শাখা, কুষ্টিয়া এবং ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের website: [www.iu.ac.bd](http://www.iu.ac.bd) এ পাওয়া যাবে। আবেদনপত্র আগামী ১৮/০২/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার, ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কুষ্টিয়া (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) বরাবর পৌছাতে হবে।

(এইচ.এম. আলী হাসান)  
রেজিস্ট্রার (দারখাস্ত)  
ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-212

**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](http://www.mowca.gov.bd)

Memo: MoWCA/ISO/Recruitment/07/2025.10

Date: 20.01.2025

### 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) ( <a href="http://www.mowca.gov.bd">www.mowca.gov.bd</a> ) 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.	Detailed information about Experience and Scope of Services are available in ToR
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.	

a. 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**).

b. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) are available in the MoWCA official website: [www.mowca.gov.bd](http://www.mowca.gov.bd), [www.cptu.gov.bd](http://www.cptu.gov.bd).

c. The consultants will be selected using the selection of Individual Consultant in accordance with the current World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, September 2023, and Public Procurement Rules, 2008.

d. Expressions of Interest shall be submitted by **10th February, 2025 at 12:00pm** on weekdays either in sealed envelope sent to Project Director and be clearly marked Expression of Interest for the above-mentioned position. The soft copy must be sent by email ([dpdisomowca24@gmail.com](mailto:dpdisomowca24@gmail.com)).

e. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all REOIS.

f. Professional men and women are highly appreciated to apply. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as ineligibility of the candidates. Persons who are in service should submit application through proper channel, otherwise applications will be rejected. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all REOIs without showing any reason whatever.

**Md. Firoz Uddin Khalifa**  
Project Director (Joint Secretary)  
ISO for Human Capital Development and Livelihood Project  
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)  
Room No. 811, 7th Floor, Paribahan Pool Bhaban  
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: +880-02-55101121  
E-mail: [pdismowca24@gmail.com](mailto:pdismowca24@gmail.com)

GD-209



## 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.

# 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 KHATUN

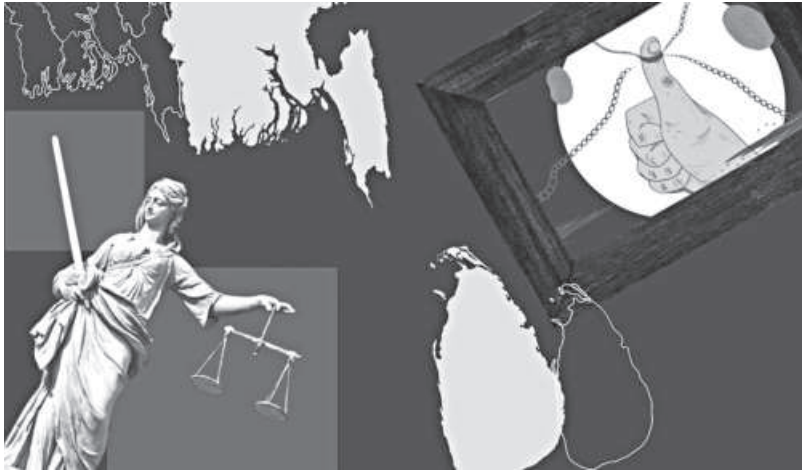
The student-led mass movement in July-August 2024 marked a significant turning point in Bangladesh's sociopolitical and economic history. This movement emerged in response to widespread grievances among people from all walks of life. Unemployment reached alarming levels, leaving millions of youth disenchanted 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—aspiring 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.



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 dismally 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

## Outsourced workers and WPPF



**Mokarramus Shaklan**  
*is an advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He can be reached at [legalethos@outlook.com](mailto: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 233(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 Imman 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.



# 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](mailto: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.

### Public diplomacy and countering negative perceptions

During his first term, Trump's rhetoric on Bangladesh was occasionally influenced

by 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 Kathalbagan 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 Hatirheel Lake, the delicate water retention system of the area, disrupted the



**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

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 doyl 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?

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**Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)**  
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-3)  
NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj-6700.

**Ref: 27.28.8878.301.07.001.20.017****Date: 20/01/2025**

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The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://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 2:00 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](http://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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**(Shyamal Kumar Das)**  
Plant Manager (S.E.)  
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-3)  
NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj-6700.  
Contact No.: + 880177736401

GD-205





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

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

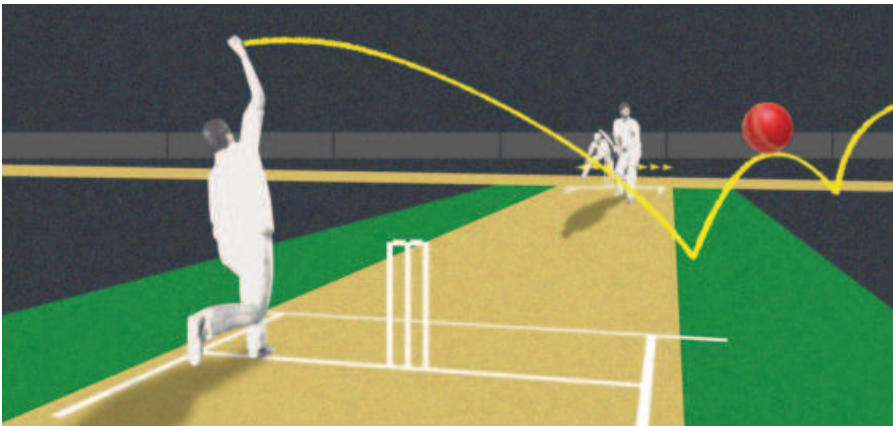
SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

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 Ruyel Miah matched him with four more. Two of



those came in the 16th over against Liton, one producing a bye run as well. Ruyel 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.

## 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.

## 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-owned 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.

## 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, 3-6, 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.

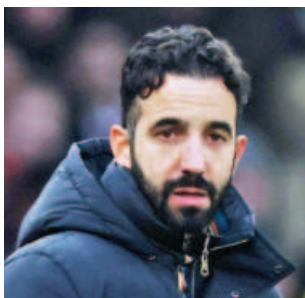
He refused to say exactly what was wrong with him, only that he was "not there health-wise" and had been "a bit dizzy at times".

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."

**"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.



## 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 the table 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-placed 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.



বাংলাদেশ সাবমেরিন ক্যাবলস পিএলসি (বিএসসিপিএলসি)

রহমান'স রেগনাম সেন্টার (৮ম ও ৯ম তলা)

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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 ৪০% নগদ লভ্যাংশ বিধি মোতাবেক সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণের ব্যাংক হিসাবে গত ২৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪খ্রিঃ তারিখে প্রেরণ সম্পন্ন হয়েছে। ব্যাংক হিসাবে প্রেরণ সত্ত্বেও যে সকল লভ্যাংশ ওয়ারেন্ট ফেরত এসেছে তার বিপরীতে এমআইসিআর লভ্যাংশ ওয়ারেন্ট বিতরণের নিমিত্ত প্রস্তুত রয়েছে। তাছাড়া সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণ কর্তৃক হালসনসহ বিগত তিন অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঘোষিত লভ্যাংশের আয়কর সনদ ও পরিশোধের মাধ্যম সংক্রান্ত তথ্য কোম্পানির তথ্য বাতায়নের মাধ্যমে (লিংক <http://15.206.221.72:8099/>) ২৪/৭/২৪ তারিখে সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত প্রস্তুত রয়েছে।

এমআইসিআর, বিএসসিপিএলসি'র যে সকল সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডার/বিনিয়োগকারীগণ এখনো ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঘোষিত নগদ লভ্যাংশের ওয়ারেন্ট সংগ্রহ করেননি তাদেরকে অনতিবিলম্বে কোম্পানির প্রধান কার্যালয়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপযুক্ত প্রমাণকসহ হাজির হয়ে বর্ণিত নগদ লভ্যাংশের ওয়ারেন্ট প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে বিগত সনসমূহেরসহ) সংগ্রহের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো। একইসাথে সকল সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণকে বর্ণিত লভ্যাংশের আয়কর সনদ ও পরিশোধের মাধ্যম সংক্রান্ত তথ্য কোম্পানির তথ্য বাতায়নের উপস্থিতি লিংক হতে সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য যে, ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরের জন্য ঘোষিত নগদ লভ্যাংশ হতে উৎসে কর্তৃত কর বিবিধ সময়ের মধ্যে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা প্রদান করা হবে।

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ে যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডার/বিনিয়োগকারীগণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরাসরি উপস্থিত হয়ে অথবা ৮৮০২ ২২৬৬০৩১৫-৬ ফোন নাম্বারে অথবা [cs@bscc.com](mailto:cs@bscc.com) তিকানায় ই-মেইল প্রেরণের মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

তারিখ, ঢাকা

(২০ জানুয়ারি, ২০২৫খ্রিঃ)

স্বা/-

মোহাম্মদ জাকিরুল আলম

কোম্পানি সচিব (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)

ফোনঃ ০২২২৬৬০৩১৩ (অফিস)

ই-মেইলঃ [cs@bsccplc.gov.bd](mailto:cs@bsccplc.gov.bd)

GD-202



## SHORT CORNER

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).

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.

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

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 convener 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-Augus-5 reforms, would do well if it withstood the pressure from the Dhaka clubs and implement these much-needed reforms before time runs out.

## 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*



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## OUR FOOTPRINT SINCE 2015





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



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



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 Kheyaghat area of Rupsha upazila recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

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

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

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

The planning ministry formed the task force to develop strategies to boost the economy and mobilise resources for equitable and sustainable development.

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.

- Next hostage-prisoner swap on Saturday
- Palestinians begin searching for people under rubble
- 630 aid trucks enter into Gaza, says UN relief chief

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 SHUMON

## শৌক সংবাদ

বরিশাল জেলার বাকেরগঞ্জ উপজেলার কুতিসন্তান বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সিআইপি এবং প্রিটি গ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ এর সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোহাম্মদ আলী তালুকদার ফরুক গত ১৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ইং রাত আনুমানিক ১০ঃ৩০ ঘটিকায় চেম্বারের এগ্যাপোলো হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় শেষ নিশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন (ইল্লালিদ্দাহি ওয়াইল্লা ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

গত ১৮ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ইং বাদ এশা মরহুমের প্রথম নামাজের জানাজা গুলশান কেন্দ্রীয় জামে মসজিদে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। দ্বিতীয় নামাজের জানাজা ১৯ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০ ঘটিকায় নিজ গ্রাম আফলকাঠি সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ের মাঠে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় এবং পরিবারিক কবরস্থানে তাঁর দাফন কার্য সম্পন্ন করা হয়। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৭৩ বছর এবং তিনি স্ত্রী, চার ছেলে ও দুই মেয়েসহ অসংখ্য আত্মীয় স্বজন, সহকর্মী, শুশ্রূষা ও শুভানুধ্যায়ী রেখে গেছেন।

আমাদের প্রানিয়য় চেয়ারম্যান মহোদয়ের মৃত্যুতে প্রিটি গ্রুপের সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীগণ গভীরভাবে শোকাহত আনুগোচর বিদেহী আত্মার শান্তি কামনা করছি এবং শোকাহত পরিবারবর্গের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা ও সহানুভূতি জ্ঞাপন করতঃ দোয়া করছি যেন মহান আল্লাহ তায়ালা ওনার পরিবারের সদস্যদের এই শোক সত্ত্ব করার তৌফিক দান করেন এবং মরহুমকে জannahুল ফেরদৌস নসিব করেন। - আমিন।

**PRETTY GROUP**

প্রিটি গ্রুপের সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ