



## PUBLIC ADMIN REFORMS

# Cluster system may be proposed for ministries

### Commission likely to suggest reducing number of ministries, divs to 30 from 55

BAHARAM KHAN

The Public Administration Reform Commission is likely to recommend reducing the number of ministries and divisions to 30 from 55 to improve coordination and slash the government's operational cost.

It may also propose allowing political appointments for personal secretaries (PS) to the prime minister, ministers, the Speaker, and other senior policymakers in the government.

Led by Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, the reform commission is deliberating whether to suggest the introduction of clusters of ministries and designating officials of certain cadres to a particular cluster.

Besides, proposals to divide the country into four administrative provinces and upgrading the standard of Bangladesh Civil Service exam questions are expected, said sources with knowledge of the matter.

#### POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ 50pc promotions to DS reserved for non-admin cadres
- ➔ Personal secretaries of high-ups to be political appointees
- ➔ Country may have four administrative provinces
- ➔ Ministries could be grouped in 5 or 6 clusters
- ➔ Govt employees' associations may have restrictions

The commission is expected to submit its recommendations on January 31 with a view to building a pro-people, accountable, skilled, and neutral public administration.

#### CLUSTER SYSTEM

The reform commission is planning to recommend five or six clusters of ministries and divisions where officers of certain cadres would be working, said the sources.

For example, a cluster focused on food security may include ministries like agriculture, food, environment, fisheries and livestock, and disaster management.

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday met UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of World Economic Forum (WEF) summit in Davos, Switzerland.

PHOTO: PID

## Draft cyber ordinance gets a scrubbing

### 9 provisions scrapped; once effective, most cases under DSA, CSA to be dismissed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When the new cyber protection law comes into effect, a majority of the cases filed under its predecessors -- Digital Security Act and Cyber Security Act -- will automatically be dismissed.

Defamation, cyberbullying, and hurting of religious sentiments, among others, will be decriminalised, said the ICT Division secretary and the division's policy adviser at a press conference held at the ICT Tower yesterday while unveiling the amended version of the

draft Cyber Protection Ordinance.

On December 26, 2024, the cabinet had approved the draft, but the draft drew flak from different quarters as it retained much of the controversial provisions of its predecessors.

At the press conference, Secretary Shish Haider Chowdhury said the government has scrapped nine provisions in the draft Cyber Protection Ordinance that were remnants of the DSA and the CSA.

These provisions criminalised, among

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## Make right to vote a fundamental right

### Constitution reform body proposes

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Constitutional Reform Commission proposes voting to be recognised as a fundamental right, so that people can seek legal remedies if it is violated.

Members of the commission say that this constitutional recognition will allow people to go to courts if they cannot exercise their voting rights.

This change will also help rid the country of elections in which many people cannot cast their votes and compel the Election Commission to arrange free and fair elections.

The reform commission proposes expanding the fundamental rights to include food, shelter, vote, and internet.

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#### 2018 NATIONAL POLLS

## ACC to probe roles of Hasina, ROs, chiefs of police, Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to probe the roles of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, chiefs of police and Rab, returning officers, and others in the December 30, 2018, national polls.

During a press briefing yesterday, ACC Director General (prevention) Akhtar Hossain said allegations of various irregularities, such as ballot-box stuffing the night before the election, voter fraud, falsely reporting voter turnout above 90 percent at certain centres, illegal financial transactions, and abuse of power to ensure the victory of certain candidates, have been reported by various media and filed with the ACC.

A five-member team has been formed to probe these allegations, said Akhtar, adding that the team would analyse videos, reports from local and international media, election result sheets, and other necessary materials to prepare and submit their findings.

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## NBR revises down VAT, SD on 9 items

	BEFORE	AFTER	REVISED
Mobile phone use	20%	23%	20%
Internet	0%	10%	0%
Restaurant	5%	15%	5%
Non-AC hotel	7.5%	15%	10%
Auto-workshop	10%	15%	10%
Branded clothing store	7.5%	15%	10%
Non-branded clothing store	7.5%	15%	7.5%
Sweetmeat	7.5%	15%	10%
Trade VAT on medicine	2.4%	3%	2.4%

SOURCE: NBR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue yesterday revised down the value-added tax and supplementary duty (SD) on nine goods and services, including mobile phone usage, internet services and medicine.

The revision comes nearly two weeks after the government hiked the rates of about 100 goods and services, drawing criticism that the move would stoke inflation, which has remained over 9 percent since March 2023.

VAT on clothes, restaurants, sweets, non-AC hotels and motor workshops has been slashed, said the NBR in a press release.

The NBR restored SD on mobile phone usage to 20 percent from 23 percent and withdrew the 10 percent SD on broadband internet services.

Trade VAT on medicine has been rolled back to the previous rate of 2.4 percent, down from 3 percent, while VAT on restaurants has been

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Palestinians set up a new tent camp in Gaza City yesterday to shelter people expected to return to northern Gaza after being displaced to the south by Israel's order.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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HALDA VALLEY TEA LOUNGE

# A hidden gem for TEA LOVERS IN DHAKA

RBR

As I seated myself in the Halda Valley Tea Lounge, seeing the way the welcome drinks were served left me in awe.

A transparent chawan or Asian tea bowl, as it is called, had a brew of the bud and the tea leaf, which were a mild tint of olive green. Alongside it a glass jar of detox water with tangerines and lemons skewers. The small and fancy detailing in serving set the tone of the café.

I was really missing an authentic tea house or lounge in Dhaka, and finally, this aesthetically pleasing place did justice to my imagination of how a tea



The prosperous tea estate, spread around 500 hectares of land amidst the Khagrachhari and Sitakundu hill ranges, offers tea varieties that can be in direct competition with global tea market produce. Their distinctive emerald green and flattened leaves of green tea, finest young green silver hairy buds of white tea, clean chocolate brown with golden hue tea grains of strong black tea, and the famous Red Robe Oolong Tea which has an earthy aroma with floral hints, are a result of hard work to incorporate state-of-the-art technology and unpolluted environments to become one of the best tea estates of Bangladesh.

Recently, the lounge cheered our winter pitha season, with platters of bhapa pitha, chitoti with an assortment of dry fish, mustard, mint chutneys, soft pillow-like patishapta filled with coconut shavings drenched in

molasses, narikel puli, date juice, rice flour flatbreads with duck curry, and the quintessential Bengali winter must-have dessert, the payesh.

"This was done on a trial or experimental basis; I sort of wanted to add a fun variation to our existing menu. The live station of pitha making always brings in an animated charm," says Dr Labiba Yasmin, Director of Operation, Halda Valley Food & Beverage.

The pithas were freshly made after the orders were taken, which kept the taste authentic. They sourced rice flour, and coconuts from the hawk in old Dhaka, but their date juice and molasses were exclusively ordered from Jashore. The only drawback of this festival was that it was not hyped

enough, meaning Dhaka residents were not aware of it.

Halda Valley Tea Lounge has always been low-key when it comes to marketing, but trust me, their weekend breakfast is worth mentioning.

Their chefs are trained in continental and Mughal cuisine. They share a sample tasting with Labiba and she adds her spin to the recipe, if required.

"Our paya, served in the breakfast menu, is a game changer. It is the same recipe I use at home. Our rezala is an authentic Dhakai shahi recipe where I added grated mawa, poppyseed, and almond -- a note I took from my mother. I discouraged the chef's adding of tomato puree, which gives it an Indian twist.

So, these small changes and variations have made our weekend breakfast a success," she shared.

All these rich deshi foods, gulped down with cups of chai like shahi, masala, malai or Mughal chai recipes, fill your mind with a kind of fuzzy warmth. They use tea grains sourced only from their garden; thus, these cups boast their favourite Golden Eyebrow Black Tea.

However, their Dragon Well Green Tea makes for their café favourite Moroccan Mint tea. Their Arabian tea menu is a crowd pleaser, especially the Egyptian karkade tea with rose petals. So, at the end of this gruelling week, try a soothing tea.



PHOTO: COURTESY

lounge should look.

Halda Valley Tea is not something that needs an introduction to Dhaka readers, but their almost hidden café, located at YN Center 6/A Rd II/3, Dhaka, serving tea that is exclusively plucked from their garden at Narayanhat, Fatikchhari Upazila, Chattogram, is worth a preamble.

## NBR revises

FROM PAGE 1  
brought back to 5 percent from 15 percent.

However, three to five-star hotels will continue to be subject to a 15 percent VAT rate as they can claim input tax credits.

VAT on the merchandise made by clothing brands has been lowered to 10 percent from 15 percent, while those from non-branded stores will be subject to 7.5 percent VAT. Earlier, VAT on both branded and non-branded outlets was 7.5 percent.

VAT on sweet shops has been reduced to 10 percent, reversing the earlier hike of 15 percent.

Non-AC hotels now face a 10 percent VAT, down from 15 percent, but it's higher than the earlier rate of 7.5 percent.

VAT on automobile workshop services though has been kept at 10 percent despite stakeholders' demands for a reduction to 5 percent.

The recent tax hike sparked an outcry from various quarters, including economists, policy analysts, rights bodies and political parties.

Some stakeholders also staged demonstrations to push for a reversal of the decision.

Talking to this newspaper, SM Nazer Hossain, vice-president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said the interim government deserves appreciation for reducing VAT and SD charges on certain items. "But there are several items closely tied to daily life, and they require reconsideration."

The increased VAT and SD charges have already led to price hikes of essentials such as soap, tissue papers and detergent.

"This situation poses a threat to the livelihood of ordinary people. With Ramadan approaching, this might further ignite competition among sellers to increase prices on several goods. Therefore, these decisions demand urgent revision," he added.

The increase in VAT and SD aligns with the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund as part of a \$4.7 billion loan it approved for Bangladesh in January last year.

The IMF advised the government to rationalise tax exemptions, improve compliance with laws and bring about reforms in tax measures to bolster domestic revenue collection in Bangladesh, which has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world.

The hike in indirect taxes comes as overall revenue collection fell by about 1 percent in the first half of the fiscal year, increasing pressure on the government to borrow from domestic and foreign sources.

The NBR should scrutinise its policies more thoroughly before implementation, said Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling.

"It [the NBR] should refrain from making ad-hoc decisions and focus on increasing revenue coverage in the income tax net," said Raihan, also a professor of economics at Dhaka University.

## Cluster system may be proposed for ministries

FROM PAGE 1

Officers appointed to these ministries would rotate and work across these ministries and departments, they added.

Sources in the public administration ministry said a similar cluster system was recommended by the last reform commission in 2000, and a draft policy for activities of the clusters was also prepared in 2013.

However, some influential officials from the admin cadre prevented its implementation, the sources claimed.

"If the cluster system is introduced, admin cadre officers will no longer have the same level of control over various ministries as they have now. This is why the system was not implemented," said an official from the cabinet division.

### FEWER MINISTRIES, DIVISIONS

The reform commission is considering a proposal to bring down the number of ministries and divisions to 30. It could be even between 25 and 28, said a source.

If approved, this will bring down the operational cost and help coordination, the source said.

Currently, the government has 55 ministries and divisions. The interim government has already decided to merge two divisions at the home ministry.

Several officials said they believe it could be a good move since some ministries and divisions do not have much workload and could be merged.

Asked about the possible impact of this, public administration expert Firoz Mia told this newspaper, "If experienced politicians and a skilled bureaucracy work together, cutting down the number of ministries would not be a problem.

"However, under the current circumstances, it may disrupt public services."

He added that introducing such changes would first require forming a team of skilled individuals.

### PROMOTION TO DS

The reform commission is considering a new promotion policy for the position of deputy secretary -- a 50:50 split between the admin and the other cadres.

Currently, 75 percent of the promotions are made from admin cadre officers and the remaining 25 percent from the other cadres.

This notion elicited a strong reaction from the administration cadre officers. Many of them are lobbying intensely to have the proposal changed.

Sources in the commission said most of the members support a merit-based, 100 percent exam-driven promotion system for the position of deputy secretary. The exams would be open to officers from all cadres.

However, the commission chairman was in favour of keeping 50 percent of the spots for admin cadre officials, the sources said.

### APPOINTMENTS OF PS

Officials from the administration cadre are generally appointed as the PS to government high-ups. However, when governments change, they often face setbacks, including delays in promotions or being made officers on special duty (OSD), considered a punishment, said sources.

Last month, a BNP committee on public administration reforms, formed to come up with the party's stance before the commission, proposed appointing non-civil servants as PS to ministers.

The committee submitted the report to the reform commission on December 9.

Ismail Zabiullah, a member of the committee, said many officers who serve as PS to ministers are competent but often get accused of becoming biased towards a party.

"Therefore, we have proposed appointing officers from outside the cadres for these positions," said Ismail, also a former secretary.

The Daily Star contacted the reform commission chief and four other members, but they declined to comment.

### FOUR PROVINCES

The commission may propose dividing the country into four administrative provinces. The commission's chairman verbally communicated this proposal to the government, but details could not be known, sources said.

The provinces -- Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, and Khulna -- could be made out of a broader strategy to ensure decentralisation, the sources said.

The commission members believe the current local government system is not functioning effectively. To bring about fundamental changes to local governance, the provincial system would be good, they said.

### CHANGES IN BCS EXAMS

The reform commission is set to suggest significant changes to the BCS exam questions.

According to sources, the commission views that the standard of the questions is not at a satisfactory level. "The standard is at the SSC-level. It has to be upgraded," said an official involved with the commission.

Sources said measures would be taken so that candidates totally relying on guidebooks don't get the coveted jobs.

### EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

The commission is thinking whether to allow government employees to form associations. This issue was discussed at one of the commission's meetings, but no decision has been made so far.

Some commission members think the employees can form associations for their welfare only.

However, other members think that the association could evolve into something resembling a CBA (Collective Bargaining Agent).

A decision on the matter will be made soon, said an official.

## Draft cyber ordinance

FROM PAGE 1

others, defamation, cyberbullying, "hurting of religious sentiments", and allowed for search and arrests without warrants.

Even though vague wording like "hurting of religious sentiments" was removed from the new draft, it, however, includes a provision criminalising the dissemination of content that incites hatred among religious and ethnic communities.

"Hate speech will be defined as per the Penal Code," said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, the policy adviser (ICT Coordination & Reform) of the ICT Division.

The Daily Star obtained data from Centre for Governance Studies' DSA Tracker and found that 44 percent of the cases filed under the DSA for "hurting religious sentiment" were against the religious minorities, particularly the Hindus.

"We wanted to ensure that no political government can abuse this law to target anyone. However, no matter how foolproof a law is, if the political equilibrium and political system do not amend itself, all laws can be abused," said Taiyeb.

## Make right to vote

FROM PAGE 1

The body proposes merging the 2nd and 3rd sections of the constitution to form a new charter on "fundamental rights and liberty".

Chief of the commission Prof Ali Riaz said, "Voting rights are fundamental and cannot be violated under any circumstances. The citizens' voting rights were violated during the last three elections. And there was no remedy because voting rights are not recognised as fundamental.

"If voting is recognised as a fundamental right, then courts will have the authority to compel the authorities concerned to ensure it. Citizens will at least have legal protection through the courts. We hope the courts will function independently, and justice will prevail.

"Voting rights of Bangladeshi citizens have been violated on various occasions, including in the era of military rule."

According to article 102 of the constitution, "The High Court Division on the application of any person aggrieved, may give such directions or orders to any person or authority, including any person performing any function in connection with the affairs of the Republic, as may be appropriate for the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights conferred by Part III of this Constitution."

The last general election in January 2024 was widely criticised as it was not competitive and inclusive. Awami League leaders ran as independents to make the polls appear competitive.

During the 2018 election, opposition parties alleged that ballot boxes were stuffed the night before election day.

In January 2019, Transparency International, Bangladesh, in a study found that stamping of ballots took place the night before election day in more than one centre in each of the 33 of the 50 surveyed constituencies.

In the 2014 election, 153 lawmakers

The new draft mandates that the government discloses any content it blocks.

"We ensure full transparency. We can only request the tech giants to block content. We cannot take down content ourselves. If the tech giants block or remove any content, the government must disclose what content was blocked," said Taiyeb.

According to the new draft, once a case is filed and it goes to court, the judge can dispose of the case even before the investigation stage.

The new draft has narrowed the scope for arrests without a warrant only to cases in which critical information infrastructure of the country is under threat.

The latest draft also criminalises sexual harassment online, and specifically mentions blackmail, revenge porn, and targeting of minors. The fines for committing those crimes go up to Tk 20 lakhs, and carries a three-year jail term.

The new law also criminalises online gambling with a jail term of two years and a Tk 20 lakh fine.

The law guarantees access to the internet as a right for every citizen.

## ICT turns down Ziaul's petition challenging its jurisdiction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday rejected a petition challenging the tribunal's jurisdiction to hold the trial of Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan, who is accused of keeping people in secret prisons after abducting them.

Justice Golam Mortuza Majumder, who led the three-member bench, stated that the petition was "not maintainable and premature".

The trial proceedings can go on, according to Mohammad Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the tribunal.

Ahsan's lawyer Nazneen Nahar argued that the ordinance, which included enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity, was unconstitutional, and as the government lacked the authority to amend the ICT Act 1973, the amendments were invalid.

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## 'RMG WORKER KILLING' SC stays HC bail of journor Rupa, Shakil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge has stayed a High Court order that granted bail to Shakil

Ahmed, former head of news at Ekattor Television, and Farzana Rupa, its principal correspondent, in the garment worker Rubel murder case during the uprising.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, passed the order on Tuesday after a petition was filed by the state challenging the HC bail order.

The judge also sent the state's petition to its full bench for hearing on the matter on February 10, Additional Attorney General Aneek R Haque told The Daily Star yesterday.

The additional attorney general added that the HC order that granted bail to the journalist couple will be stayed until further order of the Appellate Division.

Lawyer Syed Mamun Mahbub appeared as the senior counsel for the accused during hearing.

The journalist couple were arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on August 21 last year while leaving the country.

On January 20, the HC granted them bail in the murder case.





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## Sarjis steps down from Shaheed Smriti Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sarjis Alam, a coordinator of the Students Against Discrimination, has resigned as general secretary of the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation.

He shared this information in a post on his verified Facebook profile yesterday's morning.

"I am no longer the general secretary of the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation. Changes have been made to the foundation's constitution, structure, and working process to accelerate its progress," he wrote.

He said the executive committee will now oversee the foundation's operations, with the chief executive officer (CEO) SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Students of Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATS) blocked Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday to realise their four-point demand, including recruitment to vacant positions in the 10th grade and the creation of employment opportunities. The protest caused severe gridlock, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Protests disrupt city life again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests blocking major thoroughfares in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar and Shahbagh yesterday left the capital largely paralysed, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

The traffic situation worsened as a demonstration by stranded migrant workers blocked Karwan Bazar and another by students of Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATS) Shahbagh intersections for hours, disrupting traffic almost all day long.

Vehicular movement at Karwan Bazar remained suspended for nearly three hours as a group of stranded migrant workers demonstrated from around 9:00am till 12:00pm, demanding government steps to ensure their return to Malaysia.

The blockade caused severe traffic congestions on the roads across Farmgate, Bangla Motor, Panthapath and adjacent areas.

Afternoon, the protesters marched towards the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment on Eskaton Garden Road to press home their demand, and continued their demonstrations there till 3:30pm.

Meanwhile, students of MATS blocked Shahbagh intersection for over six hours to realise their four point demand including recruitment to vacant positions in the 10th grade, and creation of employment opportunities.

The students initially started their protest at 10:40am, blocking one side of the main road under the Karwan Bazar metro rail station. Later, at around 11:15am, they rallied to the National Museum in Shahbagh, and enforced a blockade there around 12:50pm, halting vehicular movement around the four sides of the intersection, prompting many commuters to walk to their destinations.

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## Stop using loud horns, black glass

**DMP urges people to use footbridges, zebra crossings**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drivers must stop installing loud horns and black tinted glasses on vehicles. Pedestrians must use foot-over bridges and zebra crossings where available, said a public notice issued by Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday.

Signed by DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali, the notice said any driver or pedestrian failing to comply will face legal actions through regular operations and mobile courts.

Drivers often use their horns unnecessarily or excessively. Sometimes they even use illegal high-decibel horns, which poses significant health risks to those nearby, the notice added.

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# Reforms should reflect people's aspiration

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reforms that are being discussed must align with the aspirations of the people to uphold the unity achieved through the July mass uprising, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They made the remarks at a discussion titled "National Unity: Why, On What Basis, and Which Path?" organised by a platform named "Unity for Bangladesh" at Dhaka University.

In his keynote speech, political analyst Tuhin Khan said, "In election-centric politics, polarisations are inevitable. However, if the government or the political leadership fails to take effective steps on the discussed issues unitedly, it will undoubtedly undermine the aspirations and achievements of the July uprising."

"The greatest political challenge at this moment is to transform the

discussion of unity into a fruitful and actionable process rather than limiting it to political rhetoric or formalities," he said.

He said if this challenge is not addressed, Bangladesh might face another major political crisis.

**The greatest political challenge at this moment is to transform the discussion of unity into a fruitful and actionable process rather than limiting it to political rhetoric or formalities.**

TUHIN KHAN, Political Analyst

"With this in mind, everyone should think sincerely about the process of unity," he added.

He said political parties are expressing their concerns about

the reform initiatives of the interim government. "They are worried whether these reform efforts will create a new political reality and whether that reality will be favourable for them."

New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said he regarded post-uprising fragmentation in the unity of political parties as a natural phenomenon.

"I don't see any reason to be worried. Every political party or group operates based on its goals and principles... Differences among political parties are natural," said the veteran journalist.

He added people are repeatedly sacrificing their lives to realise the unfulfilled promises of the Liberation War.

He said one of Awami League's major misdeeds was to abolish the provision for referendums. "Changing a company's rules

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## Khaleda Zia acquitted in sabotage case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Cumilla court has acquitted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 35 others in a sabotage case filed with Chaudhagram Police Station in 2015.

Judge of Cumilla Additional Sessions Judge Court-1 Afroza Jesmin passed the order on Monday, said Public Prosecutor Advocate Kaimul Haque Rinku yesterday.

According to the case statement, a covered van was vandalised and torched

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Dhaka airport gets 2 bomb threats in a day

**No explosives found, say officials**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) received two bomb threats in a single day yesterday, prompting emergency security measures and heightened vigilance.

The first incident involved a Dhaka-bound Biman flight from Rome, while the second threat was sent hours later, targeting the airport.

The initial threat came from a WhatsApp message sent to the official number of an Armed Police Battalion (APBn) duty officer. The message, traced to a Pakistani phone number, claimed that 34 kilograms of explosives were aboard flight BG 356 from Rome, set to detonate upon landing at HSIA. The plane made an emergency landing at 9:20am, and all 250 passengers and 13 crew members were safely evacuated.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan said the sender described the message as a warning rather than a direct threat. They speculated that an opposition group may have planted the explosives to gain international attention.

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## Man found hanging from tree at DU identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man found hanging from a tree in the Dhaka University area yesterday has been identified as Abu Saleh from Keraniganj upazila.

Khalid Monsur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said a national identity card was found with the body.

The CID crime scene unit confirmed the identity by matching the fingerprints with the NID server. Shahbagh police, in association with fire service teams, recovered the body around 9:00am.

Later, it was handed over to the family after an autopsy, Monsur added.

He said locals believe the man lived on the sidewalk and had mental health issues.

"Preliminary findings suggest he climbed the tree on Tuesday night and hanged himself. Further investigation is underway," he said.

## ROBBERY PLOT

## Four, including two army men, arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police claim to have foiled a robbery plot and arrested four suspects, including two army members, near Banani Star Kabab restaurant early yesterday.

The suspects, along with several others still at large, were preparing to rob a house in the capital's Moghbazar area, believing Tk 30-40 crore was stashed there, according to a case statement filed with the Banani Police Station.

Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a sub-inspector of the Banani Police Station, filed the case.

The arrestees are identified as Salam Sheikh, 36, Saibel Jon Sagor Rozario, 55, Md Abu Hanif, 32, and Rabiul Alam, 32.

As per the case statement, Salam acted as an informant for the group, while Rozario, who allegedly used a fake identity card, claimed himself to be a reporter for an online television channel.

Hanif is a corporal with the Army Headquarters' Overseas Operations, and Rabiul is a soldier stationed at Mirpur Cantonment.

Police recovered several items from the suspects, including three sets of army uniforms with nameplates (Yasin, Nazmul, and Parvez), three pairs of boots, two rank badges for a major, a hammer, screwdrivers, a microphone, a camera, and three mobile phones.

A microbus used by the group was also seized.

Rasel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star, "We arrested four individuals, including two army members, and informed the Army Headquarters about the incident."

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A woman covers her face as she walks through a cloud of dust and fumes to cross the street in the Madani Avenue area of Baridhara. Dhaka's deteriorating air quality continues to pose serious health risks to its residents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Subrato, who sustained serious injuries, was rushed to Bhandaria Upazila Health Complex and later transferred to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

# Water management needs better

The book was reviewed by Emeritus Professor Dr Ainun Nishat, an eminent water resources and climate

like Bangladesh have had voluntary obligations historically, the Paris Agreement now extends this framework globally. Mechanisms like Article 6 and Article 6.4 pose challenges in ensuring fair responsibility sharing, but they also offer opportunities for carbon trading and collaboration," Rizwana said.

# Reforms should

Rajshahi University  
Central Students' Union  
former vice-president  
Ragib Ahsan Munna said  
the 2024 uprising has  
created new demands, and  
to implement these, the old  
governance structure must

Former military officer Aminul Karim said, "Our political culture has significant problems that need to be addressed. Internal democracy within political parties must be strengthened, and election expenses must be regulated. Moreover, one of our biggest crises is the erosion of values. If this is not fixed, nothing else will improve."

# Protests

"Buses were diverted via Bangla Motor, while cars and smaller vehicles were rerouted through Minto Road due to severe congestion," he added.

# Khaleida Zia acquitted

Advocate Rinku said police submitted a charge

# Dhaka airport gets

Despite the threats,

Meanwhile, the authorities are investigating the sources of both threats to ensure the safety of passengers and airport operations.

# Stop using loud horns

crossings or foot-over bridges. When crossing the road recklessly, accidents occur, traffic flow is disrupted, and traffic jams are created. Therefore, pedestrians are requested to use foot-over bridges and zebra crossings, the DMP notice added.

[illegible]

# Sarjis steps down

“Finally, my signing authority was transferred on January 7, officially marking the end of my

"I continued to serve as long as I could dedicated my maximum time to the foundation. When I realised that it would no longer be possible for me to give the required time, I stepped down from my position. To me, addressing one's limitations and taking on or relinquishing responsibilities accordingly is not a weakness; rather, it requires genuine courage. I have tried to remain honest and accountable to the responsibilities of my position," he added.

 **Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion**  
Phone: +88 02222284794; +880222292188  
E-mail address: [logistics@bangladesh.hi.org](mailto:logistics@bangladesh.hi.org)

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## Call for Tender

Humanity & Inclusion (HI), operating in Bangladesh under Handicap International Federation, is an international NGO implementing programs funded by various donors. HI invites bids from registered suppliers to participate in an **International Call for Tender (ICTF) Ref: B51-DHAK-LOG-2025/01** to establish a framework agreement for Group Life and Medical Insurance for the staff of HI Bangladesh. Interested vendors can obtain the bid documents through one of the following options:

- Collect Printed Tender Documents** from Dhaka Country Office  
(House-3/A, Road-36, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh)
- or Download Electronic Tender Documents:**  
<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/handicap/handicap124.htm>

or potential vendors can request to share the bid documents / any queries to the email: [logistics@bangladesh.hi.org](mailto:logistics@bangladesh.hi.org)

**Deadline for Submission of the tender: within 2 PM, 12th February 2025**

either by hard copy submission or through email to:  
[etender@bangladesh.hi.org](mailto:etender@bangladesh.hi.org)

**NOTE: No fee or payment is required to participate in this tender. Please report any irregularities/requests for fee to HI at report complaint@bangladesh.hi.org**


**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Madaripur  
Phone and Fax: 0661-61266, 01730-782807  
E-mail: [eamad@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eamad@rhd.gov.bd)  
[eamdrhd@gmail.com](mailto:eamdrhd@gmail.com)

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	1062837 (e-GP-01) PMP Major	Periodic Maintenance Programme (Roads) providing Strengthening flexible Pavement, DBS Base Course, DBS Wearing Course, Protective work & Other ancillary works from Ch. 68+500 (Bhanga Bazar Bus Stand: 23.384143, 89.982534) to Ch. 78+150 (Boroitala: 23.308582, 89.998277) & Widening Work from Ch. 74+865 (Chumurdi: 23.330520, 89.998872) to Ch. 78+150 (Boroitala: 23.308582, 89.998277) of Dhaka (Jatrabari)- Mawa-Bhanga-Barishal-Patuakhali (N-8) National Highway Road under Road Division, Madaripur during the year 2024-2025	23-02-2025 at 17:00	24-02-2025 at 12:30	24-02-2025 at 12:30

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal.
2. To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
**Najmul Hasan**  
Personal ID: 601954  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Madaripur

GD-238





Farmers irrigate their field of bottle gourd plants early in the morning. Sown in October, the gourds are set to be harvested in early February. Farmers will then sell each piece for Tk 30-50 depending on size. The photo was taken in Kandalgati of Jhalakathi district recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Court orders ACC to seize Nafeez Sarafat's Dubai properties

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to confiscate a three-bedroom flat and a five-bedroom villa in Dubai belonging to former Padma Bank chairman Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Md Masudur Rahman, who is the head of an enquiry team, submitted an application in this regard. ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam moved the application on behalf of the anti-graft body.

An investigation by The Daily Star titled "Parking wealth under the Dubai sun," published on January 7, revealed details of properties in Dubai owned by 19 Bangladeshi individuals, including Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat.

According to the report, Nafeez

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## Global action key to tackle climate change

Environment adviser tells workshop

UNB, Dhaka

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has called for unified global action to confront the challenges of climate change.

She spoke about the importance of minimising environmental harm while striving to meet mitigation targets during a capacity building workshop on Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation, held at the Department of Environment in Agargaon, yesterday.

"Market-driven solutions have a role, but my humble request is to prepare ourselves for the challenges of climate change.

Together, we must work to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Failure to do so will endanger the existence of vulnerable countries like ours. Let the urgency of this crisis inspire us to achieve our future aspirations," Rizwana said.

"Mitigating through trading comes with a price, but it also offers opportunities to improve governance standards and operational efficiency. For instance, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in the energy sector can address gas emissions and improve efficiency across industries," she added.

"With modest investment,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## Water management needs better policies: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an event yesterday opined that the challenge regarding water management in Bangladesh lies in transforming existing knowledge in appropriate policy framework.

They also said policymakers should keep it in mind that a river is not just a flowing body of water, but a living entity comprising water, energy, biodiversity and sediments.

The speakers further said climate change is turning water

management a complex issue since water is a finite resource.

They made the remarks while addressing an event on launching of a book by ActionAid Bangladesh, titled "10 Years of Water Discourse in Bangladesh: The Contribution of Water Museum", at a city hotel.

Contributors of the book include Professor Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, executive director of the Centre for Alternatives; Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah, consultant on environment, climate change,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Dengue claims another life

STAR REPORT

At least one dengue patient died and 32 infected patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

The deceased was under treatment at a hospital in Dhaka South City Corporation.

With this, the total number of deaths rose to nine while that of cases rose to 972, of which 596 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Currently, 196 dengue patients are undergoing treatment, 89 of whom are from outside Dhaka. A total of 767 patients were released till Tuesday, 505 of whom were from outside Dhaka.

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**বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন**  
সিকিউরিটিজ কমিশন ভবন, ই-৬/সি আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৭

Ref.No.BSEC/Admin/13:46/2024-68Date: 20/01/2025

**Request for Expressions of Interest For Selection of Consulting/Audit Firm (National)**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance / Financial Institution Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission
3	Procuring Entity	Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Assignment Name	Special Audit on the financial statements of <b>Shinepukur Ceramics Limited</b> , for the last 5 (Five) financial years (years ended on 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2024).
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting/Audit Firm (National)
7	EOI Ref. No.	Ref. No. BSEC/Admin/13:46/2024/68 and Date: 20/01/2025
8	Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
9	Budget and Source of funds	Own Fund
10	EOI Closings Submission date, time & place	With all supporting documents, the EOI must be delivered on or before 10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 12 pm (BST), Securities Commission Bhaban, E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
11	EOI Opening date, time & place	10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 12:30 pm (BST), Securities Commission Bhaban, E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
12	Brief Description of the Assignment	Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission is seeking an Audit/Consulting firm for conducting Special Audit on the financial statements of <b>Shinepukur Ceramics Limited</b> , for the last 5 (Five) financial years (years ended on 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2024) by following the Schedule-A (guidelines for conducting special audit of listed companies) formulated under rule 14(3) & 14(4) of the Securities and Exchange Rules, 2020. <b>Detail TOR can be collected from the Procuring Entities Office.</b>
13	Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	Listed Auditors of BSEC Panel Auditors are requested to submit the EOI. The EOI's will be evaluated on the basis of the following and short list will be made in accordance with the "Rule-115 of Public Procurement Rule (PPR)-2008": 1. Background of the firm's (limited to two pages). 2. The firm must have 10 (Ten) years General Experience (General experiences of the firm's limited to two pages) 3 The firm must have at least 3 Specific experience in conducting special audit of Public and Private Limited Companies (Work Completion Certificate must be provided otherwise the firm won't be shortlisted. 4. The firm must not be enforced or punished by BSEC and FRC. 5. Availability or appropriate skills or experts among staff demonstrated capacity to handle such assignment. 6. Managerial ability such as Human Resources & Logistics supports (Office & branch premises, computer and hardware accessories, Telephone, Office Equipment, vehicle Facility etc.)
14	Other Details (if applicable)	(a) EOI as well as forms/supporting documents attached shall be written in English. All pages of original documents (copies) should be duly attested by competent authority. (b) Interested firm(s) will be required to submit the EOI in closed format mentioning the name and address of the applicant, EOI no. & date and be addressed to the EOI issuing Authority in 2(two) hard copies; 01(One) marked as "ORIGINAL" and another as "COPY" in separate envelope and the soft copies of EOI must be submitted in a pen drive in PDF and Word format. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall have to cover within a single envelope to the address below before the EOI closing date & time. The applicant shall mention the page no. serially in every page of submitted EOI document. EOI will be opened on 10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 12:30 pm (BST), just after closing time. In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. declared holiday etc. EOI's will be received and opened on the following working day. Upon receipt of EOI's the interested firm(s) those are deemed best suited to perform the assignment will be short listed. There after Request for Proposal (RFP) document will be issued to the short-listed firm(s). The consulting firm(s) will be selected based on Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the PPR 2006 and PPR 2008 of GOB.
15	Phasing of Services and Time for performing & Reporting	Special Audit reports for the years ended on last 5 (Five) financial years must be delivered within 3 (three) months from the date of signing the contract.
16	Name of the Official Inviting EOI	Rana Das
17	Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Assistant Director
18	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Securities Commission Bhaban, E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

The Client shall not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm's in connection with the preparation on delivery of the EOI. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI's/Proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-241

Rana Das

Assistant Director

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission



**বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন**  
সিকিউরিটিজ কমিশন ভবন, ই-৬/সি আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৭

Ref.No.BSEC/Admin/13:44/2024-67Date: 20 /01/2025

**Request for Expressions of Interest For Selection of Consulting/Audit Firm (National)**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance / Financial Institution Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission
3	Procuring Entity	Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Assignment Name	Special Audit on the financial statements of <b>Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.</b> for the last 5 (Five) financial years (years ended on 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2024).
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting/Audit Firm (National)
7	EOI Ref. No.	Ref. No. BSEC/Admin/13:44/2024/67 and Date: 20 /01/2025
8	Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
9	Budget and Source of funds	Own Fund
10	EOI Closings Submission date, time & place	With all supporting documents, the EOI must be delivered on or before 12 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 12 pm (BST), Securities Commission Bhaban, E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
11	EOI Opening date, time & place	12 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 12:30 pm (BST), Securities Commission Bhaban, E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
12	Brief Description of the Assignment	Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission is seeking an Audit/Consulting firm for conducting Special Audit on the financial statements of <b>Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.</b> for the last 5 (Five) financial years (years ended on 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2024) by following the Schedule-A (guidelines for conducting special audit of listed companies) formulated under rule 14(3) & 14(4) of the Securities and Exchange Rules, 2020. <b>Detail TOR can be collected from the Procuring Entities Office.</b>
13	Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	Listed Auditors of BSEC Panel Auditors are requested to submit the EOI. The EOI's will be evaluated on the basis of the following and short list will be made in accordance with the "Rule-115 of Public Procurement Rule (PPR)-2008": 1. Background of the firm's (limited to two pages). 2. The firm must have 10 (Ten) years General Experience (General experiences of the firm's limited to two pages) 3 The firm must have at least 3 Specific experience in conducting special audit of Public and Private Limited Companies (Work Completion Certificate must be provided otherwise the firm won't be shortlisted). 4. The firm must not be enforced or punished by BSEC and FRC. 5. Availability or appropriate skills or experts among staff demonstrated capacity to handle such assignment. 6. Managerial ability such as Human Resources & Logistics supports (Office & branch premises, computer and hardware accessories, Telephone, Office Equipment, vehicle Facility etc.)
14	Other Details (if applicable)	(a) EOI as well as forms/supporting documents attached shall be written in English. All pages of original documents (copies) should be duly attested by competent authority. (b) Interested firm(s) will be required to submit the EOI in closed format mentioning the name and address of the applicant, EOI no. & date and be addressed to the EOI issuing Authority in 2(two) hard copies; 01(One) marked as "ORIGINAL" and another as "COPY" in separate envelope and the soft copies of EOI must be submitted in a pen drive in PDF and Word format. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall have to cover within a single envelope to the address below before the EOI closing date & time. The applicant shall mention the page no. serially in every page of submitted EOI document. EOI will be opened on 12 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 12:30 pm (BST), just after closing time. In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. declared holiday etc. EOI's will be received and opened on the following working day. Upon receipt of EOI's the interested firm(s) those are deemed best suited to perform the assignment will be short listed. There after Request for Proposal (RFP) document will be issued to the short-listed firm(s). The consulting firm(s) will be selected based on Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the PPR 2006 and PPR 2008 of GOB.
15	Phasing of Services and Time for performing & Reporting	Special Audit reports for the years ended on last 5 (Five) financial years must be delivered within 3 (three) months from the date of signing the contract.
16	Name of the Official Inviting EOI	Rana Das
17	Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Assistant Director
18	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Securities Commission Bhaban, E-6/C, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

The Client shall not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm's in connection with the preparation on delivery of the EOI. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI's/Proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-242

Rana Das

Assistant Director

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Food  
Directorate General of Food  
Procurement Division  
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka  
[www.dgfood.gov.bd](http://www.dgfood.gov.bd)

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.015.2025-53Date: 22/01/2025

**International Tender Notice for Import of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice**  
**(Package-07, FY- 2024-2025)**

International tender in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (Fifty thousand) (5%±) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice. The particulars of international tender are furnished below:

<b>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</b>		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Food
2	Agency	Not applicable
3	Procuring entity name	Director Procurement
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%±) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice
7	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	13.01.0000.093.46.015.25-53, Dated: 22/01/2025
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
8	Procuring method	International Open Tender Method
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
9	Budget and source of fund	GoB Fund
10	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
11	Project/ programme / code (if applicable)	Not applicable
12	Project/ programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable
13	Package No.	Package-07
14	Package name	Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%±) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice
15	Notice publication date	23 January, 2025
16	Selling of tender schedule	23 January, 2025 to 05 February, 2025 up to 4.30pm (BST)
17	Date and time of closing	06 February, 2025, Upto Time 1.00pm (BST)
18	Date and time of opening	06 February, 2025, Time 2.30pm (BST)
19	Name and address of the office(s):	
	Selling tender documents	Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
	Receiving place of tender	1) Office of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. 2) Office Chamber of Joint Secretary, Room No. 114, (1st Floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
	Opening place of tender	Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
20	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
21	Eligibility of tenderer	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender documents.
22	Brief description of goods or works	50,000 (5%±) (Fifty thousand) MT. of Non-Basmati Parboiled rice at Chattogram (60%) and Mongla (40%) port on CIF Liner Out term. Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring, Overseide Handling and Lightering are on seller's account. Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$.
23	Brief description of related services	Not applicable
24	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tk. 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 100 (One hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.
	Mode of payment	Through Letter of Credit (L/C).
	Crop year	Late 2024 or latest
	Validity of the offer	20 February, 2025 upto 5.00pm (BST)

**25 Quality & Specification:**

Quality parameters	Specification	Margin of tolerance with claim for deviation beyond specification	Rejection
Moisture (maximum)	13.5%	14.0%	above 14.0%
Broken grain (Maximum)	5.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 2%)	6.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 3%)	above 6.0%
Foreign matter (Maximum)	0.3%	0.5%	above 0.5%
Dead, damaged & discoloured grains (Maximum)	3% in total	4.0%	above 4.0%
Radio-Activity (maximum)	50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)	50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)	above 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs

All the parameters must be limited to percentage mentioned against each item individually and separately.

Pack No.	Identification of shipment	Country of origin	Location	Tender security amount (US\$)	Shipment period
Pack-07	50,000 MT (±5%) Non-Basmati Parboiled rice on CIF Liner out term	Any country of the world except Israel	Chattogram Port-60% and Mongla Port-40%	US\$ 300,000 (Three hundred thousand) in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Parboiled rice (±5%) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay-Order (No Bank Guarantee is allowed)	40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C. Note that at least 50% of the total quantity must be shipped within 25 days of opening of the L/C.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Moniruzzaman
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Procurement)
28	Address of official inviting tender	Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-02-41050178 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dproc@dgfood.gov.bd">dproc@dgfood.gov.bd</a>
30	(i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. (ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) waiting for signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sailed for destination, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender; (iii) Tenderer who had been awarded NOAs (Notification of Award) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders; (iv) Tenderer whose bid-bonds had been forfeited twice for not submitting PG or signing contract on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from the bid-bonds so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not; (v) Tenderer whose whole PG (Performance Guarantee) had been forfeited for non-supply of the contracted quantity, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from PG so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not.	

GD-247



**Md. Moniruzzaman**  
Director  
Procurement Division  
Directorate General of Food  
Phone: +88-02-41050178  
Email: [dproc@dgfood.gov.bd](mailto:dproc@dgfood.gov.bd)

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়**  
**আইন-১ শাখা**  
**পরিবহন পুল ভবন (১২ তলা)**  
**সচিবালয় লিংক রোড, ঢাকা।**  
**[www.mopa.gov.bd](http://www.mopa.gov.bd)**

স্মারক নং-০৫.০০.০০০০.১৯০.১১.০০১.২৫-০৫তারিখ:- ০৫ মাঘ, ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ  
১৯ জানুয়ারি, ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

**জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্বার্থ-সংশ্লিষ্ট বাংলাদেশ সুলীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ ও আপীল বিভাগ, প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল/আপীল ট্রাইব্যুনালসহ দেশের অন্যান্য আদালতে মামলা পরিচালনা ও প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতার জন্য প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী আইনজীবীগণের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

**শর্তাবলি:**

- প্যানেল আইনজীবীগণ জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় ও এর অধীন দপ্তর/সংস্থাসমূহের পক্ষে/বিপক্ষে বিভিন্ন আদালতে দায়েরকৃত মামলা পরিচালনা ও প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করবেন এবং চুক্তির শর্ত অনুসারে সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত হারে শুধুমাত্র মামলা পরিচালনা/অর্পিত দায়িত্ব পালনের জন্য ফি/সম্মানী/খরচ প্রাপ্য হবেন, তবে নিয়মিতভাবে কোনো দৈনিক/সাপ্তাহিক/মাসিক/বার্ষিক বেতন বা ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবেন না। বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলি-র কপি জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের আইন-১ শাখা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রাপ্য ফি/সম্মানী/ খরচ হতে বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভ্যাট কর্তন করা হবে।
- জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্বার্থ বিদ্যমান রয়েছে এমন মামলায় জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিপক্ষে প্যানেল আইনজীবীগণ প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করতে পারবেন না।
- প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতার দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত মামলার অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন প্রতিমাসে নির্ধারিত তারিখে সিনিয়র সচিব, জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে।
- জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিপক্ষে কোনো মামলায় রায়/আদেশ হলে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে পরবর্তী করণীয় বিষয়ে লিখিতভাবে সিনিয়র সচিব, জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়-কে অবহিত করতে হবে।
- অন্য কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্যানেল আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে আবেদনে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে এ্যাডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। আপিল বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনার অনুমতি থাকলে তা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে। DAG/AAG হিসেবে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে বিজ্ঞ এ্যাটর্নি জেনারেল-এর দপ্তর থেকে প্রদত্ত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ আবেদনে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- প্যানেল আইনজীবীগণের সাথে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০৩(তিন) বছরের চুক্তি সম্পাদন করা হবে।
- প্যানেলভুক্ত আইনজীবী দায়িত্ব হতে অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদান করতে হবে।
- কোনো প্যানেল আইনজীবীর পেশাগত কার্যক্রম সন্তোষজনক না হলে কোনো প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে তাকে প্যানেল বহির্ভূত রাখার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- নিয়োগের শর্তাবলি চুক্তিপত্র দ্বারা নির্ধারিত হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগের বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

**আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত তথ্যাদি/কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে:**

১.	আবেদনকারীর নাম, মাতা ও পিতার নাম, প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে স্বামীর নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, কর্মস্থল/চেষ্টারের ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, ফোন নম্বর, মোবাইল নম্বর, ই-মেইল আইডি সহ পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
২.	সিনিয়র সচিব, জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় বরাবর আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।
৩.	আবেদনকারীকে ঢাকায় স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাস করতে হবে।
৪.	আবেদনপত্রের সাথে (১) সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, (২) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, (৩) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি, (৪) বার কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সকল পেশাগত সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং (৫) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৫.	১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৫ তারিখ বিকাল ০৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে নিম্নের ঠিকানায় আবেদন পৌছানো নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

আবেদন প্রেরণের ঠিকানা:

সিনিয়র সচিব  
জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়  
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়  
ঢাকা-১০০০  
(দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ: যুগ্মসচিব, আইন অধিশাখা, কক্ষ নং-১২০২, পরিবহন পুল ভবন)

(পি. কে.এম এনামুল করিম)

উপসচিব  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ কমিটি  
জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়।

GD-239





# PATHWAYS TO A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

## Balancing sustainability, equity and industry growth in the RMG sector

Oxfam in Bangladesh in collaboration with The Daily Star organised a roundtable discussion titled “Pathways to a Just Energy Transition : Balancing Sustainability, Equity and Industry Growth in the RMG sector” on January 13, 2025. Here, we publish a summary of the discussion.



**Ashish Damle,**  
Country Director,  
Oxfam in Bangladesh

The emphasis on justice within the energy transition has always been central to Oxfam's discourse. Through our work with various communities, including workers and affected populations, we have observed that transitions driven by market forces can have adverse impacts if not addressed through appropriate policies.

Oxfam's primary focus has always been to assess the impacts of these transitions. We have identified three or four key areas of concern and have actively voiced them, particularly given Bangladesh's position as one of the largest garment-producing nations and a major supplier to European countries. Our advocacy extends beyond Bangladesh to

Bangladesh's position in global negotiations.



**Dr. Mohammad Emran Hasan,**  
Head of Climate Justice & Natural Resources Rights, Oxfam in Bangladesh & Keynote Speaker

Energy transition is regarded one of the most plausible solutions to protect humanity from the most severe consequences of climate change. When it comes to the fair share of carbon, the Global North has already surpassed its limit. However, it turns to an unjust, colonial approach as they keep using fossil fuels while prescribing transitions for developing countries.

Despite Bangladesh's minimal carbon footprint, energy transition is essential to meet global demands. The Earth receives about 1.52 million



### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advocate for patent-free just energy technologies to enable local manufacturing in countries like Bangladesh, particularly for the garment industry.
- Align just energy transitions with global commitments, ensuring private sector engagement and addressing the geopolitical shifts that undermine progress.
- Strengthen policy dialogues and create a robust framework, enabling unified commitments for Bangladesh to take a leadership role in global climate discussions.
- Establish a centralised, authoritative repository of data to support evidence-based decision-making and strengthen Bangladesh's position in global energy negotiations.

- Shift focus from energy security to energy sovereignty to reduce reliance on imports.
- Implement a comprehensive strategy for the generation, distribution, and transmission of renewable energy.
- Prioritise the adoption of energy-efficient technologies within all sectors including RMG.
- Subsidise the clean energy sector through government support rather than reliance on taxation.
- Support small and medium RMG factories with funding and modern machinery to progress industrialisation.
- Hold international buyers accountable as sustainable guidelines evolve, ensuring technical support.

Europe, the UK, and the US.

Firstly, we have consistently raised the issue of whether just energy technologies are being made patent-free. For garment industries, acquiring these technologies is often a necessity. However, since they are not patent-free, they cannot be manufactured locally. This creates a challenging situation where countries like Bangladesh are forced to import these technologies.

Secondly, we recognise the need to align just energy transitions with broader global commitments. Last year, COP29 essentially failed to meet its targets. By 2024, the Paris Agreement's threshold was surpassed, with global temperatures rising by 1.6 degrees Celsius instead of the agreed 1.5 degrees. These developments disproportionately affect countries like Bangladesh. Amplifying these voices on a global scale is critical, especially given the geopolitical shifts and the resurgence of fossil fuel-focused political campaigns. If business interests are not adequately addressed during the adoption of just energy transition technologies, it would be a grave oversight. It is very important to have solid engagement with the private sector.

Thirdly, there is a significant deficit in policy dialogues, resulting in a lack of a robust policy framework. This creates systemic weaknesses in negotiations. For Bangladesh to progress, strong and unified commitments are crucial. While efforts have been made in the past, they often remain isolated. It is the right time for Bangladesh to take a leadership role by collaborating with the top 20 climate-impacted countries. Sustained leadership in this area could strengthen the country's position on the global stage, as Bangladesh is one of the most affected by these transitions.

Lastly, when addressing the just energy transition and technologies in Bangladesh, it is imperative to rely on solid, substantiated data and research. Although data exists, it often lacks consolidation. A centralised, authoritative repository of data is essential for substantiating arguments and strengthening

TWh of energy annually from solar, 8,700 times more than global energy demands. The industrial sector in Bangladesh consumes approximately 3,740 KTOE annually, and adopting energy-efficient machinery could save around 1,159 KTOE per year. Renewable energy currently contributes less than 3%, despite Bangladesh's pledge in 2016 to meet 100% of fuel demand from renewable sources by 2050.

For a just energy transition, four considerations are critical: recognition justice for those harmed, procedural justice to involve affected parties, distributional justice to allocate responsibilities and benefits equitably, and remedial justice to compensate victims when necessary. Developed countries and brands must support this transition through climate finance and shared responsibility.



**Md Sariful Islam,**  
Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy and Media (ICAM), Oxfam in Bangladesh

Given the existence of a Just Energy Transition platform in Bangladesh, my key question is: what are the primary challenges in implementing a just energy transition within the RMG sector? How can we address the vulnerabilities of climate-affected individuals who migrate to Dhaka, join the RMG industry, and face compounded challenges? What measures can ensure their protection and resilience during this transition? We are striving to achieve sustainable goals where just and equitable results are reached at the finish line. Inclusive growth is the way forward.



**Azad Abul Kalam,**  
Manager – Just Energy Transition, ActionAid

Since 2010, Bangladesh's energy sector has grown rapidly through rental and quick rental initiatives, with the government showcasing it as a key success. However, the 2021 Ukraine

war exposed its fragility. Price spikes in oil and LNG disrupted supply chains, causing power plant shutdowns, despite years of investment. This underscores the need for energy sovereignty rather than mere security, as reliance on imports leaves Bangladesh vulnerable to external shocks.

COVID-19 and power shortages further strained industries, particularly the RMG sector, which depends on captive power. However, LNG and gas shortages, along with recent price hikes, have limited its effectiveness. Experts agree that captive power alone cannot sustain the sector. Bangladesh must focus on energy sovereignty by maximising domestic resources, such as gas, and investing in renewables like solar and wind. Policies should be tailored to the country's unique context, prioritising local expertise to ensure a sustainable energy future.



**Wasiur Rahman Tonmoy, Sr.**  
Coordinator, Capacity Development, Manusher Jonno Foundation

A just energy transition to renewables involves both technical and social aspects. Our focus is on the social dimension, advocating for energy access as a human right, particularly for marginalised groups such as women, labourers, ethnic minorities, and coastal populations vulnerable to climate change. A study of 23 policies revealed a glaring omission: none explicitly included women in terms of access to energy or renewable benefits, as seen in policies like the National Energy Policy 2004 and Renewable Energy Policy 2008.

These policies also overlook the risks of job displacement due to automation, particularly for marginalised women, and fail to address the equitable distribution of benefits or skill gaps. The lack of coordination among policies hinders progress, as technical experts often neglect social challenges, and human rights advocates struggle with technical aspects. Bridging this gap requires inclusive policies that integrate both technical and social considerations to ensure an equitable transition. Gender-responsive budgeting and reducing bureaucratic barriers are essential.



**Sohanur Rahman,**  
Executive Coordinator, YouthNet Global

Dr. Yunus's 'Three Zeros' framework incorporates a just energy transition, but there is minimal coordination between ministries, hindering green energy initiatives, skill development, and leadership. Although COP adopted a Just Transition Framework in Dubai, no concrete actions have followed.

In terms of technology transfer, proper assessments are needed to ensure effectiveness. A just energy transition also requires just financing. When framing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),

it is crucial to ensure the active participation of trade unions, a stance supported by Oxfam to foster meaningful community engagement.



**Md Mahfuzur Rahman Mishu,**  
Foreign Affairs Editor, Jamuna Television

We often discuss renewable energy, yet lack a comprehensive minimal input from entrepreneurs and experts. Projects like Paira and Ruppur have overlooked critical factors. For a sustainable RMG sector, prioritising eco-friendly energy solutions aligned with brand indicators is essential to prevent the loss of vital remittance flows.



**FAIZA TUBA,**  
Programme Manager, Laudes Foundation

When discussing patents, it's worth noting that Bangladesh remains the second-largest apparel manufacturing industry—a remarkable achievement rooted in homegrown efforts. However, when it comes to a just energy transition, Bangladesh must adopt a place-based approach, tailored to the specific needs and contexts of each region with people at its core.

In terms of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the private sector is largely excluded in the discussion. If they are not engaged effectively, reducing emissions will be extremely difficult and we cannot hold them accountable if they did not sign up in the first place. This highlights the urgency for comprehensive needs assessments as a central priority in our planning efforts.



**Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury,** Head of Centre for Energy Research, United International University (UIU)

Despite previous heavy investments in fossil fuels, often linked to tax evasion, a similar level of investment could shift towards renewable energy. However, the reality is that solar energy is heavily taxed in Bangladesh, with 11% on solar panels, 38% on inverters, and 58% on batteries and structures.

For the RMG sector, lifting the upper limit on net metering would help accelerate renewable energy integration. Many RMG factories, being multi-storey, lack space for rooftop solar installations. Allowing factories to set up solar systems in any location with a wheeling charge would make solar energy more accessible and cost-effective, with rooftop solar costing around 4-5 Taka per unit versus 10 Taka or more from the grid.

EPZs operate as utility clients, but companies within these zones cannot buy electricity directly from solar providers. Utility organisations act as intermediaries, adding their margin. Net metering does not function effectively within EPZs due to resistance from utilities. A solution could be ensuring these organisations

earn comparable profits from rooftop solar systems as they do from traditional utility services.

Finally, there is no comprehensive nationwide grid study, and renewable energy targets have been set unrealistically. The Renewable Energy Policy set a target of 5% by 2015 and 10% by 2020, yet in 2024, we have barely reached 3%. Feasibility studies are needed to set more realistic targets.



**Mohammad Mahmodul Hasan,**  
Domain Coordinator-Water, Food and Climate, Helvetas Bangladesh

To progress, we must assess current needs and evaluate how closely we follow expert-mapped renewable energy projects. The book Prospects of Renewable Energy Transition in Bangladesh's RMG Industry by Oxfam and CPD offers valuable insights. However, a key challenge remains: lack of trust among academicians, practitioners, and policymakers.

We must increase renewable solar energy use in the RMG sector through solar rooftops and grid integration. Bangladesh's access to global support mechanisms like the CTCN provides an opportunity for responsible technology transfer, with BGMEA and BKMEA potentially establishing funds for these efforts. Providing solar stoves to female garment workers could effectively promote renewable energy adoption.



**Abdullah Hil Rakib,**  
Managing Director, Team Group

The high cost of LNG, which requires foreign currency and is limited by our reserves, highlights the need for internal energy audits. These audits, focusing on production, captive electricity use, and industrial distribution, could significantly improve efficiency. While the government offers green funds and public-private partnership policies, proper incentives are needed to drive green transformation.

Many small factories lack the eligibility or motivation to implement necessary changes. Comprehensive energy audits across the RMG and non-RMG sectors would help identify the 28% energy waste, costing billions annually. By focusing on reducing energy costs, exploring local gas sources, and adopting strategies like "reduce, recover, report, and renew," we can save both energy and foreign exchange. Improving energy efficiency in factories would reduce production costs and align with government policies.

While Bangladesh has 233 globally recognised green factories, which consume 20-30% less power than conventional factories, widespread adoption requires greater policy support. Post-Rana Plaza, investments in resilience have reduced power consumption, yet renewable energy remains untapped.



**Dr. Munjurul Hannan Khan,**  
Executive Director and Founder, Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)

The government's investments in renewable energy are reasonable, given its global ambitions, but Dhaka has yet to establish the required infrastructure. Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) trained around 30,000 people in renewable energy, yet their contributions have fallen short. In the garments industry, equitable access must ensure fair opportunities across the value chain, addressing inequalities. Widespread awareness and education are crucial, with all stakeholders—including the government, businesses, and workers—sharing responsibilities. Ministerial-level coordination, backed by political will, is vital for success.



**Faruque Hassan,**  
Former President, BGMEA

We are advocating for rooftop solar energy, particularly in areas with major projects. However, investment is lacking, despite this being a well-supported area in the past. The adoption of solar energy requires the integration of various components, which demands financial support. Bureaucratic obstacles, taxes, and corruption hinder progress. The government should subsidise the clean energy sector rather than relying on taxes. Bangladesh Bank and IFC currently offer green finance services.

Small and medium factories with outdated machinery struggle to industrialise further, facing financial challenges. Around 230 factories in Bangladesh have received internationally recognised certification. We aim to involve more brands and buyers, with H&M and Bestseller supporting a 500 MW wind power project expected soon.

International buyers must also take responsibility as sustainable practices evolve. Technical, policy, and financial support are essential to expanding green factories. The apparel and garment industry depends on two core raw materials: cotton and petrochemicals. Both sectors face challenges, and hybrid production processes may offer solutions.



**Tanjim Ferdous,**  
In-Charge, NGOs & Foreign Missions, Business Development Team, The Daily Star & Moderator

The RMG sector is recognised as the backbone of Bangladesh's economy. This significant sector has been facing challenges, particularly due to global energy scarcity and the war in Ukraine, which have created an unstable situation. Additionally, the rising cost of electricity and the growing need for a sustainable and uninterrupted energy system are becoming increasingly pressing concerns.



## TAHSAN to host ‘Family Feud’

Globally popular show **Family Feud** is coming to Bangladesh through OTT platform Bongo. The programme will premiere on a television channel on January 27, and subsequently be released on the OTT platform. Renowned musician and actor Tahsan Khan will host the show.

A press conference was held at a five-star hotel in the capital on Tuesday.

Regarding his role as host, the singer said, **“Family Feud** has captured the hearts of audiences in more than 75 countries worldwide, and now it’s here in Bangladesh. I feel deeply honoured and delighted to host such an international show for the first time.”

Special episodes of the programme will feature well-known personalities such as Manoj Pramanik, Shahnaz Khushi and Brindaban Das, among others.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Papia Sarwar to receive posthumous Rabindra Padak



The 43rd Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad will posthumously honour the revered Rabindra Sangeet singer Papia Sarwar, with the Rabindra Padak.

The award honours her remarkable contributions to Bengali music. Her unique voice and masterful interpretations of Rabindra Sangeet and modern Bangla songs have cemented her enduring legacy.

The event set to be held at the Chhayanaout Shangskriti Bhavan auditorium in the capital’s Dhanmondi area from January 23 to 25, will additionally feature performances and discussions aimed at celebrating the lasting impact of Rabindranath Tagore’s works on Bengali culture.

She served as general secretary and later as an executive committee member of the Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, promoting Tagore’s works.

## Sabina Yasmin set to return to music

After her courageous battle against cancer, the iconic singer Sabina Yasmin is ready to make her musical comeback through two major events in Dhaka on January 31 and February 1, followed by a stage show in Chattogram.

She expressed her joy at returning, saying, “By Allah’s grace, I am returning to music. Music has been my life for six decades, and it is where I find my greatest



happiness. Coming back to music feels wonderful.”

The songstress shared that several music directors have approached her about recording new songs. She therefore intends to work on new recordings alongside her stage performances.

She is set to rehearse with instrumentalists from January 26 to 28 to refine her skills before the shows.

## ‘Chaalchitro’ to stream on Hoichoi this February

The much-anticipated film **Chaalchitro**, which initially released in theatres on December 20, marked Ziaul Faruq Apurba’s debut in Tollywood. OTT platform Hoichoi has now officially announced that the film is set to release on February 7.

The storyline of **Chaalchitro** is centred around a 12-year-old case.

Notably, director Pratim D Gupta revealed plans for a sequel just seven days after the film’s theatrical release.

The next installment will pick up where the first part concluded. Produced under the banner of Friends Communication, the film

features Ziaul Faruq Apurba alongside an ensemble cast including Raima Sen, Tota Roy Chowdhury, Anirban Chakrabarti, Bratya Basu, and Shantanu Maheshwari, among others.



## Berlinale to feature ‘Shudhu Takar Jonno’ by Tabib Mahmud and Rana Mridha

Indian Bengali film **Baksho Bondi** (Shadowbox) has been nominated for the prestigious 75th Berlin International Film Festival. It notably features the title track sung by Bangladesh’s **Gully Boy** famed duo, Tabib Mahmud and Rana Mridha.

The song, titled **Shudhu Takar Jonno**, was written and composed by Tabib Mahmud, with music arranged by Shubbro Raha. The 75th edition of the Berlin International Film Festival announced the list of selected films yesterday, with **Baksho Bondi** featured in the Berlinale Perspectives category. This section showcases 13 films from emerging directors worldwide.

Earlier in 2023, Tabib and Rana made waves with their song **Chap Nai**, which was featured in the Indian series **Kaala**, directed by Bejoy Nambiar for Disney+ Hotstar.

## NEWS

### Trump targets US diversity scheme

FROM PAGE 16  
receive government contracts from hiring employees from marginalized backgrounds - what the order called “illegal DEI discrimination and preferences” - and asked government agencies to identify private companies that might be subject to civil investigation.

In a government memo issued on Tuesday, federal agencies were told to put diversity staff on paid leave “immediately” - specifically by 17:00 local time (22:00 GMT) yesterday.

The order also stipulates that federal and private-sector employment preferences for military veterans could continue.

Trump signed a memorandum that ends a Biden administration initiative

to promote diversity in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ordering the FAA Administrator to immediately stop DEI hiring programmes, the White House said.

He also touted a huge AI project in a shock-and-awe start to his second presidency - but faced defiance including a rare public dressing down from a bishop.

Flanked at the White House by the chiefs of Japanese giant Softbank, Oracle and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, Trump announced a venture called “Stargate” which will “invest \$500 billion, at least,” in AI infrastructure in the United States.

“This monumental undertaking is a resounding declaration of confidence in America’s potential,”

said Trump.

Trump also faced fresh criticism from an unexpected and powerful voice Tuesday when a Washington bishop told him from the pulpit that he was sowing fear among America’s immigrants and LGBTQ people, reports AFP.

“I ask you to have mercy, Mr President,” the Washington National Cathedral’s Mariann Edgar Budde told an unsmiling Trump, seated in the front pew for the customary inaugural service next to his wife Melania.

Early yesterday, Trump blasted Budde on his Truth Social platform, calling the Episcopal bishop “nasty” and demanding an apology.

### Laid-off

FROM PAGE 16  
Yesterday’s demonstrations demanding the reopening of the factories began at 3:00pm in the Kashimpur (Mouzar Mil) area on the Chandra-Nabinagar highway. The protests blocking the highway caused massive traffic jams, leading to sufferings of passengers.

At one point, the agitated workers vandalised a number of vehicles. They also attacked journalists and damaged their motorcycles, said Abu Taleb, senior assistant superintendent of police of Gazipur Industrial Police-2.

Rahimul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kashimpur Police Station, said a truck and three buses were torched during the protests. The situation remained tense late into the night.

Tariqul Islam, public relations officer of Beximco Industrial Park, regretted the violence and damage caused during the protests.

### Norway’s Schibsted Media to cut 13 percent of workforce

AFP, Oslo

Norwegian media group Schibsted Media, owner of major newspapers in Norway and Sweden, said yesterday that it was cutting 13 percent of its workforce in the face of falling print circulations and stagnating advertising revenue.

Around 350 full-time staff positions will be cut by the group, which currently has some 2,800 employees in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Poland, it said in a statement.

### 18,000 workers in depths of despair

FROM PAGE 16

able to travel to Malaysia has gripped these families, many of whom are now grappling to repay loans they had taken to pay the recruiting agencies.

Md Ratan, a man from Tangail, took a loan to pay Tk 4 lakh to a recruitment agency. “I am drowning in debt. The loan instalments and interest are unmanageable. I’ve had to sell land just to survive,” Ratan said.

Md Kawser, who paid Tk 6 lakh, expressed similar frustration. “The government’s negligence has worsened our situation. Every assurance feels hollow,” he lamented.

Md Khulkun, another worker who missed the deadline for entry into Malaysia, said, “I was promised I’d be sent by January. But now the interest on my loans keeps growing, and I can’t even bear my family’s basic expenses. We want to go to Malaysia by February.”

After the debacle under its watch, the previous regime failed to make any progress in resolving the crisis in the last two months before its ouster.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’s visit on October 4 last year after the political changeover finally cast

a ray of hope for the distraught families of the stranded workers.

During a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Anwar said he would consider the entry of the 18,000 Bangladeshi workers as soon as possible if all conditions are met.

The interim government then made repeated assurances to address the plight of these workers. But as the wait got longer, the workers formed a human chain in front of the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment in Dhaka, demanding urgent action on December 29 last year.

They withdrew their protest after receiving assurances that their demand would be met.

The workers blocked the Karwan Bazar roundabout in Dhaka yesterday as frustration boiled over again. Police removed them after an hour and a half.

Later, they marched to the ministry and blocked the road in front of it, staying until 1:00pm.

Once again, Adviser Asif Nazrul assured them they would be sent to Malaysia in phases, starting in late March or early April.

Speaking to the protesters, the adviser

promised that workers with BMET cards and visas would begin travelling to Malaysia by the end of March in phases.

“Those without BMET cards but with visas will be prioritised next. Workers without visas or BMET cards were advised to reclaim their passports and funds from the recruitment agencies, with the ministry offering support through local police stations if agencies refused to comply,” he told them.

The ministry’s Secretary Ruhul Amin said two committees—one in Bangladesh and one in Malaysia—were formed to address the issue.

“We’ve held a joint meeting with Malaysia and plan another next month. If all goes well, we hope to send these workers to Malaysia by late March or early April,” he said.

The crisis came after Malaysia reopened its labour market to Bangladeshi workers in 2022, following a four-year suspension due to recruitment irregularities.

Between August 2022 and April 2024, nearly 450,000 Bangladeshi workers migrated to Malaysia, making it the second-largest job market for Bangladeshis after Saudi Arabia.

### Only farmers

FROM PAGE 16  
commander added.

At the meeting, Col Md Imran Ibne A Rouf, sector commander of BGB, Rajshahi, led the Bangladesh team, while Arun Kumar Gautam, DIG of BSF’s Malda sector, led the Indian team. Lt Col Golam Kibria and 119 BSF Commander Suruj Sing were also present at the meeting.

Tensions between the two forces had recently escalated due to the BSF’s alleged construction of a barbed wire fence near the zero line at the Chouka border on January 7 and the felling of mango trees in Bangladesh by Indian nationals near the Chouka and Kiranganj border areas on January 18.

### 2 stabbed

FROM PAGE 16

Sub-Inspector Maruf Ahmed, told this newspaper that unidentified people were made accused since the attackers had face masks. He added the family suspects a man named Yasin Sikdar, who had been arrested on charges of kidnapping Kader’s brother Mintu Sikdar four months ago, was involved in the attack.

Mintu alleged Yasin and his associates had been threatening the family since their release on bail.

A senior police officer, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that they suspect “transactions of money” might be a reason behind the attack.



[illegible]



# What’s next for Digital Financial Services in Bangladesh?

AMEERA FAIROOZ

Bangladesh’s digital payments infrastructure has undergone multiple shifts over the past few years, with Mobile Financial Services (MFS) emerging as a key contributor. During the Covid-19 pandemic, mobile money played a crucial role in enabling millions of people to access digital financial services (DFS) for their daily needs. As the impact of the pandemic eased, mobile money usage surged in 2022, surpassing pre-Covid levels.

The habit of using digital payments, enforced by the pandemic, has become deeply ingrained for many, indicating a fundamental shift in consumer behaviour. Amidst pandemic-induced lockdowns and restrictions, the reliance on digital payments, including mobile money, has surged globally, contributing to the rapid expansion of registered accounts and active usage. Looking at the post-Covid figures, total MFS transactions have increased nearly threefold from 2020 till H’1 2024.

## BARRIERS TO SCALING DFS IN BANGLADESH

Barriers to scaling digital financial services (DFS) in Bangladesh are numerous despite the introduction of innovative products catering to diverse consumer and business needs. Mobile Financial Services (MFS), digital wallets, digital nano loans, and online payment platforms have become integral to daily financial transactions. However, the country’s digital payments infrastructure requires significant development to reach its full potential.

One major challenge is the absence of interoperability across platforms, which raises transaction costs and complicates the seamless transfer of funds between financial systems. This lack of connectivity fragments the payments ecosystem and results in user friction, as consumers are forced to cash in and out frequently when navigating different services. Enhanced interoperability would enable smoother, cost-effective digital transactions and contribute to a more cohesive financial system.

Another issue is the insufficient adoption of security standards. Payment security frameworks like the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI-SSC) and EMV are critical for safeguarding transactions, yet their slow implementation leaves systems vulnerable to fraud and cyberattacks.

A lack of incentives to encourage digital transactions further impedes the adoption of electronic payment systems. Government and regulatory bodies need to take proactive steps to offer incentives that drive greater integration and use of DFS solutions.

Poor internet connectivity, particularly in rural areas, also hinders the effective deployment of electronic payment systems. Slow and expensive internet, coupled with events like the recent six-day nationwide internet shutdown, has caused significant damage to the IT industry and eroded consumer trust in digital financial services.

Additionally, the dual role of regulatory bodies as operators in the payment ecosystem creates conflicts of interest. This overlap can result in biased decisions that stifle innovation and inhibit fair competition among stakeholders, ultimately undermining the development of a dynamic and inclusive digital financial ecosystem.

## DESIGNING A BLUEPRINT FOR A ROBUST PAYMENTS INFRASTRUCTURE

To understand the challenges in the infrastructure, it is important to learn the key elements and how they piece together to form an ecosystem.

### Digital identification

Bangladesh has taken leaps in developing digital identification systems, particularly with the rollout of Smart NIDs and Bangla QR. These initiatives aim to streamline transactions, enhance security, and improve access to government services. The Bangla QR system facilitates cashless transactions, while smart IDs offer secure authentication for individuals accessing

various services.

However, challenges remain in ensuring universal adoption and interoperability across different platforms and services. India’s Aadhaar system revolutionised digital identification by providing a unique biometric ID to over 1.2 billion individuals, facilitating access to financial services and government benefits. While the e-KYC process has become much more efficient, there is still room for improvement in achieving widespread adoption and integration across various services.

### Interoperability

The Central Bank of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the ICT Division, established the Interoperable Digital Transaction Platform (IDTP) known as ‘Binimoy’ in 2022. This initiative aimed to overcome the prevailing fragmentation among MFS providers and Payment Service Providers (PSPs), which inhibited seamless money transfers across different platforms.

While the initiative held promise for enhancing financial accessibility, its implementation faced hurdles. Private sector entities took a lead role in the development process, resulting in a lack of comprehensive user testing and pilot programs. Consequently, the platform encountered security vulnerabilities, leading to instances of financial malpractice within days of its launch.

### Data security

While Bangladesh has taken steps to enhance data security measures, including the enactment of the Data Security Act, there are still gaps in enforcement and

digital infrastructure forward.

The key benefits of a digital data repository are numerous. By deploying multi-factor authentication services, such as a repository provides users with full control over their information, thereby enhancing privacy and data protection. Additionally, digitally stored documents streamline bureaucratic processes, eliminating inefficiencies and reducing the burden of carrying numerous physical documents. This digital transformation simplifies verification and submission procedures, offering significant convenience to users. It accommodates various document formats and facilitates digital signatures, simplifying the verification and submission process.

## GLOBAL INSIGHTS: HOW INDIA AND SINGAPORE SHAPED THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE

While India and Singapore showcase advanced, integrated payment infrastructures with strong regulatory frameworks, interoperability, and consumer trust, Bangladesh is still developing its digital financial ecosystem. The country’s ongoing efforts, particularly in mobile financial services and digital identity, reflect a commitment to improvement, but challenges remain. To enhance its payments infrastructure, Bangladesh can draw lessons from the successes of India and Singapore in establishing regulatory clarity, promoting interoperability, and driving consumer adoption.

### Regulatory framework

Singapore has a well-established regulatory framework overseen by the Monetary



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

compliance. Strengthening data security protocols, implementing encryption standards, and fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness are essential steps to safeguarding digital assets and preventing unauthorised access or data breaches. The vulnerability of data security has been magnified with the hacking of 25 local websites leaking sensitive information of various stakeholder groups. Bangladesh’s data security and consent frameworks are still evolving, with opportunities to strengthen user rights and privacy protections.

In comparison, Singapore has stringent data protection laws, such as the Personal Data Protection Act, ensuring high standards for data security. Bangladesh can draw inspiration from Singapore’s approach to data governance and explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing in developing robust data protection frameworks.

### Data repository

While Bangladesh has made strides in its digital transformation journey, particularly within the MFS segment and the advent of digital banking guidelines, the establishment of a robust data repository remains a pivotal component that is yet to be fully realised. Drawing inspiration from India’s DigiLocker, Bangladesh can leverage innovative solutions to propel its

Authority of Singapore (MAS), which promotes innovation while ensuring consumer protection and financial stability. The Payment Services Act (2019) consolidates the regulation of various payment services, providing clear guidelines for operations and licensing. This regulatory clarity fosters a competitive environment that encourages the entry of fintech companies.

Additionally, the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) offers a balanced approach to personal data protection by regulating the collection, use, disclosure, and care of personal data. It applies to all private sector organisations, regardless of size, ensuring that a wide range of entities adhere to data protection principles. Central to the PDPA is the emphasis on obtaining consent from individuals before collecting, using, or disclosing their personal data. This empowers individuals to have control over their personal information and promotes transparency in how organisations handle data. In contrast, Bangladesh’s regulatory landscape is still evolving, with overlapping roles among regulatory bodies that can hinder innovation and create conflicts of interest.

### State of interoperability

Singapore’s payment ecosystem is characterised by high interoperability among various payment systems, facilitated

by initiatives like Fast And Secure Transfers (FAST) and Singapore Quick Response Code (SQQR). These systems enable seamless transactions between banks and payment service providers, enhancing user experience.

On the other hand, India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) excels in interoperability, enabling seamless transactions across platforms. It features QR-based payments where customers can scan merchant-displayed codes for easy transfers. UPI’s layered architecture enhances scalability and flexibility by building on existing systems.

### CONSUMER EDUCATION AND TRUST

Government and regulatory bodies like the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have launched large-scale campaigns, such as the ‘RBI Kehta Hai’ initiative, aimed at educating consumers on the safe use of digital payments, which has boosted trust and reduced apprehensions around security issues.

### Way forward

To develop a robust layered payments infrastructure, it is essential to evaluate existing systems and identify areas for improvement and integration. A crucial first step is addressing the digital divide, which forms the cornerstone of an inclusive payments ecosystem. This gap encompasses disparities in access to smart devices, internet connectivity, and digital literacy. Initiatives to subsidise smart devices, lower transaction costs, and extend reliable internet to rural areas must be prioritised. Additionally, introducing

value-added services such as micro-credit and conducting financial literacy programs can drive adoption among underserved populations, creating a more equitable and inclusive payment ecosystem in Bangladesh.

By refining and “stacking” these systems, Bangladesh can achieve seamless digital payment operations. In the presence of an interoperable digital platform, a ripple effect can be generated across multiple sectors, encouraging key players to adopt these services and collaboratively address market demand.

While the country has embraced the growth of digital financial services over the years, the road ahead demands a coordinated and deliberate approach. Strengthening interoperability, enhancing data security, and fostering digital literacy are vital steps toward a robust, layered payment infrastructure. By addressing regulatory challenges and ensuring seamless integration across platforms, Bangladesh can unlock the full potential of its digital economy, driving financial inclusion and sustainable growth for the future.

Ameera Fairouz is a consultant at LightCastle Partners with a background in International Business from Dhaka University.

## JOBS SPOTLIGHT



### BRAC

Senior Manager, Insights & Innovation Research, Social Innovation Lab

Deadline: January 25

#### Eligibility:

● Master’s degree or equivalent in Economics, Development Studies, Anthropology, Public Policy, Behavioral Science, Psychology, or other related fields from any recognised university.

Minimum experience: 5 years

## act:onaid

### ActionAid Bangladesh

Programme Officer, Implementation

Deadline: January 25

#### Eligibility:

● Bachelor’s degree in Social Science from a reputed university, with an understanding of project implementation, facilitation and training delivery, training follow-up, and impact assessment.

Minimum experience: 2-3 years

## International Rescue Committee

WPE Caseworker

Deadline: January 22

#### Eligibility:

● Bachelor’s degree in Psychology/ Gender or Women’s Studies/ Social Work/ Social Science or other relevant subjects.

Minimum experience: 2 years



## SMC Enterprise Ltd.

Sales Officer

Deadline: January 25

#### Eligibility:

● Master’s degree in any discipline, with field sales experience in FMCG or pharmaceuticals receiving preference.

Minimum experience: 2 years



FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



“Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself, do not go out and look for a successful personality and duplicate it.”

BRUCE LEE



# 78 million job opportunities will be available by 2030: Report

## NEXT STEP DESK

A recent report titled ‘Future of Jobs Report 2025’ by World Economic Forum projects a net increase of 78 million jobs globally by 2030, as rapid technological advancements and demographic shifts reshape the global workforce. The report estimates that while 170 million new roles will be created, 92 million positions will be displaced, reflecting a net disruption of 22% of jobs over the next five years.

Drawing from data collected from over 1,000 companies across 22 industries in 55 economies, the report identifies technological innovations, economic pressures, and geopolitical tensions as the primary drivers of these changes. Key findings highlight the accelerating need for reskilling, with 63% of employers citing skills gap as a major challenge.



# 5 free courses to start your machine learning journey

## MARWAN KHADEM

Curious about the buzz around AI breakthroughs and wondering how to dive in? Whether you’re keen to understand algorithms or eager to teach machines how to learn, these five courses are perfect for getting started stress-free.

### Machine Learning Crash Course by Google

This course consists of modules designed to teach learners basic and advanced ML concepts. It starts with essential topics like Classification, Linear Regression,

and Logistic Regression, which help you learn about building basic ML models. The course also covers some necessary data handling techniques and addresses challenges like overfitting.

### Stanford CS229: Machine Learning Course by Andrew Ng

This course covers foundational machine-related topics such as supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning. It is ideal for those looking for a rigorous, detailed exploration of machine-learning concepts.

### Intro to Machine Learning by Kaggle

This particular beginner course offers an accessible and easy entry point into machine learning. Designed to help you learn the core concepts, it will help you build your first machine-learning models, providing hands-on exercises and guides to solidify your learning.

### Machine Learning for Everybody by freeCodeCamp.org


This course is an extensive resource developed especially for beginners, which covers both practical and theoretical aspects of ML, including hands-on implementations. The course

also offers a hands-on approach to learning ML with Google Colab and real datasets.

### Data Science: Machine Learning by HarvardX

This course is part of the Professional Certificate Program in Data Science, but you can audit it for free. It teaches you the core concepts of machine learning while helping you learn how to build prediction algorithms using data. The best part is that you will be solidifying your knowledge by applying it immediately using real-world datasets.





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টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি (উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি)

০৮ মাস ১৪৩১  
২২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫


মেমো নং DU/AMTH/OTM/25-02/ ফলিত গণিত : 01

ক্র. নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	টেন্ডার বন্ধ বছরের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
১।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ফলিত গণিত বিভাগের জন্য ১০টি Desktop Computer, ০২টি Digital Photocopier, ০৫টি 1200VA Offline UPS, ০৮টি 650VA Offline UPS, ৩৯টি Offline UPS Battery, ০৬টি Online UPS Battery, ১০টি SSD, ০৪টি Networking Switch, ০৩টি Projector Screen & ০১টি Air Condition (5.0 Ton) ইনস্টলেশন এবং সরবরাহ।	০৯/০২/২০২৫ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১০/০২/২০২৫ সকাল ১০.০০টায়	১০/০২/২০২৫ সকাল ১১.০০টায়	ফলিত গণিত বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

উল্লেখিত কাজের সিডিউল মূল্য ৪,০০০/- টাকা (অবৈধযোগ্য) দরপত্র ক্রয় বিক্রয় বাত, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি. শাখায়, একাউন্ট নং ৩৬০০০৩৯২ তে জমা দিয়ে উল্লেখিত অফিস হইতে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

*(অধ্যাপক ড. মুহাম্মদ ফেরদৌস)*  
চেয়ারম্যান  
ফলিত গণিত বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD- 252



UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 01 (one) permanent post of Professor in the Department of Philosophy, University of Dhaka in the pay scale of Tk. 56,500-74,400/- (National Pay Scale-2015).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates should be reputed scholars having high academic qualifications and must have a Ph.D. in Philosophy or relevant field. They must have at least 12 (twelve) years of teaching experience in a university with at least 12 (twelve) research publications in the indexed/quality journal with DOI (Digital Object Identifier). Articles published in predatory journals will not be accepted. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel. Relevant notes and conditions apply (For details, see the Dhaka University website).

Eleven copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets/grade sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 1000/- (One thousand) only, payable to the Registrar, University of Dhaka should reach him on or before 24/03/2025.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২৫

তারিখ : ০৬ মাস, ১৪৩১  
২০ জানুয়ারি, ২০২৫

**পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ, গাজীপুর-এ 'ফর্ক লিফট অপারেটর (পুরুষ)' এবং 'মুয়াজ্জিন' পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকাশিত যথাক্রমে ১১/০১/২০২৩ তারিখের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ০২/২০২৩ এবং ০৮/১০/২০২৩ তারিখের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ৫৭/২০২৩ এর অনুবৃত্তিক্রমে বর্ণিত পদদ্বয়ে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাধীনে পুনরায় দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্র.নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	গ্রেড	বেতনস্কেল, ২০১৫	ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা
১।	মুয়াজ্জিন	১	১৬তম	৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/-	আলিম পাশসহ কুরী হতে হবে। কোরআনে হাফেজ হলে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে।
২।	ফর্ক লিফট অপারেটর (পুরুষ)	২	১৬তম	ঐ	এসএসসি/সমমান পাশ। ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।

২. গ্রেডিং পদ্ধতিতে প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ ও ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং যথাক্রমে শিম/শা:১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮২ ও শিম/শা:১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবে।

(ক) এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে-

জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ
জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ
জিপিএ ১.০০ থেকে ২.০০ এর কম	তৃতীয় বিভাগ

(খ) অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ এর ক্ষেত্রে।

অর্জিত সিজিপিএ		সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
৪.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	
৩.০০ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব	প্রথম শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
২.২৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
১.৬৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.২৫ এর কম	২.০৬৩ বা তদূর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.৮১৩ এর কম	তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

৩. O' Level এবং A' Level এর ক্ষেত্রে এদেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate), বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রাপ্ত ডিগ্রীর ক্ষেত্রে দেশী সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের তথ্য প্রদান করতে হবে।

৪. বয়স (০১/০১/২০২৫ তারিখে)ঃ

ক) বিভাগীয় প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩২ বছর।

খ) বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের জন্য বয়স ৩৫ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

৫. অগ্রাহ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে ২০/০২/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online Application Form-এ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ২০/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ বা তৎপূর্বে যারা বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে যাচিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা অর্জন করেছেন শুধুমাত্র তারা আবেদনের যোগ্য হবেন।

৬. আবেদন করার সময় Application Form পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী (erecruitment.bb.org.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

৭. যাদের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ CV রয়েছে, তারা তাদের উক্ত CV-এর মাধ্যমেই আবেদন করবেন। প্রার্থীর নাম ও পিতার নাম এস.এস.সি/সমমানের সনদে যেভাবে লেখা আছে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রে দৃষ্ট হতে হবে। নাম, পিতা/মাতার নাম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, ১১ ডিজিটের মোবাইল নম্বর, ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি সংক্রান্ত তথ্যে অসামঞ্জস্য ভুল থাকলে প্রার্থীরা আবেদনের সময় নিজ উদ্যোগে সংশোধন/হালনাগাদ করে নিবেন। তবে যাদের CV নেই তারা ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী অনলাইন আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে নতুন CV তৈরি করবেন এবং নির্ধারিত স্থানে স্বাক্ষর ও সদ্য তোলা Formal রঙিন ছবি ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক আপলোড করবেন। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবির ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড অবশ্যই সাদা হতে হবে। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবি আপলোডে ত্রুটি/বিচ্ছিন্নতার বিষয়ে সাবধানতা অবলম্বনের পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো। আবেদনপত্রের তথ্যে অসামঞ্জস্য/ভুল থাকলে সংশোধনের সুযোগ থাকবে না এবং কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকেই প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।

৮. অনলাইনে আবেদন করার পর CV Identification Number, Tracking Number ও Password যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে বর্ণিত তথ্যসমূহ প্রয়োজন হবে।

৯. পূর্বের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির (নংঃ ০২/২০২৩, তারিখঃ ১১/০১/২০২৩ এবং নংঃ ৫৭/২০২৩, তারিখঃ ০৮/১০/২০২৩) শর্ত মোতাবেক যে সকল প্রার্থী আবেদন করেছেন তাদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

১০. আলোচ্য পদসমূহে আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে কোন আবেদন ফি প্রদান করতে হবে না।

১১. পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডের জন্য একটি বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করা হবে। আবেদন যাচাই বাছাই শেষে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করার সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে। যারা উল্লিখিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করবেন শুধু তারা পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ পাবেন। নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার পর প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডের কোন সুযোগ থাকবে না।

১২. প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে আবেদনে প্রদত্ত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে।

১৩. চাকরিরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বানুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে দাখিল করতে হবে। অনাথায় প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে না।

১৪. আবেদনে প্রদত্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার স্বপক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/পৌরসভার মেয়র/ কাউন্সিলর/ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে জমা দিতে হবে।

১৫. উভয় পদে শুধু পুরুষ প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

১৬. উভয় পদে সকল জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দারা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

১৭. বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক ব্যতীত অন্য কেউ নিয়োগ পাওয়ার উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হবেন না। বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নয় প্রার্থীর এরূপ জ্ঞী থাকলে অথবা বিবাহ বন্ধনের জন্য চুক্তিবদ্ধ হলে নিয়োগের জন্য অনুপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হবেন।

১৮. পদের সংখ্যা কম/বেশি হতে পারে।

১৯. নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

২০. কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির কার্যক্রম যেকোন পর্যায়ে সংশোধন/স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

২১. কোন ক্ষেত্রে কাগজপত্রাদির ঘাটতি থাকলে বা পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার ঘাটতি পাওয়া গেলে বা দুনীতি, অসত্য তথ্য প্রদান, কোন জাল সনদ দাখিল, অসদুপায় অবলম্বন, প্রভারণার আশ্রয় নিলে বা আবেদনপত্রে গুরুতর (Substantive) ত্রুটি বা ঘাটতি দেখা গেলে বা প্রদত্ত তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যেকোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।


২২. দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

সূত্র নং-ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৫-২০৮  
তারিখ : ২২/০১/২০২৫

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
**মোঃ জবদুল ইসলাম**  
পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১)

বার্ষিক ও অর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

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UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 01 (One) permanent post of Assistant Professors in the Department of Philosophy. Pay scale for the post of Assistant Professors Tk. 35,500-67,010/- according to the national pay scale-2015.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must have a first class/a minimum CGPA of 3.50 out of 4.00 in both Bachelor and Master degrees in Philosophy with a first division/a minimum GPA of 4.25 out of 5.00 both in SSC and HSC examinations. Requirements for either the SSC or HSC examinations may be relaxed for the candidates who have obtained the first position/the highest CGPA in both Bachelor and Master degrees. Candidates must have at least 03 (three) years of teaching experience at a university, or, at least 02 (two) years as post doctoral research or at least 06 (six) years research experience as a research/scientific officer or an equivalent position in a reputed research organization. Candidates with a Ph.D. should have at least 01 (one) year of teaching experience at a university. Applicants must have at least 03 (three) research publications in the indexed/quality journal with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier). Articles published in predatory journals will not be accepted. Candidates already in service must apply through the proper channel. Relevant notes and conditions apply (For details, see the Dhaka University Website).

Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only, payable to the Registrar, University of Dhaka, should reach him on or before 13/02/2025.

GD-245




ADB

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Technical Education

F-4/B, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

www.techedu.gov.bd



Ref. No. 57.03.0000.026.014.002.24.06

Date: 21 January 2025

**Recruitment Notice**

Program Name	:	Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Agency	:	Directorate of Technical Education (DTE)
Scheme Name	:	Expansion of Skills for Employment and Socially Inclusive Training for Priority and Emerging Sectors.
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>		
Position	No.	Minimum Qualification and Experience
<b>Program Implementation Unit (PIU) for SICIP-DTE</b>		
Administrative Officer (Contractual)	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>H.S.C with 3 years' experience in computer operation.</li><li>At least 3 years' Working experience in SEIP/Similar project will be an added advantage.</li></ul>
Data Entry Operator (Contractual)	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SSC passed with skills in computer operation.</li><li>At least 3 years' Working experience in SEIP/Similar project will be an added advantage.</li></ul>
Office Attendant (Contractual)	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SSC passed with skills in computer operation.</li><li>At least 3 years' Working experience in SEIP/Similar project will be an added advantage.</li></ul>
Application Closing Date and Time	:	Application shall be submitted to the office of the Director (Vocational) before 5.00pm on 02 February 2025 in sealed envelope clearly marked "Application for the Selection of [Name of Position]." Contact address with email and mobile number of the applicant should be written on the left side of the <b>A4 Size Envelope</b> . Necessary document in support of educational qualifications, experiences and skills have to be submitted.
+ Salary and other allowances will be provided as per SICIP program Business Plan.		
Name and Designation of Official Inviting Recruitment	:	Engr. Md Rezaul Haque, Director (Vocational), Directorate of Technical Education, Dhaka-1207.
Address of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Directorate of Technical Education (3rd Floor), Room No. 311, F-4/B, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
The recruitment entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the Applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.		

*(Engr. Md Rezaul Haque)*  
Director (Vocational)  
Directorate of Technical Education, Dhaka-1207

GD-251

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

**সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর**

**কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।**

নম্বর:২৩.২২.০০০১.০০২.০৬.০০২.২৫-৩০৮

তারিখ : ০৮ মাস ১৪৩১  
২২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫

**“অকেজো গাড়ির নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি”**

সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাসের অকেজো যোচিট টয়েটা রাশ(জাপান) ঢাকা মেট্রো ঘ-১৩-৭১২৫ প্লাজিটি “যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে এবং উহার রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ট্যাক্স টোকেন ও ফিটনেস সনদ যে পর্যন্ত নবায়ন আছে” ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক, অগ্রাহ্য ক্রেতাগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি নিম্নরূপ:-

ক্র/নং	বিষয়	অকেজো গাড়ি সংক্রান্ত তথ্য
১.	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রদানকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
২.	দরপত্র আহবানের স্মারক ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-২৩.২২.০০০১.০০২.০৬.০০২.২৫-৩০৮ তারিখ: ২২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫।
৩.	দরপত্রের সিডিউল মূল্য	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য)।
৪.	যার অনুকূলে পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট করতে হবে	সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
৫.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ বুধবার বিকাল ৫:০০ টা।
৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
৭.	অকেজো যানবাহন পরিদর্শনের স্থান	সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
৮.	দরপত্রের নিয়ম	যে কোন দরদাতা একটি সিডিউলে দর উল্লেখ করে দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিল করতে পারবেন।
৯.	জামানত	দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত মোট উক্ত দরের ১৫% হারে (ক্ষেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন ভকসীলী ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে।
১০.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ বুধবারের বেলা ১২:০০ টা।
১১.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কার্যালয়ের নাম	সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
১২.	দরপত্র বাজ খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ বুধবারের বেলা ১২:৩০ টা সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসন দপ্তর, কেন্দ্রীয় সার্কেল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।

**শর্তাবলি:-**

(ক) দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয় ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে না/দরপত্র সিডিউলের ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(খ) জামানত ব্যতীত দরপত্র গৃহীত হবে না।

(গ) অগ্রাহ্য দরদাতাগণ অফিস চলাকালীন নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখা হতে (কক্ষ নং-১০৬) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি জানতে পারবেন।

(ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(ঙ) এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আংশিক কিংবা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

*(বাবুল মিয়া)*  
সামরিক ভূ-সম্পত্তি প্রশাসক  
ও  
আহবায়ক  
অকেজো যানবাহন নিলাম কমিটি  
# ৮৭১১৮০৭।  
E-mail: meocentral@meoc.gov.bd

GD-248

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
**মোঃ জবদুল ইসলাম**  
পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১)

বার্ষিক ও অর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-255



## Expedite action to resolve Beximco crisis

### Reopen closed factories, settle workers' dues

We are worried about the prolonged uncertainty surrounding the fate of workers from the 16 garment and textile factories of Beximco that suspended operations on December 15, citing a lack of export orders and financial distress. More than a month has passed since then, yet there is no resolution in sight. Tuesday's mass rally by thousands of workers from the Beximco Industrial Park in Gazipur—demanding the reopening of factories and payment of outstanding salaries—underscores their plight and the slow pace of efforts to resolve this crisis.

The 16 factories employed around 42,000 workers and officials in total, with 27,000 workers laid off at the time of closure. On January 14, the labour secretary stated that the government was trying to find employment for affected workers in other factories and attract foreign buyers for the closed ones. However, this is proving to be difficult due to Beximco's liabilities that pose a major hurdle to any acquisition. The group owes banks approximately Tk 50,000 crore in loans, over half of which have turned non-performing, according to data from Bangladesh Bank. Moreover, a state advisory council convened on January 20 to discuss selling the factories to repay these loans but deferred its decision, citing discrepancies in loan and default amounts between the financial statements provided by Beximco's state-appointed administrator and banks.

Naturally, there will be further scrutiny of these statements now, which will further delay the selling and reopening process. It will require time, something that the laid-off workers simply cannot afford as they remain without wages or alternative employment. Beximco's crisis—caused by the fall of the autocratic Awami League government of which its founder Salman F Rahman, now behind bars, was an influential adviser—had nothing to do with these workers, yet they are the ones left to bear the brunt of it. It is heartening that the convener of the state advisory council assured that every worker would receive their due benefits, and Beximco Industrial Park authorities announced on Wednesday that all dues would be paid. But this is not enough. The workers also need their jobs to survive.

We urge the authorities to resolve this crisis with the highest priority. It is understandable that businesses must operate within certain financial realities, but if Beximco cannot sustain operations, alternative arrangements must be made. Whether through restructuring, alternative ownership, or even nationalisation, as demanded by a labour union leader at Wednesday's rally, these factories must be revived—both for the sake of workers and our economy.

## Curb misinformation with robust measures

### The high volume of fake news circulated last year is alarming

The sheer volume of misinformation and fake news that spread in the months following the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5 is truly alarming. While disinformation has long posed a threat to democracy in Bangladesh, its surge in recent months has been particularly notable, exacerbating communal tensions and straining Bangladesh India ties. Fact-checking organisations reportedly debunked 58 percent more content in 2024 compared to the previous year. Dismisslab's annual roundup states that fact-checkers identified and verified over 3,000 unique pieces of false or misleading information that went viral last year, fuelling a wave of chaos in the wake of the political transition.

According to its report, throughout 2024, certain Indian elements and pro-Awami League social media users played a significant role in this. Disinformation related to communal tensions and religious hatred, which had been on the rise since August, escalated further in November and December. False reports regarding attacks on minorities and communal unrest caused panic and division within the country. There was also misinformation about Indian soldiers withdrawing from Bangladesh, as well as fabricated claims by Indian mainstream media alleging that Pakistani troops were patrolling inside Bangladesh.

On November 5, an anti-ISKCON Facebook post led to violent clashes in Chattogram, injuring seven police officers and five army personnel. Later, on November 26, the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das on sedition charges triggered a wave of misinformation, including fabricated quotes falsely attributed to him. Fake photocards, appearing to be from mainstream media outlets, further spread confusion. Similarly, misinformation surrounding the three student leaders who took on advisory roles in the interim government was widely circulated on social media.

This barrage of falsehoods has not only fuelled internal discord but also strained our relations with India, with tensions persisting at the borders and repeated incidents occurring this month. However, it is reassuring that a meeting between the BGB and BSF has resulted in an agreement to resolve disputes through dialogue and to counter the spread of rumours.

Misinformation and disinformation pose a serious threat to our democratic journey. Social media platforms, in particular, have become breeding grounds for false narratives and deliberate propaganda. It is, therefore, vital that we remain vigilant against fake news designed to harm national unity at this crucial point in our history. The government must establish a robust mechanism to swiftly debunk fake news, especially content that could endanger national security or public order. The mainstream media also bears a major responsibility in this fight. News organisations must strengthen their fact-checking initiatives and adopt modern verification tools to combat misinformation. Only through collaborative measures can we mitigate the damage caused by disinformation.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### First coronavirus lockdown



On this day in 2020, the first coronavirus lockdown came into force in Wuhan, a city in China, where the virus was first detected in 2019.

# Is deferment of LDC graduation a viable option?



Dr Mustafizur Rahman  
is distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy  
Dialogue (CPD).

MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

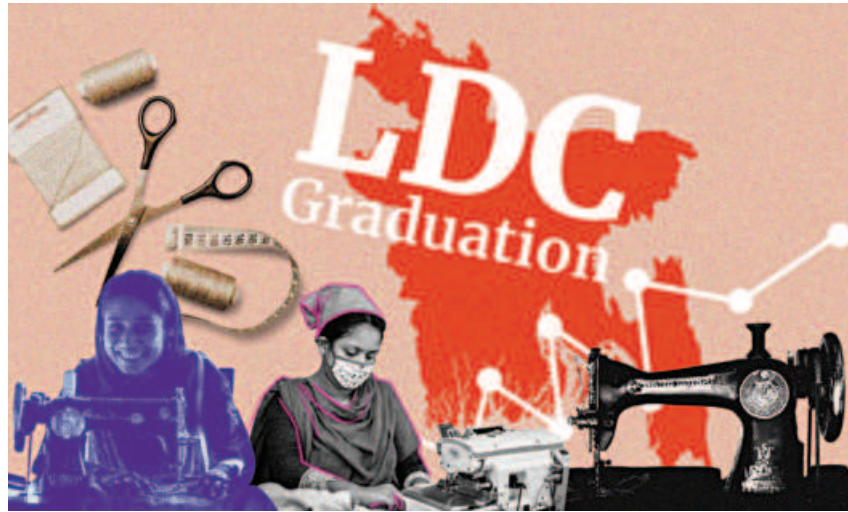
As may be recalled, Bangladesh is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category on November 24, 2026. However, some stakeholders in the country argue for a deferment of this graduation for an unspecified period. An objective analysis of the issue and an assessment of the veracity of these divergent views hold practical significance in shaping Bangladesh's stance in this context.

Some clarity in this regard is necessary. While specific criteria exist for including a developing country in the LDC group, it is ultimately up to the concerned country to decide whether it wants to be categorised as such. On the contrary, graduation from the group is contingent upon the LDC meeting the graduation thresholds and fulfilling the graduation procedures. In this sense, inclusion in the LDC group is “voluntary,” while graduation is somewhat “mandatory.”

To reinforce this point, in 2006, Zimbabwe rejected the UN Committee for Development Policy's (CDP) determination to categorise it as an LDC, stating that it “refuses to be downgraded as an LDC.” On the other hand, as noted above, there is a defined procedure for an LDC's graduation. An LDC must meet the criteria for

its graduation would take effect on November 24, 2026 (alongside Nepal and Lao PDR).

It is worth noting that the graduation of LDCs has been deferred in the past, even when eligibility for graduation was met. For instance, the graduation of several Pacific Island LDCs (e.g., Small Island Developing States such as Vanuatu and Kiribati) was deferred multiple times due to their vulnerability to environmental challenges. These countries were



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

eligible for graduation primarily based on the “income-only” criteria. Similarly, Nepal, which first met the graduation criteria in 2015 (three years before Bangladesh), will graduate simultaneously with Bangladesh, as it was not recommended for graduation in 2018 due to the 2017 earthquake.

Understandably, the call for Bangladesh's graduation deferment is being led by the export-oriented RMG sector, which accounts for about 85 percent of the country's total exports. The implications of the loss of preferences for this sector and the country are significant. Since tariffs on apparel items in major markets range from 10-15 percent, the adverse impact of preference erosion on RMG competitiveness will undoubtedly be considerable. Deferment of graduation would allow Bangladesh to continue enjoying various “Special and Differential” treatment provisions in the World Trade Organization (WTO), specifically targeted at LDCs.

Indeed, among the LDCs, Bangladesh has benefited the most from preferential treatment due to its relatively higher supply-side capacities compared to most other LDCs. Not surprisingly, the country also stands

without considering deferment, while Bhutan graduated in December 2023 without seeking a deferral. Should Bangladesh choose deferment, it will be the only South Asian country, aside from war-ravaged Afghanistan, to remain an LDC beyond 2026. Is this a position Bangladesh would find acceptable?

In this context, Bangladesh's best course of action would be to prepare for smooth and sustainable graduation from the LDC group. Bangladesh has already developed a “Smooth Graduation Strategy,” with concrete recommendations from seven sub-committees, awaiting approval by the National Committee on Graduation. According to the most recent triennial review by the CDP (February 2024), Bangladesh's eligibility for graduation has been reaffirmed, and as noted in the white paper committee report, “there is hardly any plausible reason, as of now, for Bangladesh to request a deferment of the exit date from the group.” However, the white paper also highlights concerns about the coordinated implementation of the strategy, including challenges related to institutional and policy leadership.

# When will the revolution reach Bangladesh's hills?



Julia Bleckner  
is senior researcher at Human Rights Watch  
(HRW).

JULIA BLECKNER

For the first time in over a decade, human rights defenders can meet freely in Dhaka without fear of arrest, surveillance, harassment or worse. After the student-led mass uprising that ousted the repressive Sheikh Hasina government in August, many Bangladeshis can hope for a democratic and rights-respecting future.

However, there is still one place where human rights monitors cannot travel or work freely in Bangladesh: the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The region, which borders India and Myanmar in southeastern Bangladesh, is home to just under a million Indigenous people. Over the last five decades, the policies of the Bangladesh government aimed at controlling the region have displaced many members of the Indigenous population, not

giving them their due rights to their land and identity.

The policies in the region under the interim government have remained nearly identical to those under Sheikh Hasina. The interim government continues to restrict access by requiring foreigners to inform the home ministry prior to any visit. Any international human rights monitors must be accompanied by a guide, vetted by the ministry, making it essentially impossible for activists and human rights victims to speak freely about the human rights abuses they face.

With the population cut off from international monitors and with local activists under heavy government surveillance, abuses in the region are rarely investigated or prosecuted. It is disappointing that even as

Bangladesh plans to usher in a wave of reforms to restore rights and ensure accountability for the indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary arrests, disappearances, and unaccounted-for killings, an Indigenous activist told me that those “winds of change have yet to come to the CHT.”

Michael Chakma, an Indigenous rights activist, was among those forcibly disappeared by the Sheikh Hasina government. He was unlawfully detained in April 2019, and even as security forces and government officials denied his arrest, he was tortured and interrogated in custody.

He was among the handful of detainees who emerged alive from a secret detention centre in August after the Hasina government folded. But the military remains heavily deployed in the CHT region with credible reports of abuse of civilians.

In the late 1970s, the government instituted a “population transfer programme,” offering cash and in-kind incentives to members of the country's majority Bangalee community to move to the CHT area. In 1977, the military moved into the region in response to the rise of local armed groups opposed to the “settlers.”

In 1997, the government signed a peace accord to end the violence

These concerns must be addressed with urgency and within a time-bound framework.

To this end, Bangladesh should focus on necessary reforms and structural transformations to ensure smooth and sustainable graduation. Trade policies, incentives, and import duties should be scrutinised to ensure compliance with global obligations associated with graduation. The country must transition from preference-based competitiveness to one based on skills and productivity. Adequate measures should be taken to ensure compliance with Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) obligations, the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and other WTO-mandated agreements applicable to non-LDC developing countries. Compliance with International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and protocols must also be ensured and enforced. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) should be negotiated, and “offensive” and “defensive” strategies should be designed appropriately in view of this. In the absence of membership in such trading partnerships and groupings, Bangladesh may find itself in a situation where it will need to export on a non-preferential basis, while its competitors, such as India, Pakistan, Vietnam, China and Cambodia, will enjoy preferential access to many markets (thanks to bilateral and regional free trade agreements and CEPAs to which these countries are members).

The global trading landscape is evolving rapidly, with an increased emphasis on greening trade, enhanced compliance requirements, and stricter environmental, gender and labour standards. Many of these requirements are being demanded not only by governments but also by brands, buyers, advocacy groups, and consumers.

Bangladesh's priorities must focus on domestic preparations and the implementation of its smooth graduation strategy. Reforms and structural changes must be implemented, the capacity to access regional and global markets from a position of strength must be enhanced, compliance with the newly emerging global trading regime must be ensured, and triangulation of transport, investment and trade connectivity must be established.

The discussion on deferring Bangladesh's LDC graduation should not divert attention from undertaking the urgent tasks required to address the challenges of smooth graduation and ensure its sustainability. Gaining a few additional years (if at all) must not serve as an excuse to avoid taking the necessary steps. Bangladesh's policy measures and implementation efforts must be aligned with the new and upcoming phase of its journey as a non-LDC developing country.

and officially recognise the distinct ethnicity and relative autonomy of the tribes and Indigenous people of the CHT region. Yet, nearly 30 years later, the accord is yet to be fully implemented. And violence continues to this day.

Civil society activists have called for the full implementation of the 1997 accord, with only 25 of its 72 provisions addressed. One of them was to set up a commission to ensure “a discrimination-free society establishing rights of the national minorities.”

Yet, that discrimination seems entrenched. Throughout Dhaka, the streets are covered in protest art, illustrating the student activists' dedication and their visions for Bangladesh's future. In the CHT region, too, activists painted in solidarity, but theirs was removed. “The revolution is for everyone in Bangladesh, except for those in the CHT,” one activist told me.

Activists have called for a Bangladesh 2.0, where rights are respected, security forces serve the public, and authorities—including the military—are held to account. Freedom and justice in the CHT region should serve as a test for whether these aspirations are a reality.



# Analysing the constitutional reform recommendations

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**APARAJITA DEBNATH and ANUPAM DEBASHIS ROY**

Following the student-led mass uprising that led to the historical fall of the fascist Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024, the interim government formed the Constitutional Reform Commission in October to draft and adopt a new, inclusive and democratic constitution, ensuring the inviolability of human dignity. After months of deliberation, the committee, headed by Prof Ali Riaz, a political scientist and Bangladesh specialist with international renown, has submitted their report with a number of key reform recommendations. Some of those recommendations are unprecedented, and praiseworthy, whereas some of them need further clarifications or even amending through consultation with the citizenry and other stakeholders.

Let's start with the Preamble, which is the soul of the constitution and is considered its legal and moral basis. Along with the historic Liberation War of 1971, the anti-discrimination movement of 2024 is mentioned with equal respect in the new proposed Preamble. This may seem like a good decision, but one may wonder if the wording is not clear enough to distinguish the difference between these two historic events. While 2024 will forever be a glorious chapter in our history that the new generation brought about, it would be foolhardy to try and compare it to 1971, which marks the genesis of the nation. We are not suggesting that the new Preamble does that directly, but we believe that more careful wording could avoid this equivocation and distinguish both events in their own glory.

A major change has been proposed in the fundamental principles of state policy by removing nationalism, socialism and secularism, retaining only democracy from the original principles. The other three have been replaced by equality, human dignity, social justice, and pluralism. By adding pluralism, they encourage the state to promote communal co-existence and mutual respect among different communities as Bangladesh is a pluralistic, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural country. Although removing "secularism" may seem counterproductive, hopefully, the inclusion of "pluralism" will help the people consider every ethnic/religious community as equal and maintain harmony in society.

Discarding secularism makes further sense because Bangladesh has not experienced separation of "church" and "state" the way

Western nations have, and the ideology of secularism may not apply to our context as they would in the nations that ordain secularism as their basic tenet. In our part of the world, religion has always played a key role, and often a political one, to ensure that the machineries of state work properly in favour of the oppressed.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Another praiseworthy recommendation is the abolition of Article 6 (2) of the current constitution, which says all the people of Bangladesh are a "nation of Bangalees," to be replaced by "all citizens of Bangladesh will be considered as Bangladeshi," irrespective of their ethnic origin. This is a must-have for a pluralist Bangladesh that is inclusive of all other ethnic identities. Ethnic minorities have been sidelined and marginalised throughout much of Bangladesh's history; it's high time this was rectified. Since independence, we have spent much of our time trying to tell the ethnic minorities to assimilate with the Bangalee majority, not taking into account their distinct ethnic cultures. This is a foundational contradiction for our nation that started its journey of nationalism on a quest for equal cultural recognition in the Pakistani state. It's high time for the course of history to bend towards justice in this respect.

However, the recommendation to completely abolish Article 7A of the

constitution as their shield with flexible amendments at any time, there should be some provisions to address such constitution-related offences, which might be added later in the newly reformed constitution. A point may be made against keeping the constitution as rigid and inflexible as it is now: it is better to have a constitution that can be changed as per the needs of the time. However, our existing constitution has had 17 amendments over the last five decades even after being a rigid one. Our history teaches us that making the constitution flexible may backfire and turn it into a plaything in case a party gets enough votes to change it as they wish—like the Awami League got in the 2008 election. This may be prevented if there are more seats in parliament.

One of the most significant changes recommended is to make the parliament bicameral, dividing it into two chambers: National Assembly and Senate. While this sounds like a good idea as it will increase public representation in the assembly,

Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Hungary, New Zealand, etc), some of which are bigger than Bangladesh. However, the way the Senate has been planned is progressive and innovative. Choosing members through proportional representation, reserving seats for disadvantaged sections of society, and creating an option for the president to choose more members show that this new plan has a way of increasing representation from the citizenry. And due to its structure, more non-political people from the citizenry and civil society can be present in the upper house.

Another really positive recommendation is to ensure at least 10 percent youth participation in the national assembly from every political party. Also, the number of reserved seats for female members of parliament has been increased from 50 to 100, which will include more women in the legislature.

However, the timeliest reformation recommendation is perhaps decentralising

the judiciary by establishing permanent benches of the High Court in every division of Bangladesh. This is not an entirely new concept for our country. The Eighth Amendment introduced this system in 1988. Although it was widely criticised back then in the *Anwar Hussain vs Bangladesh* case (known as the eighth amendment case) as it was challenged on the ground of *ultra vires*, the basic doctrine was nullified in 1989. Now, if it becomes possible with the new constitutional reform, it will be an effective step towards reducing the backlog of pending cases that is too big a burden for only one capital-centric High Court Division.

Another notable recommendation is to establish an independent Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), led by the chief justice and six other members, to select judges for recruitment to both divisions of the Supreme Court. In the present time, the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court is handled by the president with prior mandatory consultation with the prime minister. This appointment process has a room for bias as it is greatly influenced by the executive. With the JAC, transparency and accountability will be ensured in the appointment of judges, which will make the judiciary truly free and independent, ensuring the separation of power.

One thing that the committee did not recommend, but would have been a good idea, is including the provision for the posts of vice-president and deputy prime minister. This could have been a great addition to the constitution, especially if there were provisions that the opposition would nominate the vice-president and also would appoint the deputy prime minister. This would ensure that the opposition has a strong role in state affairs and are not just lame ducks who are only good for walking out of parliament in a fit of rage. It is important to note here that the commission commendably suggested that floor-crossing be allowed in most cases. This will empower the MPs as their votes will actually matter, and real politics will take place in parliament.

Overall, there are both positives and negatives of the proposed recommendations for constitutional reform. There is still much work to do. The committee should promptly sit with all political parties, and consult the public too, to add to and amend the proposed recommendations. Without public deliberation, this constitution may become another top-down imposition like the 1972 constitution. The constitution is a written document, but the ideas of the nation remain in the hearts and minds of the citizens. Therefore, it is important to consult the people, who are the source of all power in the republic, before proceeding with any drastic or sweeping changes.

## How carbon markets can drive Bangladesh's green transition



**Shafiqul Alam**  
*is lead energy analyst for Bangladesh at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).*

SHAFIQU ALAM

With the flow of international climate finance still slow, carbon markets, supported by results-based finance, will likely pave the way for developing and least developed countries to incentivise emission reductions. The approval of Article 6 at the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, has finally laid the foundation for a global carbon market.

Article 6 defines two market-based approaches under Article 6.2 and Article 6.4. The former allows direct country-to-country carbon trading, known as the Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). ITMOs may contribute to a country's mitigation target under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), while the other country will receive revenue against the sold ITMOs.

Article 6.4, also known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM), is a centralised and stringent carbon market framework, which a supervisory body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will regulate. A host country may implement clean energy and environment-friendly projects, register these with the UNFCCC, and sell the verified emission reductions to another country seeking carbon credits to meet its mitigation target. Article 6.4 will allow both countries and companies to participate in trading.

This article will further assess the eligibility of the transition of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which has been the UNFCCC administered carbon

trading instrument between developing and developed countries since 2006.

As CDM is the largest project-based carbon crediting programme, different countries will now build on their experience with it to utilise it in carbon markets under Article 6. While some countries largely benefited from CDM projects, Bangladesh has enjoyed limited success. The country needs to prepare, drawing lessons from the CDM era, and undertake measures for readiness to develop suitable mitigation projects for swiftly tapping the opportunities of carbon markets.

Moreover, Bangladesh's apparel sector may buy carbon credits under Article 6.4 to meet its goal for emission reductions beyond what it can achieve by implementing measures locally.

### Bangladesh's lacklustre performance in the CDM

As of December 2023, 99 host countries (least developed, developing, and small island countries) registered 7,841 CDM project activities. The UNFCCC issued 2,357 million Certified Emission Reductions (CERs).

Notably, 10 of the 99 host countries registered more than 87 percent of CDM projects, while China and India combined registered 69.5 percent. However, China benefited the most as its projects generated more than 50 percent of the CERs issued by the UNFCCC. Projects in India, Brazil and the Republic of Korea, which delivered around 30 percent of the CERs, were behind China.

On the contrary, Bangladesh could register 10 CDM projects, resulting in a paltry 1.26 million tonnes of CERs, representing only 0.53 percent of the total issuance till December 2023. While Bangladesh has also registered 11 CDM Programme of Activities (POAs), to date, only around half of them have generated CERs.

Such a lacklustre performance in registering the CDM projects can, at best, be described as a lack of capacity in, among other things, establishing the baseline emissions and writing the project design document (PDD), following the suitable methodologies approved by the UNFCCC. By the time a few people developed the capacity to establish baseline emissions, write PDDs and complete the project cycle until the issuance of CERs,

**The brick kiln sector, one of the country's largest sources of GHG emissions, will emit 23.98 million tonnes of CO2 in 2030 under the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario. Transitioning to energy-efficient and non-fired brick technologies will drastically cut the sector's CO2 emissions and improve air quality in adjacent areas.**

the CDM market collapsed. Prices crashed to \$0.65/CER in 2012 against a lucrative price of more than \$30/CER in 2008, owing to unsold CERs due to oversupply and lack of demand. Prices stayed low for carbon credits and were less than avoided even for most of the period between 2021 and 2024. Buyers attribute this to a lack of high-quality carbon credit projects. Therefore, many potential local project developers lost their intrinsic motivation to pursue CDM projects.

### Lessons from CDM projects

Bangladesh's readiness will dictate how it will fare in the new carbon market regime. The country should decide on, among other things, the potential role of Article 6. Building on its limited experience with CDM, the

country should design targeted programmes to develop the capacity of professionals and organisations to implement high-quality greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation projects swiftly.

Furthermore, it should develop policy and regulatory processes to expedite the implementation of projects under Articles 6.2 and 6.4.

The Department of Environment (DoE), which is Bangladesh's designated national authority (DNA) to the UNFCCC, may help in designing and facilitating the country's readiness programme for carbon markets to develop the technical capacity of stakeholders in designing, implementing and monitoring projects. The DoE would also need to establish a national registry and

accounting mechanism for the ITMOs to avoid double counting. Bangladesh should highlight its strong commitment to utilise carbon markets to stakeholders, including the private sector.

### How Article 6 can benefit Bangladesh

Bangladesh faces challenges in expanding renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, and mitigating pollution from sectors like brick and household cooking. Article 6-driven carbon markets present a significant opportunity for the country by creating an additional revenue stream for projects and increasing their commercial viability.

### Potential projects for carbon markets

The brick kiln sector, one of the country's

largest sources of GHG emissions, will emit 23.98 million tonnes of CO2 in 2030 under the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario. Transitioning to energy-efficient and non-fired brick technologies will drastically cut the sector's CO2 emissions and improve air quality in adjacent areas, but upscaling these expensive technologies will require incentives. International carbon markets may incentivise the quick deployment of these technologies.

The National Action Plan for Clean Cooking shows the country had 29 million biomass-based inefficient cookstoves during 2019-20. Improved cookstove projects can generate considerable carbon revenues.

Bangladesh may further capitalise on carbon markets to promote renewable energy technologies, including battery storage, both in utility-scale and rooftop segments, which under the BAU scenario shows a sluggish trend. Innovative solutions, such as replacing gas boilers with electric ones or heat pumps, can also deliver additional carbon revenue.

Among other things, municipal waste to energy and leakage reduction in the gas distribution systems will likely qualify for carbon revenue.

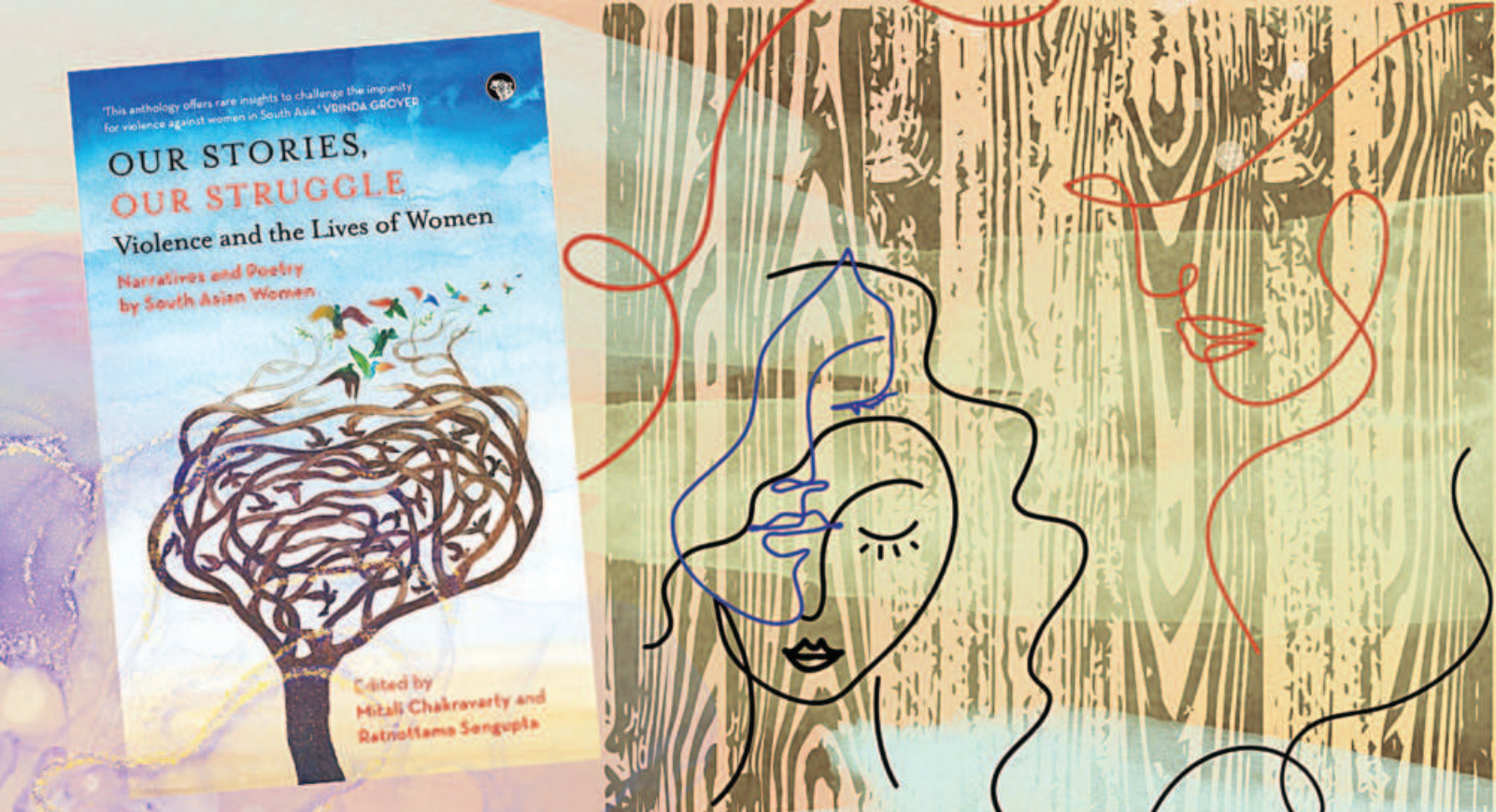
The apparel industry, which has committed to reducing 30 percent of its GHG emissions by 2030, may consider a combination of approaches—implementing projects locally for part of the mitigation and purchasing the remainder from high-quality projects implemented elsewhere under Article 6.4.

While carbon markets under Article 6 echo the promises that CDM initially showed, Bangladesh needs a clear-sighted approach to benefit from it. This approach should include designing and implementing a readiness programme for carbon markets to develop the capacity of key stakeholders and bridge the knowledge gap. The major stakeholders will then determine which projects to prioritise. However, unclear or poorly defined priorities may limit Bangladesh's success in the new carbon market regime.



BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

# Voices of resistance: Stories of women’s struggles and resilience in South Asia



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

**Sohana Manzoor's poignant narrative from Bangladesh casts light on the mindset of society which not only dehumanises a teenage victim, raped and burned and killed, but also slaughters her dignity by holding her responsible for the assault on her.**

**RAKHI DALAL**

*Our Stories, Our Struggles: Violence and the Lives of Women* (Speaking Tiger Books, 2024) is an anthology edited by Mitali Chakravarty and Ratnottama Sengupta. A mix of nonfiction, including 20 personal narratives and analytical essays, 10 fictional stories and six poems, the book focuses upon the plight of women in South Asian countries and delves deep into the pervasive issue of violence, exploring its many faces across borders; it calls to the survivors to rise above victimhood.

Contributors to the collection not only question and bring to focus the issues like rape, acid attacks, dowry deaths, and honour killings, but also celebrate the resilience of women and their defiance in the face of suppression and subsequent challenges. The anthology draws upon real-life events, including the pivotal Nirbhaya case, to examine systemic failures and the cultural shifts needed to empower survivors. As Mitali Chakravarty writes in the preface, there is a necessity of “integrating women in the mainstream

of humanity, historically dominated by men in South Asian social framework”. The contributors, writing from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, bring voices reverberating with concerns alike in implications that necessitate urgent attention. Meenakshi Malhotra’s essay on Nirbhaya is a profound study of the societal dynamics, the transformative role of media and public outrage in challenging injustice whereas Kalpana Kannabiran’s essay questions a different facet of “pervasive majoritarian misogyny” where public and media outrage seems to be absent when it comes to victims of sexual assault from minority, dalit, or indigenous backgrounds. The perpetrators of crime, unlike in the case of Nirbhaya or Dr Priyanka Reddy, come with a political clout and are guaranteed impunity like in the Hathras case, in the case of women wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar or in the case of Bilkis Bano. In such cases, what does the stand of those upholders of “justice” signify? Where can the victims go if the keepers of rule of law and justice

betray them? In the introduction to the anthology, Subhashini Ali echoes this concern by asking to speak and resist in the face of a pushback to women’s fight in the last decade by right wing forces “which enjoy a kind of impunity that is both new and terrifying” whether it be the case of women from minority background or of Manipuri women suffering continuous violence in the wake of recent civil unrest.

Sohana Manzoor’s poignant narrative from Bangladesh casts light on the mindset of society which not only dehumanises a teenage victim, raped and burned and killed, but also slaughters her dignity by holding her responsible for the assault on her. The moving narrative by Eli Prue Marma focuses upon the harrowing rapes and murders of indigenous women of Chittagong Hill tracts in Bangladesh where the perpetrators of crime usually escape punishment for the supposed lack of evidence.

The threat of violence against women is glaringly evident both outside and inside the confines of their homes. One of Ratnottama Sengupta’s three essays

in the collection is centered upon the threat of acid attacks upon women while the other ones are on the threat of killing by one’s family whether in the garb of honour killing or the abolished sati pratha. The Late Sandhya Sinha’s narrative translated from Bangla by Sengupta is a heart wrenching cry for the 18-year-old Roop Kanwar who was sent to the pyre with her dead husband in 1987 while the perpetrators of the ghastly act went unpunished. This narrative is especially significant as the eight perpetrators who were arrested earlier were freed in October 2024.

Each and every piece of writing in this anthology stands out for poignantly portraying the intersections of deep-seated norms for women in a patriarchal society that pose quagmires women are coerced to navigate. Their predicament, when violence in any form is committed against them, is not only that their bodies are violated but it is also their dignity that is crushed. Babita Basnet’s article reverberates with concerns about the issue of women trafficking in Nepal whereas Farah Ahmed’s narrative gives a peek into the plight of women from minority communities in the prisons of Pakistan.

In patriarchal societies women are expected to compromise their well-being and happiness for the sake of their families even if they endure suffering at their hands. Nishi Pulugurtha’s real life narrative points to the despair and helplessness a woman struggles with, going into severe depression yet continuing to live with her oppressive husband because she has no power to come out of it. Another woman from an unprivileged background in neighbouring Pakistan gets university education despite all odds and tries to live a better life but is consistently reminded that women are “charpais”. Selma Tufail’s narrative focuses upon the subjugation of women in a society where her fate is decided by the all-male “jirga” (similar to Khaalp panchayats in India).

However, when a woman decides to defy the forced conventions, we come across brave stories like Ankita Banerjee’s first-hand narrative of sexual abuse, which exposes uncomfortable truths and compels families to face them.

The fictive narratives from all five countries reverberate with similar urgency and concerns that are echoed in the essays and real-life narratives. Imagined women from different

backgrounds trying to claim their voices, their agencies, their basic rights and are crushed, trampled upon, killed, raped, or abused for just expecting that. A girl child, a young woman or an older one, her body, mind, and soul bear the brunt of violence because she is an easy target. In Aruna Chakravarty’s heart-rending story, an old, lonely and starving woman is burnt as a witch whereas her granddaughter suffers incest. Radhia Rameez’s two stories set in Sri Lanka deal with the subject of marital violence where the doors to freedom from brutality remain perpetually closed to women. More stories from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan expose brutalities at different levels. S. Bari’s story is remarkable in bringing hope when she showcases a rape survivor outgrow her victimhood.

The poetry section starts with, Arundhati Subramaniam’s poem “Claim”, which iterates:

*“We are here to restore order,  
to put the voices-of books, lovers,  
teachers, customs, officials-  
in their place”*

Additionally, Sadaf Saaz takes up the plight of the war widows of Bangladesh, the Birangonas, and like an afterword, Mitali Chakravarty’s “Amphan Calls” summons courage:

*“Was Amphan-the invisible  
energy-a Woman?  
Did She rage for you and me tearing,  
searing with madness  
for the unspoken wounds which can  
only heal with phoenix eardrops?  
Rise, rise up to Amphan’s call-with  
our souls, let us conquer all.”*

The blend of personal experiences and broader cultural critiques makes this anthology a powerful resource for understanding gender-based violence in the region. Equally compelling are the stories and verses in the anthology which augment the call for resilience. The volume transcends victimhood narratives, showcasing the courage and agency of women who challenge patriarchal norms. It is not just a documentation of injustices but a clarion call for justice and equality. A call for systematic reforms. A call to reclaim agency.

**Rakhi Dalal is an educator. Her writing has appeared in Kitaab, Scroll, and Borderless Journal, among others. Her essay on Partition, invited by Bound India, made it to the list of winning pieces.**

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

# A novel’s wry exploration of nostalgia, growth, and the baggage we carry

Review of ‘Good Material’ (Fig Tree, 2023) by Dolly Alderton

RAJIB RAHMAN

In *Good Material*, Dolly Alderton uses her sharp humor and keen observations to explore the challenges of adulthood. The novel looks at the impact of family issues, the burden of unspent time, and the quest for self-identity. Moving away from her popular memoir *Everything I Know About Love* (Harper, 2020), Alderton’s second novel skillfully mixes humor with sadness, providing a deep reflection on how our past—through relationships, loss, and physical items—shapes who we are today.

At the heart of the book is Andy Dawson, a 35-year-old stand-up comedian grappling with the emotional wreckage from a breakup and the drop of his career. Feeling caught in a cycle of frustration, he starts his journey by facing the consequences of his past. He clings to memories of love and family but feels “lost in the present”, unsure of how to move forward. His character development highlights themes of masculinity and vulnerability at the same time, challenging traditional ideas about male identity as he navigates his emotions. The title, “Good Material”, has a double meaning: It refers to both the actual materials in Andy’s life—his memories and emotional baggage—and the metaphorical idea of “good material”, representing the emotional remnants that continue to affect him.

Alderton’s writing is insightful,

capturing modern life’s absurdities while adding tenderness that deepens the emotional experience. A key character in Andy’s journey is his ex-girlfriend, Jen Hammersmith. Even though their relationship has ended, Jen’s presence is felt throughout Andy’s story, symbolising lost love and serving as a complex character herself. The shifts in perspective toward Jen later in the novel provide valuable insights into her reasons for breaking up with Andy, adding depth to their relationship and showing how people from our past can shape our identities. Supporting characters, like Andy’s parents, also play vital parts in helping him understand himself better, revealing family dynamics that lead to his emotional struggles.

The narrative is enriched by flashbacks that reveal key moments in Andy’s life, especially his father’s influence, shaping his emotional journey; when his father passes away, it prompts him to return home, where he faces unresolved feelings from his past. This return serves both literal and symbolic purposes, representing Andy’s desire to reconnect with his roots. Alderton uses first-person present tense throughout the narrative, which helps readers connect with Andy’s internal struggles. This style immerses us in his experiences, making his journey feel immediate and relatable.

Alderton explores how physical items from our past—like personal belongings and family heirlooms—reflect our memories.

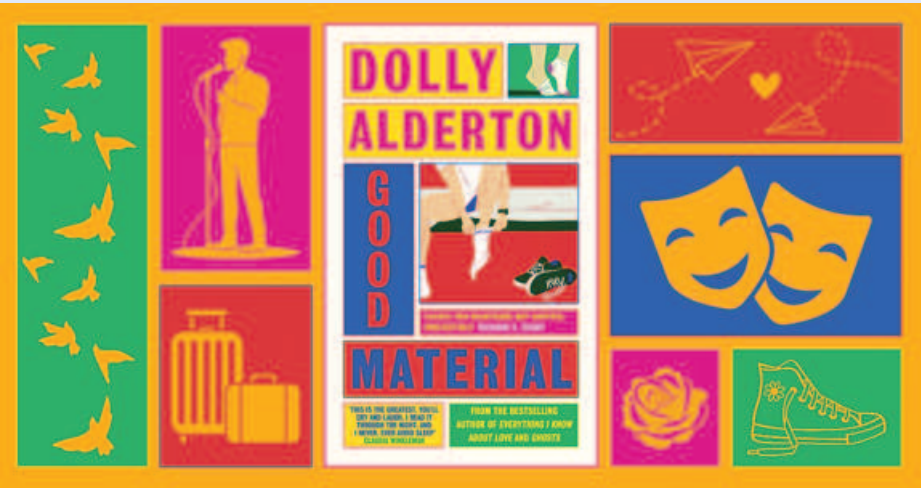


ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

The tension between nostalgia and letting go runs throughout the book. As a comedian constantly seeking new material for his acts, Andy’s journey mirrors his internal struggle to sort through emotional remnants. What makes *Good Material* stand out is Alderton’s thoughtful approach to nostalgia; Andy’s relationship with his past isn’t just about longing but involves a complex mix of yearning, regret, and acceptance. The novel examines how memories can deceive us while also providing comfort and sadness. Andy’s journey back home represents not a return to innocence but an acceptance that

the past cannot be changed—a collection of “good material” that offers solace while also holding him back.

Beyond the nostalgia, *Good Material* delves into healing and forgiveness—both for oneself and others. As Andy navigates relationships with family members and friends, he learns that facing emotional wounds is crucial for personal growth. This exploration adds depth to his character development and resonates with readers who face similar challenges. Alderton also includes commentary on contemporary issues like mental health awareness and the

pressures of adulthood. By placing Andy’s story within this broader context, she emphasises how these themes are relevant today.

Ultimately, *Good Material* is about facing the emotional baggage from our past—deciding what parts of ourselves are worth holding onto and which must be let go. Andy’s journey reconciles contradictions: love and resentment for his family, nostalgia he can’t escape, and recognition that some emotional wounds must be left behind if he wants to move forward. While themes of grief, family, and nostalgia may remind readers of other literary works, Alderton’s unique voice ensures that this novel stands out. She doesn’t provide easy answers but instead offers a story that feels familiar yet universally relatable—a raw exploration of how we come to terms with who we are as we confront our histories.

For those who have enjoyed Alderton’s previous work, *Good Material* further establishes her as one of today’s most insightful writers about modern life. With her blend of humor and emotional depth, she skillfully navigates the complexities of existence, showing that facing our past is an inevitable part of everyone’s journey.

**Rajib Rahman is a writer, reviewer, short story crafter, and design wizard. A health nut, he’s all about the magic of storytelling and spreading kindness.**



# Tigresses’ historic win in St Kitts

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**Bangladesh:** 184 all out in 48.5 overs (Fargana 18, Joty 68, Mostary 23, Shorna 21; Aaliyah 3-24, Karishma 4-33)

**West Indies:** 124 all out in 35 overs (Matthews 16, Campbell 28; Marufa 2-35, Nahida 3-31, Rabeya 2-19, Fahima 2-17)

**Result:** Bangladesh won by 60 runs.

**Player of the Match:** Nahida Alter



**“I’m not thinking about the [World Cup qualification] equation as yet. What was most important was to bounce back a day after such a big defeat. Of course, the two points [championship cycle] are priceless but the win was very important for the series and in terms of gaining momentum. And if we can win the next match, it will be a big milestone for us because we have never won an away series before.”**

Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty

## SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women’s team created a small piece of history when they bounced back to level the three-match ODI series with a comfortable 60-run win over West Indies in the second game at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Tuesday.

It was a historic moment for the visitors as the Tigresses secured their first victory against the Caribbean side in any format.

The win kept alive Bangladesh’s hopes of direct qualification for the World Cup, which will be held in India in August-September this year.

A total of eight teams will play in the World Cup, six of which will enter directly. Australia, India, England, South Africa and Sri Lanka have already ensured qualification while New Zealand and Bangladesh --

both currently on 21 points but on sixth and seventh positions respectively due to run-rate in the Women’s Championship cycle-- are vying for the sixth spot.

Bangladesh could ensure direct entry with a win in the last match of the series on Friday, which will also be their last game of the current Women’s Championship cycle. If not through direct entry, there will be opportunity for two more teams to go through via a qualification campaign.



**Sinner silences home crowd to reach semis: Defending champion Jannik Sinner dismissed Australian eighth seed Alex de Minaur 6-3 6-2 6-1 at a packed Rod Laver Arena to reach the Australian Open semifinals yesterday. Italian Sinner, who showed no signs of the illness that made him struggle in his last match, will take on American 21st seed Ben Shelton. “I feel like today I was feeling everything,” Sinner said post-match.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

## Slot unsure of top spot ‘advantage’

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool boss Arne Slot is not convinced that finishing top of the Champions League’s inaugural league phase standings will prove to be an advantage after securing progress to the last 16 on Tuesday.

The Reds beat Lille 2-1 at Anfield to maintain a perfect record of seven wins from seven games in the competition’s new format, although they were far from their flowing best against 10-man Lille.

Liverpool are guaranteed to finish in the top two, with Barcelona the only side that could pip them to first place.

That means the Premier League leaders will face a side that finishes between 15th and 18th in the last 16.

However, Slot does not believe the table tells a true story given that each club faces a different draw of eight opponents in the league phase.

“We’re happy that we are top eight. That’s the only thing that tells me something, because this league table doesn’t tell you anything,” said the Dutchman.

“So normally in tennis, if you’re number 1, you know if you play against the number 24, he’s probably not as good as the number 16. “But here, because we play different teams, maybe the number 24 is better than the number 16, but the number 16 had an easier draw.

“We also want to be on top of the league, but I’m not so sure. We have to wait and see if it’s an advantage, let’s put it that way.”



# Who will shoulder blame for players’ sufferings?

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

For years, the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League (DPL) has been a lifeline for many cricketers, providing not just a platform for competition but also a crucial source of income. However, recent tensions between Dhaka-based cricket clubs and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) over proposed constitutional amendments have thrown the future of the league -- and the livelihoods of many players like Rafsan Al Mahmud and Shamim Sharif -- into uncertainty.

For the last seven years, Rafsan has been featuring in the DPL, representing teams like Khelaghar SKS, Partex Sporting Club, and City Club. Last year, he was part of the City Club squad, which got relegated to the Dhaka First Division Cricket League, and this year, he has been preparing for the second-tier tournament -- previously scheduled to get underway on January 20 -- to bring his side back into the top tier.

However, just a few days before the start of the first division league, the 29-year-old and other players came to know that the fate of the first division league and the following DPL hang in the balance.

“The clubs informed us to leave for home, and they will give us an update on January 26. We don’t know when the tournament will start,” Rafsan told The Daily Star yesterday.

“Most of the players wait for Dhaka leagues for our livelihood. If it doesn’t take place, we, the players, will be the only

sufferers,” he added.

Meanwhile, all-rounder Sharif, who has been playing for Azad Sporting Club for the last three years and has been featuring in the first division league for a decade, also echoed similar sentiment. “We are now passing uncertain times,” Sharif said.

Prominent club organiser Rafiqul Islam Babu, one of the key protesters of Nazmul Abedeen Fahim-led committee’s proposals on constitution amendments, believes the changes could destroy Bangladesh cricket. However, he is



**“Most of the players wait for Dhaka leagues for their livelihood. If it doesn’t take place, we, the players, will be the only sufferers.”**

City Club cricketer Rafsan Al Mahmud

hopeful of getting a solution to this problem on January 25 following a BCB board meeting.

“The clubs had already started their practice, and it is expensive to run a camp. They need to give conveniences, food, and other practice costs. After telling this to the president [on January 18], he promised to solve the matter as soon as possible,” he added.

Meanwhile, BCB director Fahim -- currently in Malaysia for the ongoing U-19 Women’s T20 World Cup -- insisted

representing Dhaka-based clubs from 12 to four. “When we will submit it [proposed amendments] to the board, we can discuss it then,” Fahim told The Daily Star.

Although both Dhaka clubs and the constitution amendment committee are backing themselves on their stances, the reality is that their conflict and the corresponding uncertainties are causing a big headache for those cricketers dependent on the domestic circuit for their career.

## ‘It was a very crazy game’

**Barcelona manager Hansi Flick pointed to his side’s mentality as key to their 5-4 comeback win at Benfica on Tuesday that secured their spot in the Champions League last 16. Coming off a disappointing 1-1 LaLiga draw at Getafe, Barca were 3-1 down at halftime after Benfica’s Vangelis Pavlidis netted a hat-trick, with the Greek pouncing on some sloppy defending from the visitors. Although his men improved after the break, they were 4-2 down towards the end of the match before goals from Robert Lewandowski, Eric Garcia and Raphinha secured their comeback. “It was a very crazy game. The most positive thing was the mentality we had. We came back and that’s wonderful. That’s football and that’s why we love it. I don’t think I’ve ever experienced a comeback like this. It is unbelievable,” said Flick.**



PHOTO: BARCELONA



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## JOB IN MALAYSIA 18,000 workers in depths of despair

Despite having visas, they have not been able to join work for failure to enter Malaysia within deadline

MD ABBAS

Frustration is mounting among the over 18,000 Bangladeshis who missed a deadline to fly to Malaysia for work around eight months ago.

They secured visas and clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) after paying hefty sums of money to recruitment agencies.

However, a ticket shortage triggered by huge demand ahead of the May 31 deadline last year led to the situation surrounding the workers.

Even after having tickets, some others failed to travel to Malaysia at that time since the Malaysian government blacklisted the companies that hired them.

The aspiring Bangladeshi migrant workers launched protests multiple times, with the latest held yesterday, as their dream of working in Malaysia and sending money to their families became more and more distant.

An uncertainty over when the breadwinners will be

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Workers desperate to go to Malaysia march towards the expatriates' welfare ministry. Some of the protesters say they spent up to Tk 6 lakh to be able to work in Malaysia but the recruitment agents failed to arrange their flights before deadline. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Bangla Motor yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Laid-off Beximco workers' protest turns violent

Vehicles, Grameen Fabrics factory set on fire, journos attacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Parts of a factory and several vehicles were set ablaze as protests by laid-off workers against the closure of 16 Beximco Industrial Park units in Gazipur turned violent yesterday.

The fire at the Grameen Fabrics factory in Tantuibari was brought under control around 10:20pm, said Isarul Haque, duty officer of Sarabo Fire Station. Five units of the fire service rushed to the scene after the fire started in the evening.

Inspector AK Azad of Gazipur Industrial Police told The Daily Star that the fire was set to the ground floor of the five-storey building.

The workers have been demonstrating since Beximco laid off nearly 40,000 workers of 16 apparel units in mid-December last year, citing a lack of export orders for its garment and textile factories. The layoffs affected over 57 percent of Beximco's workforce.

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## If govt fails to be neutral, it cannot hold election

Says Fakhrul in interview with BBC Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the interim government fails to be neutral, it cannot hold the election, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday. Then a neutral government would be needed, he said.

He added that questions of neutrality might arise as "what we are now seeing is that students are considering forming a political party."

"If representatives of these students are part of this government, neutrality cannot be maintained. If they think they can hold elections keeping their representatives in the government, political parties will not accept it," Fakhrul said in an interview with BBC Bangla.

He said the BNP wants the election as early as possible. "Based on our past experiences with caretaker governments, we believe this is not an impossible task. If the government wants to hold an election in June, July, or August, it will be able to do so."

He, however, did not mention any specific time frame for the polls.

Asked what their course of action will

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## Trump targets US diversity scheme

Threatens private sector probes, touts \$500b AI project

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump escalated his campaign against diversity programmes on Tuesday by pressuring the private sector to join the initiative, ordering aviation officials to review diversity hires and telling government DEI employees they would be placed on paid leave.

The measures come one day after Trump on his first day in office issued a series of executive orders to end diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes, which attempt to promote opportunities for women, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ people and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

Civil rights advocates have argued such programmes are necessary to address longstanding inequities and structural racism.

Trump's administration fired Coast Guard chief Linda Fagan -- the first woman to lead a US military service -- with an official blaming her "leadership deficiencies" and an "excessive focus" on diversity programmes.

The president withdrew Secret Service protection for former US national security advisor John Bolton, the target of an alleged Iranian assassination plot, with whom he fell out. "He was a very dumb person," said Trump.

He also vowed to hit the European Union with tariffs and said his administration was discussing a 10 percent punitive duty on Chinese imports because fentanyl is being sent from China to the US via Mexico and Canada. However, China yesterday vowed to defend its "national interests" against tariff threats from Trump.

In a new executive order issued on Tuesday, Trump revoked executive orders dating as far back as 1965 on environmental actions, equal employment opportunities and encouragement to federal contractors to achieve workforce balancing on race, gender and religion, reports Reuters.

The Trump executive order seeks to dissuade private companies that



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## BNP, Khelafat Majlis agree on calls for polls within this year

UNB, Dhaka

BNP and Khelafat Majlis have agreed on seven issues, including holding the national election by 2025 and strengthening national unity to prevent the re-emergence of the fallen fascists.

"We have agreed on seven points, including the quick withdrawal of all false cases against the leaders and workers of the political parties that were part of the movement. In light of this, we will work especially to achieve unity among the Islamic parties and to form national unity with all," Khelafat Majlis Secretary General Ahmed Abdul Kader said yesterday after a meeting with BNP.

The nine-member delegation, led by Khelafat Majlis Ameer Maulana Abdul Basit Azad, held an hour-long meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

Abdul Kader said they focused on maintaining the national unity achieved through the July-August mass uprising.

However, he noted that some political parties' statements and activities go against the spirit of national unity. "Our stance is in favour of unity, not division. It is important to unite now for the sake of the nation. That is why we held talks with BNP... we agreed with them on some issues."

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## Israel presses on with raid in West Bank

Shooting, explosions reported in Jenin; 20 Palestinians detained

AGENCIES

A Palestinian official reported shooting and explosions in the flashpoint West Bank town of Jenin yesterday as Israeli forces pressed on with a raid that the military described as a "counterterrorism" operation.

"The situation is very difficult," Kamal Abu al-Rub, the governor of Jenin, told AFP.

"The occupation army has bulldozed all the roads leading to the Jenin camp, and leading to the Jenin Governmental Hospital... There is shooting and explosions," he added.

On Tuesday, Israeli forces launched an operation in Jenin which Palestinian officials said killed 10 people, just days after a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect in the Gaza Strip.

According to Abu al Rub, Israeli forces detained around 20 people from villages near Jenin. The Israeli military said it had launched a "counterterrorism operation" in the area, and had "hit over 10 terrorists".

"Additionally, aerial strikes on terror infrastructure sites were conducted and numerous explosives planted on the routes by the terrorists were dismantled," it said in a statement yesterday. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed to continue the assault.

"It is a decisive operation aimed at eliminating terrorists in the camp," Katz said in a statement yesterday, adding that the military would not allow a "terror front" to be established there.

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All roads leading to Jenin camp bulldozed

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Israeli defence minister vows to continue assault

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900 aid trucks enter Gaza under truce

## 2 stabbed, 'Tk 1cr snatched' in Gulshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A forex dealer and his cousin have been stabbed and the attackers allegedly made off with Tk 1 crore in the city's Gulshan.

A case was filed last night over the attack on Abdul Kader Sikdar, 30, owner of City Monetary Exchange in Gulshan-2 and his cousin Amir Hamza, 25, in front of Gulshan-2 DCC Market around 9:00pm on Tuesday.

Kader's brother Mintu Sikdar told The Daily Star the attackers intercepted the victims when Kader was returning home to Gulshan 1 on a motorcycle with Amir.

He said that the attackers used rods and sharp weapons, injuring the victims severely.

Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Police Outpost, said that two individuals injured by sharp weapons were brought in from the Gulshan area at night. After receiving first aid, they were taken to another hospital by their relatives. The family said the victims were admitted to United Hospital in Gulshan.

Dulal Molla, a relative of Kader, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station, according to Sub-Inspector Ujjol Chakrabarty.

The case's investigation officer,

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Bangladesh players celebrate their 18-run victory against Scotland in their last Group D fixture of the ICC Women's U-19 World Cup at the YSD-UKM Cricket Oval in Bangi, Selangor yesterday. A second win in three matches helped the Sumaiya Akter-led side finish the group in second position behind Australia and confirm a place in the Super 6 stage of the tournament.

PHOTO: ICC

## C'NAWABGANJ BORDER Only farmers allowed within 150 yards

Agree BGB, BSF at flag meeting after tension flared

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday agreed on restricting access to all except farmers within 150 yards of the border.

The decision was made during a sector commander-level courtesy meeting between the BGB and BSF held at the Sonamasjid BOP conference room in Shilganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, according to a press release from the 59 BGB Battalion.

Both sides reached a consensus on three additional issues to ensure peaceful coexistence, said Lt Col Golam Kibria, commanding officer of the 59 BGB Battalion.

The issues include resolving any border-related problems through discussion, taking measures to prevent border-related propaganda or rumours, and discouraging people living near the border from engaging in illegal trespassing and drug peddling, the BGB

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