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People take the hit as workers' strike halts trains

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of railway passengers suffered as train staffers continued their nationwide strike yesterday.

After negotiations between workers' union leaders and the government failed to bear fruit late last night, Bangladesh Railway cancelled all trains until 9:00am today.

A meeting between railway-assigned labour leaders and protesting workers was held at the Kamalapur Railway Station last night.

Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, special assistance to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and also the chief coordinator of Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal, played the role of a mediator.

After the meeting, Saidur Rahman, acting president of Bangladesh Railway Running Staff and Sramik Karmachari Union, said Shimul Biswas requested them to call off the strike for some days as the government would meet their demands gradually.

"But we told him clearly that our programme will continue until our demands are met," Saidur told The Daily Star at 10:20pm.

Mojibur Rahman, general secretary of the union, told this correspondent at 11:00pm that their strike would continue until they get the assurance of meeting their demands in writing.

Replying to a question, he said, "We will talk to the railway authorities if invited tomorrow [today]."

Earlier yesterday, thousands of train passengers suffered as top officials of the railways ministry and Bangladesh Railway failed to convince the workers to call off their strike.

Railways Ministry Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan held a meeting with union leaders at the Rail Bhaban yesterday afternoon where he made assurances that the workers' demands would be met gradually after talks with the finance adviser.

The rail adviser said he would try to have the ceiling removed on the special remuneration newly recruited assistant locomasters (assistant train drivers) get for their extra work, rail secretary Fahimul Islam told The Daily Star.

He said he believes it would be possible to do so.

Shimul and several student coordinators were present at the meeting.

After the Rail Bhaban meeting, the union leaders and others sat for another meeting at the Kamalapur Railway Station.

The Daily Star could not reach Shimul Biswas for comments.

The union, a platform of over 2,000 train staffers including locomasters (train drivers), assistant locomasters, guards, and ticket checkers, enforced the nationwide indefinite work abstention from 12:00am yesterday.

They are demanding that all train staffers get the same benefits for additional work during their service and when they retire.

BR transports over 2 lakh passengers in more than 350 trains, including over 100 intercity trains, every day. It also transports over 7,500 tonnes of goods on an average.

PEOPLE SUFFER

Shefa Begum, a factory worker, went to the Kamalapur Railway Station along with her child and husband at 9:00am yesterday. They went there from Kanchpur of Narayanganj and were supposed to go to Gazipur's Tongi.

"We were unaware of the strike. And now, we have been waiting at the station," she told The Daily Star at 10:30am.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, HABIBUR RAHMAN

A deserted platform of Kamalapur Railway Station around 9:30am yesterday. Inset, people hire a pickup in front of Khulna Railway Station to reach their destinations as there were no trains. Nationwide indefinite work abstention by train drivers and their support staff brought rail services to a halt.



LATEST
Train staffers' union has called off their strike. They made the announcement at 2:45am today after a meeting at Railways Ministry Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan's residence on Minto Road. The withdrawal decision came following an assurance that their demands would be met. Union leader Mojibur Rahman, Railways Secretary Fahimul Islam, Bangladesh Railway DG Afzal Hossain, labour leader Shimul Biswas, Students Against Discrimination Coordinator Hasnat Abdullah were present at the hurriedly called press conference. They said trains would run as per schedule today.

Bring in swift reforms to stop future repression

HRW report details past and present abuse of power, rights violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is contending with powerful and politicised law enforcement and security forces that have long benefited from a system of impunity, the Human Rights Watch said in a report released yesterday.

"Nearly 1,000 Bangladeshis lost their lives fighting for democracy, ushering in a landmark opportunity to build a rights-respecting future in Bangladesh," Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in the report. "This hard-won progress could all be lost if the interim government does not create swift and structural reforms that can withstand any repression by future governments."

The report was handed over to interim government Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

The report titled "After the Monsoon Revolution: A Roadmap to Lasting Security Sector Reform in Bangladesh" detailed how the law enforcement agencies and security forces have been used to serve the political agenda of the Awami League and solidify a rule of terror.

It also talked about how law enforcement continues to pander to vested political interests, post-August 5, and attacks on minorities, particularly those from Hindu and Ahmadiyya communities.

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

RECOMMENDS

Disband Rapid Action Battalion

Probe excessive use of police force

Create oversight body to record, review force

Stop interference in hiring, promotion of judges/prosecutors

Suspend and then eliminate death penalty

Star INTERVIEW

'Economy was more dire than people thought'

Finance adviser talks about gov't's 3 strategies to ease economic strain

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and AHSAN HABIB

The interim government has an uphill task of fixing the economy it inherited from the Awami League government of 15 years, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

"When the interim government assumed power, it inherited a problem-driven economy -- the situation was more dire than people thought," he told The Daily Star in an interview on Monday.

There were external problems, but the underlying domestic issues were even more acute: the foreign exchange reserves were depleting rapidly, inflation was stubbornly high and the balance of payments was negative.

"Even though we are not in the situation where we want to be, things are improving."

The new government inherited another big problem: outstanding letters of credit dues of upwards of \$4.5 billion.

"Without touching the foreign exchange reserves, the new government repaid it, and the outstanding amount dropped to \$400-500 million."

The foreign reserves are stable now, said Ahmed, also a former governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The interim government has adopted a three-pronged approach to steadying the ship: raising the buffer stock of food, ensuring steady

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



EC preparing to hold polls with year-end on mind

Says Election Commissioner Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah

STAR REPORT

The Election Commission is preparing with an aim to hold the next national election in December, said Brig Gen (ret) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah, an election commissioner, yesterday.

"The chief adviser in his speech has already indicated that it might be possible to conduct the national election at the end of this year or the first half of 2026. So, we are taking preparation targeting to hold the polls in December," he said.

"But it's a matter of [political] consensus as to when the election will be held," the election commissioner said while talking to reporters after a meeting on updating the voter list at the Thakurgaon Road Degree College.

When the polls will be held lies with the government, not the EC, Sanaullah said.

"But we will ensure that those performing election duties at the grassroots level act professionally and impartially," he said, adding, "Our aim is to hold a free, fair, and credible election."

The election commissioner also hoped that the task of updating the voter list would be completed in March.

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Farmer Abul Kalam won't be taking his harvest of radish to the local market. He said there was no point in selling the produce in the local market since he has to pay Tk 150 for transporting two baskets of the vegetable that he has to sell for just Tk 200, leaving him no scope for recovering the cost of agricultural inputs and labour. Kalam said the radishes would end up in the Sangu river nearby. The photo was taken in Dohazari of Chattogram's Chandnaish yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BEXIMCO GROUP LAY-OFFS

Shinepukur, Beximco Pharma shares to be sold off to clear dues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will sell shares of Beximco Group's two running companies to pay the salaries of 13 laid-off companies owned by the conglomerate.

If the proceeds from the sale of shares of the two profitable companies -- Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Shinepukur Ceramics -- do not cover the salaries of the workers, the government will take steps in line with labour law.

The amount needed to pay the salaries could be between Tk 500 crore and Tk 550 crore, Labour and Employment Adviser M Sakhawat Hossain told a press briefing yesterday.

He held the briefing after a meeting with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, Commerce Adviser SK Bashir Uddin, Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan, Labour Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman, Finance Secretary Khairuzzaman Mozumder, Financial Institutions Division Secretary Nazma Mobarek, and senior officials of the securities and exchange commission, banks and financial institutions.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and Financial Institutions Division (FID) will take steps to sell the shares. On February 2, officials of the two organisations and several banks concerned will meet to discuss the sale of the two companies.

Factories of the conglomerate that have been closed will be shuttered for good, he said.

The disclosure comes at a time when workers of

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You're in for defeat if you oppose '71

Says Adviser Mahfuj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser Mahfuj Alam yesterday said that those who oppose the Liberation War have historically been defeated for standing against the oppressed people of Bangladesh and are destined to face the same fate in future.

To do politics here, one must recognise the nation's bloody struggle for independence and the birth of Bangladesh, he said in a Facebook post.

"Criticism what happened after the Liberation War. Analyse history – no problem there. Even debates on what transpired during the war are acceptable. However, all discussions must begin by acknowledging the Liberation War itself.

"For example, we can discuss Sheikh Mujib's transformation into a fascist. He was indeed a fascist. However, like many other national



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The construction of a median strip on Darus Salam Road in the capital's Mirpur-1 area has been left incomplete for around a year, putting pedestrians and vehicles at risk. This photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JCD, Swechhasebak Dal clash leaves 30 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Swechhasebak Dal in Rugganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The three-hour running battle, which began around 11:30am near the Golakandail bus stand, also left two with gunshot wounds.

Traffic on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway was disrupted.

The police said the clash stemmed from a dispute over control of a local market.

Selim Prodhon, a controversial figure previously linked to an online casino scandal, claims ownership of the land, which was formerly controlled by local Awami League leaders. Following a change in government, supporters of BNP leader Mostafizur Rahman Dipu Bhuiyan took control of the property.

During the violence, Prodhon's house was vandalised, with several vehicles inside and outside the premises torched.

Witnesses reported that the situation was brought under control after police, with army support, arrived at the scene.

Locals and police sources said that the clash involved supporters of BNP executive committee member Mostafizur Rahman Bhuiyan Dipu and Selim Prodhon.

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People take the hit as workers' strike halts trains

FROM PAGE 1

Nila Chowdhury, a homemaker, went to the station at 9:45am to catch the Kishoreganj Express. She along with her 11-year-old boy were also seen waiting.

"We heard about the strike on Facebook. We thought it won't be effective. But we are stranded now," she said.

Shefa and Nila had gotten their tickets in advance.

Like them, thousands of train passengers suffered at railway stations across the country. Some waited in uncertainty while others left seeing no hope.

Police personnel were seen at the station to manage the crowd and prevent any untoward incidents.

Mohammed Gias Uddin, who was seen waiting at Chattogram Railway Station with several pieces of luggage, had purchased a ticket for the Subarna Express to return to Dhaka.

"I have several bags, so I chose the train for a smoother journey. The railway authorities could have informed us via text, but they didn't," he said.

Zia Habib, another passenger, waited for two hours at the station for the Cox's Bazar Express. "Later, I was compelled to travel by bus," he said.

Hanif Ali, Joydebpur railway station master, told our Gazipur correspondent that hundreds of passengers were stranded at the station.

Farida Akhtar, 25, who was heading to Joypurhat from Thakurgaon Road Railway Station, said, "After travelling 15km to reach the station, I learnt that the trains are not running. Why weren't online ticket sales halted if the service is suspended?"

Similar situation was reported

from Pabna, Khulna, Sylhet, and other districts.

THE MEETINGS

The rail adviser visited Kamalapur Railway Station around 10:00am. He criticised the protesting workers for enforcing the strike holding the passengers hostage.

Replying to a question, he said some of the staffers' demands had already been met, but the work abstention continued despite progress being made.

He said they were open to discussions. If necessary, the government would take "other steps" to resolve the issue.

State-run BRTC arranged buses on some routes to help the train passengers get to their destinations, he said.

After he left the station an hour later, railways ministry secretary Fahimul Islam and other top officials of his ministry and BR went to the VIP waiting room at the station. Shimul Biswas joined them.

Around 1:00pm, some mid-level leaders of the union held a meeting with Shimul in a separate room.

After the around one hour meeting, Shimul informed the railways ministry secretary about the union's position.

Around 3:30pm, the rail secretary and other officials left without making any comments to waiting journalists.

WHY THE STRIKE?

Due to manpower shortage, locomasters, assistant locomasters, guards, and travelling ticket checkers have traditionally worked beyond their duty hours and received extra pay for that.

They also received pension benefits based on the pay for their extra work

until 2021.

But in November that year, the Awami League government declined to grant pension benefits on the extra work.

Following a strike in April 2022, the railways ministry intervened and decided to continue the pension benefits. However, the staffers have long been demanding cancellation of the November 2021 order, saying in a changed situation their benefits could go away again.

In addition, newly recruited assistant locomasters, who were appointed in 2022, have not been receiving most of these benefits, as their appointment letters stated they would not receive extra pay during their service or after retirement.

In December last year, the newly recruited locomasters went on work abstention, demanding benefits their predecessors got, while their predecessors stopped taking on additional duties for several days. They also demanded cancellation of the 2021 gazette.

They stopped their protest following an assurance by railway authorities.

The finance ministry on January 23 this year issued a circular saying the newly recruited assistant locomasters will get 100 percent "running allowance" instead of 75 percent. However, the "running allowance" would not exceed their monthly basic salary, it said.

It did not say anything about their post-retirement benefits.

On January 22, the association at a press conference in Chattogram announced the indefinite nationwide strike from yesterday.

ways to legalise undeclared wealth.

For instance, people are selling properties for prices far higher than their registered value.

This creates massive amounts of unaccounted money, which are funnelled into buying cars, appliances or other assets.

"This creates a system where black money thrives – we will try to address this."

Regarding corruption in government projects, he acknowledged that the menace still remains.

"We are trying to tackle this, but it's not easy. The same old players remain in the system under new names, making real changes difficult."

Asked about the grievances of the White Paper Committee about the government's failure to implement the recommendations, he said: "We will review their suggestions within the next two to three months, but some of them have been addressed."

For example, the government has established task forces to bring back billions of dollars siphoned out of Bangladesh and has sought international support where necessary.

The interim government is also trying to fix the tax system, which is responsible for one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world.

The previous government has issued several statutory regulatory orders to benefit certain firms and individuals, Ahmed said.

"After coming to power, we cancelled the SROs. We are separating the tax policy from the tax administration. In 2008, the government tried to do this but failed. I know some officials are standing in the way – who wants to give up power? But I will implement it before I leave."

Ahmed blames the persistently high inflation on supply-side issues. "It's not that essentials are unavailable – they get stuck in one place without being distributed."

He pointed out that even officials

like consumer rights officers or magistrates can't bring about meaningful changes alone. Extortion during transportation of goods is also raising costs, which is fuelling inflation.

Regarding the recent increase in value added tax and supplementary duties, he said the tax rate has already been brought down for several goods and services that are widely consumed by the general public.

"The rest do not affect the general population. For instance, the VAT on biscuits priced above Tk 200 per kg is logical. Whoever buys biscuits that cost Tk 200 per kg has the ability to pay VAT."

Asked about the ADP, he said the interim government will focus on local roads and culverts to boost rural job creation.

It will not take on any sophisticated project but continue with existing mega projects such as the deep-sea port, he said, adding that the ADP budget may be pruned by about Tk 50,000 crore.

"Some people criticise us for not revising the budget introduced by the previous government. Actually, it is difficult to revise the budget in such a short period. Though the budget was not revised, we have cut government costs except for the necessary expenditures."

One such necessary expenditure was vehicle purchase for the Bangladesh Police as 300 of their vehicles were burnt down during the July uprising.

"The next budget will be pragmatic – it won't be an unpopular budget."

Yet, the much-maligned power sector subsidy will continue. "Otherwise, people and businesses will suffer."

The main targets of the budget will be macroeconomic stability, containing inflation, ensuring energy supply and taking steps for the agricultural sector so that farmers do not suffer, Ahmed added.

Bring in swift reforms to stop future repression

FROM PAGE 1

Multiple police officers told HRW that they believed that directives to use excessive force during the July-August uprising came from the political leadership.

"I believe that during the unrest, the role of the police was determined more by political leaders than by the officers in the field," said one police officer.

Another police officer told HRW that he witnessed senior officers in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Headquarters watch live CCTV footage and direct officers on the ground to shoot protesters like "they were ordering someone to shoot in a video game."

Another officer said, "Senior officers ordered us to be strict and not to spare any criminals spreading anarchy. They didn't explicitly use the word 'fire,' but their instructions were clear: Apply the highest force, do whatever you think is necessary to control the situation, take a hardline approach."

He told HRW that as he understood it, the home minister, Asaduzzaman Khan, and the inspector general of police, Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, gave directions to the Dhaka metropolitan police commissioner, Habibur Rahman, who instructed the deputy commissioners.

One police officer later told HRW, "The police also shot at onlookers observing the scene from their homes, intending to create fear and send a message that people should not watch what was happening around them."

Another officer said, "I witnessed officers firing at vital organs.... In many cases, I witnessed live ammunition being fired even when officers' lives were not in danger."

Officers involved in enforced disappearances also told HRW that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and senior members of the then government had knowledge of uncommunicated detentions and that, in some cases, Hasina directly ordered enforced disappearances and killings.

The report quoted another officer as saying, "In my 10-11 years in the job, I've witnessed disappearances and killings by Rab. These things are real. The disappearances and crossfires that Rab engages in are impossible without the approval of police headquarters, the Ministry of Home Affairs, or especially the home minister."

HRW interviewed Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem (Armaan) who was held in enforced disappearance since 2016. He said that he encountered an officer who told him that when he joined his unit, he was informed that Armaan, Abdullahil Amaan Azmi, a former brigadier general, and Humam Quader Chowdhury had been forcibly disappeared and were being held there, and that "any decision to release them has to be taken by Sheikh Hasina".

Azmi, Hummam and Armaan are all sons of prominent opposition politicians.

EC preparing to hold polls with year-end on mind

FROM PAGE 1

At another event in Dinajpur, Sanaullah urged the EC officials to make sure that Rohingyas do not get in the voter list.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said they do not want the EC's independence enshrined in the constitution to be compromised.

He told reporters after a meeting with European Union Ambassador Michael Miller at the EC office.

The EU ambassador also opined that the EC should remain independent. Otherwise, the nation's expectations cannot be fulfilled, the CEC said.

While speaking at a programme on Sunday, Nasir said that there is no doubt that the EC's independence

"There are also troubling indications that security forces are obstructing the investigations by the newly formed commission of inquiry into enforced disappearances. The commission members said that while it had located eight new sites of unlawful detention, there were concerned over security forces' attempts "to destroy evidence linked to these secret cells," stated the report.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the allegations that came up in the HRW report.

ABUSES CONTINUE

The report noted that law enforcement and security agencies continue to perpetrate abuses.

"Due to the deeply ingrained systemic obstacles to accountable governance, a disturbingly familiar pattern of security force abuses and political reprisals has reemerged, this time targeting perceived Awami League supporters," said the report.

"For instance, in the first two months since the interim government took office, over 1,000 police cases were filed against tens of thousands of people, mainly Awami League members, accusing them of murder, corruption, or other crimes."

HRW reviewed eight First Information Reports (FIRs) filed in relation to the July and August killings, naming up to 297 individuals each, including Hasina and Awami League ministers and up to 600 unnamed individuals.

Five plaintiffs in the eight cases told HRW that they did not know who was named as the accused when they filed the case. They said the police or local politicians simply told them to sign the papers.

Two plaintiffs told HRW that local political leaders opposed to the Awami League asked them to sign the police reports, though they were not sure against whom they were filing the cases.

HRW interviewed the mother of a student protester who was killed in Dhaka's Lakshimbazar area, who said that when she went to file a case at the magistrate court, police and local political leaders simply told her to sign an FIR that had already been written and named 50 accused as well as 200-300 unnamed accused.

Among those named in the FIR that she signed were 47 Awami League former ministers, lawmakers, and Awami League student activists, as well as a teacher and two doctors, found HRW. She told HRW that she does not know who some of these people are or how they would be involved in her son's murder.

The report noted that law enforcers continue to file criminal complaints against large numbers of "unknown" people. It called it "a common abusive practice in Bangladesh, which in effect authorises the police to arrest almost anyone and repeatedly re-arrest detainees even though they are not

named accused in a case."

Police have pursued criminal charges against journalists for what was seen as backing the Hasina government in their reporting during the Monsoon Revolution, said HRW.

"As of November, authorities have filed murder charges against at least 140 journalists in relation to their reporting on the Monsoon Revolution," said HRW, adding, "For example, police in Chattogram are investigating charges against 28 journalists for having 'produced false and fabricated contents concealing the true events during the student protest.'"

HRW spoke with two healthcare workers, Amzad Hossain and Nizam Uddin, who had been working at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital during the student protests, who were accused of killing a student protester, Wasim Akram.

"On that day (July 16) we were helping the duty doctors with Wasim's body along with three other bodies of people who were also killed during the protest. We even helped the families to get the bodies for the last rites. When I found my name was among those listed in the case involving the killing of Wasim, I was shocked. I was at the hospital on that day and was performing double duty as so many injured students were brought to the hospital," said Amzad Hossain to HRW.

The report also noted that the overall security situation has disintegrated. "Groups promoting extremist Islam are attacking minorities, particularly those from Hindu and Ahmadiyya communities. Ethnic minorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts endure continued discrimination and violence by the authorities," it said.

The report recommended that the interim government should take steps to structurally reform the home ministry to ensure the political independence of staff overseeing law enforcement.

"HRW spoke to police officers who described a system in which promotions depended on political sponsorship and bribes. HRW has also documented the use of the police awards as an incentive for repression. This systemic political interference led to the understanding that as a security force officer one's duty included crackdowns on political opposition," said the report.

They also urged the government to ensure that take steps to ensure that the prosecution and the judiciary are independent of the executive and protected from political control and interference.

"To end arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, the interim government should build systems prohibiting filing cases against unnamed accused and mass arrest warrants, revising laws that allow for vague and overly broad charges to target critics," said the report.

The HRW said that the government should also disband the Rapid Action Battalion.

send personnel, conduct a needs assessment, and deploy a mission to evaluate the situation before informing the EC about what kind of assistance they will provide.

The EU also expressed its desire to send observers during the polls, the CEC said adding, "We have assured them of a free and fair election. We have dedicated all our efforts to ensure a transparent, impartial, and acceptable election."

Michael Miller told reporters, "And I have come with a message of support for the reform ambitions of the interim government for holding an election transparent manner in line with international standards."

[Our correspondents in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon contributed to this report.]

Nasir added that the EU would

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Top UAE companies to invest in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two major companies from the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi Ports Group and Masdar, have unveiled plans to invest in Bangladesh's port development, management, and logistics, as well as the renewable energy sector.

The proposals were presented by Ahmad Ibrahim Al Mutawa, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports Group, and Fatima Almadhloum Alsuwaidi, head of development and investment for Asia Pacific at Masdar, during a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna.

"Bangladesh is ready for business," said the chief adviser, welcoming the

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UAE Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseif AlHmoudi called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at state guesthouse Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

NATIONALISATION DEMAND Ebtedayee madrasa teachers end sit-in after govt assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of independent Ebtedayee madrasas – primary level educational institutions under madrasa board – ended their sit-in protest yesterday after the government announced plans to nationalise all registered institutions.

SM Masudul Haque, joint secretary of the Technical and Madrasa Division under the Ministry of Education, made the announcement in front of the Fine Arts Faculty at Dhaka University, where several hundred teachers had been protesting.

"We have agreed in principle to nationalise all Ebtedayee madrasas in phases," he said, following a meeting with a 15 member delegation of the teachers. He also assured them that their other five demands would be addressed.

The announcement triggered emotional reactions among the teachers, with many cheering.

"We have ended our protest upon the government's assurance," said Rabiul Islam, an executive member of the Swatantra Ebtedayee Madrasa Shikkhak Oikyojote.

Another teacher hoped the nationalisation process would be implemented by June next year.

On Monday, the teachers had warned of tougher protests if their demands were not met by 2:00pm yesterday. Their sit-in began Sunday afternoon after police dispersed them with batons and water cannons during a march toward the Chief Adviser's Office, where they planned to submit a six-point memorandum.

Protesters said many Ebtedayee madrasa teachers remain unpaid. About 1,100 institutions provide an allowance of up to Tk 3,500 per month, but payments are often irregular.

Approval needed to cut trees under social forestry HC issues rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled that trees planted under the social forestry programme cannot be cut without approval from designated authorities.

It also stated that planters of the programme must be compensated at the market value of the trees.

The HC directed the authorities concerned of the government to amend the Social Forestry Rules, 2004, to enforce this decision.

Delivering the verdict on a writ position, it ordered the formation of separate committees at the capital, district, and upazila levels to oversee tree felling across the country.

For Dhaka, the court ordered the Department of Environment to establish a committee within seven days, including

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Fire disaster: from faulty wirings to cigarettes

140 deaths in 26,659 incidents last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country recorded 26,659 fire incidents last year – an average of 73 per day, according to a report by the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Electrical malfunctions were the leading cause, accounting for 9,069 fire incidents, or 33.98 percent of all cases.

Cigarette butts ranked second, responsible for 4,139 fires (15.52 percent), followed by stoves with 3,056 incidents (11.46 percent).

Fires from haystacks totalled 4,513 (16.92 percent), while kitchens caused 2,411 incidents (9.04 percent).

Other notable causes included unruly mobs 789, children playing with fire (759), gas cylinder leakages (704), and gas line malfunctions (465).

The fires claimed 140 lives – 107 men and 33 women – and left 341 injured, including 237 men, 104 women, and 37 firefighters.

Two firefighters lost their lives during rescue operations.

Brig Gen Muhammad Jahed Kamal, FSCD director general, said poor electrical systems are a significant contributor. "Cables often look fine externally but are compromised internally. Loose connections frequently cause overheating," he said.

He stressed the need for regular audits by relevant departments.

He added that awareness campaigns had reduced fire incidents in the garment sector. However, residential buildings remained the most vulnerable, accounting for 7,131 fire incidents

LEADING CAUSES

Electrical Malfunctions: 9,069 incidents (33.98pc)

Cigarette Butts: 4,139 incidents (15.52pc)

Stoves: 3,056 incidents (11.46pc)

Haystacks: 4,513 incidents (16.92pc)

Residential Fires: 7,131 incidents (26.74pc)

Fatalities: 107 men, 33 women

Injuries: 237 men, 104 women

Firefighters: 37 injuries, 2 deaths



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SEVEN COLLEGES

Students demand university outline within 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of seven colleges previously affiliated with Dhaka University yesterday gave the government a 15-day deadline to publish a framework for establishing an independent university.

"The committee responsible for the framework has assured us that their work is complete. We demand its publication within 15 days," said Abdur Rahman, a Dhaka College student and spokesperson for the movement.

The announcement followed a meeting among student representatives of the seven colleges at Dhaka College auditorium.

Earlier, the students withdrew a 24-hour ultimatum after meeting advisers from the home and information ministries. "The government has shown a positive attitude towards our six-point demands," said Moinul Islam, another spokesperson, following the meeting at the Home Ministry.

The students also called off plans to seize New Market Police Station and block DU buses after the authorities cancelled the colleges' affiliation with DU and reopened DU campus roads to the public.

The meeting, chaired by retired Lt Gen Md

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Govt to take measures to recover Sal forest: Rizwana

STAR REPORT

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday said the government will commence efforts to recover 150 acres of the Sal forest in Tangail from March.

Restoring lost forests is crucial for protecting nature and biodiversity, she said while addressing a workshop titled "Restoration of Madhupur Sal Forest through Co-management" at the forest department headquarters in Dhaka.

The advisersaid an action plan will be formulated and periodically updated, addressing the needs of forest-dependent communities.

A gazette-notified committee is set to be established by March, and a village forest rule will be introduced to define the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Interim govt 'jamaatising' edn institutions

Alleges Ruhul Kabir Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday accused the interim government of "Jamaatising" the country's educational institutions.

He claimed that individuals linked to Jamaat-e-Islami have been appointed to key positions in leading universities.

Rizvi made the remarks while speaking as chief guest at a programme organised by the Diploma Engineers Association of Bangladesh at the Jatiya Press Club.

"During the 1/11 period, the government was called an army-backed government. Now, amid the ongoing student and public movements, the current government is being referred to as a government backed by a particular party," he said.

"This government has 'Jamaatised' all educational institutions, which is very alarming. The Ministry of Education has been taken over by this particular party. Why has this been allowed? At Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, and other institutions, Jamaat-affiliated individuals have been placed in key positions," Rizvi alleged.

Rizvi also criticised the appointment process in the education engineering department, citing an example of alleged bias.

"The top-ranked meritorious engineer in the education engineering department was a Chhatra Dal activist. However, he was not made the chief engineer. Instead, the fifth-ranked candidate was appointed because he belongs to that particular party," he claimed.



Survivors of the July uprising staged a protest at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, demanding swift trials for those responsible for the atrocities during the movement, as well as lifetime access to quality treatment, rehabilitation, and employment opportunities for the injured.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

AL announces

FROM PAGE 5
and other leaders.
The party will also protest against the incidents of violence on the minorities including the Adivasis as well as the attacks on places of worship.
Besides, it plans to raise its voice against the shutdown of garment and other factories, which has resulted in workers losing their jobs.
The AL will hold rallies and processions on February 6 and 10. On February 16, it will go for a blockade. The party, however, didn't mention if the blockade will be nationwide.
For the concluding day, on February 18, the AL plans a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal.
It said it will go for tougher programmes if any attempts are made to obstruct the programmes.

242 iron

FROM PAGE 5
LGED's executive engineer in Patuakhali, Hossain Ali Mir, said a list of the 242 damaged bridges has been submitted to the higher authorities. Upon receiving instructions, cost estimates will be prepared, and funds will be sought.
Once the necessary funds are allocated, repair and reconstruction work will commence promptly, he said.



Graduates and guests at the 8th convocation ceremony of Dhaka International University at the PSC Convention Hall, Mirpur-14, yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Workers continue

FROM PAGE 5
Golam Rasul Nur Alam Chowdhury, general manager (sales) of Padma, said, "On Monday, only four tonnes of octane, four tonnes of petrol, and 59 tonnes of diesel were sold from the Padma depot. Meghna and Jamuna only sold eight tonnes and five tonnes of diesel, respectively, and nothing else."
"Many customers want to procure fuel from us, but they are unable to do so due to safety concerns. Workers are attacking fuel tankers as soon as they leave the depots," he added.
Badruzzaman Bablu, president of the Jashore Bus Owners Association, said, "We expect the administration to solve the problem quickly. Otherwise, transportation will stop, and passengers will suffer."
Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khalishpur Police Station Md Rafiqul Islam said they requested the workers to drive their oil tankers and stop the abstention, but they refused to listen.
[Our correspondents from Khulna and Benapole contributed to this report.]

Fire disaster

FROM PAGE 3
(26.74 percent).
Last year's fires caused property losses estimated at Tk 446 crore, but fire service efforts saved assets worth Tk 1,974 crore.
The FSCD also conducted 18,983 drills, 15,683 awareness campaigns, and 7,769 training sessions, reaching 147,717 participants.
Special focus was given to the garment sector, with 3,921 sessions held for 156,840 workers.
In enforcing fire safety regulations, 147 mobile courts imposed fines totalling Tk 2.58 crore on 149 establishments, with legal action taken against three organisations.
Rescue operations by the FSCD saved 10,826 injured individuals and recovered 2,437 deceased.
Road accidents contributed to 6,408 incidents, resulting in 9,319 injuries and 1,484 fatalities.
While the number of fire incidents decreased from 27,624 in 2023, casualties rose, with 140 fatalities in 2024 compared to 102 the previous year.

Suspect Rabbani

FROM PAGE 5
"We got crucial information from Rabbani during primary interrogation, so we sought remand to glean more information," said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sonadanga Police Station.
Earlier, unidentified miscreants shot and hacked Arnob to death at Sheikhpara Tentultala intersection in Khulna city on Friday night.
Police later detained three of Arnob's friends.
Arnob's father, Nitish Kumar, filed a case against 20-25 unidentified individuals on Saturday.
After primary interrogation, police released two of the detainees to their families and showed Rabbani arrested in the case.

Top UAE

FROM PAGE 3
investment proposals.
"Bring your people and set up as many plants as you want."
Abu Dhabi Ports Group, the fourth major port operator to express interest in Bangladesh in just one week, aims to partner with the Chittagong Port Authority to develop one of the proposed Bay Terminals.
This venture would involve financing, operating, and maintaining container and multipurpose terminals.
Masdar, a renewable energy company, has proposed a \$500 million investment in a 250-megawatt solar power project on reclaimed coastal land.
UAE Ambassador Abdulla Ali Alhmoudi and other senior officials, including Khalidur Rahman and Lamiya Morshed, were also present.
During the meeting, Alhmoudi extended an invitation for the Chief Adviser to attend the World Government Summit in Dubai this February.

Govt to take

FROM PAGE 3
rights of forest-dependent communities and the responsibilities of the forest department, she also said.
The adviser also called for a swift resolution of forest-related lawsuits.

Approval needed

FROM PAGE 3
environmentalists, experts, and professors from Dhaka and Jahangirnagar Universities in this regard.
At the district level, a committee will include the deputy commissioner, district environment officer, college professors, social workers, environmentalists, bar association representatives, and the civil surgeon.
For upazilas, the committee will comprise

upazila nirbahi officers, college principals, social workers, environmentalists, welfare officers, assistant commissioners for land, and LGED engineers.
The bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Mubina Asaf delivered the judgement in response to a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in 2024, seeking action to curb rising temperatures and environmental pollution.

Students demand

FROM PAGE 3
Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, addressed several demands, including immediate action against police personnel accused of assaulting Dhaka College student Rakib, the resignation of a DU pro-vice-chancellor, punishment for DU students accused of verbally abusing female college students, and justice for those responsible for recent clashes.
The affiliation of the seven colleges—Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Begum Badrunnesa College, Government Bangla College, Kabi Nazrul College, Government Titumir College, and Shaheed Suhrawardy College—had been established in 2017 to ease session jams and reduce pressure on the National University.

"There is no rivalry between DU and seven college students. Our mutual goal is quality education," Rahman said.
Meanwhile, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus had a meeting with UGC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz and DU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan last night.
Following the meeting, Prof Faiz told The Daily Star, "We are considering the welfare of the students. We will try to disclose our decision on January 30."

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 29
Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:35 12:45 4:15 5:46 7:15
JAMAAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Social Development Foundation (SDF)
(An Autonomous Organization under Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance, GoB)
House No. 22/22, Khilji Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Improvement (RELI) Project
IDA Credit No. 6876-BD

Memo No. SDF/Proc./Laptop/G-2.1 B/ RELI/2025/313 Date: 28/01/2025

Invitation for e-Tender (International)

The Social Development Foundation (SDF) invites an online international tender (goods) through the e-GP Portal of the BPPA, where only e-Tenders will be accepted. Offline or hard copy submissions will not be permitted. To participate and submit an e-Tender, registration on the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the e-GP Portal must be deposited online through any registered bank branch by the following date and time:

Sl	Package ID	Tender ID	Package description	Tender method	Publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
01	BD-SDF-473169-GO-RFB/2.1(B) (RELI)	1069546	Supply & Installation 3250 Nos. Laptops for RELI project of SDF.	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)	28.01.2025 4:30pm	12.03.2025 2:30pm	12.03.2025 3:30pm

Further information, bidding documents, and guidelines are available on the National e-GP Portal or from the e-GP helpdesk at helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders.

Md. Nurul Amin
Managing Director

UTTARA BANK PLC.
PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT,
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for Servicing & maintenance of Diesel Generators (Perkins Engine) at different Branches, Sub Branches & Offices of Uttara Bank PLC. throughout the country. Please visit www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender for details.

General Manager

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Dinajpur Medical College, Dinajpur
E-dinajmc@ac.dghs.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 59.14.0000.137.00.103.2025-235 Date: 28/01/2025

This is to notify to all concern that the following are invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Last selling Time	Closing & opening Time
01	1067018, 1067095, 1067099, 1067103, 1067104, 1067896, 1067978, 1068406, 1068416, 1068528	12-02-2025 Time 16.00 hours	13-02-2025 Time 12.00 hours

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

Prof. Dr. Sk Sadek Ali
Principal (In Charge)
Dinajpur Medical College
Dinajpur

GD-294

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat.
+Tel: 0591-61770, FAX: 0591-61770
email: eerhdial@yahoo.com, eelal@rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will accept in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (PE), RHD, Road Division, Lalmonirhat for:

Providing Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) including necessary repair of pavement distresses from 82th (p), 83th (p), 84th (p), 85th km (p) of Barabari- Lalmonirhat Burimari National highway Road (N-509) under Road Division, Lalmonirhat during the Year 2024-2025.

Sl no	Tender ID no	Tender ref. no	Tender last selling	Tender closing date	Tender opening date
1.	1068367	eGP-24/EE/LRD/LTM/2024-2025	10-Feb-2025 17:00	11-Feb-2025 13:00	11-Feb-2025 13:00

Reference No. 157
Date: 27-01-2025

(Md. Abdul Momen)
ID No. 100448
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat.

GD-292

ফ্যাক্টরী ভাড়া হবে

১লা ফেব্রুয়ারী ২৫ইং হইতে গ্যাস, বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগসহ সম্পূর্ণ চালু অবস্থায় ফ্যাক্টরী ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে। নীচতলা- ১,০০,০০০ বর্গফুট এবং ১ম তলা- ২৫,০০০ বর্গফুট।

লোকেশন-হেমায়েতপুর, সাভার, ঢাকা। (সাভার আরিচা মহাসড়কের পাশে) (শুধুমাত্র প্রকৃত শিল্প উদ্যোক্তাগণ যোগাযোগ করবেন)।

যোগাযোগ
মাহমুদ হোসাইন - 01847090060
ইফতেখার সৃজন খান - 01847090070

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
এক্সিকিউটিভ এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিভিশন
প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

লিফট সার্ভিসিং, মেইন্টেনেন্স ও অপারেশন কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি)

কাজের নামঃ Monthly Servicing, Maintenance and Operation of one No. Lift (Brand: FUJILD) Capacity 630 kg (8 passengers) for 2 (two) years at Sonali Bank PLC, Bogura Corporate Branch, Bogura.
টেন্ডার রেফারেন্সঃ 80/2024; তারিখঃ 03/12/2024
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি Website www.sonaliabank.com.bd এর Tender Board দেখুন।
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৩১০৫০, পিএবিএক্সঃ ০২-৫৭১৬১০৮০-৮৮/৩২০০, E-mail: dgmeed@sonalibank.com.bd

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
এক্সিকিউটিভ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার

GD-295

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)
Gazipur-1703

International Re-e-Tender

International Re-e-Tender is invited in 'The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)'s e-Tender site <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd> for procurement of the following item for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule. Necessary information is given below:

Re-e-Tender No.	Nature of e-Tender	Name of item	Date of publish	Last date & time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for opening of e-Tender
35/2024-2025	International	Supply of Origination Works for 100, 50, 20 & 10 Taka Notes.	27.01.2025	10.02.2025 12:00pm	10.02.2025 12:15pm

For more details, please visit/contact the following:

Website : www.spcbl.org.bd
Cell No : +8801552476764, +8801742453378
Telephone : +88-02-996695110-15
Fax : +88-02-996695772-3
E-mail : info@spcbl.org.bd
e-Tender site : <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>

Shafayet Arefin
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)
Phone: +88-02223375571

GD-298

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
সিলেট
ডাক বাক্স নং-৫৩
www.bb.org.bd

স্টাফ বাস ভাড়ার দরপত্র-বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, সিলেট অফিসের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের নিম্নবর্ণিত রুটে (এগাকাসমূহ থেকে) নির্দিষ্ট স্টপেজ হতে সকালে অফিসে নিয়ে আসা এবং বিকেলে অফিস সময়ের পর নির্দিষ্ট গন্তব্যে পৌঁছে দেওয়ার জন্য বাস ভাড়া করার লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাস মালিক/প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে নিম্নোক্তকৃত তিনটি রুটে জন্য আলাদাভাবে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। নিম্নে এতদসম্বন্ধে অধ্যাদেশ তদ্বিধায় উল্লেখ করা হলো:

০১। রুটের বিবরণ:

ক্রম	রুটের নাম	বাসের বর্ণনা		ট্রিপ সংখ্যা
		সিট সংখ্যা	বাসের সংখ্যা	
১	ব্যাংক চত্বর & ব্যাংক নিবাস	৩০/৩২	০২	সকালে ২টি ও বিকালে ১টি
২	ব্যাংক চত্বর & টুকেরবাড়ার	৩০/৩২	০২	সকালে ১টি ও বিকালে ১টি
৩	ব্যাংক চত্বর & দানপাড়ার & সিলেট সিটি-১	৩০/৩২	০১	সকালে ১টি ও বিকালে ১টি

০২। মুজিব মেয়াদ: ০০(ভিন) বছর।

০৩। দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তিহীন ও সময়: ৩১/০১/২০২৫ তারিখ থেকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ই-টেন্ডার বিদ্যক তয়েবনাইট <https://tender.bb.org.bd/> এ পাওয়া যাবে।

০৪। দরপত্র গ্রহণের অফিস, তারিখ ও সময়: প্রতিটি রুটের জন্য পৃথকভাবে দরপত্র নিম্নোক্তকৃত বাসে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, সিলেট অফিসের ৩য় তলায় অবস্থিত অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-১) এর চেম্বারে প্রকৃত টেন্ডার বাসে ২৩/০১/২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ২:৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। একই সাথে উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে দরপত্র মার্জিত করে শর্তসমূহী বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তয়েবনাইট <https://tender.bb.org.bd/> এ ই-টার্নিং পদ্ধতিতে Tender Schedule Form পূরণ করে দাখিল করতে হবে।

০৫। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়: দরপত্রাংশ বা তাঁদের প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) ২৩/০১/২০২৫ তারিখ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকার পরে দরপত্রাংশ খোলা হবে।

০৬। দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ: পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, সিলেট-এর অনুমূল ক্রয়কৃত নিম্নোক্ত টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার 'জামানত' হিসেবে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে:

ক্রম	রুটের নাম	অর্থের পরিমাণ
১	ব্যাংক চত্বর & ব্যাংক নিবাস	৳ ৭০,০০০.০০
২	ব্যাংক চত্বর & টুকেরবাড়ার	৳ ৫০,০০০.০০
৩	ব্যাংক চত্বর & দানপাড়ার & সিলেট সিটি-১	৳ ৫০,০০০.০০

০৭। প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র: দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত বাসের যাবতীয় ফান্ডামেন্টাল ডকুমেন্টস-এর সত্যায়িত কপি (পেরজামিন বাচাইকোম মূল ডকুমেন্টস জমা দিতে হবে), ফান্ডামেন্টাল অফিসের প্রত্যয়নপত্র, VAT নিবননপত্র ও মরাদ্দ বাসের মালিক না হলে বাসের প্রকৃত মালিকের সত্যায়িত ইত্যাদি দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।

০৮। শর্তাবলী: দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণপূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথা বিধা শর্তকৃত দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সরবরাহ দরপত্র গ্রহণের সাথে নর 'এক' কোনো কাগজ বর্ণনামূলক বাস্তব-কোনেটি বা সর্বক টি দরপত্র বাস্তব করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

০৯। ২৩/০১/২০২৫ তারিখে অনিবার্য কারাবন্ধত কার্যদিবস ব্যাধিত হলে তার পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে দুপুর ২:৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে যথাযথভাবে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে এবং বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকার যথারীতি দরপত্রসমূহ ডাউনলোড/খোলা হবে।

তারিখ: ২৭/০১/২০২৫

সূত্র নং: ডি সি পি:৪৮/২০২৪-২৩৩
তারিখ - ২৭/০১/২০২৫

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
(খালিদ আহমদ)
নির্বাহী পরিচালক(সিডিউল দায়িত্বে)
ফোন: ০২-৯৯৬৩০৬৭২

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
সিলেট অফিসের ৩য় তলায় অবস্থিত অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-১) এর চেম্বারে প্রকৃত টেন্ডার বাসে ২৩/০১/২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ২:৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। একই সাথে উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে দরপত্র মার্জিত করে শর্তসমূহী বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তয়েবনাইট <https://tender.bb.org.bd/> এ ই-টার্নিং পদ্ধতিতে Tender Schedule Form পূরণ করে দাখিল করতে হবে।

GD-305

14 DISTRICTS

Workers continue strike, fuel supply remains suspended



STAR REPORT

Fuel supply in 14 districts of Khulna and Faridpur regions remained suspended for the third consecutive day yesterday due to tank lorry workers continuing their abstention, protesting the arrest of Khulna Divisional Tank Lorry Workers' Union General Secretary Ali Azim.

Azim was arrested on Sunday in a case filed over vandalising a local BNP office in Khulna's Khalishpur.

As the issue has not been resolved, the sale of oil, including petrol, diesel, octane, etc., will be stopped at around 300 pumps in just the Khulna Division today (Wednesday), according to Sajjadul Karim Kabul, president of the Khulna Division Fuel Distributors Association.

The abstention has been jointly called by the Bangladesh Tank Lorry Owners' Association, Bangladesh Fuel Distributors' Association, Khulna Divisional Tank Lorry Workers' Union, and the Padma, Meghna, and Jamuna Tank Lorry Workers' Welfare Association.

Now, stock of oil at most pumps in the Khulna and Faridpur region has plummeted to zero.

Mir Moksed Ali, president of the Padma, Meghna, and Jamuna Tank Lorry Workers' Welfare Association, said, "We tried to convince the workers to stop the blockade on Sunday night. They refused, after which we were then attacked by joint forces. I was also beaten up. Now, the workers are angry about this incident and won't relent until Ali Azim is released."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

242 iron bridges in Patuakhali turn risky

Years of neglect and lack of maintenance led to significant deterioration

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

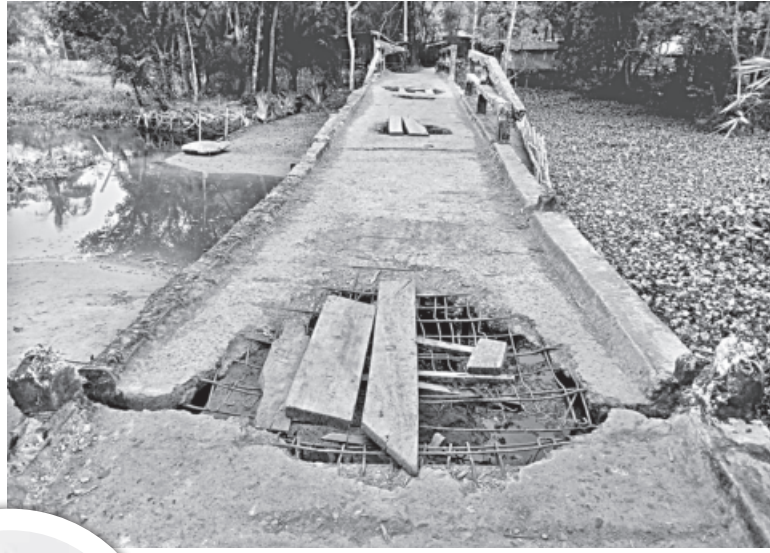
At least 242 iron bridges across eight upazilas in Patuakhali are in a dilapidated state and require urgent repairs or reconstruction to ensure safe and uninterrupted commutes for residents.

Locals are facing severe difficulties travelling to different areas within the district due to the poor condition of these bridges, which serve as critical links for transportation. Students of various educational institutions in the affected upazilas are among those most impacted by the situation.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed these bridges over canals and waterbodies across Patuakhali in the 1990s and early 2000s to improve rural connectivity.

However, years of neglect and lack of maintenance have led to significant deterioration, while some bridges have been damaged from collisions with water vessels.

LGED has identified 242 bridges in the district as risky, including 63 in Bauphal, 56 in Mirzaganj, 42 in Patuakhali Sadar, 35 in Galachipa, and 10 each in Dashmina, Rangabali,



Dumki, and Kalapara upazilas. According to LGED, only four of these bridges can be repaired, while the rest require complete replacement.

One example is the bridge over the Lebukhali Bharani canal in Dumki upazila near the Government Habibullah High School. In mid 2021, a sand-laden cargo vessel collided with the bridge, causing a section to collapse and

severing direct connectivity between the canal's two banks. Thousands of residents who depended on the bridge for daily commutes are now forced to cross the canal by boat, which poses significant risks. Despite protests and human chains by locals, no action has been taken to rebuild the structure.

In another instance, the iron bridge over the Khaprabhanga canal in Kalapara upazila collapsed on 2 April 2020 due to tidal pressure, cutting off connectivity for residents of at least 15 villages.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

AL announces 9-day protest from Feb 1

Blockade on Feb 16, hartal on Feb 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has announced a nine-day programme, including hartals and blockades, to protest what it said are the price hike of essentials, deteriorating law and order, and killings of party leaders and activists.

The programmes will begin on February 1, according to a press release issued by the party yesterday. The release was posted also on its verified Facebook page.

At the programmes, the AL will demand the withdrawal of "false and baseless" ICT cases filed on murder and other charges against Sheikh Hasina

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

KU STUDENT MURDER
Suspect Rabbani on 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday placed Golam Rabbani, a suspect in the case filed over Khulna University student Arnob's murder, on a two-day remand for interrogation.

Judge Md Rakibul Islam of Khulna Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court-1 passed the order after Ashraf Alam, investigation officer of the case and a sub-inspector of Sonadanga Police Station, produced Rabbani before the court with seven-day remand prayer, said S Haridas, general recording officer of the court.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

"শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস, গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী"

"গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।"

সত্যতা ও নৈতিকতার সাথে কাজ করুন।
- জাতীয় শুদ্ধাচার কৌশল

বিজিএফসিএল

Invitation for Tender (IFT)



Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400
Bangladesh

"Workover of 7 Wells at Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad and Meghna Fields" Project

Ref. No. BGFL/WP(Works)/005-007

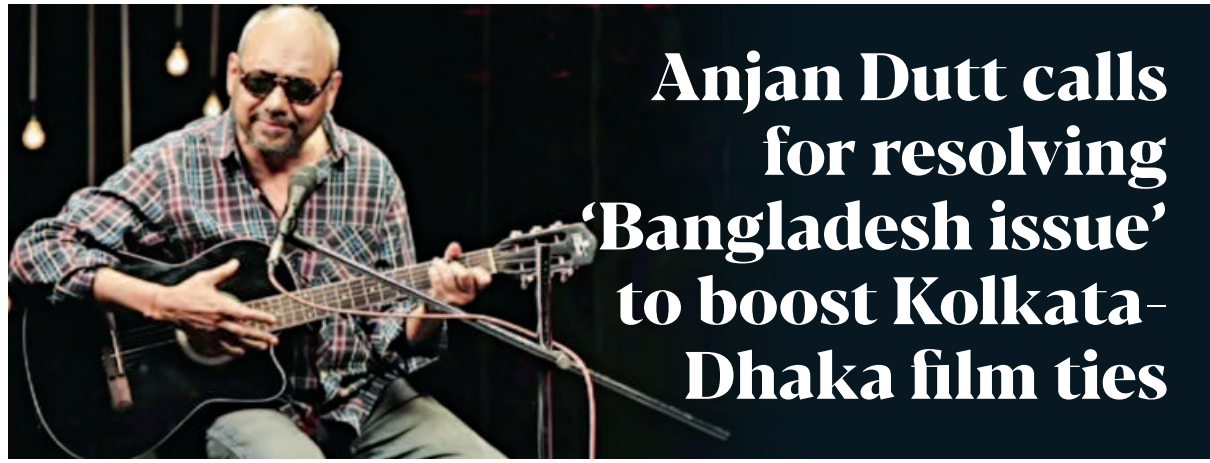
Date: 26-01-2025

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division								
2. Agency	: Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (A Company of Petrobangla)								
3. Name of procuring entity	: Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFL)								
4. Procuring entity code	: ----								
5. Procuring entity district	: Brahmanbaria								
6. Invitation for	: Procurement of Third Party Engineering Works in the category of Wireline Logging, Wireline Operation and Drill Stem Testing (DST) for workover of 3 Wells (Well No. 6 & 7 at Bakhrabad Gas Field and Well No. 1 at Meghna Gas Field).								
7. IFT Ref No.	: BGFL/WP(Works)/005-007								
8. Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	: 0-0-0								
9. Procurement method	: Single Stage Single-Envelope Open Tendering, (International Competitive Tendering)								
10. Budget & source of funds	: Gas Development Fund (GDF) and BGFL's own fund								
11. Development partner (if applicable)	: Not applicable								
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	: Not applicable								
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	: "Workover of 7 Wells at Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad and Meghna Fields" Project								
14. Proposed Tender Package No.	: BGFL/WP(Works)/005-007								
15. Proposed tender package name	: Procurement of Third Party Engineering Works for workover of 3 Wells at Bakhrabad and Meghna Gas Fields as under: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category of Works</th> <th>International Tender No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i) Wireline Logging</td> <td>BGFL/WP(Works)/005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii) Wireline Operation</td> <td>BGFL/WP(Works)/006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)</td> <td>BGFL/WP(Works)/007</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category of Works	International Tender No.	i) Wireline Logging	BGFL/WP(Works)/005	ii) Wireline Operation	BGFL/WP(Works)/006	iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)	BGFL/WP(Works)/007
Category of Works	International Tender No.								
i) Wireline Logging	BGFL/WP(Works)/005								
ii) Wireline Operation	BGFL/WP(Works)/006								
iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)	BGFL/WP(Works)/007								
16. Tender publication date	: ----								
17. Tender document last selling date (must be in the date prior to the day of Tender Submission Closing Date)	: a) Date & time: From 03-02-2025 to 17-03-2025 between 0900 hrs. & 1500 hrs. BST on all working days (Sunday to Thursday). No extension in closing date for selling of tender documents will be allowed. b) Place: BGFL Liaison Office at Petrobangla, Petrocentre (14th Floor), 03, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.								
18. Tender closing date and time	: a) Date & time: Tender documents will be received upto 1400 hrs. (BST) on 18-03-2025. b) Place: Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Head Office, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400.								
19. Tender opening date and time	: a) Date & time: Tender documents will be opened on 18-03-2025 at 1430 hrs. (BST) in presence of the Tenderer's representatives, if any. b) Place: Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Head Office, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400.								
20. Name & address of the official(s)	: Project Director, "Workover of 7 Wells at Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad and Meghna Fields" Project, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Titas Location-A, Ghatara, Brahmanbaria-3400.								
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	: Not applicable.								
22. Eligibility of tenderer	: Reputed Services companies/firms from all countries except the countries those who have no diplomatic relation with Bangladesh having international experience in providing similar works/services are eligible to participate in the tendering for providing services under different categories.								

23. Brief description of works	: Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFL), a Company of Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) invites sealed offers (tenders) under International Competitive Tendering (ICT) for procurement of Third Party Engineering Works in different categories required for workover of Well No. 6 & 7 at Bakhrabad Gas Field and Well No. 1 at Meghna Gas Field. Workover of 3 Wells (Well No. 6 & 7 at Bakhrabad Gas Field and Well No. 1 at Meghna Gas Field) will be carried out by BAPEX. Under this tender the Contractor shall be required to provide equipment & tools and personnel and other relevant works for Workover of 3 Wells at Bakhrabad and Meghna Gas Fields. But in case of Wireline Operation, the Contractor shall be required to provide personnel for workover of the 3 wells.												
24. Brief description of physical work	: Not applicable												
25. Price of tender document	: Mode of Selling Tender documents will be sold on payment (non-refundable) or alternately the Tender documents can be obtained through express air mail service on receipt of payment (non-refundable) through bank deposit to BGFL Short Notice Deposit (SND) A/C 1017-127107-041, IFIC Bank Limited, Kawran Bazar Branch, Petrocentre, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Swift: IFICBDDH017 as under: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category of works</th> <th>Cash purchase from BGFL liaison office</th> <th>Through express air mail service</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i) Wireline Logging</td> <td>BTK. 10,000.00</td> <td>USD. 325.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii) Wireline Operation</td> <td>BTK. 10,000.00</td> <td>USD. 325.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)</td> <td>BTK. 10,000.00</td> <td>USD. 325.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category of works	Cash purchase from BGFL liaison office	Through express air mail service	i) Wireline Logging	BTK. 10,000.00	USD. 325.00	ii) Wireline Operation	BTK. 10,000.00	USD. 325.00	iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)	BTK. 10,000.00	USD. 325.00
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ii) Wireline Operation	BTK. 10,000.00	USD. 325.00											
iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)	BTK. 10,000.00	USD. 325.00											
26. Tender security	: Tender documents required to furnish separate tender security for each category of works, they are tendering for, in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by a registered scheduled bank in Bangladesh or a scheduled foreign bank operating in Bangladesh in the amount as under: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category of works</th> <th>International Tender No.</th> <th>Tender security (BDT or equivalent foreign currency)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i) Wireline Logging</td> <td>BGFL/WP(Works)/005</td> <td>BDT 28,00,000.00 or USD 23,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii) Wireline Operation</td> <td>BGFL/WP(Works)/006</td> <td>BDT 2,00,000.00 or USD 1,800.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)</td> <td>BGFL/WP(Works)/007</td> <td>BDT 18,00,000.00 or USD 14,000.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category of works	International Tender No.	Tender security (BDT or equivalent foreign currency)	i) Wireline Logging	BGFL/WP(Works)/005	BDT 28,00,000.00 or USD 23,000.00	ii) Wireline Operation	BGFL/WP(Works)/006	BDT 2,00,000.00 or USD 1,800.00	iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)	BGFL/WP(Works)/007	BDT 18,00,000.00 or USD 14,000.00
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iii) Drill Stem Testing (DST)	BGFL/WP(Works)/007	BDT 18,00,000.00 or USD 14,000.00											
27. Name of the official inviting tender	: Mohammad Ismile Molla												
28. Designation of the official inviting tender	: Project Director												
29. Address of the official inviting tender	: Project Director, "Workover of 7 Wells at Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad and Meghna Fields" Project, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Titas Location-A, Ghatara, Brahmanbaria-3400.												
30. Contact details of official inviting tender	: Telephone-02334428141/02334427428/02334427128, Ext No. 259 E-mail: pd7wpbgfl@gmail.com												
31. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the Applications or annul the Application proceedings.	: Special information i) Tenderers may submit their tender(s) for any or more or all of the categories of works. Submission of alternative tender will not be allowed. Tenders must remain valid for 150 (one hundred fifty) days from the date of closing of the tender. ii) The tender security must remain valid for 178 (one hundred seventy-eight) days from the date of closing of the tender. iii) In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. declared holiday, etc. tender will be received and opened on the following working day. iv) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. v) Tender submitted by e-mail will be rejected. Likewise photocopy of e-mailed tenders will also be rejected. vi) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders or annul the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected tenderers. vii) This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rule 2008. The aforesaid notice is also available at CPTU website @ http://www.cptu.gov.bd , Petrobangla website @ www.petrobangla.org.bd and BGFL website @ www.bgfl.org.bd .												

28.10.1213.876.09.005.25 (7 Wells)
(24"x4")

Mohammad Ismile Molla
Project Director



Anjan Dutt calls for resolving 'Bangladesh issue' to boost Kolkata-Dhaka film ties

National Award-winning filmmaker and musician Anjan Dutt has called for resolving political tensions between Bangladesh and India, highlighting the untapped potential in both nations' film industries.

Speaking to an Indian media outlet, the artiste emphasised,

"Art unites where politics divides", urging both countries to boost cultural collaboration.

He praised Bangladesh's rich heritage and talented filmmakers, actors, and musicians, advocating for substantial partnerships between Kolkata and Dhaka.

Dutt also expressed concern over modern filmmaking trends that prioritise technical aspects over the actor-focused direction. His remarks come ahead of his new film *Ei Raat Tomar Amar* directed by Parambrata Chattopadhyay, where he stars alongside Aparna Sen.

'Laapataa Ladies' bags Japan Academy Film Prize nomination

Kiran Rao's film *Laapataa Ladies* has recently earned a nomination for the Japan Academy Film Prize. After its theatrical release in Japan in October, last year, the film was well-received by audiences and successfully ran for 100 days at the box office.

It is now nominated in the esteemed Best International Film category at the 2024 Japan Academy Film Prize.



Laapataa Ladies is competing in the category alongside Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, Yorgos Lanthimos' *Poor Things*, Jonathan Glazer's *The Zone of Interest*, and Alex Garland's *Civil War*.

The winner will be presented with the award during the event's ceremony on March 14.

Directed by Kiran Rao, *Laapataa Ladies* stars Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Chhaya Kadam, and Ravi Kishan, among others.

Curtain falls on the sixth National Sculpture Exhibition

The sixth edition of the National Sculpture Exhibition, organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), concluded last Monday after a month-long display.

Inaugurated on December 21, 2024, the exhibition was extended by seven days, with the closing ceremony held at the Academy's National Art Gallery Auditorium.

Dr Syed Jamil Ahmed, director general of BSA, chaired the ceremony,



which included reviews by Dr Abdus Sattar and speeches by professor Nazma Khan Majlis and other

directors of BSA's departments.

The director general highlighted the exhibition's role in inspiring creativity across multiple art forms. He also announced the upcoming *Festival of Multilingualism* set for February.

This year's event featured 178 artworks by 159 artists, with 13 awards presented, celebrating the BSA's efforts in promoting the art of sculptures since 1982.

JAMES to headline 'Gala Night' concert in Chattogram

Bangladesh's rock icon, Nagar Baul's James, will headline the much-anticipated *Gala Night* concert at the Flower Fest 2025, set to take place at MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram on February 6.

Organised by the Chattogram District Administration, the event will see James take the stage after performances from leading bands including Artcell, Shironamhin, Lalon, AVOIDRafa, Arbovirus, Unmaad, and Teerondaz.

The concert marks the conclusion of the month-long Flower Fest at Faujdarhat DC Flower Park. The event gates will open to audiences in the afternoon, with performances starting at 6:30pm, culminating in James taking the stage as the final act.



Industry leaders to address challenges in Bangladeshi cinema



The Bangladesh Film Students' Association (BFSA) will host the National Film Conference at Dhaka University, today at 3pm, to address critical issues regarding reforming the country's film sector.

The event, under the theme *Shongskarey Choloচিত্র, Poribortone Desh*, will bring together over 500 filmmakers, students, and professionals.

Key topics include outdated certification laws, inadequate film distribution infrastructure, and the need for improved film educational facilities. Industry leaders, including interim government advisers, will propose solutions to help elevate the film industry.

The conference will also explore the development of Gazipur Film City and seek government support to combat piracy and enhance local production, aiming for a brighter cinematic future.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Pakhider Bidhansobha'



Step into the mystical world of *Pakhider Bidhansobha*, a captivating Sufi-inspired play based on Farid-Ud-Din Attar's poem *Mantiq-ut-Tayr*.

Staged at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, this theatrical journey, directed by Dr Ahmedul Kabir and performed by Dhaka University's theatre students, will explore the quest for self-introspection and enlightenment.

DATE: FRIDAY-MONDAY | FEBRUARY 7-10
TIME: 4PM AND 7PM ONWARDS
VENUE: BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY

NEWS

Muggings even in daylight

FROM PAGE 12
3,000," he said.

Police officers say the actual number of muggings could be higher because many people do not even file general diaries.

Tanvir Islam, a software engineer, said he was mugged on the walkway along the Turag river in Mohammadpur's Dhaka Udyan area two weeks ago.

"But I did not go to the police," he said.

He said he caught a man who tried to snatch his phone in Nobodoy Housing on September 17.

"I handed the man to the cops and filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station. But the police kept my phone as evidence, and advised me to get a court order to get it back. Who would want this kind of hassle?" he asked.

"No hour is safe on some streets of Mohammadpur. Not only are they robbing, but they are also stabbing and hacking people."

Mohammadpur resident Rokhsana Parvin said her 20-year-old son was mugged on December 20 near Kisholoy Girls School and College on Tajmahal Road.

"The police told us to file a GD," she said, adding that the phone remains unrecovered.

A PERSISTENT THREAT

Locals say mugging incidents are prevalent in Bosila, Tin Rastar Mor, Dhaka Udyan, Nobodoy Housing, Chand Udyan, Bosila Garden City, 40 Feet Road, Chandrima Housing, Ekota Housing, and Nabinagar.

On October 19, three people were mugged on 40-Foot Road around 3:30pm.

The next day, a gang of robbers wielding machetes stopped a microbus of a company in Mohammadia Housing around 9:45am and took away Tk 10.75 lakh in cash.

On October 21, a female university student was mugged near her home in Nobodoy Housing around 6:30am. In a 33-second security camera footage that went viral, a young man in black shorts and four others with knives are seen snatching her purse.

On October 24, several men entered a grocery store on the 40-Foot Road, held the shopkeeper at knifepoint, and looted the cash register.

Recently, a video went viral on social media showing a teenage boy hacking another boy with a machete in broad daylight in the Dhaka Udyan area.

Locals say teen and youth gangs are often behind these reckless crimes.

There are allegations that during the Awami League regime, these gangs were protected by the Chhatra League

and Jubo League.

Locals say turf wars among these gangs have also become common in recent weeks.

Amid the situation, the army has set up camps in the area to curb crime.

According to an intelligence report, there are at least 432 spots where muggings take place frequently. Of those places, Mohammadpur has 108. The report mentions 205 individuals identified as active muggers in Mohammadpur.

Contacted, Mohammad Ibne Mizan, Deputy Commissioner (Tejgaon Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "A large number of homeless people live and work in Mohammadpur. The suspects can easily flee to Gabtoli, Old Dhaka, and Keraniganj through the Beribadh."

"We made a list based on last year's data. Police will now increase vigilance and patrolling."

Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam at a crime review meeting of Dhaka Metropolitan Police recently said the police must make every effort to stop crimes like extortion and mugging.

At the meeting, DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali said police would practice a zero-tolerance policy for snatchers and extortionists.

China's DeepSeek AI

FROM PAGE 12
votes to become defence secretary, referred to the names of Confederate generals that were once used for two key bases during his remarks to reporters as he entered the Pentagon on his first full day on the job.

Trump signed the executive orders while flying back from Miami to Washington DC.

One of the executive orders signed by Trump said that expressing a "gender identity" different from an individual's sex at birth did not meet military standards.

While the order banned the use of "invented" pronouns in the military, it did not answer basic questions including whether transgender soldiers currently serving in the military would be allowed to stay and, if not, how they would be removed.

Trump's plans have been heavily criticised by advocacy groups, which say his actions would be illegal.

"President Trump has made clear that a key priority for his administration

is driving transgender people back into the closet and out of public life altogether," Joshua Block, with the ACLU, said earlier on Monday.

Trump also signed an executive order that "mandated a process to develop an 'American Iron Dome'."

The short-range Iron Dome air defense system was built by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems with US backing, and was built to intercept rockets fired by the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza towards Israel.

Trump's administration on Monday fired more than a dozen Justice Department lawyers who brought two criminal cases against him, an official said.

The officials were fired after Acting Attorney General James McHenry, a Trump appointee, concluded they "could not be trusted to faithfully implement the President's agenda because of their significant role in prosecuting the President," a Justice Department official said.

ACC sues S Alam's son, 51 others

FROM PAGE 12
Mohammad Selim Uddin, former director and chairman of Islami Bank's Executive Committee; Syed Abu Asad, former nominee director; Dr Tanvir Ahmad, former member of the Executive Committee and vice chairman; Md Manzur Hasan, assistant vice president and branch manager of Islami Bank; Muhammad Sirajul Kabir, senior vice president and former branch manager, among others.

The ACC had previously filed two cases against Ahsanul for embezzlement from the same bank.

On December 19, the ACC filed a case accusing Ahsanul Alam of embezzling thousands of crores of taka from Islami Bank, and 56 others.

On January 9, the ACC filed another case involving the embezzlement of approximately Tk 994 crore from Islami Bank. Ahsanul Alam, along with 54 others, was accused in the case.

Shinepukur, Beximco

FROM PAGE 1
Beximco's laid-off factories have been demanding the reopening of 16 units that were closed in December.

"Beximco's loan scandal has surpassed the scandal of the Bangladesh Bank reserve heist," said the adviser.

The conglomerate's loans are over Tk 40,000 crore, including Tk 28,544 crore taken by its 32 textile and apparel subsidiaries.

"Of those 32 factories, 16 exist only on paper. But these factories were used [as collateral] to take loans."

The Bangladesh Bank will conduct a forensic audit to investigate whether there were irregularities and on what basis the loans were provided by Janata Bank and other financial institutions to the industrial establishments of Beximco Industrial Park, he said.

Beximco owes Janata Bank Tk 23,285 crore, Sonali Bank Tk 1,424

crore, Agrani Bank Tk 420 crore, Rupali Bank Tk 987 crore and National Bank Tk 315 crore, United Commercial Bank Tk 333 crore, AB Bank Tk 938 crore, Exim Bank Tk 497 crore, Global Islami Bank Tk 61 crore, Dutch Bangla Bank Tk 94 crore, IFIC Bank Tk 78 crore and Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund around Tk 87 crore.

Departmental and legal actions will be taken based on the audit findings, which will be complete by February.

The FID along with BB will take departmental action, including the dismissal of the receiver, for failing to implement the advisory committee's decision on the closure process of Beximco's laid-off companies.

This includes not arranging for the announcement of the committee's decision via TV scrolls, he said, adding that the FID will take steps to replace the receiver.

Going against people

FROM PAGE 12
The BNP leader noted that the people will ultimately determine the future of political parties.

"At the end of the day, it is the people who will decide whether we are popular or not. We must stand with them and ensure they stay with us."

He said that the public is now more aware and willing to place their trust in the BNP.

"If anyone within the party acts in a way that breaks this trust, neither I nor the party will support them. I will not shelter such individuals."

"The party must be selfish in this regard. If any party member erodes public trust, we cannot own them in the party. We have endured

adversities, oppression, and torture to reach this point. We cannot afford to compromise on this matter."

Tarique said that the party would not tolerate individuals who harm its reputation for personal gain.

"We have already severed ties with those who acted against the party's interests. Some may question what will happen next, but I am taking action based on the information available. I am making my stance clear as I proceed."

"I want to make one thing clear: we will not associate with individuals who engage in wrongdoing or unethical practices. As a political party, we are striving to do our best."

Girls' football match called off

FROM PAGE 12
They addressed the crowd and termed the women's football match "anti-Islamic".

One speaker was quoted as saying, "Islam teaches us to keep women within the confines of modesty. By promoting women's sports, you are encouraging immorality. We warn you to stop these activities, or there will be resistance in future."

They then marched to the football pitch and proceeded to tear down the

fence. The incident was livecast on Facebook.

Samiul Hasan Emon, president of the T-Star Club and a local BNP leader, said the protesters' actions caused damages of over Tk 1 lakh.

Akkelpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman said madrasa students and local Islamists were involved in dismantling the fence.

He, however, said that no formal complaints had been filed.

Ex-ADC, 2 cops

FROM PAGE 12
time, he added.

The court set February 23 for the next hearing and progress report regarding Arshad Hossain, while hearings for the other two individuals were scheduled for March 24. The arrestees are to be kept in jail until then.

The trio were already in police custody over various allegations, and sources said they were part of the six police officers against whom the ICT issued arrest warrants on Monday.

300,000 Palestinians return

FROM PAGE 12
In a separate statement, it said more than 5,500 government employees were working to facilitate the return of hundreds of thousands of displaced people from the southern and central governorates to Gaza's north, reports Al Jazeera online.

Meanwhile, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday that Gaza had brought Israel "to its knees", in a reference to the recent ceasefire in the Palestinian territory.

"The small, limited Gaza brought the Zionist regime, armed to the teeth, and fully supported by America, to its knees," Khamenei said during a meeting with officials in Tehran.

Also yesterday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, criticised US President Donald Trump's idea to move Palestinians out of Gaza to other locations such as Egypt or Jordan, reports AFP.

Qatar reaffirmed its support for a two-state solution. "Our position has always been clear to the necessity of the Palestinian people receiving their rights, and that the two-state solution is the only path forward," foreign ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari told media, when asked about Trump's comments.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces have arrested at least 25 Palestinians since yesterday evening, according to the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoners Society.

"The occupation forces continue to carry out field investigations in several towns in addition to the widespread abuse, attacks and threats against citizens, as well as acts of vandalism and destruction in citizens' homes," the joint statement said.

PHONE CALL WITH INDIA PM

Trump emphasises 'fair' trade

Discusses defense buys, immigration with Modi

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump has said India "will do what's right" when it comes to taking back Indian immigrants who came to the US illegally, following a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The leaders spoke on Monday, their first conversation since Trump's inauguration last week.

Trump also stressed the importance of India buying more American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship.

Trump later himself told reporters that Modi will visit the US sometime in February. The White House said earlier that plans for a Modi visit were discussed by the two leaders.

In what the White House called a "productive call," the leaders discussed expanding and deepening cooperation and issues including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe.

Reuters reported last week that Indian and US diplomats are trying to arrange a meeting of the leaders as early as February.

Trump and Modi enjoyed warm relations in the US president's first term, but during his campaign for re-election Trump called India a "very big abuser" on trade and vowed to use tariffs on global imports into the US to correct imbalances.

Trump has also threatened the BRICS group of nations, of which India is a part, with tariffs if they did not accept his demand of committing to not create a new currency.

In Monday's call, Trump "emphasised the importance of India increasing its procurement of American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship," a White House statement said.

The US is India's largest trading partner and two-way trade surpassed \$118 billion in 2023/24, with India posting a surplus of \$32 billion.

India is also an important strategic partner in US efforts to counter China, and in a social media post on Monday, Modi called Trump a "dear friend" and said they were "committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership."

Leaders discuss global security issues in 'productive' call

Modi's visit to Washington was discussed



Migrants gather at the Albanian port of Shengjin yesterday, after disembarking from the Italian navy ship Cassiopea, which arrived in Albania as part of a deal with Italy to process thousands of asylum-seekers caught near Italian waters.

PHOTO: REUTERS

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

Serbia's PM resigns after student protests

REUTERS, Belgrade

Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucovic resigned yesterday, becoming the highest ranking official to step down amid a wave of anti-corruption protests that have spread across the country.

The anti government demonstrations sprang up in the wake of the roof collapsing at a railway station in the city of Novi Sad, killing 15 people and leading to calls for Vucovic to quit.

What began as small gatherings in Novi Sad have ballooned and spread to the capital Belgrade as students, teachers and other workers have turned out in their thousands to blame the station disaster on corruption



within the government of President Aleksandar Vucic.

The minister for construction, transportation and infrastructure, and the trade minister have already stepped down because of the incident, but that failed to quell the protests.

"I opted for this step in order to defuse tensions", Vucovic told a news conference yesterday, announcing his resignation. He said the mayor of Novi Sad would also resign. "With this we have met all demands of the most radical protesters."

The protests, which included students putting up a blockade at a main junction in Belgrade this week, have been largely peaceful.

Pakistan army foils militant attempt to take post

REUTERS, Quetta

Militants in an explosive-laden vehicle were thwarted in their attempt to overrun a Pakistani security post near the border with Afghanistan, the army said yesterday.

The five attackers, including two suicide bombers, were killed when the post came under attack in Qila Abdullah district of Balochistan, the military said in a statement.

"The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by our own troops," it said, adding that the Pakistani troops forced the militants to ram the explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall. Two soldiers were killed, it said.

You're in for defeat if you oppose '71

FROM PAGE 2
leaders, his contribution to the birth of Bangladesh is undeniable. Therefore, we will give Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, pre-1972, his due importance."

Mahfuj said, "Some freedom fighters may have become fascist, Islamophobic, or murderous, but the Liberation War itself was a struggle of the masses.

He termed the 2024 uprising a continuation of the Liberation War's historical legacy.

The actions of some freedom fighters cannot invalidate or undermine the Liberation War or its participants. Doing so would be treasonous against the foundation of the state!

"We often forget that the first decade after the Liberation War was marked by a struggle between fascist Mujibist freedom fighters and patriotic, anti-Indian freedom fighters. However, even the most anti-imperialist among

them never dared to reject the Liberation War itself..." He termed the 2024 uprising a continuation of the Liberation War's historical legacy.

"This uprising was against the fascist Mujibist project" following the war, against BAKSAL 2.0. However, it reclaimed the Liberation War from the Mujibist project and the Sheikh family."

Mahfuj also said, "Pro-Bangladesh forces must align with pro-Liberation War values. It is true that many freedom fighters later became fascist collaborators. Today, they have been defeated by students and the masses. Similarly, those opposing the Liberation War will continue to be defeated for standing against the oppressed people of Bangladesh.

"Do not stand against history. We must unconditionally and unequivocally accept the legacy of '71 and '24 and move forward together to protect the nation from division."

Swechchhasebak Dal clash leaves

FROM PAGE 2
JCD, The Swechchhasebak Dal activists were reportedly led by Rafiqul Islam, convener of the Rugganj upazila unit, while the JCD activists were led by its former district vice-president, Masudur Rahman. Both sides are reported to have exchanged gunfire.

Witnesses said a procession by Swechchhasebak Dal on the Dhaka Sylhet Highway escalated into a

confrontation with JCD activists near Proddhan's house.

Mehedi Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police, said, "We brought the situation under control with the help of the army."

Police recovered at least 10 bullet casings and an unexploded crude bomb from the scene.

No case had been filed in connection with the incident as of 7:00pm yesterday.

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তারিখ: ২৮/০১/২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয় এর স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের অধীন জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের নিম্নবর্ণিত অস্থায়ী রাষ্ট্রীয় খাতকৃত পদে নিয়োগের জন্য পদের পার্শ্ব বর্ণিত শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা এবং নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Table with 6 columns: স্ল. নং, পদের নাম, পদের সংখ্যা, বেতন স্কেল/গ্রেড (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী), বয়স সীমা, শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা

০২। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অত্যাবশ্যিকভাবে অনুসরণীয়:

- (১) প্রার্থীকে http://dphe.teletalk.com.bd এই লিংকে প্রবেশ করে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রবর্তিত নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র অনলাইনে পূরণ করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
(২) অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী ও শর্তাবলী
(ক) আবেদনের সময়সীমা: নিম্নবর্ণিতঃ
(i) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমা দান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়:২৯.০১.২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা
(ii) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ২৭.০২.২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে SMS -এ পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিবেন।
(খ) Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার সদ্য তোলা রশ্মিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ X প্রস্থ ৩০০ Pixel) ও স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ X প্রস্থ ৮০ Pixel) ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ১০০ KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ ৬০ KB এর মধ্যে হতে হবে।
(গ) Online আবেদনপত্র পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।
(ঘ) প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।
(ঙ) SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নিবেদন করা হবে এবং পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করে আবেদনপত্র প্রদান করা হবে।
(চ) প্রার্থী যদি Applicant's Copy তে কোন তথ্য ভুল থাকে বা অস্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/সম্পূর্ণ সাদা/ঘোলা/ঘষা মাজা) বা ছবি/স্বাক্ষর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে আবেদন ফি জমা না দিয়ে থাকলেই কেবল পুনরায় (ওয়েবে) আবেদন করতে পারবেন। উল্লেখ্য যে, আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পরে আর কোন পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/পরিবর্তন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় বিধায় আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পূর্বে প্রার্থী অবশ্যই উক্ত Applicant's Copy তে তার সাংপ্রতিক তোলা রশ্মিন ছবি, নির্ভুল তথ্য ও স্বাক্ষর সংযুক্ত থাকা ও এর সঠিকতার বিষয়টি PDF Copy ডাউনলোডপূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's Copy তে একটি User ID দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-Paid Mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই)টি SMS করে আবেদন ফি বাবদ অফিস সহায়ক পদে ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং অনলাইন ফি বাবদ ৬/- (ছয়) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য অর্থায়ন মোট ৫৬/- (ছাপাশ) টাকা ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও আবেদন ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে।
গ্রন্থম SMS: DPHE<Space>User ID Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: DPHE ABCDEF & Send to 16222
Reply: Applicants Name, Tk.56/- will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To pay fee Type DPHE<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.
দ্বিতীয় SMS: DPHE<Space>Yes<Space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: DPHE Yes 12345678 and send to 16222.
Reply: Congratulations Applicants Name Payment completed successfully for DPHE application for Post office assistant User ID is (ABCDEF) and password (XXXXXXXXXX)
(৩) প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থীর বিষয়টি http://dphe.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থী মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।
(৪) SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত, বাবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।
(৫) শুধুমাত্র Teletalk Pre-Paid Mobile নম্বর থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।
(i) User ID জানা থাকলে: DPHE<Space>Help <Space>User ID Send to 16222. Example: DPHE Help User ABCDEF & Send to 16222
(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে: DPHE<Space>Help <Space>PIN<Space> PIN No and send to 16222. Example: DPHE Help 12345678 & Send to 16222

ক) বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও ওয়েবসাইটে www.dphe.gov.bd এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিসহ এ সংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্য দেখা যাবে। অথবা QR-Code ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে টেলিটক এর জবপোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে।

(৫) অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ নম্বর অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd ও info@dphe.gov.bd মেইলে, এছাড়া টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল এর ফেইসবুক পেজ https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdTeletalk এ মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমেও যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (মেইল/মেসেজে এর Subject-এ Organization Name: DPEH, Post Name: office assistant, Applicant's User ID ও Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)। আবেদনে উল্লিখিত শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের পর আবেদন সংক্রান্ত কোন অভিযোগ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(৬) অনলাইনে আবেদন এবং টাকা জমা করার কাজটি প্রার্থী নিজে করবেন। এক্ষেত্রে অন্য কোন মাধ্যম থেকে উক্ত কাজটি সম্পন্ন করে প্রার্থী প্রতারণিত হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।

(৭) বয়সসীমা: ২৮.০১.২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখে আবেদনকারীর ন্যূনতম ও সর্বোচ্চ বয়স হবে ১৮-৩২ বৎসর। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের সকল শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আবেদন ফরম পূরণের সময় Departmental Candidate এর ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিতে হবে। অন্য প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে এই পর্ত প্রযোজ্য নয়।

(৮) জাতীয়তা:

ক. প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।

খ. সরকারের পূর্বনুমতি ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থী কোন বিদেশী নাগরিককে বিবাহ করে থাকলে বা বিবাহ করার জন্য প্রতিজ্ঞাবদ্ধ হলে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন।

(৯) সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিত প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অনুমতির কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

(১০) মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে:
ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত সার্টিফিকেটের মূল সনদপত্র এবং সত্যায়িত কপি ও সদ্য তোলা রশ্মিন ছবি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে জমা দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/বীরশ্রদ্ধার সন্তান হিসেবে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীকে পিতা/মাতার মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/মুক্তিযোদ্ধা (বীরশ্রদ্ধা) সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে সনদ হিসেবে নিম্নের যে কোন একটি গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে:

(i) মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারীকৃত ২৬.০২.২০০২ তারিখের মুঃবিঃসঃ/সনদ-১/প্র-১/২০০২/০২ নং প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুযায়ী মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ইস্যুকৃত পিতা/মাতার মুক্তিযোদ্ধা (বীরশ্রদ্ধা) সনদ;

অথবা
(ii) মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০১.০২.২০০২ তারিখের মুঃবিঃসঃ/সনদ-১/প্র-৩/৩১/০২/১৪০ নং প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুযায়ী ১৯৯৭ থেকে ২০০২ সাল পর্যন্ত সরকার প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রতিলিপিকৃত এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত পিতা/মাতার মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদ।

গ) শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় প্রার্থীদের সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর/শ্রমিক জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়/উপজেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়/শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পরিচয়পত্র (আইডি কার্ড) এবং তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার সিভিল সার্জন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঘ) ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী সম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা প্রশাসক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঙ) কোনো প্রার্থী বিদেশ হতে তার অর্জিত কোনো ডিগ্রিকে উপরোল্লিখিত পদসমূহের পার্শ্ব বর্ণিত কোনো শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সমন্বয় বলে দাবি করলে তাকে সে মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইকুইভ্যালেন্স কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ইকুইভ্যালেন্স সনদের মূলকপি এবং সত্যায়িত কপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সাফাফ্যার বোর্ডে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।

৭) অনলাইন-এ পূরণকৃত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরশ্রদ্ধার সন্তান/ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী/শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের কোটায় প্রার্থীতা দাবি না করলে পরবর্তীতে নতুন করে কোনো কোটায় প্রার্থীতা দাবি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
(৮) কোন প্রার্থী যদি ক্ষেত্র/বিভাগ/আদালত কর্তৃক নৈতিক স্বলনজনিত অভিযোগে দণ্ডিত হন কিংবা কোন সরকারি বা স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে বা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরি থেকে বরখাস্ত হয়ে থাকেন এবং উক্তরূপ বরখাস্তের পর দুই বছর অতিক্রান্ত না হয়ে থাকে তবে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন না। তবে তথ্য গোপন রেখে আবেদন করলে বিধি অনুযায়ী আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

(৯) আবেদনপত্রে নাম, জন্ম তারিখ ও অন্য কোনোস্থল Substantive স্ট্রিট থাকলে পরবর্তী সময়ে সংশোধনের কোনো সুযোগ থাকবে না। Substantive স্ট্রিট কারণে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল হবে।

(১০) নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান কোটা পদ্ধতি এবং প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে পরিবর্তিত বিধি-বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।

(১১) কর্তৃপক্ষ পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি/ বাতিল কিংবা বিধি মোতাবেক নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন পরিবর্তন করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

(১২) লিখিত, বাবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী www.dphe.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য আলাদাভাবে কোন সাফাফ্যারপত্র প্রেরণ করা হবে না।

(১৩) নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সকল বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(১৪) প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

(১৫) ডিক্লারেশন : প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রে প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোনো অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে বা কোনো প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির অভিযোগ প্রমাণ হলে অথবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি নিয়োগের পরে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

প্রিন্সিপাল প্রকৌশলী
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর
জরুরি অনুসন্ধান ও গবেষণা বিভাগ
ও সদস্য-সচিব
৩য় ও ৪র্থ শ্রেণির পদে বাছাই/নির্বাচন ও
পদোন্নতি কমিটি

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The difficult conversations we don't have



Ramisa Rob
is in charge of Geopolitical Insights at
The Daily Star.

RAMISA ROB

After Trump's inauguration, Elon Musk did a salute and debates spiraled: was it "the Nazi salute"? Musk has been courting far-right parties in Europe, especially Germany since the president dissolved the parliament in December. The Anti-Defamation League, which tracks anti-Semitism, concluded that it was not a "Nazi salute," but an "awkward gesture." But Hitler references were bound to come. Musk spent last week responding to the backlash with Nazi-themed puns, which would be denounced as anti-Semitic had it not been made by the owner of a powerful tech giant. The current president, who has uttered many anti-Semitic dog whistles, has also claimed that immigrants are responsible for anti-Semitism, when clear evidence suggests that White supremacists and xenophobic extremists are the leading culprits.

Two days before Holocaust Remembrance Day, on January 27, which marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Elon Musk made a surprise videolink appearance at a campaign event for the far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD), during which he told a crowd of around 4,500 people that "children should not be guilty of the sins of their parents, let alone their great-grandparents."

Musk's remarks align with the AfD's position that Germany as a nation should stop atoning for crimes committed by the Nazis in the past. The AfD's leaders have openly endorsed the revival of Nazi-era nationalist language, and made a spectre out of anti-Semitism as a ticket to shun Muslim immigrants. The chairman of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center accused Elon Musk of insulting the victims of Nazism with his speech.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended Musk, saying he has been a friend of the Jewish people and that Musk had been "falsely smeared." Had a Palestinian or a protester from the "pro-Palestinian" groups in the US stretched their hands out with the same awkward gesture, the Israeli leader's

reaction would certainly have been very different. Musk's actions as a powerful global figure provide a disconcerting dilution of Nazism and the Holocaust, when an estimated 6 million Jews were massacred industrially by Nazi Germany. The remembrance of Holocaust should sensitise us with human atrocities, but we live in a world where global figures like Musk make desensitising comments about Nazism on social media.

Since the October 7 Hamas attacks, and the following genocide in Gaza by Israel, backed by the US and the West—the word "anti-Semitism" stands for any criticism of Israeli policies. Now, more than ever, the world, particularly the West, must reflect on the politicisation of anti-Semitism and the widespread debasing of the Holocaust to justify the genocide in Gaza. US polemicist Norman Finkelstein had written about "the new anti-Semitism," as a concept to shape-shift history and the "Holocaust industry," which has exploited Jewish suffering for political gains in the geopolitical arena.

According to Finkelstein, the new anti-Semitism might also be called "antisemitic

The complex and difficult discussions about the Holocaust, about Israel, about Palestine, are integral to ensure that human rights can be upheld in today's world order. It is not to say that the Holocaust should be compared with the genocide in Gaza, but the problematic weaponisation and revisionist history of the Holocaust in order to justify killings must be addressed by the international community.

anti-Zionism," and it has three components: a political programme to abolish the Jewish homeland, a discourse to demonise it, and a movement to make it a global pariah state. We saw all these components come to light, as Israel turned the Gaza Strip into a grey wasteland, attacked Lebanon, and openly executed genocidal policies. Anti-Semitism as a concept has been thrown around so easily, by the left, right and centre in Western politics

to restrict immigration played into the eugenics movement to preserve the country's racial purity—which was embraced by Nazi Germany. The international precursors to Nazism are often ignored, and the Holocaust is largely viewed as one where only Hitler holds responsibility, not the international community.

On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, Jewish Voice for Peace called for "never

issue, remains unaddressed. The October 7, 2023 attacks, with the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, have been framed with the context of the Holocaust and detached from the image of the Nakba—the Palestinian Catastrophe of 1948, which began the persecution of Palestinians to occupy their land.

Acclaimed anti-Zionist historian Ilan Pappé has written about the nexus between the Holocaust, Israel and Nakba. In 1947, before the famous partition resolution, the United Nations suggested allocating less than half of the country and proposed they would share the economy and currency with the Zionist settlers who were allocated a larger part of it. Only one factor led the UN special commission on Palestine, and all those powers behind it, to abandon every conventional principle of statehood and independence for the sake of satisfying the Zionist movement: the Holocaust. According to Pappé, "It was much easier to rectify the Nazi evil vis-a-vis a Zionist movement than facing the Jews of the world in general. It was less complex and, more importantly, it did not involve facing the victims of the Holocaust themselves, but rather a state that claimed to represent them."

The complex and difficult discussions about the Holocaust, about Israel, about Palestine, are integral to ensure that human rights can be upheld in today's world order. It is not to say that the Holocaust should be compared with the genocide in Gaza, but the problematic weaponisation and revisionist history of the Holocaust in order to justify killings must be addressed by the international community. In October 2015, Netanyahu took the weaponisation to new levels in a speech in Jerusalem where he said the Palestinian grand mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini planted the idea to murdering Jews in Hitler's mind. After October 7, Netanyahu described Hamas in a press conference with German Okaf Scholz as "the new Nazis."

Deborah Feldman, American-German writer of *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*, wrote about how pro-Israel political consensus in Germany shut out her dissenting voice as a Jew criticising Israel. Raised by Holocaust survivors, Feldman writes in the essay, "the only legitimate lesson to be learned from the horrors of the Holocaust," is "the unconditional defence of human rights for all, and that simply by applying our values conditionally we are already delegitimising them."



Children of Holocaust survivors protest against the genocide in Palestine. PHOTO: CODEPINK

to the extent that it has lost its real meaning. The US media and Hollywood, particularly, sensationalised the Holocaust for decades, eschewing real lessons from history that are yet to be learnt.

The Holocaust should serve as a reminder of the darkest capabilities of the human mind, and the indifference of the global community. But 80 years later, the world has not reckoned with the mass murder of Jewish men, women and children on the basis of xenophobia, anti-Semitism, political opportunism and profiteering. Rarely do we discuss that Americans—the ever-welcoming champion of the oppressed—were not ignorant of the persecution of European Jews in World War II, but were rather indifferent. And American racism had its part to play in influencing Nazism. In the 1920s, a widespread push

again," now. Many liberals, but Zionists, have shunned the Jewish Voice for Peace as "anti-Semitic." Secular Jews are denounced and arrested in Israel, in the US, in Germany. Conveniently, disturbing facts are erased. Right after World War II ended, the US and the Soviet Union landed in a fight for global power. The so-called accountability for Jewish suffering during World War II seemed lost on US politicians as they sought to establish the nation as the most powerful in the world. The US began Operation Paperclip, a 14-year secret operation where approximately 1,600 Nazi German engineers, scientists and technicians were hired. After World War II, Germany was rebuilt with US aid to counter the Soviet Union and Jews who revolted against it were silenced. The atonement and lessons for the US where anti-Semitism is in fact a pervasive

GEOPOLITICS REWRITTEN

The Arakan Army's unprecedented rise



Kawsar Uddin Mahmud
is a geopolitical analyst and a researcher at the
KRF Center for Bangladesh and Global Affairs. He
can be reached at kawsarudair@gmail.com.

KAWSAR UDDIN MAHMUD

The rise of the Arakan Army (AA) in Myanmar's Rakhine State marks a historic shift in South and Southeast Asian geopolitics, redefining regional power and security. Between October and December 2024, the AA seized over 80 percent of Rakhine State, including its 271 km border with Bangladesh—a rare instance of a non-state actor controlling an international border. The seizure of the regime's Western Command headquarters in Ann town, after the fall of Maungdaw, represents a territorial as well as strategic reshuffling that undermines the military junta's grip on power and raises fundamental issues for the region.

The shifting power dynamics

After decades of centralised military control, the AA has shifted Rakhine's power dynamics, emerging as the de facto authority. In particular, the past 15 to 16 months have seen the AA transform dramatically, seizing dozens of townships and army outposts, culminating in the seizing of Western Command headquarters in Ann town—marking a serious blow to the legitimacy of the military junta.

There are various reasons behind the group's success. Its military capabilities have increased tremendously and it can now mount effective operations against well-entrenched military positions. However, the AA has shown a level of military sophistication beyond that of many other armed organisations in Myanmar, proving its ability to capture and hold territory. Its capability to coordinate operations with allies in the Three Brotherhood Alliance was particularly evident as these forces secured important areas on multiple fronts.

Politically, the AA, as the United League of Arakan's (ULA) military wing, has established parallel governance in the areas it controls. It demonstrates a deep understanding of the need to synthesise military victories with political legitimacy, as seen in its efforts to weave a governance framework that



Rohingya refugees gather behind a barbed-wire fence in a temporary settlement set up in a "no man's land" border zone between Myanmar and Bangladesh. PHOTO: AFP

includes both Buddhist Rakhine and Muslim populations. The junta's loss of control in Rakhine State is the second regional military command to fall under the control of ethnic rebels in five months. The loss of the Western Command headquarters alone could signal the start of a domino effect, further weakening the military's grip on power.

The Rohingya question

With more than one million Rohingya currently in Bangladesh, the issue of their return and future status under AA control has become a major regional concern. The AA leadership—particularly through its political wing, the ULA—has outlined a vision of Rakhine that includes both Buddhist and Muslim populations, such as the Rohingya. This marks a significant departure from Myanmar's historically exclusionary stance.

However, this position must be viewed in the context of the AA's historically troubled relationship with the Rohingya community, whatever form that relationship has taken in the past.

Complicating matters are reports that both the AA and the Myanmar military recruit Rohingya for their respective causes. This exploitation of the vulnerable community raises questions about the AA's

has introduced a new dimension to the great power contest between China and India in the region. Rakhine is vital to China's \$1.5 billion investment in oil and gas pipelines to Kunming and its Belt and Road Initiative in the region. These investments, including a \$2.5 billion oil and gas pipeline project, a \$7.3 billion port project at Kyaukphyu, and a \$2.7 billion special economic zone (SEZ), are critical for reducing China's dependence on energy imports via the Malacca Strait.

In retrospect, China has enjoyed a close relationship with Myanmar's military junta and is its principal trade partner and biggest weapons supplier, but the ground reality has compelled it to move with a more nuanced attitude. Recent developments show that Chinese officials have been having talks with the AA's allies in an attempt to broker ceasefires, indicating a pragmatic accommodation with shifting relative power.

India's strategic interests in the region are equally significant but differ in focus. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport and Transit Project (KMTTP) represents India's major strategic investment in establishing connectivity between Kolkata, Sittwe port, and India's northeastern states via Mizoram. India's Act East policy has traditionally relied on ties with Myanmar's military but is now compelled to consider engaging with the AA to safeguard its strategic interests in the face of shifting ground realities.

Bangladesh's strategic dilemma

With the AA in control of their shared 271-kilometer border, Bangladesh faces an

unprecedented diplomatic and security challenge. Over the past few months, Bangladeshi security experts and former diplomats have increasingly called for engagement with the AA, given the new reality on the ground. Former defence attaché to Myanmar, Major General (Retd) Md Shahidul Haque, stated that engagement with the AA would be a "win-win situation" for Bangladesh, both from security and economic perspectives. This perspective reflects a growing sense within Bangladesh's security establishment that traditional diplomatic approaches may need reconsideration.

Nevertheless, Bangladesh's foreign ministry spokesperson Mohammed Rafiqul Alam and others have reiterated the country's official position of not working with non-state actors, stating that relevant ministry departments would take appropriate action. While engagement with the AA could address border security concerns and facilitate Rohingya repatriation, it might also complicate Bangladesh's relations with Myanmar's central government and other regional powers.

The battle for infrastructure control

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in India has been thrown off its course due to the changing security landscape. How the group stands in respect to this project will play an important role in India's strategic position in the region. Because of the AA's influence over maritime traffic and potential development projects in the Bay of Bengal coastline, its position along the Bay of Bengal shoreline is vital.

Also, the case of Kyaukphyu is particularly evident as the terminus for China's strategic oil and gas pipelines. Security expert Ye Myo Hein of the US Institute of Peace said the AA theoretically could launch a military campaign to seize Kyaukphyu, it appears to be employing a more calculated strategy, leveraging its control as a bargaining chip in broader regional negotiations.

The rise of the AA in Rakhine State demonstrates that non-state actors can reshape regional dynamics in ways that compel traditional power structures to adapt. It is worth recalling that the regional security architecture is not static, but evolves itself to the new power configurations. The future of South and Southeast Asian security will depend, in part, on how regional stakeholders navigate these changes while striving to preserve stability.

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The great power game

With its control over Rakhine State, the AA



A frantic finale in the offing

The new league phase of this season's expanded Champions League is all set for a frantic conclusion on Wednesday, as 18 matches are played simultaneously across Europe, with 16 games having something at stake. Meanwhile, the likes of Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain will be battling to avoid an early exit.

Liverpool and Barcelona are the only two teams guaranteed to be in the top eight, with The Reds even confirming a top-two finish.

Arsenal are all but certain to make the top eight -- the spots for automatically qualifying to the last 16. However, the unlikely scenario in which Arsenal would finish out of the top eight includes them losing to Girona on Wednesday and at least 11 other teams' results working out in a particular way.

Inter Milan would only need a point against visitors Monaco to guarantee a top-eight spot.

Meanwhile, Inter, Atletico Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen, and AC Milan are guaranteed to make the play-off round (top 24).

A win at home against Celtic will see Aston Villa, placed ninth in the standings, overtake any of the four teams above them if they fail to win and qualify for the last 16 directly.

Each of LOSC Lille, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich, Brest, Monaco, Real Madrid, and Juventus would require a win and a handful of other results to go their way to jump up into the top eight, but they are at least guaranteed to make the play-off round.

Celtic are also sure to finish in the top 24.

Benfica, PSG, Sporting CP, and VfB Stuttgart are all on 10 points, three points off the top eight, but none can make it into the top eight positions due to some teams above them -- such as Lille and Feyenoord -- facing each other. Lille vs Feyenoord alone guarantees that the team finishing in eighth will have at least 14 points.

Manchester City are 25th in the standings -- a place away from play-off spots -- and Pep Guardiola's men must need a win at home against Club Brugge to sneak into the top 24.

* PSG avoiding a defeat away to Stuttgart will ensure a top 24 finish for the French champions but a loss could complicate things for them.



Bumrah, Kerr scoop top ICC awards

ICC

Indian pace sensation Jasprit Bumrah has been honoured with the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year, recognising his extraordinary 2024, in which he dominated opponents in the longest as well as the shortest format of the game.

The bowling talisman overcame fellow nominees Travis Head, Joe Root and Harry Brook to the title and is the fifth recipient of the award from India, after Rahul Dravid (2004), Sachin Tendulkar (2010), Ravichandran Ashwin (2016) and Virat Kohli (2017, 2018).

This was the second individual ICC award for Bumrah this year, as the premier pacer was also named the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024 for his 71 wickets from 13 games.

Bumrah dominated the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, where he spearheaded India's title-winning campaign with 15 wickets at an astonishing average of 8.26 and an economy of just 4.17.

Meanwhile, New Zealand star Melie Kerr won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, beating Laura Wolvaardt, Chamari Athapaththu and Annabel Sutherland to the top honour.

In T20s alone, Kerr amassed 387 runs and took 29 wickets at an average of 15.55, yet it was during the World Cup campaign that her brilliance was most apparent - setting a new record for the most wickets in a single edition (15) and culminating in an unforgettable individual display in the final to secure the silverware and the Player of the Tournament accolade.



Smith just one shy of 10k elite club

AFP, Galle

Australian batting great Steve Smith begins a tour of Sri Lanka just one short of entering the elite club of 10,000 Test runs ahead of Wednesday's opening match in Galle.

Smith, who will captain the team for the two-match series in the absence of Pat Cummins, has amassed 9,999 runs in 114 matches at an average of more than 55.

The 35-year-old is all but assured of becoming the 15th batter in the world -- and fourth Australian after Ricky Ponting, Allan Border, and Steve Waugh -- to achieve the milestone.

"Honestly, I'm trying not to think about it [the milestone] too much," Smith said on Tuesday.

Smith suggested it had played on his mind "a bit too much" during Australia's fifth and final Test against India in Sydney this month, where his 33 and four left him agonisingly short.

"Now it's just about focusing on the job at hand," he said.

Australia, who have already set up a World Test Championship (WTC) final with South Africa at Lord's in June, will be looking to stamp their authority as the number-one Test team.

Sri Lanka, led by Dhananjaya de Silva, will be looking to reclaim the Warne-Murali trophy.

Sri Lanka hammered the visiting Australians 3-0 in 2016 but the last series in 2022 ended 1-1, with both matches played in Galle.

Brothers back in Fed Cup last four after 20 years

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union, once the country's third football powerhouse after Mohammedan and Abahani, reached Federation Cup semifinals for the first time in 20 years following a goalless draw against Bangladesh Police in their Group A final match in Cumilla yesterday.

Despite tying on seven points with Fortis, who they defeated 1-0 earlier, Brothers secured their semifinal spot due to their head-to-head record.

Meanwhile, in Mymensingh, Bashundhara Kings thrashed Dhaka Wanderers Club 5-0 to emerge as Group A.



Brothers, who last made it to the semifinals in 2005 when they won their third Federation Cup title, faced stiff resistance from Police. Eleta Kingsley's missed penalty in the 66th minute denied them a win, but the draw was sufficient to progress.

Brothers, who escaped relegation last season after applying to the Bangladesh Football Federation, have been impressive this year, defeating Police and Chittagong Abahani while earning draws against Fortis, Kings, and Abahani. The club's new management bolstered the squad at the last minute, capitalising on the withdrawals of Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, and included several national discards.

BCB accepts responsibility for BPL mess

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

In an attempt that could be compared to putting a band aid on a bullet wound, the governing council of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) held a meeting with the franchise owners yesterday, to address the many scandals that have overshadowed the on-field action in the ongoing tournament.

The players' non-payment issue and some questionable actions from some franchise owners have turned the running season into one of the most scandalous editions in BPL history.

The tri-party agreements between Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), franchises and the players, which should've been complete before the tournament commenced, are still in the process of being signed and the BCB also did not take any bank guarantees from franchises beforehand, a choice the officials are surely regretting right now.

With 10 days left in the 40-day event, the BPL governing council tried to address these issues with the franchise in a meeting in Dhaka, however, it could not even ensure everyone's presence as the Chittagong Kings owner did not turn up.

"We have seen some incidents which do not go with the BPL," BPL governing council's member secretary Nazmul Abedeen Fahim told the media yesterday at Mirpur following the meeting.

"We discussed the problems

with payment, their plans were also discussed and we have arrived at a place [regarding a solution]. We have seven [10] days left and not sure how much the problems will be solved by then. Time will tell," he added.

Durbar Rajshahi have been at the



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centre of the non-payment issue, with all of their overseas players boycotting a match on Sunday in protest. Rajshahi had provided all of its local players with cheques with partial payment the same day but yesterday, a local player from the team informed The Daily Star that all of their cheques have bounced.

Players of the Rajshahi team, who have completed their league phase

matches and are currently third in the points-table, are waiting to see whether they make the playoffs and are discussing among themselves about what to do next.

Meanwhile, Chittagong's Parvez Hossain Emon's case has also come under media scrutiny after the franchise owner sighted 'self-satisfaction' as a reason behind not clearing his dues.

"We don't expect that someone would make a comment like that. A team or a player can do well or poorly but I believe the player who was talked about, tried his level best... Obviously we didn't take it well," Fahim said.

Fahim also said the board will monitor the activities of the franchise more closely, saying, "From now on, we will follow every moment whether they are keeping their commitments," he said.

No matter what action the BCB undertakes now, it cannot avoid responsibility for the current mess in the BPL, and Fahim did not attempt to do so.

"At the end of the day, obviously it was the board's responsibility... The things which happened were still very unexpected. Having said that, we have to take responsibility."

But even after so many occurrences that have brought ill-repute to the tournament, the BCB will not be taking any legal action yet, the governing council declared yesterday, as the board's current priority appears to be damage control.

Procurement Notice Quantum Reference UNDP-BGD-00784



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is seeking bids from interested contracting firms/NGOs/Organizations for the following requirements:

Contracting Firms/NGO/CSO/Training Institute/Service Providing Organization or Private Sector Organization to Provide Industrial Skills Training and Job Placement in the Formal Sector to the SWAPNO II Project Beneficiaries

The deadline for submission of the proposal is at 4:30 PM (Bangladesh Local Time), February 13, 2025

The proposal may be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the Procurement Notice. Please visit the link below to learn more about RFP, pre-bid meeting link & submission documents through the quantum platform.

https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=29852

For any technical query, please write to us through bd.procurement@undp.org mentioning the reference No UNDP-BGD-00784 in the email subject by 12:00 PM, February 05, 2025.



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NOTICE OF INVITING PROPOSAL

Sealed proposals are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirement under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents.

Service Description	Price of the Tender Document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
Request for Proposal of Supply, Installation, Implementation, Commissioning and Post Implementation Support Of Document Management System (DMS) with Integrated workflow to NCC Bank PLC.	Tk. 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	January 29, 2025	February 10, 2025	February 12, 2025 on/before 3:00 PM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank Ltd. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President &
Head of Common Services Division

Going against people will bring on fate like Aug 5

Tarique warns BNP rank and file

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has said that if a political party and its members become isolated from the people and act against the national interests, they will face a fate similar to what the Awami League suffered on August 5, 2024.



"We've seen on August 5 the consequences of going against the people and the country. Moving away from people and their expectations will result in a fate similar to that of August 5. If a political party wants to avoid this, it must remain with the people and keep them close."

Tarique made the remarks yesterday afternoon while virtually addressing leaders and activists at training workshops organised in Khulna, Satkhira, and Bagerhat.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Fahima Aktar of Barguna in tears as she listens to a fellow madrasa teacher speak demanding their primary level educational institutions under the madrasa board be nationalised. Teachers of Swatantra Ebtedayee madrasas had been demonstrating in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University since Saturday. They ended their demo yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

EMBEZZLING TK 918CR ACC sues S Alam's son, 51 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against 52 people, including Ahsanul Alam, former Islami Bank chairman and son of S Alam, for embezzling Tk 918 crore through abuse of power, fraud, and forgery.

ACC Director General (prevention) Md Akhtar Hossain yesterday said the defendants are accused of embezzling Tk 827.42 crore, which amounts to Tk 918.57 crore with interest from Islami Bank's Khatunganj Corporate Branch. They are also charged with concealing the source of funds and laundering money, according to the case statement.

The accused include Ahsanul Alam, former chairman and director of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC; Md Ariful Islam Chowdhury, managing director of Century Food Product Limited; Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, a member of the company;



SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Muggings even in daylight rattle Mohammadpur

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Muggings in Mohammadpur are no longer waiting for the cover of darkness.

Armed with machetes, knives, and other weapons, they mug in broad daylight.

On Saturday, a 17-year-old college student was mugged near Dhaka State College on Nurjahan Road around 4:15pm.

Three young men stopped the rickshaw he was on and took his phone at knifepoint. The incident was caught on a security camera, and people nearby saw it.

"My son was shaken," said ATM Saiful Islam, who filed a general diary (GD) with Mohammadpur Police Station, reporting a lost phone, but omitting the incident of mugging.

Three other similar incidents happened that day in the area. All of the victims reported that they had lost their belongings.

"If people are mugged on busy streets in broad daylight, how can they feel safe in this neighbourhood?" asked Rabeya Islam, a resident of Mohammadpur.

In January alone, police and Rab teams arrested at least 142 suspects with criminal

records in Mohammadpur and its adjacent areas, according to text messages sent by the law enforcers.

They told this correspondent that they had not mentioned the mugging because they did not want to go to court to testify during the lengthy trial proceedings.

In one of the incidents that happened right next to the police station around 8:25pm, an O-levels student was "robbed of his very expensive iPhone 15 Pro, wallet, and watch", said his elder brother Tanjil Islam Tanvir.

The muggers, three men with sharp weapons, even forced the boy to tell them the password to his phone.

Around 7:00pm the same day, United International University student Suad Hossain was mugged near Tin Rastar Mor on Mohammadpur Beribandh, which is a busy road. The muggers, wearing masks, took his phone and wallet.

In another incident, Riaz Islam, an employee of a shipping company, was mugged in Nobodoy Housing.

"The miscreants made off with Tk

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

JULY UPRISING Ex-ADC, 2 cops land in jail over crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has sent former additional deputy commissioner MM Mainul Islam and two other police officers to jail in connection to allegations of crimes against humanity during the July uprising.

The two other police officers are Assistant Sub-Inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarkar and former sub-inspector Md Arshad Hossain.

The two-member bench, comprising Justice Md Shoful Alam Mahmood and Judge M Mohitul Hoque Anam Chowdhury, passed down the order after convening at 3:00pm yesterday.

According to the prosecution, during an initial investigation, the trio were found directly involved in committing crimes against humanity during the July uprising last year.

Prosecutor BM Sultan Mahmud said, "Mainul was directly involved in the firing on protestors in the Mirpur area during the uprising."

Besides, footage of Arshad gagging a protestor's mouth near the Supreme Court area and Chanchal shooting a student hanging from a building's ledge in Rampura sparked outrage across the country at that

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

China's DeepSeek AI a 'wakeup call' for US tech firms

Warns Trump, takes aim at DEI, Covid expulsions, transgender troops

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Chinese start-up DeepSeek's technology should act as spur for American companies and said it was good that companies in China have come up with a cheaper, faster method of artificial intelligence.

"The release of DeepSeek, AI from a Chinese company should be a wakeup call for our industries that we need to be laser-focused on competing to win," Trump said in Florida.

"I've been reading about China and some of the companies in China, one in particular coming up with a faster method of AI and much less expensive method, and that's good because you don't have to spend as much money. I view that as a positive, as an asset," Trump said.

"I view that as a positive because you'll be doing that too, so you won't be spending as much, and you'll get the same result, hopefully," he said.

Trump also signed a series of executive orders on Monday to remove diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) from the military, reinstate thousands of troops who were kicked out for refusing Covid-19 vaccines during the pandemic, and take aim at transgender troops.

Earlier on Monday, Pete Hegseth, who narrowly secured enough

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Girls' football match called off after venue vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Joypurhat

A women's football match scheduled for today in Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila has been called off after some locals and madrasa students vandalised the venue at Tilakpur High School ground yesterday.

The T-Star Club, a local sports club, had been organising a football tournament at the ground for over a month, selling tickets for Tk 30 for ground seating and Tk 70 for chairs.

The friendly match between the two female teams from Joypurhat and Rangpur was supposed to take place before the final match of the tournament today.

However, the event drew opposition from a section of locals, who objected to women participation in sports, said organisers.

Following Asr prayer yesterday, protesters, including madrasa students, gathered at the Independence Square near Tilakpur Railway Station.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

300,000 Palestinians return to north Gaza Says Hamas

AGENCIES

More than 300,000 Palestinians have crossed from southern Gaza into the north, the Hamas-run Gaza media authority said in a statement early yesterday, as the United Nations warned that "needs on the ground remain immense".

Specialised teams have been clearing unexploded ordnance and missiles in all governorates of the Gaza Strip over the past few days, it said in a statement on Telegram.

"We call on our Palestinian people to take the utmost caution, care and attention during daily movements, and we appeal to our people to stay away from suspicious objects and inform the competent authorities immediately," it said.

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A drone view shows displaced Palestinians waiting for their vehicles to be inspected by the Egyptian-Qatari committee as they return to their homes in northern Gaza from the south, at Salahudeen Road in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Benin enlists voodoo to protect its mangroves



AFP, Gogotinkpon

The banks and delta of the Mono River in Benin are home to mangrove swamps which harbour fish and rare wild birds – and some are deemed sacred.

The government has tried to protect them by imposing bans on overfishing and felling for firewood. But it has discovered that voodoo is more powerful than threats and is now seeking to co-opt traditional elders into its conservation plans.

In the southern village of Gogotinkpon, which lives off fishing in Lake Aheme, locals regularly turn to the deities to help mark off stretches of mangroves as sacred areas.

To the rhythm of drums and gongs, they swirl and dance before voodoo masks in ceremonies to honour Zangbeto, the guardian of the night.