

AMENDMENT TO ICT ACT
Investigators can now search, seize docs sans tribunal's permission

President promulgates ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president promulgated an ordinance on Monday, amending multiple sections and introducing a new subsection in the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

The amendment empowers investigation officers to conduct searches and seize documents without prior permission of the tribunal and send them to a competent authority for examination. This provision existed in the original 1973 act but was later dropped, ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim told journalists yesterday.

Another amendment reduces the time for an accused to prepare a defence from six weeks to three weeks, he added.

Last year, the act was amended to authorise the tribunal to allocate an accused's seized assets to victims or the state. The ordinance now empowers the tribunal to order the freezing or confiscation of assets to prevent evasion or flight, ensure justice, and facilitate compensation under section 20A of the act, said prosecutor Tamim.

Through the "International Crimes (tribunal) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025", a sub section has also been added to section 19 of the act that reads, "Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the tribunal shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence and may adopt and apply expeditious and non-technical procedures."



US Charge d'affaires to Bangladesh, Tracey Jacobson, meets Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at state guesthouse Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

WORLD GOVT'S SUMMIT
Yunus leaves for UAE today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will leave for the United Arab Emirates this evening to attend the World Governments Summit 2025 from February 11 to 13.

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum invited the chief adviser to the summit through a formal invitation on January 13.

The World Governments Summit, introduced in 2013 under the leadership of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, serves as a global platform for exchanging government experiences and innovations.

Over the past decade, it has brought together international organisations, policymakers, thought leaders, and private sector representatives from over 140 countries to help shape a brighter future.

"By participating in the summit, the chief adviser will have the

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Probe team should include accuser's representative

FROM PAGE 12

the concerned department at the Police Headquarters requested corrections and resubmission of 635 inquiry reports.

A total of 268,721 police officers faced departmental punishment for various offences and disciplinary breaches from 2009 to September 2024.

Among them, 23,550 received major punishments like termination, suspension or demotion while 245,171 faced minor consequences like warning, reprimand, or temporary wage cut.

However, the benefits corrupt members can get by abusing their power often surpass the departmental action by far.

The police investigate allegations and impose punishments for policemen with the ranks of constable to sub-inspector. For Class 1 officers, a committee comprising police officers assigned by the home secretary conducts investigations. The secretary holds the authority to punish an officer if found guilty. In rare cases, a home ministry official is included in the committee, said a top officer.

Allegations of police's involvement in crimes ranging from extortion, abduction, and torture to bribery, drug dealing, framing people and unlawful detention are reported in the media quite often.

Criminologists blame lenient disciplinary measures for these incidents.

Omar Faruk, a professor of criminology and police science at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, said police continue to get involved in crimes because the punishments of police personnel often do not match the severity of their crimes or offences.

"Somehow the offenders [in police] are getting spared and so, they are becoming repeat offenders," he told The Daily Star.

In 2020, a total of 22,623 policemen were punished. Among them, 2,935 received major punishments, while 19,688 faced minor penalties. The number was 22,186 in 2021, with 2,660 facing major punishments and 19,526 minor punishments.

Punishments of 26,105 police personnel were recorded in 2022, including 3,201 major and 22,904 minor penalties. In 2023, the total was 24,534, including 2,461 major and 22,073 minor punishments.

From January to September 2024, police personnel faced punishments in 14,751 cases, with 1,678 categorised as major and 13,073 as minor consequences.

Influential police officers who were loyal to the previous Awami League government did not face any punishment although investigators found evidence of corruption and abuse of power.

The Police Headquarters fired 18 Narayanganj constables over serious irregularities in their recruitment in 2019 and recommended departmental action against at least 10 inspectors and sub-inspectors for their "false" verification reports or recommendations.

The PHQ, however, did not recommend any action against the ultimate decision-maker, the then Narayanganj superintendent of police Muhammad Harun Or Rashid although a three-member team in 2020 found the irregularities in the recruitment of constables under a district quota.

The reform commission report says the management of complaints against the police is considered a very important regulator in ensuring a democratic and accountable police service.

Effective complaint management to hold the police accountable plays an important role in ensuring public satisfaction, it adds.

The TI prepares the CPI based on the perception of corruption, mainly

BNP to keep pressing govt for roadmap

FROM PAGE 1

current political situation.

On Monday, a three-member BNP delegation met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. After the meeting, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir stated that the government was working towards having the election in December.

Later that night, the BNP's standing committee, the party's highest policymaking body, held a meeting at the chairperson's office in Gulshan, where Fakhrul briefed party leaders on the discussions with Yunus.

A standing committee member, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star that elections were the only way out of the current crisis, and it appeared that the interim government has realised it.

However, a political group is trying to create fear among people. The BNP intends to support the government in overcoming this and ensure the polls are held as promised, the member said.

During the standing committee meeting, BNP leaders pointed out that a particular group was exerting pressure on the government to delay the election.

Leaders of the July uprising have recently announced that they would be forming a new political party.

They want political reforms before election so that they get more time to form and organise the new party,

BNP leaders believe.

As a pushback, the BNP must launch nationwide programmes to counter the pressure, BNP leaders believe.

They hope that large turnouts at district-level rallies would demonstrate the public support the party enjoys. Large rallies would not only put pressure on the government to announce the election roadmap, but also reassure party supporters.

BNP Standing Committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku told The Daily Star that the chief adviser's assurances have provided a glimmer of hope.

He stressed the need for a roadmap to guide the country towards the election, which would end the ongoing political uncertainty.

At the standing committee meeting, BNP leaders asserted that a credible, free, and fair election was the only way to stabilise the situation, given the conspiracies by remnants of the fallen regime.

The government also informed the BNP that the first meeting of the National Consensus Commission would be on February 15, to which political parties would be invited. Yunus would explain the interim government's reform initiatives at the meeting.

The programme would continue until February 25.

Fakhrul, along with standing committee members, vice-chairmen, and senior leaders would join the rallies.

At the meeting with the chief

Bangladesh ranks 14th from bottom

FROM PAGE 1

He said widespread public sector corruption, particularly in public procurement and project implementation, is a key reason behind Bangladesh's continued poor performance.

He also noted that while Bangladesh's score declined, the scores of other countries dropped more.

"Our score has dropped, but since the decline in other countries was deeper, our relative position appears somewhat better."

"Such a score is extremely concerning and disappointing. Our ranking has fallen significantly compared to previous years," he added.

Iftekharuzzaman emphasised the need for positive changes in the country's political and bureaucratic culture to effectively control corruption.

"Without these changes, reform will not be possible, no matter how much we talk about it," he said.

The Berlin-based graft watchdog also stated in the report that risks persist in terms of freedom of dissent, free media and civil space.

It has been publishing the report every year since 1995. When Bangladesh was included in 2001, the country was ranked the lowest with a score of 0.4 out of 10 and held the same position until 2005.

Like last year, the TI took into account data from eight international surveys conducted in Bangladesh between November 2021 and September 2024. No nationally generated data, including the TIB research, were considered.

The TI prepares the CPI based on the perception of corruption, mainly

in the public sector, particularly bribery, the use of public office for private gain, diversion of public funds, nepotism in public sector appointments, red tape, and groups with narrow vested interests given a free rein in capturing policy.

South Sudan was ranked as the most corrupt country with a score of just eight, and Denmark remained the least corrupt country for the third year in a row with a score of 90.

Bhutan made a remarkable development in curbing corruption as it topped the list of South Asian countries by scoring 72, eight points up from last year. Nepal also moved up one notch, scoring 34.

The theme of this year's CPI is "Corruption and the Climate Crisis".

At the press conference, Iftekharuzzaman said, "According to the current analysis of the index, Bangladesh is at the level of countries that are losing control over corruption. The level of corruption in Bangladesh is extremely alarming."

Analysing Bangladesh's position, he said, "Our score is lower than the countries that are at the lowest level in the indicators of civil liberties and human development."

Even compared to the most corrupt regions, such as Sub-Saharan African countries, Bangladesh's score is 10 points lower, he said.

The TIB executive director said the

money laundered from Bangladesh is going to countries that are in better positions according to the index.

"So, while Bangladesh is responsible for the corruption in the country and the failure to prevent money laundering, the overall responsibility is not of Bangladesh alone."

Iftekharuzzaman said there is no

adviser, BNP leaders gave Yunus a letter that pointed out that some advisers of the government were involved in forming political parties. The party cautioned that no group should be allowed to manipulate the government's agenda for their political gain.

Signs of their influence in the process of party formation were increasingly evident, which the BNP sees as detrimental to democracy.

The party, however, stated that it welcomes any political party emerging from a legitimate democratic process, provided it is not used as an excuse to delay the election.

A senior BNP leader said the July proclamation was also discussed during the BNP delegation's meeting with Yunus. The party may hold talks on the proclamation with leaders of Students Against Discrimination in the coming days.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said the party would start holding rallies at the district level to protest the soaring prices of essentials, deteriorating law and order, and to demand the swift announcement of an election roadmap.

The programme would continue until February 25.

Fakhrul, along with standing committee members, vice-chairmen, and senior leaders would join the rallies.

At the meeting with the chief

scope for a complete analysis of the interim government's tenure in the index. However, even after the fall of the previous authoritarian regime, evidence of continued abuse of power and corrupt practices persist in political and governance space as a change of turn, he added.

WAY FORWARD

Iftekharuzzaman called for the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission's recommendations in accordance with the proposed roadmap, with a particular emphasis on reforming the ACC to make it truly independent and accountable.

He urged authorities to set concrete examples of success by prioritising the accountability of high-level corrupt individuals and entities.

He also emphasised the need to depoliticise state institutions to ensure professional integrity and excellence, particularly within the ACC, bureaucracy, law enforcement, and judicial services.

Additionally, Iftekharuzzaman advocated for rescuing strategically crucial sectors of public interest from the grip of policy capture, conflicts of interest, partisan politics, and other influences. These sectors include public procurement, banking, trade, power and energy, health, education, land, and infrastructure.

Iftekharuzzaman also called for ensuring freedom of the media, civil society, and the general public to freely disclose, report, and comment on corruption.

He stressed the need to transform political culture and practices to eliminate the use of political and public positions as a licence for personal gain.

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ILLEGAL PARKING turns Karwan Bazar into a nightmare

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Raisul Islam, an employee of a private office in Panthapath, left for a meeting in Gulshan on Sunday, taking the Panthapath Tejgaon Link Road.

It took him 10 minutes to get through the congestion and signal at the Karwan Bazar roundabout. However, he spent another 20 minutes just to cross the road beside the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

The delay was mainly caused by illegal parking of vehicles, including cars, microbuses, staff buses, ride-sharing motorcycles, and trucks carrying goods, which narrowed the road from Jahangir Tower to the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC).

"I had to remain stuck here for over 20 minutes just to cross this road," said a frustrated Raisul.

Kamal Ahmed, a banker, added, "Buses, cars, or microbuses -- they all remain parked on this road the entire day. On top of that, ride-sharing bikes and trucks seem to use the roadside as if it belonged to them. I don't know why law enforcers are not doing anything about it."

Like Raisul and Kamal, many commuters face the same unbearable

traffic congestion daily due to illegal parking in the area.

Talking to people of Karwan Bazar and commuters, it was learnt that buses, minibuses, and trucks remain parked along the flyover on the Karwan Bazar to FDC road from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

These buses are primarily used to transport employees of various government and private organisations. After bringing passengers to their destinations in the morning, these buses remain parked till the afternoon.

Microbuses and CNG autorickshaws that operate trips from TCB Bhaban to Rampura via Hatirjheel also park there illegally, from day to night.

As a result, heavy traffic congestion occurs on both sides of the road.

Visiting the area, it was seen that due to this illegal parking, vehicles attempting to enter the FDC road from Karwan Bazar face significant traffic jams.

Meanwhile, passengers travelling through the Karwan Bazar area from Hatirjheel also get stuck in the traffic. The impact of this congestion extends to all surrounding areas.

Several traffic sergeants, seeking

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Buses, minibuses, and trucks are parked daily along the flyover on the Karwan Bazar-FDC road, narrowing the passage and disrupting traffic flow. These buses primarily transport employees of various government and private organisations, remaining parked from morning till afternoon after dropping off passengers. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Dhaka airport still not fog-ready

Passengers suffer for frequent flight diversions; airlines bear losses as CAAB fails to upgrade ILS

RASHIDUL HASAN

Passengers are experiencing severe difficulties due to frequent flight diversions caused by low visibility amid dense fog during winter, as pilots are unable to land aircrafts in the absence of a Category 2 Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Dhaka airport.

Aviation experts said upgrading the airport's existing Category 1 ILS to Category 2 would resolve these issues entirely. However, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has yet to complete the necessary work.

ILS is a precision runway approach aid that relies on radio signals and high-intensity lighting arrays to provide pilots with both vertical and horizontal guidance during landings in thick fog.

Successive CAAB chiefs have assured that the installation of an upgraded ILS to ensure uninterrupted flight operations during winter would be completed soon. However, despite repeated promises, one winter has passed after another without the work being finished.

Flights are frequently diverted from Dhaka to airports in Sylhet, Chattogram, India, Bangkok, and even Malaysia when runway operations are suspended for hours due to low visibility, causing significant disruptions to flight schedules, according to officials of various airlines.

These diversions not only lead to passengers suffering, but also result in financial losses for airlines, which must bear the cost of extra fuel and various airport charges, including landing and parking fees, at alternative airports.

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KEY ISSUES AT A GLANCE

- Passengers continue to face delays
- Experts urge upgrading ILS to Category 2
- CAAB failed to upgrade despite repeated promises
- Flights diverted to other destinations due to dense fog
- Airlines incur losses due to extra fuel, airport charges
- Pilots emphasise need for Category 3 ILS for better safety
- CAAB cites difficulties in acquiring aircraft for system testing



A young boy and an elderly man stand side-by-side as they browse through the variety of books available at a stall at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. Every year, Ekushey Boi Mela brings together people from all walks of life to enjoy the one hobby they all share -- the love for books.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CA raises concerns over US decision to freeze aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday raised concerns over the US decision to freeze aid to other key projects in Bangladesh, including the life-saving efforts of the icddr,b.



The concerns came when US Chargé d'affaires Tracey Jacobson called on Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka.

During the meeting, Yunus and Jacobson discussed issues of mutual interests and the impact of the US decision to suspend USAID operations worldwide.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Hasina govt obstructed probe Alleges complainant's lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation into the murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Rumi was obstructed by high-ranking officials of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, alleged Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, the principal lawyer for the complainants, yesterday.

"Even after 13 years, the mystery behind the murder remains unsolved, which is a major failure at the state level," he said while talking to reporters at the Supreme Court premises.

He said the current government has formed a high-powered task force under the High Court's direction to

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OPERATION DEVIL HUNT Another 607 held across country

STAR REPORT

Some 607 more people were arrested across the country in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the ongoing "Operation Devil Hunt".

Besides, 1,168 others, accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the same period, according to the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

Meanwhile, five firearms, 2 bullets, and 21 machetes, knives, and other sharp weapons were also recovered on the operation's third day.

The government launched the operation on Saturday to restore law and order following Friday night's attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

On Monday, 1,521 persons were arrested, and of them, 343 were arrested as part of the operation.

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TEACHER CANDIDATES Protesters vow to continue demo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesters demanding the reinstatement of 6,531 assistant teacher appointments in government primary schools have vowed to continue their demonstrations, claiming discussions at the Secretariat regarding their demands were futile.

Issuing an ultimatum, they demanded that the High Court's decision to cancel the appointments be revoked by noon today, warning of tougher actions if their demands are not met.

The announcement was made last evening in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh, following a meeting between a six-member protester delegation and the primary education

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This bridge over a canal in the Kachihar village in Islampur upazila remains unusable due to the lack of an approach road. Instead, it blocks the drainage system, causing flooding in nearby farmland. Despite the municipality authority spending Tk 37 lakh to construct the bridge in 2022, it now stands there without serving any purpose. PHOTO: STAR

ISLAMPUR UPAZILA IN JAMALPUR

Bridge built without approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

Due to a lack of approach roads, a bridge over a canal in Kachihar village of Jamalpur's Islampur upazila remains unusable.

With no connecting roads, locals are unable to benefit from the structure. Instead of serving its purpose, the bridge has blocked the drainage system, causing flooding in nearby farmland and disrupting cultivation.

The Islampur municipality authority spent Tk 37 lakh to

construct the 10-foot-long and five-foot-wide bridge in 2022. However, a field visit shows that it stands isolated between paddy fields, without any access roads.

"This bridge was built without proper planning. Now, our lands are submerged and we can't farm," said 75-year-old local resident Gazi Abdul Hamid.

Ismail Khan, another resident of Kachihar village, said, "We don't understand why the municipality built this bridge in the canal when we never asked for it. Even if approach

roads are constructed, it will still be of no use to us."

Locals consider the project unnecessary and a waste of public funds. They urge authorities to ensure better planning in future projects.

The mayor of Islampur municipality could not be reached for comment.

Islampur UNO Md Tofazzal Hossain said an investigation would be conducted, and action would be taken against those responsible. He also said plans were in place to construct approach roads soon.

Two journos sued over theft in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Two local journalists have been made accused in a case filed over a shoplifting and looting incident in Kurigram that took place in 2017.

They are: Abdul Khalek Faruk, district correspondent for Independent Television and Daily Kaler Kantha, and general secretary of Kurigram Press Club; and Humayun Kabir Surjo, district correspondent for News24 Television and Daily Sangbad, as well as sports affairs secretary of Kurigram Press Club.

The case, which names 13 named and 30-35 unidentified individuals, was recorded at Kurigram Sadar Police Station on Saturday, said Md Habibullah, officer-in-charge of the station.

Police will arrest those involved in the incident, the OC added.

Complainant of the case, Mahfuzar Rahman, a resident of Balakandi village under Kurigram's Rajbari Upazila, said in the complaint that he had run an establishment called Chula Ghar in the Zila Parishad Market in Kurigram town a few years ago.

The accused, including local Awami League men led by Ruhul Amin Dulal, convener of district Jubo League unit, arrived at the complainant's shop on December 12, 2017, armed with locally-made weapons, and demanded extortion money. They tied Mahfuzar up with ropes, beat him, took away Tk 1 lakh from his possession, as well as goods from his shop, including gas stoves and cylinders, causing a total loss of approximately Tk 27 lakh, according to the complaint.

In the complaint, Mahfuzar explained that while he did not know Abdul Khalek Faruk or Humayun Kabir

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

One killed, 10 hurt in Jhenaidah clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole*

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups in Hakimpur village under Harinakundu upazila of Jhenaidah yesterday morning.

The deceased is Mosharraf Hossain, 45, general secretary of the village mosque committee.

Police and locals said there has been a long-standing dispute between Mosharraf and Dabir Mandal, both residents of the same village.

Over the dispute, the two men and their associates locked into an altercation on Monday during a meeting on organising a religious gathering in the village, said MA Rouf Khan, officer-in-charge of Harinakundu Police Station.

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Man's throat-slit body found in Narayanganj flat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

A 65-year-old man was found dead in his residence in Narayanganj city on Monday night.

The police recovered his body from the fourth-floor apartment of a seven-storey building in Tanbari Sahapara area. His throat was slit when he was found.

Utpal Roy, a retired employee of a local flour mill, used to live with his son in the rented flat

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পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর			
পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬ আগারগাঁও			
শেরে বাংলানগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭			
www.doe.gov.bd			
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তারিখ : ২৬ মার্চ ১৪৩১			
০৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫			
নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
১/২০২৪-২০২৫			
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের অকেজো ঘোষিত নিম্নর্ণীত ১ (এক) টি গাড়ি পরিবেশ ভবনের গ্যারেজে যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে তার ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিজ্ঞপ্তের নিম্নর্ণীত শর্তসাপেক্ষে আগ্রহী বাড়ি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলনোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।			
গাড়ির বেজিস্ট্রেশন নথি ও ধরণ সিডিউলের মূল্য দরপত্র জামানত সরবরাহ নেয়ার সময়সীমা			
ঢাকা মেট্রো-১-১১-৩৬৭৬ নং জীপ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) ১৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার) কার্যালয় প্রদানের ১৫ (পনের) টাকা দিনের মধ্যে			

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের অকেজো ঘোষিত নিম্নর্ণীত ১ (এক) টি গাড়ি পরিবেশ ভবনের গ্যারেজে যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে তার ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিজ্ঞপ্তের নিম্নর্ণীত শর্তসাপেক্ষে আগ্রহী বাড়ি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলনোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। আগ্রহী দরপত্রাদাতা বাড়ি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে ১৫,০০০/- টাকার পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে (ফ্রেজতযোগ্য) আয়ন দ্বায়ন কর্মকর্তা, পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা এর অনুরূপে জমা দিতে হবে।

২। দরপত্রাদাতা বাড়ি হলে দরপত্রের সাথে প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত জাতীয় পত্রিচাপত্রের কাপিচস যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকসূচি সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল রাশিদ জমা দিতে হবে। এই তিনটি ডকুমেন্টের কোন একটি দাখিল না করলে প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়েই দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণের বল গ্যাপ করা হবে।

৩। দরপত্রাদাতা কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠান হলে দরপত্রের সাথে প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাটি নিবন্ধন ও আয়কর সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল রাশিদ জমা দিতে হবে।

৪। নিলামের জন্য প্রত্যাবিত গাড়িটি পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন হতে ০২ মার্চ ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দেখা যাবে এবং এ সম্পর্কিত যেকোনো তথ্য জানা যাবে।

৫। গাড়ির বিজ্ঞিপ্তি বিবরণ গাড়ির সিডিউলের পাওয়া যাবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল আগস্ট ০২ মার্চ ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তরে হিসাববকলের নিকট থেকে ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার (ফ্রেজতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে ক্রয় করা যাবে।

৬। নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর হতে ০৩ মার্চ ২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটকা পর্যন্ত পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের ৭০০ নং কক্ষে রাখিত টেক্সার মাঝে সীলনোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। একই দিন দুপুর ১২:৩০ টায় পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের ক্রমান্বয় দ্বায়ারা দরপত্র মোলা হবে।

৭। নির্বাচিত এবং যোগ্য সর্বোচ্চ দরপত্রাদাতারে আর্থিক প্রয়োগে উক্ত গাড়ির মূল্যের উপর প্রত্যক্ষভাবে ১৫% হারে ভ্যাট এবং ১০% হারে আয়কর ট্রেজারী চলাকালের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, সরকার ভ্যাট ও আয়করের হার পুনর্নির্ধারণ করলে নির্বাচিত দরপত্রাদাতাকে পুনর্নির্ধারিত হয়ে ভ্যাট কেবল উপর্যুক্ত হারে হবে।

৮। কোনো প্রকার কারণ দর্শনামূলক ব্যক্তিরেকে যে কোনো সময় যে কোনো দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ করে থাকিলে প্রতিক্রিয়া করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

W. K. D. B. S. 09/02/25
নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি
উপ পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
প্রশাসন ও মানবসম্পদ উন্নয়ন কার্যালয়
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
ফোনং ২২২১৮৩৯৩৭

Shithi Saha collaborates with Salim Merchant for Valentine's Day

Singer Shithi Saha has collaborated with famed Indian singer and composer Salim Merchant for this upcoming Valentine's Day. Their project marks the first Bengali song in Salim's career.

This song titled *Bristi Bilash* is set for release on February 14 on YouTube.

Shithi Saha delivered the official announcement through her Facebook page. The music video of the song is set to feature both Shithi and Salim. However, *Bristi Bilash* was recorded in India.

The music has been composed by renowned music composer Sajid Sarkar, while the lyrics have been penned by prominent lyricist Shomeshwar Oli.

Last month, Shithi Saha notably released the song *Eka Ghor Amar* with renowned singer-actor Tahsan Khan.



'BANDHOB' to hit theatres this month



Bandhob, produced by Anupam Kotha Chittra and directed by Sujan Barua, is all set to hit theatres nationwide on International Mother Language Day, February 21. The movie was given its release date after successfully passing its censor certification.

Bandhob tells the poignant life story of a child found in a dumpster, abandoned with no known birth identity. It explores themes of identity, survival, and the human condition.

Mou Khan plays the central role, alongside Gazi Rakayet, Joy Raj, Habib Khan, and others in pivotal roles.

Producer Anup Barua explained that **Bandhob**'s release was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the wait, he prioritised *Chaya Brikhho*'s release due to receiving funds from the government for it. Now, with circumstances changed, he feels it's the right time for **Bandhob** to premiere.

Vicky Zahed's 'Neel Shukh' to premiere on Binge

What happens when love turns into obsession? When someone you cherish begins to drift away, do you let them go, or does your world spiral into chaos? These questions lie at the heart of Vicky Zahed's upcoming psychological love story, *Neel Shukh*, set to premiere on Binge on February 18.

The recently released trailer of the web film offers a glimpse into the intense love story of Orpa (Mehazabien Chowdhury) and Maruf (Farrukh Ahmed Rehan), capturing moments of romance, heartbreak, and an unsettling psychological undercurrent.

Vicky Zahed, known for his signature blend of romance and psychological horror, is now all set to present *Neel Shukh*. As the story unfolds, it questions the fine line between love and obsession, devotion and destruction.



'Room Number 2011' to premiere online today

On October 7, 2019, Buet student Abrar Fahad tragically lost his life after a brutal assault, an incident that stirred nationwide outrage. Inspired by Abrar's story, Sheikh Jisan Ahmed created the short film *Room Number 2011*.

The film has already been screened in the United States and is gaining attention from international audiences. In Bangladesh, it has been shown in several theatres, including Monihar in Jessore, and on multiple university campuses, including Jahangirnagar University.

To make the film accessible to Bangladeshi audiences, Aktiful, a social enterprise founded by Bangladeshi American expatriates, has announced that *Room Number 2011* will be released on their YouTube channel today.

Drake surprises Melbourne concertgoers, gives away \$45,000

Last Sunday, Drake was seen handing out thousands of dollars to fans at his Melbourne concert, which is a part of the *Anita Max Win* tour.

When the 38 year-old rapper spotted a woman in the crowd holding a sign that read, "Adonis for President," a reference to his seven-year-old son, he addressed the fan, saying,

"You're showing a lot of love to my son, so on behalf of me and Adonis, we're giving you \$25,000."

Drake spotted another sign saying, "Kiss me, it's my birthday." While he declined the request, he made the fan's night by gifting them \$20,000 for a birthday dinner with their friends.

This act of kindness is just one of many from the Canadian superstar.



Samageet Basanta Utsab

The **Samageet Spring Festival 1431** will celebrate the spirit of spring with festive performances by Kafil Ahmed, Krishnokoli, Leela, Shayan, Indigenous band Rere, and youth band Gangaloring, among others. Honouring economist Anu Muhammad for his contributions to protecting Bangladesh's natural resources, the event will also feature a discussion with writer Nurul Kabir.

Date: Friday | February 14

Time: 9am onwards

Venue: Bottola, Dhaka University

NEWS

Teacher steps down

FROM PAGE 12

Pakistan Public Service exams.

Farid then stepped down in protest against the rebuke. The people across the country spoke out in his support while protest processions and rallies were held in Cox's Bazar, according to M Abdul Alim's book *Bhasha Andolan Kosh Part I*.

On January 6, 1948, Farid joined rallies in Cox's Bazar and delivered speeches demanding Bangla as a state language. He also held meetings with students and progressive political leaders.

On March 11, a general strike for Bangla as a state language was observed spontaneously at Ramu, Cox's Bazar. School and college students joined a rally, where student leaders Obaidul Haque, Afsar Kamal Chowdhury, Rasik Chandra Barua, Zaker Ahmed and several others delivered speeches.

In 1952, a local Rashtrobhasha Sangram Parishad was formed ahead of February 21, the date of the main programme announced centrally from Dhaka.

Ahmed Rafiq wrote in his book *Bhasha Andolan: Teknaf Theke Tetulia* that a general strike was observed in Cox's Bazar on February 21. The educational



Cox's Bazar Central Shaheed Minar institutions staged a boycott of classes. The local administration did not obstruct the people from protests since Mahakuma Administrator Mouli Gofuruzzaman Chowdhury supported the Language Movement.

The news of the deaths of student

protesters in police firing in Dhaka reached Cox's Bazar that night. When Khaled Mosharraf, a Liberation War sector commander who was a 10th grader at that time, learnt about the killings later, he organised his classmates. A procession of students and people led by Khaled and Abdul Mabud Ekhlasi marched the main roads of the town.

After the procession, the protesters held a rally at Baharchhara where

Khaled and other student leaders also spoke.

Another unscheduled rally was held at Bat Tala in the town on February 22, as the students of Chakaria High School launched a strike. Around 250 students also brought out a protest procession.

On February 23, the beach town of Cox's Bazar turned into a town of procession. The protesters chanted the slogan "Rashtrobhasha Bangla Chai (We want Bangla as a state language)". After the processions, they joined a rally outside the Public Library.

At Ramu's Khizir, high school students staged a boycott of classes. Students of Mithachhari and Chakaria high schools also brought out protest processions.

On February 25, students of Eidgaon High School enforced a strike. They also brought out a procession and held a rally presided over by student leader Nurul Azim Chowdhury.

As the news of the killings of students in Dhaka reached remote Teknaf and Ukhia on February 25, a Rashtrobhasha Sangram Parishad was formed there. School students held protest marches in the remote areas on February 26 and 27.

to meet virtually yesterday following another meeting recently to work out various issues between them, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter who did not want to be named as he was not authorised to talk to the media.

An Adani Power spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In December, an Adani source said BPDB owed the company about \$900 million, while Karim said at the time the amount was only about \$650 million.

The pricing dispute revolves around how power tariffs are calculated, with the 2017 agreement pricing off an average of two indexes. Adani's power costs Bangladesh about 55 percent more than the average of all Indian power sold to Dhaka, Reuters has reported.

A Bangladesh court has ordered an examination of the contract with Adani by a committee of experts, with results expected this month. This could potentially lead to contract renegotiations.

Last year, Bangladesh's interim

government accused Adani of breaching the power purchase agreement by withholding tax benefits that the Jharkhand plant received from New Delhi, Reuters reported in December citing documents. Bangladesh officials also said they were reviewing the contract.

A spokesperson for Adani told

Reuters at the time that it had upheld all contractual obligations with

Bangladesh and had no indication

Dhaka was reviewing the contract.

Karim has not replied to Reuters' questions on whether the two sides

have resolved their differences.

In November, US prosecutors

indicted Adani Group founder Gautam

Adani and seven other executives for

their alleged role in a \$265 million

bribery scheme in India. Adani Group

has called the US allegations "baseless".

In September, the Bangladesh

government appointed a panel of

experts to examine major energy deals

signed by Hasina, who fled to New

Delhi in August after deadly student

protests.

BPDB and Adani officials were due

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End custodial torture and deaths

How can we build a new Bangladesh using brutal old tactics?

It is deeply disheartening that, despite the change in government following a bloody mass uprising, custodial torture and deaths continue to plague the nation. Among the many crimes committed during the fallen Awami League regime, one of the most heinous was the repeated torture and killing of individuals in police and security force custody—including in secret detention centres infamously known as Aynaghars—alongside other forms of extrajudicial executions. This newspaper has consistently condemned such egregious human rights violations. With the change in government, many expected these abuses to end. However, according to Odhikar, between August 9 and December 31 last year, law enforcement and security agencies were reportedly responsible for 12 extrajudicial killings.

Of the victims, six were allegedly tortured by joint forces, and one died due to police torture. Additionally, Odhikar reports that three individuals were shot by joint forces, while another by police. The report also states that one person was beaten and pushed off a bridge by the police. Furthermore, Odhikar highlights allegations that joint forces conduct operations in plainclothes and engage in torture and extrajudicial killings, providing specific names and details of these incidents.

For instance, on September 8, 2024, Elahi Sikder died in custody after being arrested five days earlier on charges of attacking army personnel. A doctor at Gopalganj General Hospital, quoted in the report, stated that Sikder's body bore multiple injuries. Similarly, on September 10, members of the joint forces in Gaibandha arrested Mosharof Hossain Sweet, chairman of Saghata Union and president of the Awami League's Saghata unit, along with his associates Shafiqul Islam and Sohrab Hossain Apel. Shafiqul later died while receiving treatment at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura, while Apel passed away at Gaibandha General Hospital. Their families have alleged that both men succumbed to brutal torture while in the custody of the joint forces.

This is not what was envisioned for new Bangladesh—one that promised justice, accountability, and the protection of human rights for all. In a country committed to the rule of law, even the guilty must be punished through due legal procedures, not through extrajudicial means. We urge the interim government to address this matter with utmost seriousness. Immediate and decisive action must be taken to end custodial torture and killings once and for all. Furthermore, all cases reported by Odhikar must be thoroughly and impartially investigated, with those responsible held to account.

We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past. If we are to truly turn a new page as a nation, justice must not only be promised—it must be delivered.

Attack on freedom of publishing alarming

Ensure safety of writers and publishers at the book fair

We are alarmed by the assault on a book stall at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela on Monday and its consequent shuttering by police to control the situation. Such an incident, at a book fair no less—which is supposed to celebrate freedom of thought and expression—is not only unfortunate but also disconcerting. It goes against the principles of tolerance and inclusivity, which are essential for the pluralistic society we hope to build following the July uprising.

According to media reports, the incident occurred when a group of individuals demanded the removal of a book by Taslima Nasreen from the Sabyasachi stall, leading to an altercation when the latter refused to comply. Police, in their attempt to control the situation, covered the stall with a tarpaulin. One person—reportedly the publisher—was also taken into custody. Meanwhile, Bangla Academy formed a seven-member committee to assess whether the stall should be reopened, with a report due within three working days. A Bangla Academy secretary stressed that the closure was a police decision, not the academy's.

The Sabyasachi stall had already been a target of online threats ahead of Monday's incident, with multiple social media posts calling for its demolition on the grounds that it was promoting atheism. Bdnews24.com quoted the publisher's wife who said that they had informed police about these threats, only to be advised to remove Taslima Nasreen's book instead of being offered protection.

While it is reassuring that the interim government has strongly condemned the incident, we hope the authorities will move beyond words and take concrete action. Time and again, we have seen this pattern where social media platforms are used to issue threats and incite violence, yet law enforcement remains mostly passive instead of taking preventive measures. One may ask: why was security at the book fair not strengthened even after the publisher's complaints? This is not the first time the fair has come under attack from groups opposed to free thought, and given this history, Bangla Academy should have ensured adequate security to create a safe space for book lovers and publishers.

However, security measures must not come at the cost of freedom of expression. The right to publish diverse thoughts, beliefs, and opinions must be protected. In a truly democratic society, it is the readers—not the police or any special interest group—who should decide the fate of a publication. Finally, we urge the police to identify and take legal action against those responsible for Monday's incident.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Chile gains independence from Spain

On this day in 1818, Chile formally declared independence from Spain, on the occasion of the first anniversary of Chile's victory at Chacabuco, although the decisive victory over the Spanish did not come until April at the Battle of Maipú.

BANGLADESH IN CPI 2024

Can we rise back up from the abyss of corruption?



Dr Iftekharuzzaman
is executive director at Transparency
International Bangladesh (TIB).

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN

The Transparency International released the annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024 on February 11, 2025. Bangladesh has scored 23 out of 100, one point less than 2023, and has been ranked 151st, two steps lower than its rank in 2023. The 2024 score is Bangladesh's worst since 2012, which has given us three disappointing designations. We are placed among countries that are "losing control of corruption"; we are also among countries that having scored below 50 are considered to have a "serious corruption problem"; and scoring 20 points lower than the global average of 43 qualifies us as having a "very serious corruption problem." Bangladesh's score is 14th lowest among 180 countries or territories included in the index. It remains the second lowest in South Asia, after only Afghanistan, and fifth lowest in the Asia-Pacific region.

More specifically, our 2024 score is three points lower than 2012, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018, and five points lower than the highest score of 28 achieved in 2017. Bangladesh is the only South Asian country other than Sri Lanka that has lost points. Notably, both were under the worst form of authoritarianism ousted by people's power. Furthermore, Bangladesh's performance is nine points worse than the average for the 59 authoritarian regimes in the world. It is also six points lower than the average for the 33 countries with the lowest HDI, and six points lower than the 27 countries that were categorised in 2023 as having closed civil society space. Equally embarrassingly, our score is 10 points lower than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa that performs worst as per the regional comparative analysis of the index.

As on previous occasions, no country has scored 100 percent, and hence corruption remains a global problem. The CPI 2024 also reveals that most countries have made little or no progress in tackling public sector corruption since 2012. Compared to 2023, overall global scores have worsened. For 93 countries, the score has declined, compared to 63 in 2023. As many as 122 countries (67.77 percent) have scored below 50, and 101 countries (56.11 percent) below

the global average of 43. This means that over 80 percent of the world's population live with a "very serious corruption problem."

Over a quarter of the countries or territories (47) got their lowest scores yet since 2012. Low scoring countries like Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Russia and Sri Lanka are joined in this club by high scorers like France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States. The rot at the top suggests a global trend of discrimination. However, 25 countries, including Bhutan, South Korea, Laos and Saudi

Arabia, have scored their highest since 2012. For the seventh year in a row, Denmark has topped the list, having scored 90, followed by Finland (88) and Singapore (84).

Among Bangladesh's South Asian neighbours, Bhutan continues to be the best performer, having scored 72, which is four points higher than that in 2023, and nine points higher than that in 2012. In the rest of the region, scores remained well below the global average: India and Maldives (38), Nepal (34), Sri Lanka (32), Pakistan (27) and Afghanistan (17). All South Asian countries except Bhutan have scored less compared to 2023. However, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, formerly the two most authoritarian states in the region, have scored their lowest in 12 years since 2012, whereas all other South Asian countries have gained compared to 2012, except Pakistan, which remains unchanged.

Leading rich countries of North America and Europe are also seeing a decline in scores indicating a failure to implement anti-corruption commitments. This is particularly reflected in terms of delivering their global funding commitments to address climate change for the worst-affected countries. For the same reason, many of them are also facing domestic challenges at multiple levels, including climate crisis and erosion of rule of law and public services.

It is important that the anti-corruption drive is mainstreamed

in national and international development policies across the world in order to control and prevent its devastating effects on development, democracy, human rights, and justice. The impacts of the failure to do so were experienced by Bangladesh over the 15 and a half years of authoritarian rule.

The data period for CPI 2024 witnessed the peak of kleptocracy-driven authoritarianism in the country. Instead of any meaningful action against corruption, political and governance systems were used to promote and protect corruption. Widespread public sector corruption further intensified particularly in public contracting and project implementation. No effective action was taken despite concrete, evidence-based exposures of high-level corruption and money laundering. State institutions mandated to control corruption, including the ACC, public administration, law enforcement and judicial institutions, continued to operate under partisan political influence, which was a key factor behind the poor performance.

Even after the fall of the authoritarian regime, evidence of the continued abuse of power and corrupt practices, including extortion and turf war for capture of corruption hotspots, persisted through the data period in both political and governance spaces. Risks also persisted in terms of freedom of dissent, free media and civic space, which may have been reflected in the CPI performance of Bangladesh.

The way out is no rocket science. The recommendations of the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission must be implemented with a specific focus on the ACC's true independence and accountability. Examples must be set of concrete success in holding to account high-level corrupt individuals and entities on a priority basis. State institutions must be depoliticised to ensure professional integrity and excellence, especially at the ACC, bureaucracy, law enforcement and judicial services.

Effective measures must be in place to salvage the crucial sectors of public interest from the clutches of policy capture, conflict of interest and partisan political and other influences. These areas include public procurement, banking, trade, power and energy, health, education, land, and infrastructure. The freedom of media, civil society, and people at large must be ensured for the unrestricted disclosure and criticism of corruption and those involved. Above all, our political and bureaucratic culture and practices must be transformed to be free from treating political and public positions as a licence to private gains.

Why nuclear energy makes sense for Bangladesh



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KAZI OMAR FAROOK SANEED

Dhaka, often grappling with poor air quality, has earned the grim distinction of having the worst Air Quality Index (AQI) score worldwide on several occasions over the last few months. The smog serves as a reminder of the environmental degradation driven by fossil fuels, the primary source of energy. While solar and wind power dominate discussions about cleaner alternatives, their limitations highlight the need for a more reliable solution. Nuclear energy, despite its efficiency and cleanliness, has been overshadowed by public fears and misconceptions. Regardless, nuclear power holds the potential to bridge the gap until solar and wind energy become more viable options in the long term or nuclear fusion is successfully achieved.

Public perception of nuclear energy has been shaped by historic disasters like Chernobyl in 1986 and Fukushima in 2011. While these incidents were catastrophic, they were the result of governance failures and outdated technology rather than inherent flaws in nuclear power. Modern reactors have revolutionised safety with passive

cooling systems and fail-safe designs. Coal is responsible for approximately 24.6 deaths per TWh (terawatt hour) due to air pollution and occupational hazards, while nuclear power accounts for just 0.07 deaths per TWk. This places nuclear energy on par with wind and solar power in terms of safety, or even safer. Yet, the fear of radiation and long-term waste persists, often overshadowing these statistics.

A significant apprehension is about the management of radioactive waste. Nuclear waste is a legitimate concern, but risks are often misunderstood. Technologies like the PUREX (Plutonium Uranium Redox Extraction) process enable the recycling of up to 95 percent of spent nuclear fuel, significantly reducing waste volume and toxicity. France reprocesses over 1,700 metric tonnes of spent fuel annually. Through recycling, the containment timeline for nuclear waste can be reduced from tens of thousands of years to approximately 500 years.

Despite these advancements, investment in nuclear fuel recycling remains limited. High initial costs and

political hesitation have hindered its adoption in many countries. France's success with mixed oxide (MOX) fuel illustrates that, with proper funding and commitment, nuclear waste can be managed effectively while maximising energy output.

The global hesitation to embrace nuclear energy has been compounded by the fossil fuel industry. Using its significant economic clout, the industry seems to perpetuate myths about nuclear power to maintain its dominance in the market. This stagnation not only hinders nuclear innovation but also delays the broader transition to renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Unlike renewables, nuclear energy provides a consistent power supply, operating all day everyday regardless of weather.

For Bangladesh, nuclear energy would be an opportunity to diversify its energy portfolio and reduce heavy reliance on natural gas and oil for electricity. As the country's natural gas reserves dwindle, the need for alternative energy sources becomes increasingly urgent. Bangladesh currently generates over 50 percent of its electricity from natural gas, but domestic reserves are projected to deplete within the next decade. This would place immense pressure on energy security and economic stability. Additionally, reliance on imported oil, subject to volatile global markets, further exacerbates the challenges of power supply.

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) offers a viable path forward. Utilising VVER-1200 reactors, the plant is designed to produce 2,400MW of electricity, providing a clean and reliable energy source that can reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels. Beyond addressing immediate energy needs, nuclear power has the potential to support long-term economic growth by stabilising electricity costs and attracting investment in high-tech industries.

Bangladesh has made progress with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), adopting global best practices such as the Milestones Approach and Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Reviews. However, building indigenous expertise, enhancing legal frameworks, providing appropriate training, and ensuring long-term waste management are critical to sustainable nuclear development. Public communication is another area requiring attention, as transparent information about safety measures and environmental benefits can help dispel misconceptions and build trust in nuclear projects.

The urgency to adopt cleaner energy solutions has never been greater. Cities like Dhaka, plagued by toxic air, illustrate the dire consequences of continued reliance on fossil fuels. While solar and wind energy are indispensable to the global energy transition, their limitations necessitate the inclusion of nuclear power as a complementary solution. Investing in nuclear energy and addressing public fears can pave the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

What should Bangladesh's foreign policy be in the changing world order?



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TARIQ KARIM

These days, I witness a lot of societal fulminations on the directions and goals of our foreign policy. Having been an active practitioner for almost four decades and a continuing interested observer for well over a decade, I am not a little disturbed at some of the things I hear. Perhaps I hear incorrectly, but what I worry about more is that the external actors with whom we maintain interstate relations may also be hearing, and misinterpreting, as incorrectly as I.

A few years ago, I wrote in *The Daily Star*, "A fundamental dictum in foreign policy formulation and analysis is unquestionably this: each country, as a sovereign, independent nation-state, contextualises its every move or action within the overall rubric of preservation and advancement of its own national interest. Therefore, each party, in any bilateral relationship, must acknowledge and be fully conscious of these mutual constraints, and also respect 'where' the other party is coming 'from.' It takes two to tango, as they say, and if each dancer in performing this very difficult and complex choreography is not in tune, innately, with the partner, a misstep or miscue would end in serious accident or injury to one or both."

Writing in the annual *Journal of the Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy* last year, I asserted that our foreign policy configuration must be "buttressed by a hardened pragmatism and understanding that while one may choose one's friends, one cannot choose one's neighbourhood; and that while friendship may exist between peoples and persons (which even then are vulnerable to change), 'friendship' between states is primarily driven by the national demands of each state, rendering such friendship very protean in nature." In this context, friendship between states may best be described as being the state of relatively happy equilibrium between two or more states that have managed to arrive at a mutually acceptable alignment or coexistence of their national interests that serves everyone in perceptibly equitable measure.

When formulating the parameters of foreign relations with other states, whether far or near, there are several essential factors that need to be considered.

First, geography matters. It encompasses geolocation, geomorphology, and geopolitics.

Second, sizematters. It alludes to the physical size in terms of land (and water) areas in possession. It also, importantly, alludes to the size of population, combined military capacities, economy including GDP and GDP per capita, and the state of technological advancement.

Third, perception matters. This not only encompasses how the governments of

interacting states perceive each other, but also how the domestic population of each state views its governments or governments of other states, near or far from it.

All of the above are variables with their own subsets. They comprise a complex mix that can be volatile and subject to spontaneous combustion by the slightest spark. We can address these either with viscerally charged, emotionally soaked jingoism, or cool-headed rationality standing with feet on the bedrock of pragmatic realism.

The world we know has witnessed two World Wars in the last century. Each ended

impermeable and inviolable, their sovereignty supreme, not brooking any interference in their internal affairs.

The superpowers that emerged set up the new international financial institutions and rules through putting in place the Bretton Woods system. They set up global institutions like the United Nations and its General Assembly and numerous organs like the International Court of Justice (ICJ), or much later the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Human Rights Commission, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and so on.

While the UN was set up with the loftily stated ideal of preventing any repetition of the scourge of war, a goal that was to be ensured by the UN Security Council, the most powerful entities of this so-called New World Order have been the instigators or supporters of most wars or conflicts after 1945. While the most powerful are supposed to safeguard a rules-based world order, the last decade has shown that the principles of inviolability of borders, state sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of

relations today appears to be increasingly the axiom "Might is right." All prior agreements, supposedly inviolable, can be revoked at will. All smaller, less powerful states, anywhere or everywhere, have never been more vulnerable and fragile than they are today.

In such a situation, what should Bangladesh do in what is obviously a far more hostile world today than what existed at the time of its birth, almost five and a half decades ago?

At a recent gathering at the Foreign Service Academy, our foreign affairs adviser asserted that Bangladesh seeks friendship with all countries and does not want to take side with any one country or power against any other. He was absolutely right.

Bangladesh must look at the map of Asia and its own geomorphological location in that. It is almost entirely surrounded by India, which controls all rivers as upper riparian. It is "spitting distance" away from China, the Asian giant aspiring to superpower status and already the second largest economy in the world. By virtue of its propulsion of being at the epicentre of our oceanic planet, with

neighbours or near neighbours, whether to our east in Southeast and East Asia, or to our west in South, Southwest and Central Asia, without exception.

We must at the same time strive to have peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation with all powers, in Asia, Africa, Europe or Americas, regardless of whether those powers behave with each other in terms of friendship or animosity. Ours must be a

The only overriding principle of inter-state relations today appears to be increasingly the axiom "Might is right." All prior agreements, supposedly inviolable, can be revoked at will. All smaller, less powerful states, anywhere or everywhere, have never been more vulnerable and fragile than they are today.

policy not of isolation with anyone, nor seeking confrontation with anyone, but living in peace with all and promoting peace among all.

Since the earliest times, at least from Fourth Century CE, our location in the Bay of Bengal propelled us to become the richest region, or Mughal *suba* (province), Colonial British India's presidency. That enabled all the countries of the Bay of Bengal region to comprise a living, thriving, prosperous integrated economic region that invited global covet and respect. World War II fragmented that hitherto regional integration, just as it fragmented our own subcontinent.

We must now collaboratively strive to work with our Bay of Bengal neighbours to ensure that our Bay, from which we derive our identity and historical legacy, remains a zone of peace, neutrality, prosperity and friendship, serving once again as it did in the earlier times as the highway for peaceful interlocution between states and peoples, inclusively, whether in the Eastern or Western Hemisphere. We should strive to be a catalyst for fashioning a fraternity for the Bay of Bengal Economic Cooperation.

Bangladesh is like a walnut, caught in the jaws of two nutcrackers in today's world. One nutcracker is regional, comprising the competing jaws that are India and China. The other nutcracker is global, its jaws comprising the US-led Indo-Pacific narrative facing off the China-led BRI. We must be with both, without being against either. The shell of the walnut gains its strength and firmness from within, and so must we, through developing internal resilience.

Within South Asia, we must champion better relations and cooperation with all countries, from Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, even if some of them have indifferent or even hostile relations with each other. Their fights should not be our fights, but our peace and friendship must also be theirs to emulate. Our policy must strive to tread the razor edge path of "strategic autonomy" that walks with "active neutrality."



Bangladesh is like a walnut, caught in the jaws of two nutcrackers in today's world.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

with global political geography being changed, ending the *status quo ante*. Former empires crumbled; new states were formed while some were broken apart. Ironically, the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I generated the drivers for World War II. The Wilsonian idealism that eluded the closure of World War I was brought out of the woodworks after World War II, putting in place institutions and building blocks of what was touted by the Allied victory as the "New World Order." The basic unit comprising this new order was the state, which was to be looked upon by all others as being equal in the "comity of nations," their borders hard,

the state are flouted, egregiously, by the most powerful of states.

We appear to be already in the early throes of a World War III, with principles of state "sovereignty" and state borders being "inviolable" being rendered figments of the imagination. The mighty can impose their wills on anyone they please, and change borders and lives of settled peoples at their will. The UN, the ICJ, the ICC, and the WTO have all proven to be made of clay. Political geography in former Eastern Europe and Middle East are already being reconfigured from their hitherto accepted positions since 1945. The only overriding principle of inter-state

the Bay of Bengal where it is centrally located bridging the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, Bangladesh finds itself in the strategic crosshairs of competing (or contesting) global powers, located near or far. Its socioeconomic vulnerabilities and the aspirations of its largely youthful population, demanding better lives and opportunities for themselves, necessitate that we must stay out of geopolitical conflicts that will derail our development efforts. Internal intercine factional strife will be self-defeating, even self-destructing.

We must endeavour to develop friendly, mutually beneficial cooperation with all nations, whether they be our immediate

TRUMP'S USAID ROLBACK

A policy of indifference



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HAMZAH RIFAAT

As we all know, US President Donald Trump is an Israeli settlement advocate, a champion of annexing territories ranging from Greenland to Canada, and a proponent of tariffs on China. He is also a president who is indifferent to the plight of populations in the developing world. No more is this evident than in his protégé Elon Musk's decision to suspend global USAID programmes as part of his Make America Great Again (MAGA) agenda. As an independent agency responsible for administering and delivering foreign aid and assistance, USAID has been critical for the socioeconomic development of countries that are not only impoverished, but also suffer from severe governance challenges, lack of robust disaster management mechanisms, and the ability to cope with communicable diseases.

The Trump administration has turned a deaf ear to such contributions and is pursuing its narrow, parochial interests instead. It has announced significant changes to the agency amid a complete, near-total freeze on all foreign aid being instrumentalised.

All this points to US apathy for the suffering of people in Latin America, Africa and Asia, and bodes ill for world peace and multilateralism.

Reversing a legacy

USAID is a product of an executive order by

President John F Kennedy, who sought to unite all US foreign assistance programmes under one agency. It also has a decentralised network operating in over 100 countries, primarily in the developing world, including Eastern Europe. With a budget of over \$50 billion, it is one of the largest aid agencies in the world, despite allegations of conducting political operations abroad, being involved in forced sterilisations in Peru, and engaging in wasteful spending. The agency has been a symbol of US multilateralism, goodwill, and commitment towards addressing the developing world's existential challenges.

Trump's USAID rollback dents US credibility on the world stage and can disillusion allies in Europe, who are now caught up in the crosshairs of his aid rollouts for the developing world. This move also threatens to have other countries, such as China, upstage the US, given that in 2023, the US was the world's largest humanitarian donor, accounting for nearly a third of global aid.

Pushing the world towards further chaos

However, Trump remains adamant and defiant with his nationalist policy.

His administration's decision to suspend USAID—on the pretext of cutting spending on high-impact foreign assistance programmes—is both baffling and disturbing. Many

countries falling under the ambit of USAID operations continue to witness crippling issues such as a lack of socioeconomic development, brutal internal conflicts, and the pernicious effects of climate change. These realities have worsened over the years due to global shockwaves being sent down because of heightened political polarisation and economic turmoil. Afghanistan, for example, which is a major recipient of funding

populations without any relief and to fend for themselves.

But the "America First" priority for the Trump administration does not serve the entire population of the nation either. Rather, it's the upper class, largely the White segment of American society, that is set to benefit from tax cuts as his government turns its back on spending on public welfare. His policies of cutting aid agencies abroad will



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

People hold placards outside the USAID building, after billionaire Elon Musk, who is heading US President Donald Trump's drive to shrink the federal government, said work is underway to shut down the aid agency, in Washington DC on February 3, 2025.

from USAID, is reeling from abject poverty and security quagmires under the Taliban government despite decades of US military intervention and constructive engagement. To cut a key source of aid that contributes to public goodwill in countries like Afghanistan, it is hence catastrophic, leaving entire local

also have domestic implications as they will contribute to greater income inequality in the US. The elistist constituency, however, remains the key to Trump's fortunes as he seeks to alienate the Democrats, the egalitarians, the paceniks, and the reformists as "threats" to his presidency.

The Republican House and Senate causing chaos and major disruption across the world will not stop Trump or his supporters, despite aid agencies scrambling to mitigate damages caused to life-saving programmes and more. Unemployment as a result of aid agencies shutting down is also bound to soar, and with limited access to unemployment benefits and welfare, poverty under Trump will increase in the US. Development contractors predict that up to 3,000 development professionals in Washington DC could lose their jobs as aid organisations try to survive 90 days without US funding. Globally, such policies put both US nationals overseas and vulnerable populations across Africa, Latin America and Asia in a more unprotected situation in the face of transnational crimes, diseases, and conflict.

There is also a moral question involved that the Trump administration has successfully evaded. Historically, US military and political interventions, whether in Libya, Iraq or Afghanistan, necessitate US policies that cater to the needs of the local populations at the receiving end of war and destitution. By not paying heed to this precedent, the Trump administration would lose the "moral ground" that the US has so desperately touted to assert its "greatness" while competing with countries such as China and Russia. That will not be the case anymore, as Trump's populism believes in keeping societies and infrastructures crippled in the absence of reform and equitable governance. US partnerships with different countries, which were anchored in life-saving global partnerships, will be jeopardised. The ounce of morality and social responsibility in US foreign policy is now removed; the ripple effects are already being felt, but the administration is indifferent to the woes of the people they consider as "others."



Musiala key if Bayern to turn away from

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich face Celtic in Glasgow in the first leg of their Champions League playoff on Wednesday knowing midfielder Jamal Musiala has added another string to his impressive bow — consistency. And the midfielder will be key if Bayern are to rewrite their away form in Europe.

Still just 21, Musiala has established himself alongside Harry Kane as Bayern Munich's two most productive and reliable attacking outlets.

With 15 goals in 29 games in all competitions this campaign, Musiala is one shy of his best mark, set in 2022/23.

Kane has 28 goals in all competitions this season, but the quartet of Leroy Sane, Kingsley Coman, Serge Gnabry or Thomas Mueller have been able to get to double figures.

Bayern have struggled away from home in Europe this season, losing to Barcelona, Aston Villa, and Feyenoord by a combined total of eight goals to one.

Celtic Park, where the hosts have not lost since December 2023, will be an intimidating place for Bayern.

Musiala was only 14 the last time Bayern played in Glasgow, but some at the club know what to expect from the midfielder.

Rebel women footballers at a dead end?

ATIQUE ANAM

The 18 senior players of Bangladesh national women's team, who have been boycotting training since head coach Peter Butler returned to the country, seem to have shot themselves on the foot after refusing to sign contracts offered by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Monday.

The BFF offered new contracts to all 55 footballers in the BFF camp and 36 of those currently in training barring one who has left for BKSP, have accepted the contracts, thereby making themselves eligible for the payroll and available for consideration for the upcoming UAE tour for two friendly matches.

It has been learnt from a highly-placed source inside the federation that booking for flights to UAE has already been made.

Despite the fact the seven-member special committee formed to probe the issue found all the allegations raised by the players against Butler to be baseless, BFF's new president Tabith Awal sat with each of the 18 players individually, trying to convince them to give up their demand of sacking Butler, assuring them that the coach would be more accommodating towards the players from now on.

As the rebellious footballers showed no signs yet of budging till yesterday, Tabith sat with captain Sabina Khatun in a last ditch effort to come to an amicable solution.

Replying to a query from The Daily Star yesterday after a one-on-one meeting with Sabina, the BFF boss spoke of his optimism regarding the impasse which has now crossed into third week.

"I definitely see hope and positive signs of ending of this impasse. It's best to be patient and committed if we want to see a positive outcome," Tabith said. "We are all committed

to resolving this situation and we will."

If the resolution does not arrive, it will be devastating for both these senior players as well as the women's football team. If left without contracts, these footballers, who were the cornerstones of two successive SAFF titles and a few more age-level successes, will eventually rot at the BFF dormitory without any regular source of income and a bleak future ahead. That will effectively undo all the good work done by the BFF over the last decade and push back women's football to a primitive stage.

While considering all efforts made by the BFF to appease the senior footballers over the last two weeks, a valid question that is being raised by former coaches and players is how it all came to this stage. Should the BFF and especially its women's wing led by Mahfuza Akter Kiron, who deservedly takes credit for the successes, have resolved the situation after the rift between the senior

players and the coach had surfaced during the successful title-defence of SAFF Women's Championship in October last year?

Kiron is now saying she is considerate towards the footballers and has been shifting all the responsibilities towards Tabith since the coach's contract extension a month ago, but wasn't it herself who categorically said that Butler should remain the head coach since his contract ran out at the end of October last year?

It has been almost three and a half months since that momentous triumph and that rift was swept under the rug in the immediate euphoria of the title triumph. But as the euphoria subdued, couldn't the women's wing chairman have at least sat with the players once and heard their grievances and tried to resolve the issue before Butler's contract extension?

If that had happened, the situation might not have escalated to such an extent.

BHF asked to look into Jimmy's exclusion

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has invited around 60 players to go through Cooper Test, a fitness test, without experienced forward Rasel Mahmud Jimmy ahead of the preparation camp for upcoming AHF Cup in Indonesia.

BHF cited Jimmy's age (38) as lone reason behind his exclusion, which was covered widely in media.

Following that, the National Sports Council (NSC) asked BHF executive committee on Monday to look into the matter.

"The committee will sit in a meeting to discuss the matter and inform the NSC about the matter," BHF general secretary Lt Col (Rtd) Riazul Hasan told The Daily Star.

The Cooper Test is scheduled to take place on February 20 under the guidance of head coach Mamun Ur Rashid.



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) signs a two-year deal with Dour, a local sportswear manufacturer, as the official kit sponsor of Bangladesh men's and women's football teams. "It is a two-year deal, but the BFF has the right to review the contract after one year. I can say that we are going to save at least Tk one crore per year which we earlier spent on the kits of the national football teams," said BFF vice-president and marketing committee head Fahad Karim, who signed the agreement at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday. Thanking the entire executive committee for completing the sponsorship deal, BFF president Tabith Awal said that the kit sponsor will also sell national teams' jerseys for fans in the coming days and BFF will get royalty from the sales.

PHOTO: BFF

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 2 & 3
India vs England
Third ODI
Live from 2:00 pm
TSPORTS
Tri-Nation Series 2025

Pakistan vs South Africa
Live from 3:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
Premier League
Everton vs Liverpool

Live from 1:30 am (Thursday)
SONY TEN 2
Champions League
Celtic vs Bayern
Live from 2:00 pm (Thursday)

Taskin, Nahid gear up for CT challenge

If there is one department that Bangladesh can pin their hopes on ahead of a major tournament is the pace unit -- given how fragile the Tigers' batting line-up has been in recent times. Hence, it is no surprise that Bangladesh will hope for their pace battery -- consisting of young pace sensation Nahid Rana alongside experienced Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman and another young gun Tanzim Hasan Sakib -- to leave a mark in the upcoming Champions Trophy, to be held in Pakistan and the UAE in a hybrid model later this month. While Taskin and Mustafizur remain the only two pacers from the current squad who have played in the previous edition of the global event back in 2017, the 22-year-old speedster Nahid will make a foray into his first ICC event through the upcoming Champions Trophy. Taskin will hope to pick up from where he had left off in the previous year -- the right-arm quick enjoyed his best year in international cricket in 2024, ranking third on the list of most wickets in a calendar year across formats behind just India's Jasprit Bumrah and Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga. Meanwhile, Nahid has played just three ODIs so far, but the pacer has already made heads turn with his unique capability of consistently clocking over 150 kph -- a trait that must come in handy in any major event. The duo of Nahid and Taskin seemed upbeat during Bangladesh's practice session in Mirpur yesterday and the Tigers would hope for their mood to only be jollier when they take on India in their first Champions Trophy match in Dubai on February 20.

PHOTO: STAR



Bangladesh's Shohaly handed five-year ban for corruption

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh national women's cricketer Shohaly Akhter has been handed a five-year ban from all cricket by International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday after she admitted breaching five provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

It had been reported two years ago that the 36-year-old, who represented the Tigresses in two WODIs and 13 WODIs between 2013 and 2022, made a spot-fixing offer to national cricketer Lata Mondal who was part of Bangladesh squad during the 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

After Lata notified Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) about the offer made by Shohaly, who wasn't part of the Tigresses camp in the mega event, subsequently the board notified the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) to take over the matter.

Although Shohaly initially denied being involved, she later admitted to the media that she had tried to convince Facebook friend that her national teammates did not accept any fixing offers. Following a two-year investigation by the ACU, she eventually acknowledged breaching five provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

Her offences included attempting to influence match results (Article 2.1.1), offering bribes (Article 2.1.3), persuading others to engage in corruption (Article 2.1.4), failing to report approaches (Article 2.4.4), and obstructing an investigation (Article 2.4.7).

Shohaly's five-year sanction starts from February 10 this year.



Australia captain Steve Smith and his Sri Lankan counterpart Charith Asalanka pose with the trophy on the eve of the first of their two-match ODI series at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo today. Fresh from a dominant 2-0 Test series sweep of the hosts, Australia will hope for a similar result in the ODI series, being played as a prelude to the upcoming Champions Trophy that will begin on February 19 in Pakistan and Dubai. Sri Lanka did not qualify for the Champions Trophy after a dismal ninth-place finish at the World Cup in India in 2023.

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TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/24-25-T07

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ Authorized Importer for Supplying 01 no. Brand-New built-in Ambulance.

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender within banking hours from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka on all working days until February 24, 2025 by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **February 25, 2025** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. **The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day.** Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229

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Disturbing accounts of 'police abuse'

ICT sends DB officer to jail over custodial harassment during July uprising

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The night of July 27, 2024, still haunts her. A first-year law student of a private university, she still cannot forget how detectives surrounded her in a small room and groped her. On a table in front of her lay a blank paper for her to confess, according to her accounts to the International Crimes Tribunal and The Daily Star.

Officers of the Detective Branch of police insisted that she tell them the whereabouts of the July uprising leaders. She refused. One officer then came close, leaned in, stroked her hair and groped her, saying she would be implicated in a case over the attack on BTV Bhaban, she said. "I will see you in custody at night," she remembers him saying.

There was a pistol on the table. One officer picked it up dramatically and cocked. The metallic click echoed through the small room. He came closer and held the gun against her forehead. The officer's face inches away from the girl, he sneered, "Admit everything. Confess!"

The evening, that quickly turned into a nightmare for the university student, had begun with an unexpected phone call. She agreed to recount the details to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

The phone call had come from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Despite a High Court order, different groups continue to extract stones from Shah Arefin Tila in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila, which poses a serious threat to the environment. The photo was taken recently.

INDIA'S ADANI PLANT Bangladesh asks for full power supply

REUTERS, New Delhi

Bangladesh has asked Adani Power to fully resume supplies from its 1,600-megawatt plant in India, a Bangladesh official said, after more than three months of reduced sales with supplies halved due to low winter demand and payment disputes.

Adani, which signed a 25-year contract under former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in 2017, has been supplying power from its \$2 billion plant in India's Jharkhand state. The plant, with two units each of 800 megawatts capacity, sells exclusively to Bangladesh.

The Indian company halved supply to Bangladesh on October 31 due to payment delays as the country battled a foreign exchange

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COPS Probe team should include accuser's representative

Suggests Police Reform Commission for ensuring transparency, fairness

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Amid concerns over the impartiality of investigations into various allegations against law enforcers, the Police Reform Commission has recommended the inclusion of a representative of the complainant in the probe team.

The proposed measure aims to enhance transparency and fairness and ensure greater confidence among both the public and police personnel.

"The management of complaints against the police should be transparent, and easily accessible to all. It should provide effective remedies for victims," the reform commission said in its comprehensive report submitted to the chief adviser on Saturday.

As allegations of corruption, misconduct, and abuse of power continue to plague the force, the commission proposes removing long term or habitual offenders from the police in line with the law.

It suggests training officials who conduct primary and departmental investigations into these allegations. It also recommends establishing a committee to dispose of harassment allegations against police personnel in line with the High Court's directives.

The commission suggests establishing complaint cells similar to the IGP's Complaint Monitoring Cell in all police units, including ranges, metropolitan areas, and SP offices. It says reports on the cells' activities, disciplinary processes, and outcomes should be published online on a regular basis.

Of the 3,970 complaints filed against police personnel from January 2023 to September 2024, action was taken in only 853 cases or 21.5 percent of the total, according to the reform commission report.

Primary inquiries failed to substantiate 2,482 allegations, while

Somehow the offenders [in police] are getting spared and so, they are becoming repeat offenders.

Omar Faruk
Professor of criminology and police science at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A Palestinian man carries a water container as he walks towards his shelter, set up amidst the rubble of his house, on a rainy day, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.



AMAR EKUSHEY-12

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1952 Language Movement.

Drawing on research based on various published books, this 21-part series tells the story of the historic struggle for our mother tongue.

Teacher steps down in protest

AHMAD ISTIAK

The wave of the Language Movement reached Cox's Bazar after Farid Ahmed, a teacher from the southeastern district, raised his voice. The lecturer of Dhaka Intermediate College was scolded by Pakistan's Chief Secretary Aziz Ahmed for joining demonstrations in December 1947 against the omission of Bangla from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

BOOKSTALL ATTACK It's assault on freedom of expression Say 124 eminent citizens; Sabyasachi's store still closed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 124 eminent citizens and the Network for Democratic Bangladesh condemned the mob attack on a bookstall at the Amar Ekushey Bari Mela and termed it an "assault on the country's freedom of expression".

The Bangla Academy launched an investigation to determine whether the stall of publisher Sabyasachi would be reopened, as it remained closed yesterday following Monday's attack for selling a book by controversial feminist writer Taslima Nasrin.

The eminent citizens, in their statement, said an extremist group had launched the attack on Sabyasachi's stall following prior threats on social

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

বাংলাদেশ নার্সিং ও মিডওয়াইফারি কাউন্সিল
২০৩ শহীদ সৈয�়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী, বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোনঃ +৮৮ ০২-২২৬৩৯৭০৭
ই-মেইল: info@bnmc.gov.bd ওয়েব সাইট: www.bnmc.gov.bd
তারিখ: ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত (সামরিক-বেসামরিক) ও বেসরকারি নার্সিং ও মিডওয়াইফারি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে ০৪ বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা ইন নার্সিং, ০৩ বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি এবং ০৩ বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ২০২৪-২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তির নিকট হতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তবিলি:

১. প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিক হতে হবে।
২. আবেদনকারীকে ২০২২, ২০২৩ অথবা ২০২৪ সালের এইচএসসি/সমমান এবং ২০২০, ২০২১ অথবা ২০২২ সালের এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। তবে এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি দুই পরীক্ষার মধ্যে বাবুদার কোনোভাবেই তিনি বাবুদার অধিক হতে হবে না।
৩. বাবুদারের অবস্থায় ইন নার্সিং ও ডিপ্লোমা ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ১% পুরুষ প্রার্থীর জন্য সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে ক্ষেত্রে নির্দিষ্ট অসমর্পণে ১% পুরুষ প্রার্থী আবেদনের যোগ হবে।
৪. (ক) ৪ বছর মেয়াদি ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং কোর্সে; প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমান ও এইচএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।
৫. (ক) ৪ বছর মেয়াদি ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং কোর্সে একটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ৩.০০ এর কম হবে না। প্রার্থীকে এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় জীববিজ্ঞানে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ২.৫০ থাকতে হবে।

(খ) ৩ বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি এবং ০৩ বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমান ও এইচএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।
৬. প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে নির্দিষ্ট প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।
৭. প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(৮) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(৯) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১০) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১১) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১২) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১৩) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১৪) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১৫) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি বা সমমানের দুটি পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ২.৫০ এর কম হবে না।

(১৬) প্রার্থীকে ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং সায়েন্স এন্ড মিডওয়াইফারি কোর্সে ভর্তির ক