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BNP, Jamaat on collision course

Polls timing, proportional representation divide the longtime allies

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami now seem to be poles apart over when the local and parliamentary elections should be held and the proportional representation system in the House.

The fact that their relationship is strained became clear as day last week when the parties took opposing stances on the timing of the polls and on proportional representation.

Yesterday, both parties made statements that hint at new political dynamics ahead of the 13th national polls.

After a Jamaat delegation called on Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the Nirbachon Bhaban yesterday morning, its Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar told reporters that the party demanded that the national election be held after completing reforms to the state institutions relevant to the electoral process.

“We are against proportional representation. We will not support proportional representation in any way because people of the country are not accustomed to it.”

BNP Secretary General
Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir



He claimed the people want local government polls before the national election and that his party is with the people. He said they also demanded proportional representation in the House.

An hour later, asked about the Jamaat's stance, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, “We are against proportional representation. We will not support proportional representation in any way because people are not accustomed to it.”

Proportional representation is an electoral system in which the distribution of seats corresponds with the proportion of the total votes cast for each party. For example, if a party gets 40 percent of the total votes, the system will allow it to get 40 percent of the seats in parliament.

In Bangladesh, the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system is practised, in which the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in a constituency wins a seat in parliament.

The Electoral Reform Commission has proposed having an upper and a lower house. It recommended a proportional representation system for the upper house.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Police using force to disperse protesting students in front of the Secretariat in the capital yesterday. The students of Narsingdi Textile Engineering College had gathered to protest the sudden closure of their institution, as they have long been advocating for the college to be transferred from under the control of the Handloom Board to the Ministry of Textiles.

PHOTO: STAR

Complaint filed with ICT over ‘killings of 848 BNP activists’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday lodged a complaint with the chief prosecutor's office of the International Crimes Tribunal over what the party claimed were the killings of its 848 leaders, activists, and supporters during the July mass uprising.

A team led by Salauddin Khan, leader of pro-BNP organisation Krishak Dal, and several others handed over the application.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

JULY UPRISING ATROCITIES Hasina bore command responsibility

Says UN rights office spokesperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina held command responsibility over the military, police and paramilitary forces and is therefore directly responsible for their actions during the July uprising, an OHCHR spokesperson told The Daily Star yesterday.

There could have been as many as 1,400 protest-related deaths and



Rory Mungoven

13,529 injuries from July 15 to August 5, according to a report, unveiled on Wednesday, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Asked whether Hasina is directly culpable, Rory Mungoven, chief of the Asia-Pacific region for OHCHR, pointed out that all the forces answered to her.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

National polls probably this December

Says Yunus at World Govts Summit in Dubai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said that the national election could be held in December.

At an interactive plenary session at the World Governments Summit 2025 in Dubai, Yunus suggested that the election would take place as early as possible, “probably in December this year”.

The session was moderated by Becky Anderson of CNN at the WGS

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed throughout the country tonight with due religious fervour and devotion.

The occasion is usually observed two weeks before the start of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, the newspaper will not be published tomorrow. Our website will keep you updated 24/7.





PROXY EATERIES OF OFFICE CANTEENS

The pulse of Dhaka's CORPORATE LUNCHTIME

JANNATUL BUSHRA

If you ever happen to walk past any busy corporate neighbourhood in Dhaka during lunchtime, you are in for quite a sight!

Suited-up CEOs and managers, standing on the sidewalk, casually sipping tea with their executives. Why? Because nothing unites the ranks like the desperate need to escape the monotony of office canteen food.

From steaming plates of tchhari to comforting khichuri, they're all on a mission to find something—anything—that doesn't taste like yesterday's reheated regret.

Whether it's the cosy tea stalls of Motijheel, the biryani houses in Karwan Bazar, or the budget-friendly spots in Mohakhali, these proxy canteens serve as unofficial extensions of Dhaka's workplaces.

"For me, it's not just about food; it's about escaping the office walls. Our entire team comes here almost every day to catch up over a quick meal," says Ahsan Kabir, a mid-level executive working in a financial firm in Banani, while pointing at Star Kabab.

"Our office canteen food is like a broken record of blandness," quips Tanisha Rahman, an HR professional in Tejgaon, adding, "But on this corner of the road, we get to try something new almost every day, and the prices don't burn a hole in our pockets!"

While many offices have in-house

canteens, a significant number of employees prefer the bustling roadside eateries, small cafes, and budget-friendly restaurants nearby, which we are referring to as 'proxy eateries'. For many, these humble eateries are the Goldilocks zone between outrageously pricey fine dining and the endlessly repetitive office meals.

However, lunchtime at these eateries isn't just about eating; it's a daily ritual where colleagues catch up, teams brainstorm, and unexpected connections are made over plates of khichuri and chicken curry.

Conversations flow as easily as the steaming cups of tea, turning casual chats into fresh ideas, workplace friendships, and even future business ventures.

"I actually met my business partner at one of these spots in Banani," says Shamsul Alam, the founder of a start-up.

"Back then, we worked at different companies, but after enough lunch breaks spent sharing ideas, we decided to start something together," he shared.

Many of these small restaurants operate in tight spaces, with kitchens that might not meet ideal sanitation standards. Still, regular customers seem to turn a blind eye as long as the food remains delicious, affordable and



healthy enough to not call in sick the next day.

"There have been times when we complained about hygiene, but honestly, the food here is too good to resist.

We just make sure to pick places that at least maintain basic cleanliness," says Mehedi Hasan, an IT professional.

Meanwhile, these eateries are not just places to eat; they are hubs of corporate gossip. Employees vent their frustrations about difficult bosses, talk about office politics, and share industry rumours over their meals. The restaurant workers, who hear these conversations daily, are often well-

informed about the inner workings of the surrounding offices.

"You'd be surprised how much we know about the managers and executives of these offices," laughs Kamal, a waiter at a popular coffee shop in Gulshan.

"People come here, order their food, and then start complaining about their bosses. The CEOs eat here standing! If we ever wrote a book, it would be a bestseller!"

These eateries do more than serve food. They serve a space where ideas are born, friendships are strengthened, and corporate life finds a moment of solace amidst deadlines and emails.

Complaint filed

FROM PAGE 1

They also submitted 84 First Information Reports (FIRs) filed over the killings and injuries to "BNP members and supporters" during the mass uprising.

Newspaper clippings, audio and video footage, and list of 848 names were also submitted, Salauddin told reporters.

The complaint mentioned the names of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, ex-law minister Anisul Haq, and 500 other named and many other unnamed individuals as accused.

It said the crimes were committed to wipe out the BNP.

Earlier, on January 9, BNP lodged two complaints with the International Crimes Tribunal about the "extrajudicial killings of its 2,276 leaders and activists" and 153 incidents of enforced disappearance from 2008 to August 5, 2024.

Shab-e-Barat

FROM PAGE 1

Ramadan. It falls on the 15th night of Sha'ban, the eighth month of the Islamic calendar.

The Islamic Foundation (IF) has chalked out programmes at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital, an IF press release said.

The IF will hold waz (religious sermons), doa mahfils, special prayers, recitation from the Holy Quran and Hamd-Naat at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque this evening.

Religious Affairs Adviser Dr AFM Khalid Hossain will deliver an Islamic sermon at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque highlighting the significance of Shab-e-Barat around 6:30pm.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus issued a message yesterday greeting all Muslims of the country and elsewhere across the world on the occasion.

On this day, a huge number of devotees visit the nearest graveyards and offer special doa and munajat seeking eternal peace for the departed souls of their near and dear ones.

People also distribute money, food, and sweet among the poor and destitute.

Modi brings tariff

FROM PAGE 12

administration of Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden.

Before the Trump meeting, Modi said he had first held a "very good" one-on-one meeting with tech billionaire Musk, who has launched an aggressive effort as Trump's right-hand man to overhaul the federal bureaucracy.

The Indian premier posted pictures of himself shaking hands with the beaming SpaceX and Tesla tycoon in front of US and Indian flags, with several children on Musk's side of the room, and Indian officials on the other.

"We discussed various issues, including those he is passionate about such as space, mobility, technology and innovation," Modi said on Musk's X social network, adding that he had spoken about "India's efforts towards reform."

Yesterday morning, Modi met with newly elected director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard after landing in Washington, DC.

BNP, Jamaat on collision course

FROM PAGE 1

It also cited a strong disagreement among political parties regarding the proportional representation system.

Fakhru yesterday said that holding local polls before the national election would push the country further into instability.

"The sooner the [national] election is held, the easier politics will become. The people will return to a stable situation," he said at a press briefing at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

He said the election is crucial for two reasons. "Firstly, for restoring stability, and secondly, for improving governance in the country, which is currently facing significant challenges."

Fakhru also expressed concerns over the state of education at universities and colleges, saying, "It is very difficult to address these issues without an elected government."

Yesterday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, now in Dubai, said the national election could be held in December this year.

Late last year, he had hinted the polls could be in late 2025 or mid 2026, after which the crack in BNP-Jamaat relationship started becoming more visible.

The BNP and its allies had been saying they want the national election

with minimal reforms done so that the elected government can carry out all other reforms. They have also been pushing for the polls to be held in the middle of this year.

The Jamaat has been demanding polls after necessary reforms and without any hurry.

When Yunus on January 8 said they were simultaneously preparing for national and local body elections, it pushed the parties even further apart.

After a BNP delegation met Yunus on Monday, Fakhru told the press that the government assured the party of working to hold the national election by December this year. "We're making it clear, as we did in the past, there will be no election before the national polls."

Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman at a rally in Sylhet that day said, "Fundamental reforms are necessary before the election. Without implementing some basic reforms, a fair election will not be possible. If an election is held under the current circumstances, it will be an election genocide. We do not want that. We want elections to be held only after a conducive environment is established."

Yesterday, the Jamaat delegation met the EC even though it is no longer a registered political party. Not being

registered with the EC renders the Jamaat unable to run in elections.

Parvar said their appeal to get their registration restored was pending with a court. He hoped they would get justice.

The four-party alliance, including the BNP and Jamaat, was formed in 1999 to strengthen the movement against the then Awami League-led government.

In the 2001 election, the BNP-led alliance won a landslide, and two top Jamaat leaders were made cabinet members.

But the alliance fared poorly in the 2008 election.

In 2012, it became a 20-party combine as several other parties joined in.

The next year, the HC declared Jamaat's registration with the EC illegal on grounds that some provisions of the Jamaat charter went against the country's constitution and election laws.

In the face of widespread criticism for its ties with the Jamaat, which opposed the Liberation War and had sided with Pakistan, the BNP had been keeping a distance from the Islamist party for the past few years.

The 20-party alliance dissolved in December 2022 after the BNP asked its allies not to use the name of the alliance.

National polls probably this December

FROM PAGE 1

Conference Venue. Yunus is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates to attend the summit.

In response to a query, Yunus said that some of the interim government's priorities include ensuring law and order and rebuilding the country, society, and institutions, which he said had completely failed under the previous autocratic government led by Sheikh Hasina.

To rebuild the country, the government is going through a process of reforms. It established 15 reform commissions focusing on law and order, police, the constitution, the election system, and other areas, he said.

"These commissions are reporting back with their suggestions and recommendations on necessary changes. Now, we have what we call a consensus-building commission. We will go to the political parties and so on, see which are the recommendations all agree."

"So that we take that as a charter and then implement an important election," Yunus said.

Earlier on December 16, in a televised address to the nation, Yunus said that the next general election could be held either at the end of this year or in the first half of next year, depending on the reforms political parties agree to.

Major political parties, including the BNP and its allies, have said they want

the national election with minimal reforms. They believe it is possible to hold the next polls by the middle of this year.

The Jamaat-e-Islami favours national polls after necessary reforms but without any hurry. The Jatiya Nagorik Committee also supports national polls after reforms based on the reports of the commissions.

Asked about any intention to continue holding a leadership position after the election, Yunus said, "I made it very clear. When my job is done, hand over the responsibility to the elected government. I go back to what I enjoy doing most and this is what I believe in my life. I want to continue with that."

Yunus said that his government took power at a time when everything, including the economy and the administration, fell apart. Billions of dollars were taken away from the banking system. So, the government's job was to rebuild the banking system and the economy.

"We are trying to get this [laundered] money back. It's a very complicated procedure," he said.

The interim government had broad international support and everybody wanted to support the rebuilding of Bangladesh, the chief adviser said.

"We want to build a new Bangladesh. The old Bangladesh is completely corrupt. It was corruption-ridden."

Yunus also said he was relieved that the Office of the United Nations High

Hasina bore command responsibility

FROM PAGE 1

"The way the system was set up — the military, police and paramilitary forces were all under the [former] prime minister," he said, adding that the senior political leadership was fully involved and had complete knowledge of everything happening on the ground.

"It has to be investigated what the individual roles and responsibilities were, but it's evident that this was a coordinated, systematic response to the protests."

Alleging the politicisation of the police forces, he said, "A reform process going forward would include separating policing from politics."

The OHCHR report on the July uprising says security forces and law enforcement agencies were under the direct control of Hasina and the former home affairs minister with "no institutionalised parliamentary or independent oversight."

It called the brutal crackdown on protesters "crimes against humanity" and said that with Hasina's central role in the chain of command established, she too can be accused of

those crimes.

"OHCHR has reasonable grounds to believe that the crimes against humanity of murder, torture, imprisonment and infliction of other inhumane acts have taken place, as part of a widespread and systematic attack against protesters and other civilians seen as potentially joining or supporting the protests, in furtherance of the former Government's policy to violently suppress the protests to ensure its continuation in power."

"It would appear that a significant number of the killings by State security forces and Awami League supporters would amount to the crime against humanity of murder, as set forth in Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court," said the report.

Article 7 of the Rome Statute states that crimes against humanity require a "widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population, with the perpetrator knowing that the conduct was part of, or intended for it to be part of, the attack."

Bangladesh is a signatory to the statute.

2nd phase of Biswa Jtama

FROM PAGE 12

they should use alternative routes via Mohakhali-Bijoy Sarani-Mirpur-Gabtol, according to a DMP press release.

Additionally, inter-district buses, trucks, and heavy vehicles have been advised to avoid Abdullahpur and Dhaur Bridge intersections, instead using routes through Mohakhali-Bijoy Sarani Gabtol.

Vehicles from northern districts via Nabinagar, Baipail, and Ashulia should avoid Kamarpara/Abdullahpur crossings and opt for Savar Gabtol or Dhaur Bridge-Mirpur Beribadh routes.

For vehicles arriving in Dhaka via Airport Road, a U-turn near Radisson

Blu hotel or using Kuril Flyover via Pragati Sarani is recommended. Similarly, vehicles on the 300-foot road should avoid Kuril Flyover loop-2 (airport-bound) and instead use Pragati Sarani and loop-4 (Kakoli-Mohakhali bound).

The DMP also advised avoiding the Kaula/airport-bound exit of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway on February 16.

To assist air travellers, the DMP's Traffic Uttara Division will operate free shuttle services from Padma U-loop to the airport. Additionally, due to damage to the Abdullahpur Bailey Bridge, all vehicles must use the Azampur Flyover instead.

Send Hasina back for trial

FROM PAGE 12

"It has been proven that she is a fascist. She has committed oppression, torture, and genocide in this country," he added.

The BNP leader further said, "We are calling upon the Indian government today to immediately return her [Hasina] and her accomplices to Bangladesh and hand her over to the government for trial. This is our expectation."

Responding to the OHCHR's recommendation against banning political parties, Fakhru said, "We have made it clear that the people will decide. The people will decide

UN report will be used as evidence in ICT trials

Says Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal has said the UN Human Rights Commission's report on the July massacre will be used as an irrefutable piece of evidence for trials of crimes against humanity.

"There is no basic difference between the OHCHR report and the evidence found by the ICT investigation agency," Mohammad Tajul Islam told reporters at his office yesterday.

"The UN report on the July-August killings indicates that the Awami League government launched a wide-spread and systematic attack to annihilate student protesters. This is a clear and strong piece of evidence of crimes against humanity," he said.

The UN report makes it clear that the Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League, and different security forces followed the plans and direction of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, AL general secretary Obaidul Quader, former

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Make sure law enforcers adhere to the rule of law

HRW urges govt

STAR REPORT

Human Rights Watch has urged Bangladesh to ensure that law enforcement agencies act neutrally and respect the rule of law to prosecute political violence.

The New York-based rights group issued a statement yesterday, a day after the United Nations unveiled its findings on serious human rights violations by the security forces in their brutal response to the 2024 student-led mass uprising.

Citing the UN report, HRW mentioned that law enforcement agencies, including the police, border guards, the Rapid Action Battalion, and intelligence services, were involved in extrajudicial killings, indiscriminate firing, mass arrests, and torture during the crackdown.

The UN report estimates that up to 1,400 people were killed between July 1 and August 15, 2024, with the vast majority shot dead by security forces.

The interim government, led by Nobel laureate

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Batons and water cannons used to disperse protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police charged batons and used water cannons yesterday to disperse protesters demanding the reinstatement of 6,531 assistant teacher appointments in government primary schools.

Many protesters were injured, but they remained on the road despite the police intervention.

The protesters were continuing their sit-in at Shahbagh for the eighth consecutive day yesterday.

Over 300 candidates began gathering in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh at 9:00am, said Khaled Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

The law enforcers took action around 2:00pm. Holding placards in their hands, the protesters were seen chanting slogans in support of their demands. Some had travelled from different parts of the country, and a few even brought their children along. A photojournalist reported that some protesters were also wearing shrouds.

In another development, sacked police officials, who were dismissed at different times during the Awami League government, staged a demonstration yesterday demanding reinstatement.

They marched towards the Secretariat from Jatiya Press Club around 12:00pm to meet the home affairs adviser with their demands.

As they took position in front of the Secretariat, law enforcers intervened and charged batons to disperse them.

The protesters claimed several of them were injured.

One of the protesters, Ayub Ali, was treated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Masud Alam, sub-inspector of DMCH Police Outpost.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Left, a woman falls on the ground as police shoot water from a cannon while another tries to protect her during a sit-in at Shahbagh yesterday. Police used batons and water cannons to disperse the protesters, **top right**, demanding reinstatement of their appointment as assistant teachers in government primary schools. **Bottom right**, police charged batons to disperse sacked police officials, who were dismissed during the Awami League government, in front of the Secretariat.

PHOTO: STAR



Constitution reform possible before polls

Says Prof Ali Riaz

STAR REPORT

Several issues of the constitution can be amended before the elections, said Prof Ali Riaz, head of the Constitution Reform Commission, yesterday.

"But it depends on the decision of the government and political parties," he said during a press briefing at the commission office at the National Parliament, reports BSS.

Riaz said they have identified some problems and informed the government about this and hoped that the government will take a decision soon to make the necessary reforms.

In response to a question, he said whether the constitution will be amended through a referendum or not is also a matter for the consideration of the government and political parties.

"Although there are differences of opinion among political parties, I believe there is consensus among them on the reform issue. Whatever is needed for political change must come from within the parties and cannot be imposed from outside," he observed.

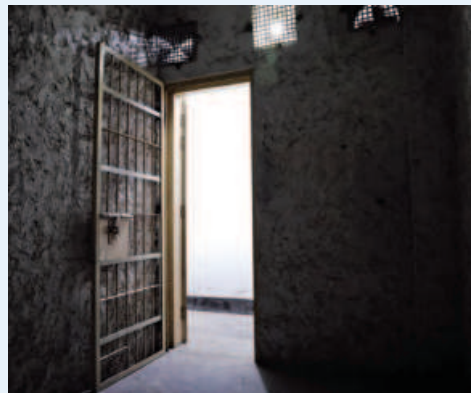
SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Aynaghar: what happened to those still missing?

Family members demand answers, punishment for perpetrators

Why is that man (pointing to a man in the room) saying my father is dead? We still don't know... maybe he is somewhere else? God knows. How did my father stay in that cell? That cell is too tiny. How did he sleep?

Hridi, daughter of a victim



Rab and DGFI need to be disbanded -- there can be no reforms in these forces. We are not looking for just a few token convictions.

Rezaur Rahman Lenin, Human rights researcher.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With three of the secret detention centres finally unveiled, the families of the forcibly disappeared are faced with a difficult reality -- the loved ones they had been waiting for years are not there.

Year after year, as the families took to the streets again and again during the height of Sheikh Hasina's government's repression, as they faced the police and lived under strict surveillance, most of them held one iron-clad belief -- their family members were inside one of the many secret detention centres, imprisoned but alive.

The alternative was a far worse finality.

Sitting inside a dark seminar room at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the families watched a virtual tour of three secret detention centres that were inspected by Chief Adviser Dr

Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday.

The photos displayed were taken by the team at Netra News.

As the cameras and crowds cleared after the press conference, the families sat in a daze. Then, one by one, they started breaking down.

Adiba Islam Hridi was two and a half years old when her father, Parvez Hossain, was abducted by Rab and forcibly disappeared.

Parvez, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader from the capital's Bangshal, was picked up from Shahbagh on December 2, 2013. For the past nine years, The Daily Star has documented Hridi demonstrating on the streets, holding a photo of her missing father.

Today, Hridi is a teenager and an eighth grade student. Leaning back against her chair, she sobbed quietly, away from the harsh glare of the cameras. She had just viewed the brutal 2 foot by 4-foot

cells of the Taskforce Intelligence Centre, where victims of enforced disappearance were kept by Rab.

"Why is that man (pointing to a man in the room) saying my father is dead? We still don't know... maybe he is somewhere else? God knows," she said. "How did my father stay in that cell? That cell is too tiny. How did he sleep?"

These same families had walked up to the headquarters of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) the day after Sheikh Hasina's government fell, demanding to be let in so they could rescue their loved ones.

The DGFI later issued a statement saying there were no detainees in the Dhaka facility.

The press conference yesterday was organised by Mayer Daak, a platform of families like Hridi's.

"Rab and DGFI need to be disbanded -- there can be no

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'We'll review nat'l security policies'

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday announced that they will hold discussions on national security policies, including the potential abolition of the Rapid Action Battalion and restrictions on the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

"All relevant stakeholders will meet to review and decide on various recommendations, including the abolition of Rab as proposed by the United Nations Office for Human Rights and limiting DGFI to military intelligence activities," he said.

The OHCHR had earlier recommended disbanding Rab and restricting the functions of BGB and DGFI.

The adviser came up with the remark while launching SB Immigration's new online app for visa on arrival and transit visa applications at his ministry. He said the citizens of 14 countries would be able to use the app.

"If the current system works effectively, foreigners will be able to obtain a visa on arrival within 10 minutes. If they submit their information online before arrival, it will be verified, and upon reaching Bangladesh, they will scan the code, make the payment, and receive the visa."

On passport issuance, the adviser suggested reconsidering the need for police verification to simplify the process. "To make the process easier, I am considering whether police verification can be omitted. If it remains necessary, arrangements will be made to streamline it."

NIKO GRAFT CASE

Verdict on Feb 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday set February 19 to deliver the judgement in connection with the Niko graft case filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and seven others.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka passed the order after hearing closing arguments from both the prosecution and the defence, Belal Hossain, bench assistant of the court, told The Daily Star.

Defence lawyer Mohammad Ziauddin represented the BNP chief in the court in her absence as she is receiving treatment abroad.

Earlier, a total of 39 prosecution witnesses testified in the court.

ACC sues Mustafa Kamal, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed four cases against former finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, also known as Lotus Kamal, and his family members for illegally acquiring assets worth Tk 165.59 crore and suspicious bank transactions amounting to Tk 849.78 crore.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain confirmed this at the commission's headquarters in Segunbagicha yesterday.

In each case, Kamal has been named as an accused. The other accused are his wife, Kashmery Kamal, and his two daughters, Kashfi Kamal and Nafisa Kamal.

'OPERATION DEVIL HUNT'

566 more held on fifth day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 566 more people were arrested in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the ongoing "Operation Devil Hunt".

Besides, 1,099 others, accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested during the same period, according to the home ministry.

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


On Wednesday, 1,686 people were arrested, including 591 as part of the drive.

On Tuesday, 1,775 people were arrested, including 607 as part of the operation. On Monday, 1,521 individuals were arrested, with 343 apprehended as part of the operation. On Sunday, 1,308 arrests were reported, but the PHQ did not provide a breakdown of the arrests.



A group of women anxiously wait on the footpath for a TCB truck to arrive. They had been there since 8:00am, but by noon, there was still no sign of the truck. Many had also waited in vain the previous day, losing valuable work hours. With soaring market prices, these low-income individuals have no choice but to endure long waits to buy essentials from TCB trucks at subsidised prices. The photo was taken near Mohammadpur Bus Stand in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Al Hajj Lt. Col. Hesamuiddin Ahmed, psc (Retd.), served as a Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh in various ministries. He was the Administrator of the Dhaka Municipality, Chairman of RAJUK and other important corporations.

Being the Founder President of the National Shooting Federation Bangladesh, the Founder Member and Founding Vice Chairman RAOWA, his contributions will always be remembered.

He was associated with UCEP Bangladesh, SAHIC and various sports and social welfare organizations. In recognition of his remarkable contributions in the field of Sports development and social welfare he was awarded the National Sports Award (2003), Atish Dipannkar Gold Medal, Post Sarojini Naidu Gold Medal, C R Das Gold Medal etc.

~Dearly Missed & Always Cherished by
Wife, Son, Daughter, Daughter in Law
Son in Law & Granddaughters

Aynaghar
FROM PAGE 3
reforms in these forces. We are not looking for just a few token convictions,” said Rezaur Rahman Lenin, a human rights researcher. The wife of forcibly disappeared BNP leader Humayun Parvez, Shahnaz Begum, said, “Will we always be political puppets and used as stunts, or will we actually get justice?” Monorom Polok, son of photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol, who was forcibly disappeared for months, said changing the colour of uniforms is not enough. “All the officers, from the junior most to the top leadership, can commit enforced disappearances again if ordered to do so by the political government. This has to be reformed,” he said. Tasneem Khalil, editor-in-chief of Netra News, presented the findings of their visit to the detention centres.

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Tension rises along Naf again

Arakan Army seizes another trawler



MOKAMMEL SHUVU, Cox's Bazar

Tension has been rising along the Naf river border after the Arakan Army, a Myanmar rebel group, seized another Teknaf Port-bound trawler on Tuesday. The insurgent group also has yet to release four Bangladeshi fishermen they abducted the same day. Concerns among Bangladeshis living along the border are growing due to escalating activities of the rebel group. The Arakan Army intercepted and seized the timber-laden trawler en route from Akyab to United Land Port at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on February 10 from near Teknaf's Shah Porir Dwip's Golar Char area, said border sources. The trawler is now anchored in the Kharangkhal canal of Maungdaw township in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Jasim Uddin, general manager of the land port, confirmed hearing about the trawler's seizure. Businessman Abdul Kader, an importer of the seized timber, said, "A boat carrying 35 tonnes of timber for me was seized by the Arakan Army while en

route from Myanmar. I heard they are conducting a search. Communication is ongoing with Myanmar's traders and the rebel group. I have been informed that the boat will be released after inspection." On January 16, the rebel group seized three Teknaf-bound cargo boats from Yangon, Myanmar, from the Naf estuary. They later released two of the boats on January 20 and the other on February 1. Meanwhile, families of the four abducted fishermen are deeply worried without having received any information about them since they were abducted by the Arakan Army at gunpoint along with their boat from the Naf estuary in Teknaf on Tuesday morning. The abducted fishermen have been identified as Md Hasan, 30, Abdur Rakim, 20, Md Jaber, 26, and Md Hasan, 16, all residents of Shah Porir Dwip South Para in Teknaf. Lt Col Ashiqur Rahman, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-2 in Teknaf, said no official complaint has been received regarding the issue, but authorities have been informed and are working to resolve the matter.

2 suspected cattle thieves killed in mob beating

UNB, Bhola

Two suspected cattle thieves were beaten to death by a mob in the Tazumuddin upazila of Bhola early yesterday, according to police. The deceased were identified as Md Nayon, 30, of Tazumuddin upazila, and Amir Hossain, 27, of Borhanuddin upazila of the district. Police and locals said the two men entered a cowshed at a house in Chardi village late at night, allegedly to steal cattle. Sensing their presence, the owner of the cowshed screamed for help. Soon, neighbours rushed to the scene, caught the two, and started beating them, said police and local sources. They said Nayon and Amir died on the spot. Tazumuddin Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdullah Al-Mamun said they recovered the bodies from the house around 4:00am and sent those to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Legal processes are underway in this connection, he added.

Batons and water

FROM PAGE 3
Shahbagh Police Station OC Khaled Mansur said the sacked officials attacked them as well, injuring some of the police personnel. Meanwhile, amid the doctors' work abstention, Prof Quazi Deen Mohammad, director of National Institute of Neurosciences (NINS) Hospital, has resigned. A source from the health ministry said Deen Mohammad submitted his resignation to the ministry on Wednesday in response to the doctors' demands. Despite repeated attempts, he could not be reached via his mobile phone. However, he was still in his office yesterday. Meanwhile, physicians at the NINS – the country's only tertiary care institute focused on neurological disorders – resumed their strike for the second consecutive day, protesting against an alleged attack by outsourced staff. All surgical procedures remained suspended. However, indoor, outdoor, and emergency services were functional. Doctors began their work abstention in the morning, causing suffering to patients. Dr Kalim Uddin, an associate professor, said, "We are observing the strike in protest against the attack on doctors. However, emergency patients are being treated." The scuffle began on Wednesday morning when neuro-medicine specialist Prof Dr Gurudas Mondal was reinstated at the hospital, sparking anger among the doctors. When doctors protested this move, third and fourth-class employees launched an attack, injuring at least 10 people, including three doctors.

Ban AL in 24 hours

FROM PAGE 5
at Rajbari ground in Gazipur yesterday. Before the janaza, Fariduzzaman Zahid, district general secretary of the Student Rights Council, said, "I demand a ban on the Awami League within 24 hours." Naser, general secretary of the Students Against Discrimination, described Kashem as "the first martyr after the July-August uprising in Bangladesh." "The condition of others injured in the same incident remains critical. We have heard that many of those behind the attack are in hiding. I demand their immediate arrest," he added. Imtiaz Ahmed Tanvir, central member of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, said, "There has been no action from the Gazipur administration after this incident. We demand results. The Awami League must be banned, and all of its members must be removed from Gazipur. Those who opened fire in front of the DC office must be arrested." Bashir Ahmed, president of Jubo Dal's Tongi West unit, also spoke.

Constitution reform

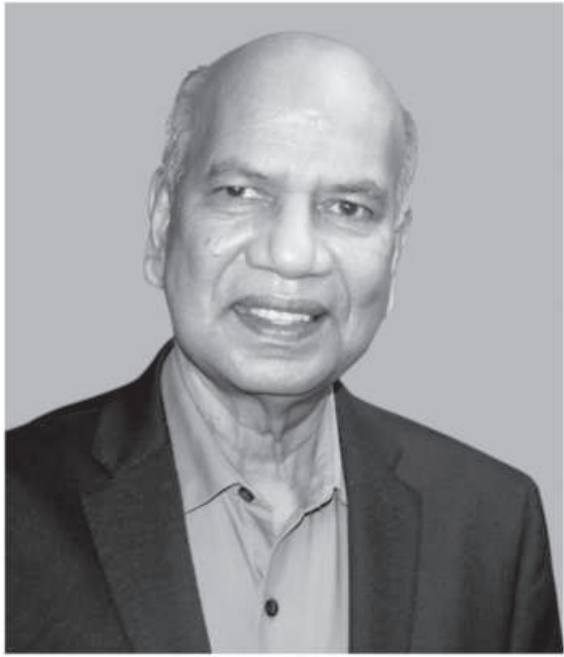
FROM PAGE 3
He said the commission has proposed reforms in seven key areas, including reducing the prime minister's powers, decentralising the judiciary, ensuring justice for citizens, setting the minimum age for MPs at 21, and strengthening constitutional institutions. The commission also proposed equality, human dignity, social justice, pluralism, and democracy as the core principles of the constitution and the state, he added. Riaz emphasised that their report reflects the ideals of the 1971 Liberation War and the aspirations of the 2024 mass uprising. To prevent power centralisation, the commission has recommended strengthening existing institutions and creating new ones, including the National Constitutional Council, he said. He also said measures have been suggested to curb the prime minister's absolute power, including barring them from holding multiple positions and ensuring accountability to their party's MPs. In this regard, the commission has suggested amending Article 70, he added. He further mentioned that the commission has called for steps to ensure judicial independence and guarantee justice for citizens. The recommendations also emphasise expanding citizens' rights and holding the state accountable for enforcing them.

Close Rampal power

FROM PAGE 5
livelihoods and are being forced to migrate for work. A study by the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services said coal transportation is polluting both the air and water in the Sundarbans. Open coal unloading is contaminating the rivers, while harmful chemicals like nitrate, phosphate, and mercury are being released into the environment, severely impacting aquatic and forest biodiversity. Advocate Kudrat-E-Khuda, president of the committee, said the government must allocate a dedicated budget for the conservation of the Sundarbans. The establishment of heavy industries within 10km of the forest must be prohibited, and the Environmental Critical Area regulations should be fully enforced. Sutapa Bedajina, general secretary of the committee, also spoke. The rally started from Hadis Park in Khulna and ended at the Deputy Commissioner's office, where a memorandum was submitted to the chief adviser through local authorities.

Housing dept hit

FROM PAGE 5
shortage, regular monitoring of these residences is not possible, according to the office. Meanwhile, many employees have been waiting for house allocation for a long time but have not received one, forcing them to rent houses at high prices in residential areas. Given the circumstances, some lower-level employees are allegedly involved in a syndicate that arranges house allocations in exchange for money, said staffers. Saiful Islam, a senior office assistant at Income Tax Department of Circle-02, said, "After much effort, I finally got an apartment, but there is no water supply. We have to struggle to fetch water ourselves." A ninth-grade police officer added, "Despite numerous attempts and lobbying, I have not been able to get a government house. I have given up hope after repeatedly visiting the office. I am forced to rent a private house at a high price." Contacted, Muntasir Jahan, deputy director, Directorate of Government Accommodation in Chattogram, said, "We are facing a severe manpower shortage. Even if we want to provide services, we fail due to a lack of staff. We don't have any inspectors here. I have to personally handle everything." However, he denied allegations of irregularities and syndicates in house allocation.



Dr. Rezaul Haque

Elected As The New Chairman of Impact Foundation Bangladesh

its inception in 1993. Over the past four decades, Haque has extensively worked in the fields of civil society and NGOs, democracy and governance, human rights, public policy, development aid, disability & development, public health and non-formal education.

Dr. Haque served in leadership and senior management and technical positions in international NGOs, donor agencies and think-tanks including at USAID/ Bangladesh, Counterpart International, Lutheran World Service/RDRS, Save the Children, Sightsavers International (formerly RCSB) and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. Also, he has taught Development Studies and International Business in leading private universities of Bangladesh as an Adjunct Professor.

Haque's long and proven development experience is backed by solid academic credentials. He has a PhD in International Relations, and higher training in development management and leadership from Harvard University Kennedy School, US Federal Executive Institute and Cranfield University, UK.

At its 70th meeting held on February 13, 2025, the Board of Trustees of Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), a reputed disability prevention and healthcare non-government organization (NGO), elected Dr. Rezaul Haque as its new Chairman. Haque is a Founder Trustee and has been a key guiding force for IFB since



Career Opportunity

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The project primarily addresses the drinking water crisis faced by communities in climate-vulnerable coastal areas. It also aims to empower farmers to adopt climate-resilient methods for crop cultivation, fisheries, and livestock production. Additionally, the initiative will strengthen environmental resilience through biodiversity and nature conservation efforts, while raising awareness at local, national, and international levels about water accessibility challenges faced by communities at risk from climate change.

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7. Specialist, Climate Adaptive Fisheries

8. Deputy Manager, Nature Based Solutions

Job Location : Dhaka Office and Field Office

Application Deadline : 22 February 2025

For detail job description and application instruction

Please visit: careers.brac.net or www.bdjobs.com

BRAC believes that everyone we work with including our staff, programme participants, partners, and the communities have the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, harassment, and exploitation including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). We uphold human dignity and inclusion for all, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, disability, ethnic origin, or socio-economic condition. As an equal opportunity employer, we actively encourage applications from gender-diverse individuals and people with disabilities.

Selected candidates will have to go through a rigorous reference and background checking process which may include police verification.

Deer poaching

FROM PAGE 5
2024, up from 83,000 in 2004, making them easier prey for poachers. Anwarul Kadir, executive director of Sundarban Academy, warned that wildlife populations are already at risk due to climate change and habitat destruction, and human greed is pushing them towards extinction. West Sundarbans Divisional Forest Officer AZM Hasanur Rahman said forest rangers operate under high-risk conditions to combat poaching. "We have announced cash rewards of Tk 10,000-20,000 for information on poachers. A list of suspects, including buyers and facilitators, is being compiled, and legal action will be taken," he said. Meanwhile, Sundarbans Day is being observed today to raise awareness about protecting the forest and its wildlife. Khulna and Satkhira district administrations, along with local social organisations, have organised various programmes to mark the occasion.

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বাংলাদেশ জুট মিলস করপোরেশন

আদমজী কোর্ট, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

বাংলাদেশ জুট মিলস করপোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন ওৎনাং নিম্নবর্ণিত ভবনের ৮ম, ৯ম তলা ফ্লোর স্পেস ও ৬ষ্ঠ তলায় ৩০টি কার পার্কিং স্থান ভাড়া গ্রাহকের জন্য গত ০১/০২/২০২৫ তারিখে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির সহশোদন সজ্ঞেষ্ঠ।

বাংলাদেশ জুট মিলস করপোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন ওৎনাং নিম্নবর্ণিত ভবনের ৮ম, ৯ম তলা ফ্লোর স্পেস ও ৬ষ্ঠ তলায় ৩০টি কার পার্কিং স্থান ভাড়া গ্রাহকের জন্য গত ০১/০২/২০২৫ তারিখে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির সেই কলামে দরপত্র শিডিউল সহজবে শেষ জারিখ ১৬/০২/২০২৫ এর পরিবর্তে ২৭/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ এবং ৪ম কলামে দরপত্র দাখিল ও বেলায় জারিখ ১৭/০২/২০২৫ এর পরিবর্তে ০২/০৩/২০২৫ তারিখ সহশোদন করা হলো। বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।



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বাংলাদেশ ক্যান্সার সোসাইটির সন্মানিত চেয়ারম্যানকে আদমজী কোর্টে, নির্বাচন কমিশন সোসাইটির ১৩-০২-২০২৫ তারিখে কার্যনির্বাহী পরিষদ নির্বাচন ২০২৫-২০২৭ এর নিম্নরূপ নির্বাচনী তফসিল ঘোষণা করেছেন। তফসিল অনুযায়ী বসভা ভোটার তালিকা প্রকাশ-১৬/০২/২০২৫, ভোটার তালিকার উপর আপত্তি গ্রহণ-১৮/০২/২০২৫। বসভা ভোটার তালিকার উপর আপত্তির সন্ধানী-১৯/০২/২০২৫, হুড়াজ ভোটার তালিকা প্রকাশ- ২০/০২/২০২৫ মনোনয়ন পত্র বিতরণ- ২২/০২/২০২৫ থেকে ২৪/০২/২০২৫, মনোনয়ন পর দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ- ২৫/০২/২০২৫। মনোনয়ন পর যাত্রাই-বাছাই-২৬/০২/২০২৫, বিধি প্রার্থী তালিকা প্রকাশ-২৭/০২/২০২৫, উপর আপত্তি গ্রহণ ও নিষ্পত্তি-০৯/০৩/২০২৫, প্রার্থীতা প্রত্যাহার-১০/০৩/২০২৫হুড়াজ প্রার্থী তালিকা প্রকাশ-১১/০৩/২০২৫ নির্বাচন স্থান-বাংলাদেশ ক্যান্সার সোসাইটির হল ক্রম। ১২০/৩-সি দারুস সালাম, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২১৬, তারিখঃ ১২/০৩/২০২৫ সকাল ১০:০০ টা থেকে বিরতীহীনভাবে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত ভোট গ্রহণ চলবে। যোগাযোগঃ ০১৯১৮৪০০৯৫, ০১৫৫২-৪৭৮৬৯৯, ০১৭১১-০০৩৮৩৬। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সহযোগিতা কামনা করছি। ধন্যবাদান্তে- অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ মাহবুবুর রহমান, প্রধান নির্বাচন কমিশনার, অধ্যাপক ডাঃ সারওয়ার আলম সদস্য সচিব, নির্বাচন কমিশনার।



Janata Bank PLC.

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Invitation for e-Tender

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	1074523	JBPLC/ITPSCMD/IT-Proc-24/e-GP/OTM/PT-Tools/2025	Tender for Procurement of Penetration Testing Solution/Tools for Janata Bank PLC. following Open Tendering Method.	06/03/2025 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP Help Desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



(Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain)

Deputy General Manager

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of The Executive Engineer, RHD

Chattogram South Road Division, Dohazari, Chattogram.

e-mail: eectgsouth@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1582.414.36.01.17.25-325

Date: 12-02-2025

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tenders is invited and published on 11 February 2025 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SL	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work	Date & Time
01	1074039	GP/EE/CSR/LTM/27/2024-2025	Emergency Repair of Damaged Pavement by Scarify, Base Type-I, Carpeting, Seal Coat at 6th KM (P) to 9th KM (P) KM of CUFL Gate-Hazarat Mohsen Aulia (R) Major-Juidondi Ferryghat Road (Z-1088) under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	Last Selling: 04-Mar-2025 11:00 Closing: 04-Mar-2025 12:00



(Pintu Chakma)

ID No. 602219

Executive Engineer, RHD

Chattogram South Road Division

Dohazari, Chattogram.

GD- 425

Housing dept hit by staff shortage

Officials struggle to provide facilities to residents of 4,000 govt flats in Ctg

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

The Directorate of Government Accommodation in Chattogram is facing a severe manpower shortage, leaving officials and employees struggling to ensure proper facilities for the residents of more than 4,000 government flats, houses, and apartments in the port city.

Speaking to employees, it was learned that several new housing projects have been taken in Chattogram for government officers and staff. Modern flats have recently been constructed in Panchlaish, Katalganj, and Agrabad.

Compared to the past, the department's workload has increased significantly, said staff members.

The department's regional office is located in Government Office Building 02 in Agrabad.

According to sources, the organisational structure includes 31 positions, but only 10 employees are currently working, including four officials temporarily attached from the head office.

At present, around 21 positions remain vacant.

House allocation, monitoring, and even vacating a house require clearance from the department.

Although the Dhaka office has several inspectors, there are none in Chattogram. As a result, existing staff must handle house inspections, complaint investigations, report filing, and

legal matters.

The department manages houses, flats, and colonies across different parts of the city. Government employees are allotted houses based on their job grades.

However, due to the manpower

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

According to sources, the organisational structure includes 31 positions, but only 10 employees are currently working, including four officials temporarily attached from the head office.



As part of the security, dog squads have been deployed at the Ekushey Boi Mela. Given the attack on a book stall on February 10 and ahead of the Valentine's Day today, the presence of K-9 units at the Suhrawardy Udyan was more visible yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Close Rampal power plant to protect the Sundarbans

Urge speakers OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Sundarbans is not only a natural treasure but also a lifeline for millions in the coastal region. However, this Unesco World Heritage Site is now under severe threat due to unregulated industrialisation, the Rampal coal-fired power plant, toxic fishing practices, and unchecked pollution.

Demanding immediate action to safeguard the Sundarbans, including shutdown of Rampal Power Plant, Citizens' Committee for Agriculture, Industry, Jute, and Environmental Protection organised a rally in Khulna yesterday.

According to the committee, locals report that fish populations in nearby rivers have declined significantly due to pollution from the plant's waste. Furthermore, commercial land use has reduced grazing areas, making cattle farming increasingly difficult. As a result, many villagers have lost their traditional

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

PRAYER TIMING					
FEBRUARY 14					
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:25	12:30	4:30	5:57	7:15	
JAMAA 6:00	1:15	4:45	6:01	7:45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

SUNDARBANS DAY

Deer poaching surges in the Sundarbans



FILE PHOTO

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Illegal deer hunting has surged in the Sundarbans, threatening the delicate ecosystem of the world's largest mangrove forest.

Venison is now widely available in black markets in areas bordering the forest, including Koyra, Dacope, and Paikgachha in Khulna; Shyamnagar in Satkhira; and Mongla and Sarankhola in Bagerhat.

Despite laws prohibiting its sale and consumption, venison is being sold at Tk 450-600 per kg, significantly cheaper than beef or mutton.

The authorities' inaction, coupled with alleged collusion by corrupt forest officials, is exacerbating the crisis.

According to locals and law enforcers, many residents enter the forest legally to fish, but some set traps to hunt deer. Poachers, often disguised as fishermen, bribe officials to gain access.

Once inside, they set nylon traps along deer paths, slaughter the animals, and smuggle the meat to local and urban markets. In some cases, venison is mixed with beef or mutton to disguise its origin.

Law enforcement efforts have yielded limited results.

While deer meat, skins, and heads are occasionally recovered, the primary culprits -- poachers and smugglers --

often evade capture. Small vessels from India's Hemnagar and Kolkata ports, carrying raw materials for Bangladesh's cement industry, have also been implicated in smuggling venison.

On March 6 last year, locals apprehended four ship workers with deer meat at Koyra's Antihara market and handed them over to police, said Koyra Police Station Officer-in-Charge GM Emdadul Haq.

Forest officials estimate that over 55 poaching gangs operate in the region, including 30 in Koyra and 15 in Dacope. Some receive pre-orders for venison, while others sell it directly in markets.

Over the past three months, joint operations by police, Coast Guard, and the Forest Department have led to the seizure of 480kg of deer meat, one slaughtered deer, five deer hides, and several heads.

Five individuals were arrested, and multiple boats were confiscated. Eight cases were filed with Koyra Police Station.

In November, forest officials detained 20 poachers from Dhakkhindhi in the East Sundarbans. However, Assistant Conservator of Forests in Satkhira Range Md Moshir Rahman acknowledged the difficulty of eradicating poaching entirely.

The Sundarbans' spotted deer population has risen to 140,357 in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

GAZIPUR ATTACK

Ban AL in 24 hours Demand student leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Student leaders yesterday demanded imposing a ban on the Awami League within 24 hours.

They made the call after attending the namaz-e-janaza of Kashem Khan in Gazipur.

Kashem, who was injured in an attack near former Liberation War Affairs minister AKM Mozammel Haque's house, passed away on Wednesday while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

His janaza was held around 11:35am

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona
Phone: 02-996651285, Fax: 02-996651479
e-mail: eenet@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No.: 35.01.7200.455.00.000.22-262 Dated: 13/02/2025

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of Work	Date & Time.
01.	Tender ID 1070202 Tender Package No.: e-GP/Rev/30/NRD/2024-2025 & APP ID. 205920 ; Scheduled Tender/Proposal Publication Date and Time: 13-Feb-2025 12:45	Supply of Asphalt Materials (Bitumen grade 60/70) for Existing Pavement Repair at Different KM of Bijoypur-Birishiri Land Port Road (Z-3705) & Madupara Link Road (Z-3708) under Netrakona Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading Date and Time: 02-Mar-2025 16:00 Last Date and Time for Tender/ Proposal Security: 03-Mar-2025 12:00 Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date and Time: 03-Mar-2025 12:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Futher information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Saleh Al-Nur Salehin
(Mahmud Al-Nur Salehin)
ID: 602300
Executive Engineer, RHD
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona.

GD- 432

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.
Email: Kaitak@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Ref No. UHC/Kaitak/Chha/Sunam/MSR/2024-2025/172 Date: 13-02-2025

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contract support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. NUSRAT AREFIN, UH&FPO, 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj, for the Procurement of;


Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1073732	Procurement of Non-EDCL Medicine in the FY 2024-2025 for 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.	02-Mar-2025 11:00	02-Mar-2025 13:00
1073731	Procurement of Surgical Instrument in the FY 2024-2025 for 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.	02-Mar-2025 11:00	02-Mar-2025 13:00
1073730	Procurement of Gauge Bandage & Cotton in the FY 2024-2025 for 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.	02-Mar-2025 11:00	02-Mar-2025 13:00
1073729	Procurement of Linen in the FY 2024-2025 for 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.	02-Mar-2025 11:00	02-Mar-2025 13:00
1073728	Procurement of Chemical Re-agent in the FY 2024-2025 for 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.	02-Mar-2025 11:00	02-Mar-2025 13:00
1073727	Procurement of Furniture in the FY 2024-2025 for 20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.	02-Mar-2025 11:00	02-Mar-2025 13:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

Dr. NUSRAT AREFIN
(Dr. NUSRAT AREFIN)
Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
20 Bed Hospital Kaitak, Chhatak, Sunamganj.

GD- 428


Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-10, Dholpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka.

Ref No. 46.207.007. 24.09.08. 2024-2025 Dated: 12/02/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-10 Dholpur Jatrabari, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website from date 12/02/2025, 23:00.

SL No.	Tender ID, Ref No.	Name of works	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
01.	1074238 egp/dscc/z10/24-25/p-06	Repairing works of damaged section of various roads at ward No58,59,60,61 under zone-10, Dhaka South City Corporation	02/03/2025 12:00	02/03/2025 15.00

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

Mohammad Lutfor Rahman
(Mohammad Lutfor Rahman)
Executive Engineer
Zone-10
Dhaka South City Corporation

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২০২২/২০২৪-২০২৫

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ROMANCE

Nidra and Prantar go from reel to real

SHARMIN JOYA

Some connections are simply meant to be. For Nidra Dey Neha and Prantar Dastider, it all began on the set of Goutam Koiri's directorial web-film *Antonagar* (2023). When they first worked together, little did they know that the film would change their lives forever.

"This project will always be special to both of us," shared Prantar. "Whenever we think about how we got together, it feels like it was destined, as Prantar had no plans of becoming an actor, rather, he wanted to pursue direction," added Nidra.

What began as an on-screen pairing soon blossomed into a real-life bond. They tied the knot on January 31 last year, that too, at the very place where they first met.

"It wasn't love at first sight, but I liked him from the beginning, and wanted to know him better. Working together gave us more time, and the moment I was sure about my feelings, I knew that I was going to marry this man!" Nidra said excitedly. "I was the who confessed first, which actually surprised Prantar."

Prantar then took some time to confirm whether Nidra truly wanted a lifelong commitment. "I knew she was head over heels, and so was I. But I needed to be sure she was ready for this journey with me," said the actor, who made his silver-screen debut with *840*.

Nidra entered showbiz through Miss Universe 2020, where she placed in the top ten. She was crowned Miss Photogenic Bangladesh 2020 and went on to feature in top-brand TVCs, ramp shows, and acting projects. Last year, she made her film debut with *Shoroter Joba*.

As we spoke, they expressed their love and care for each other, with a hint of teasing. "He's an incredibly supportive partner," Nidra shared. "He understands whenever I'm home late—that's the advantage of being in the same profession. At the same time, he ensures that I'm comfortable and well-rested after a long day on set," added the *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* actress.

While this side of her husband won her heart, Prantar shared his admiration for Nidra's cooking. "She's an amazing cook and completely changed how I eat. I used to rush through meals, mixing and swallowing to save time. But she taught me to savour each dish separately and appreciate that eating is a form of art."

Nidra shared her surprise at observing Prantar's newfound love for pets after marriage. "He never had pets before and was initially a bit uneasy around animals, though he liked them. But once, while I was away for a shoot, he bonded deeply with our cat, Fighter. That really impressed me. Now, with three cats and a dog, he loves them as much as I do—and that makes me fall for him over and over again."

Like any other couple, do they argue?

"Definitely", Prantar admitted. "But we have a rule—no matter what, we will never disrespect each other," Nidra added, "When we fight, we don't blame each other; instead, we focus on finding the root of the problem. But since I'm the short-tempered one, I tend to have outbursts of anger."

For their first Valentine's Day together, Nidra surprised Prantar by decorating the entire room with hundreds of balloons. "Being an asthma patient, I blew over 200 balloons myself just for him," she shared. Prantar added, "Nidra is expressive, while I'm the opposite. But as we continue this journey together, we're gradually becoming more like the other every day."

Despite working on multiple projects together, including *Shokher Nari*, Nidra and Prantar couldn't collaborate on a Valentine's Day project this year, even after receiving offers. "My father has been diagnosed with cancer, and I'm dedicating my time to him—from his treatment to overseeing everything," Nidra shared.

However, they will reunite on an

upcoming fiction by Mehdi Hasan. "I enjoyed shooting this project the most because there was a scene where I had to beat Prantar—I gave it my best shot by channeling all the annoyance I had toward him," Nidra laughed.

Having recently wrapped up a web series, Prantar is now gearing up for his next film shoot.

As colleagues in the same industry, they appreciate, critique, and advise each other. "Nidra helps me prepare for roles, guiding me on the right amount of effort to put in—neither too much nor too little. I believe this has made my performances more impactful," Prantar shared.

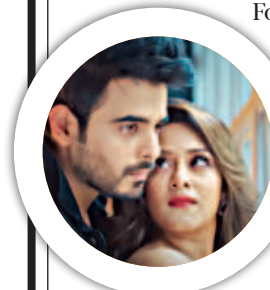
Despite their busy schedules, they make time to watch each other's work and offer feedback. "I loved his performance in *Tithidor*, but I deliberately avoid some of his projects that I feel I shouldn't watch as his wife," Nidra shared. Prantar, however, believes that whatever happens on-screen is part of their profession and never takes it personally. Prantar thinks that one of Nidra's finest performances was in *Hasher Salon*, an episode of *Adhunik Bangla Hotel*.

Nidra and Prantar's relationship is built on mutual respect, shared passions, and immense support, both on and off-screen.



NIDRA'S OUTFIT: AGSTAR
PRANTAR'S ATTIRE: UMAAB
NIDRA'S MAKEUP SPONSOR: MAKEOVER FINESSE BY
FARHANA CHAITTY
PHOTOS: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'Jongli's' first romantic track impresses listeners



Following the unveiling of the protagonist's new look for the much-anticipated movie *Jongli*, its first song, *Jonom Jonom*, was officially released. The music video for this romantic track features the dynamic pairing of Siam Ahmed and Prarthana Fardin Dighi.

The song premiered last Wednesday on the Tiger Media YouTube channel and has already started receiving immense appreciation from fans — many of whom recreated dance and cinematic reels using the song within 20 hours of its release.

With *Jonom Jonom*, Siam Ahmed makes a return to his signature "chocolate boy" persona, a moniker that fans have long associated with him. His effortless charm, combined with Dighi's graceful performance, adds to the song's appeal, making it a standout romantic number.

Jonom Jonom's lyrics and composition were crafted by the legendary Prince Mahmud, while Tahsan Khan and Atiya Anisha lent their voices to it. The musical arrangement was handled by popular music director Imran Mahmudul, further enhancing the song's emotional depth.

British Railways to honour 30 years of 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'



This year, as Britain's railway system prepares to celebrate the 200th anniversary of modern railways with its *Railway 200* campaign, it has also announced an exciting partnership with Yash Raj Films (YRF) to commemorate 30 years of the iconic Bollywood classic *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (DDLJ).

As part of this initiative, Yash Raj Films (YRF) will present *Come Fall In Love - The DDLJ Musical* to celebrate both milestones. The production will be helmed by Aditya Chopra, the visionary behind *DDLJ*.

The film, starring Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, was largely shot in the UK, with their first encounter at London's King's Cross Station. Trains played a key role in this beloved film, strengthening its ties to British culture.

Set to debut at the Manchester Opera House on May 29, 2025, the production aims to capture the film's magic on stage with an English-language performance and an original score.

Indywood secures global sales rights for 'Boli'

Indywood Distribution Network (IDN) has officially taken on the international sales rights for *Boli (The Wrestler)*, Bangladesh's official submission for the 97th Academy Awards in the International Feature Film category. The film, which also clinched the top honour at the Busan International Film Festival, is now set for worldwide representation.

Indywood is set to showcase *Boli* at the European Film Market (EFM), held alongside the Berlin International Film Festival, to secure broader global distribution.

Directed by Iqbal H Chowdhury, the film centres on Moju (Nasir Uddin Khan), a seasoned fisherman and former wrestling coach, who dares to take on reigning champion Dofor (AKM Itmam). His decision sparks turmoil, deeply affecting his son Shafu (Angel Noor) and newlywed wife Rashu (Priyam Archi).

Described by Variety as a "slow-burning exploration



of obsession," the film has drawn attention for its unconventional narrative.

Both Indywood's Shyam Kurup and director Chowdhury shared their enthusiasm about introducing *Boli* to a global audience through EFM.

Screens rife with Valentine's delights



Pritom, *Ghumpori* will premiere on February 20.

On February 18, Binge will release Vicky Zahed's web-film, *Neel Shukh*. Known for thrillers, Vicky explores romance this time, though the trailer hints at his signature genre. The project marks the first collaboration between Mehazabien Chowdhury and Forrukh Ahmed Rehan.

Meanwhile, iScreen is set to premiere *Ashbe Ki Phire?*, directed by Sagar Jahan and starring Khairul Basar and Tanjin Tisha, it will be released today.

Bongo will also introduce *Next Door*



A host of web-films and dramas are set for release this Valentine's Day, adding to the festive fervour. Let's take a look at the entertainment delights lined up for audiences to watch.

Chorki has unveiled the poster for its latest web-film, *Ghumpori*, featuring Tanjin Tisha, Parsha Mahjabeen, and Pritom Hasan. The tagline, "Everyone loves, but how many truly hold on?", has piqued audience curiosity, especially given Pritom Hasan's previous Valentine's release, *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya*, which gained significant attention last year. Directed by Zahid



Neighbour, a lighthearted love story marking Mahmuda Sultana Reema's directorial debut. Starring Aisha Khan and Partho Sheikh, the drama will premiere tomorrow.

Several dramas have already premiered on YouTube. Among them, *Samudrancela*, starring Shohel Mondol and Tania Islam, is now available on Barfi Productions' channel. *Ladies Perfume*, featuring Mosharraf Karim and Jannatul Sumaiya Heme, is streaming on RTV Drama. Another project, *Prothom Premier Golpo*, directed by Rubel Anush and starring Partho Sheikh and Farin

Khan, premiered on Eleven's YouTube channel.

Meanwhile, awaiting release are several highly anticipated dramas, including *Reflection of Love*, starring Yash Rohan and Tania Brishti; *Bosontobowri*, featuring Khairul Basar and Tanjin Tisha; and *Dur Theke Bhalobashi*, starring Yash Rohan and Totini.

Additionally, *Mon Duyari*, marking Apurba and Naznin Niha's first on-screen pairing, has generated excitement online. Directed by Zakaria Soukhin, it is set to release on CMV's YouTube channel on February 15.



28 hurt after car drives into Munich crowd

Afghan asylum-seeker arrested

REUTERS, Munich

Some 28 people were injured when a 24-year-old Afghan asylum seeker drove a car into a crowd of people in Munich yesterday, in what the state premier said was probably an attack, as the German city prepared to host a top-level security conference.

Police in the southern city said a car approached police vehicles stopped by a demonstration held by the Verdi union before speeding up and hitting people.

"It was probably an attack," Bavaria state premier Markus Soeder told reporters. Bavaria's interior minister said he did not suspect there was a connection to the conference.

Police said they had detained the driver and did not consider him to pose any further threat.



Police work at the scene where a car drove into a crowd in Munich, Germany, yesterday. The suspected attack came hours before leading international figures, including US Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, were in the city for the high-profile Munich Security Conference, which starts today.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump orders US diplomats to speak with 'one voice'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday ordered the "reform" of the US diplomatic corps, effectively curtailing any dissent against his policies.

"Failure to faithfully implement the President's policy is grounds for professional discipline, including separation," the order, entitled "One Voice For America's Foreign Relations," said.

Hamas committed to Gaza ceasefire

Says the Palestinian group, confirms it will release Israeli hostages as planned

AFP, Jerusalem

Hamas said yesterday it was committed to honouring a truce with Israel that is facing its worst crisis since it took effect, and added that mediators were pushing for hostages to be released this weekend as planned.

Palestinian sources reported progress in efforts to salvage the ceasefire which was plunged into uncertainty after Hamas warned it would not release hostages tomorrow, citing Israeli violations.

Israel hit back, saying that if Hamas failed to free captives on schedule, it would resume

its war in Gaza.

"We are keen to implement it (the ceasefire) and oblige the occupation to fully abide by it. Mediators are pressuring (Israel) to complete the full implementation of the agreement, oblige the occupation to abide by the humanitarian protocol, and resume the exchange process on Saturday," Hamas spokesman Abdel Latif al-Qanou said.

A Palestinian source said mediators had obtained from Israel a "promise... to put in place a humanitarian protocol starting from this morning".

Egyptian state-linked media said

construction equipment, including bulldozers and trucks carrying mobile homes, was ready to enter Gaza from Egypt.

US President Donald Trump had warned that "hell" would break loose if the Palestinian group failed to release "all" the hostages by noon on Saturday.

The truce, currently in its first phase, has seen Israeli captives released in small groups in exchange for Palestinians in Israeli custody.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has urged Hamas to proceed with the planned release and "avoid at all costs resumption of hostilities in Gaza".

Grit amid resistance from Muslim league

FROM PAGE 12

In early March that year, following the central programme, the Kishoreganj Bhasha Sangram Parishad (Language Struggle Committee) was formed with Abdul Wadud Chowdhury as its convener, according to the book "Bhasha Andolon Anchoilik Itihash" by Dr Abu Md Delowar Hossain.

Other members included Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan, Ashraf Uddin Master, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Professor Habibur Rahman, Narendra Chandra Ghosh, Jagdish Pandit, and others.

Meanwhile, members of the Muslim League's reactionary faction began collecting signatures in support of Urdu as the state language, instead of Bangla.

At the same time, an organisation was formed with madrasa students and teachers, under the leadership of Maulana Ataur Ali, Musleh Uddin, and Saidur Rahman. It campaigned for Urdu as the state language and actively obstructed the activities of the Language Movement.

However, despite their efforts, the movement continued to gain momentum.

Targeting March 11, as the main day of the movement, posters, leaflets and more were distributed across the district as part of a widespread campaign to gather public support.



Gurudayal College Shaheed Minar

A full-scale hartal and strike were observed and separate protest rallies were organised from Islamia Hostel, Gurudayal College, and Tarun Library. On January 27, 1952, Pakistan's Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin declared Urdu as the state language, prompting the students and locals of Kishoreganj to erupt in protest.

A united Sarbodoliyo Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All-Party Students' Struggle Committee) was formed, with Hedayet Hossain at the helm. Other members included Abu Taher Khan Pathan, AB Siddiq, Nazrul Islam, Shahadat Chowdhury, and others.

According to "Bhasha Andolon Ieknaf theke Tentulia" by Ahmad Rafiq, while most religious institutions in Kishoreganj opposed the movement, the Jamiyate Telabiya Arabiya extended its full cooperation and support

to the movement.

In accordance with the central programme, a large-scale campaign was carried out across the district, with February 21 designated as the central day of the movement. Leaflets were distributed and blowhorn announcements were made.

On February 21, another full-scale hartal was observed throughout the district. Students from various educational institutions, including Gurudayal College, Ramanand High School, Sarjubala Girls' High School, Azim Uddin High School, and more, brought out processions that marched throughout the city. The main slogan being chanted was "Rashtrobhasha Bangla chai! (We want Bangla as the state language!)"

However, demonstrators in some places faced resistance from followers of the Muslim League and Nezam-e-Islam.

According to the book

"Bhasha Andolon Kosh Volume-1" by M Abdul Alim, the news of students being killed by police in Dhaka reached Kishoreganj on February 22, causing uproar across the district. A mass procession, joined by people from all walks of life and organised by the Rashtrobhasha Sangram Parishad (State Language Struggle Committee), paraded the entire city. On the day, students at Gurudayal College Hostel hoisted black flags and organised a funeral, while protest meetings were held at the Public Library and Shah Mosque.

In Kishoreganj's Bajitpur upazila, students from Rajkumar Edward Institute also brought out a mourning procession, which marched through local markets and several villages.

A full-scale hartal was imposed in the district even on February 23. A protest meeting, presided over by Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, was conducted at the city's playground. Others at the meeting included Abu Taher Khan Pathan, Ashraf Uddin Master, Rashidur Rahman Chowdhury, Aminul Haque and more.

On February 25, students and locals constructed a Shaheed Minar.

That same day, however, police issued arrest warrants for Abu Taher Khan Pathan, Ashraf Uddin Master, Aminul Haque and Sundar Ali for their involvement in the movement.

said, adding that before the release of the UN report, the necessary reforms in the laws of the International Crimes Tribunal had already been made.

"The UN expresses concerns about the moratorium on the death penalty, suggesting that it should be suspended. But since our judges have the power to decide on the type of punishment, that matter will be addressed later."

Dhaka already sent necessary docs to Delhi

FROM PAGE 12

swift extradition of fugitive criminals.

Rafiqul said all required documents from the relevant ministry were included in the extradition request under the treaty.

Regarding the timing of the reminder, Rafiqul described it as both a diplomatic and political decision, saying, "A reminder will be sent when the leadership deems it appropriate."

So far, India has not responded to Bangladesh's request. "We continue to expect a response from India," Rafiqul said.

Bangladesh has been awaiting a reply and was expected to send a reminder after a certain period if no response was received from New Delhi. The next step will be determined based on India's reply.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that India received the extradition request from Bangladesh's interim government.

National consensus

FROM PAGE 12

after commencing its work on February 15. Following its deliberations, the commission will submit recommendations for necessary actions. Its primary mandate is to engage with political parties and stakeholders of the 2024 uprising to build a national consensus on reforms related to elections, public administration, the judiciary, anti-corruption measures, and police activities.

The Chief Adviser's Office will manage the commission's secretarial duties, while the government will determine the commission's office location.

12 CU students

FROM PAGE 12

front of the hall, Saiful said. In the other incident, two students were accused of hurting religious sentiments by making derogatory comments on Islam on Facebook, the registrar said.

One of them was suspended for two years while the other for one year, he added.

INDIAN STATE OF MANIPUR President's rule imposed days after CM's resignation

TNN, New Delhi

India's ministry of home affairs yesterday announced that President's Rule has been imposed in Manipur. This came days after Manipur chief minister (CM) Biren Singh tendered his resignation to the governor of the state.

"Whereas, I, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, have received a report from the Governor of the State of Manipur and after considering the report and other information received by me, I am satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India," the notification released by the MHA read.

Yunus, Musk discuss

FROM PAGE 12

how high-speed, low-cost internet connectivity could bridge the digital divide in Bangladesh, strengthen education, healthcare, and economic development in underserved regions, and give millions of small and micro entrepreneurs access beyond the national boundary.

Prof Yunus stated that integrating Starlink's connectivity into Bangladesh's infrastructure would create new opportunities for millions and integrate the country more closely into the global digital economy.

He further expressed his enthusiasm for working alongside Musk to unlock the full potential of technology-driven social and economic growth.

Prof Yunus said Starlink would be an extension of Grameen Bank and Grameenphone's pioneering of connecting village women and young people to the world.

"They would become global women and kids and global entrepreneurs," he said.

Musk, in turn, praised the

Grameen Bank microfinance model, acknowledging its global impact on poverty alleviation.

The Tesla founder said he was familiar with the work of both Grameen Bank and Grameen Village Phone.

He expressed his belief that leveraging technological advancements such as Starlink could further drive innovation, economic empowerment, and financial inclusion in Bangladesh. Prof Yunus invited Musk to visit Bangladesh for the potential launch of Starlink services, underscoring the significance of this initiative for national development, to which Musk responded positively.

"I look forward to it," Musk said.

This engagement marks a significant step toward bringing advanced satellite connectivity to Bangladesh, fostering economic growth, digital inclusion, and innovation across the nation.

Both sides agreed to make speedy progress on this initiative and mandated High Representative Rahman, Dreyer and Griffiths to coordinate further work.

Make sure law enforcers

FROM PAGE 2

Muhammad Yunus, has pledged security sector reform. HRW noted that the government launched "Operation Devil Hunt" following violent protests earlier this month, arresting nearly 2,000 people—mostly supporters of the deposed AL government.

The operation was triggered after a clash on February 8 centring an attack at the home of a former minister. Protesters had earlier demolished the home of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which had been converted into a memorial museum.

In a statement, the interim government said the operation targeted groups "linked to the fallen autocratic regime", describing them as "devils", says the HRW statement.

Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at HRW, said, "Bangladesh is

politically polarised after decades of repression by the Awami League government, but the authorities should not repeat mistakes of the past and should instead ensure impartial rule of law."

"As the United Nations has said, the interim government should focus on urgent reforms to the political system and economic governance."

The HRW statement mentioned Yunus also called for calm and he said that respecting the rule of law is "what differentiates the new Bangladesh we are working together to build from the old Bangladesh under the fascist regime".

"However, the government should also recognise that the right to peaceful assembly and protest, even by supporters of the former authoritarian government, is a fundamental right protected under international law," it said.

The rights group advised

the Yunus government to consider bringing a consensus resolution at the upcoming UN Human Rights Council session in March to request technical assistance, further investigations, and monitoring and reporting by UN-backed human rights experts.

It said the resolution should also acknowledge the tyranny of the previous administration and recognise positive human rights steps taken by the interim government.

"Bangladeshis are angry over the repression by the Hasina administration and they deserve justice and accountability, but it has to be a rights-respecting manner," HRW's Ganguly said.

"All crimes, including mob violence, should be punished, but when authority figures characterise opponents as the 'devil,' it can fuel abuses by security forces that have never faced accountability."

UN report will be used as evidence

FROM PAGE 2

home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and used deadly weapons on people, he said.

The UN fact-finding committee in its report clearly states that crimes against humanity were committed during this period.

Those responsible for giving commands are Hasina, Quader and Asaduzzaman.

"The UN report clearly states that around 1,400 people were killed in the July massacre, and approximately 14,000 people were injured. State forces, including intelligence agencies, were involved in these killings. Women and children were specifically targeted; 118 children were among the victims. Those who were injured were prevented from receiving medical

treatment."

The UN report recommends suspending the officers involved in these killings from the state forces to ensure an impartial trial.

"If these officers are not suspended or dismissed, witnesses will be afraid to testify, which will disrupt the judicial process."

The UN has also recommended reforms in the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973, he

Horrific details of July massacre

UN report gives damning proof of Hasina's fascist role

We welcome the long-awaited release of the fact-finding report of the United Nations Human Rights Office about the crimes and abuses committed by the Awami League government during the July-August uprising. And as expected, it provides conclusive proof of the systematic brutalities inflicted upon protesters as well as Sheikh Hasina's role in orchestrating them. This should put to rest any lingering attempts—domestic or international—to distort, downplay, or whitewash the atrocities the regime carried out in a desperate bid to retain power. The facts are now indisputable, so the path to justice should be clearer than ever before.

In its 114-page report, the UN, based on testimonies from senior security officials, confirms that Hasina herself ordered security forces to kill protesters. On July 19, she explicitly instructed them to “arrest the ringleaders of the protests, the troublemakers, kill them and hide their bodies.” Her trusted lieutenant, then-home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, reinforced this directive in meetings with top security officials, ordering the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to use lethal force. These instructions and consequent measures paved the path for the killing of as many as 1,400 people—including many children—in what the UN describes as “crimes against humanity.” Other findings of the report are equally chilling.

It states that protesters were shot at point-blank range and killed. It identifies the integrated role of at least seven security forces, including the Army, BGB, and RAB, as well as ruling party activists, who coordinated to arbitrarily harass, arrest, torture, and even execute protesters. The details provided by the report about these developments, and the roles played by both security and intelligence agencies, are shocking. The report also sheds light on the sexual violence committed against women protesters as part of a broader strategy to suppress dissent. It reveals that officers also obstructed medical care for injured protesters, intimidating doctors and pressuring them to falsify medical reports or deny treatment to victims. Forensic pathologists were forced to misclassify causes of death, erasing proof of extrajudicial killings. There were also frequent internet blackouts to disrupt protesters' ability to organise.

Following the unveiling of the report, the UN rights chief has rightly called for additional criminal investigations to determine the full extent of these violations. For now, it is only appropriate that the ongoing trials of former regime figures and officials incorporate these findings as evidence, which the chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) said they would. The UN, however, said it would not share evidence from its investigation with Bangladesh unless the trials meet international standards. There are certain issues that may stand in the way of a UN approval of the justice process, but we hope for the sake of the victims that those will be resolved soon. It is also vital that past crimes by the Awami regime, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions, are tried and those responsible held to account. The UN has made a number of recommendations in its report, which too must be seriously considered and acted on.

Justice for Aynaghar victims

The horrors of torture cells must not be allowed to happen again

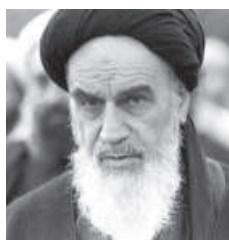
We are appalled to have finally witnessed the insides of secret detention centres known as Aynaghar, where individuals were imprisoned—some for eight to nine years—by security forces of the Sheikh Hasina regime. During a visit to these locations in Dhaka by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and others, chilling details about these torture cells once again came to light. Some of the survivors who accompanied the chief adviser identified the cells where they had been held, recounting the horrific experiences they had endured there. As their photos were published, other survivors also recognised some of the places. These cells stand as a stark reminder of the ousted regime's fascist rule which should never be repeated.

After the political changeover on August 5, many victims of enforced disappearances were released from secret detention centres. We came to know about their experience from interviews and statements. Later, the interim government formed a commission to investigate these cases, and according to its interim report, a total of 1,676 complaints were filed against various government agencies, including RAB, DGFI, DB, CTTC, CID, and the police. Of these, 758 complaints have been verified, revealing that 73 percent of the victims have returned while the remaining 27 percent (comprising at least 204 individuals) are still missing.

The level of brutality inflicted upon these people is beyond belief. Photos and videos released by the chief adviser's press wing show that the detention centres contain tiny cells where almost no light or air can reach. One cell was found to be only three feet by one foot, with a toilet occupying two handspans of space, leaving just two feet for someone to sit with their knees folded. There are cells even smaller than a chicken coop. It has been observed that several modifications were made to the cells, and the walls were repainted to destroy evidence.

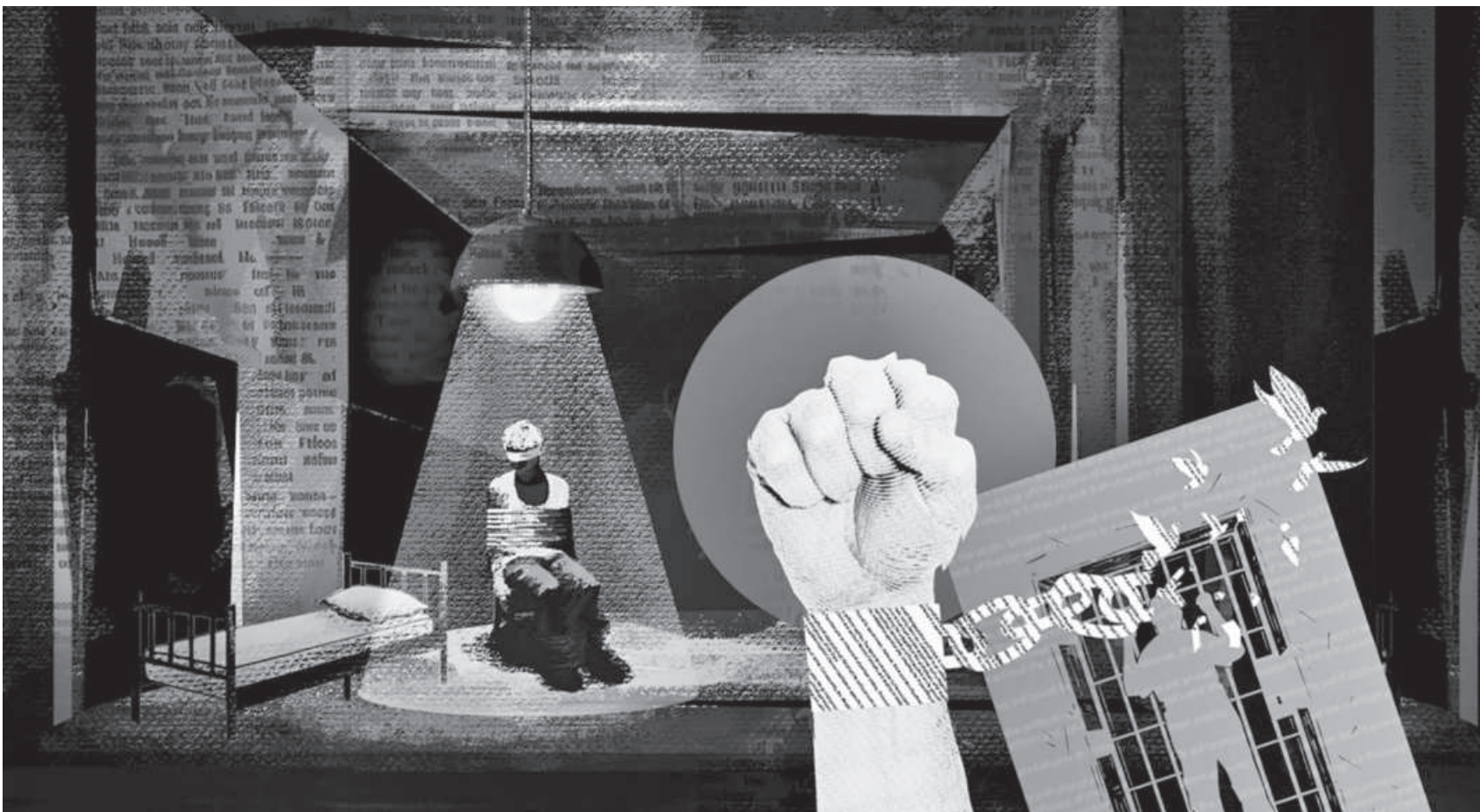
Reportedly, the commission identified more than eight secret detention centres. However, the actual number is believed to be around 700-800, spread across the country. We urge the government to identify all such centres and initiate legal proceedings against those involved in their operations as well as the crimes committed there. It is crucial that the horrors of Aynaghar are not allowed to recur under any circumstances in the future.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Khomeini issues fatwa against Salman Rushdie

On this day in 1989, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran issued a fatwa and offered a bounty for the assassination of author Salman Rushdie, whose novel *The Satanic Verses* (1988) Khomeini denounced as blasphemous.



FILE VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

How the ex-PM used and abused intelligence agencies

We need legal frameworks to prevent their future misuse



THE THIRD VIEW
Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

Two remarkable things happened last Wednesday—the chief advisor visited “Aynaghar” (House of Mirrors), the secret torture cells set up by security and intelligence agencies to confine, interrogate, psychologically break, demoralise, and physically torture a select group of opponents and dissenters whom the political governments of day wanted either eliminated or at least tortured and intimidated into submission.

On the same date, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued its long-awaited report on the Sheikh Hasina government's handling of the July uprising and the killings that took place. The UN fact-finding mission, citing senior security officials, stated: “The prime minister herself told the security force officials to kill protesters to quell the protests and specifically demanded ‘arrest the ringleaders of the protests, the troublemakers, kill them and hide their bodies.’” The report quoted testimonials from a meeting held on July 19, 2024. This, seen in conjunction with party secretary general, Obaidul Quader's statement to the press on the same day that security forces had been given orders to “shoot on sight,” reveals the diabolical mindset that appears to have dominated the thinking of the former prime minister. The previous day, July 18, the home minister, chairing a meeting of the “core committee,” told the BGB commander “to order the use of lethal force more readily.”

Nothing could have revealed the atrocious levels to which our intelligence agencies had descended more than the chief advisor's visit to the “Aynaghar.” We owe it to the Sweden-based Netra News for breaking the news in 2022 about the secret torture centres set up by the DGFI to torture political opponents. We carried the news one week later. Those of us who operated inside the country were highly constrained and took courage in seeing some Bangladeshi fellow journalists doing the unthinkable.

As we fret over, write about, and condemn what happened, the real challenge is to take effective steps to prevent it all from happening again. The OHCHR has made some vital recommendations that we must now implement—ones that were prevented from being put into practice in the past. We hope that the spirit of the July uprising will ensure nothing similar happens now.

A crucial recommendation is to reform the colonial-era Police Act of 1861. It is quite incredible that we have lived with it even after over 53 years of independence. We have been demanding police reforms for years, especially training them to become a force for the people instead of being an instrument of violence against them.

They need to be trained in modern tactics for handling protests and controlling crowds. Given our history of spirited and immensely politically relevant student movements, our police should have received special training for peaceful crowd control. Instead, they retained the colonial-era habits of violently attacking demonstrators, beating them, and resorting to lethal weapons. Then, of course, there is torture in custody, which has resulted in many deaths.

We have protested for decades the use of lethal weapons to disperse crowds. None of our elected governments made any attempt to reform the police, though both of our main political parties—the Awami League and BNP—were victims of police atrocities while in opposition. In this regard, the suggestion to set up an independent commission to investigate police violations of the law, modernise investigation techniques, reduce mass criminal charges and arrests, and minimise reliance on coerced confessions needs urgent implementation. The establishment of a National Police Commission for fair, transparent, and merit-based recruitment also deserves swift action.

Nothing could have revealed the atrocious levels to which our intelligence agencies had descended more than the chief advisor's visit to the 'Aynaghar.' We owe it to the Sweden-based Netra News for breaking the news in 2022 about the secret torture centres set up by the DGFI to torture political opponents. We carried the news one week later. Those of us who operated inside the country were highly constrained and took courage in seeing some Bangladeshi fellow journalists doing the unthinkable.

Regarding institutionalised impunity and a politically pliant justice sector, the recommendation to establish a genuinely independent judiciary reflects a long-expressed desire of our people. The suggestion to create an independent mechanism for the recruitment of judges, protection against intimidation, and guaranteed tenure must also be implemented urgently.

The setting up of an independent public prosecution service and a witness protection programme would greatly contribute to dispensing justice.

A most serious issue highlighted in the UN report is the use and abuse of intelligence agencies, especially the DGFI and NSI, by the political masters of the day. The “Aynaghar” detention and torture centres would not have been set up unless the DGFI and others complied. The relevant question is: did they have the option not to?

The DGFI is mostly manned by members of the armed forces but does

not report to the army hierarchy. It reports to the Prime Minister's Office and, as such, must obey the orders of the political masters of the day. So, the crucial question is: what can that institution do if ordered to undertake illegal activities, as most dramatically exemplified by the establishment of “Aynaghars.” Its complicity in forced disappearances, human rights violations, arbitrary confinements, and many other abuses is well known. It is a fact that all governments—both military and civilian—used the DGFI for their own political goals. However, under Sheikh Hasina, it reached its most coercive height. Not only was it used to intimidate, torture, and punish political opponents, but it was also used to fulfil the agendas of notorious private companies—such as capturing banks and securing lucrative contracts. This led to massive corruption. Such misuse of this vital intelligence agency, closely linked to our national security, not only greatly damaged its image and reputation but also compromised its integrity, independence, and ability to serve the nation.

It is our considered view that all our intelligence agencies, especially the DGFI and NSI, must be prevented from being misused by future elected governments. And this is the moment to do it. No past governments did it. And future ones are unlikely to do so, as these agencies are the most convenient tools for oppressing the opposition and implementing highly partisan goals.

Political powers also used the DGFI to intimidate the free and independent media. Private companies were

Most importantly, an institutional governance structure—with clear channels of communication, supervision, and accountability—must be set up to provide all intelligence agencies with clear mandates so that each institution and those working in them know what they are expected to do, and what falls outside their mandate. This will give each institution and their chiefs the right and the legal cover to refuse performing any tasks which fall outside of their mandates. The vagueness of current mandates allows political leadership to misuse them. In today's world, the term “security” is used to justify actions that create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. It must also be mentioned that some overenthusiastic individuals within these institutions allowed such abuses because it gave

In its obsession with remaining in power, Sheikh Hasina's government distorted and misused all institutions, including the judiciary, bureaucracy, police, and intelligence agencies. This facilitated the creation of the fascistic ruling structure from which we have now been freed by the student-led people's uprising.

them a chance to take advantage of the situation for personal aggrandisement. After all, a sense of unlimited power triggers many unwarranted things within a person.

We must establish an independent and democratic oversight institution that will help govern them better and also prevent their political, partisan, and sometimes even personal misuse. There must also be fiduciary transparency in regard to budget and their utilisation. Examples abound all over the world where powerful intelligence agencies are monitored by parliamentary or other independent oversight bodies. All intelligence agencies—DGFI, NSI, SB, DB—would benefit from such oversight, which will help them operate independently to serve national interest instead of partisan ones.

With the gradual collapse of the law-based world order, the necessity and rising relevance of intelligence agencies, particularly those linked to defence establishments, are greater than ever. We acknowledge this need. However, we must also ensure that these institutions are trained, equipped, and elevated to global standards. For that to happen, we must eliminate political and partisan influence over these critical institutions.

Just as we value these institutions and need them to serve us better in handling our security issues, we also need the legal and governance related infrastructure to prevent the kind of abuse and misuse that we have witnessed and suffered from in recent years.

Devils, heroes, or something in between?



OF MAGIC AND MADNESS

Badiuzzaman Bay
is assistant editor at The Daily Star.

BADIUZZAMAN BAY

What’s in a name? Quite a lot, actually. Names define identities. Names shape perceptions. They also help set narratives, assign blame, and even influence outcomes. It, therefore, makes sense that the simple act of naming a “mob” has suddenly become contentious because of all the baggage it brings with it in present-day Bangladesh. This debate—triggered by the launch of the Operation Devil Hunt following renewed anti-fascist campaigns and Adviser Mahfuj Alam’s characterisation of mobs as “devils” in a stern warning to *Touhidi Janata*—was perhaps inevitable in a country reborn through a violent uprising by individuals who would have been branded terrorists or anarchist mobs, and severely punished, had they failed. In a remarkable turnaround, they are now national heroes, and rightly so.

The question is, who qualifies as a mob then? Can such a generic term even capture the diversity and nuances of different groups? While Mahfuz was more specific in his portrayal, the home ministry was less so as it alluded to “saboteurs who attacked students,” individuals with warrants against them, “troublemakers”, and even the eponymous “devils” as targets of the joint forces operation. This could encompass, among

shared aggression, whether a group is labelled as protesters, agitators, or simply a mob can lead to vastly different public perceptions and politico-legal consequences.

So before diving into these complexities, let’s establish the basics. A mob, by definition, is a large, disorderly crowd intent on causing disturbance or violence. If you search online, you will come across context-specific variations such as “woke mobs,” “vigilante mobs,” “nationalist mobs,” “religious mobs,” “troll mobs,” etc. I remember writing about “lynch mobs” in 2019 when mass hysteria over a bizarre rumour—that human heads were being collected for Padma Bridge construction—led to seven people being killed. As I argued back then, mob violence “is not justice—it’s what justice looks like when it is privatised and leased out to the most dominant groups in society.” And whatever form it takes, and however justified the motive seems to be, it remains unacceptable in a democratic system where due process and rule of law are considered sacrosanct.

Since the fall of the Awami League government, there has been a wave of mob-related incidents leaving debilitating effects across various sectors, including education. On Monday, a group of individuals besieged

that fostered deep-seated anger and distrust among people. While such behaviour cannot be condoned, things get trickier when the target of this anger is Awami League itself, or what remains of it.

The argument of those opposing the labelling of such acts as mob violence is, if I understand correctly, that any actions targeting the symbols of the ousted regime are necessary to prevent its resurgence.

self-evident.

But what if there are provocations? True, the Dhanmondi 32 demolition was largely a reaction to Sheikh Hasina’s virtual speech from India—an act that, given the trauma of her reign of terror, was bound to provoke outrage. Had she not shown the audacity to attempt a political comeback while evading justice for her many crimes, the destruction could perhaps have been avoided. But this reasoning

that the call to disrupt Hasina’s speech set off a domino effect of attacks, vandalism, and arson targeting Awami League-linked houses and establishments in as many as 35 districts. Will anti-fascist mobilisers take responsibility for these attacks, or the reputational damage thus caused to Bangladesh? The UN has already warned about meeting international standards in trials for the perpetrators of July-August massacre. We cannot expect fair justice and global support in our bid while condoning extrajudicial actions against the remnants of Awami League.

The reason we focus more on the Dhanmondi incident and its aftermath is because of the insistence by some anti-fascist voices on challenging the labelling of their supporters, as if they represent an organised force governed by strict discipline. The truth is, under the broad anti-fascist umbrella, numerous political and religious banners exist—just as there are many types of mobs emerging across the country. A mob, however you characterise it, cannot be expected to see reason or exercise restraint. It cannot distinguish between political and criminal actions, between “reactions” and “revenges,” or between legitimate targets and collateral damage.

Another danger of encouraging mobism is how easily it can morph into expressions of ideological fanaticism. For instance, the same mobs that destroyed Mujib’s murals and statues over the past months could feel emboldened to attack any structure, symbol or event that they perceive to be anti-religious. In fact, some already are. A recent video shows a man standing before the Raju Memorial Sculpture at Dhaka University, calling it an “idol” and urging its destruction. Monday’s book fair assault, the disruptions of women’s football matches in Joypurhat and Dinajpur, or the spate of attacks on shrines in recent months—all point to the effects of organised chaos and aggression.

As part of the Operation Devil Hunt, the authorities have so far detained nearly 3,000 individuals, many likely linked to mob-related incidents. But security crackdowns alone cannot prevent this trend. It demands deeper reflection. Should we continue to condone unregulated public outbursts? Should we so easily fall for “provocations?” Or can we channel our grievances into more structured responses that can solidify our transition to democracy, prevent the resurgence of any form of fascism, and restore Bangladesh’s global standing? Whatever we do, the idea of a mob must be left in the past.



It is crucial to understand the difference between fighting actual fascism and scoring symbolic victories in an already triumphant landscape.

FILE PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Theoretically, you cannot deny the logic—the gross human rights violations the party committed during July-August alone, as highlighted again by the just-released fact-finding report of the UN human rights office, make this non-negotiable. The question, however, is not about the goal but the methods being used to achieve it. After the uprising, there was broad consensus that what happened during this period, including the destruction of public property and infrastructure, served a greater cause, and as such, participants faced no legal repercussions. But should such concessions still be granted six months later, when the nation is trying to claw its way back to some much-needed stability? The answer is

tells only half the story, for expecting a former dictator to behave responsibly is a naivety we cannot afford at this stage.

What about our own responsibility to pre-empt her move, and more importantly, protect the greater interests of the nation? The anti-fascist camp’s headlong dive into a trap ostensibly designed to raise questions about the direction of “new Bangladesh” exposes the fallacy of their campaign. Understanding the difference between fighting actual fascism and scoring symbolic victories in an already triumphant landscape is crucial. Moreover, a mob is a deeply unstable force that may take on a will of its own once activated. It is no surprise

The honeymoon period of the interim government is over



THE STREET VIEW

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MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Six months into the tenure of Bangladesh’s interim government, led by Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, the country finds itself at a crossroads. What started as a moment of hope—a chance to break free from the chains of authoritarian rule—has increasingly turned into a struggle for meaningful reform. While the government has made strides in establishing reform commissions and investigating past human rights abuses, the promises of democracy, stability, and prosperity remain unfulfilled. In this critical moment, it is time to ask: can the interim government truly deliver, or will it fall victim to the same pitfalls that have plagued Bangladesh’s political system for decades?

The government came to power with lofty promises of change, yet six months later, much of that optimism has begun to fade. While some proposed reforms including limits on the prime minister’s tenure and a bicameral parliament could pave the way for stronger democratic institutions, these reforms are yet to materialise. Besides, the public is growing frustrated because of the lack of a clear roadmap for the future.

The greatest test for the interim government remains the economy. With inflation continuing to rise and essential goods becoming increasingly unaffordable, many Bangladeshis are questioning whether the government truly has a handle on the economic crisis. Despite some signs of stabilisation in certain sectors, the majority of the population still feels the weight of economic hardship. The absence of real relief for the people, coupled with continued market manipulation by syndicates, has only deepened the distrust in the government’s ability to address the crisis. Moreover, imposing VAT on some goods and services added salt

to the wounds, further burdening ordinary citizens who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Political instability remains another pressing issue. The question of when the next general election will take place has become a political flashpoint. Dr Yunus’s suggestion of holding elections between late 2025 and early 2026 may seem reasonable from a reform standpoint, but the opposition—led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party—demands a vote by

economy, curb inflation, and rein in market manipulation. These are not easy tasks, but they are necessary for the long-term health of the country.

Equally pressing is the issue of law and order. The reluctance of the police force to take action, fuelled by fear of retaliation for their role in suppressing the July-August protests, has left a dangerous security vacuum. Crime and mob violence are on the rise, and the public is losing confidence in the ability of law enforcement to protect them. The government must take immediate steps to restore law and order, ensuring that the police are held accountable while also protecting the rights of the people.

However, perhaps the most daunting challenge the interim government faces lies within its own bureaucracy. Bangladesh’s bureaucratic system is notorious for inefficiency, corruption, and an ingrained culture of

figures over their duty to the people, and many bureaucrats seem more focused on maintaining the status quo than implementing much-needed reforms. The situation has become so dire that even simple requests for services often result in frustration, delays, and, at times, exploitation.

The reform of this bureaucratic system is crucial if Bangladesh is to break free from its cycle of inefficiency and corruption. However, the government has been slow to tackle these deep-rooted problems. The failure to reform the civil service is not just an administrative issue—it’s a political one. Without addressing these systemic issues, the government will continue to be undermined by the very institutions it seeks to change. Reforming the bureaucracy is not a matter of tinkering with policies; it requires a fundamental shift in the culture and operations of the civil service.

Finally, the government must confront the spectre of past crimes and human rights abuses. The previous regime, led by the Awami League, is guilty of numerous atrocities, and many of its members have yet to be held accountable. The investigation process has been slow, and many ask whether those responsible will ever face justice. The interim government must ensure the judicial process remains independent and transparent, allowing for true accountability without political interference.

The time for empty promises and political gamesmanship is over. If the interim government is to succeed, it must act swiftly and decisively. The people of Bangladesh deserve a government that will put their needs first, not one that is bogged down by bureaucracy, political favouritism, and economic mismanagement. True reform will require more than just words—it will require action, accountability, and a clear vision for the future.

In the coming months, the government will face a crucial test: can it overcome the challenges that have plagued Bangladesh’s political system for so long, or will it become just another failed experiment in transitional rule? The answer will determine not only the future of this government but the future of Bangladesh itself.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

mid-2025. With no clear consensus on the election timeline, political uncertainty continues to fester. Moreover, allegations of government favouritism towards certain political groups have only deepened divisions, raising concerns about the neutrality of the administration.

If the interim government is to survive, it must address these challenges head-on. The lack of a concrete election roadmap is a major source of instability, and it must be resolved as quickly as possible. Similarly, the government must take decisive action to stabilise the

authoritarianism. These issues are not easily addressed, and the government’s struggle to reform the civil service is becoming increasingly apparent. The red tape and lack of accountability in public sector have often hindered progress on numerous fronts.

Despite the government’s call for reform, many citizens still find themselves entangled in a web of bureaucracy that stifles action and delays change. Long-standing issues such as corruption, inefficiency, and the disregard for citizens’ rights persist within the civil service. Public servants often prioritise loyalty to political

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

CROSS

- 1 Golf goals
- 5 Yellowstone animal
- 9 Steer clear of
- 11 Doctor’s reading
- 12 Island off Naples
- 13 Happened
- 14 Even score
- 15 Sent
- 17 Lost one’s footing
- 19 Scrollwork shape
- 20 Condescending look
- 21 TV spots
- 22 Shiny finish
- 24 Sit-up targets
- 26 Bridge utterance
- 29 In the style of
- 30 Cut off
- 32 Passed over
- 34 “The Last Jedi” role
- 35 Shire of “Rocky”
- 36 Steer clear of
- 38 Vote in
- 39 Indy entrant
- 40 Frees (of)

41 Garden sections

DOWN

- 1 Accords
- 2 Uses
- 3 Entice
- 4 Knight’s title
- 5 Post-dinner sound
- 6 Wed in secret
- 7 Evaluate
- 8 Marsh plants
- 10 Put to rest
- 11 Bill stamp
- 16 Jane Eyre, for one
- 18 Cribbage markers
- 21 Memo letters
- 23 Web spinner
- 24 Acid’s opposite
- 25 Dealt with a leak, maybe
- 27 Evergreen tree
- 28 Like ranked players
- 29 Fall flower
- 30 Petty fight
- 31 Textile workers
- 33 Photos
- 37 Chemist’s place



SATURDAY’S ANSWERS

A	W	A	I	T	S		M	A	Z	E
B	O	R	N	E	O		A	L	A	S
C	O	M	E	T	O	G	R	I	P	S
			V	O	T	E	S			
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S	T	I	R		S	T	Y	L	E	S
P	O	X		B	O	O		L	E	E
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	S	P	A	R		B	E	T	S	
			F	E	T	E	S			
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A	L	O	T		N	O	I	D	E	A
D	E	W		S	P	E	E	D	Y	

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
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বিশেষ ক্রোড়পত্র

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড

সহযোগিতায় : তথ্য অধিদপ্তর (পিআইডি) এবং চলচ্চিত্র ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তর (ডিএফপি), তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয়।



১ম উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
০১ ফাল্গুন ১৪৩১
১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫

বাণী

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও 'বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫' উপলক্ষ্যে আমি এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দেশের সমুদ্রচরী ও উপকূলীয় জনগণের কাছে অতি বিশ্বস্ত ও নির্ভরযোগ্য একটি বাহিনীর নাম। প্রতিষ্ঠার পর থেকেই দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ নদী ও সমুদ্রপথে এবং উপকূলীয় এলাকায় জনসাধারণের জ্ঞান ও মাল রক্ষা, চোরচালান প্রতিরোধ, মৎস্যসম্পদ রক্ষা, মাদক পাচার রোধ, বিভিন্ন প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগে ত্রাণ এবং উদ্ধার কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা ও জাতীয় স্বার্থ রক্ষায় এ বাহিনী অত্যন্ত কার্যকর ভূমিকা পালন করেছে। দেশের আমদানি-রপ্তানি বাণিজ্যের মূল কেন্দ্রবিন্দু চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর ও বহির্দেশের এলাকায় চুরি-ডাকাতি ও অপরাধ দমনে কোস্ট গার্ড অত্যন্ত সফলতার সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করে যাচ্ছে। এছাড়া দেশের জাতীয় সম্পদ রূপালি ইলিশ সংরক্ষণ, জটিকা নিধন রোধ এবং সমুদ্রে সরকার ঘোষিত মৎস্য অস্ত্রায়ণ ব্যস্তবায়নে এ বাহিনীর অবদান অনস্বীকার্য। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে দেশের পূর্বাঞ্চলে ভয়াবহ বন্যা পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলা ও দুর্গতদের জানমাল রক্ষায় কোস্ট গার্ডের ভূমিকা সর্বমহলে প্রশংসিত হয়েছে। আমি বন্যা, ঝড়, জলোচ্ছ্বাসসহ যে কোনো প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগে ত্রাণ ও উদ্ধার কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিতে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডকে কার্যকর পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের আহ্বান জানাই।

আমি আশা করি, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড- এর সকল সদস্য মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধ এবং জুলাই-আগস্ট ২০২৪ এর ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানের চেতনায় উজ্জীবিত হয়ে সততা, নিষ্ঠা ও পেশাদারিত্বের সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করবেন। বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দেশের জলসীমায় নজরদারি বৃদ্ধি এবং উপকূলীয় এলাকার নিরাপত্তা বিধানের মাধ্যমে জনগণের জীবনমান ও কাক্ষিত অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে আরো কার্যকর অবদান রাখবে- এটাই সকলের প্রত্যাশা।

আমি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড- এর উত্তরোত্তর সাফল্য কামনা করি।

বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

মোঃ সাহাবুদ্দিন



বাণী



২য় উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও 'কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫' উপলক্ষ্যে আমি এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আমার আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন। এই শুভক্ষণে আমি 'স্মরণ করছি মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের ৩০ লক্ষ শহিদ এবং জুলাই বিপ্লব/বৈষম্যবিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলনে শহিদ এবং আহত অসংখ্য ছাত্র জনতাকে। তাদের নিঃস্বার্থ আত্মত্যাগ, সাহস, একতা ও দেশপ্রেমের কারণে এ নতুন বাংলাদেশ গঠিত হয়েছে।

দীর্ঘ তিন দশকের পথ পরিক্রমায় বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দেশের উপকূলবর্তী জনসাধারণ, নাবিক, জেলে ও সমুদ্রগামী জনগোষ্ঠীর নিকট আস্থা ও নির্ভরতার প্রতীক হিসেবে ইতোমধ্যে নিজেদের সফলভাবে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছে। প্রতিষ্ঠালগ্ন হতে এ বাহিনীর প্রতিটি সদস্য দেশের উপকূলীয় দুর্গম এলাকাসমূহ, নদীপথ ও সমুদ্রসীমায় সার্বক্ষণিক উপস্থিতির মাধ্যমে জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রেখে চলেছে। দেশের উপকূলীয় এলাকাসহ সমগ্র জলভাগে জাতীয় স্বার্থ রক্ষায় এ বাহিনীর অবদান অনস্বীকার্য। কোস্ট গার্ডের সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য ক্রমাগত পুরাতন জাহাজ/বোট নতুন জাহাজ/বোট দ্বারা প্রতিস্থান প্রক্রিয়া চলমান আছে। এছাড়াও এ বাহিনীতে অত্যাধুনিক সমুদ্রগামী অফশোর প্যাট্রল ভেসেল, হোভারক্রাফট, হেলিকপ্টার ও উন্নত প্রযুক্তির দ্রুতগতি সম্পন্ন বোট সংযোজনের পরিকল্পনা করা হয়েছে। পাশাপাশি যোগাযোগ ও অপারেশনাল সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিতে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডে যুক্ত হয়েছে ভিসিটিউন প্রযুক্তি, যা দ্বারা গভীর সমুদ্রে টেলরত জাহাজের সাথে স্যাটেলাইটের মাধ্যমে নিরবচ্ছিন্ন দৃশ্যমান যোগাযোগ স্থাপন করে বিভিন্ন অপারেশনাল কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা ও পর্যবেক্ষণ করা সম্ভব হয়েছে।

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর নির্ভর নাবিকগণ উপকূলীয় অঞ্চলসহ দেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ জলসীমায় সার্বক্ষণিকভাবে দায়িত্ব পালনের মাধ্যমে সমুদ্র ও নদী বন্দরসমূহের নিরাপত্তা প্রদান, সমুদ্র পথে মাদক পাচার রোধ, মানব পাচার ও অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ রোধসহ আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষায় বিশেষ অবদান রেখে চলেছে। এছাড়াও বিভিন্ন ধরনের প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ যেমনঃ ঘূর্ণিঝড়, বন্যা, জলোচ্ছ্বাসে সাধারণ মানুষের চলে দাঁড়িয়ে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড জনগণের অকুণ্ঠ শ্রদ্ধা ও ভালোবাসা অর্জনে সক্ষম হয়েছে। ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থান পরবর্তী আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষায় বিভিন্ন অভিযানের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড অসাধারণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছে। সাময়িকভাবে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড একটি দক্ষ, আধুনিক ও শক্তিশালী বাহিনী হিসেবে জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা ও অর্থনীতিতে টেকসই অবদান রেখে চলেছে।

উন্নত ও সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ার প্রত্যয়ে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর প্রতিটি সদস্য সততা, শৃঙ্খলা ও নিষ্ঠার সাথে দায়িত্ব পালনে ব্রতী থাকবে মর্মে আমি আশা করি।

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডের ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫ সফল হোক। আমি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর উত্তরোত্তর সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

লেফটেন্যান্ট জেনারেল মোঃ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম চৌধুরী (অব)



বাণী



৩য় উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও 'কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫' উপলক্ষ্যে আমি এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যদের জানাই আন্তরিক মোবারকবাদ। আজকের এই শুভ দিনে আমি 'স্মরণ করছি মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ও জুলাই ২০২৪ বৈষম্যবিরোধী ছাত্র-জনতার আন্দোলনে শহিদ এবং আহত অসংখ্য ছাত্র জনতাকে। তাদের দুঃসাহসিক আত্মত্যাগের মহিমায় আজ সারা দেশের মানুষ একাবদ্ধ ও সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গঠনে বহুপরিকর।

দেশের উপকূলীয় ও গভীর সমুদ্রে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা নিশ্চিতকরণের পাশাপাশি সমুদ্র বন্দরের নিরাপত্তা প্রদান, মাদক ও মানব পাচার প্রতিরোধ, অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ রোধ, সন্ত্রাসবাদ প্রতিহতকরণ, মৎস্যসম্পদ রক্ষা ইত্যাদি কার্যক্রমে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডের ভূমিকা অনস্বীকার্য। এ সকল ভূমিকায় কার্যকরী অবদানের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দেশে এবং বহির্বিধে আজ সুপরিচিতি লাভ করেছে। পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগে উপকূলীয় মানুষের সহায়তায় বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড সকলের কাছে সুনাম অর্জন করেছে। বর্তমান অস্ত্রবর্তীকালীন সরকার অন্যতম নিদের সকল চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবিলায় কোস্ট গার্ডকে আরও আধুনিক ও যুগোপযোগী হিসেবে গড়ে তোলার প্রচেষ্টা অব্যাহত রেখেছে। দেশের বিশাল সমুদ্র উপকূলবর্তী এলাকাসহ অভ্যন্তরীণ নদীর তীর সংলগ্ন এলাকায় অত্যন্ত সফলভাবে দায়িত্ব পালনরত কোস্ট গার্ডের জবাবল বৃদ্ধিসহ সার্বিক উন্নয়ন এখন সময়ের দাবি। তাই এ বাহিনীর আধুনিকায়নে উন্নত প্রযুক্তির জাহাজ ও হেলিকপ্টার সংগ্রহের পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। স্যাটেলাইট সুবিধা ব্যবহার করে এ বাহিনীর যোগাযোগ সক্ষমতা বর্ধনের জন্য ভিসিটিউন স্থাপন করা হয়েছে। ভবিষ্যতে এ বাহিনী আরও যুগোপযোগী ও আধুনিক বাহিনী হিসেবে অর্পিত দায়িত্ব পালনে নিয়োজিত থাকবে বলে আমার দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস।

আমি আশা করি অদম্য কর্মস্পৃহা, দেশপ্রেম ও জনমানুষের আকাঙ্ক্ষা পূরণের চেতনায় উদ্বুদ্ধ হয়ে এ বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ দেশের সুবিশাল সমুদ্র এলাকায় নিরাপত্তা প্রদান, সমুদ্রসম্পদ রক্ষা ও সুনীল অর্থনীতিতে অবদান রাখাসহ সমুদ্র ব্যবহারকারীদের জানমাল রক্ষায় কার্যকর অবদান রাখবে। একইসাথে অভ্যন্তরীণ নদীপথে তাদের ভূমিকা পালন করে যেতে থাকবে।

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫ এর সফলতা কামনা করছি। মহান আল্লাহ তায়াল্লা আমাদের সহায় হোন।

সিনিয়র সচিব

দেশের উপকূল ও সমুদ্রসীমা প্রহরায় বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড

সদ্য আত্মপ্রকাশকৃত নতুন বাংলাদেশে নতুন উদ্দীপনায় দুর্দমনীয় গতিতে এগিয়ে চলেছে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড। এক উদার, গণতান্ত্রিক, বৈষম্যহীন, নিরাপদ উপকূল বিনির্মাণে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে চলেছে এ বাহিনী। বাংলাদেশের ১৯টি উপকূলীয় অঞ্চল ও তৎসংলগ্ন নদীতীরবর্তী এলাকা এবং বঙ্গোপসাগরের ১ লক্ষ ১৮ হাজার ৮১৩ বর্গ কিলোমিটার সুবিশাল সমুদ্র অঞ্চলের অর্থনৈতিক ও সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা দিতে ১৯৯৪ সালে 'Guardian at Sea' মূলমন্ত্র নিয়ে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয় এবং ১৯৯৫ সালের ১৪ই ফেব্রুয়ারি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডের পথ চলা শুরু হয়।

সূচনালগ্ন থেকেই আত্মমানবতার সেবায় সকল বাধা-বিপত্তিকে জয় করে এগিয়ে চলেছে কোস্ট গার্ড, যেমন করে জয় করে নিয়েছিলো ২০২৪ সালের জুলাই আগস্ট-এর রক্তভেজা দিনগুলো। আগারপা ও নির্বাচন কমিশন, সচিবালয় এবং উপকূলকেন্দ্রিক বিভিন্ন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠান, কল কারখানা, স্থাপনাসহ সকল ধরনের ধর্মীয় উপাসনালয়ের নিরাপত্তা বিধান ছাত্র-জনতার সাথে কাঁখে কাঁধ মিলিয়ে জনকল্যাণে ঝাপিয়ে পড়েছিলো কোস্ট গার্ডের প্রতিটি সদস্য।

উপকূলীয় ও নদী তীরবর্তী অঞ্চলে বাজপাখির ন্যায় তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে সর্বদা নজরদারি অব্যাহত রেখেছে কোস্ট গার্ড। নিয়মিত অভিযান চালিয়ে গত ৫ই আগস্ট হতে বিপুল পরিমাণ আয়োয়াজ, গোলাবারুদ ও মাদকসহ হাজার কোটি টাকা মূল্যের অবৈধ দ্রব্যাসমগ্রী আটক করেছে যার সংক্ষিপ্ত পরিসংখ্যান নিম্নরূপঃ

অভিযান/অপারেশনের নাম	সাফল্যের খতিয়ান
চোরাচালান প্রতিরোধ	চোরাচালান প্রতিরোধ অভিযান পরিচালনা করে ২২৮ কোটি ৪২ লক্ষ টাকার অবৈধ দ্রব্যাসমগ্রী আটক করা হয়।
মৎস্যসম্পদ রক্ষা	মৎস্যসম্পদ রক্ষায় ৫,০০০ কোটি টাকা মূল্যের ৭৮৭ কোটি মিটার জাল ও ২ লক্ষ কেজি জটিকা জব্দ করা হয়েছে, যার মাধ্যমে ১ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার কোটি টাকার প্রায় ৩০ লক্ষ টন মাছ তথা জাতীয় সম্পদ রক্ষা পেয়েছে।
মাদকদ্রব্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ	মাদক উদ্ধার অভিযানে ৬,২০,১০৯ পিস ইয়াবা, ৫১৪ বোতল দেশি-বিদেশি মদ, ৫০ কেজি গাঁজা ও ৪ কেজি ক্রিস্টাল ম্যাথ আইসসহ বিভিন্ন প্রকার মাদক দ্রব্য উদ্ধার করা হয় এবং ৬০ জনকে আটক করা হয়।
বনজ সম্পদ রক্ষা	প্রায় ৩০০ কোটি টাকা মূল্যের বিপুল পরিমাণ বনজ সম্পদ এবং বিভিন্ন বিপন্ন প্রাণী রক্ষা করা হয়।
পরিবেশ রক্ষা	প্রায় ১০০ কোটি টাকা মূল্যের নিষিদ্ধ পলিথিনসহ অন্যান্য পরিবেশ বিনষ্টকারী রাসায়নিক দ্রব্যাদি জব্দ করা হয়।
উদ্ধার অভিযান	নিয়মিত উদ্ধার অভিযান পরিচালনা করে ১৬১ জন জেলেকে জীবিত উদ্ধার করা হয় এবং সম্প্রতি আটককৃত ৯০ জন জেলেকে স্বদেশ প্রত্যাবর্তনে সহায়তা করা হয়।
জলদস্যুতা বিরোধী অভিযান	সুন্দরবনসহ উপকূলীয়/ নদী তীরবর্তী অঞ্চলে ১৪৪ জন জলদস্যু/বনদস্যু/ডাকাত আটক করা হয় এবং ৭০ টি অবৈধ আয়োয়াজ, ৩৫৫ টি দেশীয় অস্ত্র ও ২১৭ রাউন্ড তাজা গোলা উদ্ধার করা হয়।
মানব পাচার ও মায়ানমার নাগরিক অনুপ্রবেশ প্রতিরোধ	২ হাজার ৩২ জন মায়ানমার নাগরিকের অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ রোধ করা হয় এবং মায়ানমার হতে অনুপ্রবেশকালে ৫ জন বিজিপি সেনা, ১ জন মায়ানমার আর্মি সদস্য এবং ৬২ জন মায়ানমার নাগরিককে আটক করা হয়।



প্রধান উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
০১ ফাল্গুন ১৪৩১
১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫

বাণী

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও 'বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫' উপলক্ষ্যে আমি এ বাহিনীর সর্বস্তরের সকল সদস্যকে আমার আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাই।

সুনীল অর্থনীতি এবং বাংলাদেশের সার্বভৌম জলসীমায় নিরাপত্তা জোরদারের গুরুত্ব বিবেচনায় ১৯৯৪ সালে 'Guardian at Sea' মূলমন্ত্র নিয়ে 'বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড' প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকীর এই মাহেন্দ্রক্ষণে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডের প্রতিটি সদস্য মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধ এবং ২০২৪-এ সংঘটিত ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানের দুঃসাহসিক আত্মত্যাগ, ধৈর্য এবং ঐক্যের চেতনায় উদ্বুদ্ধ হয়ে সর্বদা দায়িত্ব পালন করবে বলে আমি আশা করি। একই সাথে দেশপ্রেম, আন্তরিকতা, সাহসিকতা, অবিচল আস্থা ও পেশাদারিত্বের সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করে কোস্ট গার্ডের সকল স্তরের সদস্যগণ এ বাহিনীর ভাবমূর্তি আরও উজ্জ্বল করতে সঙ্গত তৎপর থাকবে বলে আমার বিশ্বাস।

বাংলাদেশের বিশাল সমুদ্র এলাকায় নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত একবিংশ শতাব্দীর চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবিলায় পাশাপাশি দেশের সুনীল অর্থনীতি কেন্দ্রিক কার্যক্রমের নিরাপত্তা বিধান কোস্ট গার্ড অগ্রণী ভূমিকা পালন করছে। আমি আশা করি এ বাহিনীর উন্নয়নের অগ্রযাত্রা অব্যাহত রাখতে সরকারের সকল প্রচেষ্টা চলমান থাকবে এবং ভবিষ্যতে উত্তরোত্তর বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

আমি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর উত্তরোত্তর সমৃদ্ধি ও সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫ উপলক্ষ্যে গৃহীত সকল কর্মসূচি সফল হোক।

প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস



বাণী



মহাপরিচালক
বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড

বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর ৩০তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও 'বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস-২০২৫' উপলক্ষ্যে আমি মহাপরিচালক হিসেবে এ বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আমার আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

আমি, কোস্ট গার্ড দিবস ২০২৫ এর শুভলগ্নে স্মরণ করছি মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ও ০৫ আগস্ট ২০২৪ বৈষম্যবিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলনে শহিদ এবং আহত অসংখ্য ছাত্র-জনতাকে। তাদের দুঃসাহসিক আত্মত্যাগ, সাহস ও সারা দেশকে একাবদ্ধ করা ছাড়া আমাদের এই অর্জন কখনোই সম্ভব হতো না। দেশের সেই ক্রান্তিকালীন সময়ে সূত্র পরিবেশ বজায় রাখার জন্য সামরিক বাহিনীসহ অন্যান্য বাহিনীর সাথে কোস্ট গার্ডও সার্বক্ষণিক নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে গিয়েছে। মাননীয় প্রধান উপদেষ্টার নেতৃত্বে দেশের উন্নতি ও অগ্রযাত্রা চলমান রাখার স্বার্থে দেশের উপকূলীয় জলসীমা ও গভীর সমুদ্রে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা নিশ্চিতকরণের পাশাপাশি সমুদ্র বন্দরের নিরাপত্তা প্রদান, মাদক ও মানব পাচার প্রতিরোধ, অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ রোধ, সন্ত্রাসবাদ প্রতিহতকরণ, মৎস্যসম্পদ রক্ষা ইত্যাদি কার্যক্রমে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডের ভূমিকা অনস্বীকার্য। তাই আমি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর মহাপরিচালক হিসেবে বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যদের পক্ষ থেকে মাননীয় প্রধান উপদেষ্টাসহ অন্তর্ভুক্তি সরকারের সকল উপদেষ্টামন্ডলীকে জানাই আমার আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা।

বাংলাদেশের অভ্যন্তরীণ জলভাগ ও বিস্তীর্ণ উপকূলীয় অঞ্চলে বসবাসকারী জনসাধারণের জানমালের নিরাপত্তা রক্ষা ও আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড সাফল্যের ধারাবাহিকতায় ৩০তম বর্ষে অতিক্রম করেছে। ১৯৯৫ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠালাভের পর থেকেই এ বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ অটুট মোকাবেলা, অদম্য কর্মস্পৃহা, কঠোর প্রশিক্ষণ ও পেশাগত উৎকর্ষতার মাধ্যমে দেশ ও জনগণের আস্থার প্রতীক হিসেবে পরিগণিত হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড-এর দৃঢ় পদচারণায় দেশের সকল সমুদ্র বন্দরে নিরাপদ কর্মপরিবেশ বজায় রয়েছে, যার সফল ইতোমধ্যে দেশবাসী ভোগ করছে। পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড সমুদ্র পথে মাদক দ্রব্য পাচার রোধে প্রশংসনীয় ভূমিকা পালন করে চলেছে। একইসঙ্গে, বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সুনীল অর্থনীতি পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নে ও দেশের নিরাপত্তা রক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে এ বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ নিরলস প্রশিক্ষণ অর্থে নিম্নে নিকট আশুগতের সর্বোচ্চ দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপনের মধ্য দিয়ে যে সকল অকুতোভয় কোস্ট গার্ড সদস্য বিগত সময়ে প্রাণ উৎসর্গ করেছেন তাদের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি। তাদের মহান আত্মত্যাগ আমাদের জন্য একইসঙ্গে শোকের ও গর্বের।

বিগত ৩০ বছর ধরে ধীরে ধীরে গড়ে ওঠা বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড এখন উপকূলীয় এলাকায় আইন শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার জলপথে আত্মর প্রতীক হয়ে উঠেছে। বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ডকে আরো সক্ষম ও কার্যকর করে গড়ে তুলতে এ বাহিনীতে নতুন বেসিস, স্টেশন ও আউটপোস্ট স্থাপনের কাজ চলমান আছে। ইতোমধ্যে কোস্ট গার্ড-এর প্রত্যন্ত বেসিস, স্টেশন, আউটপোস্টসমূহে অবকাঠামোগত উন্নয়ন করা হয়েছে। পাশাপাশি কোস্ট গার্ড-এর আধুনিকায়নে সমুদ্রগামী আত্মরূপিক জলচালন, হেলিকপ্টার, হোভারক্রাফট, হাই স্পিড বোট ও মেরিটাইম সার্ভেল্যান্স সিস্টেম সংগ্রহের কার্যক্রম চলমান রয়েছে। তাই বাংলাদেশের বিশাল জলসীমা এবং নদীর তীরবর্তী অঞ্চল বিবেচনায় কোস্ট গার্ডের কলেবর বৃদ্ধির আরো অনেক প্রয়োজন রয়েছে বলে সকলের নিকট অনুমোদন। ভবিষ্যতে বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড আরও শক্তিশালী ও আধুনিক বাহিনী হিসেবে আত্মপ্রকাশ করবে বলেই আমার দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস।

আমি আশা করি বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড তার উপর অর্পিত সকল দায়িত্ব পালনে নিরলসভাবে সচেষ্ট থেকে দেশ ও জাতির কল্যাণে সর্বদা নিয়োজিত থাকবে। আমি কোস্ট গার্ড-এর সকল সদস্য ও তাদের পরিবারবর্গের সর্বশীল সাফল্য ও কল্যাণ কামনা করছি।

মোঃ জিয়াউল হক
রিয়াজ এডমিরাল

মহান আল্লাহ তায়াল্লা আমাদের সহায় হোন।



Leadership role adds to MIRAZ’S CT CHALLENGE

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced Mehedi Hasan Miraz as Bangladesh’s vice-captain for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy yesterday evening, mere hours before the squad’s scheduled departure for the UAE, continuing the custom of frivolity when it comes to national team’s vice-captaincy.

There are many examples of the slapdash nature of decision making when it comes to naming a vice-captain for the Tigers. One such instance happened in July 2023, during Bangladesh’s home series against Afghanistan, when then skipper Tamim Iqbal’s injury forced the BCB to appoint Liton Das as vice-captain just a day before the first ODI.

Later when Tamim announced his shock retirement after the first match, Liton stepped up and captained the team in the second and third ODI.

The BCB had done better in this regard ahead of the ICC ODI World Cup 2023 and last year’s ICC T20 World Cup. Current three-format captain Najmul Hossain Shanto was named Shakib Al Hasan’s deputy in the former and Taskin Ahmed was Shanto’s deputy in

the latter way in advance.

But this time, before a major tournament like the Champions Trophy, the BCB waited till the very end to disclose who will be Shanto’s second-in-command, reverting to older ways.

“Miraz was the designated second man for us. One also has to understand that there really was no one else we could have given it to,” a BCB official claimed.

One could argue that vice-captaincy or its late announcement holds little significance, but on-field leadership is of particular importance for any team and especially for a side like Bangladesh which has to maximise its resources to the fullest if it hopes to do well in the tournament.

Miraz had recently captained the Test and ODI side in the West Indies. In that series, he was able to articulate his plans to the rest with Liton Das noticeably helping him manage the field from behind the stumps.

Miraz has played 103 ODIs for the Tigers and his batting has become increasingly important for the side in recent years while his contributions with the ball has always been crucial.

The Tigers are also without ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who is still

serving a bowling suspension and was not picked for the Champions Trophy squad, which makes Miraz’s all-round contributions even more important.

As captain, Miraz made history in the West Indies tour, leading Bangladesh to their first Test win in Caribbean soil since 2009. However, Miraz got plenty of help from Liton, who could be heard on the stump mic suggesting field changes and who should come to bowl.

Liton’s captaincy instincts were on full display in the T20I series in the West Indies, which the Tigers swept 3-0. Had Liton not lost his place in the Champions Trophy squad for his woefully awful form, he would have likely been named vice-captain, not Miraz.

However, now the added responsibility of aiding Shanto in leadership alongside the weight of performing with both bat and ball has been thrust upon the shoulders of Miraz.

This tournament could prove to be acid test for Miraz’s future as a leader as well as if he can handle the added leadership responsibilities and perform as an all-rounder, he is likely to be earmarked for a promotion to permanent captaincy when the position opens up.



New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner and Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan pose with the Tri-Nation Series trophy on the eve of the final in Karachi yesterday. The Black Caps have been the team to beat in the 50-over tournament, having won by comprehensive margins against both Pakistan and South Africa. Pakistan made into the final after recording their best run chase in ODIs -- chasing down the Proteas’ 353-run target on Wednesday. With both sides set to clash again in the Champions Trophy group stage alongside Bangladesh and India, today’s showdown is more than just about silverware -- it’s a statement for what is to come. PHOTO: PCB

CT will bring more ICC events to Pakistan: PCB chief

AGENCIES

Pakistan will host a major ICC men’s tournament in nearly three decades next week and its cricket chief is hopeful that a successful ICC Champions Trophy will bring a flood of other such events.

Top teams shunned Pakistan after the 2009 attack on a bus carrying Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore and it took the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) years to convince foreign counterparts that it was safe to visit.

“ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is a culmination of those efforts,” PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi told Reuters.

“Once we successfully staged home international series and consistently delivered PSL [Pakistan Super League] editions at world-class standards, the ICC accepted and recognised Pakistan’s readiness to host a global event.”

Pakistan’s last major men’s ICC event as hosts was the 1996 ODI World Cup. Pakistan was supposed to host the 2008 Champions Trophy as well but the ICC shifted that tournament to South Africa owing to security concerns.

Even though ICC had named Pakistan as the sole host of this year’s Champions Trophy back in November 2021, all of India’s matches, which includes the highly anticipated India-Pakistan clash on February 13, will take place in the UAE after India refused to send their team to Pakistan.

The PCB also upgraded the stadiums in Karachi and Lahore in an 11th-hour facelift and are now ready to host the event set to begin on February 19.

“Since 2019, all major Test-playing nations - except India -- have toured Pakistan, some multiple times,” Naqvi said. “Our successful hosting of this event will further enhance Pakistan’s credentials, positioning us as a strong contender for more ICC events.”

48TH NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS Imranur’s absence paves way for home-grown sprinters

ANISUR RAHMAN

Home-grown sprinters are set to compete to be crowned the country’s fastest man in the upcoming National Athletics Championships as England-based Imranur Rahman, a four-time winner of the event and also the current champion, withdrew himself from the 48th edition of the competition, scheduled for February 17-19 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Imranur stunned everyone in his debut appearance in the 45th National Athletics Championship in 2022 as he dethroned the previous edition’s winner Mohammad Ismail to win gold while setting a new national record. He clocked 10.50 seconds, breaking the previous best timing by a Bangladeshi sprinter made by late Mahbub Alam (10.54 sec) in December 1999. The next year, Imranur also broke the national record (10.11 sec) in 100m sprint in a competition in England.

Since then, Imranur defended his 100m crown in the 46th and 47th

championships in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

However, this time around, Imranur kept himself away from the championship in order to avoid major injury ahead of the upcoming South Asian Games in 2025 and the Asian Games in 2026.

“Imranur was supposed to take part in the National Athletics Championships for Bangladesh Navy, who signed him in January [2025] for the next two years. However, he refrained from participating to avoid any risk of being injured as he underwent an operation some days ago,” Bangladesh Navy long-jump coach and former national long-jumper Al Amin told The Daily Star yesterday.

Al Amin also informed that Imranur has been training and focusing on major tournaments like the South Asian Games and Asian Games, as per recommendations from his coach and medical team.

Al Amin mentioned that Navy, however, will continue providing the sprinter with all facilities alongside



his monthly remuneration.

Imranur also withdrew himself from March’s World Athletics Indoor Championships in China and the Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) has decided to replace him with the best sprinter from the 48th National Athletics Championships.

The absence of Imranur, who represented the Bangladesh Army for the last three years, has made men’s 100m race open for home-grown sprinters, especially for the likes of Ismail and Rakib Hossain of the Navy and Tushar of the Bangladesh Army.

“The 100m race will be very competitive as Rakib became champion by beating Ismail in Bangladesh Navy while Tushar of Army is also doing well. I think they will share the medals in 100m sprint,” Al Amin added.

Despite Al Amin’s optimism, there remain concerns regarding competitiveness in the 100m race as 30 teams have sent BAF entries of 400 athletes till yesterday whereas about 550 athletes from 63 teams took part in the last edition of the championship.

BAF general secretary Shah Alam is however optimistic to see some national records in the newly-installed track as they decided to deliver cash awards of Tk 20,000 for each national record.

‘Mayhem’ in final Merseyside derby at Goodison Park

AGENCIES

A chaotic end to Wednesday’s Merseyside derby, featuring a last-gasp goal and a raft of red cards, provided the perfect conclusion to an old-fashioned tussle between Everton and Liverpool, the last at Goodison Park after 131 years.

Everton captain James Tarkowski equalised deep into stoppage time to earn them a 2-2 Premier League draw against Arne Slot’s side.

But it felt like a victory to Everton boss David Moyes and the Toffees faithful, who serenaded their squad long after the final whistle.

“It was mayhem all game,” said Everton boss David Moyes, whose team are unbeaten in their last four league games.

“It was an old fashioned throw back in some ways. I think it was hugely important that Evertonians get to finish as best they can in this stadium.”

Everton are set to move to a new 53,000-capacity stadium next season and Goodison was given a fiery goodbye in the last clash between the two sides, whose stadiums are separated by less than a mile.

Everton’s Beto scored the game’s opener in the 11th minute before



Timed at 97:08, James Tarkowski’s equaliser for Everton was the latest goal scored on record (from 2006-07) in a Premier League Merseyside derby.

This was the 120th and final Merseyside derby between Everton and Liverpool at Goodison Park in all competitions as Everton are set to move to their new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock for next season.

Mohamed Salah first set up Alexis Mac Allister’s goal in the 16th minute and then scored his own in the 73rd and

the league leaders looked poised for victory.

Tarkowski struck a blistering goal into the corner in the 98th minute, sparking bedlam among players and fans.

Everton’s Abdoulaye Doucoure then sparked a melee by celebrating in front of the Liverpool fans at full-time. Doucoure and Liverpool midfielder Curtis Jones were sent off before the Reds’ manager Arne Slot and his assistant Sipke Hulshoff were also shown red cards for their protests towards referee Michael Oliver.

A draw edges Liverpool seven points clear at the top of the Premier League, while Everton move 10 points above the relegation zone in 15th.

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk, however, lamented that referee Oliver lost control of the game.

“You know what happens when there is a tussle, I think the referee didn’t have the game under control,” Van Dijk told TNT Sports.

Despite Van Dijk’s reservations, the draw, which featured four goals and four red cards, was a fitting finish with neither side able to claim permanent bragging rights -- the tally totalling 41 wins apiece at Goodison for the Merseyside rivals with 38 draws.



Michael Olise celebrates with Harry Kane after putting Bayern Munich ahead with a stunning shot in the 45th minute in their Champions League playoff first leg against Celtic on Wednesday. Kane doubled the lead with a 49th-minute volley at the far post, and when it looked like Bayern were headed for an easy win, late pressure from Celtic saw the Scottish side cut the deficit in the 79th minute thanks to Daizen Maeda’s close-range header. Bayern, however, managed to edge the game 2-1. PHOTO: BAYERN MUNICH





AMAR EKUSHEY-13

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.

Grit amid resistance from Muslim League

AHMAD ISTIAK

Despite the petition by opposing groups demanding Urdu as the state language, the intense wave of the Language Movement swept through Kishoreganj in 1948.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1





PHOTO: KAMOL DAS

LIZARDS OF LUCK ...

A pair of Tokay geckos lounging in a crevice at the Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary in Fatikchhari. Native to Southeast Asia and abundant in Bangladesh, these large, nocturnal reptiles are named for their distinctive “tokay” call, a loud sound heard in the evening. Tokay geckos are carnivorous, feeding on insects, small animals, and occasionally fruit. Their unique toe structure allows them to cling to walls and ceilings, making them excellent climbers. They thrive in tropical and subtropical habitats, often in trees or rocky areas. Solitary and territorial, males are particularly aggressive. In East Asian cultures, the Tokay gecko is seen as a symbol of good luck and fertility, with folklore attributing supernatural powers to it.



HASINA’S EXTRADITION Dhaka already sent necessary docs to Delhi

Says foreign ministry spokesperson; India to be given a reminder

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka has sent a set of relevant documents to New Delhi as part of a formal request seeking the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Rafiqul Alam confirmed the matter during a weekly media briefing yesterday.

Hasina was ousted in the face of a mass uprising on August 5. She fled to India the same day. She faces over 100 cases, including charges of murder, genocide, and crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

Bangladesh and India signed an extradition treaty in 2013, later amended in 2016, providing a legal framework for such requests. In July 2016, both countries modified Article 10(3) of the treaty to facilitate the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Send Hasina back for trial

Fakhrul urges India, says party happy with UN report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has expressed satisfaction with the fact-finding report by the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the July uprising and urged India to extradite ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina for trial over mass killings.

The party also opposed the proportional representation system and the holding of local elections before the national polls.

It added that it is up to the people to decide which political parties should exist or participate in election.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir made the remarks during a press briefing at BNP chairperson’s Gulshan office yesterday morning. Earlier in the day, he held a meeting with British Deputy High Commissioner James Goldman.

“We are satisfied with the published report. The truth has been revealed. When the UN says something, people believe it. When political parties like ours say the same thing, many are reluctant to believe it. Anyway, I want to thank the UN team for coming here and presenting the report.”

He opined that the report rightly said all the killings and massacres were carried out under the directives of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Trump-Putin call ‘not a betrayal’ of Ukraine

Says US defence secretary; Europe warns Trump against Ukraine deal ‘behind our backs’

AFP, Brussels

Donald Trump’s defence chief yesterday denied that the US president was betraying Ukraine by opening talks with Russia’s Vladimir Putin, as blindsided European powers insisted they and Kyiv must have a seat at the table.

Trump on Wednesday stunned European allies by agreeing to launch negotiations with Moscow on ending the nearly three-year Ukraine war, in his first publicly announced phone call with Putin since returning to power.

The US president revealed he expected to meet Putin in Saudi Arabia for Ukraine peace talks, in an extraordinary thaw in relations that sparked fears Kyiv would be frozen out.

That came after his administration poured cold water on Ukraine’s goals of reclaiming all its territory and pushing to join Nato’s protective umbrella.

“There is no betrayal there. There is a recognition that the whole world and the United States is invested and interested in peace,” US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said ahead of a meeting with his Nato counterparts in Brussels. “That will require both sides recognising things they don’t want to.”

Britain’s defence secretary, John Healey, echoed that message, warning “there can be no negotiation about Ukraine without Ukraine, and Ukraine’s voice must be at the heart of any talks.”

Rutte insisted that any potential peace deal had to be “enduring”, pointing to similar comments made earlier by Hegseth.

- » Trump, Putin set to meet in Saudi Arabia
- » Kyiv must be part of peace talks: UK
- » Zelensky is set to meet US VP JD Vance in Munich

National consensus panel formed

It’ll adopt six reform commissions’ suggestions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a seven-member National Consensus Commission to review and adopt the recommendations submitted by the six key reform commissions.

The Cabinet Division announced the formation of the commission in a notification. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus had earlier said he would lead this commission.

The members of the new commission are Prof Ali Riaz, head of the Constitutional Reform Commission; Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, head of Public Administration Reform Commission; Safar Raj Hossain, head of Police Reform Commission; Badrul Alam Majumder, head of Election Reform Commission; Justice Emdadul Haque, head of Judiciary Reform Commission; and Dr Iftekharuzzaman, head of Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

The commission will operate for six months

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Modi brings tariff ‘gift’ to Trump talks

Holds one-one meet with Musk

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come bearing gifts when he meets Donald Trump, hoping concessions on tariffs, fresh business deals, and the prospect of cooperation on China would win the US president’s favour.

Ahead of his White House meeting yesterday afternoon, Modi has readied promises including increased liquefied natural gas, combat vehicle and jet engine purchases, according to Indian government officials who declined to be named.

Indian officials are also looking at trade negotiations, possible deals on US agriculture exports to India and investment in nuclear energy, along with tariff cuts in at least a dozen sectors, including electronics, medical and surgical equipment, and chemicals.

Those are areas Trump’s team believes India needs to make improvements, according to another person familiar with their thinking. It’s a “gift” for Trump, said one of the sources, who declined to be named as they previewed a private meeting.

For his part, Modi wants help with the case of billionaire Gautam Adani, an ally of his who was indicted by the Justice Department in November over an alleged bribery scheme. Adani denies wrongdoing.

Another thorny issue will be in the background: the alleged Indian intelligence plot to assassinate a Sikh activist in the United States during the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



10 CU students punished for assaulting teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram University punished 10 female students, expelling one of them and suspending the others for two years, for physically assaulting an assistant proctor and journalists.

Another female student and a male pupil were also suspended on allegations of hurting religious sentiments.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the university’s Board of Residence, Health, and Discipline Committee at the vice-chancellor’s office.

The committee also recommended cancelling the certificates of the student who was expelled for assaulting the assistant proctor, said Mohammad Saiful Islam, acting register of the institution.

“We will send the recommendation to the university syndicate for further action,” he said.

The assault by students residing at Sheikh Hasina Hall occurred around 11:30pm on February 5 over the vandalism of a boat-shaped sitting structure in

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

2nd phase of Biswa Ijtema begins today

STAR REPORT

Thousands of devotees yesterday began gathering on the bank of the Turag River in Tongi for the 2nd phase of Biswa Ijtema.

The congregation of mostly Maulana Saad Kandhalvi followers begins today and ends with Akheri Munajat on Sunday.

The first phase of Biswa Ijtema, attended by the followers of Maulana Zubair Ahmed, took place from January 31 to February 5.

Organisers yesterday said people from different countries had arrived and all preparations had been made.

Sayem, media coordinator of Tabligh, said, “For the first time in history, Shab-e-Barat coincides with the Ijtema. Lakhs of devotees will offer Shab-e-Barat prayers together.”

TRAFFIC DIRECTIVES

Dhaka Metropolitan Police issued a set of traffic directives for February 16, reports UNB.

All vehicles, except those carrying Uttara residents, air passengers, airline crew, fire services, law enforcement, and ambulances, must avoid the Airport Road. Instead,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Tents have been set up on the Biswa Ijtema ground on the bank of the Turag in Tongi as devotees from home and abroad start gathering there to join the second phase of three-day Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of Muslims, that begins today. The photo was taken around 4:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: MONJURUL HAQUE

Yunus, Musk discuss bringing Starlink to Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus had an extensive discussion with Elon Musk to explore future collaboration and to make further progress in introducing Starlink satellite internet service in Bangladesh.

The founder of SpaceX and chief adviser talked about the potential transformational impact of Starlink’s satellite communications, particularly for Bangladesh’s enterprising youth, rural and vulnerable women and remote communities, says a press release of the chief adviser’s press wing.

On the Bangladesh side, Khalilur Rahman, high representative for the Rohingya crisis and priority issues, and Lamiya Morshed, principal coordinator of SDGs, attended the virtual meeting.

On the SpaceX side, the company’s Vice President Lauren Dreyer, and Global Engagement Adviser Richard Griffiths were present.

Prof Yunus and Musk discussed

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7