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MY DHAKA

DHAKA'S CULINARY STREET PERFORMERS

Live cooking stations captivate the city

RBR

Food prepared on the streets is nothing new in Dhaka. Darul Kabab of yester-Dhaka saw various kebabs on skewers, or seekh as it is called in Bangla, being grilled over an open fire or coal embers.

At least for me, this 1975 classic eatery, situated on top of a dabba or sink pond, introduced the experience of live cooking stations, and had awed me as a child.

And now, again in 2025 Dhaka, I was awestruck when I saw Tanim, a lanky lad in a black apron, rolling out pizza dough in front of Lalbagh Fort. His custom-made cart was unique in having a type of wood-fire deck oven, with personalised pizza sliders. But what got my attention was his confidence in his trade of making pizzas in a live station by the street.

Reserved in showing off his pizza-flipping skill, he had sausages, mozzarella balls, tomato puree, and his special pizza sauce along with a box full of mushrooms, black olives, and capscums. Even shakers of oregano were all conveniently stored in his neat cart.



"My best-seller is the 12-inch Cheese Blast pizza, which is Tk 599," Tanim says, without taking his eyes off the BBQ pizza order he was preparing.

He sells 30 pizzas from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. I could see regulars placing orders for their favourite take-out boxes. Youngsters jumped off their rickshaws, giving high-fives and going through his menu card, while others



PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED

waited patiently on the stools near the cart for their orders to arrive.

"I have such carts in the Paribagh and Bangla Motor area as well. I have been in this business for the last seven years or so. And all my carts are running successfully," says Tanim.

"What I like is his focused attention in making the pizza in front of you and flipping it inside the oven," says Emdad, a bystander attracted by the fancy act of live cooking.

A few yards from Tanim's cart, was another pop-up stall offering pizza toasts, grilled on big iron fry-pans. This toast is a slice of a pizza but cut in squares like toast.

The street-food businesses are all the rage now, with ventures going for dishes and menus that are not exactly street food per se.

Julekha, an expert of Bangladeshi cuisine, sits in Lamatia from 6:00pm to almost 10:00pm with her mouth-watering vegetable labra, which is a slow-cooked seasonal vegetable dish. She adds her personal touch by throwing in some raw brown peanuts and a dollop of clarified butter. Her off the cuff menu offers Nolen-gur-payesh, a rice pudding made with jaggery, and Alu-r-Dal, a potato stew that is a famous recipe from Rangpur. She serves these with freshly rolled out and deep-fried luchi, a sort of fried flatbread.

Puffed up and piping hot luchi and labra is a quintessential Bengali dish. What is remarkable is that this weekend Bengali breakfast is easily available on a roadside cart, called Bistro on the Go.

Cooking in front of a crowd in an al fresco arrangement has its share of gimmicks and perks, and Dhaka streets are full of such live stations right after the sun sets, adding a sort of animated joy to the street food genre.

AL must be eradicated, not just banned

Says Adviser Asif Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiain yesterday said the Awami League must be eradicated politically and ideologically from Bangladesh.

He said this must be done through a ban following legal and social processes, such as a truth commission or precedents from other countries.

"The Awami League should not only be banned but also politically eradicated from Bangladesh. This is my personal stance. Now, discussion may take place on how it will be implemented. There are precedents of this in various countries," he wrote in a Facebook post yesterday.

"I have seen my brothers martyred by their [AL men] firing before my eyes. I have been a victim of disappearance; I have seen death up close. It is impossible to even think of the political rehabilitation of Awami League," Asif stated.

He also clarified the statement he made

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Rekha Gupta announced Delhi's new CM

THE HINDU ONLINE

India's Bharatiya Janata Party yesterday announced Rekha Gupta as the leader of the BJP's Delhi legislative party. She will be taking over as the next chief minister of Delhi during the oath-taking ceremony today.

Gupta will be the fourth woman CM of Delhi. Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit, and Atishi are the other women who have held the post.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled States, NDA leaders, Union Ministers, and other prominent figures will attend the oath-swearing ceremony today, a party top source told ANI.

A cultural programme featuring music and songs will precede the ceremony.

Around 30,000 guests have been invited to the ceremony. BJP leaders and workers from other states who were deployed for the Delhi Assembly elections have also been invited to the ceremony.

Election schedule likely by Oct

FROM PAGE 1

The EC has to work on most matters with the cooperation of the police, presiding officers and others from the government – there is nothing wrong with it. The question is, what is the government's perspective on the election?

For instance, the previous government was determined to win the last three parliamentary polls at any cost. The first election (held in 2014) took place without the opposition parties, which was followed by an election that became widely known as "the midnight election" (due to ballot papers being stamped the night before the polls). The most recent election featured dummy candidates. Such election models are unheard of anywhere in the world. Such polls were not held even during Ershad's regime. The Deputy Commissioners appointed individuals from the Awami League and the Chhatra League as presiding officers.

Star: Has public trust been restored in the EC now?

MSH: People's trust has not yet been restored, and it cannot be regained overnight, especially considering the irregularities that occurred in the elections over the past decade. Therefore, I believe a lack of trust still persists, and restoring it remains the biggest challenge.

I would like to request the EC not to view their responsibilities as merely bureaucratic – they are extremely difficult tasks. When we were in the EC, regardless of our performance, people at least had some trust in us.

Star: How can the EC regain public trust?

MSH: There is no specific formula for this. Those in charge must understand who they need to communicate with and whom to invite for discussions. They must act independently.

Star: The Electoral Reform Commission has recommended that the delimitation process be carried out by a separate authority. The current EC reacted to it by saying that the move would curb its authority. What is your opinion?

MSH: Delimitation is a highly complex issue. In many countries, it is typically carried out by a separate commission. If the EC were to handle it, political parties might accuse them of bias. However, even if a separate commission handles this issue, it must adhere to the guidelines set by the EC. If implemented properly, I believe it will be a positive initiative.

Star: Now, let's turn to labour issues. What is happening with Beximco's factories?

MSH: The Beximco issue reflects the real situation in Bangladesh. The government has not shut down any factories. These factories are closing because many of these companies operate on bank loans

and subcontracts. Now that the banks are no longer providing loans to them, the factories cannot sustain themselves. Where will the banks get the money to lend when the companies have taken loans and not repaid them? From what we have gathered, around 27,000 workers were employed at Beximco. However, among the Beximco companies that took loans, 16 are untraceable. In other words, loans were taken under these companies' names and worker numbers were reported but these companies do not actually exist. Just from the state-owned Janata Bank, various entities of Beximco have taken loans amounting to Tk 23,000 crore. Can you imagine? If we include loans from other banks, Beximco has borrowed a total of Tk 40,000 crore. The question is, what happened to all that money? There is no clear record.

Star: You previously announced that Beximco's workers would receive their salaries by February.

MSH: According to our calculations, more than Tk 500 crore will be needed to pay their salaries. We have informed the finance division that this money must be provided on humanitarian grounds. At the same time, we are finding ways to create employment opportunities for these workers. The government is not in favour of shutting down any industry and will not take any action that harms workers. The government has so far disbursed Tk 55 crore and Tk 58 crore in two phases to support the workers.

Star: What will happen to the unemployed workers?

MSH: An American company has expressed interest in Beximco's entities and is currently evaluating the possibility of taking over the factories. If they move forward, decisions will be made regarding the bank loans. Besides, a Japanese business group has also shown interest in Beximco and plans to conduct a three-month pilot programme to assess whether the factories can be brought back into operation. If things move in a positive direction, the government will take the necessary steps to keep these industries running. I hope this will prevent the workers from remaining unemployed for long.

Star: If another company takes over, won't there be legal complications?

MSH: The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority is working on these issues.

Star: Companies under the Gazi Group have also suffered losses. What will happen to them?

MSH: No one has come forward regarding Gazi Group. I am not aware of any developments in this regard.

Star: Is the government still providing funds to any factories?

MSH: We had to provide funds to some factories on humanitarian grounds. However, this will not continue indefinitely.

Star: How would you evaluate the first six months of the interim government?

MSH: The greatest achievement of this government is that the state has not failed – it continues to function. For this, the main credit goes to the people of Bangladesh. However, I would have been happier if the situation had improved further. We have seen examples in Iraq and Libya of what happens after a leaderless movement. In Bangladesh, a government collapsed and left the country in the face of a sudden uprising. At that time, there was no opposition party in the parliament to take charge. It was at this critical moment that our government took over. Many even wanted the country to plunge into chaos and some still do. But the people have put their trust in our government.

Star: But people's expectations from this government were very high.

MSH: It took three months just to fully understand the real condition of the state. Banks were looted, reserves were in dire condition and the government faced enormous economic challenges. The law-and-order situation was practically non-existent. Yet, there has been remarkable progress in a short period. The credit for this primarily goes to the people. I am not claiming that the law-and-order situation has reached the desired level. If it had, the army would not have to be deployed outside the cantonments for such a long time. When the government of a country that relies heavily on imports collapses suddenly, there is a real risk of a famine-like situation. But we have started to recover from that. However, elements of the deposed government are still trying to destabilise the country in various ways.

Star: Regardless of the challenges, people still have high expectations from this government.

MSH: There is nothing wrong with that. But our biggest problem is a lack of patience. How can we achieve in six months what was not done in 16 years? We need to understand that.

Star: But people are questioning whether the government is on the right track.

MSH: According to people's expectations, the government's pace would ideally be 80 kilometres per hour. We might be moving at 40-50 kilometres per hour. To reach 80 kilometres per hour, we need to be given time.

Star: What is the progress on the amendment of the labour laws?

MSH: As a signatory to the International Labour Organisation conventions, we are committed to certain reforms. One of the discussions is whether a factory's workers can form a trade union if 15 of them agree. Tripartite discussions are going on among the government, employers and workers on this issue.

Star: Do you think the recent labour unrest in the garment sector will worsen in the future?

MSH: The government is not at all negligent in taking the necessary steps to address workers' problems. However, a vested group is instigating a section of workers to create trouble, which is a major concern.

Star: What is the current situation at the ports?

MSH: There were some initial issues after the uprising, but the situation is stable now. I have visited the ports three times and plan to visit more to ensure that port services improve rapidly. Some containers that have been at the ports for 20 years are still there. I have given instructions to address these issues.

Star: Is there any update on the deep-sea port? Do we need it? Will we be able to operate it? Sri Lanka built two deep-sea ports and then had to lease them to China.

MSH: We absolutely need a deep-sea port. The progress was stalled due to the strategic rivalry between China and India. But now Japan will carry out the project, so that issue has been resolved. We can operate it. Our existing ports are already performing well. Investors from Denmark, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Dubai are eager to invest in our ports. Saudi Arabia has shown interest in taking full responsibility for Matarbari Port while China is set to build two container terminals in Mongla Port.

Star: Bangladesh's relationship with India appears stable on the surface, but is that truly the case beneath the surface?

MSH: Have we engaged in any conflict with India? Please show me one example. We have consistently spoken about maintaining relations based on equality. Is that a bad thing? The former prime minister herself admitted that Bangladesh has given so much to India that the country will never be able to forget it. Despite that, India did not allow Nepal and Bhutan to use our ports. It is because India values its relationship with the government, not the people of Bangladesh. We all saw how that relationship unfolded over the last 16 years.

Star: The issue of barbed wire fences along the border did not arise in the past. Why is it an issue now?

MSH: The previous government did not raise the issue, so no problem arose. Even when Bangladeshi people were being shot at the border, the Bangladesh government remained silent. Instead, they instructed the BGB to hold flag meetings to recover the bodies. But now, we are speaking up and expressing our concerns. If someone slaps me, I may not punch them, but I will at least slap you back. From our side, I do not see any hostility toward India. They are a big country – why should we seek conflict with them?

Govt going after officials involved

FROM PAGE 1

voting" during the 2018 election would either be made OSD or forced to retire.

A total of 33 DCs were made OSD yesterday. The public administration ministry had earlier made 12 others OSD.

Last night, a senior official of the ministry told this paper that not all officials were equally guilty. A decision has been made to send those into forced retirement who were involved in seriously controversial activities and have served for more than 25 years.

"Those who have not served 25 years would be suspended, and departmental proceedings would be initiated against them. Officials involved in relatively minor controversial activities will be made OSD ... If someone voluntarily admits their wrongdoings and seeks an opportunity for correcting themselves, the government may consider," the official said.

Sources said the ministry may take disciplinary actions against several more officials today upon receiving approval from the president. A notification regarding the officials who would be forced to retire may also be issued.

Zelensky a dictator: Trump

FROM PAGE 1

"It is simply wrong and dangerous to deny President Zelensky his democratic legitimacy," Scholz said.

Zelensky, who met Trump's Ukraine envoy Keith Kellogg in Kyiv yesterday, said he would like Trump's team to have "more truth" about Ukraine, a day after Trump said Ukraine "should never have started" the conflict with Russia.

The Ukrainian leader said Trump's assertion that his approval rating was just 4 percent was Russian disinformation and that any attempt to replace him would fail.

"We have evidence that these figures are being discussed between America and Russia. That is, President Trump ... unfortunately lives in this disinformation space," Zelensky told Ukrainian TV.

In Moscow, Putin said yesterday that Ukraine would not be barred from peace negotiations but success would depend on raising the level of trust

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according to sources on both sides.

The BGB delegation is headed by Director General Maj General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, while the BSF is led by DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary.

The meeting also discussed the BSF's border fencing.

The Indian force claimed that the already-built single row fences were "as per the past agreements between the sovereign governments of the two countries, which the BGB should abide by".

In a counter statement, the BGB said that as per the understanding between the two sides, fencing should

When asked for comments, Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary at the public administration ministry, told The Daily Star, "Eventually, action will be taken against all officials involved in controversial activities during the Awami League rule."

The 33 joint secretaries who were made OSD yesterday are Abul Fazal Mir; Moinul Islam; Md Wahiduzzaman; AKM Mamunur Rashid; SM Abdul Kader; KM Kamruzzaman Selim; Mohammad Dawoodul Islam; Md Majedur Rahman Khan; AZDM Nurul Haque; SM Ajtur Rahman; Mohammad Masud Alam Siddique; Gopal Chandra Das; Md Matuil Islam Chowdhury; Sabina Yasmin; Md Ataul Gani; Abu Ali Md Shazzad Hossain; M Kazi Emdadul Islam; SM Mostafa Kamal; Kazi Abu Taher; Md Mizanur Rahman; Mohammad Abdul Ahad; Anar Koli Mahbub; Syeda Farhana Kawnain; Mahmudul Kabir Murad; Anjan Chandra Pal; Sultana Parveen; Md Sarwar Murshed Chowdhury; Md Shahidul Islam; Mohammad Helal Hossain; Md Ali Akbar; Kabir Mahmud; Md Mahmudul Alam; and Hayat-ud-Doula Khan.

between Moscow and Washington.

Putin, speaking a day after Russia and the US held their first talks on how to end the three-year-old conflict, also said it would take time to set up a summit with Trump, which both men have said they want.

Trump's US policy reversal clashed with allies in the 27-member European Union, whose envoys yesterday agreed on a 16th package of sanctions against Russia, including on aluminium and vessels believed to be carrying sanctioned Russian oil.

The EU's diplomatic service has proposed boosting the bloc's military aid for Ukraine, aiming to show continued support for Kyiv, though no quick decision is expected.

The proposal says the main goals would be to supply at least 1.5 million rounds of large-calibre artillery ammunition, as well as air defence systems, missiles for deep precision strikes, and drones.

be preceded by a "joint survey by border guards of both countries to decide where and how to set up the fences".

The ongoing meeting focused on measures to check cross-border crimes, including the smuggling of Phensedyl, yaba, other narcotics, and arms.

Sources said the overall atmosphere in the meeting was "friendly" and that sensitive bilateral issues were discussed "in a candid manner", even though strong arguments were presented.

The BSF yesterday hosted a dinner for the 14-member BGB delegation.

The summit in New Delhi was shortened to three days from five, and the talks have been "business-like", said sources.



With only nine days remaining until the Ekushey Boi Mela concludes, book enthusiasts flock to the fair to satisfy their literary appetites. Booklovers were seen eagerly exploring the diverse range of books available at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN

‘July Uprising belongs to all’
Mahfuj advocates ‘balance’ to calm student factions
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the interim government Mahfuj Alam has said the July-August mass uprising belongs to everyone, stressing that progress has to be achieved with everyone's participation.

In a post on his verified Facebook page yesterday, Mahfuj also said he had rejected the notion of “mastermind” in the very beginning, adding that it was a “hype created by media”.

He said the decision-makers had to talk to many stakeholders for almost all decisions. To finalise a decision, opinions were taken from at least five to six groups before those were also analysed.

He said during “July 19-33”, although people did not wait for anyone's decision, they took the students as “legitimate leaders”.

Mahfuj stressed the need for a “balanced position” among the student factions and called for moving on with all but the saboteurs.

In his post, he apologised for some previous remarks and vowed to correct himself in future if required.

He also said they are encountering innumerable powerful enemies but are blessed with only a handful of friends.

HSC exams to begin June 26

STAR REPORT

The Higher Secondary Certificate examinations will begin on June 26 and continue till August 10, said an education ministry statement yesterday.

The practical exams will be held from August 11 to 21, said a notification signed by SM Kamal Uddin, chief of the Inter-Education Board Examination Controllers' Committee.

ABRAR MURDER Uphold trial court verdict AG urges HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday prayed to the High Court to uphold the trial court verdict in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case.

A Dhaka court on December 8, 2021, sentenced 20 Buet students to death for their direct involvement in the murder and also sentenced five other students to life imprisonment.



LGRD MINISTRY

‘Its name, function do not match’

Says local govt reform commission chief, proposes renaming ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Local Government Reform Commission is going to propose a change in the name of the LGRD ministry, said the commission's chief Prof Tofayel Ahmed yesterday.

“There is no alignment between the ministry's name and its functions. Why is that? Because local government is not prioritised. The ministry includes entities like LGED and Wasa, with a budget of around Tk 30-40 thousand crore,” he said.

“However, only Tk 1,200 crore is allocated specifically for local government, covering city corporations,

Why should the NGO Affairs Bureau be under the PMO? It should be overseen by those working at the grassroots level. This restructuring will integrate cooperatives and NGOs into the local government framework, allowing for better planning.

Prof Tofayel Ahmed

district administrations, and upazilas. There is no need to call it a local government ministry,” he added.

The local government expert made the remarks at a programme titled “CSOs for Empowering the Marginalised Communities in Bangladesh,” held at Dhaka University.

The event was organised by the Centre for Budget and Policy of DU.

Prof Tofayel said there is another wing under the Cooperative Ministry for Rural Development.

“However, there is neither rural development nor cooperatives

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Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaks at a discussion marking the launch of the third edition of “Ashimer Bhela: Bangla Shahitter Shera Kobitar Shongroho”, a poetry anthology edited by him, at Batighar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



A DAY IN COURT

Of Palak's prison insights and Faruk's viral controversy

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former state minister for ICT Zunaïd Ahmed Palak remained relatively quiet as he was brought to Dhaka's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday.

Palak was escorted from Kashimpur jail under heavy security, wearing a helmet, handcuffs, and a bulletproof vest. He was produced in court as part of an application to show him arrested in a murder case filed with Dhanmondi Police Station.

However, his silence broke upon arriving at the courtroom at 11:00am, where the hearing was scheduled. He spoke with his lawyers until Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate MA Azharul Islam took his seat.

“Prison life comes with intense life lessons. Everyone should spend at least seven days in jail to understand this. Even if I ever get out, I will still say this,” Palak remarked from the dock.

He also claimed he was enduring inhumane conditions in prison due to financial struggles. Addressing lawyers and journalists, he said, “I don't even have money to buy flattened rice or puffed rice. In prison, I share bread and bananas with Suman bhai [Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman].”

Palak suggested that speaking in court often leads to an extension of remand. “If we speak, the remand is extended. If the lawyers speak, the remand is extended,” he said, advising his lawyers to remain

cautious during the hearing.

When police asked him to stop talking, he responded, “I am not saying anything illegal.”

Later, he attempted to catch the attention of Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi, greeting him with “Salam”. Initially, the prosecutor did not respond, but eventually, he acknowledged the greeting.

Palak then remarked, “At last, the prosecutor's heart has softened.”

Before being taken back to the lockup, he addressed journalists, saying, “Please be kind while writing about us.”

Following the hearing, Magistrate Azharul ordered Palak to be shown as arrested in the case.

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A journey thru Bangla poetry

Discussion on Abdullah Abu Sayeed's anthology held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shortly after the evening fell, the event began, and the courtyard of Batighar became quite crowded. People of various ages had gathered there to listen to a discussion on a poetry book.

It was not an original collection of poems, yet the presence of its editor -- Abdullah Abu Sayeed -- was the reason behind the packed audience.

Yesterday, a reading session was held to mark the third edition of “Ashimer Bhela: Bangla Shahitter Shera Kobitar Shongroho”, a poetry anthology edited by Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, “In this anthology, I have included poems that I consider to be aesthetically significant. However, there are two exceptions -- one from Charyapada and another by Ishwar Chandra Gupta. I included these two poems for their historical significance.”

He said, “One of the speakers mentioned that my book does not include any poems by female poets. I did not follow any specific policy while selecting poems. Just as I did not consider political affiliations, I also did not differentiate between male and female poets. However, in the next edition, I will include poems by Begum

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Today Is The 8th Death Anniversary of
The Founding Chairman of Alliance Properties Limited

SYED ALI ASGHAR RIZVI
(22 April 1944 – 20 February 2017)

For the eternal peace of his soul, the Alliance Family, his sons Zaki and Razi Rizvi and his grandchildren Afraz, Ariana, and Alazne ask all family members, friends, and well-wishers to keep him in their prayers.

9 lives lost

FROM PAGE 6
student of Bangladesh Gas Fields School and College, and Mokaddes Mia, 70, a former army member from Nabinagar area, were killed in road accidents in Basudeb union under Sadar upazila, said Sadar Model Police Station OC Md Mozaffar Hossain.

In Habiganj Sadar upazila, fish trader Abdul Majid, 55, died as a truck hit him on Habiganj-Lakhai road, said OC Alamgir Kabir of Habiganj Sadar Model Police Station.

In Gopalganj's Kashiani upazila, a bus of Falguni Paribahan collided with a covered van of a courier service at Pona Bus Stand, leaving the van driver Jahangir dead and 16 others injured around 8:00am, said police.

Traffic movement on the highway remained suspended for three hours after the accident.

In Chattogram, Kamrul Ibne Hasan, a resident of Fatikchhari and an employee of Dutch Bangla Bank's CEPZ branch, died and three others were injured as a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Chattogram-Khagrachhari road in Hathazari upazila and fled the scene, said police.

In Narayanganj, two people were killed and four injured after a truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the 300-feet road in Purbachal in the afternoon.

The deceased are Arobi Akter, 32 and Khairul Bashar, 35, both passengers of the auto-rickshaw.

Police seized the truck and detained its driver, Fakhru Islam, and his assistant, Nahidul Islam.

In Pirojpur, Shahidul Islam Howlader, 75, a retired army member from Sadar upazila, died after being hit by a battery-run auto-rickshaw.

[Our correspondents from Rangpur, Brahmanbaria, Pirojpur, Gopalganj, Chattogram, Moulvibazar and Narayanganj contributed to this report.]



A worker sorts through a pile of tomatoes at a wholesale market to separate the good ones and throw away any rotten pieces. Various companies purchase tomatoes in bulk from farmers to make ketchup and other sauces. On average, a worker sorts through 18-20 crates of tomato a day and earns Tk 10 per crate. The photo was taken at a wholesale market in Khulna's Dumuria upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Its name, function do not match

FROM PAGE 3
functioning there. The concept of rural development is no longer viable in the current context. That's why we believe these ministries should be renamed. We have proposed new names, but we will disclose them later."

He further stated that a mass organisation under the local government ministry will include NGOs.

"Why should the NGO Affairs Bureau be under the Prime Minister's Office? It should be overseen by those working at the grassroots level. This restructuring will integrate cooperatives and NGOs into the local government framework, allowing for better planning," he said.

Prof Tofayel also said maintaining separate engineering ministries is unnecessary. "These two ministries will be merged into one," he said.

Speaking as chief guest, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan

highlighted the lack of studies on marginalised communities.

"The progress we have made in improving their lives is largely due to reports and advocacy efforts by some NGOs. However, the problem with advocacy is that it has been intertwined with politics, affecting its neutrality," he said.

Prof Niaz urged NGOs and academicians to conduct systematic research to address the actual problems faced by these communities and called for a unified framework to support them.

Prof Taiabur Rahman, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at DU, said there are approximately 50-60 marginalised communities on the mainland.

He emphasised that the government, private sector, and civil society organisations (CSOs) each have distinct responsibilities in working for the welfare of these communities.

Highlighting the absence of accurate data, Prof Taiabur stressed the importance of determining the exact number of marginalised communities and ensuring their fundamental rights.

"Following the July uprising, there is now an opportunity for change. There should be an elected government that addresses the issues faced by marginalised communities," he added.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Sayema Haque Bidisha called for more research efforts to improve the conditions of marginalised groups.

Prof Kazi Maruful Islam from DU's Department of Development Studies presented research findings related to the programme's theme.

Other speakers at the event included Nuzhat Jabin, country director of Christian Aid Bangladesh, and Ilira Dewan, a member of the Local Government Reform Commission.

BRAC Bank scholarships to support 300 female students

CITY DESK

BRAC Bank has recently expanded its "Aporajeyo TARA Scholarships" programme to support 300 female students at Rajshahi University, said a press release.

The partnership was formalised at a signing ceremony on February 16 at the RU campus, where Vice Chancellor Prof Saleh Hasan Naquib and BRAC Bank DMD and Chief Operating Officer Sabbir Hossain signed the agreement.

Aporajeyo TARA is BRAC Bank's flagship CSR initiative promoting women's education.

A journey thru Bangla Of Palak

FROM PAGE 3
Rokeya and Kamini Roy -- not because they are women, but because they are poets of literary significance.

"Another speaker pointed out that I did not include any Muslim poets in the medieval section. This was not a deliberate decision on my part. I didn't consider whether a poet was Hindu or Muslim while selecting poems."

Regarding the future of the anthology, he said, "As long as I am here, this collection will continue to be published."

Poet-journalist Sajjad Sharif said, "This anthology is one of the most significant collections of a thousand years of Bangla poetry. Through this collection, we can understand how new linguistic expressions have emerged in Bangla poetry over the centuries. At the same time, it showcases a millennium of creative brilliance through poetry. This anthology allows us to see the entirety of Bangla poetry."

Prof Kudrat-E-Huda, an essayist and researcher, said, "Sayeed Sir is one of the finest among those whose poetic taste can be trusted and relied upon. The book does not overwhelm with excessive erudition; rather, it can be read like any original work, allowing readers to discover Sayeed Sir's consciousness through it."

Poet and music

researcher Aslam Ahsan also spoke. In between the discussion, reciters Tropa Majumdar and Rashed Hasan read selected poems from the anthology.

Published by Batighar, the anthology begins with a poem by Charyapada poet Shabarapadanam and concludes with a poem by Syed Shamsul Haq. Spanning from the earliest Bangla poets to the 1950s, the collection brings together some of the greatest poems in Bangla literature.

First published in February 2019, the book is priced at Tk 800.

Suffering

FROM PAGE 6
Initial assessments indicated only a crack, but further inspections revealed several additional breaks in the pipeline. "We now plan to replace the entire pipeline to prevent future water supply issues," he noted. This is not the first instance of damage to the pipeline; it was previously affected in January by a vehicle collision and cracked again in a road accident in July 2023.

As residents continue to cope with limited water supplies, Chattogram Wasa has assured the public that repair work will commence soon, though a specific timeline for restoration has not yet been provided.

FROM PAGE 3

FARUK DENIES FB POST
Former civil aviation minister Muhammad Faruk Khan was also brought to the CMM Court yesterday for a remand hearing in a violence case filed with Motijheel Police Station.

On February 3, a Facebook post from the verified profile of the Awami League presidium member went viral, in which he denounced party chief Sheikh Hasina and called for a change in leadership. The post sparked nationwide discussions.

As Faruk was being taken to the detention cell, a journalist asked, "Did you post a status on Facebook from prison?" Faruk responded, "How can I post a status from prison? This is false information."

Another journalist repeated the question, to which he reiterated, "Is it possible to post a status from prison? How can I do that from here?"

When the journalist pointed out that the post had come from his verified account, Faruk remained silent.

PRAYER TIMING					
FEBRUARY 20					
	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-20	12-45	4-30	6-03	7-30
JAMAAT	5-55	1-15	4-45	6-07	8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-2025-9195670: Long Term Agreement (LTA) to provide 'Air Tickets & Travel Management Services'.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a proven track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under LTA.

- Download the electronic copy of Bid documents from UNGM <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/259668>
- Alternatively, vendors may request the bid documents via email at 'supplybangladesh@unicef.org' by **23 February 2025**.

Deadline for submission of the proposal: **17 March 2025 at 3:00 PM (GMT +6), Monday**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org/bangladesh

unicef for every child

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 153 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF

Delivery Hero Kitchens APAC Holding Pte. Ltd.

-VERSUS-

...Petitioner

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, and another

...Respondents

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Acts, 1994 has been filed by the Petitioner Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli vide an order dated 30.01.2025 was pleased to admit the said application.

Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on or before the date so fixed.

Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs.

Yours faithfully

(Kazi Ershadul Alam)
Barrister-at-Law,
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Tanjib Alam & Associates,
BSEC Bhaban (Level 11),
102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar,
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

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9th floor of brand new modern 14th stored building. Total 4,950 sqft open floor. All most work of the building is totally completed. 2 parking, 2 lift, 2 stair, full back up genaratar. Mob: 01711-52 74 14

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH, HIGH COURT DIVISION (ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 131 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF :
An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND In the Matter of:
Mr. Moyeen Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, shareholder & Managing Director of **Leader Garments Ltd.**, having its registered Office:- at Plot No. 33(1/A), 27, Milk Vita Road, Section-07, Mirpur, Dhaka, -----Petitioner

Leader Garments Ltd., a Private Limited Company having its Registered Office:- at Plot No. 33(1/A), 27, Milk Vita Road, Section-07, Mirpur, Dhaka, representative by its Managing Director **Mr. Moyeen Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury** and another Respondents
Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company name & style as "Leader Garments Ltd.", The Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli** has admitted the said application on 27.01.2025 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 3(three) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in- compliance on or before 2nd March, 2025 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

Mohammad Shariful Islam
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 1, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: 01711173360



A Bank for Financial Inclusion

Head Office, Shadhinata Tower, Bir Srestha Shaheed Jahangir Gate, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206

CORRIGENDUM

1. TBL/HO/GSSD/PPD/TENDER/2025/03 correction as under:

For

Procurement of 100,000 Units VISA General Platinum Debit Card (DI).

Read

Procurement of 300,000 Units DI Cards (Visa, Mastercard, UnionPay) for Trust Bank PLC.

2. A complete set of the Bid documents containing the details of the terms and conditions and the details of Pre-Bid Meeting may be downloaded from the website <https://www.tblbd.com/tender>. Only schedule purchaser may attend the Pre-Bid Meeting.

Purchase & Procurement Department, GSSD

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

Satkhira.

www.lged.gov.bd

Tel : No. 0471-63413, Fax: 0471-62818.

Reference No: 46.02.8700.001.99.001.23-347

Date: 19-02-2025

e-Tender Notice No-34/2024-25 [OTM]

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

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package No. & Name of works	Tender Closing date & time
1	1077636	e-Tender/PEDP4/SKR/2024-25/W-20.615 Repair Work of District Primary Education Office Building at Satkhira DPEO under Sadar Upazila, Dist.-Satkhira.	10-Mar-2025 12:30

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to **17.00pm, Date: 09-March-2025**.

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

(Md. Kamruzzaman)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Satkhira.

E-mail: xen.satkhira@lged.gov.bd

GD-477



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites **Two Envelope System** International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&F@ Dhaka By Air and Chittagong by Sea Basis:-

S.L No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Items	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/SEM/61/2024-2025 dated 19/02/2025	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials (for Gopalganj): (specification as per tender schedule): 01. Anhydrous Glucose (Dextrose Anhydrous) Pyrogen free BP 02. Sodium Chloride, Endotoxin Free BP	Tk. 1250.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 10.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 08/04/2025 At 11.00 AM Opening : 08/04/2025 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

(5" X 4)

**General Manager
Procurement (CC).
For: Managing Director**

 Bank Asia

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Residents queue for drinking water in Lalkhan Bazar area as water supply in Chattogram remains disrupted for a second day yesterday, due to pipeline damage in Kuaish area, inset.

PHOTO: COLLECTED, RAJIB RAIHAN



Key Khulna road needs urgent renovation

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Years of neglect and a lack of maintenance have left the Bir Shrestha Ruhul Amin Road in Khulna in urgent need of renovation.

The road was last repaired in 2015, and over the past decade, it has lost its paving and turned into a dusty, uneven surface, causing significant misery for thousands of commuters each day.

Stretching for seven kilometres from Rupsha Ferry Ghat to Zabusa Bazar via Char Rupsha, Bagmara, and the Rupsha Bridge, the road is a crucial thoroughfare for the local community, businesses, and institutions. At least 15 shrimp processing factories, 150 shrimp buyers, several ice mills, three primary schools, a Coast Guard office, a police camp, and numerous other

Obaidul Haque, a pick-up driver who regularly carries goods along the road, said it has become unfit for vehicular movement and called for immediate steps to repair and renovate it.

"It is a matter of shame that the road named after a national hero has become dilapidated like this," remarked Alamgir Hossain Sharabon, a member of Noihati Union Parishad under Rupsha upazila.

"Large goods-laden trucks use the road every day, but it was never meant to handle such massive loads. If urgent measures are not taken, this road may completely collapse," he added.

Mahbubur Rahman Munna, general secretary of Nirapad Sarak Chai's Khulna city unit, demanded the implementation of a proper renovation plan instead of temporary repairs.



important establishments are located along this busy route.

The current condition of the road is adversely affecting local businesses, education, healthcare, and daily life.

During a recent visit to the area, it was observed that the road has caved in at various points, with exposed bricks and stones making it hazardous.

In the dry season, dust from the road surface fills the air, choking pedestrians and commuters. During the monsoon, deep mud forms, making it nearly impassable for both people and vehicles.

"Every day, I have to commute using the road amid risk," said Mita Dey, a schoolteacher and local resident.

Md Azizur Haque, sub-assistant engineer of LGED in Rupsha upazila, said the road is still classified under the "Village Road-A" category, with a maximum allowable width of 10-12 feet for such rural roads.

However, he acknowledged the road's significance, stating that proper repairs would require an estimated budget of at least Tk 80-90 crore.

"The survey and assessment work are already completed, and a proposal has been sent to upgrade the road to the union road category. The renovation was planned to be carried out under a project scheduled for June 2025, but we are not sure when it will be finalised," he added.

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 7 DISTRICTS 9 lives lost on roads

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 23 injured in road accidents in Rangpur, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Gopalganj, Chattogram, Pirojpur and Narayanganj districts yesterday.

In Rangpur, Darul Jannat Dina, 10, a fifth-grader at Amtola Bidyapith and College, sustained critical injuries after being hit by a battery-run three-wheeler in Mahiganj area as she was crossing the road while returning home from school.

Locals rushed her to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries an hour after admission.

Abdul Kuddus, officer-in-charge of Mahiganj Police Station, said locals and students blocked the road for an hour in protest, demanding immediate action against reckless driving.

Police are trying to arrest the driver, the OC added. In Brahmanbaria, Omar Faruq, 18, a second-year

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

OPERATION DEVIL HUNT 532 more held across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 532 more people across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the "Operation Devil Hunt", according to the Police Headquarters.

With the latest arrests, the numbers of arrestees under the operation are now 6,357.

Additionally, 1,051 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the same period. Law enforcers also recovered a foreign pistol, a magazine and five sharp weapons.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order following an attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

Earlier, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said they will continue the drive and no "devil" would be able to evade the law.

Analysing reports from some districts, this newspaper found that the arrestees are mostly members of the Awami League and its associate bodies.

Many are accused in cases filed after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 last year.

Barapukuria power plant shut for days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Barapukuria 525MW coal-fired power plant in Dinajpur has completely shut down following a mechanical issue in its only running unit on Tuesday afternoon.

Chief Engineer Abu Bakkar Siddique said a ruptured boiler tube caused the shutdown.

"We expect to resume operations within a week," he added.

This closure raises concerns over severe power shortages in the northern region, particularly during the peak irrigation season for Aman cultivation.

The plant has three units.

However, mechanical issues had already taken the second unit out of operation, leaving only the first and third running.

On February 15, the third unit was shut down due to mechanical faults.

WASA PIPELINE DAMAGE

Suffering mounts as water supply remains disrupted

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Water supply has been disrupted for over 10,000 consumers in Chattogram city for the second consecutive day following damage to a major pipeline during construction work for a waterlogging mitigation project.

This has also affected at least 35,000 additional consumers, prompting Chattogram Wasa to implement a rationing system to address the escalating crisis.

The damaged pipeline, which extends over 25 kilometres, is crucial for supplying water from Wasa's Karnaphuli Water Treatment Plant (Phase-1) in Rangunia to the city.

The break occurred on Monday in the Oxygen area due to ongoing construction for a canal project, resulting in a crack in the pipeline that halted water flow to several key areas.

Nizam Uddin, a resident of Halishahar, said, "Water supply to my residence has been cut off since Monday. I now have to buy bottled water just to carry out household chores."

Chattogram Wasa operates two plants

in Rangunia with a combined production capacity of 28 crore litres of water. However, one plant, with a capacity of 14 crore litres, has been forced to suspend production due to the damage.

Mahbubul Alam, the superintendent engineer of Chattogram Wasa, said the supply disruption has impacted areas including Halishahar, Agrabad, Jamalkhan, Lalkhan Bazar, Madarbari, GEC, Muradpur, Kadamtali, Chawkbazar, and Nandan Kanan. Affected residents reported severe shortages, with some areas receiving water only once every three days and experiencing low water pressure.

Istiaq Ahmed, a resident of Agrabad, said, "Water arrived just once in the last three days, and the pressure was so low that it was nearly impossible to use."

Similarly, residents of Patenga reported that they typically receive water only two to three times a week, and the latest disruption has exacerbated their struggles.

Maksud Alam, the chief engineer of Chattogram Wasa, said repairs have not yet begun due to complications from the construction work.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় www.iau.edu.bd ১২৪/৯০/৩, ব্রক-বি, সড়ক নং-০২, পশ্চিম যানবজ্জি, বরিশা, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০১। তারিখ ১৯/০২/২০২৫ খ্রি.			
আরক নং-ইআবি/রেজি./পাণ্ডি ভাড়া স./২৯/৩.ম.বি/২০২৪/২৩৩			
জীপ পাণ্ডি ভাড়ার পুনঃদরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর পো-ভাইস চ্যান্সেলর মহোদয়ের দায়িত্বে কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য চালকসহ/বাহিত উন্নত প্রযুক্তি সম্পন্ন Toyota Prado/Honda CRV/Nissan X-Trail/SUV/Hybrid জীপ পাণ্ডি ভাড়া করার নিমিত্ত নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাবলি জীপ পাণ্ডি ভাড়া প্রদানকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান এর নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আদান করা যাবে।			
০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ/প্রতিষ্ঠান	ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়	
০২.	ব্যবহারকারী/সম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়	
০৩.	ব্যবহারকারী/সম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠানের জেলা	ঢাকা	
০৪.	দরপত্র আবেদনের উদ্দেশ্য	দায়িত্ব কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য চালকসহ/বাহিত ০১ (এক) টি জীপ পাণ্ডি ভাড়া	
০৫.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নম্বর ও তারিখ	আরক নং-ইআবি/রেজি./পাণ্ডি ভাড়া স./২৯/৩.ম.বি/২০২৪/২৩৩ তারিখ ১৯/০২/২০২৫ খ্রি.	
০৬.	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্নত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)	
০৭.	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিজস্ব তহবিল থেকে	
০৮.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	২.০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/মদদ	
০৯.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২০/০২/২০২৫ খ্রি.	
১০.	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৩/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ সকাল ১২:০০ টা	
১১.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৩/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ সকাল ১২:০০ টা	
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রাপ্তির ঠিকানা	ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর ভবন নং-৩ এ জায়গা/পরিবেশ শাখা/অর্থ ও হিসাব দপ্তর	
১৩.	দরপত্র আদান ও গ্রহণকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা	রেজিস্ট্রার, ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাড়ি নং-১২৪/৯০/৩, ব্রক-বি, সড়ক নং-০২, ভাঙ্গাট বাসাবাড়ি, বরিশা, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০১	
১৪.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ৩ নং ভবনের সজাক	
১৫.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান (কিভাবে শিডিউলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে)	
১৬.	পন্থা/সেবার সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	মাসিক ভাড়ার ভিত্তিতে চালকসহ/বাহিত ০১টি জীপ পাণ্ডি ভাড়া	
১৭.	দরপত্র শিডিউল সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি		
	দরপত্রের নাম	কাজের স্থান	টেন্ডার শিডিউলটির পরিমাণ
	মাসিক ভাড়ার ভিত্তিতে চালকসহ/বাহিত ০১ টি জীপ পাণ্ডি ভাড়া	বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অফিস ও অন্যান্য স্থান	১,৫০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা যেকোন তফসিল ব্যাংককে মাধ্যমে রেজিস্ট্রার, ইসলামি আরবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুমুদিত ব্যাংক ড্রফট/পে-অর্ডার।
১৮.	বিশেষ নিদেশনা: কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		
<p>ডাইস চ্যান্সেলর মহোদয়ের অনুমোদনক্রমে স্বাক্ষরিত/- মোঃ আউল হোসেন মোবাইল নম্বর: ০১৭০৫-৪০৮০০১</p>			

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT BRAHMANBARIA Website: eed.brahmanbaria.gov.bd Invitation for e-Tender					
Tender Notice No: 18/e-GP/EED/BRAH /323 School/ (2024-2025) Date: 19/02/2025					
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to the Following Date & Time.					
Tender ID	Lot/Package Location (Name of Institution)	Procurement Method	Publication Date & Time	Tender Document Last Selling/ Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1075847	Construction of 10 Storied Academic Building with 10 Storied Foundation In/c. Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Annada Govt. High School, Sadar, Brahmanbaria.	NCT (OTM)	20-Feb-2025 16:00	23-Mar-2025 16:00	24-Mar-2025 11:00
The Provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR -2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be Followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).					
<p>(Abu Saleh Md. Nur Nabi) Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Brahmanbaria. e-mail: ee_brah@eedmoe.gov.bd</p>					

GD-474

FESTIVE FILMS Four at the forefront

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Although Eid-ul-Fitr is still a little while away, audiences are ardently anticipating the films scheduled for release during the festive season.

This year, fans can expect an intense showdown between four popular stars. Like every year, a Shakib Khan starrer will hit theatres this Eid, but this time he'll be competing against three other popular actors, setting the stage for an exciting cinematic clash.

Shakib Khan's fans are in for a treat as they will get to witness the superstar in a fierce role in Mehedi Hassan Hridoy's action-packed directorial *Borbaad*.

The filming of *Borbaad* took place in Mumbai, with Idhika Paul playing the lead opposite him and veteran actor Mamunur Rashid taking on a significant role, among several others.

Earlier in 2023, Shakib Khan and Afran Nisho competed with their respective Eid films, sparking heated debates among their fans on social media. At that time, Nisho made his film debut with *Surongo*. This Eid, he is set to return as the lead in a new film, once again competing against Shakib Khan's release.

Afran Nisho's upcoming film *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen, is slated for release this year. Following *Surongo*, Nisho has reunited with

Tama Mirza for this project, alongside the addition of Sunerah Binte Kamal. With anticipation running high among his fans, excitement is building for Eid, when audiences will choose which film captures their interest the most.

Siam Ahmed, known for his captivating charm and swoon-worthy smile, is set to delight his fans with a blend of romance and high-energy action in his upcoming film *Jongli*. The film's posters have already created a buzz online, and excitement soared even higher with the release of its first song, *Jonom Jonom*.

In *Jongli*, Siam Ahmed stars alongside Shobnom Yesmin Bubly, with Prarthana Fardin Dighi also playing a significant role. The film promises an action-packed and thrilling experience.

Shajal Noor, who impressed everyone with his performance in *Jinn*, will once again be seen in the franchise's *Jinn 3* opposite Nusraat Faria. Directed by Kamruzzaman Roman, the shooting is underway, and the film is set to compete with other releases this Eid.

With so many prominent stars sharing the limelight, the big question is: How intense will the on-screen rivalry between the four leading actors be this Eid? Additionally, what other films will be gracing the theatres?



Bangladeshi artistes to honour Language Movement at Unesco event in Paris

A group of Bangladeshi musicians is set to perform at Unesco headquarters in Paris for the 25th anniversary of International Mother Language Day, a key event highlighted by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Ekushey February was officially acknowledged as International Mother Language Day by Unesco in 1999, and it has been observed in United Nations member states since February 21, 2000. This year marks the silver jubilee of this significant recognition.

The two-day event will occur on today and February 21, with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus addressing the inauguration virtually as the guest of honour.

On February 18, Islam Uddin Palakar, rapper Shezan, Shunno's Emil, F Minor, Parsha Mahjabeen, Tuntun Baul, Jalal, Mithun Chakra, and Jahid Nirob departed from Dhaka, for Paris, to attend the International Mother Language Day silver jubilee celebrations.

‘Shastriya Sangeet O Nritya Utsab’ commences at Shilpakala

The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is hosting a four-day *Shastriya Sangeet O Nritya Utsab* to promote classical music and dance.

Organised by the Academy's Music, Dance, and Recitation Department, the event began yesterday and will continue today, then February 23, and 24 at the National Art Gallery auditorium, with programmes starting at 5pm each day.

The opening ceremony features a group dance titled *Shubhechchha O Bhalobasha*, directed by Snata Shahrin.

Performers include vocalists Kabbyashree Ray Chowdhury and Ali FM Rezwana, along with various classical dance and music artistes like Jubair



Hossain Naim, Warda Rehab, Priyanka Sarkar, and Anil Kumar Saha, among others.

The free-of-charge event is open to all.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Melody of Mavericks’

Melody of Mavericks is set to be an exceptional live concert, bringing together renowned artistes and bands, including Bappa Mazumder, Meghdol, Kaaktaal, and others for a night of captivating performances. The event being held at the picturesque Hatirjheel Amphitheatre with stunning stage designs and a diverse mix of musical genres, will deliver an unforgettable experience filled with melody, rhythm, and vibrancy.

DATE: THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 20

TIME: 3PM-10PM

VENUE: HATIRJHEEL AMPHITHEATER



J-Hope donates 200 million won to children's hospital



BTS member J-Hope recently celebrated his birthday with a philanthropic act, donating 200 million won to Asan Medical Center (AMC) in Seoul. Committed to supporting children in need, he expressed hope that his contribution would aid their treatment and bring them a brighter future.

Grateful for his fans' (Army's) unwavering support, J-Hope shared,

"I want to thank you once again. It means a lot to continue making donations annually, starting with my birthday this year."

This is not his first act of generosity—he previously donated 100 million won to AMC in 2022.

Meanwhile, J-Hope is preparing for his *Hope on the Stage* tour, set to begin on February 28 at KSPO Dome in Seoul, before travelling to multiple cities worldwide.

NEWS

Bangladeshi climate

FROM PAGE 16

With livelihoods collapsing, migration has skyrocketed.

Around 84 percent of the families have moved to cities like Dhaka, Khulna, and Chattogram since 2011 in search of work — often in exploitative industries.

Another 88 percent have sent relatives abroad, mostly to Gulf nations, where many face extreme working conditions.

The study further found that households facing higher climate risks are 161 percent more likely to migrate internally and 214 percent more likely to migrate internationally — highlighting the critical role of climate-induced shocks in driving distress migration.

Households with better education and larger landholdings are 356 percent more likely to migrate internationally, reflecting the dual nature of migration as both a coping and adaptive strategy, the report adds.

Ritu Bharadwaj, an IIED principal researcher and co-author of the paper, said, "There're systems that can soften the blow, like the rural employment guarantee scheme used in neighbouring India. As a low-income country, Bangladesh may need international help to institute something similar, but a work programme that focuses on creating disaster-resilient infrastructure could be a huge boost for the people most affected by the warming climate."

"It could also help protect them from exploitative employers who prey on desperate economic migrants. These disturbing statistics show how important it is to tackle modern slavery."

As part of a plan to make migration safe, the study calls for a range of interventions, including climate finance investments in early warning systems, more resilient crop varieties to lessen the impact of environmental change, and regulation of recruitment agencies.

Launch likely on Feb 26

FROM PAGE 16

the member secretary post.

Sources within the Nagorik Committee say that Adviser Mahfuj Alam wants Nagorik Committee Convener Nasiruddin Patwary to be in the top leadership of the new party.

On the other hand, the former Shibir activists on the platform want Ali Ahsan Zanaed, former president of Shibir's DU unit and a member of nagorik committee's executive body, as the second-in-command of the new party.

Sources said that the key leaders are mulling a senior joint convener post and a senior member secretary post to accommodate former Shibir leaders and avoid a potential split.

Govt may not be sincere in holding polls

FROM PAGE 16

while speaking at a discussion organised by Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal in the capital's Krishibid Institution auditorium yesterday afternoon.

He criticised LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan for his comments made on Tuesday that Awami League leaders could participate in the elections after apologising to the public.

"This proves that they [advisers] now want to give those fascists a place for their own interests. It is dangerous. Does this mean we should believe they are using various strategies to organise their party by remaining in the government?"

"We will not allow it, and the people of this country will not allow it," Fakhrul said.

The BNP would welcome the

formation of any political party, he said, adding, "This does not mean that you [advisers] will form your party while in government, taking advantage of government facilities. This will never be accepted."

The BNP leader also urged the interim government and its chief to act immediately, cautioning that "otherwise, public trust in you will be lost".

Recalling his earlier remarks about neutrality in the interim government, Fakhrul said, "When I first pointed out that if the government loses neutrality, another neutral administration will be required, I was criticised. But now, it is being proven."

"At that time, one of the advisers said, 'I'm focusing on 1/11 situation'. We are the victims of it."

"I want to issue a warning again: if anyone thinks of such situations and attempts are made to establish a one-party rule, the people will never accept it."

Fakhrul also highlighted the role of student politics in building a new Bangladesh.

"...In our assessment, nearly 2,000 young individuals have sacrificed their lives in the movement [July uprising], with 800 of them belonging to Chhatra Dal. In my home district of Thakurgaon, nine lives were lost, and seven of them were Chhatra Dal activists."

"Therefore, those who claim that Chhatra Dal or the BNP had no role in this movement should carefully examine the facts and get a proper understanding of the situation before making such statements."

Feb 21 gets its first poem in port city

FROM PAGE 16

shekhane ami kadte ashini.."

(Those who gave their lives here, beneath the towering Krishnachura of Ramna, where, like sparks of fire, countless stains of blood glow here and there, I have not come here to weep.)

These powerful words, penned by Mahbub-ul-Alam in Chattogram, were triggered by the events of February 21, 1952—making it the first poem written about the historic and tragic day.

However, like other districts, Chattogram witnessed an extensive campaign leading up to March 11, 1948, which had been set as the main day of the movement.

On that day, a complete shutdown was observed across the district, with students striking and boycotting classes. Three days later, the district administration imposed Section 144, banning all gatherings for a week in an attempt to suppress the movement.

During this period, leaders from the Communist Party and the Chattogram faction of the Chhatra Federation held a secret meeting, leading to the formation of the Muniti Birodhi Sangram Parishad (Anti-Principle Struggle Committee), with Rafiquddin Siddique as convener and Mahbub-ul-Alam Chowdhury as joint convener.

The committee's stance was clear: if Bangla was not recognised as a state language, Constituent Assembly members AK Khan and Noor Ahmed would resign.

On March 21 and 24, student



Chattogram Central Shaheed Minar

protests erupted in Chattogram after Muhammad Ali Jinnah, during a speech in Dhaka, declared Urdu to be the sole state language of Pakistan.

In 1950, the Chittagong Bhasha Sangram Parishad was formed, with Rafiquddin Siddique as president and Mahbubul Haq and Mahbub-ul-Alam as conveners. Meanwhile, figures like Fazlul Kader Chowdhury promoted writing Bangla in Urdu script and Arabic letters.

On February 4, 1952, a complete shutdown was observed, and the Sarbodolivo Bhasha Sangram Parishad was formed, with poet Mahbub-ul-Alam Chowdhury as convener, and MA Aziz and railway worker leader Chowdhury Harun-or-Rashid as joint conveners. Other members included Zahur Hossain Chowdhury, Moazzafar Ahmed, Krishna Gopal Sengupta, Manindra Mahajan, and Sudhansu Bhattacharya.

After the formation of the Chhatra Sangram Parishad around the same time, extensive campaigning took place across Chattogram, with February 21 as the focal point of the movement.

FROM PAGE 1

minister, and seven others in the case lodged by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2007.

The 79-year-old BNP chief -- currently in London for treatment -- was represented by her lawyer Mohammad Ziauddin Zia at the court.

Khaleda and other accused had no mala fide intention during the time of agreement between the government and Niko, a Canadian oil and gas exploration company, the judge observed in the verdict.

"The case was dragged onto politically harass

Begum Khaleda Zia and the other accused. Khaleda Zia did not commit any corruption. She did not even misuse her power," the court also said.

"Two cases were filed against former prime ministers -- Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia -- on the same day in December 2007. However, the case against Sheikh Hasina was quashed after she assumed power in 2009, while the case against Khaleda Zia continued throughout the entire Awami League regime," said the judgement.

"During the investigation, former

Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan, an accused in the case, gave a confessional statement before a magistrate. He was forced to make the statement...," it said.

"Selim was tortured during remand and admitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital for treatment," the verdict mentioned.

The court observed, "His confessional statement was not voluntary; it was done to implicate Khaleda Zia and others in the case."

The seven other accused are Giasuddin Al Mamun, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's

FROM PAGE 1

Dal activists on Tuesday.

Protesters marched across the campus and padlocked the main gates of several academic buildings as the authorities did not meet all their demands, which included action against those involved in politics and the clashes.

The atmosphere in Kuet remained tense. Law enforcers stood guard in front of the main gate. Army personnel patrolled the areas adjacent to the campus. Some students left the dormitories.

Tension prevailed on different campuses in Dhaka and other parts of the country, as both sides continued blaming each other for the clashes.

Pro-BNP student organisation JCD's Kuet unit alleged that Islami Chhatra Shibir activists and anti-discrimination students using the banner of "general students" attacked its activists first before the clashes broke out on Tuesday. The violence left at least 40 people injured.

Besides suspending classes and keeping the ban on student politics effective, Kuet's syndicate at a virtual meeting yesterday afternoon recommended the suspension of students involved in the clashes. It also decided that the university administration would file a case against outsiders over the violence.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Masud said the syndicate also decided to bar teachers and employees from participating in political activities. It recommended stern action, including dismissal, in case of violation of the ban by teachers and employees. Students will face expulsion if they are found involved in politics.

The meeting formed a four-member committee, led by Prof. MMA Hashem of computer science and engineering department, to investigate the clashes and identify the perpetrators. The committee was asked to submit its report in three working days.

The syndicate also

close friend; Khondaker Shahidul Islam, former acting secretary for energy ministry; CM Yusuf Hussain, ex-senior assistant secretary; Kamal Uddin Siddique, former principal secretary; Mir Moynul Haque, ex-general manager of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX); Kashem Sharif, former president of Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd, and Selim Bhuiyan.

Of them, Kamal, Moynul, and Kashem have been absconding since the case was filed.

On March 19, 2023, the court framed charges

The ACC filed the case in December 2007, accusing Khaleda and several others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Niko when she was the prime minister between 2001 and 2006.

The names of former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain and ex-BAPEX secretary Shafiur Rahman were dropped from the charges of case as they died.

After the acquittal order in the Niko graft case, Khaleda's lawyer Masud

Ahmed Talukder told reporters that they finally got justice from the court. "The case was filed against the BNP chairperson just to harass her politically," he said.

A day after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 last year amid a mass uprising, the president pardoned Khaleda in cases she had been punished during the AL rule.

She was acquitted in five defamation cases filed during the AL rule over derogatory remarks about the Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and

Hasina on September 3 last year, and relieved of the charges in the Gatco graft case on October 24.

On October 30, the High Court scrapped 11 criminal cases, including one for sedition.

The HC on November 27 acquitted the BNP chief in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in which she was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court.

In the same day, she was relieved in the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

On January 15 this year, the Supreme Court acquitted Khaleda, Tarique, and four others of

corruption charges in the Zia Orphanage Trust case. The BNP chief landed in jail after she was sentenced to five years in a corruption case on February 8, 2018. In April 2019, her health deteriorated. She was released from prison after 776 days on March 26, 2020, amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The AL government temporarily released her with an executive order, suspending her sentence on the condition that she remains at her Gulshan home and does not leave the country. The term of her release had been extended several times.

FROM PAGE 1

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The syndicate also

decided that the university would bear all medical expenses for the injured students.

It recommended measures with guidance from Khulna divisional commissioner to ensure students' security on the campus and adjacent areas.

Hours after the clashes at the Kuet students protesting against JCD attacks made a five-point demand on Tuesday night, giving the authorities until 1:00pm yesterday to meet those.

Besides expulsion of those involved in politics on campus, they demanded legal and disciplinary action including expulsion against those involved in Tuesday's violence; deployment of

the same day it was formed on January 7 since student politics on the campus was banned, he said.

JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir at a press conference at Dhaka University, however, alleged that Omar Faruk, former convener of Students Against Discrimination's/ Kuet unit, led the brutal attacks on the general students.

He also pointed the finger at Hasnat Abdullah, the convener of Students Against Discrimination's/ central committee, alleging that Hasnat had monitored the attacks from Dhaka.

At Jahangirnagar University in Savar, a group of leftist students formed a

FROM PAGE 2

yesterday on allowing AL men to participate in polls. "As I did not elaborate... my statement may not have been conveyed clearly. Some media outlets have also presented my statement differently. Here [in the statement], it was not said to allow Awami League to participate in elections. That question is irrelevant before a trial," he said.

The adviser also

emphasised the need for finding a permanent solution to this issue. "If we don't do so, the Awami League will find a way to return to power today or tomorrow. The Awami League had banned Jamaat-e-Islami, but did that stop Jamaat's politics?" Asif called for an "integrated process" to ensure AL's eradication, noting that the party still has a large number of

He also said many who had some connection or other with AL ask why they should apologise if they have done nothing wrong. "Of course, they must apologise for their involvement with Awami League 'as a fascist enabler or a beneficiary' in any given form. This process must be completed transparently and in phases."

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

স্মারক : রবিবা/প্রশা/নিয়োগ/৯৯৬/২০২৫/৬১;


তারিখ : ১৯.০২.২০২৫

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর নিম্নোক্ত শূন্য পদসমূহে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম, বিভাগ/দপ্তর ও বেতন স্কেল	বয়স ও পদের সংখ্যা
১.	সহকারী অধ্যাপক বিভাগ : বাংলা বেতন স্কেল : ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
২.	সহকারী অধ্যাপক বিভাগ : সমাজবিজ্ঞান বেতন স্কেল : ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
৩.	সহকারী অধ্যাপক বিভাগ : অর্থনীতি বেতন স্কেল : ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
৪.	সহকারী অধ্যাপক বিভাগ : ম্যানেজমেন্ট বেতন স্কেল : ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
৫.	সহকারী অধ্যাপক বিভাগ : সংগীত বেতন স্কেল : ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
৬.	প্রভাষক বিভাগ : বাংলা বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
৭.	প্রভাষক বিভাগ : ম্যানেজমেন্ট বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
৮.	প্রভাষক বিভাগ : সংগীত বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০২
৯.	তবলা ও কী-বোর্ড ডেমনোস্ট্রেটর বিভাগ : সংগীত বেতন স্কেল : ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
১০.	তবলা সহযোগী বিভাগ : সংগীত বেতন স্কেল : ১২৫০০-৩০২৩০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : প্রযোজ্য নয় পদ সংখ্যা : ০১
১১.	বারুচি দপ্তর : ভাইস-চ্যান্সেলর বেতন স্কেল : ৮৮০০-২১৩১০/- (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫)	বয়স : অনূর্ধ্ব ৪০ (চল্লিশ) বছর পদ সংখ্যা : ০১

উপরোক্ত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের বিস্তারিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও আবেদনের যাবতীয় শর্তের তথ্য এবং আবেদন ফরম রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর রেজিস্ট্রার কার্যালয় এবং রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.rub.ac.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ : ১৩.০৩.২০২৫ (বিকাল ৫:০০টা পর্যন্ত)।

কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে-
স্বাক্ষরিত/-
(প্রফেসর ড. সুমন কান্তি বড়ুয়া)
প্রো-ভাইস চ্যান্সেলর
ও
রেজিস্ট্রার (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)
রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ
শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ।


 **বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**
 হেড অফিস, ঢাকা।

এস্টাবলিশমেন্ট এন্ড কমন্ সার্ভিস ডিপার্টমেন্ট
 বিষয়: তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ।

২০২৫ সালে ০১ (এক) বছর মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য এই ব্যাংকের হেড অফিস কর্তৃক নিম্নলিখিত ব্যবসায় নিয়োজিত প্রকৃত ও ব্যতনামা প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের নিচে হতে দরখাস্ত আদান করা যাচ্ছেঃ-

(১) আবাবরণ সরবরাহ, মোরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ; (২) যানবাহন মোরামত ও সার্ভিসিং, টায়ার, টিউব, ব্যাটারী সরবরাহ (৩) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ, মোরামত, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও পরিচ্ছন্নকরণ; (৪) ফটোকপি মেশিন, নোট কাউন্টিং মেশিন, নোট ব্যাঙ্কিং মেশিন, পেপার শ্রেজার মেশিন, জাল নোট সনাক্তকরণ মেশিন এবং এতদসংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য অফিস সরঞ্জাম সরবরাহ ও মোরামত; (৫) শীতাতপ যন্ত্র ও রেফ্রিজারেটর সরবরাহ ও মোরামত; (৬) বিভিন্ন সামগ্রী মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহ; (৭) স্টেশনারী সামগ্রী সরবরাহ; (৮) বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম ও স্যানিটারী সামগ্রী সরবরাহ ও মোরামত; (৯) অগ্নি-নির্বাপক যন্ত্রপাতি সরবরাহ ও মোরামত; এবং (১০) ব্যাংক ভবনের পুরণির্মাণ/মোরামত কাজ ইত্যাদি।

০২। এ সংক্রান্ত সিডিউল/ফরম ৮, রাজউক এগ্রিনিউ, রিডিবিএল ভবন, মতিবিল, ঢাকায় অবস্থিত ব্যাংক ভবনের লেভেল-৯ এ এস্টাবলিশমেন্ট এন্ড কমন্ সার্ভিস ডিপার্টমেন্ট হতে প্রতিনিধি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদে ২০০.০০ (দুইহাত) টাকা মূল্য (অফিসব্যয়যোগ্য) প্রদান করে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে হবে। ইতোপূর্বে তালিকাভুক্ত হয়েছে এমন সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তালিকাভুক্তি নথিায়নের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। আলোচ্য তালিকাভুক্তি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে করা হবে।


(আবদুল্লাহ আল বাসেদ)
 ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার
 ফোন ০২-২২৩৩৮৫৪৫৫

বাংলাদেশ WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
কুমিল্লা পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ
বাগাউশো, পানি অনন,
বাউতলা, কুমিল্লা।

Office of the Executive Engineer
Cumilla Water Development Division
BWDB, Pani Bhaban,
Jhawtala, Cumilla.
email: xencomilla.om@gmail.com

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Memo No. T-1/237

Date: 19-02-2025

Re-Tender Notice

A Re-Tender has been invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) for the procurement of the following (works/supply).

Sl. No.	eTender ID	Package No. & Description	Tender Method	Location of the works	Tender Documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	1078126	CUM/OM/OTM/2024-25/W-63 Interior work of Chief Engineer office, Superintending Engineer office room and Chief Engineer, Resident at Shaktola BWDB colony under Cumilla WD Division, BWDB. Cumilla during the year 2024-25	OTM	Sadar South Upazilla	02-Mar-2025 16:00	03-Mar-2025 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31). (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>).

পানি-৬৬২/২০২৪-২০২৫

5"x3

Wahid B. B. 25

(Khan Mohammad Waliuzzaman)

Executive Engineer

Cumilla Water Development Division

BWDB, Cumilla.

GD-473

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Principal's Office
Manikganj Govt. Technical School and College
Manikganj
E-mail: tscmanikganj@gmail.com

Memo no: 57.03.5600.501. 07.001.23- 143 Date: 18/02/2025

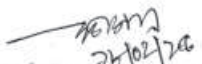
e- Tender Notice

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

Sl	Tender ID	Name of goods Item	Tender Documents last Selling/Downloading date and time	Tender closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	1075748	Supply of Raw Materials and Spare Parts	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00
2	1077391	Supply of Engineering & other equipment.	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00
3	1077416	Supply of Education & learning Materials	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00
4	1074789	Supply of Others Stationaries	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00
5	1075524	Supply of Computer Accessories	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00
6	1077478	Supply of Furniture's	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00
7	1075471	Supply of Cleaning items	05-March-2025 11:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00	05-March-2025 15:00:00

Note:

- 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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP System.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal & from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
- The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.


Md. Quamruzzaman
Principal

Manikganj Govt. Technical School and College
Manikganj.

REUTERS, Jerusalem

“People obviously have the possibility to move or go where they want, if they will. But if they don’t, they’re allowed to stay,” Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani told reporters.



Residents stand at the site of an apartment building and a clinic hit by a Russian drone strike in Odesa, Ukraine, yesterday. The drone attack injured four people, including a child, and caused widespread power cuts, interrupting heating supplies to about 500 apartment buildings, 13 schools, a kindergarten, and several hospitals, officials said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, KYIV



AFP, Beirut

Lebanese official media said Israel struck a vehicle in the south yesterday, killing one person – the first death since Israeli troops withdrew from most of the border area a day earlier.

“An enemy drone struck a vehicle... in the town of Aita al-Shaab,” near the southern border, the official National News agency said, reporting one person was killed.

It had earlier said one person was wounded in the Wazzani region, elsewhere along the frontier, after Israeli forces opened fire “while residents were inspecting” restaurants and cafes in the area.



PHOTO: AFP



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BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Personalistic authoritarianism and Bangladesh: Reading Ali Riaz’s ‘Ami E Rashtro’

Review of ‘Ami E Rashtro: Bangladesh E Byaktitantrik Shoirotontro’ (Prothoma Prokashon, 2025)

SADMAN AHMED SIAM

Bangladesh has suffered the terrible luck of having to deal with authoritarianism several times since its inception, most recently under the Awami League from 2009 to 2024. Bangladesh is not alone, as the global trend at present seems to be sliding towards authoritarianism. These civilian-authoritarian regimes have fundamental differences with the brutal dictatorships of the past, which has forced citizens fighting for democracy to change their methods of

protest. Ali Riaz, a prominent political scientist, lays out these discussions for general readers in his short book, *Ami E Rashtro: Bangladesh E Byaktitantrik Shoirotontro*.

The book has seven chapters in total, where the first four are an attempt to situate the authoritarian regimes in a global context, and the final three deal with Bangladesh specifically.

Ami E Rashtro begins with a brief introduction to personalistic authoritarianism, with examples such as Russia, China, and North Korea—where authoritarianism is not based

on total brute force, but rather a cult of personality. The data Riaz presents illustrates how there is now a global trend towards authoritarianism, which has reversed the democratic wave that started in the 70s and continued after the Cold War ended.

The author analyses what could have led to this reversal. Academics have identified three types of causes—economic, politico-institutional, and social. The economic reasons involve economic decline and inequality which exists between the citizens of the country. Politico-institutional

reasons refer to the weakening of institutions which are supposed to safeguard democracies, such as the judiciary, human rights, and anti-corruption organisations, etc. by political elites, and breakdown of the rule of law. Finally, the social reasons involve clashes between different ethnic or religious groups and class divisions in society.

Although these are integral to explaining the rise of authoritarianism, Riaz explains that what differentiates them from previous ones is the inclusion of another crucial element—ideology. Ideology, or a national story/myth is needed to legitimise all the shortcomings of the economy and the political system. The new authoritarians don’t want to be seen as applying brute force in a military style; instead, they want to be perceived as democratic. This is why they utter phrases such as “democracy customised to local culture and heritage”, which is nothing but a refusal to follow international standards.

Riaz also expands upon the process by which an authoritarian regime executes its will—democracy itself. By creating an ideological grounding, the would-be authoritarian claims to be the saviour of the nation and wins the parliament through majority votes. Then they weaken the legislature, change laws in their favour, and attack their political opponents through legal and ideological frameworks, portraying them as enemies to the nation’s sovereignty. In other words, these regimes use democracy to undermine democracy.

The chief discussion of the book revolves around personalistic authoritarianism, a special variant of today’s authoritarian regimes. In this form, the ideological framework posits the leader and their family as the supreme, above everything else in the nation, eventually creating a cult of personality. Another feature of personalistic authoritarianism is patrimonialism—the tendency to use state property as personal belongings. These behaviours include but aren’t limited to nominating family members for the highest rank in different national organisations, acquitting them of criminal charges without proper investigation, and granting them property bypassing the law. The rule of order breaks down in this system, and the only way to ensure that a citizen can attain anything is their connection to the ruling authority. Processes become irrelevant, and institutions are made impotent.

Riaz reiterates the history of

Bangladesh and its three authoritarian regimes, including the two non-military dictatorships in 1972-1975 and 2009-2024 and the military dictatorship of 1975-1990. He explains how Bangladesh can be a case study to test academic theories on authoritarianism. Issues with the formation of the constitution in 1972 are discussed, including how it put several restrictions on fundamental human rights such as freedom of speech. These articles were later used to legislate laws to crush dissent and opposition. In addition, the constitution put too much power in the hands of the prime minister and made them virtually above the law, which certainly eased the way into building a personalistic dictatorship—where one person’s command is enough to overturn everything.

These were justified with an ideology which placed Sheikh Hasina and her family as the sole leaders of the Liberation War in 1971. Critics were silenced and anyone opposed to the regime was called ‘anti-Liberation War’, ‘traitor’, and ‘threats to sovereignty’. The Sheikh family practically reigned over the country, which resembles the patrimonialism described by Riaz earlier. The Sheikh family and their members took decisions in the government bypassing existing laws and processes; here, Riaz gives an example of Adani’s deal with Hasina, which was made solely by Sheikh Hasina despite continuous criticism from experts.

The final chapter discusses how to get out of such a situation. Riaz outlines a few solutions, such as strengthening the institutions which are to protect the democratic structure, such as the judiciary, human rights and anti-corruption agencies, the election commission, etc. He also suggests reforming the constitution to add checks and balances so that no one person has unmatched power—be it the president or the prime minister—and a change in political culture itself by ensuring democracy inside political parties and organisations first.

The July Uprising in 2024 has given Bangladesh new hope, and this time, citizens are demanding substantial change so that Bangladesh does not find itself face to face with another dictatorship. This book is a vital resource for achieving that goal, by analysing previous mistakes and formulating new pathways.

Sadman Ahmed Siam, as the name suggests, is indeed a sad man. Send him happy quotes at: siamahmed09944@gmail.com.

BOI MELA 2025

5 books to look out for at THIS YEAR’S BOI MELA

On the occasion of this year’s Ekushey Boi Mela, book lovers have much to look forward to. From thought-provoking short stories and captivating novels to powerful poetry and engaging plays, the fair offers a diverse selection catering to all literary tastes.

STAR BOOKS REPORT

Whether you’re searching for contemporary works by emerging writers or timeless classics from renowned authors, this list highlights must-read books that deserve your attention during your visit.

“Bibaho”

Momtazuddin Ahmed

A poignant tale that revolves around the protagonist Sakhina’s husband who is martyred in the 1952 Language Movement, Ahmed’s work captures simultaneously the heartbreak and the pride of losing a loved one for the greater, collective political aspiration of a people. As Sakhina mourns the death of her beloved, her father urges her to take pride in his sacrifice—a dualism that characterises Bangladesh’s struggle for independence.

Ekushe February

Hasan Halizur Rahman (ed.)

Bangala Gobeshona, 2020

Published on the first anniversary of 21st February, this short story

collection features stories, such as Shawkat Osman’s “Mouno Noy”, Nur Ul Alam’s “Ekaler Rupkatha”, Rabeya Khatun’s “Prothom Boddhobhumi”, Shahidullah Kaisar’s “Emni Korei Gore Uthbe”, among others. Set against the backdrop of the tumultuous days of February 1952, this collection offers snippets of quotidian Bangali lives as the struggle for independence and linguistic autonomy raged on.

Mofossholio Intensity

Syeda Nilima Dola

Oitijhyha Prokashoni, 2025

Brought to this year’s Boi Mela by Oitijhyha Prokashoni, in her debut poetry collection, Syeda Nilima Dola traces her evolution as a poet, capturing the raw emotions and transformative moments that have shaped her journey. Much like the title of her book, she finds the intensity of her love for life through poetry. In *Mofossholio Intensity*, she explores the experiences that shape our psyche and the intensity of emotions that moves us to find solitude in art. With an achingly beautiful tribute to all the people she loves, this book explores the theme that we are just a mosaic of everyone and everything we have ever loved.

Hijra Shobdokosh

Selina Hossain

Somoy Prokashon,

2019

Selina Hossain is a widely celebrated Bangladeshi fiction writer who sheds light on society’s taboos through activism in her writing. Her book, *Hijra Shobdokosh*, is another significant addition to her literary works, published in 2019 by Somoy



PHOTOS: RASHED SHUMON

Prokashon. This book provides detailed information on the language, culture, and various aspects of the lives of the Hijra community. It highlights the scrutiny and misconceptions surrounding the Bangladeshi Hijra community and the generational mistreatment that they have lived through. It inspires conversation on how we can practise open-mindedness and recognise the struggle such marginalised communities face in cementing their identity in this society. Encouraging their social inclusion, it urges readers to see the Hijra community as an equal and

respected minority while emphasising the importance of accepting their existence.

The White Book

Han Kang, Tripti Santra (translator)

Kobi Prokashani, 2025

Each year, innumerable Bangla translations of international bestsellers inundate the shelves at Boi Mela, making them accessible to a wider readership in Bangladesh. At this year’s fair, we think Tripti Santra’s translation of *The White Book* is one worth checking out. Originally written by Han Kang, a South Korean writer, *The White Book* is a

deeply personal semi-autobiographical account that immerses readers into the severity of losing a loved one and the confusion of perceiving the world in their absence. Kang first rose to international prominence for her novel *The Vegetarian*, which became the first Korean language novel to win the International Booker Prize for fiction in 2016. In 2024, she became the first Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, which the Swedish Academy awarded Kang for her “intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life”.



KUET violence is deeply troubling

We must prevent the resurgence of toxic student politics

We are deeply alarmed by what happened on Tuesday on the campus of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) and the subsequent tensions spreading across multiple universities. The violent clashes between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the pro-BNP student wing, and the Students Against Discrimination platform—leaving about 50 injured—signal a troubling return to the age-old toxic student politics that long vitiated our campuses. At a time when the nation eagerly awaits a shift in our political culture after 15 years of autocratic rule by Awami League and ongoing commitments by political parties to building a “new Bangladesh,” this development is both shocking and disheartening. It shows that, unless checked, the ghosts of the past may easily resurface and undo our hard-earned progress.

There are conflicting accounts about who initiated the violence and the identities of those involved, with JCD blaming Chhatra Shibir’s influence under the banner of the student platform. But this only adds to the confusion surrounding the shifting political allegiances and narratives in the wake of the July uprising. According to our report, tensions had been brewing at KUET over JCD’s campaign to lift the existing ban on student politics, leading to protest rallies by anti-discrimination activists. On Tuesday afternoon, both groups faced off, resulting in a series of clashes, chases, and counter-chases that lasted until the evening. By then, photos of men wielding large scythes and machetes, as well as injured students, went viral on Facebook. Later, Jubo Dal, BNP’s youth wing, expelled Mahbubur Rahman, vice-president of its Daulatpur unit in Khulna, after he was seen brandishing a sharp weapon.

By now, we know about the protests and showdowns that followed the KUET incident, including at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Chittagong University, Rajshahi University, and Jagannath University. On Wednesday afternoon—after an ultimatum from KUET students demanding a complete ban on student politics, punishment for the attackers, and the resignation of top officials—the university authorities decided to prohibit all forms of political activities on campus. Students found engaging in politics will face permanent expulsion, while teachers, staff, and officials are also barred from any political involvement. A four-member committee has been formed to investigate Tuesday’s violence, including the role of outsiders. All academic activities will also remain suspended until February 28.

While we welcome the prompt response by KUET authorities, it is not enough to defuse the tensions brewing within the wider community of politically minded students. The bellicose rhetoric from some student leaders is only making matters worse. If this is a preview of what lies ahead, it is deeply disturbing. This calls for a sober reflection by all parties involved, including the warring student factions. While we support the emergence of a new student-led party and acknowledge that differences of opinion are natural, all parties must ensure that their activities do not harm the interests of general students. The student politics of old has no place in post-uprising Bangladesh.

Ensuring economic stability is paramount

Govt must rein in inflation, adopt more business-friendly policies

We are concerned about the sluggish business environment that has persisted in the country for the past several months now. According to a report, in the October-December period of 2024, most listed companies experienced a decline in profits compared to the same period in the previous year. This decline is primarily due to rising borrowing costs, high inflation, and other economic stresses. Out of 213 listed firms, 97 reported higher profits, while 116 saw a drop. While 18 of the profit-making companies recovered from previous losses, 32 of the loss-making firms reported fresh losses. During this period, GDP growth slowed, and consumer spending shrank. These factors, combined with persisting political uncertainties, have exacerbated the situation.

Reportedly, while large corporations such as Power Grid Bangladesh PLC, Square Pharmaceuticals, and DESCO are in a comparatively better position due to their diverse portfolios and vast market base, small and medium-sized businesses are still struggling to recover. Many have adopted a wait-and-see approach to business expansion due to political uncertainties and volatile law and order, while high interest rates and inflation have further increased the cost of doing business. According to Bangladesh Bank, the weighted average interest rate in the banking sector rose from 6.60 percent in October 2023 to 10.23 percent by December 2024—a 55 percent increase. And despite relatively stable foreign exchange reserves, driven by record remittance inflows and growing exports, private sector investment remains sluggish. Meanwhile, persistent high inflation has eroded people’s purchasing power, and the recent increase in value-added tax (VAT) may worsen the situation.

Since taking office, the interim government has introduced several initiatives to stabilise the economy. But clearly, more needs to be done to ensure macroeconomic stability. To this end, controlling inflation remains a major challenge. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the country’s inflation fell to 9.94 percent in January from 10.89 percent in December, but further measures are needed ahead of Ramadan when inflation typically rises. Besides, the government must prioritise improving political stability and law and order to support business growth. Political parties also have a major role to play in this regard. They must refrain from actions and statements that could destabilise the country.

Finally, the government must engage in dialogue with the business community to address their concerns and grievances. Our economy has been going through a difficult phase for quite some time now. Only coordinated, well-thought-out measures can help it recover.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Volcano Parícutín erupts

On this day in 1943, the volcano Parícutín in Mexico’s Michoacán state erupted, eventually burying two villages.

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Imperialism, war, and the fight for a just world



Anu Muhammad
is former professor of economics
from Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

Since 2009, the World Day of Social Justice has been observed on February 20 with the goal of raising awareness and promoting efforts to combat social exclusion, poverty, and unemployment. It primarily focuses on promoting global harmony among people, reducing inequality, alleviating poverty, and establishing a fair social system.

Beyond this designated day, social justice remains a significant global issue, with people in different countries expressing their aspirations for fairness in various ways. However, without questioning the power exercised by major global players, ruling classes, or imperialist forces—as well as the dominance of anti-people and anti-environmental justice groups in different countries—the concept of international social justice cannot be truly meaningful. Therefore, this question needs to be raised in our country as well as globally.

We know that the largest allocation, or the biggest single sector in terms of expenditure worldwide, is the industry dedicated to human destruction—the war industry, armaments, and surveillance. The amount of money spent on them now is nearly \$2 trillion, with 50 percent of this expenditure being made by the US alone. The spending of this money and its allocation drive activities that fuel war, violence, and repression across countries. They strengthen authoritarian regimes and are used by the most parasitic, anti-people, and anti-environment corporate powers to consolidate their dominance.

In recent history, we have seen this in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, various parts of the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Surveillance, interventions, and the patronisation of war-mongering groups in different countries have further expanded this system. Alongside this expansion, we witness the rise of plundering elites and authoritarian, autocratic ruling classes in many countries.

This clearly indicates that our current world order is completely against international social justice. Therefore, whenever we talk about international social justice, we must question the present global (dis)order. To challenge the current global system, it is essential to establish agendas focused on public rights.

If we take Bangladesh as an example, the Liberation War was fundamentally fought to establish social justice and build a society free from inequality, exploitation, oppression, and dominance. However, in the post-war period, we have witnessed various

phases of betrayal. Over time, a class has emerged that holds highly concentrated wealth, leading to rising inequality and poverty. Instead of achieving sustainable development, we have ended up with sustainable poverty, increasing deprivation, widespread environmental destruction, and deepening ethnic, class, and religious disparities.

If we look at India, we see a similar pattern. Despite the extreme levels of poverty and inequality, a few Indians are consistently listed among the richest people globally.

However, India is also home to the highest number of the poorest people in the world, with extreme inequality and deprivation. At the same time, the militarisation of the state is evident. Similarly, in Pakistan, we see



PHOTO: REUTERS

Thousands of demonstrators protest in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, in London, Britain, on October 21, 2023.

continuous militarisation of the state along with poverty and inequality, with power being increasingly concentrated in the hands of the military, while a vast number of people remain deprived of their rights.

Following the election of Trump in the US, global tensions have escalated. Instead of fostering solidarity and unity among people worldwide, there is growing concern over increasing US domination and imperialist aggression in various regions. This has raised fears of a new phase of war or the emergence of a new chapter of global conflict.

Meanwhile, in Palestine, Israel’s aggression, colonial occupation, and

state of the world, I see four potential possibilities emerging from this situation.

One possibility is that the world becomes increasingly fascist. In other words, the entire global system could turn into a fascist system, with the US as its leading power, and this could take on a more extreme form both globally and in various individual countries. The second possibility is that multiple centres of power will emerge in the world, leading to competition between them, and no single dominance will prevail. The third possibility is that the struggle for change will intensify, and the fight

for dominance will continue, with both forces working in tandem. The fourth possibility is a revolutionary transformation of the global order.

These four possibilities are on the horizon, and within this framework, the desire to establish social justice, equality, and an environmentally friendly economy is rising. This urge emerging within people is driven by the need to sustain human society’s existence in the face of capitalist aggression and the madness of the global ruling class.

The entire planet is facing an existential crisis, primarily due to the destruction of the environment and climate change. Across the world, insecurity and health hazards are increasing, and the quality of life for people is being threatened. In this context, the environmental movement is becoming a powerful force for challenging and changing the current global order. The environmental movement, along with the anti-war movement, the anti-imperialist aggression movement, and the equality movement creates the potential for international people’s power needed to establish social justice on a global scale.

KUET CAMPUS VIOLENCE

Are we returning to divisive student politics?



Kamrul Hassan Mamun
is professor at the Department of Physics
at Dhaka University. He can be reached at
khassan@du.ac.bd.

KAMRUL HASSAN MAMUN

The events that unfolded at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) on February 18 serve as a stark reminder of the direction Bangladesh’s educational institutions are heading. It should be looked at as more than just an isolated incident, but more as a preview of what the future holds if we continue down the same perilous path. The rapid resurgence of age-old toxic practices on campuses is alarming. What happened at KUET is nothing less than a betrayal of the sacrifices made during the upheaval of 2024—a time when people bled and endured lifelong suffering in pursuit of a better future. Those who wish to understand the true essence of 2024 need only revisit the videos and graffiti from that time. The message was clear: the stranglehold of partisan blindness, campus violence,

and opportunistic hypocrisy had to end.

For the last four to five decades, how many true leaders have emerged from student politics? If we examine the legacy of recent campus-based politics, the results are disheartening. Instead of nurturing responsible, visionary leaders, student politics has often devolved into factional brawls, extortion, deception, dormitory takeovers, and the exploitation of campus resources for personal gain.

The repercussions of this flawed system are evident in the country’s governance today. Many of those who once indulged in student politics have moved on to become police officers, bureaucrats, teachers, and tax officials. The practices they learnt on campus—intimidation, manipulation, and corruption—are now deeply

embedded in the fabric of Bangladesh’s institutions.

What kind of educational environment do we truly want for our students? What should a university campus represent? We envision a campus where students exhibit such discipline and responsibility that they, alongside a few administrative staff, can efficiently manage their residential halls. This model, followed by top universities worldwide, not only streamlines administrative functions but also nurtures future leaders.

Universities should be hubs for intellectual discourse, debate, and dialogue. Students must learn to engage with diverse perspectives, embracing inclusivity and critical thinking rather than blind allegiance to any political ideology. A politically aware student body should prioritise education-centric activism—demanding increased funding for academic research, well-stocked libraries, nutritious food in canteens, and better living conditions in dormitories. These are the real concerns that affect students’ lives and futures. When injustice occurs anywhere in the country, students should rise above political affiliations and speak out. Corruption and oppression know no political colour,

and neither should the voices of the youth.

If student politics continues to promote division rather than unity, how can these same students later contribute to building an inclusive society? The primary duty of students is to pursue education and research. Beyond that, they should engage in social service, sports, and cultural activities. But under no circumstances should they allow themselves to be used as pawns in partisan power struggles—especially not during their formative years.

For a while now, politicians have been uttering nice words—words designed to erase the memory of 2024, like an eraser slowly wiping away hard-fought progress. Now, every political party seems eager to erase the lessons of that transformational year, rushing to restore the very system that so many fought to change.

If we do not act now, if we do not demand accountability and resist the return to divisive politics, our universities will continue to be breeding grounds for corruption and chaos rather than institutions of innovation and learning. The events at KUET are a warning—one we ignore at our own peril.

Why the outrage over pads but not violence against women?



Noora Shamsi Bahar is senior lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages, North South University (NSU), and a published researcher and translator.

NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

Let us try to not get into the specifics of whether sanitary napkins were being sold or distributed at the country’s largest annual book fair—the Ekushey Boi Mela. Let’s not even point fingers at the event management company or the Bangla Academy for allowing, and later, stopping the stalls to do so. The unsettling fact that surpassed these issues is that a group of men had a problem with the public display of such “private” product—sanitary napkins.

In this context, I couldn’t help but look back at a chapter titled “The Curse” from a superhero series named *Swamp Thing*, published by DC Comics. In this chapter, we are presented with a white female protagonist named Phoebe who is haunted by the spirits of menstruating women from the fictitious Native American “Pennamaquot” tribe. Those women were ostracised and quarantined in “the red lodge” that once stood in the plot of land, now occupied by Phoebe and her husband, Roy.

Phoebe’s rage is fuelled by the condescending way her misogynistic husband—an epitome of toxic or hyper masculinity, treats her. Phoebe is also infuriated by the stifling patriarchy that is

too ingrained in the system and sometimes propagated by women themselves—women who have internalised patriarchy. For example, at the supermarket, Phoebe buys a large box of sanitary napkins that the checkout lady hides in a brown bag “as if to protect other groceries.” This evidences the latter’s role in the patriarchal tool of making menstruation and menstruation products taboo.

Needless to say, this is also the norm in pharmacies and shops or supermarkets that sell sanitary napkins in Bangladesh. The need to hide the period product from the male gaze is similar to hiding Pennamaquot menstruating women from the rest of the tribe, which in turn, is similar to the demands of the group of men, who want to keep the sanitary napkins out of sight at the book fair. Menstruation, at the end of the day, in both so-called “civilised” and “uncivilised” societies, in the past and at present, is seen as something to be ashamed of because it is associated with undesirability and grossness.

Why should one be so vehemently against period products being openly displayed, when these very products ensure the physical and mental wellness of women while their uterus

sheds its lining during every menstrual cycle—a completely natural bodily function? Many girls and women in Bangladesh do not have access to period products due to financial constraints and lack of awareness and resort to using rags and unhygienic products that may lead to discomfort, skin issues, various kinds of infections, diseases, cervical cancer, absenteeism at school or workplace, low self-esteem, and overall, poor quality of life.



VISUAL: SIFAT AFRIN SHAMS

Some men have even gone on to claim that women in past generations never used sanitary napkins and they were healthy women, so what is the need for such a product now? This argument falls under two types of logical fallacies. First, the false equivalence

fallacy, which compares two situations—past generations who did not use sanitary napkins and current generations who are encouraged to do so, as if they are the same, ignoring critical differences such as advancements in hygiene, healthcare, and changes in lifestyle. Just because women in the past managed without sanitary products does not mean it was ideal or healthy. It’s like saying, my grandfather smoked his entire life and lived

which assumes that because something was done a certain way in the past, it should be continued in the same way. It suggests that traditional practices are inherently better without considering improvements or the problems that those practices used to cause. It’s like saying, we have always used home remedies for illnesses in our family, so there’s no need for modern medicine, which assumes a tradition or practice is better or correct simply because it has been done for a long time, while disregarding advancements in medical science that could offer effective treatments.

It is men who stood in unison to put an end to the public display of sanitary napkins, yet they remain conspicuously absent from efforts to combat violent crimes against women. Where do men gather to voice their protestations when children, disabled, and elderly women are violently abused, raped and murdered? When there’s hardly any hue and cry as far as gender-based violence is concerned, there is a terrorising frat party or congregation of conservative men who are uncompromisingly opposed to the idea of ensuring that women at a book fair can get easy access to sanitary napkins if they happen to bleed there. Do they expect us, women, to dislodge our private parts and leave them under lock and key, in a sealed safe, buried six feet under, in some impenetrable forest, when we go out?

What if this same energy that was exhibited by sanitary-napkin-hating men was channelled into advocating for women’s safety, dignity, and access to essential products? How different could our society be if those voices rallied for progress instead of suppression?

Bangladesh’s bureaucracy needs reinvention



Dr. Habib Zafarullah is an adjunct professor of public policy at the University of New England, Australia, and former professor of public administration at the University of Dhaka. He is the founding president of the South Asian Network for Public Administration. He can be reached at habibzed@gmail.com.

HABIB ZAFARULLAH

Despite nearing almost six decades of independence, Bangladesh’s administrative system remains stuck in the past, a relic of British colonial rule. Originally designed to serve foreign rulers, this bureaucracy now appears more interested in protecting its own privileges than advancing the nation. Outdated methods of handling paperwork and communication create unnecessary obstacles, slowing decisions and holding back progress.

One glaring example of delay is the “noting system,” where files must pass through multiple hands for comments and approvals before any action is taken. This confusing process loses time and money that could be used for better purposes, such as building schools, hospitals, and other infrastructures. Even now, high-ranking officials often behave like kings, expecting their staff and the public to show them the same respect people did in colonial times. This old way of thinking focuses more on strict rules than on getting things done and values appearance over helping others.

Despite numerous reform attempts, the core structure of the civil service has barely changed. The Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP), which evolved into Bangladesh’s administration cadre, retained its elite status and privileged position. This has created a bureaucratic class that sees itself as the guardian of the state rather than as public servants. As a result, they resist meaningful reforms that could challenge their authority and disrupt their control over government operations.

This rigid system affects every aspect of the country’s development. Simple tasks, like getting a business permit or accessing land records, become complicated, time-consuming, and prone to corruption. Resistance to

growth challenges is obvious. Although the country has improved in many ways, slow and complicated government processes are holding back economic growth, social progress, and public services.

What makes this situation even more frustrating is how stubbornly the system resists change. Experts point to an “iron triangle”—a powerful alliance between politicians, bureaucrats, and business elites—who benefit from the current system and work together to block meaningful reforms that could improve governance.

The colonial influence on Bangladesh’s bureaucracy is still evident in many ways.

look like.

For Bangladesh to progress, it is important to make a strong effort to improve the public service. The government should focus on hiring and promoting people based on their skills and qualifications to make sure the best individuals lead. Technology should be fully applied in governance to make operations smoother, increase speed, and lower crime rates. We need better ways for citizens to give feedback so that government leaders are held accountable and serve the people accordingly.

The cost of maintaining the current system is becoming unsustainable. In a world where nations compete



FILE ILLUSTRATION: BIPOB CHAKROBORTY

change has also slowed the adoption of digital governance. Instead of using technology to improve services, many bureaucrats view it as a threat to their power. While other Asian countries have successfully implemented e-governance, Bangladesh struggles with endless delays and bureaucratic roadblocks. Digital systems would make processes more transparent, potentially reducing corruption—something many officials are unwilling to risk.

Another problem is that the promotion system is old-fashioned and tends to prefer generalists instead of specialists. As a result, leadership roles often go to people who lack the needed technical skills, leading to the creation of useless policies and bad execution. This stops the country from having the skilled leaders needed to deal with today’s problems.

The connection between this ineffective system and Bangladesh’s

District commissioners, for example, still live in grand colonial-era residences and follow traditions that appear outdated in a modern democracy. But this isn’t just about appearances—it reflects a deeper issue. The system continues to treat citizens as subjects to be controlled rather than as active participants in governance. This concentration of power in the hands of a few makes it harder for ordinary people to influence decisions that affect their lives.

However, there are signs of hope. A new group of civil servants, trained in modern management and aware of the best practices from around the world, is advocating for change from within the system. Young leaders in local areas are changing how things are done by focusing on serving the community instead of trying to rule them. Their method questions long-standing rules and shows what a better system might

based on innovation and adaptability, Bangladesh’s bureaucratic inefficiencies threaten to undermine its economic growth and development goals.

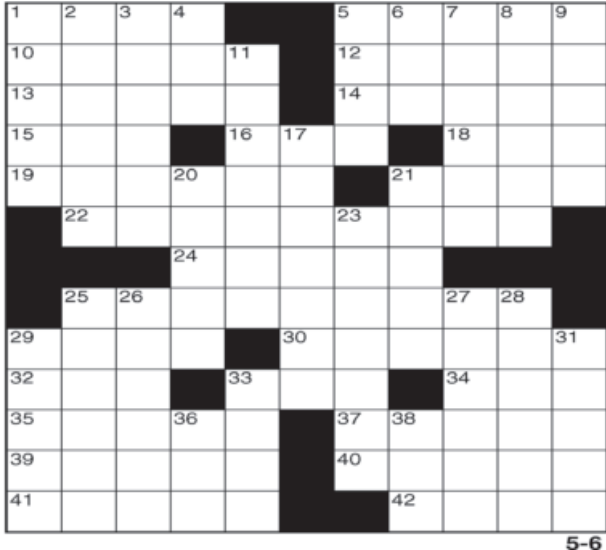
Bangladesh’s bureaucracy doesn’t just need reform—it needs reinvention. A system designed to serve colonial masters must be transformed into one that meets the aspirations of its citizens for a modern, efficient, and responsive government.

The real tragedy of Bangladesh’s bureaucratic maze isn’t just the wasted time and resources—it’s the dreams delayed, and opportunities lost. But with growing public demand for change and reform-minded officials gaining influence, there is hope. The question is no longer whether change will come, but whether it will happen soon enough to meet the challenges of the 21st century. For millions of Bangladeshis that change can’t come soon enough.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Gold hue
6 Elephant of stories
11 Too trusting
12 Skirt
13 Change
14 Turning tool
15 Back muscle, for short
16 Anticipated
18 Have debts
19 D.C. baseballer
20 Hosp. parts
21 Young miss
23 Movie category
25 Twisty fish
27 Bashful pal
28 Pig part
30 Coyote call
33 Serving feat
34 Scot’s cap
36 Cry of insight
37 Halloween costume choice
39 Family
40 Spring sign
41 Paris divider
43 Fragrance

- 44 Tottering
45 Battery makeup
46 Fresh
- DOWN**
1 Counterpart
2 Neighbor of Zambia
3 Archfoes
4 Seth’s mother
5 Showed over
6 Like some birthday cards
7 Jai
8 Danish sweets
9 Stick
10 Oboe parts
17 Funny fellow
22 Summer sign
24 Japanese drama
26 Some minstrels
28 Uncommon
29 La Brea stuff
31 Acts spoiled
32 Desolate
33 Sailor’s cry
35 Monument Valley sights
38 Cooped (up)
42 Hurler’s stat



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

A	M	B	E	R		B	A	B	A	R
N	A	I	V	E		E	L	U	D	E
A	L	T	E	R		L	A	T	H	E
L	A	T			A	W	A	I	T	E
O	W	E		N	A	T		E	R	S
G	I	R	L		G	E	N	R	E	
		E	E	L		D	O	C		
	S	N	O	U	T		H	O	W	L
A	C	E		T	A	M		O	H	O
V	A	M	P	I	R	E		K	I	N
A	R	I	E	S		S	E	I	N	E
S	C	E	N	T		A	R	E	E	L
T	E	S	T	S		S	A	S	S	Y

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR
OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.



Bangladesh take on India in their Champions Trophy opener in Dubai today. Scan the QR code to watch a podcast on how the match could unfold.

India have a significant advantage over Bangladesh in head-to-head contests in ODIs, with the Men in Blue boasting 32 wins in 41 meetings in contrast to the Tigers' eight. One meeting between the sides ended in a No Result.

Bangladesh, however, hold the upper hand in their last five meetings with India, winning three, including a victory in the 2023 Asia Cup, compared to India's two.

At the Dubai International Cricket Stadium – the venue for the contest – the two sides met twice, both in the 2018 Asia Cup. India won both encounters, including the final.

Virat Kohli has the most runs in India-Bangladesh contests, amassing 910 runs in 16 matches at an average of 75.83 and a strike-rate of 101.78. The maestro boasts five hundreds and three half-centuries against the Tigers. India skipper Rohit Sharma seconds that list with 786 runs in 17 matches. All his three centuries against the Tigers have come in ICC events (2015 World Cup, 2017 Champions Trophy, and the 2019 World Cup).

Amongst active Bangladesh players, Mushfiquur Rahim has the most runs against India, scoring 703 runs in 26 matches at an average of 31.95. He has also played the most India-Bangladesh matches amongst players from both sides.

With the ball, Mustafizur Rahman has the most wickets in India-Bangladesh contests amongst active players – 25 scalps in 12 matches.



The Champions Trophy is set to be Nahid Rana's first major ICC event but the 22-year-old quick, known to reach 150kph at times, is already being considered as one of the most crucial elements to Bangladesh's plans in the tournament. The Tigers will take on title contenders India, led by skipper Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir, in their first game of the competition in Dubai today, and hopes will be pinned on Rana to come through for the Tigers.

PHOTO: ICC



Chance for Rana to live up to the hype

SPORTS REPORTER from Dubai

Bangladesh are going into their Champions Trophy opener against India in Dubai today hoping that their fastest bowler Nahid Rana, who is set to make his first appearance in an ICC event, unleashes his full fury.

The Tigers are without ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and in the stalwart's absence, it is Rana who is garnering all the attention. Even during Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto's pre-match press conference yesterday, questions from the Indian media contingent also centered around Rana's raw pace.

Shanto was optimistic about the vibe Rana creates in the Tigers' dressing room. If the Tigers are to make headway into the tournament and upset the bigger sides, they would need Rana to be at the top of his game.

"I think in the last few matches, he bowled really well and bowled fast, as you mentioned. When we see bowling like this, it helps our whole bowling unit. And it's motivated us to think about how we can challenge our opponents. But what I want is that he [Rana] remains fit and continue his bowling form," Shanto said.

This reporter caught up with the speedster after Bangladesh's practice session at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai yesterday and told Rana about the hype he is creating. Unable to hide his curiosity, Rana enquired, "So what were they asking about?"

He listened to remarks from the press conference and would be hoping to put a

"I think in the last few matches, he bowled really well and bowled fast, as you mentioned. When we see bowling like this, it helps our whole bowling unit. And it's motivated us to think about how we can challenge our opponents."

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said about Nahid Rana.

dent in India's batting lineup when he gets the chance.

It might be hard to believe that only three matches into his ODI career, Rana is creating such a buzz in a major tournament. But with 20 Test wickets to his name in six matches, Rana has turned heads fast, clocking 152 kph in Rawalpindi during his last foray in Pakistan, the hosts of the Champions Trophy. His filer in the West Indies recently helped the Tigers to a first historic Test win since 2009.

Playing this Champions Trophy against the biggest opponents in white-ball cricket

certainly would charge up the speedster.

"The opportunity to play against the best cricketers in the world is the highest form of inspiration," Rana said in an interview with ICC.

He also argued that his time playing first-class cricket has gotten him ready for the challenges ahead.

"I am enjoying every moment of international cricket. Things have happened very fast but I'm grateful for everything. It is never easy to adapt to international cricket but I was lucky in the sense that I got to play a good number of first-class matches before my debut.

"I feel that is the best thing that could have happened as you get exposed to all sorts of different situations and conditions. But international cricket is totally on a different level," Rana added.

Rana is adamant about maintaining discipline, which would be key in the batting-friendly surfaces in the tournament.

"The team expected me to bowl fast and used me as an attacking option. I tried to repay the faith by sticking to my strengths and staying humble.

"I would rather concentrate on getting into the right rhythm and my release. But then again, when you see or hear that the pace is around 150 kph, that's a nice feeling," he said.

Rana appears to know exactly what the Tigers expect from him and it is time for him to live up to the hype that has been built surrounding him.

New Zealand spoil historic day for Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

New Zealand rode on brilliant hundreds from Tom Latham and Will Young to beat Pakistan by 60 runs in the Champions Trophy opener on Wednesday, spoiling the country's historic return to hosting global events after three decades.

President Asif Zardari joined thousands of fans at the National Stadium in Karachi as Pakistan hosted its first International Cricket Council event since 1996.

But a poor performance from the home team left a packed 29,300 crowd disappointed as Pakistan were dismissed for 260 in 47.2 overs in reply to New Zealand's 320-5 in 50 overs.

Pakistan were never in the chase even after a late flourish from Khushdil Shah, who top-scored with a fiery 49-ball 69 including 10 boundaries and a six. Babar Azam scored a more sedate 64 from 90 balls that had a six and six boundaries.

"We tried, but they played very smartly and that's why they got to that total. The pitch was not easy to bat early on, but Will Young and Latham's innings were crucial," said Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan after the game.

Pacer Will O'Rourke finished with 3-47 while skipper Mitchell Santner took 3-66 for as New Zealand.

For all the hype and expectation before the game surrounding Pakistan, it was New Zealand who made the better start as Young and Latham clocked the first centuries of the tournament.

Sent in to bat, opener Young responded with



107 from 113 balls while Latham smashed an unbeaten 104-ball 118 on a flat National Stadium pitch.

Young and Latham revived the innings from 73-3 with a 118-run fourth wicket stand.

"The way Young and Latham rotated the strike and got the odd boundary really set us up. We were thinking 260-280, but it shows what you can do if you have a platform and wickets in hand," New Zealand skipper Santner also credited the Latham-Young duo, like Rizwan.

Young hit 12 boundaries and a six in his fourth ODI century before holing out to Naseem Shah in the 38th over.

Latham and Glenn Phillips, who made an aggressive 39-ball 61, gave the innings more impetus as New Zealand smashed 113 in the last 10 overs and 64 in the last five.

Latham hit 10 boundaries and three sixes in his eighth one-day hundred while Phillips's robust knock had four sixes and three boundaries.

Fast bowler Naseem Shah was the best Pakistan bowler with 2-63.

The defeat leaves Pakistan in a difficult position in Group A as they face archrivals India in Dubai on Sunday and Bangladesh in Rawalpindi on February 27.

Kohli excited for CT campaign

AGENCIES

India superstar Virat Kohli said he has always liked the ICC Champions Trophy because of the urgency teams have to start the tournament on a high in order to qualify for the next round.

"The tournament is happening after a long time. I have always liked this tournament. It represents consistency as you have to be in the top 8 of the rankings (to qualify). The level of competition is always good," Kohli said yesterday.

"In ODI format, it creates the pressure of a T20 World Cup. There also you have three or four games in the league stage. If you don't start well, you are under pressure. The pressure is from the first game itself and that is why I like it, you have to be at your best from game one."

Kohli has played three editions of the tournament (2009, 2013, 2017) and is set to start his fourth when India take on Bangladesh at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium today. He won the 2013 edition and will be aiming to have a tournament to remember, especially because of the speculations over his retirement.

The 36-year-old has been mired in long lean patches in Tests and have already retired from T20 cricket



following last year's World Cup triumph.

In his last 22 Test knocks since the start of January 2024, Kohli has managed to hit just a solitary ton and a single fifty. In the five ODIs he has played since the 2023 World Cup, he has managed to score one half-century.

Despite intense conjecture about his future, India head coach Gautam Gambhir said the stalwart will have a "massive role" to play at the Champions Trophy.

Pakistan hails Champions Trophy as homecoming of cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's largest city was abuzz with anticipation and apprehension Wednesday as the hosts played the opening match of the nation's first major international cricket tournament in three decades.

The eight-team Champions Trophy launched in the southern city of Karachi with the home side facing New Zealand at a sell-out 29,300 National Bank Stadium.

Pakistan, a cricket-mad nation where the sport is played on almost every street corner, are the defending champions.

"Pakistan are unpredictable, they can surprise anytime," said 24-year-old Kashif Khan, queueing in the morning with his 5,000 rupee (\$18) ticket.

Long lines snaked outside the stadium four hours before the match, with a smattering of New Zealand fans outnumbered by hordes of chanting and flag-waving Pakistanis.

The Champions Trophy will take place in three cities in Pakistan, while India will play their fixtures in Dubai after refusing to visit its neighbouring archrival.

Among Karachi's population of more than 20 million, fans were adamant India would have been welcomed.

"If India were here I would arrange a trail of rose petals leading them to the stadium," Khan said. "We love

Sofia Babar, 45, was in the stands in Karachi during that tournament. Queueing on Wednesday, she said: "I want my daughter to experience what I did all those years ago."

Security concerns in the years following the 9/11 attacks kept away



the Indian team in the same way that we love the Pakistani team -- because it's all about cricket."

Pakistan last held a major international tournament as World Cup co-hosts with India and Sri Lanka in 1996.

international tournaments, then a deadly 2009 Islamist attack on a bus carrying Sri Lanka's team in Lahore scared off teams.

"It's my first international match," said Abdul Latif, 29, whose age matches the hiatus global

tournaments have taken from Pakistan.

"I didn't want to miss it," he said, queueing with friends.

More than 6,000 police officers and paramilitary Rangers were deployed around the stadium -- in addition to 1,000 traffic police -- senior police official Muhammad Anwar Khetran told AFP.

The officer overseeing security at the front gate said fans went through three checks -- on roads leading to the stadium, at the stand entrance, and at each enclosure.

Although militancy is still a threat in Pakistan, the violence is nearly entirely limited to the remote border regions from north to south, far away from the stadiums in Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi.

Cricket is deeply entwined in Pakistan's sense of pride and the return of a big tournament promises to boost the national mood.

"We want to show the world that Pakistan is safe," said 53-year-old Asif Majeed, a third generation Pakistani migrant who travelled from his home in Britain to watch the match. "Win or lose, this event will do wonders for Pakistan's image globally."

Bosschaart hails Feyenoord character after dumping out Milan

FEYENOORD interim boss Pascal Bosschaart was full of praise for his team's character, after recent upheaval at the club, when they came back from conceding an early goal to draw at AC Milan on Tuesday and reach the Champions League last 16.

The Dutch club's preparations for last week's first leg were far from ideal when Feyenoord sacked Brian Priske two days before the playoff game, but Bosschaart led them to a 1-0 win at home and they finished off the job at the San Siro.

"This says about the team that they have character. I think that's what I'm most proud of," Bosschaart told Ziggo Sport. "You have to remember that they come from a very difficult phase, have received a lot of criticism, a change of coach, and then an unknown person comes in front of the group who occasionally throws in some empty slogans.

"That is a very difficult phase for them but I do think we are very clear, very transparent and very honest and this group responds very well to it, so I am proud of it."

Bosschaart's side could not have had a worse start in Milan, when former player Santiago Gimenez put the hosts ahead in the opening minute, but they fought back in the



second half, after Milan had Theo Hernandez sent off.

"If you concede a goal within minutes, the plan you wanted to execute will be different again," Bosschaart said. Everyone will now say that we took the upper hand after the red card but I also thought in the first half that we played quite well. Only after the red card it might be a little easier."

Feyenoord could return to the San Siro in the next round, where they will face either Inter Milan or Arsenal, but for now Bosschaart needs to let their achievement sink in.

"It's beautiful. We are one round further, so very special," Bosschaart said. It's fantastic but I have to say, it hasn't really landed with me yet."



Bayern cement last 16 spot after Davies' last-gasp equaliser

Bayern Munich secured their place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a 94th minute strike by Alphonso Davies on Tuesday to secure a 1-1 draw on the night and a 3-2 aggregate win. Celtic had led 1-0 since the 63rd minute, courtesy of former Bayern reserve player Nicolas Kuehn's strike, and the Scottish side had been on the verge of taking the German giants to extra time and pulling off their first-ever win in Germany but Davies stepped up as Bayern's saviour, tapping in after Celtic keeper Kasper Schmeichel had kept out Leon Goretzka's header. They will next face either fellow Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen or Atletico Madrid depending on Friday's draw.

Bayern Munich have reached the Champions League round of 16 in each of the last 17 seasons (since and including 2008-09) and in each of their last 21 appearances in the competition.

Alphonso Davies' equaliser (93:12) was Bayern Munich's latest equalising goal in a Champions League game (excluding extra time) on record (since 2003-04).

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE Sandiha bags six, Sheltech stun Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheltech Cricket Club stirred things up in the opening day's fixtures of the Dhaka Women's Premier League with a 53-run win over defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

However, Gulshan Youth Club's off-spinner Sandiha Islam Asha was the highlight of the day for her six-wicket haul against Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity at ULAB Cricket Ground.

Although skipper Nigar Sultana Joty fell for naught, Sheltech posted 249 for nine, courtesy of opener Ishma Tanjim's 68 and No. 3 Sumaiya Akter's 83. The duo put on a 79-run stand to create the platform for a big score before Ishma departed. Sumaiya hit seven fours and two sixes during a 101-ball 83 before falling to Fariha Trishna, who finished with three for 54.

Fahima Khatun's run-a-ball 28 saw Sheltech reach a commanding score and while Sharmin Supta hit 73 for Mohammedan, the defending champions were bundled out for 196 as Fahima bagged three for 33.

At ULAB, Sandiha only came to bowl as the sixth bowler and completed a six-for inside six overs, conceding just nine runs to help Gulshan bundle out Khelaghar for 64 in 28.4 overs. In reply, Gulshan cruised to a seven-wicket win in 17 overs.

Abahani, meanwhile, won against Bangladesh Police at BKSP Ground 1 by four wickets, courtesy of a solid bowling effort. Apart from Rochona Tripty's 28 and Aporna Dey's 22, none of the others reached double figures as Bangladesh Police were bundled out for 98. Reya Akter Shikha bagged three for 13 while Rupa Roy and Fatema Jahan scalped two wickets each for Abahani.

Abahani were in a bit of trouble after early wickets but opener Farzana Haque Pinky guided them through the chase with an unbeaten 72-ball 55 to seize a four-wicket win.



Gymnast Menton chasing bold Olympic dream

Menton Tony Mro began his gymnastics journey in 2013 as a Grade-1 student at Bandarban's Quantum Cosmo School. Over the years, he has participated in numerous national age-group, youth, and senior-level gymnastics championships, earning nearly 50 medals, including gold medals in the pommel horse and all-around events at the 2019 Singapore Open. After clinching three golds and one silver at the 37th National Gymnastics Championships, which concluded on Tuesday at the NSC Gymnasium, he spoke to **The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman** about his journey, as well as his personal and collective aspirations for Bangladesh gymnastics. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): You returned home empty-handed in your debut appearance in the 2021 Bangladesh Games, but you stunned all by winning two golds and one silver in your second appearance at the senior level. How did you transform yourself?

Menton Tony Mro (MTM): During the Covid outbreak, we received uninterrupted training at the Quantum Cosmo School before joining the national training camp in 2022 under Korean coach Cho Sung Dong until June 2024. I never gave up because I dream of becoming a world-class gymnast in the pommel horse event... To be honest, I got more than I expected from the championships.

DS: How much are gymnasts benefiting from the National Gymnastics Championships, held after a four-year gap?

MTM: If the national championships are held every year, the number of gymnasts and teams will increase, and the gymnasts will also be able to evaluate themselves in competitions.

DS: Quantum Cosmo School dominates all gymnastic competitions. What is the secret behind its success?

MTM: The gymnasts of Quantum School rise early every morning to meditate before starting a 4-kilometre run. Then, they do two hours of training before going to school to study. In the afternoon, there is another three-and-a-half-hour training session before doing

homework for school at night.

DS: What facilities does the school provide for the gymnasts?

MTM: Initially, there were almost no facilities in 2013 because every apparatus was either broken or old. There was not even a proper floor facility, but compared to 2013, the facilities at Quantum School are now more or less good.



to improve ourselves, but we can't reach the same level as we did under the Korean coach.

DS: How do you see the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation's target to qualify directly for the 2028 Olympic Games, especially without a foreign coach?

MTM: We still believe in qualifying directly for the 2028 Olympic Games. We are not giving up our hopes despite the departure of the Korean coach. We don't want to dwell on what we have lost; rather, we want to progress with whatever we have in our hands.

DS: What is your personal target?

MTM: As a Quantum gymnast, I am still motivated by the dream of winning an Olympic gold medal. We are improving ourselves gradually. However, I want to be the first Bangladeshi gymnast to qualify directly for the Olympic Games on merit. I am confident that one day, I will enter the Olympics by proving my performance.

DS: The 2028 Olympics are still far away. Do you think the appointment of a foreign coach and proper facilities can help Bangladeshi gymnasts qualify?

MTM: Firstly, an athlete needs mental and physical stability, and secondly, motivation. Without proper facilities and a good coach, you can't achieve the target. Nevertheless, the appointment of a foreign coach and improved facilities will help gymnasts realise their dream.

DS: Korean coach Cho Sung Dong left the country in June last year. Do you feel his absence in the national training camp?

MTM: Under his guidance, we trained for eight hours a day – two sessions per day – with proper food provided by the federation. But now, the federation can't provide proper food, so the training hours have been reduced to five. We are trying

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AMAR EKUSHEY-19

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.

Feb 21 gets its first poem in port city

AHMAD ISTIAK

"Ekhane jara praan diyechhe Ramna'r urdhomukhi krishnachur toloy, jekhane aguner phulkir moto ekhane shekhane jolchhe oshongkho rokter chhaap

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Last-minute preparations for Amar Ekushey underway at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, with Dhaka University fine arts students painting motifs on the altar. For the motifs this year, the DU Faculty of Fine Arts has chosen red symbolising revolution, white representing fairness and black, the colour of mourning.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DC CONFERENCE-2025

Focus on law and order, price hike, and polls

Govt tells commissioners on concluding day

BAHARAM KHAN

Deputy commissioners yesterday returned to work following the DC Conference-2025 with some key instructions from the government: maintain law and order; prevent corruption; curb price hike of essentials during Ramadan; and prepare for the upcoming national election.

At the three-day conference, which concluded on Tuesday, the DCs promised prioritising these issues while carrying out their duties.

The Daily Star spoke to DCs from at least seven districts regarding the conference outcomes.

The annual DC conference, organised by the Cabinet Division and held at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, facilitates face-to-face discussions among the government, policymakers, and divisional and deputy commissioners.

This year, the conference featured 34 sessions, in which ministry and departmental advisers discussed field level operations based on the DCs' proposals.

Sources said policymakers placed their highest priority on the aforementioned key instructions and urged the DCs to perform accordingly.

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NEW PARTY BY UPRISING ACTIVISTS

Launch likely on Feb 26

Announcement may come from rally on Manik Mia Avenue

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Student leaders who spearheaded the July uprising are gearing up to announce their political party with February 26 in mind as the possible date.

They are considering the formal announcement at a rally on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital.

In the first meeting of the preparatory committee held last night, key leaders asked the committee members to prepare themselves with February 26 in mind, four meeting participants told The Daily Star.

The preparatory committee, comprising members of the civic and student platforms, Jatiya Nagorik Committee, and Students against Discrimination, sat at the Nagorik Committee's office at the capital's Banglamotor.

The meeting, which continued till 10:30pm from around 4:00pm, discussed holding a rally and gave responsibilities to individuals for mobilising the people.

It also formed three subcommittees on cultural, medical, and media affairs to oversee different aspects of the announcement ceremony.

Another subcommittee was also constituted to analyse and evaluate the opinions of people collected in the recently launched campaign regarding the new political party.

According to a meeting insider, the new party will be declared at the rally, but its charter may not be revealed.

The discussion on the formation of a new political party, helmed by those who spearheaded the July uprising, came to the fore in September last year.

Adviser Nahid Islam is almost certain to be the convener of the new party while discord has surfaced over

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

BGB, BSF TALKS

Killings at border can't be justified

Bangladesh tells India, discusses fencing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

On the second day of the biannual BGB-BSF talks yesterday, Bangladesh reiterated the urgent need to ensure that no border killings take place.

The 55th meeting between the director generals of India's Border Security Force and the Border Guard Bangladesh in Delhi was the first since the fall of the Hasina-led regime.

According to meeting sources, Bangladesh argued that while Dhaka has no objection to trying border transgressors under existing laws, the killings cannot be justified.

"This is a sensitive issue for Bangladesh," the visiting delegation said at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Indian delegation stated that implementing the coordinated border management plan is necessary to stop organised crime at the border,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Bangladeshi climate migrants end up in modern slavery

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

» 99pc intl migrants report at least one form of modern slavery, 81pc face over five

» Climate disasters have doubled in six decades

» 88pc families sent relatives abroad, mostly to harsh working conditions in the Gulf

» Homes facing higher climate risks are 214pc more likely to send migrants abroad

The survey was conducted in 2023 and 2024 by IIED and Oivabashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP), with funding from the UK Home Office's Modern Slavery Innovation Fund.

The report states, "Among internal migrants, 92 percent experience at least one form of modern slavery, with more than 52 percent enduring more than three forms. For international migrants, the prevalence of modern slavery is even more alarming, with 99 percent reporting at least one form and 81 percent experiencing more than five forms."

The crisis is rooted in climate change, it adds.

Over the past six decades, climate-related disasters in Bangladesh have nearly doubled, rising from four per year before 1990 to seven per year after.

Cyclones, river erosion, and saltwater intrusion have destroyed crops, drowned livestock, and wiped out savings, leaving several families with no choice but to move, the report states.

"In some of the hardest-hit areas, like Pirojpur and Sylhet, 99 percent of residents report rising temperatures, while 90 percent say river erosion has worsened."

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

'Govt may not be sincere in holding polls'

Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has expressed doubts about the interim government's sincerity in holding the next national election.

Pointing the finger at the advisers of the government, the party also said that if they allow "fascists" to participate in the national polls for their own interests, the people and the BNP will not accept it.

The BNP said while it welcomes the formation of a new political party, it cannot accept the advisers remaining in power to float the party. It urged the head of the government to address the issue immediately and take appropriate action.

"The people of the country want to return to a democratic environment. However, even after seven months, we have not been able to achieve that because the interim government is trying to complete some tasks before holding the polls," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

"But in the meantime, some doubts have arisen among the people -- whether they [the government] are sincere about the polls," he added

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More foreign financing to fuel this FY's budget

Revised budget to slash bank borrowing

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has planned to increase foreign financing by around 15 percent and reduce bank borrowing by 28 percent in the revised budget for this fiscal year to tame inflation.

In the revised budget, the bank borrowing target has been brought down by 28 percent to Tk 99,000 crore, while the foreign financing target has been bumped up by 15 percent to Tk 109,000 crore, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

"If the government can materialise the plan, then it will be good -- the available statistics that we saw so far shows that borrowings from banks increased significantly," said Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling.

If the government wants to implement its plan, it must reduce its bank borrowings significantly in the coming months, he said.

In the first five months of the fiscal year, the government borrowed Tk 25,138 crore from the banking system, according to central bank statistics. A year earlier, it stood at Tk 3,188 crore.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

New Zealand batter Tom Latham raises his bat after reaching his century against Pakistan in the opening match of the ICC Champions Trophy at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday. Latham's unbeaten 104-ball 118, complemented by opener Will Young's 107 and an unbeaten 61 from Glenn Phillips, helped the Black Caps post a challenging total of 320 for five. Defending champions Pakistan, however, were bundled out for 260 in 47.2 overs as they lost the contest by 60 runs.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Tigers look to remain 'calm' in India contest

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN FROM DUBAI

Bangladesh will be looking to remain calm on the field and execute their plans well to get off to a winning start in the ICC Champions Trophy when they square off against India in the opening Group A fixture at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium today.

Despite not having had an ideal preparation for the tournament with a loss against Pakistan Shaheens in the only warm-up game and having last played a 50-over game two months ago in the Caribbean, the Tigers will be hoping to get into the groove of the format quickly in a bid to upstage favourites India, who have featured in four out of the eight finals in the tournament's history.

However, Bangladesh's quest of beating India in a major ICC event for the first time since 2007 would be a tall ask, especially given the opposition's 3-0 home series win against England recently.

"Of course, there is a lot of



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