

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 41

FALGUN 11, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 24, 1446 HIJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00



BSC to buy 6 ships for \$330m to build container fleet
B1



Hamas says Gaza truce gravely endangered
P6



Protect our farmers from their grievances
P8



Butler's new team leaves for Dubai tonight
P11

Growing unease in the city amid crime spree

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka residents spent a frightful night yesterday as multiple incidents of muggings took place across different parts of the capital in a short span of time.

A sense of insecurity has been prevailing among people amid a spate of crimes, as reported by various media outlets over the last few days.

Yesterday, many took to social media to express their anger over the law enforcement failure as videos of miscreants attacking residents with guns and cleavers went viral.

"What exactly are you [government] doing?" asked a Facebook user.

"Muggings continue to go up and no one is taking action," said another.

Comments like these flooded Facebook last night.

The videos show groups of people, mostly on motorcycles, intercept individuals in dark alleys and attack them indiscriminately, snatching their belongings and then fleeing.

Meanwhile, several hundred protesters gathered at Dhaka University around 1:00am today, demanding immediate resignation of the home adviser for what they said were his inaction and failure to curb crimes.

The Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury in a hurriedly called press conference at three in the morning blamed cohorts of the Awami League for deteriorating law and order.

The government launched "Operation Devil Hunt" on February 8 to restore law and order, but there has been little reflection on the ground.

Against this backdrop, students across the country took to the streets yesterday, outraged by the "government's

- DU students demonstrate at night demanding home adviser's immediate resignation
- Home adviser during a press conference at 3:00am blames accomplices of AL for deteriorating law and order
- He promises better law and order from today

inaction" amid a series of incidents of rape and sexual violence against women and children.

Nazmul Limon, an undergraduate student of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University, said at a demonstration, "The government must ensure public safety and good governance. If the home affairs adviser cannot protect people's lives and property, he should quit. Otherwise, we will make sure that he does."

Shatabdeeka Urmi, a student of Bangla at Jagannath University, said, "Every morning, I wake up and see news of rape, robbery, and murder that make me feel unsafe as a citizen... If the government fails, it should admit its incompetence and step down."

At least four incidents of muggings, robberies and attempted rape took place yesterday.

In Rampura, armed robbers shot a man before snatching a bag containing gold ornaments and cash in the capital's Rampura.

The incident took place around 10:30pm on Road 7, Block D, in Banasree.

The victim, Anwar Hossain, 43, is a jewellery shop owner, police said, adding that he was carrying 200 bhoris of gold ornaments and Tk 1 lakh in cash.

Atau Rahman, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station, said Anwar was attacked in front of his house when he was returning home from his shop.

Shot in both legs, he was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the OC said.

Anwar Hossain told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital that seven armed robbers on three motorcycles

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Batting maestro Virat Kohli notched up his 51st ODI ton to help India to a commanding six-wicket win in a high-voltage ICC Champions Trophy group-stage fixture against archrivals Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday. The 36-year-old put away seven fours for his unbeaten 111-ball 100 to help India chase down a 242-run target with 45 balls to spare. He also became the fastest player to 14000 ODI runs.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Dhaka must decide the ties it wants with Delhi
Says Jaishankar

UNB, Dhaka



Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar yesterday said Dhaka needs to "make up its mind" what kind of relationship it wants with New Delhi, stressing that the two neighbours share a special history that goes back to 1971.

"If someone in the interim government blames India for everything every day... some of those things [they blame on India], if you look at the reports, [they] are absolutely ridiculous," he said during a conversation with Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (EAC-PM), at the Delhi University Literature Festival.

"You cannot, on one hand, say I would now like to have good relations with you, but I get up every morning and blame you for everything that goes wrong. It is a decision that they have to make," Jaishankar added.

He said India has sent a very clear signal to Dhaka that it would like to see things "calm down" and the resumption of normal bilateral ties. But it is unhappy with the constant hostile messaging emanating from across the border.

During their discussion, they explored new ways to resolve the Rohingya crisis and mobilise additional donors to support over a million forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens living in camps in southeastern Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Make or break for Tigers

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN, from Rawalpindi

It's make or break for Bangladesh as they take on New Zealand in their second Group A match of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium today.

After a 60-run defeat against India in their first game in Dubai, Bangladesh need to win today's game to keep their semifinal hopes alive ahead of facing hosts Pakistan in their final group game at the same venue next Thursday.

Bangladesh can take motivation from their recent performances at this venue where they created history by beating hosts Pakistan 2-0 in a Test series last year -- the Tigers' first-ever series win in Pakistan.

"I hope it [Test triumph in Rawalpindi] does [give everyone confidence]. Because it's not an easy thing to come to Pakistan and beat Pakistan.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

SEXUAL VIOLENCE Protests flare on campuses

NILIMA JAHAN

Students across the country took to the streets yesterday, outraged by the "government's inaction" amid a series of incidents of rape and sexual violence against children in recent days.

Holding placards, they chanted slogans like, "Wake up government!", "End the silence, punish the rapists!", "Stop the violence, protect women!" and "Hang the rapists!"

In Dhaka, the protests have been widespread, taking place at prominent educational institutions such as Jagannath University, Eden College, Government Titumir College, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and BRAC University.



With rape cases surging, we are afraid to step outside. Even going to university feels unsafe. We want immediate action from the government.

Samiha Chowdhury, BRAC University student

At BRAC University, students held a demonstration on campus in front of the university's main gate in the morning.

They presented a 13-point demand that included stricter law enforcement, the establishment of special tribunals for rape cases, increased police presence and enhanced protection for victims.

They also called for the implementation of capital punishment for convicted rapists, the creation of a confidential investigation system for victims reluctant to report crimes and government-funded psychological rehabilitation services for survivors.

Additionally, they urged the authorities to deploy armed patrol teams in high-crime areas, ensure police stations are fully staffed and install CCTV surveillance nationwide.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

STARLINK
Yunus asks Musk to come over, launch it within 90 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has extended an invitation to billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk to visit Bangladesh and oversee the launch of SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service in the country within the next 90 working days.

In a formal letter sent to Musk on February 19, Yunus outlined the potential of Starlink's connectivity, particularly for young entrepreneurs, rural communities, and underserved populations in Bangladesh.

"Integrating Starlink's connectivity into Bangladesh's infrastructure will have a transformational impact, particularly for Bangladesh's enterprising youth, rural and vulnerable women, and remote and underserved communities," Yunus wrote in his letter.

The chief adviser has appointed his High Representative, Khalilur Rahman, to work closely with Musk's team to ensure Starlink's rapid deployment in the country.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CEO

A leading diversified manufacturing group employing about 58,000 people in Bangladesh is seeking a dynamic entrepreneurial and visionary CEO

Industry experience in manufacturing is essential.

If you have a strong leadership background and a passion for driving growth, we want to hear from you!

Apply before 9th March 2025
to lead our team to newer heights.

Email: rising2peak@gmail.com

MY DHAKA



First position.

PHOTO: MD ENAMUL KABIR



Joint third position.

PHOTO: SHOWHAT RASADIN SHOWKHIN

CAPTURING DHAKA MOMENTS

Winning shots from "My Dhaka Lens"

MY DHAKA DESK

The Daily Star's "My Dhaka" recently ran a photography contest titled "My Dhaka Lens," where people were asked to submit their entries on the theme of Dhaka -- anything that embodies the beauty, soul, or essence of our city.

The contest came to a close on February 22, with an award ceremony at The Daily Star Centre. Crests and certificates were given to the top four photographers -- Md Enamul Kabir, Apu Jaman, Showhat Rasadin Showkhin, and Md Istiak Ahmed Asif.

Additionally, 12 other photographers received certificates for their brilliant works.

This photo feature presents the top four of the My Dhaka Lens contest, selected from more than 2,200 entries.

Congratulations to the victors!

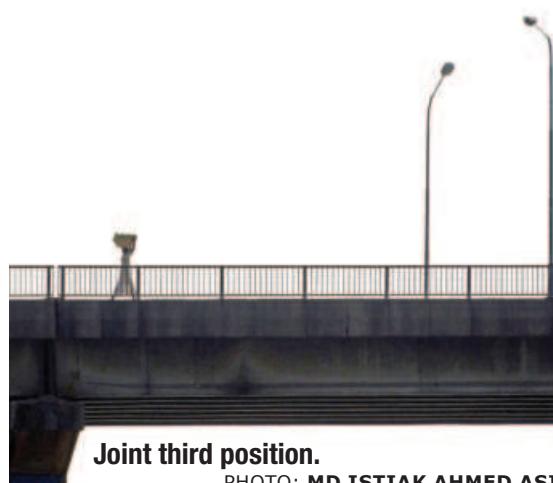
On the other hand, the top 38 photos that emerged from this competition are on display in the ongoing My Dhaka Lens exhibition, currently being held at Level 1 of The Daily Star Centre (64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh).

The exhibition will run this week from 5:00pm to



Second position.

PHOTO: APU JAMAN



Joint third position.

PHOTO: MD ISTIAK AHMED ASIF

Growing unease in the city amid crime spree

FROM PAGE 1

stopped him and tried to snatch his bag. When he resisted, one of the robbers shot him and fled with the bag on their bikes.

Police are trying to identify and arrest the criminals, the OC added.

In Dhamondi's Shankar, panic spread around 7:00pm when 12-15 "unidentified men" were spotted near Shankar Ali Hussain High School, said Saiful Islam, OC of Hazaribagh Police Station.

They came from Mohammadpur, said Hazaribagh OC Saiful Islam.

At that time, a muezzin alerted locals of an approaching "kishore gang" using a mosque's loudspeaker. The muezzin claimed the gang members were carrying locally-made

weapons.

As the information spread, the youths fled before police arrived at the spot, said the officer.

Two days ago, community leaders in Shankar decided to alert residents whenever any teen gangs would come to the area.

In Ashulia, TV actor Azizur Rahman Azad got shot while his mother and wife were injured in an attack by unidentified men at his residence, said the family members.

Azad's elder sister Afrina Akther said around 2:45am, Azad heard some unusual sounds from the kitchen on the first floor.

When he went there, three unidentified miscreants opened fire at him. Three bullets hit Azad's legs.

Hearing the gunfire,

my mother and Azad's wife rushed to the kitchen, the criminals beat them up too, fired 10-15 blanks, and fled the scene without looting anything," she also said.

The victims were later admitted to a private hospital in Dhaka.

Police are looking into the incident, said OC Nur Alam Siddique of Ashulia Police Station.

Around 12:20am today, footage of muggers robbing two women travelling in a rickshaw did the rounds on Facebook.

The caption mentioned that the incident happened in Mohammadpur.

Inspector Hafizur Rahman of Mohammadpur Police Station said, "We heard about the incident, but we don't know exactly where in Mohammadpur

Duty officers at both Adabor and Mohammadpur police stations said most of the senior officers were patrolling the streets as of around 3:00am.

In Badda, a security guard was arrested on charges of "attempted rape" of a seven-year-old girl.

The arrestee is Sabuj Ahmed, 53, said police.

Sabuj, a resident of Anandanagar, said Badda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saiful Islam.

The incident took place around 4:30pm on DIT Road in Merul Badda.

Quoting locals, the OC said the security guard of the building lured the victim to his room and tried to rape the child.

At that time, locals detained and beat Sabuj

before handing him over to police.

The victim's mother filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with the Badda Police Station, said the OC.

HOME ADVISER'S PRESS BRIEFING

At the press briefing at his Baridhara home, the home adviser said the government was aware of the law and order situation.

Cohorts of the Awami League regime are trying to destabilise the country by any means. "But we will not let it happen. All forces will resist it."

He said the ousted AL members are now using the huge amount of money they gained through corruption to create unrest in the country.

"I instructed law enforcement agencies to beef up their patrolling so that no such incidents happen from tomorrow [today] onwards. If the law enforcement agencies do not execute my order, we will take action against the officers concerned.

"Law and order situation will not further deteriorate, rather it will improve," he said.

Responding to a query about the demand for his resignation, the home adviser said, "They want improvement of law and order and if I can ensure that, there will be no question about my resignation."

"Law and order situation has largely improved and it will improve further. From today, you will see the improvement," he said.

Meanwhile, experienced cricketer Mahmudullah Riyad had a long batting session, giving a positive vibe regarding his participation in today's match. Riyad missed the first game due to a calf injury.

"I think at different stages of every game we've played, different guys have stepped up, which is probably the most pleasing thing," Santner concluded.

Freeze Tk 813.56cr in 227 bank accounts of S Alam, family

Court orders ACC to take steps

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 227 bank accounts with a combined balance of Tk 813.56 crore of S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam and his family over allegations of ill-gotten wealth and money laundering.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Munabil Haque, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

In the application, Haque said that during the investigation they found Tk 813.56 crore in 227 accounts with banks and financial institutions belonging to Alam, a close associate of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and his family members.

"S Alam and family members were trying to transfer that money from the accounts. If they do so, inquiry into the allegations against them might be hampered. So an order is needed to prevent them from transferring that money," said the ACC official in his application.

On February 12, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 437.85 crore shares of 42 companies belonging to Alam and his family in connection with allegations of laundering \$1 billion to Singapore and several other countries.

The value of the shares stands at Tk 5,100 crore.

Earlier on January 30, the court ordered the confiscation of 58 acres of immovable property worth Tk 368 crore belonging to Alam and his family members.

On January 16, the court ordered the freezing of more than 32.1 crore shares in 24 companies owned by S Alam and his family members. The value of the shares stands at Tk 350 crore.

On January 14, the same court ordered the confiscation of immovable properties worth Tk 200 crore and the freezing of 87 bank accounts of Alam, his wife Farzana Parveen and 16 of his family members in connection with the allegations brought against them.

ACC Public Prosecutor Ruhul Islam Khan moved the application on behalf of the anti-graft body.

Make or break for Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

It gave them a lot of confidence. So, I hope it has a significant bearing on how they think about this ground," Bangladesh head coach Phil Simmons told reporters yesterday.

After their day-time practice session at the Islamabad Club on Saturday, the Tigers also trained under floodlights at the main stadium in Rawalpindi.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was seen having a long chat with curator Tony Hemming, who is currently the head curator at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), in front of the wickets prepared for the three matches to be played at the venue, starting with the Bangladesh-New Zealand match today.

Meanwhile, experienced cricketer Mahmudullah Riyad had a long batting session, giving a positive vibe regarding his participation in today's match. Riyad missed the first game due to a calf injury.

"Yeah, it's a nice position to be in," said New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner, ahead of their practice session yesterday.

"I think at different stages of every game we've played, different guys have stepped up, which is probably the most pleasing thing," Santner concluded.

Dhaka must decide

FROM PAGE 1

Jaishankar shared two aspects of what is "very troubling" for them.

"Firstly, the spate of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. Obviously, it is something which impacts our thinking and it is something we have to speak up about and we have done so," he said.

Secondly, he said, despite taking into consideration the internal politics in Bangladesh, the two countries are

neighbours with a shared history.

"We have a long history with Bangladesh. We have a very special history with Bangladesh. It goes back to 1971," Jaishankar said.

He said Dhaka cannot claim to want normal ties with India while continuously blaming New Delhi for its domestic issues.

"They have to make up their minds on what kind of relationship they want to have with us," he said.

Guterres to arrive

FROM PAGE 1

Professor Yunus said the United Nations would hold an international conference on the Rohingya crisis later this year. He urged Bishop,

a former acting prime minister of Australia, to play a key role in the event.

"Your role will be crucial," Yunus said, adding that Malaysia and Finland have agreed to serve as co-facilitators for the conference.

He also sought the UN special envoy's support in addressing the humanitarian crisis in war-

affected areas.

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as "Wake up, government, we demand justice for the rapists".

Nur Mohammad, a protester, reiterated

their demand for capital punishment for rapists.

At Eden College, students gathered at Bakulpara and brought out a torch procession. They demanded that no one in the "new Bangladesh" should ever fall victim to rape again.

Sumaiya Saina, a student, criticised the state's failure to ensure women's safety.

"Women who led the revolution now find themselves unsafe at home and on the streets. The state has failed them," she said.

Another student said the state has failed to protect them.

"A child was raped while picking flowers to pay respect to Language Movement martyrs. Women are violated by their neighbours, assaulted on buses. Nowhere is safe," she added.

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as "Wake up, government, we demand justice for the rapists".

Nur Mohammad, a protester, reiterated

their demand for capital punishment for rapists.

At Eden College, students gathered at Bakulpara and brought out a torch procession. They demanded that no one in the "new Bangladesh" should ever fall victim to rape again.

Sumaiya Saina, a student, criticised the state's failure to ensure women's safety.

"Women who led the revolution now find themselves unsafe at home and on the streets. The state has failed them," she said.

Another student said the state has failed to protect them.

"A child was raped while picking flowers to pay respect to Language Movement martyrs. Women are violated by their neighbours, assaulted on buses. Nowhere is safe," she added.

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as "Wake up, government, we demand justice for the rapists".

Nur Mohammad, a protester, reiterated

their demand for capital punishment for rapists.

At Eden College, students gathered at Bakulpara and brought out a torch procession. They demanded that no one in the "new Bangladesh" should ever fall victim to rape again.

Sumaiya Saina, a student, criticised the state's failure to ensure women's safety.

"Women who led the revolution now find themselves unsafe at home and on the streets. The state has failed them," she said.

Another student said the state has failed to protect them.

"A child was raped while picking flowers to pay respect to Language Movement martyrs. Women are violated by their neighbours, assaulted on buses. Nowhere is safe," she added.

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as "Wake up, government, we demand justice for the rapists".

Nur Mohammad, a protester, reiterated

their demand for capital punishment for rapists.

At Eden College, students gathered at Bakulpara and brought out a torch procession. They demanded that no one in the "new Bangladesh" should ever fall victim to rape again.

Sumaiya Saina, a student, criticised the state's failure to ensure women's safety.

"Women who led the revolution now find themselves unsafe at home and on the streets. The state has failed them," she said.

Another student said the state has failed to protect them.

"A child was raped while picking flowers to pay respect to Language Movement martyrs. Women are violated by their neighbours, assaulted on buses. Nowhere is safe," she added.

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as "Wake up, government, we demand justice for the rapists".

Nur Mohammad, a protester, reiterated

their demand for capital punishment for rapists.

At Eden College, students gathered at Bakulpara and brought out a torch procession. They demanded that no one in the "new Bangladesh" should ever fall victim to rape again.

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট প্রিয়ের প্রয়োজন নে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিয়াল প্রযুক্তি করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রয়োজন।

সাথে আরও আরও নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

* শর্ত প্রযোজন



পুরালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Best Financial Institution
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.

AAA
Rated Bank

ISO/IEC
27001:2022

ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংক (PI Banking) -
একটি পুরালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

Π

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ম' পুরালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

'Ban politics
on campus,
remove VC'
Demand Kuet
students; submits
memo to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (Kuet) yesterday submitted a memorandum to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, demanding removal of the vice-chancellor and pro-VC, alongside swift action against those responsible for the February 18 attack on students.

A five-member student delegation handed over the memorandum at the chief adviser's residence yesterday. On behalf of the chief adviser, his assistant personal secretary, Shabbir Ahmad, received the memorandum and assured the students that their concerns would be conveyed.

Later, the students
SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



With a demand for banning politics on campus and resignation of the vice chancellor, Kuet students hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday. Earlier, they submitted a letter to the chief adviser in this regard.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Draft renewable policy lacks clarity

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft Renewable Energy Policy 2025 is too narrow to ensure energy security and will increase dependence on fossil fuels while allowing businesses to maximise profits at the public's expense, speakers said at a press conference yesterday.

They said the draft was formulated without coordinating with key stakeholders.

Moreover, it sets ambitious targets without a clear roadmap, raising concerns that it may fail like previous unaligned policies.

The press conference was organised by the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN) and Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGD) at a city hotel.

The country's first renewable energy policy, introduced in 2008, aimed to generate five percent of total power demand from renewable sources by 2015 and 10 percent by 2020. However, in 2025, renewables still account for only three percent of the total power mix.

The new draft policy targets 20 percent or 6,145 megawatts (MW) by 2030 and 30 percent or 17,470 MW by 2041.

This means the government expects to install 16-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

List of corrupt ex-DCs to be sent to ACC Says Senior Secretary Mokhles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will send a list of former deputy commissioners with specific allegations of "heinous financial irregularities" to the ACC for further investigation, said Public Administration Ministry Senior Secretary Mokhles Ur Rahman yesterday.

Rumors are circulating that some of our colleagues embezzled amounts ranging Tk 4-30 crore. If these claims are substantiated through investigations by agencies and our own mechanisms, we will refer the specific cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission, not general ones," he told reporters at the Secretariat.

He said his ministry has already sent the case of those DCs who were responsible for overseeing the 2024 elections to intelligence agencies.

The interim government started taking disciplinary actions against the DCs who served as returning officers in three controversial national elections held under the Awami League rule. So far, 67 officials were either forced to retire or made OSD (Officer on Special Duty).

Mokhles said those who have been made OSD but were not involved in any wrongdoings will be able to lead a normal working life. "The government is not biased here. The government will be fair so that no innocent officer faces any punishment," he said.

Mentioning the committee on the public administration led by the finance adviser, the secretary said the committee will analyse these issues carefully. "No decision will be made based on emotions. Every decision will be made following proper rules and regulations."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Sara Mahmud passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

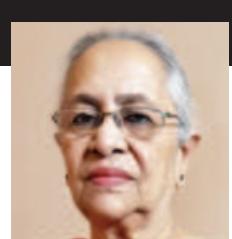
Sara Ara Mahmud, former director of the Department of Drama and Film at the Shilpkala Academy, passed away yesterday.

She breathed her last around 6:25pm at her Eskaton residence in Dhaka, said family members. She was 78.

Sara was the wife of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud, composer of the iconic song "Amar Bhai er Rokte Rangano Ekushe February".

Family members said Sara underwent a surgery a few days ago and was experiencing breathing difficulties over the last couple of days.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



JULY TRIALS Death penalty may hinder UN support: experts

Nagorik Committee member secy says people want capital punishment for perpetrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No United Nations body will be able to assist Bangladesh in prosecuting those responsible for the brutal crackdown on the July uprising unless the trials adhere to international legal standards, two eminent lawyers said yesterday.

Supreme Court advocate and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) honorary executive director Barrister Sara Hossain and fellow SC lawyer Rasheda Imam made these remarks at a discussion organised by Jatiya Nagorik Committee at Jatiya Press Club.

The discussion, titled, "UN Fact-Finding Report: Analysis of the July Killings -- Responsibility and Justice," highlighted concerns over judicial transparency and international cooperation.

DEATH PENALTY HURDLE
Sara Hossain emphasised that while the UN has not publicly disclosed the names of perpetrators, it has expressed willingness to share this

information with Bangladesh's judicial system, including the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), provided the trials meet international standards.

"A transparent trial is one that is conducted in full compliance

A critical issue here is the presence of the death penalty in our legal system. If capital punishment remains, the UN will be unable to cooperate.

BARRISTER SARA HOSSAIN
Supreme Court Lawyer

with international law," she said. "A critical issue here is the presence of the death penalty in our legal system. If capital punishment remains, the UN will be unable to cooperate."

She questioned the assumption that Bangladeshis broadly support

the death penalty, saying, "We have never held a referendum on this issue. If the people want to retain it, they must also accept the consequence -- limited global support in ensuring justice."

Sara Hossain further warned

We understand the international debate on the death penalty, but the people of Bangladesh have endured extreme brutality. A mere prison sentence or fine is insufficient justice.

AKHTER HOSSEN
Member secretary of Nagorik Committee

that bypassing international legal norms could have long-term repercussions.

"If we insist on our current approach without external assistance, will we be able to sustain these trials? Or will we

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A makeshift rickshaw-van repair hub has been set up on a footpath in the Karwan Bazar area of the capital, making life difficult for pedestrians. Such occupation continues to create challenges for commuters, forcing many to walk on busy roads instead. The photo was taken yesterday.

GRAFT CASE State, ACC challenge Khaleda's acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state and the ACC have filed two appeals with the Supreme Court challenging the High Court verdict that acquitted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

In the petitions, they prayed to the SC to stay the HC verdict, saying that they would move separate appeals before this court against the HC judgement.

The ACC submitted the petition yesterday, and the state filed its petition earlier this month.

Yesterday, the SC said both the petitions would be included in the cause list for hearing on March 2, according to a three-member bench headed by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam.

Feb 25 declared Nat'l Martyred Army Day

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to observe February 25 as National Martyred Army Day, honouring the sacrifice of army officers who lost their lives in the Pilkhana incident.

A notification issued by the Cabinet Division yesterday instructed all ministries, divisions and organisations to comply with the observance annually. However, the day will not be marked as a public holiday.

OPERATION DEVIL HUNT 585 more arrested across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 585 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 total number of people arrested in the operation since its launch on February 8 has risen to 8,664 in the past 16 days.

Additionally, 908 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the last 24 hours.

Law enforcers also recovered two firearms, 10 rounds of bullets and seven sharp weapons.

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

19 Dhaka canals to be restored: Rizwana

UNB, Dhaka

A master plan will be taken to restore 19 canals in Dhaka to resolve the waterlogging problem, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday. The plan aims to mitigate waterlogging in different areas including Dhanmondi and Malibagh, she said at a meeting at Nagar Bhaban.

"The project will be implemented through a month based action plan. Besides, owners of high-rise buildings must ensure proper waste management to prevent pollution," she said.

Keep AC
temperature
at 25°C
Govt issues circular

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday asked all to keep the minimum temperature level of air conditioners at public and private offices and households at 25 degrees Celsius as part of its power-saving campaign during the upcoming summer.

According to a Cabinet Division circular, the electricity demand will largely increase this year as the summer will coincide with the month of Ramadan and irrigation season.

"The (increased) demand could be controlled through using AC thermostat at a fixed temperature," the circular read.

ESCAPE OF
MILITANTSFormer DMP
DC cleared of
charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jasim Uddin, former deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Prosecution Division, has been cleared of departmental charges related to negligence in duty following the 2022 escape of two convicted militants from court premises.

A home ministry notification issued yesterday, signed by Senior Secretary Nasimul Ghani, stated that Jasim was relieved of charges after reviewing the allegations, his written response, statements from both parties, the investigation report, and other relevant documents.



Hemayet Fakir, 60, spreads bay leaves (tejpata) for drying in front of his home. Collected from trees in various villages, he sells the dried leaves to grocery stores in Barishal for Tk 120 per kg, earning between Tk 10,000 and 15,000 each month. The photo was taken in Rasulpur area of the city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Death penalty may hinder

FROM PAGE 3

see a scenario where, years later, another regime overthrows these proceedings?" she asked.

Referencing the protracted struggle for justice following the 1971 Liberation War, she said, "One major reason justice was not fully served is our failure as a state to uphold international legal standards. If we want to break from past practices, we must reconsider whether capital punishment is the best course of action."

Meanwhile, Rashtra Imam said key amendments were made to the ICT Act, particularly in evidence admission, to align it with global norms.

However, she said, "One crucial issue remains unaddressed -- the presence of the death penalty. Neither the interim government nor public discussions have

confronted this reality." She said unless Bangladesh abolishes or imposes a moratorium on the death penalty, the UN and European Union will not provide crucial evidence or legal support.

"During the Awami League's tenure, the ICT process faced widespread criticism. To avoid a repeat, we need international cooperation," she said. "The UN has made it clear they will not share evidence if trials could result in execution."

She also cautioned against rushing the judicial process, pointing to past mistakes.

"The previous government tried to complete war crimes trials within two or three years, leading to significant procedural flaws. We must not repeat that."

'JUSTICE MUST REFLECT PEOPLE'S DEMANDS'
Despite concerns from legal

experts, Jatiya Nagarik Committee member secretary Akhter Hossen said those responsible for the July killings must face the highest penalty under Bangladesh's laws.

"We understand the international debate on the death penalty, but the people of Bangladesh have endured extreme brutality. They watched their brothers gunned down in their homes and fired upon from helicopters. A mere prison sentence or fine is insufficient justice," he said.

Akhter said while international legal standards are important, they should not override the people's demand for justice.

"We urge the government to engage with the UN, EU, and International Criminal Court to explain Bangladesh's unique circumstances. The people's expectations must be clearly communicated."

He never returned home.

BNP Khulna city

FROM PAGE 5

for empowering our youth in the ICT sector. Further delays could hinder the region's economic and technological growth."

Meanwhile, Rangpur Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Rabiu Faisal assured that efforts were being made to restart the project soon.

Sahaji Kamal Tipu are contesting for president post in the council today, while Shafiqul Alam Tuhin, Kazi Mahmud Ali, and Nazmul Huda Chowdhury Sagar are vying for general secretary post.

Contacted, Shafiqul Alam expressed optimism that the party men will recognise his dedication and contributions to the party despite facing political repression in the past 15 years.

Tariqul Islam Zohir accused the current convener and member secretary of manipulating the councillor selection process to favour their preferred candidates.

Rakibul Islam Bokul, student affairs secretary of BNP's National Executive Committee, who is overseeing the overall arrangements for the council, said around 10,000 party members are expected to attend it.

Uncertainty looms as work stalls

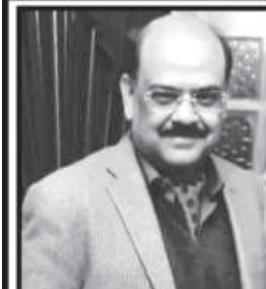
further extension until 2027. The Indian contractors have arrived in Dhaka and are expected to return to Rangpur soon," Haque said.

"The original project timeline has expired, but an extension has been approved for one year, with a possible

Commercial Space for Rent
Near Gulshan 2 Circle, a 6th-floor office in a 20-story high-rise offers 3,066 sq. ft. of premium space. Two high-efficiency elevators, parking, and top security. Call: 01713 376359

TO-LET @ North Gulshan
Duplex & Simplex with excellent interiors in the North Gulshan Area.
For More Details : 01886 076737

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MD. RAFIUDDIN (BABLU)



Today the 24th February is the 10th death anniversary of late Md. Rafiuddin (Bablu), Managing Director of Modhumita Group and youngest son of late Md. Sirajuddin founder of Modhumita Group.

Though he is not in this world he lives in our hearts, in our minds and in our memory.

All friends relatives and well wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family

125.631 বিঘা জমি বিক্রি

ঢাকা-ময়মনসিংহ হাইওয়ে থেকে ৭ কিলোমিটার দূরত্বে ২৪ ফিট রাস্তার পাশে ভালুকার কাচিনা মৌজায় মাটি ভরাটকৃত পাইল ফাউন্ডেশনসহ দেয়াল দিয়ে মেরা 125.631 বিঘা জমি বিক্রি করা হবে। গার্মেন্টস, কারখানা, রিসোর্ট বা বাণিজ্যিক শেইড করার জন্য এখনই উপযুক্ত।

যোগাযোগ : ০১৭১২-৮৬০৮৭২



এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩১৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইতিমিল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীমান্মোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে:

| ক্রমিক নং | দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ | বিবরণ | পরিমাণ | আনেক্ষি মানি | দরপত্র প্রিউলের মূল্য (অক্রেওয়ে মোগা) | দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | দরপত্র শোলার তারিখ ও সময় |
|--------------|---|--|--------------|--------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ০১ | ইতিমিল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৫০ তারিখ: ২৩/০২/২০২৫ | ০৮(আট) প্রকার প্রিউলের ইনার বক্স। (০৮/eight) Kinds of Printed Inner Box (প্রিউল মোতাবেক) | ৮,০৮,০০০ পিস | ২.৫% | টাকা ১,৫০০.০০ প্রতি সেট | ১০/০/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা | ১০/০/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা |
| ০২ | ইতিমিল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৫৪ তারিখ: ২৩/০২/২০২৫ | ০৫(পাঁচ) প্রকার মাস্টার কার্টন। (০৫/five) Kinds of Master Carton (প্রিউল মোতাবেক) | ৭৯,৭১৫ পিস | ২.৫% | টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট | ১১/০/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা | ১১/০/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা |
| ০৩ | ইতিমিল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৫৫ তারিখ: ২৩/০২/২০২৫ | ০১(এক) প্রকার করোগেটে কার্টন। (০১/one) Kinds of Corrugated Carton (প্রিউল মোতাবেক) | ৫০,০০০ পিস | ২.৫% | টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি সেট | ১২/০/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা | ১২/০/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা |

সকল কার্যালয়ে অফিস চলাকলীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র প্রিউল ত্যাগ করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই। দরপত্র খেলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র প্রিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না। উল্লেখ্য, কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা

মহা-ব্যবসায়পক্ষ, প্রক্রিয়মেট (চলাতি দায়িত্ব)

পক্ষে: ব্যবসায়পক্ষ পরিচালক।

(৩.৫" X ৫)

Three killed,
six hurt in
road crashes

STAR REPORT

Ban politics on campus

FROM PAGE 3

gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar to elaborate on their demands.

The students accused the VC of attempting to introduce politics on campus, failing to ensure security during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In

Sherpur, two

motorcyclists

were killed

and six others

injured

in road

accidents

in two

districts

during

the

February

18

attack,

refusing

to

take

responsibility

for

over

150

injured

students

denying

the

involvement

of

the

VC

and

pro

BNP

activists

instead

of

arresting

the

identified

perpetrators

the

authorities

filed

'Preserve indigenous languages'

Urges Bangla Academy president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy President Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq at a seminar yesterday stressed the need to preserve the languages of indigenous communities and provide education in their mother tongues.

"We need to expand the use of mother tongues in the education sector. The languages of indigenous communities must be preserved," he said.

He made these remarks at a national seminar at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka.

The organisation arranged the seminar under the theme "Multilingualism and Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education".

Fazlul Huq, a former professor of Bangla at Dhaka University, said the standard of the Bangla language in the country is declining.

He attributed this to the decreasing interest in Bangla literature among the younger generation, largely due to the dominance of the English language and the influence of social media.

"This is also causing the distortion of Bangla, which is significantly lowering the quality of our language," he added.

While delivering the keynote speech, Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman Rashid of the Institute of Education and Research at DU underscored the necessity of preserving and promoting cultural diversity through the advancement of multilingualism.

Three more papers were presented at the seminar.

BNP Khulna city council today after 16 years

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Khulna city unit of BNP is set to hold its council today after 16 years.

For the first time, the council will elect its leadership for the posts of unit's president, general secretary and organising secretary through direct voting.

The council will be held at the city's Circuit House ground in the morning, followed by the voting in the afternoon at the Khulna District Stadium's gymnasium.

Amid the current political landscape and in the aftermath of the July-August uprising, this conference holds particular significance for BNP in Khulna.

A total of 12 candidates are contesting for the three key positions, while 505 councillors from the city's five thanas will exercise their voting rights.

Party leaders and activists are showing great enthusiasm for the council, and expectations for new leadership are running high. Candidates are actively engaging with councillors, promising to work for the party's betterment, and even apologising for past mistakes.



For the first time, the council will elect its leadership for the posts of unit's president, general secretary and organising secretary through direct voting.

The council is being held three years after the formation of the BNP's convening committee in Khulna. Acting BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman has been announced as the chief guest, while Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will be the special guest.

Election Commissioner Advocate Masud Hossain Roni declared the election schedule on February 16.

For the past 15 years, BNP faced numerous challenges in Khulna, including political repression from the ousted Awami League government, said party leaders.

Many leaders have been targeted with lawsuits and attacks, lost their businesses, or forced to withdraw from politics due to pressure. Internal conflicts within the party also led to significant obstacles, weakening the party's organisational strength and limiting grassroots activities in the city.

BNP's last Khulna city unit committee was formed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A worker busy crafting boats on the banks of the Shitalakkhya river. The work is going on in full swing so to ensure the boats are ready for the rainy season. This photo was taken at Bandar Central Ferry Ghat in Narayanganj yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

RANGPUR HI-TECH PARK Uncertainty looms as work stalls for six months



KONGKON KARMAKER

The construction of Rangpur Hi-Tech Park has remained suspended for six months following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year, raising concerns over its future.

Indian contractor Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) withdrew its workforce after the change in government. Authorities have yet to provide a timeline for resumption.

To cut costs, plans for a dormitory and cineplex have been scrapped, project officials confirmed.

Construction materials at the 10.77-acre site in Rangpur City Corporation's Ward 9 lie scattered, cranes and heavy machinery stand idle, and only a handful of security personnel remain present.

Initiated in 2017, the hi-tech park was envisioned to develop skilled manpower and boost employment in the ICT sector.

On April 25, 2017, the Ecnec approved Tk 1,846.09 crore for 12 district-level hi-tech parks. Of this, the government allocated Tk 302.09 crore, with the remainder coming from

an Indian loan. The project is being implemented by the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority under the Ministry of Information and Technology.

The original plan included three buildings: a seven-storey Multi-Talent Building (MTB) with a steel structure, a three-storey canteen and cineplex, and a dormitory. Construction was supposed to start in 2017 and conclude by 2020. However, after repeated delays, work was officially inaugurated on May 26, 2022, with a revised completion deadline of July 2024. To date, only 25 percent of construction has been completed.

According to sources, the last recorded construction activity took place on August 2, 2024. Security concerns led Indian contractors to leave, they added.

Project Director AKM Fazlul Haque said construction would resume within a week, confirming the revised plan now excludes the dormitory and cineplex.

The focus remains on the seven-storey MTB, along with electrical substations, boundary walls, underground tanks, gates, guard

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Idol damaged in Pabna temple; one arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An idol of the goddess Kali was vandalised at a temple in Pabna town early yesterday.

Hindu community leaders said the incident took place at Shree Shree Rokhkhla Kali Matar Mondir in the Dilalpur area.

This marks the second attack on the temple within 24 hours, they told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, police have detained a suspect, Jahid Hasan Happy, 40, from the Kalachandpara area in connection with the incident, said Md Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Pabna Police Station.

According to OC Salam, during preliminary interrogation, the detainee admitted to his involvement in the attack.

On Saturday, the same idol was found overturned on the temple floor, according to the temple authorities.

Provash Chandra, president of the Pabna Puja Uddipan Parishad, said following Saturday's attack, the temple committee filed a case with Pabna Sadar Police Station.

However, another attack took place early yesterday, they said.

They urged the authorities to investigate the incidents and ensure safety and security of the temples in the area.

AC blast kills two in Sonargaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two electricians were killed as an air conditioner exploded during repair at Eastern Bank's branch in Kanchpur area of Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila yesterday.

The incident took place around 1:00pm at the rear of the ground floor of Sonargaon Mega Complex along the Dhaka Sylhet highway, said Jahangir Alam, senior station officer of Kanchpur Fire Service.

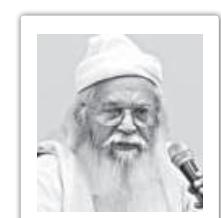
The deceased are Md Tuhin, 25, and Md Rafi, 22.

According to security personnel of the building, three workers were repairing the AC unit when it exploded, leaving Tuhin and Rafi critically injured.

All banking operations at the branch were suspended after the explosion, he added.

Firefighters took the injured to Narayanganj General Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead.

Defeated forces behind anarchy
Says Farhad Mazhar



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Poet, writer, and thinker Farhad Mazhar has claimed that the recent chaos and disorder in the country are being fuelled by defeated forces.

He made these remarks on Saturday night while speaking as chief guest at the 57th memorial festival and folk fair of the spiritual figure Abdul Qadir Shah (RA) in Sharifpur village under Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria.

Regarding the demand for immediate elections, he said, "Those opposing Bangladesh's reconstruction are the ones demanding immediate elections and government formation. The former ruling party [Awami League] has looted for 15 years, and now they [the opposition] want to loot for another 15 years."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

ARMED SHOWDOWN
Jubo Dal leader expelled, 4 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police have arrested four individuals following an armed showdown led by a local Jubo Dal leader in Sreepur, Gazipur on Saturday night.

The arrested individuals are Hashem, 39, Asadul Islam, 24, Suman Mia, 28, and Hridoy Hasan Rakib, 26 -- all residents of Sreepur, said Mohammad Shamim, investigation officer of Sreepur Police Station.

The arrests came after a case was filed by shopkeeper Hazrat Ali, whose store was allegedly vandalised and looted by the group.

The case names five accused and lists 25-30 unidentified individuals.

The armed procession, reportedly led by Jahangir Alam Pintu, a member of Sreepur upazila Jubo Dal, took place on Saturday afternoon in MC Bazar, Mauna Union.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Golapganj Govt. Technical School and College , Golapganj , Sylhet

Memo No : 57.03.9138.502.07.001.22.1118

Date : 20/02/2025

e-Tender Notice(OTM)

This is notifying to all concern that the following tenders are invited in the national e-GP portal .

| Sl no | Tender ID | Procurement Title | Online Notice publication Date & Time | Last selling Date & Time | Closing Date & Time |
|-------|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 1077394 | Procurement and Supply of Furniture. | | | |
| 2 | 1077395 | Procurement and Supply of Others Stationery | 24-Feb-2025 10:00AM | 10-Mar-2025 17:00PM | 11-Mar-2025 14:30 PM |
| 3 | 1077396 | Procurement and Supply of Raw Materials and spare parts. | | | |

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

20-2-2025
(Sajal Kumar Pal)
Principal
Golapganj Govt. Technical School and College
Email : golapganjtsc@gmail.com

GD-495



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
Secondary and Higher Education Division
Ministry of Education
Bangladesh Copyright Bhaban, Level-10, Plot-F, 20/B,
West Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
(www.heat.ugc.gov.bd)



Date:23.02.2025

1st Corrigendum

Time Extension for Submission of Request for Expression of Interest (REoI)

This is to inform all concerned that the following amendment has been made for The Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) - Individual Consultant (National) (Time-based) which was published in 02 (two) national dailies titled "Dainik Samakal" and "The Daily Star" on 11 February 2025 vide Ref. No: 101/2025-401. The REoI was also published on CPTU, HEAT website.

| Sl | Actual Date & Time | Amended Date & Time |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | EoI Closing Date and Time: Date: 27 February, 2025; Time: 03:00 PM (Local Time) | EoI Closing Date and Time: Date: 05 March, 2025; Time: 03:00 PM (Local Time) |

All other terms and Conditions of The Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) will remain unchanged.

SD/=
Project Director
Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project

Israeli jets fly low over Beirut

Says Israeli minister as tens of thousands mourn Hezbollah's slain leader in mass funeral

AFP, Jerusalem

Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israeli Air Force jets flying over the funeral of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut yesterday were sending a "clear message" to anyone threatening Israel.

Nasrallah was killed in an Israeli strike in the southern suburbs of Beirut in September.

Tens of thousands of black-clad mourners vowed support for

Israel's military strikes southern and eastern Lebanon.

Hezbollah at the Beirut funeral of the slain leader, after the group was dealt major blows in its last round of hostilities with Israel.

Women wailed as a truck carrying the coffins of Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine -- Nasrallah's chosen successor killed in another Israeli air strike -- slowly moved through the crowd, topped with two black turbans and draped in Hezbollah's yellow flag.

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi were in attendance, with representatives of Iraq's main pro-Iran factions also expected to come.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed "resistance" against Israel.

"The enemy should know that resistance against usurpation, oppression, and arrogance is never-ending and will continue until the desired goal is achieved," Khamenei said in a statement published on his official website.

As crowds gathered in Beirut, the official National News Agency (NNA) reported Israeli strikes in Lebanon's south, including a location about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border, but also in the east.

Israel's military said it had struck "sites containing rocket launchers and weapons" in those areas.

The Israeli army in a tweet ahead of the start of the funeral said "the world is a better place".



A vehicle transports a mock coffin for former Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in Israeli airstrikes in Beirut, during a symbolic funeral in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Gaza ceasefire gravely endangered

Says Hamas after Israel delays release of over 600 Palestinian prisoners

AFP, Jerusalem

Hamas yesterday said Israel has gravely endangered a five-week-old Gaza truce by delaying the release of Palestinian prisoners under the deal because of the manner it has freed Israeli hostages.

The first phase of the truce ends early in March and details of a planned subsequent phase have not been agreed.

With tensions again hanging over the deal -- which halted more than 15 months of offensive



crowds at various locations in Gaza.

Armed masked fighters escort the captives onto stages adorned with slogans. The hostages have spoken and waved in what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called "humiliating ceremonies".

The Red Cross has previously appealed to "all parties" for the swaps to be carried out in a "dignified and private" manner.

In the seventh such transfer, Hamas released six Israeli captives on Saturday but Israel put off the planned release of more than 600 Palestinian prisoners in exchange.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim said postponing the release exposes "the entire agreement to grave danger".

Naim said the mediators, "especially the Americans", must pressure Israel's government "to

implement the agreement as it is and immediately release our prisoners."

Alongside the Gaza offensive -- which displaced almost the entire population of 2.4 million -- violence has also soared in the West Bank.

Yesterday, Israel's military said "a tank division will operate in Jenin" as part of "expanding" operations in the area, where the military began a major raid against Palestinian militants just after the Gaza truce began.

The United Nations has said the military activities have led to "forced displacement" of 40,000 Palestinians from Jenin and other refugee camps.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said he has told troops "to prepare for a prolonged presence in the cleared camps for the coming year.

Israel yesterday announced an expansion of military operations in the occupied West Bank.

The military said a tank division will be sent to the West Bank city of Jenin, the first such deployment to the territory in 20 years.

Since the Gaza ceasefire's first phase began on January 19, Hamas has released 25 living Israeli hostages in ceremonies before

the start of the truce.

Naim said the mediators,

"especially the Americans", must

pressure Israel's government "to

communication. Without it, we'll starve to death. There will be no import, there will be no export."

The launch was attended also by Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan.

In his speech, Akbar, also defence and security adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said, "We believe that Bangladesh needs an integrated and comprehensive defence and foreign policy. This policy should align the principles and methods of defence, security, peace, diplomacy, and development with the concept of placing the highest priority on national interest and 'Bangladesh First'."

He went on to say that Bangladesh's relationships with its neighbouring countries, particularly India and Myanmar, are crucial in shaping its foreign relations. "These connections are driven

by historical, economic, and security factors, which in turn influence regional dynamics. It is vital to emphasise that our national interest and national security, supported by a strong framework of strategic autonomy, can form the backbone of our diplomatic, political, and strategic initiatives. This has largely been missing in our political discourses."

Akbar also said that Bangladesh's main security challenges include notably the influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, the ongoing tensions in the Chattogram Hill Tracts region, climate-induced disasters, political violence, and threats of terrorism in different forms. "These issues demand careful management to ensure peace and stability within and beyond Bangladesh. Addressing these issues is vital for both national security and the nation's

geopolitical aspirations."

Political analyst Prof Dilara Choudhury, another speaker at the event, said the youth have shown what kind of foreign policy they want and that the nation needs to pay serious attention to that.

"They have already explained and they have already made it very clear what their hopes and aspirations are nationally and internationally. Nationally, they want a solidified nation. They want democracy.... They want a very balanced pragmatic relation for international relations and a foreign policy that will help Bangladesh take advantage of its geopolitical location."

Dilara observed Bangladesh's foreign policy should aim to bring peace and prosperity not only to the country itself but also contribute to the peace and prosperity in the region and the world.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir, standing committee members Abdul Moyeen Khan, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chairman Air Vice Marshal (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Nagarik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, and Jamaat-e-Islami's Nayeeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher were also present at the event.

The event was also attended by former army chief Lt Gen (retd) Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiq Hug, Jahangirnagar University Vice-Chancellor Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, Manabzamin Editor Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Daily Desh Rupantor Editor Kamal Uddin Sabuj, and Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam, among others.

Strong defence key to effective foreign policy

FROM PAGE 1
FSDS Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Fazle Elahi Akbar in an inaugural speech at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday.

Speaking at the launch, Chief of Army Staff General Waker Uz Zaman said that without a strong defence, the country cannot implement its foreign policy.

"We need to develop our defence... But there's no emphasis on where we need to put emphasis. There's no guideline for it. Whether what we need at this moment to protect our sea line of communication or defend the territorial integrity or whatever it is, there is no focus," said the army chief.

He stressed the need for securing the sea line of communication. "We need a very secure sea line of communication. That means we need to develop our navy. Do we have that? I don't think we have a secure sea line of

Double cases for single victim

FROM PAGE 12

the phone, but he said he could not talk since he was travelling. He also said he would call back but he did not.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy, 14, died on August 6 last year, a day after he was shot near Shanir Akhra Bridge. On September 5, his neighbour, Julhas Sheikh, filed a murder case against 94 people, including Hasina, with Demra Police Station.

Five days later, a 34-year-old person named Rabiu Awal filed another case against 37 people with Jatrabari Police Station over Mahmudul's killing.

The descriptions of the incident varied in the cases. While Julhas claimed Mahmudul was shot at Bashpatti, Rabiu mentioned Shanir Akhra as the scene.

On August 4 last year, BNP activist Riazul Talukder, 39, was shot near Jatrabari intersection and he later died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

His younger brother Rubel Talukder filed a murder case on September 10 against 135 people, including Hasina, with Jatrabari Police Station.

On October 2, a man named Billal Hossain claiming to be Riazul's business partner filed another case with the court against 52 people, including Hasina, over Riazul's death. Shabagh police registered it as an FIR on October 26.

In the case statement, he said Riazul got shot at the Topkhana Road area.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Billal said he filed the case because Riazul was his uncle's son.

However, Riazul's brother Rubel told this newspaper, "We have no cousin named Billal. I do not know for what purpose he filed another case with a different description."

Fatema Tuz Zahura filed a case on September 11 last year against Hasina and 14 others over the killing of her son Abdullah Bin Zahid, a student of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College, on August 5.

Earlier, on August 23, another murder case was filed with a court, accusing 33 individuals, including Hasina, by a person named Mohammad Zakiullah Bahar, over Abdullah's death. The court directed the Airport Police Station to register the FIR.

The two cases named different witnesses.

Fatema's brother Aritul Islam told The Daily Star, "We know nothing about Bahar. We only learned about his case when we visited the police station."

Attempts to contact Bahar were unsuccessful as his phone number mentioned in the FIR was found unreachable.

Md Tareq Jubayer, deputy commissioner (prosecution) at Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have noticed a couple of cases mentioning different places as the scene of occurrence. For such cases, we are preparing instructions, after discussing with legal experts as per existing laws and regulations, for the course of action, and it is under process."

A top police officer, citing

section 248 of the Police Regulations, Bengal, 1943, said, "If a duplicate case is filed over a single incident, the investigation officers [IOs] will verify the place of occurrence and the accused."

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi, however, said they did not notice such cases. "If found, the prosecution will take appropriate action."

He suggested forming a monitoring cell to track multiple murder cases filed for the same victim.

MISUSE OF LEGAL SYSTEM
Tawhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research, told The Daily Star, "The filing of multiple, contradictory cases for single victims with different police stations raises concerns about the potential misuse of the legal system, casting doubts on the credibility of such legal actions."

"A group of people is trying to misuse the July uprising spirit for personal and political vengeance, which needs to be stopped through proper verification and investigation."

The home ministry on October 14 last year issued a warning, stating that legal action would be taken against individuals who filed false cases or cases intended to harass people.

In an official notice, the ministry highlighted the growing trend of false cases, including murder charges, being used for extortion, blackmail and harassment.

Tawhidul said the government's warning had no impact.

"The authority should scrutinise the cases before registering so that deceivers do not get any scope to misuse the law. Or else, the old practice of harassment with ghost cases will resurface," he said.

Al Shahir Hossain Rokon, 23, and Mohammad Ismail, a 46-year-old rickshaw puller, were killed by gunfire in Mohammadpur and West Rampura respectively on July 19.

A Jubo Dal leader, Robiul Khan Hillol, 31, filed a murder case on August 22 with Mohammadpur Police Station over Rokon's death, claiming that Rokon's father Monir Hossain refused to file any case.

A week later, Monir filed another murder case over Rokon's death. Monir told The Daily Star he could not file the case earlier due to illness.

"Hillol did not say anything about filing the case. I did not even know him before filing the case," he said.

Rickshawpuller Ismail's wife Lucky Begum said a man named Sabbir Hossain obtained documents from her, claiming to be a journalist.

Three months after Lucky filed a case over her husband's killing, Sabbir filed another. Efforts to reach Sabbir were unsuccessful, as the number mentioned on the FIR was found switched off.

DU Associate Professor Tawhidul said, "The police or the state, not the neighbours or well-wishers, should take action if any victim's family fails to file a case."

Russia launches 'record' 267 drones at Ukraine

Buildings, cars damaged in Kyiv; Zelensky calls for 'unity' between US, EU for lasting peace

AFP, Kyiv

Russia launched 267 drones on Ukraine overnight, a "record" since the February 2022 invasion, the Ukrainian air force said yesterday.

Air force spokesman Yuri Ignat called the 267 drones spotted in Ukrainian skies between Saturday night and yesterday "a record" since the invasion began nearly three years ago.

Among them, 138 were intercepted by air defence while 119 were "lost" without causing damage, he said in a post on Facebook.

He did not say what happened to the remaining 10 but a separate armed forces statement on Telegram said several regions, Kyiv included, had been "hit". Officials said one civilian in Kryvyi Rih was killed and several buildings and cars in Kyiv and elsewhere were damaged, officials said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday his soldiers in Ukraine are defending "national interests" and vowed

"unchanged" determination to strengthen the country's armed forces in a rapidly changing world.

The comments come ahead of the third anniversary of Russia's offensive in Ukraine, which triggered the deadliest armed conflict in Europe since World War II.

The Kremlin also hailed dialogue between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin -- two "extraordinary" presidents -- as "promising", and vowed it would "never" give up territory seized in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's president in a Telegram post called for "unity" between the United States and Europe to achieve "lasting peace", on the eve of the third anniversary of the Russian invasion and in the wake of Donald Trump's pro-Moscow turn.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said on Saturday evening he was trying to get money back for the billions of dollars sent to support Ukraine's war against Russia.

► US wants return on Ukraine aid money: Trump

► Russian soldiers in Ukraine 'defending Russia's future': Putin

► \$350bn Ukraine's resources in Russian-held territory: Kyiv



6th Convocation 2025

BUBT

Bangladesh University of Business and Technology



Message

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students, their parents, faculty members, and the university authorities on the momentous occasion of 6th convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT).

Quality higher education is indispensable for a nation's growth and development. As the interim government is marching forward to build a progressive, inclusive and prosperous new Bangladesh, the demand for knowledgeable, skilled and proficient individuals to meet both national and global requirements is immense. Keeping that in mind, present government is committed to ensure quality education at all level and formulating subsequent policy in that regard. I hope BUBT would put their best effort to make students competent so that they can cope up with the continuous revolution in technology, industries and societal paradigm.

This student led mass uprising in July-August 2024 will always be remembered as a transformative milestone in the history of Bangladesh. Students from both public and private universities including BUBT demonstrated outstanding courage, unity, sacrifice and resilience. I am confident that the graduates imbued with the true spirit of the uprising, will embrace the responsibility of realizing the vision of a 'New Bangladesh'.

Convocation recognizes the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the students as well as evaluates the performance of the university. I hope the graduates will apply their acquired knowledge for the betterment and prosperity of the masses and embellish country's image to a unique height.

I wish the 6th Convocation of BUBT a grand success.

Shahabuddin

Mohammed Shahabuddin



Message

I am greatly pleased that Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) is going to hold its 6th Convocation February 24, 2025. On this auspicious occasion, I must congratulate the graduating students, their guardians, faculty members and the university authority.

Convocation is indeed a matter of paramount importance and significance for any university. It is a source of great and unmixed inspiration and enthusiasm for the young learners. It is the age of Globalization and Information Technology. We have now to proceed on our journey along the difficult path of challenges of achieving adequate success in materializing our dreams and aspirations. We strongly hope and believe that our young and enterprising graduates will acquire requisite abilities through higher education, research and training to face all sorts of challenges and thereby fulfill our expectation. We can legitimately hope that they will devote themselves not only to build up their own career, but also play a great role in contributing to the development and progress of the country and do everything possible to present Bangladesh as a glorious country to the world.

Bangladesh is marching towards the fourth industrial revolution and we are at the doorstep of achieving sustainable development goals within 2030 to make sure of attaining further achievement of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Ministry of Education is shouldering great challenges to turn students of the country to an educated workforce. It is trying to achieve paradigm shift in education through qualitative changes in teaching, learning and assessment. I am satisfied that among the private universities of the country, BUBT is progressing fast. It is an all-compliant university. I am pleased, the university is sincerely trying to follow outcome-based curriculum for its students to produce skilled workforce.

I hope, the graduates will be able to find themselves placed at the most promising fields of the job market they have dreamt of. I wish them a very bright future. May the 6th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) be crowned with success.

Wahiduddin Mahmud



Message

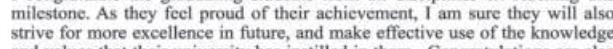
I am greatly pleased that Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) is going to hold its 6th Convocation February 24, 2025. On this auspicious occasion, I must congratulate the graduating students, their guardians, faculty members and the university authority.

Convocation is indeed a matter of paramount importance and significance for any university. It is a source of great and unmixed inspiration and enthusiasm for the young learners. It is the age of Globalization and Information Technology. We have now to proceed on our journey along the difficult path of challenges of achieving adequate success in materializing our dreams and aspirations. We strongly hope and believe that our young and enterprising graduates will acquire requisite abilities through higher education, research and training to face all sorts of challenges and thereby fulfill our expectation. We can legitimately hope that they will devote themselves not only to build up their own career, but also play a great role in contributing to the development and progress of the country and do everything possible to present Bangladesh as a glorious country to the world.

Bangladesh is marching towards the fourth industrial revolution and we are at the doorstep of achieving sustainable development goals within 2030 to make sure of attaining further achievement of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Ministry of Education is shouldering great challenges to turn students of the country to an educated workforce. It is trying to achieve paradigm shift in education through qualitative changes in teaching, learning and assessment. I am satisfied that among the private universities of the country, BUBT is progressing fast. It is an all-compliant university. I am pleased, the university is sincerely trying to follow outcome-based curriculum for its students to produce skilled workforce.

I hope, the graduates will be able to find themselves placed at the most promising fields of the job market they have dreamt of. I wish them a very bright future. May the 6th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) be crowned with success.

Wahiduddin Mahmud



Message

A convocation ceremony—also called commencement in most North American universities as it signals the beginning of the graduating students' transition to the next stage—is a much coveted event not only for the students but also for their families, the university faculty and administration. As the students walk across the ceremonial stage in their long, flowing gowns to receive their degrees, they feel a mixture of relief, satisfaction, and pride for all their hard work and success, as those awarding the degrees also feel the pleasure of being able to guide the students' academic journey to a pleasurable conclusion.

I congratulate Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) for organizing its 6th convocation which will see more than 4000 students graduating in the daylong event and getting ready for the next phase of their lives. I have closely followed the progress BUBT has made over the years in teaching, research and infrastructure development. The university successfully pursues quality enhancement policies that have resulted in steady improvements in the performance of both the faculty and the students.

I congratulate the graduating students from all disciplines on reaching this milestone. As they feel proud of their achievement, I am sure they will also strive for more excellence in future, and make effective use of the knowledge and values that their university has instilled in them. Congratulations are also due to the parents for their efforts, patience and care that have led to their children's success.

I wish the graduating students a happy and prosperous future.

Shamsul Huda



Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community. They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda



Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda



Message

Graduating Students

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------------------------|-----|
| BBA | 788 | B.Sc. in EEE | 397 |
| MBA | 358 | B.Sc. in Textile Engg. | 319 |
| EMBA | 22 | B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics | 68 |
| B.A. (Hons.) in English | 317 | M.Sc. in Economics | 44 |
| M.A. in ELT | 94 | LL.B (Hons.) | 257 |
| B.Sc. in CSE | 1427 | LL.M | 167 |

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda

Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda

Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda

Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda

Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda

Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride for their families.

BUBT graduates hold a special place in my heart because they understand the importance of seeking meaningful and beneficial knowledge. True knowledge shapes individuals into complete, responsible human beings, ready to contribute to society and the nation. My sincere advice to our graduating students is to remain focused, stay humble, and work with unwavering dedication to uphold the reputation of BUBT.

Our graduates have demonstrated exceptional resilience, acquired valuable new skills, and shown compassion toward one another and the university community.

They are now equipped with the tools and determination to positively impact the world.

I wish each of our graduates success in their future endeavors. The world needs forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate individuals like them. I am confident they will continue to make us proud through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields.

Best wishes to all the graduates.

Shamsul Huda

Message

I am pleased to share a few words on the 6th Convocation of BUBT. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates who have successfully earned their degrees. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and a moment of pride

Let shrines be sites of devotion, music again

News of devotees and khadems still living in fear is concerning

We are deeply concerned about the lingering fear that haunts pirs, fakirs, khadems, Bauls, and other spiritual practitioners even months after the wave of attacks on shrines, Sufi darbars, and Baul akhras committed in early August. These attacks, which erupted in the wake of the fall of the Awami League government, not only desecrated places of devotion and mystical music but also shook the very foundation of our inclusive spiritual traditions. As per a report by this daily, while the frequency of such attacks has declined, they have not stopped entirely, with the latest incidents occurring as recently as February 20-21 in Noakhali and Manikganj. The result is that the devotees are still living in fear and insecurity.

Our analysis shows that among the various institutions of Islamic mysticism, the shrines of the Pagal-Fakirs have been the most affected. These sites typically welcome people of all faiths, races, and genders, incorporating music as a central element of worship. The destruction of such "spiritual free zones", as an expert stated, not only disrupts the practice of worship through music but also restricts women's entry and expressions of devotion. This forceful imposition of a stricter interpretation of Sharia has also seen other places of devotion being targeted.

The chief adviser's press wing, on January 18, confirmed attacks on at least 40 shrines since August 4. Meanwhile, the Global Sufi Organisation on January 23 claimed that at least 80 shrines had been attacked since August. According to *The Daily Star*'s own findings, corroborated by other media reports, over 70 shrines and akhras across the country were attacked, vandalised, set ablaze, or looted in August and September alone. In some instances, devotees were publicly humiliated by having their hair and beards forcibly shaved off. Although no attacks were recorded in October and December, several shrines were targeted in November as well as January and February. Some of these sites are centuries old, carrying immense historical, archaeological, and religious significance. They stand as living testaments to the role of Sufi traditions in the spread of Islam in this part of the world.

Clearly, the Sufi and Baul traditions are an integral part of our cultural and religious heritage, and as such, need to be protected rather than desecrated. To justify these attacks by citing rigid interpretations of Islam—condemning music or mixed gender prayer gatherings—is nothing but a misguided attempt as these traditions have coexisted with mainstream Islamic practices for centuries, enriching our spiritual landscape. The attacks also go against our constitutional values of pluralism and non-discrimination that were reaffirmed by the July uprising. We, therefore, urge relevant authorities to counter rising intolerance in the country, and ensure that all shrines and akhras can resume their activities without any intimidation or obstruction.

Expedite local government services

Holding local government polls will help regularise service delivery

It is quite concerning that over six months after the political changeover on August 5, the pace of work at the local government ministry and its affiliated bodies—from city corporations to union parishes—remains slow. According to a report in Samakal, not a single new development project has been undertaken at the local level during this period. Besides, essential services such as road repairs, mosquito control, sanitation, water supply, and waste management are not being properly carried out in many areas. Citizens are also experiencing long delays in obtaining basic documents, including birth, and death certificates, from ward offices.

While our local government has never been known for its efficiency, the situation has worsened since August 5 due to the absence of elected representatives, most of whom belonged to Awami League. Although government officials were later reassigned to carry out the duties of political entities, this arrangement has proven largely ineffective. Many of the officials have been given additional responsibilities alongside their existing duties, making them unavailable in ward and local government offices for much of the time. Their lack of familiarity with local residents has also led to unanticipated bureaucratic delays and hurdles.

Reportedly, the situation has been further complicated by the fire incident at the Secretariat on December 25, which disrupted the operations of the ministry. Officials are currently working from two separate locations, causing delays in decision-making. Even inter-ministerial meetings have been stalled due to space constraints. Some files were allegedly damaged in the fire, and many of the retrieved documents remain unopened following the ministry's temporary relocation. The other factor reportedly hampering the work of the ministry is the inexperience of some subordinate officials promoted to replace their superiors, who were made OSD or forced to resign because of their connection with the AL. The ongoing chaos in civil administration is also not helping the situation either.

Given these circumstances, holding local government elections has become urgent, as bureaucrats cannot simultaneously serve as both administrators and public representatives. Local residents need leaders who can voice their concerns and push government agencies to deliver essential services on time. But until elections are held, government officials must operate with greater accountability, recognising that public service delivery is a priority. They must also remember that, like elected leaders, they are answerable to the people whose taxes fund their salaries. In the long run, implementing the recommendations of the Local Government Reform Commission is crucial to ensuring that public services at the grassroots level do not suffer during such political transitions.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Russia invades Ukraine

On this day in 2022, some eight years after illegally annexing Crimea, Russia invaded Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin cited several reasons for the war, including the claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and other government officials were neo-Nazis.

EDITORIAL

Protect our farmers from their grievances



Mostafa Shabuj
is a journalist at *The Daily Star*.

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

The July uprising revealed two distinct images: one of an urban political massacre and the other of silent observation from the villages. Though the clashes during the July protests did not spread to the countryside, its messages were conveyed to the rural people, especially the farmers. Those farmers began envisioning a future free from exploitative input costs, unfair crop pricing, and bureaucratic corruption. Sadly, those dreams remain largely unfulfilled. The benefits of government subsidies for essential agricultural inputs like fuel, electricity, and fertilisers are still not reaching the farmers, who need them most. Who enjoys those benefits, then?

Let's look at a few examples.

Cauliflower growers in Bogura have faced hardship this winter. On December 28, the price of cauliflowers was Tk 2.3 per kg at Mohasthan wholesale market. On the same day,

This year, seed and fertiliser prices have surged for potato and Boro paddy cultivation. Even under the interim government, potato growers bought seeds from the government at nearly double the fixed price.

I visited a kitchen market in Dhaka's Mirpur area, where cauliflower were selling at Tk 30-40 per kg. A Mohasthan trader explained that transport to Dhaka raises the cost of one kg of cauliflower by Tk 8-9, suggesting a retail price of Tk 12-15 per kg in the capital. The additional Tk 15 charged in Dhaka goes entirely to the market middlemen. Meanwhile, farmers in Bogura lose Tk 15,000-20,000 per bigha (33 decimals) due to low prices.

According to the field wing of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), potato cultivation this season reached record levels, with 5.24 lakh hectares planted nationwide, compared to 4.56 lakh hectares last season. Driven by past high prices, farmers expanded potato acreage, hoping for greater profits. However, current prices are so low that farmers can't recover their investments. In the northern districts,



We should remember that if our farmers suffer, every citizen in the country will suffer.

FILE PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

various kinds of potatoes are being sold at Tk 8-10 per kg, while production costs are around Tk 15-17 per kg.

On the other hand, potato storage costs have risen by Tk 1 per kg, from Tk 7 to Tk 8, as announced by the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA). Due to the sudden fall in prices and the increase in storage costs, farmers in the northern region protested the move by throwing potatoes on the streets recently.

According to the DAE, Bangladesh's annual potato demand is around 90 lakh tonnes, but this year's production is projected to be around 1.20 crore tonnes, creating a potential surplus of 30 lakh tonnes. According to the BCSA, the country's 350 functioning cold storage facilities have a combined capacity of only 45 lakh tonnes. Historically, potato exports have been minimal, averaging just 50,000 tonnes annually over the past nine years, per the DAE data. Even doubling the exports to 100,000 tonnes this year leaves a staggering 29-lakh-tonne surplus. Farmers and cold storage owners are left wondering how this surplus will be managed.

On February 8, at a press conference, BCSA President Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu claimed that potato prices would not exceed Tk 40 per kg this year, asserting no price manipulation. This raises a serious question: when the wholesale market price of potatoes is now Tk 10 per kg on average, why will the price rise to Tk 40? Farmers are incurring losses by

selling potatoes at Tk 10 per kg, while middlemen and traders are making profit of Tk 30 per kg.

Similar struggles plague farmers of other crops. Onion growers in Kushtia and Pabna, for instance, have suffered losses of Tk 50,000-60,000 per bigha, according to a recent report in this daily.

Rice cultivation offers little profit to

Bangladeshi farmers. Over the past two years, farmers have struggled to cover expenses of growing rice. According to the auto rice mill owners and farmers in the northern districts, producing rice from paddy costs only Tk 40-42 per kg, yet consumers have to pay Tk 65-70 per kg at the retail market right now. The disparity is even greater with fragrant rice (Chinigura). In Dinajpur, farmers told me that the production cost of fragrant rice is Tk 50-52 per kg, while packaged rice sells at a staggering Tk 145-150 per kg. This massive price difference remains unexplained by traders and government agencies alike, raising questions about the government's role in addressing this market anomaly.

Is that all? The production cost is increasing year after year in every sector, from buying seeds to producing crops. Market players, against whom the government takes little action, benefit from inflated market prices, incentivising farmers to cultivate more land, often leading to losses.

According to recent media reports, this year, seed and fertiliser prices have surged for potato and Boro paddy cultivation. Even under the interim government, potato growers bought seeds from the government at nearly double the fixed price. During the potato season, farmers from the northern area bought TSP fertiliser at a price that is Tk 350 more per sack than the government fixed price. Alleged artificial shortages are driving up prices, while government oversight

(surveillance) remains ineffective, while farmers bear the brunt of it. Even in the current Boro paddy planting season, farmers have to spend almost Tk 3-4 per kg more than the price set by the government to buy almost every variety of fertiliser.

Even two decades ago, Bangladeshi farmers relied on traditional methods to grow crops, using their seeds, organic fertilisers, and Indigenous technology. Pest infestation was less severe, resulting in lower production costs. Today, the irony is that technological advancements have paradoxically made farmers more vulnerable in terms of increasing production costs. They are now more dependent on external inputs (technologies) for everything, from hybrid seeds to threshing crops. Now, big industrial enterprises have created a big profit market in these places by supplying technologies and other facilities. Thus, both farmers and consumers are trapped in an inflated commodity market.

The reality is, farmers are taking out loans to cultivate crops, and they have to sell them at low prices without taking the crops home to pay off the loan as soon as possible. As a result, the crops that the farmers are producing, they themselves are not able to consume. At the beginning of the season, after selling their own produced crops at low prices, they have to buy them from the market again at higher prices for the rest of the year. What could be a bigger grievance for a farmer's family than this?

The interim government has formed several reform commissions to address public demands. However, these commissions have been formed on issues raised by intellectuals and government affiliates, neglecting the distant voices of farmers.

There is no doubt that the agricultural system of Bangladesh is going through an uncontrolled, mismanaged situation. Farmers, tempted by the previous year's high prices, often overproduce, leading to losses. Essential imports are often ill-timed, exacerbating market imbalances. Government offices struggle to accurately convey field-level realities to policymakers. Farmers are disconnected from the government, lacking timely support, even during natural disasters. The absence of a strong national-level farmers' organisation and effective political representation further silences their concerns. The suffering of marginal farmers is not reaching the government.

The reality is, our farmers are not doing well. We should remember that if the farmer suffers, every citizen in the country will suffer. Therefore, protecting our farmers and, if necessary, creating a permanent commission to solve their grievances are the need of the hour now.

What is next after the KUET clash?



Rahat Minhaz
is assistant professor of mass communication and journalism at Jagannath University. He can be reached at minhazuddin.du@yahoo.com.

RAHAT MINHAZ

On the path to restoring democracy in Bangladesh, student politics based on civil rights has a significant role to play. However, we cannot ignore or overlook its dark and violent side. I believe that the helmet and hockey stick-wielding goons of Chhatri League were one of the main reasons behind the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime. People had grown tired of their crimes and terrorist-like activities within educational institutions and beyond. Hasina has fallen and fled, but crime and violence in educational institutions continue.

There are three major political student wings in the educational institutions of Bangladesh: Chhatri Dal, Chhatri Shibir, and Chhatri League (which is now banned). These groups have dominated universities and other institutions for a long time, and none have been free from criminal activities. However, a few leftist student organisations have been striving to establish meritocracy and advocate for students' rights instead of engaging in tender manipulation or lobbying for recruitment. Unfortunately, they remain weak and fragmented,

allowing criminal forces to maintain dominance.

I want to share one of my personal experiences. As a student of Dhaka University, I was a resident of Zia Hall, staying in room 407. In 2007, during the tenure of the caretaker government, student wings of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh clashed over seat allocations in the hall rooms, notoriously known as "gono rooms." One night in December 2007, tensions escalated into violence. Chhatri Shibir leaders were in the room of the Chhatri Dal hall president, engaged in a heated argument over seat distribution. What followed was a brutal fight. I can still vividly recall the

harrowing cries of one of the student leaders—it was terrifying to hear on that cold, dark night. That night, one student leader even jumped from the seventh floor of our north-side building to the ground in an attempt to save his life. Can you imagine the extent of brutality students can inflict on each other when driven by personal and political interests?

With Awami League's ruthless and barbaric student wing now out of the picture, we had hoped for peace and stability in our educational institutions. However, to our deep disappointment, other student organisations are already stepping into Chhatri League's role—despite having fought shoulder-to-shoulder against the oppressive Sheikh Hasina regime just a few months ago.

With Awami League's ruthless and barbaric student wing now out of the picture, we had hoped for peace and stability in our educational institutions. However, to our deep disappointment, other student organisations are already stepping into Chhatri League's role—despite having fought shoulder-to-shoulder against the oppressive Sheikh Hasina regime just a few months ago.

The violent clashes at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) between anti-discrimination student activists and members of Chhatri Dal have revived memories of the bloody brutality once synonymous with the Chhatri League

era. This incident has raised serious concerns about the state of student politics across the country. Seeing injured students and men wielding large scythes and machetes on a university campus is utterly shocking and condemnable. No justification can excuse such violence. The tensions from the KUET clash quickly spread to other campuses, strongly influencing the future trajectory of student politics.

The KUET incident exposed the inherent brutality of student politics on our campuses. Following this, alleged Chhatri Shibir activists also brutally tortured MC College students over a Facebook comment. These Chhatri League-style crimes are an alarming sign. Such acts of violence must be stopped immediately, and law enforcement agencies must take swift action against the perpetrators.

We must remember that if this brutality is not curtailed now, it will spread to universities and colleges across the country, ultimately undermining the spirit of the July uprising. Most importantly, urgent steps must be taken to eliminate partisan politics from campuses through appropriate laws and policies.

I do not know how much longer students' blood will be used as a tool for political gain. But it is essential to try and put an immediate stop to it. We must ensure that our educational institutions are free from helmets, hockey sticks, scythes, machetes, and homemade sharp weapons once and for all.

Will youth political engagement ever go beyond protesting?



Apon Zahir
is senior research associate at the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS).

APON ZAHIR

Lately, Dhaka has increasingly become a city of protests, with people taking to the streets almost every other day to demand some kind of reform or change. Hardly a week passes without a group of protesters blocking a major intersection in the city, voicing grievances that range from governance failures to economic concerns. A few weeks ago, students of Government Titumir College, for instance, blocked roads and railways demanding that their college be upgraded to university status. Then we saw students from the Medical Assistant Training School staging a demonstration demanding better employment opportunities. The damage to our already struggling economy due to all these disruptions, particularly the traffic congestion they cause in the capital, is already proving far too heavy to bear. However, while social media is awash with conspiracy theories regarding who or what is instigating these movements, there is little meaningful discourse on why people, especially young people, feel compelled to resort to such measures.

Regardless of who is instigating what, these protests have proven time and time again that the only way to get a voice heard in Bangladesh is to shout as loudly as possible while also disrupting the lives of the common citizenry. But is this really the kind of political discourse that we want in the country?

Before the July uprising, several research and opinion pieces indicated that young people

in Bangladesh were increasingly disengaging from formal political participation. Analysts highlighted that most young people not only lack the knowledge of key political processes, but also feel their voices will disappear into a bureaucratic void. While there was a glimmer of hope that things might change after the fall of an authoritarian regime, many people are now frustrated with corruption, economic hardship, and the perception that their concerns may ultimately not be addressed, especially when government feedback mechanisms appear superficial rather than effective channels for real change.

Similarly, a pre-uprising study on the political perception of youth in Bangladesh found that, despite high levels of patriotism, nearly 95 percent of respondents believed that politics was risky and unrewarding. A key reason cited was the absence of an accessible, unified system for engagement—one where feedback could effectively reach decision-makers and lead to tangible outcomes.

Considering the perception of politics held by the general youth in the country, the recent youth-led protests can be put into perspective. Creation of structured and effective platforms for engagement between the government and the people, particularly non-politically affiliated youth, has been long overdue in Bangladesh. As a result, instead of being actively involved in shaping policies and governance, young people often find

themselves resorting to protests—and in many cases, violence—to express their concerns. Of course, having an activist mentality among the young of a nation is never bad. However, when activism and protests become the only language of youth politics, and when protests so regularly turn violent, they deter the majority of the youth from mainstream politics and exacerbates political instability in the country by driving people to be more

cycle of protests and violence. Universities, community centres, and digital forums could all serve as mediums for open discussion, allowing young people to engage directly with policymakers. Civil society has to play a crucial role in this regard by routinely offering opportunities for open dialogue between young citizens and policymakers. One important initiative that the civil society can undertake is hosting regular youth-focused

that young voices participate meaningfully in the national decision-making process. Furthermore, incorporating civic education into school curricula will foster a sense of duty and awareness in people from an early age. By teaching them about governance, political rights, and how to engage peacefully in the public sphere, the government could empower young people to engage constructively before resorting to protests and violence.

Ultimately, it is the public sphere of Bangladeshi politics that is the issue here. German philosopher Jürgen Habermas, known for his work on communicative action and democracy, coined the concept of "public sphere." According to Habermas, the public sphere is "made up of private people gathered together as a public and articulating the needs of society with the state." This idea of an inclusive public sphere, reimagined in Bangladesh's context, can offer a critical lens through which to understand this dilemma. A functional public sphere, untainted from partisan showmanship and undue vested interest, where young people can engage in open and meaningful discourse with policymakers, is essential for fostering democratic participation and reducing the need for disruptive protests. Political dialogue in Bangladesh needs to be taken off the streets and into proper public spheres, which can incorporate modern elements and technology such as online social networks and new media.

After a brutal uprising, it is the collective responsibility of all of us to come together and cultivate a politically engaged and peaceful generation. To that end, the government, civil society, and all political parties in the country must contribute to creating inclusive platforms and a public sphere that empowers young voices and creates structured spaces for political dialogues. By doing so, it can be ensured that the nation's unheard voices find space, and the next generation can contribute positively to the political landscape.



Students of Government Titumir College signal a train to stop during a demonstration at the capital's Mohakhali level crossing during their protest on November 18, 2024. The protest cut off Kamalapur Railway Station from the rest of the country for about four hours.

FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

reactive than proactive.

It is high time we started to create and support new forums that enable discourse between the youth and the government. That is the only way to break out of the

colloquiums in all regions of Bangladesh to highlight the youth's voice and their policy demands. In the same vein, political parties must build youth wings that prioritise policy formulation over partisan agitation, ensuring

The untapped legacy of Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam



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

KAMRUL HASSAN MAMUN

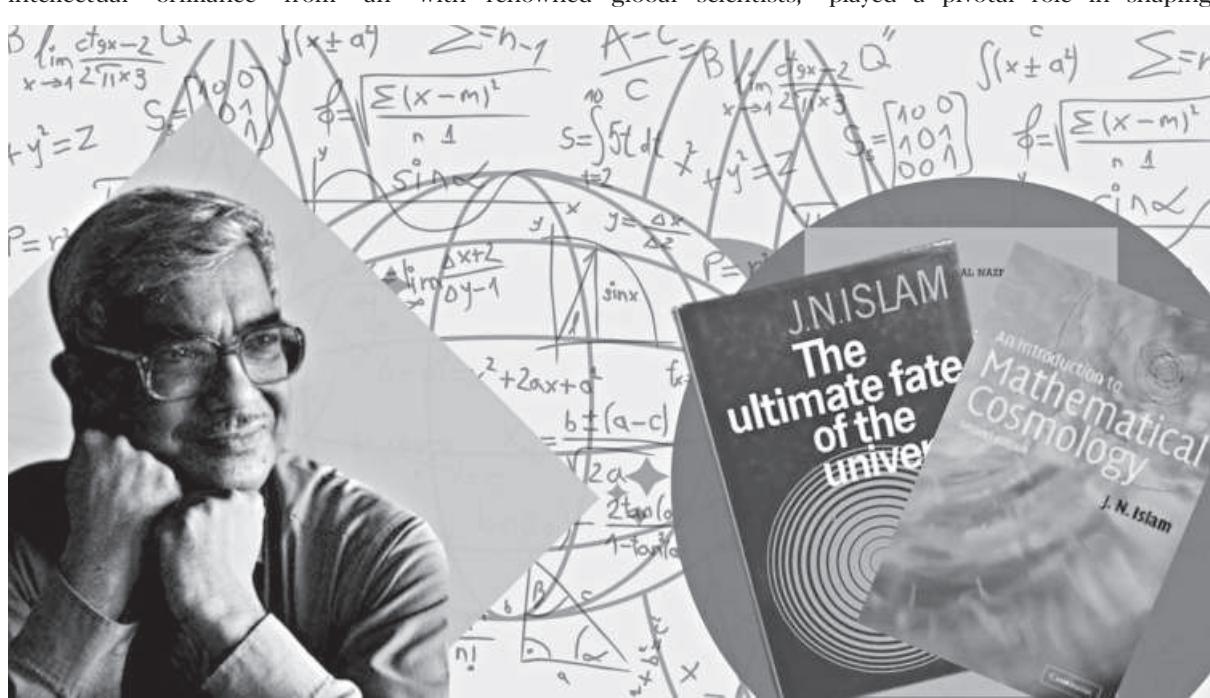
Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam (1939-2013) was not just a mathematician or physicist—he was a visionary who sought to bridge the infinite wonders of the cosmos with the intellectual ambitions of Bangladesh. Recognised as one of South Asia's most brilliant scientific minds, his contributions to mathematics, cosmology, and theoretical physics left an indelible mark on global scientific thought. His three seminal books—*The Ultimate Fate of the Universe*, *Rotating Fields in General Relativity*, and *An Introduction to Mathematical Cosmology* (all published by Cambridge University Press)—continue to inspire young minds and remain foundational texts in the field.

Born on February 24, 1939, in Jhenaidah, Bengal Presidency (the then British India), Jamal Nazrul Islam displayed an innate intellectual brilliance from an

legendary astrophysicist Fred Hoyle, a pioneer in modern cosmology. He later earned his PhD from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), cementing his place among the global elite of scientific thinkers.

Prof Islam's groundbreaking work explored some of the most profound mysteries of the universe, focusing on cosmic singularities, black holes, and the ultimate fate of the cosmos. His insights into singularity theory—where gravitational forces cause matter to become infinitely dense—contributed significantly to our understanding of black holes and cosmic evolution.

His book *The Ultimate Fate of the Universe* became a seminal text, offering groundbreaking theories on the long-term evolution of celestial bodies and the eventual destiny of the universe. His collaborations with renowned global scientists,



VISUAL: MONOROM POLOK

early age, nurtured by an academic household led by his father, Khan Bahadur Sirajul Islam, a senior government official. His early academic achievements paved his way to the prestigious University of Cambridge in the UK, where he pursued mathematics with exceptional promise.

At Trinity College in Cambridge, Islam completed his doctoral research under the mentorship of

along with his contributions to gravitational collapse and general relativity, placed him among the most influential cosmologists of his time.

Despite his international stature, Prof Islam made a conscious choice to return to Bangladesh in the 1980s. He joined the University of Chittagong (CU) and later founded the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

China's scientific landscape. After achieving global recognition, Yang returned to China and helped rebuild the country's scientific foundations. As a mentor and adviser, he was instrumental in fostering advanced research and encouraging international collaboration. His leadership at Tsinghua University and efforts to modernise scientific education elevated China's global academic

standing.

Yang's legacy is not just in his discoveries but in inspiring generations of Chinese scientists, bridging East and West, and helping position China as a global leader in scientific research and innovation. Yang was instrumental in fostering advanced research and international collaboration, helping position China as a global leader in scientific innovation.

Had Bangladesh embraced Jamal Nazrul Islam with the same institutional support that China provided Chen-Ning Yang, the nation could have built a premier research centre attracting top minds from around the world. The lost opportunity serves as a cautionary

tale of how nations rise or falter based on their ability to nurture intellectual brilliance.

Despite the lack of government support, Prof Islam remained dedicated to fostering scientific curiosity. Through his teaching, mentorship, and the establishment of the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences, he continued to inspire countless students. His contributions earned him Ekushey Padak in 2000, one of Bangladesh's highest civilian honours.

It is not too late to honour the legacy of Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam. The government and academic institutions could still establish a research institute in his name, fostering international collaborations in theoretical physics

and mathematics. Scholarships, fellowships, and research grants dedicated to his memory could ensure that future generations receive the recognition and support that Prof Islam was denied.

Prof Islam's life is a poignant reminder that true national progress lies not just in economic achievements but in the recognition, nurturing, and empowerment of intellectual visionaries. By honouring his legacy, Bangladesh can signal a renewed commitment to scientific excellence, ensuring that no such brilliance ever goes unnoticed again. In the end, the greatest measure of a nation's success is its ability to recognise its brightest minds and provide them with the platform to transform the future.

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD
POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Memo No: 27.12.0651.032.07.08.001.25-74 Date: 17-02-2025

Tender Notice e-GP (LTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for construction/Up-gradation/Coverage of overhead electrical distribution line under the geographical area of Barisal-1/2, Pirojpur & Patuakhali PBS of Modernization & Capacity Enhancement of BREB Network (Barisal Division) Project. Tender submission deadlines are mentioned below:

| SL No. | Tender Sub- package No. | Description of Works | Tender ID No. | Closing & Opening Date | Closing & Opening Time |
|--------|----------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-10-2 | Construction of 15.267 Km 33 KV Electric Distribution Line (New/Up-Gradation/Underground) under the geographical area of Barisal PBS-1. | 1073751 | | 10:00 |
| 2 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-31-1 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 26.469 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Barisal PBS-1. | 1073752 | | 10:15 |
| 3 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-38-5 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 27.015 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Barisal PBS-2. | 1073753 | | 10:30 |
| 4 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-39-1 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 13.096 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Barisal PBS-2. | 1073754 | | 10:45 |
| 5 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-44-1 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 16.881 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Pirojpur PBS. | 1073755 | | 11:00 |
| 6 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-42-5 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 14.832 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Pirojpur PBS. | 1073756 | | 11:15 |
| 7 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-14-3 | Construction of 16.007 KM 33 KV Electric Distribution Line (New/Up-Gradation/Underground) under the geographical area of Patuakhali PBS. | 1073757 | | 11:30 |
| 8 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-47-1 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 24.072 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Patuakhali PBS. | 1073758 | | 11:45 |
| 9 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-48-1 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 13.806 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Patuakhali PBS. | 1073759 | | 12:00 |
| 10 | MCEP/BREB/ BD-L-49-1 | Testing, Commissioning & Coverage of 12.759 KM Electric Line (LT to HT/HT Single Phase to Three Phase/Installation of Insulated Conductor) under the geographical area of Patuakhali PBS. | 1073760 | | 12:15 |

10-03-25

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. 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 e-GP registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders Proceedings without any Reason.

বাংলাদেশ পর্যায় বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড
BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD
বাগবিবো/জন (২৫০২-১৪৬) ২০২৩-২০২৪

Superintending Engineer
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board,
Barishal Zone, Rupnagar, Barishal.
Phone : 02-478831637
e-mail : seeb@barisal@gmail.com

Nazrul Utsav
opens today at
Chhayanaut

The Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha has organised a two-day Nazrul Utsav. The inauguration event will take place today from 4:30pm to 9:30pm at the Chhayanaut Auditorium.



On the first day of the festival, 125 recorded songs featuring original compositions and lyrics will be made accessible to the public via the official website of the Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha. These recordings include performances by both established and emerging artistes from Bangladesh and India.

Notable Indian artistes participating in this event include Shreeradha Bandyopadhyay, Manomay Bhattacharya, Pandit Tushar Dutta, Brajeswar Mukherjee, and Payel Kar. Among the distinguished Bangladeshi artistes lending their voices to this initiative are Yakub Ali Khan, Khairul Anam Shakil, Ferdous Ara, Nashid Kamal, and Yasmin Mushtari.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Open mic: 'Midweek Comedy Show'

Enjoy a night of pure laughter with Dhaka's most promising stand-up comedians. This is the perfect chance to experience fresh talent and hilarious performances, with no entry fee for all. Comedians interested in putting on a show must arrive by 7pm to secure a spot, as slots are limited.

Attendees can indulge in a selection of delectable food and soft beverages as they enjoy an evening of laughter.

Date: Tuesday | February 25

Time: 7:30pm-9pm

Venue: Naveed's Comedy Club

BUBLY
launches her
production
house

After nearly a decade in the industry, Dhallywood actress Shobnom Bubly is set to embrace a new role as a producer. Recently, she has announced the launch of her own production company, Big Production.

The company will strive to produce films, dramas, short films, and music videos. Its journey will begin with a drama scheduled for release during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, while a film project is in the works for next year. Bubly announced the updates in a video message.

Besides her new role as a producer, Bubly is continuing to act actively. Several of her films are scheduled for release this Eid ul-Fitr. Among them, *Pinik* and *Jongli* have already been officially announced.

Bangladeshi artistes shine
at UNESCO for Int'l Mother
Language Day celebrations

Bangladeshi musicians captivated the audience at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, marking the 25th anniversary of International Mother Language Day on February 21.

A special performance was held, featuring Bangladesh's diverse cultural expressions. Professor Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the interim government, addressed the audience virtually, while cultural adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki attended in person on February 21. Farooki praised the performances, which included Shunno's *Shono Mohajon*, renditions of *Jaat Gelo*, and *Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Rangano* sung in four languages.

He thanked the artistes for



representing Bangladesh in a unique light. The event began with a video interview of the late communist leader Badruddin Umar, adding historical significance.

Farooki also expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Culture and the Bangladesh Embassy in Paris.

Matrihashar
Chalachitra Utsav
to showcase films in
indigenous languages

The two day *Matrihashar Chalachitra Utsav* began yesterday in Dhaka to commemorate International Mother Language Day and honour language martyrs.

Organised by the Zahir Raihan Film Institute, the festival will showcase 15 films in languages including Bengali, Chakma, Santal, and Khyang.

The inauguration took place at the Vintage Convention Hall, Dhanmondi yesterday with Supradip Chakma, Chittagong Hill Tracts adviser in attendance. Today the event will run from 10am to 9pm.

Films to be screened include *Raktokarobir Khoje Nandini*, *Klobong Mla*, *Bondhon*, *Preyoshi*, *Girikonna*, *Ghore Phera*, *Colors of Hope*, and *Poitrik Bhita*, among others.

Shahiduzzaman Selim
elected president of
Director's Guild

Shahiduzzaman Selim has officially been elected president of the Directors' Guild for the 2025-27 term, securing 271 votes, while Faridul Hasan claimed the general secretary position with 222 votes. The newly elected leaders will oversee the organisation for the next two years.

The voting took place at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy on Saturday. This year a total of 501 voters were eligible to participate in the election, with 446 exercising their right to vote.

Rasheda Akter Lajuk, Firoz Khan, and Shakal Ahmed were elected as vice presidents. Tuhi Hossain and Din Mohammad Montu were elected as joint general secretaries.

The executive committee positions saw Sagar Jahan elected with 284 votes, followed by Chayanika Chowdhury with 269, Mahmud Niaz Chandropur with 264, Gitali Hasan with 239, while Litu Korim and Shihab Shaheen each secured 228 votes, and Hasan Rezaul received 223 votes.

NEWS

EC preparing to announce

FROM PAGE 12

is progressing fast, he said.

The EC is also working on drawing the boundaries of constituencies and registration of political parties.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin while exchanging views with administration officials in Cox's Bazar yesterday said the EC wanted to hold a free and fair election.

When he was asked whether the local government polls or the national election would be held first, he said the political parties were arguing over the matter, and "the Election Commission does not want to get into that".

The EC's first goal is to prepare an accurate voter list. "There are 16 lakh dead voters on the list. The names should be dropped," he said.

DISAGREEMENT OVER POLLS DATE Some political parties, including the BNP, Jamaat and the Left Democratic Alliance met the EC separately over the last two weeks. The BNP and the LDA demanded a national election within

Four DIGs sent on forced
retirement

FROM PAGE 12

2014 and 2018 elections under the Awami League regime.

On Wednesday, the public administration ministry placed 33 officials on special duty. Previously, it did the same to 12 other former DCs.

Special duty in this context is considered a disciplinary measure. The ministry is currently reviewing the records of the officials on the list, and most of them are likely to face punishment, according to officials with knowledge of the development.

The last general election, held on January 7, 2024, was boycotted by the BNP and several other parties. In many places, AL leaders ran as independents to make the polls appear participatory.

In 2018, opposition parties alleged that ballot stuffing took place the night before the election.

Transparency International Bangladesh said ballot stuffing took place in more than one centre in 33 of the 50 constituencies it had surveyed.

In the 2014 election, also boycotted by the BNP, 153 out of 300 lawmakers got "elected" without any vote as they were the only ones running for office in their constituencies.

He made these remarks in a Facebook post on Friday.

Earlier on Thursday, the government sent 22 more officials into retirement, raising the number of disciplined bureaucrats to 67 for their questionable role as deputy commissioners in the

\$29m spent

FROM PAGE 12

rich. They'll be on the cover of a top business magazine -- for being great scammers," quipped the US president.

Trump's ire extended to India, too. At CPAC, he questioned an \$18 million USAID grant for elections there, asking, "Why the hell? Why don't we use paper ballots and let them help us with our elections?

Voter ID—that'd be nice. We're giving money to India for elections. They don't need it. They slap 200% tariffs on us, and we're handing them cash!"

On February 16, Elon Musk-led US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) announced that it has taken new measures to save US taxpayers money by cutting funding to 17 projects across the globe, including one in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, the Strengthening Political Landscape (SPL) programme -- backed by USAID and UK's DFID, and run by Democracy International from 2017 to 2024 -- aimed to boost political party capacity, strengthen party-constituent ties, and reduce violence.

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and its allies have agreed to form a parallel government, they said yesterday, despite warnings such a move could further fragment the war-ravaged country.

"The charter has been signed," Naim al-Din Drisa, spokesman of the United Civil Forces, one of the signatories, told AFP.

The parties to the agreement, inked behind closed doors in Nairobi, said the charter establishes a "government of peace and unity" in rebel-controlled areas of the northeast African country.

The move comes nearly two years into a devastating war with the regular army that has uprooted more than 12 million people and caused what the United Nations calls the world's largest hunger and displacement crises.

In the 2014 election, also boycotted by the BNP, 153 out of 300 lawmakers got "elected" without any vote as they were the only ones running for office in their constituencies.

He made these remarks in a Facebook post on Friday.

Earlier on Thursday, the government sent 22 more officials into retirement, raising the number of disciplined bureaucrats to 67 for their questionable role as deputy commissioners in the

Noab urges govt to cut tax, VAT

FROM PAGE 12

industry has recently been going through a difficult time," said AK Azad, president of Noab, in a pre-budget meeting with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at its office in the capital.

The NBR organised the discussion as part of its consultations with various trade bodies and other stakeholders before preparing tax proposals.

"The rapid expansion of digital platforms and the growing influence of other media have put the newspaper industry under significant strain. At the same time, high tariffs, VAT, and corporate taxes continue to hinder its growth," he said.

Adding to these woes, the rising exchange rate of the US dollar and the ongoing global economic downturn have exacerbated financial constraints, making survival increasingly difficult

for many print media outlets, he added.

Although the import duty is 5 percent, the landed cost reaches 30 percent when adding 15 percent VAT, advance income tax, transportation insurance, and other expenses, said Noab.

Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, said that the newspaper industry is going through a severe crisis.

"The number of readers is declining, and the circulation of printed newspapers is decreasing. It is now essential to survive through digital platforms, which requires investment," he said.

He further stated that advertisements come from both private and government sectors for newspapers, but private sector investment is sluggish.

For the last 16 years, newspapers

Hasina told Nitor docs

FROM PAGE 12

did not even make post mortem reports.

The lack of such reports itself is evidence of a crime against humanity, he said.

Prosecutors went to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) and interviewed doctors, he said.

The doctors told prosecutors that Sheikh Hasina went there in July and ordered them not to treat the protesters, Tajul said at the court.

People injured during the uprising also said this, he added. "We have evidence of this information," he said.

The tribunal asked prosecutors to submit the probe report on April 22 in a case filed over crimes against humanity

The tribunal also placed Chanchal Kumar

Sarkar, a sacked assistant sub-inspector of police, on a one-day interrogation. He will be quizzed on February 27.

Footage of Arshad gagging a protester near the Supreme Court and Chanchal shooting a student hanging from a building's ledge in Rampura

sparked outrage across the country.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder passed the orders.

holding them back," he said.

He alleged that Law Adviser Asif Nazrul used to talk a lot at the university, but not much since he became an adviser.

Nasir said that the first task of the interim government is to try the Awami League.

"If the trial process of the Awami League does not begin, there will be no election. First, the Awami League must be tried, and only then can elections be held," he said.

He said that efforts have been made to curb instances of mob justice across the country.

"While some incidents persist, effective measures are being taken regularly to ensure that no one in Bangladesh falls victim to a culture of impunity through mob trials ...," he added.

Nahian Sajjad Khan, a researcher at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, and Lailul Farid, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University, are also part of the delegation.

Three members from the Jatiya Nagorik Committee—Ali Ahsan Zonaed, Rafiq Salman Rifat, and Md Reaz Hossain—and a coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, Mitu Akter, are also in the delegation.

Two journalists are also going on this trip: Arifuzzaman, diplomatic correspondent of Dainik Amader Somoy, and Abdur Rahman Jahangir, special correspondent of UNB.

Earlier, on November 7, a four-member BNP delegation had visited China at the invitation of the Communist Party of China.

Country risks civil war

FROM PAGE 12

"When they are asked something, the action becomes visible six months later. To those with rhinoceros-like skin, we say: please make your skin a little thinner. If you remain silent on the issue of holding the Awami League accountable [for July atrocities], the people will be forced to take to the streets again," said the Nagorik Committee leader.

Nasir said that the people of Bangladesh have placed them in the government with great hopes and aspirations.

"But you are wrong if you think the Secretariat or your offices are like luxury suites or hotel rooms. The people are still on the streets. They are still active in various places. They are in touch with us. In many cases, we are

Can batters lift Bangladesh in Pindi?

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Rawalpindi

"Bangladesh's got a good bowling attack, that's what I like about them. But big concern is about the batters," Pakistan's head curator Tony Hemming said this yesterday when asked about Bangladesh's chances in today's match against New Zealand.

Tony worked as a curator educator for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) from July 2023 to July 2024 and due to his association with the Tigers, he knows about their strengths and weaknesses very well.

Bangladesh's rise in the pace-bowling department in recent years is nothing unknown but at the same time, their performance as a batting unit in bilateral and global events has been on a downward curve and has let the entire unit down many a times.

The Tigers have already suffered due to their batting in their opening Group A match of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy against India in Dubai where their top-order crumbled and they were reduced to 35-5 in not time.

Centurion Towhid Hridoy and Jaker Ali then put up a rescue act with a brilliant 154-run partnership to bail Bangladesh out from the early collapse but it wasn't enough to avert defeat.

If Bangladesh find themselves in a similar situation against New Zealand in today's do-or-die contest, a similar rescue act would once again most likely fall short on the typically flat surfaces at Rawalpindi.

In recent years, this venue has witnessed many big chases, the latest ones coming in 2023, when Pakistan won two

games against New Zealand chasing 337 and 289 runs.

Keeping this record in mind, Bangladesh surely won't want any kind of slip ups in their batting, otherwise, their dreams of progressing to the knockout phase of the Champions Trophy could end today.

Poor form of some of the batters and the fact that three of the top six batters got out for a duck against India raises concerns and it would be interesting to see what changes the team management makes for the match against the Kiwis.

"I'm not concerned about their form. I just think that we need to assess and put together our batting in the first 10 overs a little bit better than we've done. And as you say, the middle order and the lower order have done really well. So, it's up to our top order batters to put things together in the first 10 overs, 15 overs especially," Bangladesh head coach Phil Simmons told reporters during a press conference yesterday. "Some teams are different in tournament cricket than in a series, so you can't really match it up like that. So, you have to take what they're going into the tournament with now and then look at that, not look at the past series," he added.



Bangladesh's Towhid Hridoy is 23 runs away from 1000 ODI runs. New Zealand's Glenn Phillips is four runs shy of the same landmark.

Bangladesh have won 11 ODIs in 45 overall meetings against New Zealand. The Tigers lost 33 matches and one encounter between the sides produced no result.

The Tigers won the latest meeting between the sides — a maiden ODI win away to New Zealand in December 2023.

Bangladesh beat New Zealand in their previous Champions Trophy meeting, in Cardiff in 2017, thanks to a record 224-run stand between Mahmudullah Riyad and Shakib Al Hasan.

The only other time Bangladesh played New Zealand in the Champions Trophy, the Tigers were bundled out for 77 runs — their lowest total in the competition so far. Bangladesh were hammered by 167 runs in that game in Colombo in 2002.

Ex-BCB man keeps Tigers on their toes

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Rawalpindi

Soon after he tendered his resignation to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) abruptly in last year's July, renowned curator Tony Hemming joined the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on a two-year contract.

One of Tony's immediate tasks was to prepare wickets for Pakistan's home series against Bangladesh and during his

just couldn't read it," Tony, who is currently overseeing the wickets of the ICC Champions Trophy across the three Pakistan venues — Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi — told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Australian curator has prepared three wickets for three different games at Rawalpindi, starting with the Bangladesh-New Zealand match today, which he said would be played on a bare pitch with hardly any grass.

batters more than the bowlers.

"We will finish Pakistan-Bangladesh in the middle [pitch], some green grass are there.

"Most of them close to 300 [par score]... Normally, there's a good balance between bat and ball. But the grass has been buried because of the winter. So, for batters it would be playing beautifully," he said.

On Saturday, Australia chased down a target of 352 runs in 47.3 overs in Lahore and after the match, Australia's centurion Josh Inglis claimed that dew made life easier for them.

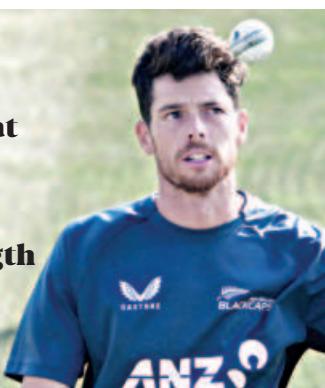
Tony said dew could play a big role in Rawalpindi as well.

"We will have dew. So normally, dew helps the second team batting, doesn't it? So, it will be a challenge," he added.

Meanwhile, during the press meet, New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner said they would formulate a plan for the Bangladesh game keeping the wickets' behaviour in mind.

"We've got a few plans for Bangladesh, but I think we obviously have to wait and see what the wicket does. If it is pretty flat, I think it is probably similar stuff to what we've been operating in Karachi. It's hitting that hard length for a long period of time."

New Zealand skipper MITCHELL SANTNER



first assignment, Pakistan suffered their first ever defeat against Bangladesh on home soil and also lost the two-match Test series 2-0 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium in August-September.

"That was funny, wasn't it? The first Test, Bangladesh beat Pakistan on this soil and on my pitch... I was like a traitor [laughs]. The pitch I made here was a very good cricket wicket. But Pakistan

"What I can say is that there's no grass. Because we played one tournament for a month here in December, [with matches] every day. And we had ice on the field every day. So, the grass is recovering."

Tony also said that the wicket which would be used for the Bangladesh-Pakistan tie on February 27 is the greenest of the three but said all of the wickets at Rawalpindi would help the

"It is pretty flat, I think it is probably similar stuff to what we've been operating in Karachi. It's hitting that hard length for a long period of time."

"I think traditionally it's quite a high scoring ground so we have to be on it then with the bat, we just talk about trying to build partnerships and do that out there."

Shakib's name withdrawn, Liton left without a team

SPORTS REPORTER

The lead up to the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) players' transfer had been meek this year, especially in light of the ongoing Champions Trophy tournament but Legends of Rupganj created a stir by drafting in all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Saturday — the opening day of the two-day window. On Sunday, however, the club withdrew Shakib's name, communicating their wish via a letter to the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM).

The second and final day of the transfers took place yesterday and Shakib's news instigated some liveliness to an otherwise dull window. Meanwhile, wicket-keeper-batter Liton Das was left unregistered as negotiations with clubs regarding payment fell through.

Rupganj sent a letter to the CCDM yesterday, citing that since Shakib was unable to physically attend the players' transfer yesterday, the club also took into account surrounding 'circumstances' to withdraw the all-rounder's name, having discussed the matter with Shakib.

Afif Hossain, who was close to re-signing with Abahani, was later signed by Rupganj.

When contacted, Rupganj owner Lutufur Rahman Badal said that they thought Shakib would be able to play as an all-rounder. Shakib is currently serving a bowling ban outside of Bangladesh over illegal action.

"Shakib will go to London on March 1 and train with a coach to correct his action and until he corrects it, he won't be able to give the bowling test. We needed an all-rounder and thought of Shakib as the No. 4 [in batting order] but when we couldn't do that, we took Afif. Both parties [club and Shakib] understood that Eid will pass before he completes the test. I thought he would be able to bowl but later I learned that he can only play as a

batter. If it wasn't an ICC recognised List A tournament, he would have been able to bowl," Badal told The Daily Star.

However, BCB officials said that Shakib is allowed to bowl in Bangladesh's domestic competitions, something this newspaper had reported earlier.

Liton and Abahani could not come to terms regarding payments and although Rupganj had spoken of their interest, the player remained unsold. Liton can still find a club by taking NOC from Abahani if he wants to play for another club.

Butler banks on new team but keeps door open for seniors

SPORTS REPORTER

Putting the issue of senior and junior players aside, Bangladesh women's football team coach Peter Butler termed his 23 member squad as a new national team, which will leave for Dubai tonight for two FIFA friendly matches against the United Arab Emirates.

The 58-year-old coach felt the young team, despite the boycott saga by the seniors, have had a good preparation for the two matches, scheduled for February 26 and March 2.

"It's been a good preparation. I love to say it is really a positive and exciting squad of players; delighted with the group the way they actually did know many things and many topics last two to three weeks.

"The most important thing from my perspective is it is a group for future and looking forward to them. They can make mistakes but they will gain experience," Butler said in his opening speech at the BFF House yesterday.

Asked how challenging it would be without the senior players, Butler said: "There is no question of senior or junior players. It is a national team. In my opinion, it is a new national team which has new vision and new opportunity to look

forward. I think it is a very important fact that I picked the team which was available; I picked the team which has potential... I don't want to distinguish between seniors or juniors."

Asked whether he would accept the rebel players if they decided to return to training, Butler said: "My door is always open, the door to train is always open. The people will decide whether they want to come back. I don't mind it. It is their choice because life moves on with or without them; I will move on with another group of players. If they



don't want to come, it is okay but within the group, a small number of players whom I respect for their football quality, whether they have been misguided, or blackmailed, that is their problem, it is not my problem."

Pledging to deliver good results against the UAE, captain Afieda Khandoker said: "I don't feel the their (seniors) absence because I played with them in the U-19 and U-20 groups. The way they practised, we also practised the same way. It is just that they have experience of playing more matches and we may have less experience."

Kohli reigns supreme against Pakistan

AFP, Dubai

Star batter Virat Kohli struck an unbeaten 100 to lead India to a six-wicket win over archrivals Pakistan on Sunday and push the hosts and title holders to the brink of elimination from the Champions Trophy.

Chasing 242 for victory, Kohli hit a boundary to seal the match with 45 balls to spare and register his 51st ODI ton after an innings which also saw him pass 14,000 runs in ODIs. He is the fastest to the feat and just the third man to break the 14,000-run barrier after India icon Sachin Tendulkar (18,426) and Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara (14,234).

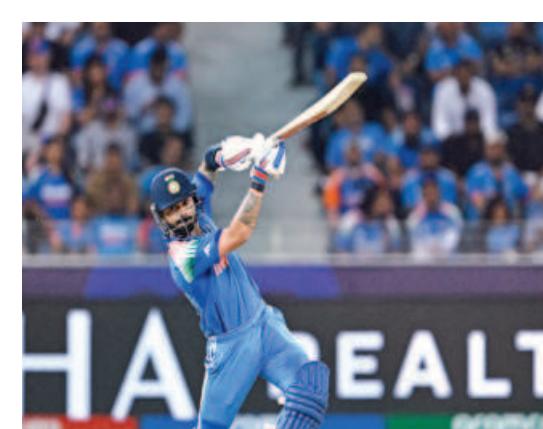
Kohli, 36, removed his helmet and raised his bat to the Dubai International Stadium crowd after taking India closer to the semifinals with two wins in outscoring in Group A.

Pakistan have lost both their matches and will need Bangladesh to beat New Zealand on Monday to have any chance of staying in contention for a last-four spot.

"My job was clear -- to control the middle overs, not take risks against the spinners and take on the pacers," said Kohli.

"I was happy with the template, it's how I play in ODIs. I have a decent understanding of my game.

Kohli came under the cosh over his recent form, but the 36-year-old showed why he is still the man to do the job, especially Pakistan. In



major tournaments, Kohli has scored 1221 runs in 23 matches at a staggering 81.40 average against Pakistan, scoring four tons and seven fifties.

"It's about keeping the outside noise away, take care of my energy levels and thoughts. It's easy for me to get pulled into expectations and frenzy around games like these," Kohli added.

Favourites India remained clinical in their chase despite losing skipper Rohit Sharma for 20 off Shaheen Shah Afridi.

In-form Shubman Gill, who made 46 after his century in the opening win over Bangladesh, put on 69 runs with Kohli.

Kohli's hundred came in 111 balls, a knock that rolled back the years for the veteran who has 82 centuries across all formats but whose previous ODI ton came in the 2023 ODI World Cup semifinal.

Kohli and Shreyas Iyer, who made 56, put the chase back on track with a stand of 114 after Gill's departure when leg spinner Abraar Ahmed bowled the opener.

India bowled out Pakistan for 241 in 49.4 overs as left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav returned figures of 3-40.

After electing to bat, a slow approach from Pakistan batters rarely threatened the Indian attack despite a 104-run partnership between Saud Shakeel (62) and Mohammad Rizwan (46).

**THE BEST QUALITY
EVERY TIME GUARANTEED
BSRM**

**COMPLETE
GUIDANCE APP FOR
HOME BUILDING**

Four DIGs sent on forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Deputy Inspectors General (DIGs) of police, who had previously served as superintendents of police (SPs) and additional DIGs during the 2014 and 2018 national elections, were sent into forced retirement yesterday in "public interest".

The government announced the decision in four separate notifications signed by Nasimul Gani, senior secretary of the home ministry's Public Security Division.

The officials are Nisharul Arif of the Anti-Terrorism Unit, Abdul Quddus Amin of River Police, and Azad Mia and Amena Begum of Highway Police.

According to the notifications, the officers have been sent into retirement under Section 45 of the Government Service Act, 2018.

According to this section, "The government may, at any time after the completion of 25 (twenty-five) years of service of a government servant, retire him from service if it thinks necessary in the public interest, without showing any reason."

Nisharul Arif was posted as the additional DIG of Rajshahi range during the 2018 election, while Amena Begum was the SP of Narsingdi district.

Azad Mia was the SP of Cox's Bazar

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Govt deviating from its goal to some extent
Says Tarique, urges early election to help restore stability

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the interim government is deviating from its goal "to some extent" and stressed for an early election to restore stability in the country.

"They are probably deviating from their goal to some extent in some cases. Confusion is being created from the various statements coming from different persons. Confusion is being created in different areas. Naturally, when there is instability in politics, confusion will be created," he said while addressing a training workshop virtually.

The workshop titled, "31 point proposal to repair the state structures and public engagement", was organised by the Dhaka Bar Unit of Jatiyatabadi Ajnabi Forum at Dhaka Bar Lawyers Association Auditorium in the city.

"If we cannot ensure political stability, then no matter how many reforms we announce, no matter how many policies we adopt, none of them will be successful," he added.

He said some people are questioning whether an election will solve all problems.

"In this regard, we can think that since a stable situation will return after the election and reform works will gradually begin, the severity or intensity of the problems will gradually begin to ease," he added.

"We think it will be possible to gradually bring the country back from the brink of destruction [if an election is held early]," he said.

Pointing to those who demand and argue for holding the local government elections first before the national election, he asked them to consider the present reality, as instability is everywhere in the country.

"If we look around, we can see instability. There is instability everywhere," said the BNP acting chairman.

He said the main responsibility of this interim government is to help the people of the country by providing them the platform to make decisions. "This should be their main goal," he added.



EC preparing to announce schedule for Dec polls

Says Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is making preparations to announce the election schedule and hold the polls in December this year.

"The government has said that elections will be held between December and June 2026. We are preparing for the election targeting December," Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarker told reporters at his office yesterday.

"There are 16 lakh dead voters on the list. The names should be dropped."

CEC AMM NASIR UDDIN

those elections can be held under the same election schedule in order to save time and cost.

Anwarul replied that he was not aware of the report, adding, "This is not currently under consideration, but we will think about it if needed."

He refrained from commenting when asked about the political parties' disagreements over whether the local government elections before the national election.

The EC's work on election related procurement and updating the voter list

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1