



DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 41

FALGUN 11, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 24, 1446 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



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**Butler's new team leaves for Dubai tonight**

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## 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



Eden College students take out a torch procession on campus, calling for justice and an end to the rising incidents of rape and sexual violence across the nation. Last night's demonstration was part of a larger student protest, at public and private universities, demanding safety for women and children.

PHOTO: STAR



**Strong defence key to effective foreign policy Says army chief at launch of think tank**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new think tank -- the Foundation for Strategic and Development Studies (FSDS) -- has been launched to unify national stakeholders for fostering cooperation, security, and sustainable growth with "Bangladesh First" as its mantra.

"Our main areas of focus pertain to national security issues, collaboration between civil and military sectors, and maintaining a balanced foreign policy that aligns with geopolitical realities," said

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- 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 Urmia, 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 bhoori of gold ornaments and Tk 1 lakh in cash.

Ataur 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

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**Guterres to arrive in Bangladesh mid-March**

**UN special envoy on Myanmar tells chief adviser**

BSS, Dhaka

UN Secretary-General António Guterres will visit Bangladesh in mid-March, said UN Special Envoy on Myanmar Julie Bishop yesterday.

The UN chief will also visit the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, Bishop said during her meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna.

During the 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.

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**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.

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**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.

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PHOTO: AFP

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.

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## 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.

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## MY DHAKA



# 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

7:00pm.

To discover the beauty and soul of Dhaka, and to fall in love with this city all over again, My Dhaka invites you to visit the exhibition with your loved ones.

Join My Dhaka's Facebook community (facebook.com/groups/dailystarmydhaka) for updates on more such initiatives!



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 Dhanmondi'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 Akhter 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 the crime happened.”

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, is 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 boss 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.

## 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.

“We're thinking about a lot of different things. The first thing is, as we said before, we have to find out if Riyad is fit and then we can

know how to balance out the team again after that. When practice is finished today [Sunday], we'll know a little bit more, have a look at the wicket and everything like that. So, final decisions will be made later this evening,” said Simmons.

“This is a ground where big scores are made, and we have seen the scores made in Lahore yesterday [on Saturday, in the game between England and Australia]. So, you're looking at big scores here [in Pakistan], looking at 300-plus totals,” he added.

Meanwhile, New Zealand won their opening game by 60 runs against hosts Pakistan in Karachi and a win in today's match will confirm their semifinal berth after India won both their games against Bangladesh and Pakistan.

“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-

torn Rakhine State and preventing a new influx of refugees from western Myanmar.

They also discussed mobilising more donors for Rohingya refugees amid uncertainty over shifts in US foreign policy.

Bishop emphasised the importance of making the upcoming UN international conference on the Rohingya crisis a major success, as it would be critical for achieving a sustainable resolution to the decade-long crisis.

## Protests flare on campuses

### FROM PAGE 1

The students also demanded that the home affairs adviser resign, citing the administration's failure to prevent crimes.

Samiha Chowdhury, an English and humanities student, expressed a sense of fear gripping the nation.

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

Meanwhile, on Mirpur Road in Dhaka, a separate protest led by students and activists disrupted traffic for three hours.

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 Bakultala 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.

Students at Titumir College held a human chain and protest march, warning of tougher actions if the perpetrators were not brought to justice within 72 hours.

They have called for the immediate identification and prosecution of offenders.

At Jagannath University, a protest rally by the “Jagannath University Student Forum” gathered momentum.

The protest began with a march through key areas of the campus and concluded at the 1971 Genocide Sculpture.

The government that came to power through a mass uprising seems to be betraying the revolution – it must ensure public safety, or admit its failure and step down,” said Shatabdika

Urmi, a Bangla student.

Students of ULAB also held a “Human Chain Against Rampant Crimes” at their permanent campus, highlighting the growing concerns over unchecked criminal activities.

Meanwhile, in Tangail, students staged a day-long sit-in protest under the banner of the Women and Children Anti Sexual Abuse Forum, demanding justice for sexual violence victims.

The protest, which began at 9:00am at Tangail Central Shaheed Minar, culminated in a call for thorough investigations and the maximum punishment for offenders.

They cited the alarming number of rape incidents in the past 48 hours, describing it as evidence of extreme lawlessness.

Elsewhere, Biplobi

Chhatra Maitri members staged a protest outside the National Museum in Shahbagh on Saturday, condemning child rape and ongoing violence against women.

The protesters expressed frustration at the government's failure to ensure women's safety and questioned the commitment of Women and Children's Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid.

She was once known as a feminist activist, but her class allegiance has become clear since assuming power, said Nuzia Hasina Rasha, president of the Dhaka University unit of Biplobi Chhatra Maitri.

“Has she gone deaf? Why is she not hearing the cries of oppressed women? What concrete steps has this so-

called interim government taken to ensure women's equality and safety? Have they introduced new plans to protect women?” she asked.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, expressing serious concern over these incidents, said such crimes are increasing, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity for women.

It also questioned the effectiveness of law enforcement, stressing that violence against women hampers their ability to lead normal and progressive lives.

The organisation called for impartial investigations and strict punishment for the perpetrators, and urged the authorities to prioritise women's safety through immediate and effective measures.



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## '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 (BWGED) 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

### 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 Rashna 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 HOSSAIN  
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

### 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 Palkhona 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.



## Sara Mahmud passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sara Ara Mahmud, former director of the Department of Drama and Film at the Shilpakala 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

## 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 bias 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."



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.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## 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.



**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

## ESCAPE OF MILITANTS

### Former 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.

## Death penalty may hinder

**FROM PAGE 3**

see a scenario where, years later, another regime overturns 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, Rashna 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 Nagorik 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.

“Weurge 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.”

## Three killed, six hurt in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and six others injured in road accidents in two districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Sherpur, two motorcyclists were killed and six others injured when a microbus hit two battery-run auto-rickshaws and a motorbike in the town's Sheripara early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Gaurob Chandra Das, 25, and Rony Mia, 12, from Sherpur town, said Jubaidul Alam, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Sadar Police Station.

They were declared dead at Sherpur General Hospital.

Police seized the microbus but its driver managed to flee the scene.

In Chuadanga, an imam of a mosque was killed in a collision between two motorcycles in Alamdanga upazila on Saturday night.

The accident occurred around 8:00pm at Khadimpur village, said police. The deceased – Jahangir Alam, 36, – was an imam at a mosque in Khadimpur.

## Sara Mahmud

**FROM PAGE 3**

She will be laid to rest today after Zohr prayers at Banani graveyard, said her daughter Shawan Mahmud.

Altaf Mahmud, a musician, cultural activist, Language Movement activist and a freedom fighter, was picked up by the Pakistan army from his residence on August 30, in 1971.

He never returned home.

## Uncertainty looms as work stalls

**FROM PAGE 5**

rooms, and a sewerage treatment plant. These changes have reduced project costs to Tk 150 crore.

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

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

Dr Abdullah Al Mahbub, associate professor at Begum Rokeya University, said, “This project is crucial

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

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

## BNP Khulna city

**FROM PAGE 5**

in 2009, with Nazrul Islam Monju as president and Md. Moniruzzaman as general secretary.

On December 9, 2021, the BNP central leadership dissolved the previous committee and appointed a convening committee, which was later expanded to a 71-member committee on March 1, 2022, with Advocate Shafiqul Alam Mona appointed as convener and former Jubo Dal leader Shafiqul Alam Tuhin as member secretary.

Shafiqul Alam Mona, Tariqul Islam Zohir, and

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.

## 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 February 18 attack, refusing to take responsibility for over 150 injured students, denying the involvement of Chhatra Dal and BNP activists despite evidence, and not fully accepting their six-point demand.

Students claimed that tensions escalated when they protested the distribution of Chhatra Dal membership forms, leading to a four-hour-long assault by Chhatra Dal and BNP

activists.

Instead of arresting the identified perpetrators, the authorities filed a case against 500 unnamed individuals, which students fear could be used against them.

The memorandum reiterated the students' six demands, including the immediate resignation of the VC and pro-VC, swift punishment for the attackers, a ban on political activities on campus, ensuring student safety, withdrawal of the “ghost” case, and the appointment of a new VC to resume academic activities.

Earlier in the day, 80 students travelled from Kuet to Dhaka on two buses.

## Defeated

**FROM PAGE 5**

Mazhar further said the mass uprising on August 5 was aimed at drafting a new constitution and rebuilding Bangladesh.

He praised the patience shown by young activists involved in the anti-discrimination movement, despite not being allowed to declare their manifesto regarding the August 5 uprising.

Highlighting the youth's efforts to form a new political party, he said, “They demand a Constituent Assembly election before the national polls, allowing elected representatives to peacefully draft a new constitution for Bangladesh.”

## Draft renewable policy

**FROM PAGE 3**

17 percent in the next five to six years and another 10 percent over the following decade, which is unrealistic,” said Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, director of the Centre for Energy Research at United International University.

“Additionally, the policy lacks a clear roadmap on increasing renewable energy generation and does not provide tax incentives for importing solar panels, inverters, and batteries,” he added.

coherent, renewable energy policies lack such clarity.”

Moazzem also pointed out that the policy overlooks the crucial role of foreign direct investment in the renewable energy sector. He urged the government to first revise the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan 2023 to ensure accurate power demand estimates.

In his keynote presentation, Hasan Mehedi, chief executive of CLEAN, highlighted that the policy lacks a coordination plan among ministries, an implementation strategy, and a financing or investment framework.

Barceesh Hasan Chowdhury, coordinator of Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific, said the policy's definitions were often vague and failed to present a clear vision for the country's energy transition.

“Without concrete targets, this policy is like a rudderless boat – unlikely to deliver meaningful results,” he said.

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**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**

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**১২৫.৬৩১ বিঘা জমি বিক্রি**

ঢাকা-ময়মনসিংহ হাইওয়ে থেকে ৭ কিঃমিঃ দূরত্বে ২৪ ফিট রাস্তার পাশে ভালুকার কাচিনা মৌজায় মাটি ভরাটকৃত পাইল ফাউন্ডেশনসহ দেয়াল দিয়ে ঘেরা ১২৫.৬৩১ বিঘা জমি বিক্রি করা হবে। গার্মেন্টস্, কারখানা, রিসোর্ট বা বানিজ্যিক শেইড করার জন্য এখনই উপযুক্ত।

**যোগাযোগ : ০১৭১২-৮৬০৮৭২**

**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 24

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
JAMAAT 5:55	1:15	4:45	6:07	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Industries  
**Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Center (BITAC)**  
116(kha), Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.  
Website: <http://www.bitac.gov.bd>

Ref: No: 36.06.2692.026.07.018.25/447

Date: 07 Falgun, 1431 Bn.  
20 February, 2025 En.

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

Following tenders are invited in the National e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods details in the table.

Tender ID No	Package No.	Description of Goods	Last Selling & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1078665	BITAC-PUR-2024-25 GR-17 LOT-03	Procurement of Desktop Computer.	09-03-2025 11:59 pm	10-03-2025 12:00 pm	10-03-2025 12:00 pm

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 e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal must be deposited online through any registered Bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP-helpdesk (helpdesk: <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

The procurement Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

20-02-2025  
(Md. Fazlul Karim)  
Director  
BITAC Headquarters  
Phone: 02-55030052  
E-mail: [dir\\_ep@bitac.gov.bd](mailto:dir_ep@bitac.gov.bd)

GD-494

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন, ম্যাস্টার প্ল্যান (২য় পর্যায়)  
বিদ্যুৎ কল (৬৬-কল), অগ্রবাস, বিপ্রে, চট্টগ্রাম।  
ফোননং- ০১৭০৮-১৬৮৮৩৮।  
e-mail: [pd.pdsd2.ctg@gmail.com](mailto:pd.pdsd2.ctg@gmail.com)

স্মারক নং-৯৮-পিডি/বিউবো/পিডিএসডি/চট্টঃ জোন (২য় পর্যায়)/২০২৫

তারিখঃ ২৩/০২/২০২৫ ইং।

**"e-GP দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজটি গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের e-GP Portal এর মাধ্যমে আহবান করা হয়েছে, যা ইলেক্ট্রনিক পোর্টালে পাওয়া যাবে। e-GP Portal এ নিবন্ধিত যে কোন অগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিস্তারিত জানার নিমিত্ত উক্ত ওয়েবসাইটে [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

Sl No	Tender ID	Procurement Title	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
01	1076634	Internal Carrying Under PDSO, Chattogram Zone (2nd Phase), BPDB, Chattgram. (RDPP Package No-WD-39, Lot-5)	Date: 02/03/2025 Time: 12:00	Date: 23/03/2025 Time: 12:30	Date: 24/03/2025 Time: 11:00

(প্রকৌ. মোঃ শামুদ্দিন)  
পরিচিতি নং-১-১২০০

প্রকল্প পরিচালক  
বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন  
চট্টগ্রাম জোন (২য় পর্যায়)  
বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম।

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৮৩১(২)/২৩-০২-২৫

GD-498

**এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

**স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

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

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আর্নেট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরৎ যোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রম/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৫৩ তারিখ:২৩/০২/২০২৫ইং	০৮(আট) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড ইনার বক্স। {08(sight) Kinds of Printed Inner Box} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৮,০৮,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,৫০০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১০/০৩/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	১০/০৩/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রম/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৫৪ তারিখ:২৩/০২/২০২৫ইং	০৫(পাঁচ) প্রকার মাস্টার কার্টন। {05(five) Kinds of Master Carton} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৭৯,৭১৫ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১১/০৩/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	১১/০৩/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০৩।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রম/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/৫৫ তারিখ:২৩/০২/২০২৫ইং	০১(এক) প্রকার করোপেটেড কার্টন। {01(one) Kinds of Corrugated Carton} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৫০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১২/০৩/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	১২/০৩/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই। দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না। উল্লেখ্য, কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

(৩.৫" X ৫)

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট (চলতি দায়িত্ব)  
পক্ষে: ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।



# ‘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 Moninoor 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 Ecne 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 Rokhkha 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 Udjapan 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.

# Defeated forces behind anarchy

## Says Farhad Mazhar

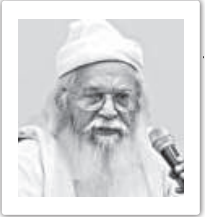
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

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.	24-Feb-2025 10:00AM	10-Mar-2025 17:00PM	11-Mar-2025 14:30 PM
2	1077395	Procurement and Supply of Others Stationery			
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



বাংলাদেশ  
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

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)



Ref. No.- 101/2025-439

Date:23.02.2025

1<sup>st</sup> 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.	<b>EOI Closing Date and Time:</b> Date: 27 February, 2025; Time: 03:00 PM (Local Time)	<b>EOI Closing Date and Time:</b> 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

GD-497



## 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.

## Germans vote in national election

Polls suggest shift to far-right

REUTERS, Berlin

Germans were voting in a national election yesterday that is expected to restore power to Friedrich Merz's conservatives while the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is forecast to achieve its best result yet in Europe's ailing economic powerhouse.

Polls opened at 0800 local time (0700 GMT) and closed at 1800 (1700 GMT) when vote counting will start and exit polls will be released. About 60 million people in Germany were eligible to vote.

Merz's CDU/CSU bloc has consistently led polls but is unlikely to win a majority given Germany's fragmented political landscape, forcing it to sound out coalition partners.

Those negotiations are expected to be tricky after a campaign that exposed sharp divisions over migration and how to deal with the AfD in a country where far-right politics carries a particularly strong stigma because of its Nazi past.

That could leave unpopular Chancellor Olaf Scholz in a caretaker role for months, delaying urgently needed policies to revive Europe's largest economy after two consecutive years of contraction.

## 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 Rabiul 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, Rabiul 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. Shabbagh police registered it as an FIR on October 26.

In the case statement, he said Riazul got shot in 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 Zakillah 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.

Mid 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** Tawohidul 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.

Tawohidul 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 Shahriar 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 Tawohidul 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."

## Strong defence key to effective foreign policy

FROM PAGE 1

FSDS Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) 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

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 broader 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 (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chairman Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, and Jamaat-e-Islami's Nayeab-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher were also present at the event.

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

## 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 Yuriy Ignat called the 267 drones spotted in Ukrainian skies between Saturday night and yesterday "a record for a single attack" 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





**PRESIDENT**  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA  
11 Falgun 1431  
24 February 2025

**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 requisites 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.

The 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.



Mohammed Shahabuddin



**Wahiduddin Mahmud**  
Honourable Adviser  
Ministry of Education  
Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh  
February 24, 2025

**Message**

I am greatly pleased that Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) is going to hold its 6th Convocation on 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-compliment 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)



**Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam**  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of English  
University of Dhaka  
February 24, 2025


**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 have guided 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.



Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam



**Prof. Dr. A B M Shawkat Ali**  
Vice Chancellor  
Bangladesh University of Business  
and Technology (BUBT)  
February 24, 2025

**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 sincere, 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.



Prof. Dr. A B M Shawkat Ali

## A Brief Profile

**Introduction**  
Established in 2003, Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) has now become one of the top ranking private Universities in the country with unique facilities that are needed for effective teaching and learning, complying with all necessary guidelines for ensuring quality education. Since its inception, BUBT has remained focused on teaching, training and research to educate and prepare the future generation in the global perspective. Now BUBT is branded for its quality education and recognized by the global community.

**Campus**  
BUBT is situated at Rpunagar, Mirpur-2, Dhaka, adjacent to Metro Rail Station Mirpur 10 and 11. It has excellent communication links from all parts of Dhaka City as well as from outside the City. The campus consists of 4 large spacious and well-developed buildings. These buildings have fully air-conditioned Class Rooms with multimedia facilities, Labs, Library, Hall Room, Cafeteria, Common Rooms, Prayer Rooms, One Stop Service Center and International Conference Hall etc.

**Faculty and Programs**  
The following are the five faculties of BUBT with the offered programs:

Name of Faculty	Programs
<b>Faculty of Business</b>	Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Executive MBA (EMBA)
<b>Faculty of Arts and Humanities</b>	B.A. (Hons.) in English Master of Arts (M.A.) in English M.A. in English Language Teaching (ELT)
<b>Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences</b>	B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) B.Sc. in Textile Engineering B.Sc. in Civil Engineering
<b>Faculty of Law</b>	LL.B (Hons.) LL.M
<b>Faculty of Social Sciences</b>	B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics M.Sc. in Economics

**Faculty Members**  
In BUBT an effective team of more than 300 well-qualified and experienced full time faculty members are in charge of imparting world class education to the students, taking intensive care of each and every student and guiding them in and outside the class rooms. Some senior Professors from Public Universities are also engaged as Adjunct Faculty to teach some advanced courses of different academic programs. Besides, some experts from Professional organizations are invited to teach some specialized courses of different academic programs for the purpose of cross fertilization of knowledge between theory and practice.

**Academic Sessions and Admission Schedule**  
BUBT follows Bi-semester system (January-June and July-December) for different programs. The semester duration is usually 18 weeks (fifteen weeks for classes and three weeks for the mid and the final examinations as well as the publication of results). Academic calendars are strictly followed at BUBT and the admission process usually starts three months prior to the start of each semester..

**Scholarship and Waiver**

- \* 10% to 100% tuition fee waiver for poor and meritorious students.
- \* 25% to 100% tuition fee waiver based on the semester result.
- \* 25% to 100% tuition fee waiver based on SSC and HSC results.
- \* Sibling's waiver 25% for both.
- \* 100% tuition fee waiver for the son/daughter of Freedom Fighter.
- \* 25% tuition fee waiver for the students of Dhaka Commerce College and Principal Kazi Faruky College.
- \* Special waiver for the students of B. Sc. in CSE/ EEE/ Textile/Civil Engineering.
- \* Special waiver for the students of the colleges situated at Mirpur.
- \* 20% special waiver for graduates of BUBT admitted in the Master's Programs.
- \* Currently more than 2000 students are enjoying scholarships and waiver in each academic year.

**Accreditation and Collaboration**  
BUBT has academic collaboration and credit transfer facilities with a number of foreign Universities. Initiatives are underway to establish academic relations with more foreign universities throughout the world. It is a member of some prestigious organizations like the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the International Association of Universities, and the Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia. In addition, it also maintains MoUs and MoAs with a good number of Corporate Organizations and Associations both at home and abroad.

**Research and Innovation Center**  
BUBT has a rich Research and Innovation Center headed by a Director who is a senior University Professor with more than 50 years experience in teaching and research. This center conducts Intensive Training Programs on Applied Research Methodology each year for faculty members and students of BUBT. It also finances empirical research projects on Science, Business and other Socio-economic topics submitted by the faculty members and students. Besides, this center has an awarding scheme for the teachers and students for their excellent research and publications. **In BUBT every year, about 7.5 million to 10 million taka is budgeted for research projects and other research related activities.**

**Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)**  
The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell of BUBT evaluates, enriches and maintains the quality of various undergraduate and graduate programs; arranges necessary workshops and training programs for the faculty members and officers; supervises self-assessment activities of different academic programs; Outcome Based Education (OBE) Curriculum preparation; maintains a liaison with the Quality Assurance Unit of the UGC and assists different departments for meeting the requirements of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) with the purpose of having the accreditation of various academic programs of BUBT.

**Library**  
A total of around 30,000 books, International and National Journals (hard copy), Electronic Journals (E-journals), e-books, Audio-visual Materials, Magazines (both foreign and local), Yearly Reports and almost all leading national dailies of Bangladesh are available in the library. In addition, the Library has a special collection of more than 2000 books written on the War of Liberation and the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The library is using Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system to organize and arrange books, reports, journals and other resources. The users can check their borrowing status, renew issued outsources and can reserve two books at a time for 48 hours through the library website. The Wi-Fi and broadband internet connection of the library building help the library users access online resources easily.

**Labs and Workshops**  
The university has a good number of well-equipped Software and Hardware computer labs including mobile games APP lab to provide all types of computer related facilities for the students of CSE Department to carry out their academic activities. For the students of EEE, Textile Engineering and

Civil Engineering Departments there are a good number of well-equipped Labs and Workshops with all modern machines and equipments to enable the students to solve practical and real-life problems. For the students of other programs there are Computer Labs for doing practical for their computer and IT related courses.

**Language Lab**  
BUBT Language Lab has been established with the state-of-the-art facilities through a project under the HEQEP. The Language Lab has been equipped with computers, speakers and all other modern accessories needed for such a lab. BUBTLL offers two courses for the current and former students of BUBT. The first one is English Proficiency Course and the second one is the course on English Fundamentals

**Outcome Based Education (OBE)**  
Recently BUBT has introduced Outcome Based Education (OBE) system for various academic programs. It is a unique educational system where student-centric teaching and learning methodology is practiced while the syllabi, class instructions and assessments are planned to achieve the stated objectives and outcomes. In this system, students can start any course with a clear idea of what is important for them and how they can be skilled, innovative and critical in their studies.

**Journals and Publications**  
The publication of a Journal and a News Letter is a remarkable feature of BUBT. The Journal entitled *BUBT Journal* is a peer reviewed Journal published annually with articles on different disciplines and other socio-economic issues in English Language. *BUBT News Letter* is published on a half-yearly basis reflecting the reports of various academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, events, programs, conferences, seminars, workshops and achievements of BUBT.

**ICT Facilities**  
BUBT is fully covered by Wi-Fi Internet. It has its own Servers, LAN & Wi-Fi, Software Printing, Digital UMS, NSIS Collaboration, Programming Zone, Microsoft Dream Spark etc. Students can complete registration, pay fees, check results and find details of courses through a software developed and maintained by the IT team of BUBT. The faculty members and students have access to Internet and other ICT facilities free of cost for obtaining quality education.

**Career Guidance and Counseling**  
Career Guidance and Counseling Department of BUBT deals with career guidance, career information, career counseling, and career planning and development of the students. It nurtures the ingrained creativity and talents of students by developing their employability skills and competences through workshops and professional seminars. It has built up mutual partnership with a good number of industries and organizations for internship, job placement and training of the students. The Department also arranges job fairs on a regular basis.

**International Conference**  
BUBT organizes International Conferences on Science, Business and other Socio-economic issues on a regular basis in its own International Conference Hall. Academicians, Researchers and Professionals from various Universities and Organizations of different countries of the world attend these Conferences.

**International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC)**  
BUBT hosted 03 ICPC Asia Dhaka Regional Contests in 2014, 2021 and 2023 respectively. More than 1600 students from 350 Universities and Colleges both from home and abroad participated in these Contests. BUBT has also hosted ICPC Asia West Contest for the first time in March 2024.

**Rover Scout and BNCC**  
In BUBT there is a Rover Scout Group. Two units of boys and one unit of girls are registered with Bangladesh Rover Scout Region. BUBT has also a BNCC Platoon (Army Wing). BUBT BNCC Platoon is currently in operation under the Ramna Regiment (1 Ramna), Delta company. The members of the Rover Scout Group and BNCC Platoon play an important role in conducting various corporate programs of the university as well as organizing the programs of different national days. Besides, the members of the Rover Scout Group and BNCC Platoon participate in various social welfare activities such as blood donation, helping victims of natural calamities like flood, cyclone, dangerous diseases etc.

**Medical Center**  
BUBT has a full-fledged Medical Center for students, faculty members and employees of the university. There are two full time doctors, two nurses and other supporting staff in the center. The center has a number of beds along with all necessary equipments and facilities to provide necessary treatment in emergency cases. The university provides free treatment and medicines to all who are in need of it.

**Moot Court**  
In BUBT there is a well designed Moot Court for the students of the Department of Law and Justice. Participation and Practice in the Moot Court is a part of the academic program of the Department of Law and Justice at BUBT. The future lawyers can have the practical experience of a lawyer and a judge in court arena through this Moot Court. The students of BUBT through the operation of this Moot Court learn drafting briefs or memorials of a case, participation in oral arguments, competition between the appellant and respondents etc.

**Sports Complex**  
BUBT has a large Sports Complex on 23 bighas land very close to Diabari beside Beribadh. Students play cricket, football, badminton and other outdoor games in this playground. The Sports Club of BUBT organizes Inter-Department and Inter-Faculty Football, Cricket and other outdoor games Tournaments, friendly matches and competitions round the year.

**Alumni Association**  
BUBT has a vibrant Alumni Association. It has a strong network with its alumni. It organizes various events for the alumni and connects them through a Facebook Page. BUBT alumni are well placed in important positions of different govt. and private organizations at home and abroad. They help BUBT students by providing internship, job placement etc. They also contribute to the academic and professional development of current students.

**Convocation**  
BUBT arranges convocations for the graduating students on a regular basis. It has arranged 5 convocations in 2011, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2022 respectively. Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh or his delegate has conferred degrees to a total of 18000 graduates of BUBT in these convocations. The 6th convocation is scheduled to be held on February 24, 2025. More than 4000 graduating students are waiting for receiving the degrees through this convocation



**CHIEF ADVISOR**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH  
24 February 2025  
11 Falgun 1431

**Message**

On this momentous occasion of the 6th convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT), I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduates, their parents, and the entire BUBT community.



The convocation ceremony will remain as an unforgettable memory in their life. They are going to enter a new phase of life from here. Certificates that they have achieved today will be valuable only when they are able to capitalise on it and be successful in life.

The student-led revolution in July created a fresh opportunity for building a new Bangladesh where our young people will play a greater role in the advancement of the country.

I wish the 6th Convocation of BUBT a great success and extend my heartiest thanks to all who are involved in its management.



Professor Muhammad Yunus



**Professor Dr. S. M. A. Faiz**  
Chairman  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh  
February 24, 2025


**Message**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to know that Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) is going to hold its 6th Convocation ceremony on 24 February 2025. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations and felicitations to all the graduating students, their proud parents, faculty members and the university management.

Private universities are an integral part of higher education across the globe. The highest level academic institutions established in country's private sector are making substantial contributions to infuse knowledge and skills to the graduating students who, in turn, are advancing the social and economic development of Bangladesh. I believe that BUBT is well aware of this and moving in the right direction to produce skilled and accomplished manpower by imparting quality education since its academic journey. The University has already shifted to its permanent campus. I hope that the students graduated from this university will serve the nation and country with sincerity, honesty and patriotism from their respective positions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh is keenly aware of the quality of higher education in the country. The UGC is striving to ensure high standard of tertiary education in Private Universities and this attempt will continue in future relentlessly.

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



Professor Dr. S. M. A. Faiz



**Md. Shamsul Huda FCA**  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees, BUBT  
August 04, 2024

**Message**

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me for having this opportunity to congratulate the graduating students who will receive their degrees today through this 6th Convocation of the University. This is a very clear and bright indication that this University is marching ahead in maintaining its regular academic programmes in conformity with its declared motto: "Committed to Academic Excellence." I also take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to the concerned guardians of the graduates, the accomplished teachers, officers and other staffs of the University.

I am very happy to note that the proud journey of BUBT started in 2003. The university is playing a key role in disseminating knowledge and creating successful graduates for the competitive job market. Education is an igniting force to create social awareness, enhance patriotism and enrich one's thoughts and ideas. In this case BUBT is relentlessly going through the challenges of the time. This is very encouraging that the university has been conducting its activities in their own campus abiding by all the directives of the UGC. The establishment of its research centre, development of curriculum on Outcome-Based Education (OBE) system, collaboration and MoU with different foreign universities, conducting activities under the HEQEP project are the milestone achievements of the university.

The day of the Convocation is very special in the life of the graduates. This is a day they take an oath for working in the their future practical life with honesty, efficiency and sincerity. I hope in the future, the graduates will always remember the contributions of their Alma Mater and they will also reach their cherished destinations. My blessings will always be with them.

I am indebted to the honourable members of the Board of Trustees, the Syndicate, the Academic Council for their time, energy and counsel.

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



Md. Shamsul Huda FCA

**BUBT Trust**

- Mr. Md. Shamsul Huda FCA
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- A F M Sarwar Kamal
- Mr. Ahmed Hossain
- Prof. Md. Abu Saleh
- Prof. Md. Enayet Hossain Miah
- Prof. Mian Lutfar Rahman
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- Ms. Tahmina Azam
- Mr. Md. Shihab Rizwan
- Prof. Dr. Kazi Noor-ul-Ferdous
- Prof. Dr. A B M Shawkat Ali (Ex-Officio)

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

# BUBT

## Bangladesh University of Business and Technology

Plot No. 77-78, Main Road, Rupnagar, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216.  
Phone: PABX: 48036351-3, Cell: 01810033701, 01810033702, 01810033703, 01810033704, 01810033705, 01810033706.  
Fax: 02-48036355, E-mail: info@bubt.edu.bd, Facebook: facebook.com/BUBTOfficial, Website: www.bubt.edu.bd

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**Gold Medalists**

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MBA, 48th Intake, ID: 19202201013
- Chairman, Board of Trustees' Gold Medal  
Labhya Ferdous  
M.Sc. in Economics, 38th Intake, ID: 19202206001
- Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal  
Rabeya Afrin Meem  
BBA, 45th Intake, ID: 17182101091



## 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 parishads—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 re-assigned 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.

# Protect our farmers from their grievances



Mostafa Shabui  
is a journalist at The Daily Star.

MOSTAFA SHABUI

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 cauliflowers 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

(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 minhaz\_uddin\_du@yahoo.com.

RAHAT MINHAZ

**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 Chhatra League's role—despite having fought shoulder-to-shoulder against the oppressive Sheikh Hasina regime just a few months ago.**

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. Chhatra Shibir leaders were in the room of the Chhatra 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?

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 Chhatra Shibir activists also brutally tortured MC College students over a Facebook comment. These Chhatra 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.





**APON ZAHIR**

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

Considering the perception of politics held by the general youth in the countries, 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

A black and white photograph showing a massive crowd of people filling a wide street. Many individuals are holding flags, and the scene suggests a large-scale demonstration or protest. The crowd is dense, and the perspective is from an elevated position looking down the street.

**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**

FILE PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

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

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.

**Dr Kamrul Hassan Mamun**  
is professor in the Department of Physics  
at Dhaka University. He can be reached at  
[khassan@du.ac.bd](mailto:khassan@du.ac.bd).

KAMRUL HASSAN MAMUN

**VISUAL: MONOROM POLOK**

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

**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/Coverison 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 Barishal PBS-1.	1073751	10-03-25	10:00
2	MCEP/BREB/BD-L-31-1	Testing, Commissioning & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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 & Coverison 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

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 each 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders Proceedings without any Reason.

**বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড**  
**BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD**

বাপবিবো/জন (---২৫০২-১৪৬---) ২০২৩-২০২৪

**Superintending Engineer**  
 Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board,  
 Barishal Zone, Rupatali, Barishal.  
 Phone : 02-478831637  
 e-mail : [serebbarisal@gmail.com](mailto:serebbarisal@gmail.com)

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## 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 artists 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.



## 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.



## Matribhashar Chalachitra Utsav to showcase films in indigenous languages

The two-day *Matribhashar 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, Marma, Mro, Bawm, Garo, 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*, *Girikonnya*, *Ghore Phera*, *Colors of Hope*, and *Potrik 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 Shilpakala 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. Tuhin 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 Chandroip with 264, Gitai Hasan with 239, while Litu Korim and Shihab Shaheen each secured 228 votes, and Hasan Rezaul received 223 votes.



### 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**



## 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.

# 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

this year.

On the other hand, Jamaat demanded that the national election be held after reforming the institutions related to the electoral process.

The party also wants local government elections before the national election while the BNP wants the opposite.

The Jatiya Nagorik Committee supports national polls once the reforms recommended by the government-formed reform commissions are made.

LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan on February 18 told journalists that a decision regarding the local government elections would be made soon.

He added that he preferred local government elections before the national election because local government institutions could play a role in a national election.

"But my personal opinion would not determine which polls will be held first," he said.

## \$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 RSF, allies sign charter for rival govt

AFP, Nairobi

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," Najm 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.

## 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

have not received any support or cooperation from the government. Decisions have been made unilaterally. The press has faced various forms of attacks, lawsuits, and intimidation," he said.

Matiur also urged the reduction of the corporate tax.

At the meeting, NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan hinted at a possible reduction in advance income tax (AIT) on imported newsprint in the upcoming budget.

"We will consider the issue of advance income tax reduction," he said.

Currently, the AIT on newspaper imports is 5 percent.

Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of Financial Express also spoke at the event, among others, chaired by NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan.

## Members of 8 bodies

FROM PAGE 12  
Affairs Secretary Kaiser Kamal, Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal General Secretary Shahidul Islam, Jubo Dal General Secretary Nurul Islam Nayan, Swachchhasebak Dal General Secretary Rajib Ahsan, and Chhatra Dal General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir.

Besides, eight delegation members from other parties include Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Bangladesh Revolutionary Workers' Party's General Secretary Saiful Haque, Ganosamhati Andolon's Executive Coordinator Abul Hasan Rubel, National People's Party Chairman AZM Fariduzzaman, Nationalist Democratic Movement's Chairman Bobby Hajjaj, Gono Odhikar Parishad's General Secretary Muhammad Rashed Khan, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis's Joint Secretary General Maulana Atullah Amin, and Jatiya Dal Chairman Syed Ehsanul Huda.

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

Three members from the Jatiya Nagorik Committee—Ali Ahsan Zonaeed, Rafe 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.

## Four DIGs sent on forced retirement

FROM PAGE 12  
the district during the 2014 election, while Abdul Quddus Amin was the SP of Gopalganj district in the year.

According to sources at the Police Headquarters, at least 40 top-ranking police officers between the rank of assistant superintendent of police and additional inspector general of police were sent into forced retirement in the last six months, citing "public interest".

The sources added that many of these officials were in command positions and used excessive force during the July uprising last year that toppled the Awami League government on August 5.

The latest move came just two days after the Youth and Sports Adviser, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, said the SPs who were in charge during the 2018 "night-time" elections will be made officers on special duty (OSD) or sent into forced retirement.

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

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.

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.



# 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.



## 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 two outings 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 against Pakistan. In

## 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," said Santner a day before the game.

"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.

"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."

**"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



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.

## 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, wicketkeeper-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.

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



When contacted, Rupganj owner Lutfur 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 Khandokar 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."



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## 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



Illegal electricity connections from streetlights are being used to charge battery-powered rickshaws in the capital's Tejgaon area, resulting in wasted public resources and potential safety hazards. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 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 Ainjibi 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.

## Double cases for single victim baffle families

### Such cases raise concern over potential misuse of legal system, warns an expert

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In at least seven instances, two separate murder cases have been filed over the death of one July uprising victim, with conflicting information, and different accused and witnesses.

The families of some of the victims are unaware of the identities of the people who filed the additional First Information Reports (FIRs).

Besides concerns over potential misuse of the legal system to harass people for personal benefits, these cases will call the credibility of investigations into question, an expert has warned.

Police said they were aware of such cases and a set of instructions for these cases would be issued upon consultation with legal experts.

One of these cases was filed over the death of Monir Hossain, 28, who was shot in the Bashtala area of Dhaka’s Bhatara on July 19 last year during the quota reform protests, which later intensified into a mass uprising.

After the fall of the Awami League government, Monir’s brother Parvej Forazy filed a murder case with a Dhaka court on September 29, accusing ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 25 others. The court directed Bhatara Police Station to register it as an FIR.

However, on October 24, Fahad Badsha, claiming to be Monir’s cousin, filed another murder case with the court against 218 people, including Hasina. The court again directed Bhatara police to register the FIR.

FIR details show that both cases contained contradictory descriptions and listed different individuals as witnesses.

Parvej told The Daily Star, “We don’t know anyone named

Fahad Badsha. I have no cousin by that name.”

He added that while he filed a case for justice, others might be filing cases for ulterior motives like harassing people or gaining personal benefits.

The Daily Star contacted Fahad over

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## Noab urges govt to cut tax, VAT on newspapers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper owners have urged the government to help the newspaper industry overcome the difficulties it is facing due to the current economic crisis.

They said the sector is suffering multiple problems, from increased cost of newsprint to falling advertisement revenue and circulation. Under the circumstances, it has become tough for the newspaper industry to survive.

To help the sector withstand the challenges, newspaper owners yesterday demanded the government to reduce import duty, value added tax and corporate taxes on newspapers.

In a budget proposal for the fiscal year of 2025-26, Newspaper Owners’ Association of Bangladesh proposed reducing the import tax from the current 5 percent to 2 percent and lowering VAT to 5 percent from 15 percent.

Additionally, it urged the government to reduce the corporate tax, considering the newspaper industry as a service.

“The newspaper

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## Hasina told Nitor docs not to treat protesters

### Claims ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina told Nitor doctors neither to treat those injured in the July uprising nor to release those who were hospitalised, said Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam at the International Crimes Tribunal.

He said this yesterday after a judge of the tribunal asked about the post-mortem reports and death certificates of those killed during the uprising.

Prosecutor Shahidul Islam said that hospital authorities often failed to provide documents. In several cases, no post mortem was done because of pressure from the administration.

Tajul said death certificates of gunned down protesters falsely stated that the cause of death was suffocation or something else because the doctors were forced to lie.

The judge asked, “Isn’t a post-mortem an important document?”

Tajul replied that crimes against humanity were so rampant in July that hospitals struggled to treat patients, and the deceased had to be buried quickly. In that situation, the authorities

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## \$29m spent to prop up ‘radical left communist’ in Bangladesh: Trump

STAR REPORT

US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his outrage over USAID’s spending, accusing the agency of funnelling \$29 million to prop up a “radical left communist” in Bangladesh.

Speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington on Saturday, Trump fumed, “\$29 million goes to strengthen the political landscape and help them out so that they can vote for a radical left communist in Bangladesh. You’ve got to see who they supported!”

It was the second straight day of blistering attacks on the USAID grant, after his fiery remarks at the White House Governors Working Session on Friday.

Trump claimed the \$29 million fund landed with an obscure firm that he said was “a little outfit” with just two employees.

“They got \$29 million. A cheque! Imagine scraping by with \$10,000 here, \$10,000 there – and bam, \$29 million from the US government,” he said.

“Two people! They’re very happy. Very

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## Members of 8 bodies head to China today

### Reps from BNP, Students Against Discrimination, Nagorik Committee among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 22 member delegation from eight political parties, including leaders from BNP, its affiliated organisations, and like-minded parties, is leaving for China tonight at the invitation of China’s ruling Communist Party.

BNP Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan will lead the delegation.

The 13-day trip will also be joined by four representatives from Students Against Discrimination and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said sources.

The delegation will visit various government and private institutions and join seminars, according to a press release issued by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday.

The Daily Star has learnt that five leaders from the BNP and its affiliated organisations are in the delegation. They are BNP’s Legal

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## 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.

A reporter then pointed out that the Local Government Reform Commission in its report mentioned that local polls can be held within June this year and

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 should be held before the national election.

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

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## Country risks civil war if trial of AL is delayed

### Says Nagorik Committee convener

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convener of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee Nasir Uddin Patwary yesterday warned that the people may be compelled to take matters into their own hands if the interim government delays or remains silent on the trial of Awami League.

“If Bangladesh moves toward such a situation, we think there is a risk of a civil war breaking out in the country,” said Nasir.

He made the remarks while addressing a discussion programme at the Jatiya Press Club on the Fact-Finding Report titled ‘Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh: Its Anatomy, Responsibility, and Trial.’

Criticising the advisory council, Nasir labelled its members “thick-skinned”.

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তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

আপনার রাস্তার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে এন্টনি গ্যাসের চুলটি নিভিয়ে ফেলুন

কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

জরুরি গ্যাস শাট-ডাউন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা ম্যাস ট্রানজিট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড-এর আওতাধীন এমআরটি লাইন-১ এর ভূগর্ভস্থ স্টেশন (নন্দা) এর এলাইনমেন্ট হতে তিতাস গ্যাসের বিদ্যমান গ্যাস পাইপলাইন স্থানান্তর কাজের জন্য আগামী ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ রোজ মঙ্গলবার সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে রাত ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত মোট ১৩ (তেরো) ঘন্টা বারিধারা ডিপ্লোমেটিক জোন এর রোড নং-১১,১২,১৩,১৪ এলাকা, বারিধারা নিউ ডিওএইচএস এলাকা, জগন্নাথপুর, নন্দা, কালাচাঁদপুর, লিচুবাগান, জোয়ারসাহারা, কুড়াভলি হতে সমগ্র বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকা (৩০০ ফিট পর্যন্ত) ও যুক্তরাষ্ট্র দূতাবাসের উত্তর-পূর্ব পাশ হতে কুড়িল বিশ্বরোড পর্যন্ত বিদ্যমান সকল শ্রেণীর গ্রাহকের গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে। এছাড়া, আশেপাশের এলাকায় গ্যাসের স্বল্পচাপ বিরাজ করতে পারে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কৃত্তপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-১৫৩/২০২৪-২৫

তিতাস গ্যাস কৃত্তপক্ষ

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