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From movement to mainstream politics

Uprising activists launch Jatiya Nagorik Party today; 8 confirmed for top posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly seven months after ousting Sheikh Hasina, the activists of the July uprising are all set to launch a party of their own today, aiming to emerge as a formidable political force against all forms of discriminations.

Nahid Islam

Akhter Hossen

Styled the Jatiya Nagorik Party in Bangla, it will be unveiled at a rally on the capital's Manik Mia Avenue. The event, slated to begin at 3:00pm, is being organised by the Students Against Discrimination and its platform for citizens, the Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

The Nagorik Committee confirmed the party's name on its Facebook page, stating that it would be translated into English as National Citizen Party with the abbreviation NCP.

The leadership lineup has also been finalised with Nahid Islam as the convener and Akhter Hossen as the member secretary. Four other key positions have been finalised, paving the way for the party's formal entry into the political landscape.

Nahid, who was instrumental in the student-led uprising, resigned from Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus's council of advisers on Tuesday to join politics.

Akhter, former social services secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu), is the member secretary of the Nagorik Committee.

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The topsoil of a farmland is being taken away in the Haripur area of Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila. This will make the soil unable to retain water, and the land will lose its fertility. Despite a ban, topsoil is sold to brick kilns and real-estate projects due to lax monitoring. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Amendments must not serve any group

Says Dr Kamal about constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said that steps must be taken to ensure that the constitution cannot be manipulated to benefit any particular person or group.

"We must ensure that any change or amendment to the constitution properly

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Shun vengeance, unite to rebuild Bangladesh

Says Khaleda at BNP extended meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the people expect the interim government to hold an acceptable election following swift implementation of minimal reforms to repair the state so that the country can return to democracy.

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Discard traitors, those inactive during uprising

BNP grassroots tell party high-ups about potential polls candidates

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA *and* SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Grassroots BNP leaders yesterday said there are conspiracies to harm their party's election prospects.

They also urged the top leadership not to nominate those who were inactive during the mass uprising, colluded with the Awami League, the leaders known as hybrid and opportunists, and those who attract controversies.

BNP leaders from across the country said these at the party's extended meeting held near the parliament building yesterday. Several thousand local leaders attended the event.

They emphasised the need for a national election by December and said local government polls should be held later.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Govt to clear Beximco payroll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will provide Tk 525.46 crore from public coffers to clear wages and other service benefits of workers and officials of 14 Beximco textile and garment units that will shutter from today.

The payment will be given to 31,669 workers and 1,565 officials of the mills and factories of the group, said M Sakhawat Hussain, labour and employment adviser, at a press conference held at the shipping ministry yesterday.

Of the total amount, Tk 325.46 crore will be arranged by the finance division's expenditure department, while Tk 200 crore will come from the labour ministry's different accounts of the central fund as a loan to Beximco Group.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

MAJ SINHA MURDER

Army chief promises full cooperation to ensure justice

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN,
from Cox's Bazar

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman has promised full cooperation to ensure swift justice for the murder of Major (retd) Sinha Mohammad Rashed Khan.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of the Sinha Memorial Plaque in Baharchhara, Teknaf, the army chief extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

A monument was constructed under the supervision of the Border Guard Bangladesh, said a press release from the Inter Services Public Relation Directorate.

Sinha was shot dead at a police checkpoint in Baharchhara on July 31, 2020. The unarmed ex-army officer, who had served in the Special Security Force and as a UN peacekeeper in Ivory Coast, was killed in what was later determined to be an unlawful act by law enforcement personnel.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Army chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman being inducted as the "Colonel of the Regiment" of the Bangladesh Infantry Regiment at Rajshahi Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

ACC sues ex-fisheries minister for Tk 3,891cr suspicious transactions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Abdur Rahman

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has found 19 bank accounts linked to former fisheries and livestock minister Md Abdur Rahman, revealing approximately Tk 3,891 crore in questionable transactions, according to a top ACC official.

The anti-graft body also alleged that Abdur Rahman amassed Tk 1.73 crore in assets beyond his known source of income.

On these grounds, he was sued in a money laundering case yesterday, ACC Director General, Md Akhtar Hossain, told journalists yesterday.

Abdur Rahman's wife, Dr Mirza Nahida Hossain, has also been accused of acquiring assets worth Tk 6.31 crore beyond her known income, while her 16 bank accounts reportedly recorded suspicious transactions amounting to Tk 26.56 crore.

Abdur Rahman has also been named as an accused in the case filed against his wife for allegedly aiding in the accumulation of illicit wealth.

ACC DG said, "The accused have been charged under Section 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004; Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947; and Sections 4(2) and 4(3) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012."

From movement to mainstream politics

FROM PAGE 1

Akhter and Nahid were convener and member secretary respectively of Gonotantrik Chhatra Shakti, a platform launched on October 4, 2023, and dissolved on September 14 last year, two months after the uprising.

Additionally, Nasiruddin Patwary, convener of the Nagorik Committee, will hold the chief coordinator's post in the new party while Hasnat Abdullah will be designated as the chief organiser (south) and Sarjis Alam as chief organiser (north).

Samanta

Patwary

Hasnat

Sarjis

Hannan

Saleh Uddin

Hasnat is the convener of SAD and Sarjis is the chief organiser of the Nagorik Committee.

At least three Nagorik Committee leaders involved in the formation of the party confirmed the key leadership positions to The Daily Star.

Samanta Shermeen, spokesperson for the Nagorik Committee, is almost certain to become senior joint convener of the new party.

Also, Abdul Hannan Masud, chief organiser of SAD, will be named joint coordinator of NCP.

Saleh Udddin Sifat, a co-spokesperson for the Nagorik Committee, is nearly confirmed as NCP's office secretary.

These decisions were made during a joint meeting of the Nagorik Committee and SAD at the former's central office in the capital's Bangla Motor yesterday afternoon.

According to meeting sources, the position of senior joint member secretary was not finalised as multiple contenders were being considered.

The names of Nagorik Committee members Nahida Sarwer Niva, Monira Sharmin and Dr Tasnim Zara; and SAD executive committee member Nusrat Tabassum are being discussed.

The central convening committee is likely to be a 151-member body divided equally between the Nagorik Committee and SAD.

Former Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders in the Nagorik Committee withdrew from the initiative to form the party amid a discord over leadership positions.

Sources in the Nagorik Committee said the top leadership of the party will be announced at the launch while the full-fledged committee is likely to be announced through a press release later.

Both SAD and the Nagorik Committee will remain active after the launch of the party. The two platforms will continue to operate from their existing offices at Rupayan Trade Center in Bangla Motor.

NCP will have a separate office at a different location.

The uprising activists are planning to hold a mammoth rally to mark the launch. Leaders of the two platforms said they are aiming for a massive turnout of 3 lakh people.

Yesterday, workers were preparing the stage on the road in front of the south gate of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Leaders and activists of all the units of SAD and the Nagorik Committee will attend the event.

Those from outside Dhaka have been asked to park their buses at the old Trade Fair ground in Agargaon.

Nagorik Committee insiders said leaders from various political parties, diplomats, families of the martyrs of the mass uprising, injured activists, and representatives of expatriates who played significant roles in the movement have been invited to the event.

Additionally, oppressed individuals from various classes and professions who contributed to the backdrop of the mass uprising, as well as students and the public who actively participated in the July 2024 movement, will also attend the ceremony.

The event will begin with recitations from the Holy Quran and other religious scriptures.

Representatives from the families of the July uprising martyrs and injured individuals will deliver speeches afterwards.

A documentary on the uprising will also be screened at the event.

In December last year, student leaders of the uprising announced their plan to form a new political party and contest the next general election.

Later, the BNP stated that it would not accept any attempt to form a political party while remaining in power. It urged advisers involved in the formation of the new party to resign from the cabinet if they intended to enter politics.

Govt to clear Beximco payroll

FROM PAGE 1

The government will start providing service benefits to workers and officers on March 9 and the payment includes the employees' salary up to February.

The 14 units are Bangladesh Export Import Company Limited (Head Office), International Knitwear and Apparels Limited, Crescent Fashion and Design Limited, Esses Fashions Limited, New Dacca Industries Limited, Escorp Apparels Limited, Bextex Garments Limited, Yellow Apparels Limited, ShinePukur Garments Limited, Beximco Fashions Limited, Prefix Fashions Limited, Crescent Accessories Limited, Urban Fashions Limited and RR Washing.

The four currently active Beximco units are Bangladesh Export Import Company Limited (Factory), Beximco PPE Limited, Escorp Apparels Limited (Yellow Local Brand) and RR Washing (Partially Running), according to Beximco Group.

The adviser said his government would take action against the responsible persons and officials of the banks and other departments and agencies of the government involved in giving loans by violating rules between 2008 and 2024.

Legal action will be taken through the ACC against them including Janata officials, Beximco board members, the Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.

The labour and employment ministry will ask the home affairs ministry to impose a travel ban on the persons and officials of the banks, companies and boards of directors of different companies, he said.

Those who are already abroad will have to return to Bangladesh at some point or they will be declared persona non grata through seizure of their passports.

The government formed a high-powered committee headed by Lutfey Siddiqi, the chief adviser's special envoy for international affairs, to determine the next course of action for the industrial units inside of Beximco Industrial Park.

Representatives from the BSEC, BB, a representative from the office of the attorney general, Beximco Group's receiver and chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority are also included in the committee.

A total of 13 banks, including the BB, provided more than Tk 40,000 crore in loans to Beximco Group.

Beximco owes Janata Tk 23,285 crore, Sonali Tk 1,424 crore, Agrani Tk 420 crore, Rupali Tk 987 crore, National Bank Tk 315 crore and United Commercial Tk 333 crore.

It also owes AB Bank Tk 938 crore, Exim Tk 497 crore, Global Islami Tk 61 crore, Dutch Bangla Tk 94 crore, IFIC Tk 78 crore and the Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund about Tk 87 crore.

Shun vengeance, unite to rebuild Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

"People from all walks of life in Bangladesh, especially the youth, are eager for a positive democratic change. We must work for the greater interest of the country by rising above pettiness," she said while addressing an extended party meeting virtually from London, where she is currently undergoing treatment.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia reading out a statement before the party's extended meeting at the ground adjacent to LD Hall of the parliament yesterday. Khaleda addressed the event virtually and a chair was left empty on the stage out of respect for her.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Calling upon the youth, students, and the people, Khaleda said, "Let us build our beloved Bangladesh truly a livable, developed, and democratic state, not through revenge or vengeance, but with mutual love and brotherhood."

Speaking as the chief guest, she said the cohorts of fascists and enemies of Bangladesh are plotting to undermine the achievements of the mass uprising. "Through unity, we can thwart the conspiracy."

Asking the party activists to remain united to ensure success in the upcoming national election, Khaleda said, "Don't take any action that would render your long struggle and sacrifices useless."

The BNP's extended meeting started at 11:00am at the ground adjacent to LD Hall of the parliament, with around 4,000 leaders and activists from across the country joining the event. The theme of the meeting was "Shudiro Oikya Rukhe Dite Pare Shorojontro" (Strong unity can foil conspiracies).

The party's last extended meeting was held on February 4, 2018, at a city hotel. Khaleda presided over that programme.

As Khaleda, also a former prime minister, appeared on the big screen at exactly 12:23pm yesterday, the party leaders and activists stood up, applauded, and chanted slogans in her name.

She called upon her party activists to unite and re-organise the BNP with greater determination, incorporating the people, so that the party can once again lead movements and govern the state like it did in the past.

"Let us use our full strength in the coming days to realise Shaheed Ziaur Rahman's dream of a modern, prosperous, and democratic Bangladesh."

Thanking the party leaders and activists for their sacrifices for democracy and her release, the BNP chief said, "We must always remember the words of Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman -- the party is greater than the individual, and the country is greater than the party."

Presiding over the party's meeting, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman called on the interim government to exercise greater caution in maintaining neutrality, as public doubt over its impartiality continues to grow.

"Neutrality is the interim government's greatest asset in ensuring a free and fair election. Doubts over its impartiality have already emerged among the people. I urge the government to be more vigilant in upholding neutrality," he said during his inaugural speech.

Tarique demanded an immediate announcement of a clear roadmap for the polls.

He said, "While the chief adviser's statements on various occasions have fostered positive expectations, misleading remarks from some advisers have frustrated pro-democracy and freedom-loving citizens."

Despite unconditional support from BNP and other pro-democracy parties, the interim government has yet to set clear priorities in its action plan, he claimed.

"When the government is failing to control price hike of essentials and ensure law and order, the public does not understand why it is complicating matters further by prioritising local elections over national polls," Tarique said.

He said that holding local polls before the national election would "rehabilitate allies of the fugitive autocrat".

"BNP will not fall into the trap of rehabilitating mass murderers, money launderers, and corrupt mafia groups."

Tarique said those, who once sought to turn Bangladesh into a failed state, did not cease their conspiracies. A deliberate confusion is being created over issues such as reforms and local elections.

"Through you, I would like to call upon the farmers, workers, ordinary people, Alem-Ulema, Pir-Mashayekh (Islamic scholars and spiritual leaders) and all sections of society to stay vigilant against this conspiracy to destroy the national unity and environment of the national election."

In his welcome speech, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said after Hasina fled to India on August 5, people hoped for a change in the country. They expected their voting rights to be restored quickly so that they could elect their representatives.

"But unfortunately, we still don't see any clear direction in this regard."

"...A group has started plotting in various ways. Attempts are also being made from outside. At the same time, some individuals and groups are trying to mislead the people by giving wrong explanations about the situation inside the country."

The inaugural session featured a screening of the documentary "Prothom Bangladesh, Amar Shesh Bangladesh".

BNP Standing Committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Nazrul Islam Khan, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Salahuddin Ahmed, Selima Rahman, and Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin, were also present at the meeting.

Amendments must not serve

FROM PAGE 1

reflects the aspirations of the people of the country. It must also be ensured that the constitution is not manipulated for the benefit of any individual or group."

"No initiative to amend the constitution should be driven by narrow interests. Any amendment should be pursued through extensive consultation and national consensus. Otherwise, these changes will fail to bring about national welfare," he said.

Kamal Hossain, one of the framers of Bangladesh's constitution, was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion titled The 1972 Constitution and Proposed Reforms, organised by the Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh's constitution reflects the nation's struggle, he said.

"It is not merely a legal document but a reflection of our dreams, aspirations, and struggles. Discussions on reviewing and reforming the constitution as per the needs of the time are not new, but the question remains -- how much these changes will reflect the will of the people?"

He said if the amendments truly reflect the people's aspirations, this would be the appropriate way to move forward.

"We have witnessed the events of 2024. In particular, the experience of August 5 reminded us that people's aspirations can never be ignored. The student movement is part of our historical continuity, where a generation has taken to the streets for its just demands -- just as we saw in 1952, 1969, and 1971. This movement is not limited to a specific time frame; it is an integral part of our national consciousness."

He added, "The Liberation War of 1971 gave us the dream of an exploitation-free, just, and democratic state. The 1972 constitution was promulgated to realise that dream."

The event, presided over by Senior Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity, was also addressed by former state minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, Bangla Academy President Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fouzia Moslem, senior journalist Sohrab Hasan, and Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity General Secretary Senior Advocate Zahidul Bari, among others.

Discard traitors, those inactive during uprising

FROM PAGE 1

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and acting chairman Tarique Rahman joined the event via video links.

Almost all the grassroots leaders raised concerns about the election, the activities of Jamaat, and what they said was the infiltration of other parties' activists.

Some said in case the local elections took place before the national polls, manipulation in the former may harm the party's prospects in the latter.

They also said that only the genuine loyalists should be nominated.

Ziaul Islam Zia from Thakurgaon said a transparent nomination process based on internal surveys should be in place. He warned against appointing candidates who might harm the party's reputation.

Another participant, requesting anonymity, said, "We endured hardships during the mass uprising. Many BNP leaders were absent at that time. Now, these leaders have suddenly returned. If they get nominations, the party's future is not too good."

Mofizur Rahman Milon from Bhola said the BNP must resist any attempt to hold local government elections before the national polls.

Helal Uddin, member secretary of Phulpur Upazila BNP in Mymensingh, said, "We struggled for 16 years. The party must take a firm stance... so that the national polls can be held by December."

Atiqur Rahman Saju from Jamalpur said BNP's student and youth organisations must be strengthened, as these groups were at the forefront of the July and August anti-government protests.

He called for the formation of new BNP committees in areas where the party currently lacks an active presence.

Throughout the meeting, BNP leaders repeatedly stressed the need for unity and discipline. Many urged immediate action against those who "secretly support the Awami League".

Zahirul Islam Pintu from Jamalpur criticised "new" BNP members for disorder, and urged his colleagues to stay away from conflicts over mosque and madrasa committees.

Sirajul Islam from Habiganj said if the party put its tested activists on the sidelines in favour of the opportunists, the result will be disastrous.

Many grassroots leaders said individuals with no history of participation in BNP's struggles were seeking key positions. The party should not give such "hybrid politicians and opportunists" any chance.

Masud Choudhury, general secretary of Nilphamari Municipality BNP, urged the acting chairman to take action regarding the matter.

Humayun Kabir from Mathbaria, Pirojpur, stressed that committed activists must not be ignored in favor of those who only emerge during elections.

Nurul Islam Nuru from Khulna said a secret group was spreading misinformation and creating unrest within the party and aligning with Awami League.

Habibullah Habib, convener of a municipality in Chandpur, said, "Many leaders who were absent during the long are trying to exert influence in local politics. I urge the central leadership to look into this matter."

Jakir Hossain Sarkar from Madhupur, Tangail, said BNP's momentum must not be harmed by rifts and conspiracies.

Leaders also discussed Jamaat's increasing political activities and its growing influence through mosque-based politics. Several BNP leaders expressed concerns that Jamaat's approach could undermine BNP's public support.

Khairun Nahar Khanam, convenor of Sathia Upazila BNP in Pabna, urged the leadership to be cautious about Jamaat. She said the BNP should not associate with any organisation that uses religious institutions for political gains.

One leader said that some party members were behaving as if the BNP had already come to power.

Towards the end of the meeting, central leaders addressed the gathering. Joint Secretary General Habib-Un-Nabi Khan raised concerns about extortion and land grabbing activities by the party leaders.

He warned that if BNP faces a major setback in the future, this issue alone could be a significant reason.

Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman said the BNP must remain focused on the national election.

Urging party members to prepare for the national polls, he said, "The time for the national elections is approaching. You should prepare yourselves mentally."

Celebration of literature draws to close

DIPAN NANDY

After today, the fairgrounds will once again fall silent. While political gatherings may hum within the premises, the sound of flipping book pages will be absent.

Although the air may be filled with the fragrance of seasonal flowers, the sweet scent of new books will linger no more.

The day that brings sadness to book lovers has arrived once again -- today marks the end of the Ekushey Boi Mela.

Despite calls for an extension, the organising institution, Bangla Academy, has dismissed the idea.

Sarkar Amin, member secretary of the book fair management committee, stated, "Considering Ramadan and other surrounding factors, there has been no discussion about extending the fair. All activities will conclude within the scheduled time."

The book fair gates opened yesterday at 3:00pm. In the final moments, the venue was bustling with buyers and visitors. Those who had been unable to attend earlier due to busy schedules came with their families.

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UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PID

Make int'l meet on Rohingya a success

Yunus tells UNHCR chief

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for making the upcoming international conference on the Rohingya crisis a big success to bring back focus on the decades-long humanitarian tragedy and mobilise more support for the long-persecuted Myanmar minority.

He made the call when Filippo Grandi, head of UN High Commissioner for the Refugees, called on him at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka, according to the press wing of the Chief Adviser's Office.

"Let's make it a big success. Let's hope something concrete comes out of it," Yunus said.

"Let's put this issue on the map. The UN conference is a great way to put it back on the table," Grandi said, referring to the Rohingya crisis.

"We are happy to work with you," he said, hoping that the visit of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in mid-March would create a new momentum for the issue.

Earlier, Grandi, who is on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, called on Touhid Hossain, adviser to the foreign ministry, at the latter's office. He also had a meeting with Home Adviser Jahangir Alam.

The advisers highlighted the important role of UNHCR and international community in resolving the Rohingya crisis. They urged the UNHCR to seek alternative funding sources from donor agencies and development partners.

Law enforcers intensify drives

1,657 held countrywide in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers have intensified drives countrywide amid a surge in crimes.

A total of 1,657 people -- including muggers and robbers -- were arrested in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, according to the Police Headquarters.

Joint forces arrested 743 individuals during the same period as part of "Operation Devil Hunt".

With these latest arrests, the total number of people arrested since the operation started on February 8 has risen to 11,313.

Additionally, 914 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the last 24 hours.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order.

An analysis of reports from several districts by this newspaper found that many of the arrestees in the operation are members of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations, facing charges in cases filed after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

Despite "Operation Devil Hunt," crimes like mugging and robbery persist. To enhance security, the Law

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Urgent decision needed to utilise coal reserves

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the rise in use of coal for power generation, experts at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for an immediate decision on whether Bangladesh will utilise its own coal reserves.

The country has an estimated 834 million tonnes of mineable coal across five coalfields, most of which would require open-pit mining. Delaying a decision could lead to the shutdown of the country's lone coal-fired power plant, Barapukuria, within a few years, they warned.

The Hydrocarbon Unit (HCU) organised the seminar, titled "The Prospects and Ways to Overcome Challenges of Coal Wealth in Bangladesh", at Bidyut Bhaban in Dhaka.

Presenting the keynote paper, Arup Kumar Biswas, director (Exploration and Production) at HCU, said Bangladesh has more than 8,000MW of coal-based power plants, most of which depend on imported coal.

"The quality of local coal is superior, with a higher calorific value, meaning 26-30 percent less coal is required to generate the same amount of electricity compared to imported coal," he said.

According to his presentation, the Barapukuria mine has already produced 14.94 million tonnes of coal, with an additional 4 million tonnes expected by 2029 through underground mining. After that, open-pit mining will be necessary in the mine's southern and northern parts.

- Country has 834 million tonnes of mineable coal across 5 fields
- Local coal has higher calorific value, requiring less for power generation
- Concerns raised over environmental, social impacts of mining
- High cost of locally mined coal attributed to corruption in contract process
- Govt plans to develop a roadmap for coal extraction

The Phulbari coalfield, where all environmental and social impact studies have already been conducted, would be the easiest to mine. Production could begin within 2-3 years, while other fields would require 8-10 years following government approval.

Mushfiqur Rahman, technical director at Institute Orgenergostroy Bangladesh, a construction firm involved in the Rooppur nuclear power plant, said mining methods depend on a field's geological structure and available technology.

"Phulbari can only be mined through open-pit extraction. Underground mining here is not feasible. We must focus on minimising groundwater contamination and other hazards," said Mushfiqur.

He added, "If a project isn't

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JULY UPRISING

Martyrs' families to get priority in govt jobs

Shafiqul Alam says it won't continue for generations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eligible family member of victims killed during the mass uprising will get priorities in getting government and semi government jobs.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said this at a press conference at Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

He also said this job benefit is not a quota system.

"It will not continue for generation after generation," he said.

Deputy Press Secretary of CA Azad Majumder said the July victims and families of the martyrs will get allowance from March.

The martyred families will get Tk 30 lakh – Tk 10 lakh will be provided in this fiscal year and Tk 20 lakh in the next fiscal -- in the form of savings certificates.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Southeast Univ holds 8th convocation

CITY DESK

The 8th convocation of Southeast University (SEU) took place at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Purbachal yesterday, said a press release.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain chaired the ceremony as the representative of the President and conferred degrees on the graduates.

Prof SMA Faiz, chairman of the University Grants Commission, delivered the convocation speech.

A total of 1,922 students attended the event.

Five students who achieved a perfect CGPA of 4.0 and received the Chancellor's Gold Medal are Chandrima Chakraborty, Ariful Karim, Rema Rani Paul, Sumaia Aktar, and Habiba Khanom Lubna.

Besides, 27 graduates received the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal.

Rezaul Karim, chairman of SEU's Board of Trustees; Prof Yusuf Mahbubul Islam, vice chancellor; and Prof M Mofazzal Hossain, pro-VC, also spoke. The event was conducted by SEU Registrar Maj Gen (retd) Md Anwarul Islam.

This cow and heron share more than just a field -- they have a unique partnership. As the cow grazes, it shifts the soil, making it easier for the heron to feast on the insects left behind. The photo of this natural collaboration was taken in Binoykathi village of Jhalakathi recently. PHOTO: TITU DAS

United Healthcare Jolshiri Cup Golf Tournament ends

CITY DESK

The United Healthcare Jolshiri Cup Golf Tournament 2025 concluded on February 24 at Jolshiri Golf Club after four days of competition.

The event, held from February 19 to 22, saw 492 participants, said a press release.

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman was present as the chief guest.

Maj Gen Hasan-uz-Zaman and Khondokar Moinul Ahsan Shamim, adviser, United Group, also spoke.

Moinuddin Hasan Rashid, chairman and managing director, United Group; and Nizamuddin Hasan Rashid, managing director, United Healthcare, were also present at the event.

Commodore AKM Maruf Hasan became the tournament champion, with Lt Col Mohammad Sarwar Bin Kashem winning Best Gross and Lt Col (retd) Babul Aktar as runner-up. Brig Gen Kamrul Islam achieved a rare Hole-in-One prize.

Martyrs' families to get priority

FROM PAGE 3

They will also get a monthly allowances of Tk 20,000.

The government has divided those injured in the uprising into three categories.

Those who were critically injured are placed in Category A. They will get Tk 5 lakh -- Tk 2 lakh will be provided in this fiscal year and Tk 3 lakh in the next -- in the form of savings certificates.

They will get Tk 20,000 as monthly allowance. The government placed 493 injured in Category A.

In Category B, injured will get Tk 3 lakh in the form of savings certificates and monthly allowance of Tk 15,000.

The government put 908 injured under Category B.

The Category C includes people who sustained minor injuries or have totally recovered. They will get Tk 1 lakh and monthly allowance of Tk 10,000. The government put 10,648 injured under Category C.

Meanwhile, a group of injured protesters continued their sit-in in front of the Chief Advisor's Office in Tejgaon yesterday for the second consecutive day. They started their demonstration at 11:00am on Wednesday.

They are pushing forward three-point demand including changes to the government's category system for compensating the injured, calling for the abolition of Category C.

About 30 protesters held the sit-in surrounded by law enforcers. Masud Rana Sourav, one of the protesters, said they reject the government's category, because it is discriminatory.

A preservation of language, culture

Unesco launches book featuring indigenous stories in 4 languages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Unesco Dhaka Office yesterday launched a book titled "Of Roots and Heritage: Tales from the Hills -- Chakma and Tripura Communities in Bangladesh," featuring stories in four languages, including Chakma and Tripura.

The book was published under Unesco's Hooked on Peace Project in collaboration with The Asia Foundation and with support from the Japan Fund-in-Trust. The launch event took place at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital.

Written by 20 young writers from indigenous communities and edited by writer and editor Rifat Munim, the book contains 10 stories that explore the heritage, struggles, and cultural narratives of these communities.

Urgent decision needed to utilise

FROM PAGE 3

profitable, it leads to serious social issues."

Prof M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, criticised the presentation for omitting the 2006 Phulbari movement, in which three protesters were killed and hundreds injured while opposing Asia Energy's open-pit mining project.

"There is an agreement between the government and Phulbari's people that open-pit mining will not be pursued. What will happen to that agreement?" he asked.

He did not directly answer a question from Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan on whether he supported coal extraction, saying, "That can only be determined after discussions with all stakeholders."

Prof Shamsul also condemned the high cost of locally mined coal, pointing out that coal from Barapukuria costs $176 per tonne, while imported coal is available at $100 per tonne. "This is due to corruption. A Chinese firm was awarded the mining contract without a competitive bidding process," he alleged.

He also questioned the feasibility of reinstating topsoil after mining. "This is merely a rehashed version of old proposals," he said.

Dhaka University's Dean of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Kazi Matin Uddin Ahmed, called for a clear roadmap to mitigate environmental and social damage through community involvement and technological improvements.

Mohammad Saiful Islam, secretary to the energy and mineral resources division, said, "At times, we've struggled to pay coal import bills due to the foreign currency crisis. We must decide whether to use our own coal for power generation."

Fouzul Kabir Khan said the government is preparing a roadmap for the next political administration to determine whether to proceed with coal extraction.

"We aim to present various options," he said.

Notre Dame College hosts earth and space summit

CITY DESK

The 8th National Earth and Space Summit (NESS), organised by the Notre Dame Eco and Space Club, took place from February 20 to 22 at Notre Dame College.

The event saw around 2,000 participants from over 60 institutions, said a press release.

Sponsored by Western Engineering and Bata, the summit featured competitions and activities in ecology, earth science, and astronomy.

Md Nazmul Hassan, club moderator, praised the participants' enthusiasm. Principal Dr Fr Hemanto Pius Rozario highlighted the importance of STEM education.

The summit was supported by sponsors like Savoy Ice Cream and Dot Internet.

CCTV cameras

FROM PAGE 5

According to BMP sources, CCTV footage helped identify 264 criminal incidents in 2021 alone.

The BMP operates through an Integrated Command and Control Section to manage crime and traffic. However, due to the lack of city corporation cameras, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam expressed concern over potential criminal activities during the upcoming Ramadan.

He said during a law and order meeting on Thursday, the importance of CCTV cameras was discussed. It was noted that over 3,000 privately owned CCTV cameras are currently in use, but more effective initiatives are needed to enhance crime control.

Professor Zahid Hossain, president of the Sacheton Nagorik Committee, highlighted the crucial role of CCTV in crime prevention in the city. He urged the authorities to swiftly reinstall the cameras to restore security and peace.

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 28

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-15	12-15	4-30	6-05	7-30
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Accreditation gets difficult

FROM PAGE 5

To obtain or renew accreditation cards, media organisations must submit a recommendation signed and stamped by a designated official of the organisation.

This recommendation must be submitted to the Principal Information Officer on the organisation's official letterhead, specifying the names and designations of the recommended journalists.

If a journalist is denied accreditation, they have the right to appeal. The appeal board will include representatives from various sectors, including national newspaper editors and judges.

Additionally, a system will be introduced to issue accreditation cards at the district level for journalists working outside the capital.

Instead of the previous two types of accreditation cards -- permanent and temporary -- the new policy introduces a single accreditation card with a validity of three years.

Under the new policy, an accreditation card will not be cancelled solely due to a criminal case unless a final verdict is issued against the journalist.

However, if a final charge sheet is submitted, the committee may suspend the card.

Azad Majumder, deputy press secretary of the Chief Adviser's Office, announced that the government will soon issue new accreditation cards under the revised policy.

Until then, existing accreditation cards will remain valid, he said during a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

Law enforcers intensify drives

FROM PAGE 3

and Order Core Committee launched nine initiatives, including operations in crime-prone areas by a joint task force of the army, police, and BGB.

In Dhaka, integrated checkpoints and patrol operations have been strengthened in coordination with the DMP and other law enforcement agencies.

Meanwhile, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury has once again ordered law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant.

During an early morning visit to four police stations in the capital -- Mirpur, Darus Salam, Adabor, and Mohammadpur -- he issued the directive.

Celebration of literature draws to close

FROM PAGE 3

"Today is the day to buy books. I have visited the fair twice this year but haven't bought anything yet," said Masud Mia.

Nasimuzzaman Jony was seen chatting with friends by the lake. He mentioned that his campus is in Old Dhaka, so he usually buys books from Banglabazar. "But that doesn't mean I won't come to the fair. One of the main reasons for coming here is the chance to meet authors. Plus, taking pictures with them is a bonus!" he added.

Mazharul Islam, CEO of Anya Prakash, said, "The fair is being held in a different political situation this time, so there was some hesitation among people. But crowds have surged. Sales may have been lower, but the sheer number of people coming to experience books is still a positive sign. Even if they don't buy books now, they might in the future."

Meanwhile, poet Zakir Murad's two books, "Mago Tomay Bhalobashi" and "Kobitar Shishmahal", have been published by Mohakal Publications. Additionally, journalist Nahid Hossain's book "Katatater Diary" was unveiled at the fair, highlighting the complex and historic relationship between Bangladesh and its two neighbours, India and Myanmar.

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রিসোর্ট শেয়ার বিক্রয়

ঢাকার পাশে ১টি শিক্ষিত ও নৈতিক পরিবেশে নিজের বাড়ি থেকে অফিস করুন প্রতিদিন। থাকবে হাসপাতাল, ইসলামিক ক্যাডেট কলেজ, মাদ্রাসা, অটিজম হোম, ভোকেশনাল সেন্টার, ওল্ড হোম, শপিং মল, খেলার মাঠ ও মসজিদ। থাকবে সিসি ক্যামেরায় নিরাপত্তা ও সিটি থেকে মেট্রোরেল পর্যন্ত নিজস্ব ট্রান্সপোর্ট। আরো থাকবে ১০% ছাড়ে ওয়ান স্টপ সার্ভিস সকল সমস্যায়। প্রতি শতক ৩.৫ লাখ টাকায় ১০ শতক জমি কিনলেই ১ শতক ফ্রি। এছাড়াও ৬ লাখ টাকায় রিসোর্ট শেয়ার মালিকানা কিনে প্রতিমাসে উপভোগ করুন ৪ হাজার টাকা হালাল মুনাফা এখন থেকেই। ৩.৫ বছরে দিগুন মুনাফা ফ্রিমে বিনিয়োগ করতে পারেন। জমি ভিজিট করলেই বুকে লাক্স টোকেন ফ্রি, বুকিং দিলেই আড়ং এর ১০,০০০/- শপিং ভাউচার ফ্রি। ১৬ বছরের বিশ্বস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান **আলোকিত শিশু, আলোকিত জহির সিটি ও রিসোর্ট**, হেমায়েতপুরের পাশে পানিশাইল সিপাইর **01706035233**

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Application Deadline: 5th March 2025

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ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	টেন্ডার আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরণ ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১।	DEN-1/(CTG)-01/2024-25 (e-GP)	1061610	At DEN-1/Chattogram Jurisdiction: Emergency repairs to Sholashahar (SLHR), Nangalkot (NKT), Chandpur (CDR), Chitoshi Road (CIR) station building & L.C Gate E/41(B) at km 116/7-8 and other related works due to July-August incidents throughout the county.	OTM NCT	12-MAR-2025 12:30 Hrs.
২।	DEN-1/(CTG)-02/2024-25(e-GP)	1061611	At Noakhali Station: Through repairs to Noakhali station building including roof treatment, drain with other allied works.	OTM NCT	12-MAR-2025 13:00 Hrs.
৩।	DEN-1/(CTG)-03/2024-25(e-GP)	1061612	At JNHT-GMDI Section: Emergency bank protection work with rail driving and bundling works at Km. 15/4-5 (left side) total length=96rft other allied works.	OTM NCT	12-MAR-2025 13:30 Hrs.

বিঃ দ্রঃ
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।

এস (২৫) (৩২৮)

25.02.25
(আবু রাফি মোহাম্মদ ইমতিয়াজ হোছাইন)
বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-১,
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-531

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)
IRESPPW-2nd PHASE
Palli Bhaban, 5 Kawranbazar, Dhaka-1215.
Phone: 02-41010341, email: pdiresppw@gmail.com

Memo No:47.62.0000.966.07.015.24-166 Date: 27/02/2025

e-Tender Notice
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works.

Tender ID	Name of Work	Tender last selling and closing date and time
Re-Tendered ID: 1044339	Procurement of sewing & embroidery machine	10/03/2025; 16:00 11/03/2025; 12:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Reshedul Alam
Project Director

GD-528

5 held over rape of teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday arrested five people in connection with the rape of a teenage girl in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

The arrestees are Mainul Haque, 22, Hasanur Rahman, 20, Yakub Ali, 24, Lal Mia, 40, and Sohel Rana, 21.

The five were arrested from different areas after a rape case was filed against them with Phulbari Police Station on Wednesday noon, said Mamunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Phulbari Police Station.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Mainul, one of the five alleged rapists, had an affair with the girl. Mainul called her out of the house on Wednesday. He took her to a garden, where he and his four accomplices raped her.

Golam Hossain, a 57-year-old farmer, scatters organic fertiliser across his Boro field in the Baraikhali village of Babuganj upazila in Barishal yesterday. He said fertiliser helps sustain the growth of the crop, ensuring he gets high-levels of yield down the line. PHOTO: TITU DAS

2-year-old girl killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

A speeding battery-run easy-bike hit a female police constable and her two-year-old daughter while they were crossing a road in Joypurhat town yesterday, leaving the child dead and her mother injured.

The accident occurred around 11:00am when Nazma Mariam, a reserve constable at Joypurhat Police Lines, was heading to her workplace with her daughter Israk on her lap.

OC Nur Alam Siddique of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station, said an easy-bike hit them from behind, leaving the child critically injured. She died at a hospital. Nazma is receiving treatment there.

BARISHAL CITY

CCTV cameras meant to catch thieves stolen

SHUSHANTA GHOSH

All CCTV cameras installed by the Barishal City Corporation (BCC) have either become inoperative or have been stolen, raising serious concerns about the city's security.

According to BCC sources, in 2017, 420 CCTV cameras were installed across 30 wards covering 58 square km of the city at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore.

Seventy monitoring booths were also set up; however, most of these booths are now in ruins, with cameras missing and cables stolen.

As a result, the entire city is currently without CCTV surveillance, complicating law enforcement efforts to solve crimes.

BCC's superintendent engineer, Humayun Kabir, said the CCTV project lacked logistical support, which led to the gradual deterioration of the cameras.

An inoperative CCTV camera in Barishal city. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Some were stolen, and there was no proper maintenance system in place to keep them functional.

BCC sources revealed that after August 5, nearly all CCTV cameras and cables installed by the city corporation were stolen, including 70 cameras from the Nagar Bhaban (City Hall) itself.

BCC Chief Executive Officer Md Rejaul Bari announced that an investigation would be conducted to determine if there was any negligence on the corporation's part.

He also mentioned that they are currently working to reinstall the cameras within the city corporation premises.

Meanwhile, the Barishal Metropolitan Police (BMP) have installed 207 CCTV cameras for crime prevention and traffic management.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

JULY UPRISING

4 cops detained over killing of student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four policemen, including former officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station in Gazipur, were arrested yesterday for their alleged involvement in the killing of Muhammad Hridoy, a college student, during the mass uprising in Gazipur on August 5.

The other three arrestees are former Gazipur Detective Branch inspector Mohammad Shafiqul Islam and constables Fahim Hasan and Mahmudul Hasan Sajeeb.

Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim, prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, said the four policemen were produced before the tribunal later in the day in connection with Hridoy's killing.

The tribunal ordered them to be sent to prison.

Tamim said a team from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch made the arrests, but he could not specify the locations.

Hridoy, 20, was an eleventh grader at Hemnagar Degree College and also worked as an auto-rickshaw driver in the Konabari area.

On August 5 last year, Hridoy was chanting slogans against the government on Konabari Road when some officers picked him up and slapped him. At one point, they opened fire, killing him on the spot.

A viral video shows police dragging Hridoy's motionless body inside Konabari Police Station, but his family never found his body.

In September last year, police constable Akram Hossain was arrested in connection with the killing.

Accreditation gets difficult for freelance journos

Press Accreditation Policy formulated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freelance journalists will now face stricter requirements to enter the secretariat under the new accreditation policy, as they must have at least 20 years of experience in journalism or be actively working on press issues to qualify.

According to the new Press Accreditation Policy, 2025, a news organisation can receive accreditation cards for up to 30 percent of its journalists, with a maximum of 15 per media outlet.

The policy applies to journalists working for both national and international media within Bangladesh.

The new policy serves as an update to the existing regulations, according to a gazette issued yesterday by Information and Broadcasting Ministry Secretary Mahbuba Farzana.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Ensure free drinking water at public places

HC gives govt one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a verdict yesterday declared the access to pure drinking and usable water a fundamental right of the citizens, saying it is the state's responsibility to ensure this right.

The court also directed the government to ensure pure drinking water for people without any cost at every important public place in the next one year. The public places include the courts, religious premises of worship, hospitals, railway stations, bazars and airports.

The HC also asked the state to take necessary measures to ensure pure drinking and usable water for every citizen at an affordable price within the next 10 years, said Deputy Attorney General Md Monjur Alam.

The bench of Justice Md Ashraful Kamal and Justice Kazi Waliul Islam came up with the directives after holding a hearing on the suomoto (voluntary) rule issued in 2020 in this regard.

Army chief

FROM PAGE 2

Born on July 26, 1984, in Chandpur, Sinha was the son of a freedom fighter. He joined the army through the 51st BMA Long Course in 2003 and was commissioned on December 22, 2004. Known for his skill and dedication, he had a distinguished military career before taking early retirement.

Yesterday's event was attended by Major General Mohammad Asadullah Minhajul Alam, GOC of the 10th Infantry Division and Area Commander of Cox's Bazar; Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, director general of BGB; Sinha's mother and sister; and senior officials from the army, BGB, police, and Rab.

China to get the job if BNP voted to power

FROM PAGE 12

of people living along the riverbanks.

"On our behalf, I tell you that if the people of Bangladesh elect us to government in the next election, we will be very happy to sign a deal to receive your support in developing a complete Teesta Barrage," he said.

The BNP leader also mentioned that the Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Yao Wen, told him he would personally visit the Teesta Barrage area.

The delegation, led by BNP Standing Committee member Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, attended the meeting and later joined a banquet hosted by the CPC leader at a hotel in the province.

Earlier, on Tuesday, the 21-member delegation, consisting of leaders from eight political parties, including the BNP, travelled to China for an 11-day visit at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Dr Moyeen said the current government is not taking the Teesta project since it is a transitional administration.

"A stable government will be established through the polls, which will be able to sign the deal and execute the project," the BNP leader told the meeting.

Dr Moyeen also hoped that China would continue supporting Bangladesh in modernising its agriculture and irrigation systems, alongside its cooperation in infrastructure development.

He mentioned that an increasing number of Bangladeshi students are pursuing higher education in China, particularly in science, technology, and modern disciplines, to contribute to national development.

The BNP leader hoped that China would offer more scholarships and enhance student exchange programs to facilitate quality education for Bangladeshi students.

About trade, he said China can supply high-quality essential items at affordable prices to meet the needs of the Bangladeshi people.

In response, CPC Deputy Secretary Xing Shanping reaffirmed China's strong commitment to its ties with Bangladesh, describing the country as a valued neighbour.

She said bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China have strengthened based on mutual cooperation and respect.

The CPC leader assured that China would continue its assistance for Bangladesh's development and the welfare of its people.

"We want to deepen our bilateral cooperation further in the days to come," she said.

She also expressed China's keen interest in investing in various sectors in Bangladesh, including agriculture, clean energy, education, science and technology, and infrastructure development.

Actor Gene Hackman

FROM PAGE 12

Hackman, a former Marine known for his raspy voice, appeared in more than 80 films, as well as on television and the stage during a lengthy career that started in the early 1960s.

He earned his first Oscar nomination for his breakout role as the brother of bank robber Clyde Barrow in 1967's "Bonnie and Clyde." He was also nominated for best supporting actor in 1971 for "I Never Sang for My Father".

It was his turn as Popeye Doyle, the rumpled New York detective chasing international drug dealers in director William Friedkin's thriller "The French Connection", that assured his stardom and a best actor Academy Award.

He also won a best supporting actor Oscar in 1993 as a mean sheriff in the Clint Eastwood western "Unforgiven", and was nominated for an Academy Award for his turn as an FBI agent in the 1988 historical drama "Mississippi Burning".

Hackman could come across on the screen as menacing or friendly, working with a face that he described to the New York Times in 1989 as that of "your everyday mine worker".

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তারিখ: ফাল্গুন, ১৪৩১ / ২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৫

সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি :

কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের ভোকেশনাল শাখা ও শাখাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে গ্রেড-১৩ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত ১৯ ক্যাটাগরির ৭৫১ (সাতশত একান্ন)টি রাজস্বখাতে শূন্য পদসমূহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পূরণের নিমিত্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে উল্লিখিত পদের বিপরীতে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে http://dtev.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম, বেতনস্কেল ও গ্রেড	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন
১.	**সাঁটলিপিকার-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর** বেতনক্রম : ১১০০০-২৬৫৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৩	১	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; (গ) সাঁটলিপিতে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ৮০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ৫০ শব্দ; এবং (ঘ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ।	
২.	**লাইব্রেরিয়ান** বেতনক্রম : ১১০০০-২৬৫৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৩	৬৫	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রিসহ লাইব্রেরি সায়েন্সে ডিপ্লোমা; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা।	
৩.	**সাঁট মুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর** বেতনক্রম : ১০২০০-২৪৬৮০/- গ্রেড : ১৪	২	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; (গ) সাঁটলিপিতে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ৭০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ৪৫ শব্দ; এবং (ঘ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ।	
৪.	**হিসাবরক্ষক** বেতনক্রম : ১০২০০-২৪৬৮০/- গ্রেড : ১৪	২৮	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে ব্যবসায় শিক্ষায় অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা।	সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন। **ইতোপূর্বে যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।**
৫.	**ইউডিএ কাম একাউনটেন্ট** বেতনক্রম : ৯৭০০-২৩৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৫	৪	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা।	
৬.	**এলডিএ কাম স্টোর কিপার** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	১৭	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে ব্যবসায় শিক্ষায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা।	
৭.	**সহকারী কাম স্টোর কিপার** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	১১	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে ব্যবসায় শিক্ষায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা।	
৮.	**অফিস সহকারী কাম স্টোর কিপার** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	৪৬	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে ব্যবসায় শিক্ষায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা।	
৯.	**এলডিএ কাম-টাইপিস্ট** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	২	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের জিপিএতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে সর্বনিম্ন গতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ।	
১০.	**অফিস সহকারী কাম টাইপিস্ট** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	২	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের জিপিএ-তে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ।	
১১.	**অফিস সহকারী কাম ডাটা এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল অপারেটর** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	২৭	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করিবার দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দ এবং বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ।	
১২.	**কেয়ার টেকার** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	৭৪	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করিবার দক্ষতা।	
১৩.	**ড্রাইভার কাম মেকানিক** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	২	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) ড্রাইভার (ভারি) এর ক্ষেত্রে বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সসহ ভারি যানবাহন চালনায় পারদর্শী এবং ড্রাইভার (হালকা) এর ক্ষেত্রে বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সসহ হালকা যানবাহন চালনায় পারদর্শী।	
১৪.	**এলডিএ কাম ক্যাশিয়ার** বেতনক্রম : ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- গ্রেড : ১৬	৭৯	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে ব্যবসায় শিক্ষায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটারে MS Office এ কাজ করার দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দ।	
১৫.	**ক্রাফট ইন্সট্রাক্টর (সপ)** বেতনক্রম : ৯০০০-২১৮০০/- গ্রেড : ১৭ ১। জেনারেল ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ওয়ার্কস- ০৫টি ২। ফার্ম মেশিনারী- ০২টি	৭	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে- (ক) সংশ্লিষ্ট ট্রেডে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট (ভোকেশনাল); অথবা (খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ট্রেডে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (ভোকেশনাল) বা দাখিল (ভোকেশনাল) সহ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অন্যূন ২ (দুই) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা; অথবা (গ) বিজ্ঞানে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে অন্যূন ১ (এক) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা; অথবা (ঘ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ ২ (দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদি ট্রেড কোর্সে উত্তীর্ণ বা জাতীয় দক্ষতা মান ২ এবং ৩ উত্তীর্ণ।	সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন। **ইতোপূর্বে যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।**
১৬.	**ক্রাফট ইন্সট্রাক্টর (ল্যাব)** বেতনক্রম : ৯০০০-২১৮০০/- গ্রেড : ১৭	১৫	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে- (ক) সংশ্লিষ্ট ট্রেডে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট (ভোকেশনাল); অথবা (খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ট্রেডে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (ভোকেশনাল) বা দাখিল (ভোকেশনাল) সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অন্যূন ২ (দুই) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা; অথবা (গ) বিজ্ঞানে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীরণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে অন্যূন ১ (এক) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা; অথবা (ঘ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ ২ (দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদি ট্রেড কোর্সে উত্তীর্ণ বা জাতীয় দক্ষতা মান ২ এবং ৩ উত্তীর্ণ।	
১৭.	**অফিস সহায়ক/নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী** বেতনক্রম : ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- গ্রেড : ২০	৪৭	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	
১৮.	**অফিস সহায়ক** বেতনক্রম : ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- গ্রেড : ২০	৩১৭	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	
১৯.	**অফিস সহায়ক/গার্ডেনার** বেতনক্রম : ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- গ্রেড : ২০	৫	কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	
	সর্বমোট =	**৭৫১টি**		

শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী :

১। **অন লাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান পদ্ধতিঃ**

ক. প্রার্থীগণ তাদের আবেদন http://dtev.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ

i. **Online এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়: ০৪/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সকাল ১০:০০ টা।**

ii. **Online এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ২৪/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সন্ধ্যা ০৬:০০ টা।**
উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

iii. শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে পর্যাপ্ত সময় নিয়ে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করতে প্রার্থীগণকে পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।

খ. Online এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৮০ Pixel) ও রঙ্গিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৩০০ Pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন।

গ. Online এ আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু আবেদন প্রেরণ করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনের সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনামতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। যদি Applicant's copy তে কোন ভুল তথ্য থাকে বা অস্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/ সম্পূর্ণ সাদা/ঘোলা) বা ছবি/স্বাক্ষর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে পুনরায় আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পরে আর কোন পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/ পরিবর্ধন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় বিধায় আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পূর্বে প্রার্থী অবশ্যই উক্ত Applicant's copy তে তার সাম্প্রতিক তোলা রঙিন ছবি, নির্ভুল তথ্য ও স্বাক্ষর সংযুক্ত থাকা ও এর সঠিকতার বিষয়টি PDF copy ডাউনলোড পূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে রঙিন প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। উক্ত Applicant's কপি প্রার্থী প্রিন্ট অথবা Download করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেওয়া থাকবে এবং এই User ID ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-Paid Mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে দুটি SMS করে পরীক্ষার ফি নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি'র ক্রমিক ০১ থেকে ১৪ পর্যন্ত পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ (ভ্যাটসহ) ১২/- (বারো) টাকাসহ অফেরতযোগ্য সর্বমোট ১১২/- (একশত বারো) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক ১৫ থেকে ১৯ পর্যন্ত পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ টাকা) ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/-(ছয়) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬(ছাপ্পান্ন) টাকা। **তবে সকল গ্রেডের অনগ্রসর (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গ)** প্রার্থীগণ পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ (ভ্যাটসহ) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ (অফেরতযোগ্য) সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাপান্ন) টাকা আবেদনের অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, "Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না"।

প্রথম SMS : DTEV<Space>**User ID** লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: DTEV ABCDEF
Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk. 112/56 will be charged as application fee, Your PIN is xxxxxxx.
To pay fee Type DTEV<space>YES<space>PIN and Send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS : DTEV<Space>**Yes**<Space>**PIN** লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: DTEV YES xxxxxxx
Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for DTE Recruitment Application for xxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxx).

চ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি http://dtev.teletalk.com.bd এই ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধু যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে। বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

ছ. SMS এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও ভেন্যুর নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী রঙ্গিন প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশ পত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশ গ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

জ. শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID, Serial এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

i) User ID জানা থাকলে DTEV<Space>Help<Space>User<Space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: **DTEV Help User ABCDEF** & Send to 16222

ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে DTEV<Space>Help<Space>PIN<Space>PIN No. লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: **DTEV Help PIN 1234567** & Send to 16222

ঝ. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণের নিয়মাবলী, SMS-এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের নিয়মাবলী ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি ওয়েবসাইট http://dtev.teletalk.com.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে।

ঞ. অনলাইনে আবেদন এবং টাকা জমার কাজটি প্রার্থী নিজে করবে। এক্ষেত্রে কোন ফ্লেক্সিলোডের অথবা কম্পিউটারের দোকান থেকে উক্ত কাজটি সম্পন্ন করে প্রার্থী প্রতারিত হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।

ট. অসত্য/ত্রুটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

২। সকল পদে **প্রার্থীর বয়স ০১/০২/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখে ১৮ হতে ৩২ বৎসরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।** বয়স সম্পর্কিত কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

৩। মন্ত্রণালয় বা বিভাগের সংযুক্ত অধিদপ্তর, পরিদপ্তর এবং দপ্তরের কমনপদ নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০১৯ অনুযায়ী **সাঁটলিপিকার কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর এবং সাঁট মুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর** পদে বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৪০ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

৪। এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত শূন্য পদ পূরণে "কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর ও অধিদপ্তরাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের ক্যাডার বহির্ভূত গেজেটেড ও নন-গেজেটেড (কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী) নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০২০" অনুসরণ করা হবে।

৫। ক্রমিক নং ১, ৩, ৯, ১০, ১১, ১৩ এবং ১৪ এ বর্ণিত পদের ক্ষেত্রে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থী ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় এবং ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থী মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। তাছাড়া, ক্রমিক নং ২, ৪-৮, ১২ এবং ১৫-১৯ এ বর্ণিত পদের ক্ষেত্রে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থী মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

৬। সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।

৭। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধানে কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

৮। কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারের সর্বশেষ পরিপত্র/বিধি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।

৯। ২৫/০৩/২০২৪ তারিখে জারিকৃত ১৬৭নং নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী যে সকল প্রার্থী ইতোপূর্বে বিভিন্ন কোটায় আবেদন করেছিল কিন্তু কোটা পদ্ধতি সংশোধন করার ফলে সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পরিপত্র অনুযায়ী যে সকল কোটা অন্তর্ভুক্ত নাই তাদের আবেদনসমূহ সাধারণ প্রার্থী হিসাবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।

১০। কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল বা নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া স্থগিত/বাতিল/প্রত্যাহার করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

১১। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ভুল তথ্য বা জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যেকোনো প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক প্রতিটির ০১টি করে সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে:

ক. প্রার্থীর সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রসহ);
খ. প্রবেশপত্রসহ পূরণকৃত রঙিন আবেদনপত্রের কপি (Applicant's Copy) এবং ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি;
গ. প্রার্থী যে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা সে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদ;
ঘ. জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে);
ঙ. মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাঙ্গনার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণক হিসেবে সরকারের সর্বশেষ নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক উপর্যুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ। ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গ কোটায় আবেদনকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে উপর্যুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ;
চ. কোনো প্রার্থী বিদেশ হতে তাঁর অর্জিত কোনো ডিগ্রীকে উল্লিখিত পদ/পদসমূহের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত কোনো শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সমমানের বলে দাবি করলে তাকে সে মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইকুইভ্যালেন্স কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ইকুইভ্যালেন্স সনদ।
ছ. Online-এ আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হইলে ১২১ এ কল করুন অথবা বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল ফেসবুক পেইজে https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdTeletalk প্রবেশ করে মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে, অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd এই ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail/মেসেজ এর Subject-এ Organization Name: DTEV, Post Name, Applicant's User ID ও contact number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।
জ. বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও www.techedu.gov.bd এবং http://dtev.teletalk.com.bd এ অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদ/পদসমূহের চূড়ান্ত সুপারিশ প্রণয়নের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ কোটানীতি অনুসরণ করা হবে।
ঝ. ডিক্লারেশন: প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রের প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়িলে বা কোন প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করিলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি নিয়োগের পরে যেকোন পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

১২. **২৫/০৩/২০২৪ তারিখে জারিকৃত ১৬৭ নং নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী ইতোমধ্যে যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।**

১৩. প্রাপ্ত আবেদন প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট (www.techedu.gov.bd) এবং এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে মোবাইল নম্বরে জানিয়ে দেওয়া হবে।

১৪. নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টি.এ./ডি.এ প্রদান করা হবে না।

১৫. নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

১৬. একজন প্রার্থী কেবলমাত্র একটি পদের বিপরীতে আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR Code

কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর এর টেলিটক পোর্টালের QR Code

২৪/২/২৫
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
ও
সভাপতি
বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন/বাছাই কমিটি
কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।

GD-530

Talks on annexed Ukrainian land 'non-negotiable'

Warns Russia

AFP, *Moscow*

The Kremlin yesterday ruled out any negotiation over the status of five Ukrainian regions it claims to have annexed despite not fully controlling four of them.

"The territories which have become subjects of the Russian Federation, which are inscribed in our country's constitution, are an inseparable part of our country. This is undeniable and non-negotiable," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

He also said that restoring ruptured ties with the United States was a process and neither side expected quick or easy decisions.

"No one expects decisions to be easy and quick. But with the political will of the two countries, with the willingness to listen and hear each other, we will be able to get through this working process," Peskov said.

At a meeting of the FSB security agency, Russian President Vladimir Putin said initial Russia-US talks "give some hope" of resolving "problems" like the Ukraine conflict.

A woman pleads for help to a member of the M23 movement in the Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern city of Bukavu yesterday. Crowds fled, and 11 people were killed as gunfire and explosions rang out at a mass rally held by rebel leader Corneille Nangaa in the city, residents said. PHOTO: AFP

Grant NHRC power

FROM PAGE 12

are sub-judice."

She also said courts should be allowed to refer cases to the NHRC for a perspective on human rights violations related to the case.

Mahdi Amin, adviser to BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, said there needs to be provisions for reparations in instances where false cases have been filed.

"My party has been the largest collective victim of human rights abuses. Over 60 lakh activists faced false cases. There are countries with entire populations lower than that number."

He stressed the need to ratify international conventions on human rights.

Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapaeeng Foundation, said the law needs to specify a time for the government to respond to the NHRC's summons for reports, to ensure the commission can hold the government accountable.

Speakers also said the definition of "human rights" should include the rights to privacy, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Meanwhile, Zakaria added that the NHRC needs to have financial autonomy. "The government needs to ensure that a fixed percentage of the national budget goes to the commission, or they should be given multi-year block funding. They should also be allowed to take external grants as long as it does not hamper the independence of the NHRC."

Dr Sharif Bhuiyan, deputy head of chambers at Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates, spoke about the need for the NHRC to be an autonomous institution by ensuring that the commission's recruitment is done independently.

At present, many members serve the commission on a voluntary basis, which means these are not their "real jobs," he said.

Zahid Hussain, human rights officer of the United Nations in Bangladesh, said the commission should have people who can act as a pressure group to address abuses by those close to power.

Kailash Robidas, a representative of the Dalit community, asked for a specific task force within the commission to deal with discrimination based on work and descent.

Dr Mohammad Mohiuddin, additional secretary of the law ministry's Legislative and Parliamentary Division, chaired the programme held at the Judicial Administration Training Institute.

EU's top team in India to bolster ties

AFP, *New Delhi*

The EU's top team arrived in India on an "unprecedented" visit yesterday, aiming to broaden commercial and diplomatic ties and hedge against souring relations with the United States.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and her college of commissioners were due to hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist government in New Delhi during the two-day trip.

"In this era of multiplying conflicts and intense geostrategic competition, Europe wants to strengthen its partnership with India, one of its most trusted friends," Von der Leyen said.

Start talks for next phase of Gaza truce

Hamas calls on Israel after prisoner exchange

AFP, *Gaza City*

Hamas yesterday called on Israel to enter negotiations for the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire after the group handed over the bodies of four hostages in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

The swap, undertaken under cover of night, was the last in an initial series agreed under the terms of the fragile truce, which took effect on January 19 and largely halted the war in Gaza.

Under the first phase of the deal, Hamas freed 25 living hostages and returned to Israel the bodies of eight others, some of them dual nationals.

Israel, in return, was expected to free around 1,900 Palestinian prisoners, among them women and minors, in staggered releases.

The Palestinian Prisoners Club advocacy group said Israel had freed 596 prisoners in exchange for the bodies yesterday.

Netanyahu instructs his delegation to depart for Cairo to continue truce talks

It said 46 prisoners were yet to be released to complete the swap -- "all women and minors from Gaza" who were arrested after the war began.

Negotiations for a second phase of the deal, which is meant to lead to a permanent end to the war, have yet to begin.

"We have cut off the path before the enemy's false justifications, and it has no choice but to start negotiations for the second phase," Hamas said on Telegram.

Bangladesh nosedives to 100th spot

FROM PAGE 12

political participation, and political culture. Based on these, countries are classified as full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid regimes, or authoritarian regimes.

This year, Norway ranked highest (9.81), while Afghanistan was the lowest (0.25). Nine of the top ten democracies are in Europe, with New Zealand being the only exception at second place.

Among the worst performers were Pakistan, South Korea, Kuwait, Georgia, Qatar, Romania, and Guinea-Bissau.

The report states that during Bangladesh's January 2024 general election, the then ruling party allegedly suppressed dissent, curtailed media freedoms, and manipulated results, intimidating opposition candidates.

Despite election rigging, grassroots movements -- especially youth-led initiatives -- emerged as forces for change, reflecting growing disillusionment with mainstream political parties.

However, the protests that ousted Sheikh Hasina in August 2024 also exposed sectarian tensions, with violent attacks on minorities in the aftermath.

According to EIU, the interim government faces pressure to hold elections but is prioritising reforms to restore democratic institutions, which could delay elections beyond 2025.

Human rights violated

FROM PAGE 12

Of those killed, 568 were students, 164 workers, 85 roadside vendors, 23 private employees, and 9 teachers and others.

Of the dead students, 265 were in colleges, 136 in schools, 106 in madrasas, and 61 in universities.

Of the 7,873 injured, 35 percent were in Dhaka division, 17 percent in Chattogram division, 16 percent in Rangpur division, and 11 percent in Sylhet division.

Fifty-eight percent of the injured had to bear their treatment costs at private hospitals, 32 percent were treated at government hospitals, and only 10 percent were treated for free at private facilities.

Most victims refrained from seeking legal recourse.

Family members of only 300 of the deceased victims had filed cases. Many of those who had not filed cases said they were afraid or they were threatened not to do it.

From August 6 to 31, attacks on properties skyrocketed. Arson accounted for 333 cases, vandalism and looting 300 cases, attacks on minority properties 223 cases, and attacks on temples and shrines 20 cases.

The study found that 65 percent or 573 of alleged perpetrators were police personnel, 16 percent Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, 9 percent Awami League activists, 2 percent Jubo League activists, and 3 percent Border Guard Bangladesh personnel.

At least 44 policemen were killed in different places.

At least 353 women were injured, six killed, 68 tortured, and 113 threatened.

Nurunnabi Shanto, project coordinator of Manobadhikar Shongskriti Foundation, presented the findings at yesterday's event.

The study urges the government to provide legal aid, economic rehabilitation and urgent medical and psychological support for victims. It also recommends that the government take steps so that human rights abuses do not take place in the future.

It also urges comprehensive reforms to ensure accountability of police, constitutional amendments, an end to arbitrary arrests, and protections for democratic freedoms.

Saidur Rahman, chief executive of Manobadhikar Shongskriti Foundation, said a culture of fear persisted.

Human rights lawyer Salma Ali said there must be reforms in the police to make the force friendly towards women and children.

30 from pvt univs

FROM PAGE 12

They announced their decisions to step down from the posts of joint convenor and joint member secretary, respectively, through separate Facebook posts.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Salahuddin and Mehedi said the new student organisation lacked inclusivity as stakeholders from Rajshahi University were not consulted before its launch.

They added that RU students expressed dissatisfaction with this political platform so they could align themselves with it.

'INDEPENDENT BODY'

Abu Baker Majumder, convener of the new student body, announced the full committee in front of the Madhur Canteen at the Dhaka University campus around 4:30pm yesterday.

Before unveiling the committee, Abu Baker shared the vision for the new student organisation, focusing on the need for change in student politics.

"We've discussed with students the ideal structure for a student organisation in a new Bangladesh. Students no longer want politics tied to major party affiliations. Our organisation will be independent of such practices, with leadership democratically elected and an age limit enforced," he said.

The central committee has set the age limit at 28, allowing students to hold leadership roles for a maximum of seven years after enrolling.

Addressing an unexpected disruption during the inauguration, Abu Baker explained, "A group caused trouble, preventing the full committee announcement. We've resolved the issue and will ensure it doesn't recur."

He also announced the formation of a three-member probe committee to investigate the incident.

Abu Baker reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to the ideals of the July uprising and encouraged students to join various units within the organisation.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

"Education, Unity, Liberation" is the motto of the new student organisation.

The central committee is as follows: Abu Baker Majumder, convener; Tawhid Mohammad Siam, senior joint convener; Zahid Ahsan, member secretary; Al Mashnun, senior joint member secretary; Tahmid Al Muddassir Chowdhury, chief organiser; and Ashrefa Khatun, spokesperson.

The organisation's 250-member DU unit will have Abdul Kader as convener; Limon Mahmud Hasan as senior joint convener; Mohir Alam as member secretary; Al Amin Sarker as senior joint member secretary; Hasib Al Islam as chief organiser; and Rafia Rehnuma Hridi as spokesperson.

SCUFFLE MARS LAUNCH

Led by former leaders of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), the new student body was officially launched on Wednesday amid protests by private university students for their exclusion despite their role in the July uprising. Both groups even engaged in scuffles, chases and counter-chases.

Later that night, after the blockade of Banglamotor, private university students, who have long been alleging their exclusion from all post-August 5 platforms and committees, demanded immediate dissolution of the committee prepared without their representation and threatened demonstrations across private universities if their demand is not met.

They also threatened to go for a programme called "Dhaka Blockade" on Friday, the day a new political party is to be launched by members of SAD and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

According to private university students, they have decided not to enforce the "Dhaka Blockade" on Friday.

Govt engaging with Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 12

Myanmar has been in civil war since the military coup that ousted the democratic government in February 2021.

The National Unity Government, the shadow government formed by the political leaders, and dozens of other ethnic groups, have been fighting the junta since then.

The AA, which seeks autonomy in Rakhine, controls the entire 271-kilometre-long border with Bangladesh and more than a million Rohingyas fled that state to Bangladesh.

"Mind you, this is our border and we have to protect, make it secure and make sure that we work in collaboration with whoever is on the other side. We reached out to them at a certain level," Rahman said.

Before that, he held a meeting with Julie Bishop, the UN secretary general's special envoy on Myanmar, over drafting a statement for the UN secretary general to the AA.

The statement communicated that the AA has to respect international human rights principles and abide by international laws.

At the seminar, Rahman also said, "A new neighbour is emerging and Bangladesh wants to be friendly with them and not dominate them. This is our only land border outside of our border with India. It is also in our national interest to reach out to them. We can begin the process of building trust, building confidence and lay the basis of longtime friendly relations."

He said he made it very clear that Bangladesh does not have any pipeline through Rakhine or any transit projects through Rakhine.

Abdul Hafiz, special assistant to the chief adviser on defence and national solidarity development, said diplomacy, backed by strategic deterrence based on a national consensus, is critical to protecting national interests.

He underscored Bangladesh's priority of ensuring safe, dignified and voluntary Rohingya repatriation.

Keynote speaker Ambassador Md Sufiur Rahman, a senior research fellow at SIPG, provided an analytical overview of the shifting political landscape in Rakhine.

He highlighted that 750,000 people have been displaced from Rakhine and that poverty in Rakhine has ascended to alarming levels.

He believes Bangladesh can play a pivotal stabilising role by providing humanitarian support and strengthening economic ties between Chittagong and Rakhine.

"Economic linkages can serve as a pathway to broader cooperation and peacebuilding," he said, while suggesting leveraging this to secure a peaceful border and a friendly neighbour.

Sk Tawfique M Haque, director of SIPG, urged a pragmatic policy toward the AA by recognising the fast-evolving situation in Rakhine and stopping the slow and silent influx of Rohingya Refugees since October 2023.

Bangladesh should balance security concerns with economic and diplomatic goals, he added.

Most victims abused by husbands

FROM PAGE 12

face IPV.

Among divisions, Barishal and Khulna have the highest IPV rates at 81.5 percent, while Sylhet reports the lowest at 72.1 percent. In Dhaka, the IPV rate is 72.9 percent, in Chattogram 78.5 percent, in Mymensingh 75.1 percent, in Rajshahi 74.5 percent, and in Rangpur 74.1 percent.

The study further showed that the most prevalent forms of IPV were controlling behaviour and emotional violence, highlighting psychological abuse as a critical concern.

This landmark national survey -- the third of its kind, following studies in 2011 and 2015 -- offers comprehensive and up-to-date insights into the scale and impact of violence against women in Bangladesh, BBS officials said.

The findings are based on UN standard measures widely used for global monitoring of violence against women.

Despite the high prevalence of IPV, the survey found that 64 percent of victims never shared their experiences with anyone. Only 7.4 percent seek legal action, while 93.6 percent do not.

This silence stems from factors such as a desire to protect family reputation, concerns for their children's well-being, and the perception that such violence is "normal."

The survey also highlighted significant disparities in vulnerability, with women in disaster-prone areas at higher risk of IPV -- both in their lifetime and in the past 12 months.

BBS Director General Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, who chaired the event, said, "The survey is vital to understanding violence against women in the country. With previous surveys in 2011 and 2015, this third iteration in 2024 reaffirms Bangladesh's leadership in South Asia on this critical issue.

"This household-based survey interviewed 27,476 women across urban, rural, disaster-prone, and slum areas, incorporating qualitative data for the first time. By capturing the experiences of women aged 15 and above, from both intimate partners and non-partners, the survey provides invaluable insights to shape policies and interventions to end violence against women."

Aleya Akter, secretary of BBS's statistics and informatics division, highlighted the survey's role in strengthening gender statistics.

"The 2024 Violence Against Women Survey provides essential data to track SDG-5, including key VAW indicators for Bangladesh's Voluntary National Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2025. This data will guide national efforts to enhance response and drive action to end violence against women."

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid stressed the importance of quality data in policy-making.

"This survey is crucial for developing evidence-based strategies to eradicate violence against women and build a gender-equitable, discrimination-free society."

UNFPA representative Masaki Watabe praised the strong collaboration between BBS and the women and children affairs ministry.

"This report is more than just statistics--it is a vital tool for developing evidence-based strategies to combat violence against women. While some progress has been made, we must intensify efforts and invest more in ensuring that every woman and girl in Bangladesh can live free from violence."

The Daily Star
FOUNDER EDITOR: **LATE S. M. ALI**

End the legacy of banking plunder

New data reveals how far the rot of bad loans reached under Awami regime

It is quite telling that defaulted loans in the banking sector reached a record Tk 3,45,756 crore by the end of 2024, as per the latest data from Bangladesh Bank. A major factor behind this rise is the long-overdue exposure of financial corruption and cover-ups under the former regime. For years, as non-performing loans (NPLs) continued to rise, we repeatedly pointed out how the Awami League government was using various state and non-state entities to obscure the true extent of NPLs through accounting manipulation. Financial fraud was concealed through deceptive tactics, and the lack of transparency made it difficult to assess the true condition of our banks, even though the public had long suspected the severity of the crisis.

The interim authorities deserve credit for bringing the truth to light. However, this may have been the easier part. The real challenge lies in reversing this trend and recovering as much of the lost money as possible, whether through selling collateral or other means. The situation has been particularly complicated by the massive defaults of some borrowers, such as S Alam Group and Beximco Group, following Awami League's departure. As a result, total defaulted loans have reached an unprecedented level. According to the central bank, the defaulted loan ratio for state-run banks stood at 42.83 percent, while that of private sector banks was 15.60 percent.

Among state banks, Janata had the highest volume of bad loans at the end of last year, with as much as 66.8 percent of its total outstanding loans classified as non-performing. Of Janata's Tk 67,300 crore in defaulted loans, approximately Tk 23,000 crore belongs to Beximco, which was classified as defaulted in the last quarter of 2024. Meanwhile, S Alam Group's defaulted loans at Janata Bank reached Tk 10,200 crore.

Across the sector, similar looting by oligarchs connected to the fallen regime has left a number of banks extremely vulnerable. Even more concerning is the risk that legitimate businesses, struggling as they are in a slow economy, may find it difficult to repay their loans, further worsening the NPL crisis. Under these circumstances, it is crucial for the authorities to send the right signals to help restore confidence in the sector.

The authorities must work diligently to ensure that banks recover risky loans and that stolen funds parked abroad are reclaimed through diplomatic efforts. They also must restore oversight mechanisms and regulatory institutions that have become dysfunctional, ensuring they serve the interests of the nation rather than political elites. They also must hold to account those responsible for the crisis—including corrupt bankers, policymakers, and borrowers—so that such reckless mismanagement is not repeated again.

Refrain from student politics of old

Chaotic launch of a student body harks back to toxic politics of past

Given the July uprising's promise of a new political landscape free from toxic and self-serving partisanship, students' involvement in politics or any other organised activity has since attracted great interest. On Wednesday, we saw the launching of a new student organisation—Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS)—led by some former leaders of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) platform that coordinated the uprising. This was expected to be a step towards that lofty vision. However, we were greatly disappointed to see skirmishes erupting between BGCS supporters and a group of private university students during the launching event.

According to a report in this daily, private university students were protesting their "exclusion" from the central committee of BGCS, demanding its dissolution. This led to scuffles that left several injured, including female students, with at least two hospitalised. Later, the private university students blocked the Bangla Motor intersection for an hour protesting the "attack" by supporters of the BGCS.

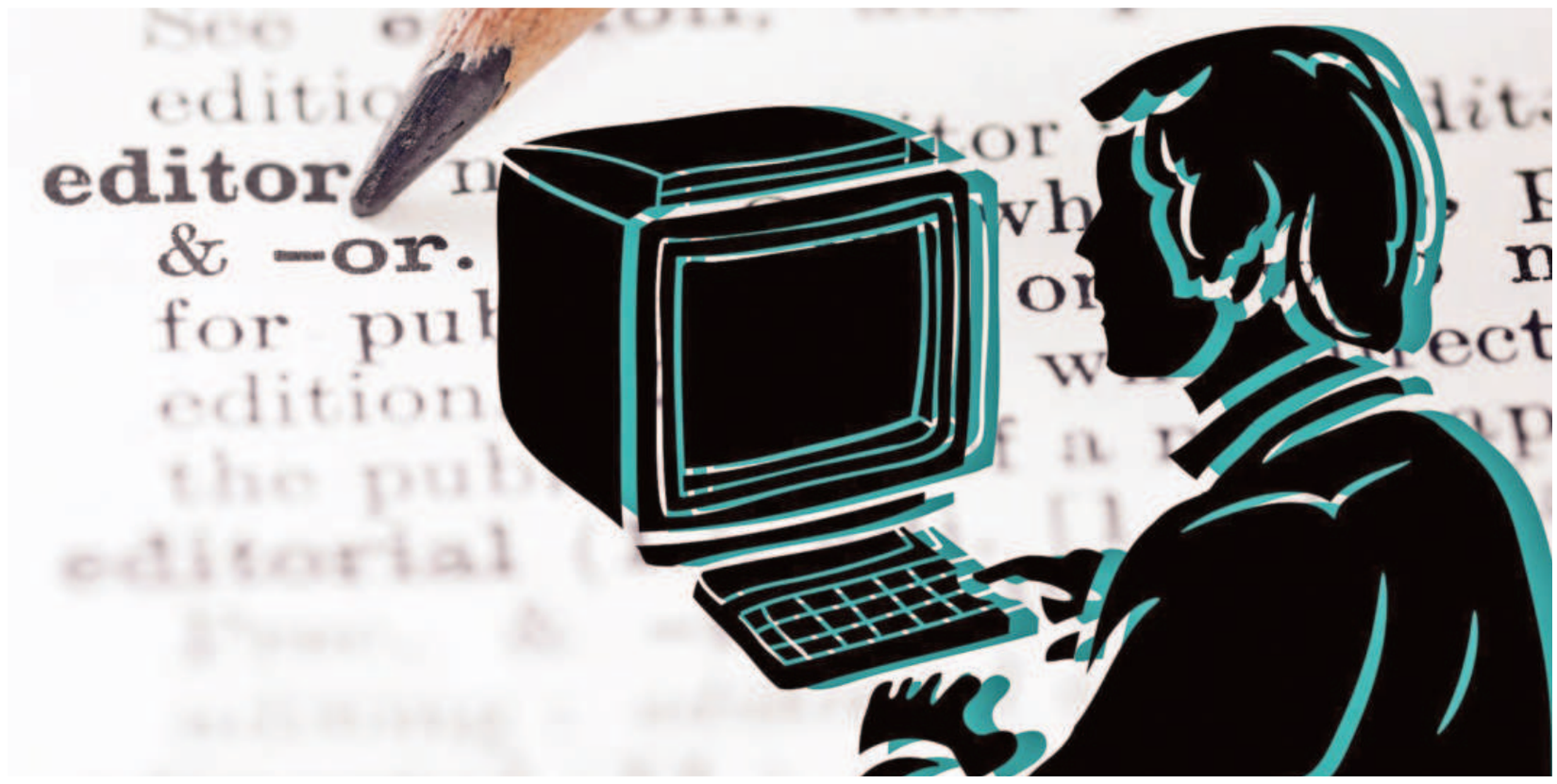
The names of six of BGCS's central committee—including chief organiser, convener, member secretary, and spokesperson—that were initially announced had no private university representation. However, on Thursday, at a press conference, the BGCS announced a full 200-member committee that included students from both private and public universities, madrasas, colleges under the National University, and so on. This raises questions about whether Wednesday's clash was a misunderstanding or a symptom of deeper tensions. Whatever may be the reason, such incidents bear disturbing similarities to the violent, power-hungry politics that plagued our university campuses for decades—precisely what the uprising sought to move beyond, among other authoritarian tendencies and practices.

Wednesday's incident thus goes against the values and ideals students were expected to represent. We urge the leaders of the new student organisation, and all pre-existing student bodies, to distance themselves from the divisive politics of the past, unequivocally reject any sort of violence, and ensure that such incidents do not recur. If they are to embody the values of the uprising, they must prove that student politics can be democratic, inclusive, and free of factionalism.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

'228 Incident' in Taipei

A day after a vendor was assaulted by a government agent in Taipei, protests against the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) spread across Taiwan. Known as the 228 Incident, the uprising was violently suppressed, resulting in thousands dead and decades of martial law.



VISUAL: **SIFAT AFRIN SHAMS**

Editors, don't become PROs of proprietors

How some editors are destroying the editorial institution

THE THIRD VIEW

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

MAHFUZ ANAM

Having been a journalist since 1972 and an editor-publisher since 1993, it saddens me deeply to see some editors, instead of embellishing, strengthening, and bringing more honour and dignity to their position, are doing the exact opposite: bringing shame, disrepute, and indignity by acting as public relations officers (PROs) of their owners.

Editorship is, no doubt, a job. However, far more importantly, it is a position of public trust. It is on that trust that the credibility of a particular media outlet depends, which, at the end of the day, determines its success. An editor must adhere to the fundamental ethics of journalism: truth, objectivity, honesty, and a complete absence of bias. Every story must be fact-based, verified by multiple sources, and the person or the institution being written about be given a chance to respond. Yes, proprietors may, and can and sometimes do, have an agenda of their own, but it is the editor's duty to protect his/her institution from gross misuse.

A prerequisite of being an editor—qualities far more important than his/her ability to write, edit, direct, lead, brief reporters, have a nose for stories, etc—is to have sufficient self-respect, personal courage, and dignity to never to allow the media under his control to be used to spread lies and hatred, defame, and falsely malign. When a proprietor forces an editor to publish something, the latter must ensure two things: one, that it is fact-based; and, two, that the other side is given a chance to respond. If all his/her efforts fail, he/she should resign and go public to show how he/she tried to save journalism from being exploited. That is how the editorial institution is built and the public respect for it grows.

It is not uncommon for proprietors and editors to have political leanings. But that should be in the opinion section and should never cloud reporting, which should only be fact-based and adhere to the fundamental ethics of journalism.

A proprietor can own anything permitted by law. But there is a difference between owning a shoe factory and a pharmaceutical company. As the owner of the former, he/she can experiment with practically anything: design, colour, material, shape, etc. But in the case of the latter, the owner must totally and completely submit to the professional management and allow complete freedom to operate the factory according to all scientific specifications. Can an owner tell a doctor how to treat a patient or which medicine to prescribe for which malady? Similarly, the media must be run by professional journalists. An owner must allow total independence of the professionals, led by the editor, to run a media establishment in an unbiased and fact-based manner.

The purpose of this column is to raise the issue of owner-driven journalism versus professional journalism, a PRO-editorship versus professional editorship.

Let us remember with pride that only two professions are given protection in any democratic country's constitution: the judiciary and mass media. Why? Because experience has shown that an independent judiciary acts as a pillar of democracy, and free media serves the essential purpose of assuring accountability and transparency of the governance process.

What I write below—without mentioning the names of either the newspapers or their editors—is not aimed at shaming journalists or fellow editors, but at raising the issue of how we are destroying the editorial institution and thereby bringing disrepute and ignominy to our highly esteemed profession.

Today, I appeal again to all journalists, and especially to fellow editors, to move away from all our past prejudice, hatred, biases, and tendency to make fatal compromises and, alongside rebuilding Bangladesh in the post-July-August 2024 era, also rebuild journalism with renewed pledge to our journalistic ethos and commitment to democracy, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and public service.

On February 23, three newspapers—two Bangla and one English—published the same report, with the same headline, "Prothom Alo, Daily Star: The 'masterminds' behind plot to eliminate Begum Zia from politics," referring to the events that occurred in 2007—18 years ago. What sort of journalism is it when the same text—word for word—is published in multiple newspapers, each claiming it to be written by their own "special correspondent"? What does it say about the "editor's" authority in deciding on content? Where does such content originate from, what is the process of its verification, and what leads editors to carry such content without any explanation to its readers? This is when editors relinquish their authority and become PROs of their media owners.

The story line is: *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* masterminded the ouster of Khaleda Zia from politics. The reports begin like this, "In 2007, a blueprint was devised to destroy democracy in Bangladesh and depoliticise the country. One of the key architects of the blueprint was the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star group. The two newspapers not only played (a) key role in formulating the plan but also engaged in relentless smear campaigns to eliminate BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from politics."

Recently, I came across a term in Bangla—*'shikari sangbadikota'* ('target journalism'), meaning journalism designed to target an individual, institution, personality, editor, or newspaper without proof. The purpose is to denigrate, malign or discredit someone. Just as one hires an assassin to kill someone, one hires *'shikari sangbadik'* to assassinate the character of a person of high repute or a newspaper of high standing.

The origin of the story is a press conference held by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the then secretary general of BNP, which was covered by all newspapers and TV stations at the time. We were able to gather the following few: "Khaleda Zia baad" by *Ittefaq*; "Khaleda Zia out" by *Sangbad*; "BNP's reform initiative keeping Khaleda Zia out" (translated) by *Inquilab*; "Proposal to reduce the power of BNP chairperson" (translated) by *Naya Diganta*; "BNP reform plan shows door to Khaleda" by *The Bangladesh Observer*; and "BNP's reform proposals" (translated) by *Janakantha*. The reports of the three newspapers singled us out and did not mention that all others newspapers published the same story. We had similar heading and content as the others.

What is striking is that this very line of propaganda was followed by the fallen regime, which is now being repeated by these three papers. *The Daily Star* and *Prothom Alo*—because we spoke truth to power—were accused by Sheikh Hasina and Awami League ministers and party leaders that we were behind the 1/11 army-backed caretaker government—again without submitting an iota of proof. For 15 years, Hasina and her party held unquestioned power. They must have investigated us as thoroughly as can be imagined. They found no proof. That is why, in spite of lodging 84 cases against this writer—16 of which were for sedition—they did not follow through.

On what basis, using what proof did the three newspapers' journalists write this common copy, and why did three separate editors allow this story to be printed? What fact-checking did they do? What sort of authentic—as against biased—investigation did they undertake? And how could the editors violate the most basic norm of journalism, and not give the subjects of the report any chance to respond?

Among many reforms that Bangladeshi newspapers must undertake—and we are looking forward to the report of the Media Reform Commission—an important one is to move away from "owner-driven journalism" to "editor-driven journalism."

The three newspapers in question have published false, twisted, distorted reports against us many times before, similarly without evidence. On April 21, 2011, the Bangladesh Press Council passed a stern judgement against one of the said newspapers on its reporting against Matiur Rahman, editor of *Prothom Alo*, saying that "... reporting constituted yellow journalism which is a violation of newspaper ethics." A similar judgement was passed against the other Bangla newspaper on May 12, 2011 on another report against the *Prothom Alo* editor, saying "... the report was false, fictitious and was an example of yellow journalism." On both occasions, the editors and publisher of those newspapers were reprimanded. Similar condemnatory judgements was passed by the press council and delivered against all three newspapers on May 22-24, 2013, who were accused of publishing false, fictitious, derogatory, and unsubstantiated news against *Prothom Alo* and its editor.

Recently, I came across a term in Bangla—"*shikari sangbadikota*" ("target journalism"), meaning journalism designed to target an individual, institution, personality, editor, or newspaper without proof. The purpose is to denigrate, malign or discredit someone. Just as one hires an assassin to kill someone, one hires "*shikari sangbadik*" to assassinate the character of a person of high repute or a newspaper of high standing.

I appealed to journalists in a piece I wrote on April 7, 2023, titled "Only journalists can protect journalism." This was in response to a vicious, Goebbels-style campaign, conducted by a private TV station against *Prothom Alo* about a photo of a child published with a quote from a day labourer as a photo card. The TV station accused *Prothom Alo* of "conspiring to destabilise our independence and make our Liberation War questionable." The *Prothom Alo* editor was sued under the infamous Digital Security Act (DSA) and his Savar correspondent was picked up, gangster-style, without a warrant. Sadly, other than the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), no other journalists' body or media organisation said a word.

Today, I appeal again to all journalists, and especially to fellow editors, to move away from all our past prejudice, hatred, biases, and tendency to make fatal compromises and, alongside rebuilding Bangladesh in the post-July-August 2024 era, also rebuild journalism with renewed pledge to our journalistic ethos and commitment to democracy, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and public service.

Editors, please don't sacrifice your dignity and become PROs of the proprietors.

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Why the army's prolonged role in law enforcement is not a good idea

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SYED MUNIR KHASRU

On Monday, Chief of Army Staff Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman said the army must continue working to maintain law and order until Bangladesh gets an elected government. Although he also stated that "it is imperative that we perform our duties without engaging in any unruly behaviour," only a week before that, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) issued a statement on February 17 at a press conference on recent involvement of active and former military personnel in two high-profile robberies in Mohammadpur and Banani and on military's efforts to curb crime. As per the statement, when comparing data of December 2024 to February 2025, the military-assisted operations have significantly reduced extortion cases from 250 to 110, theft from 850 to 600, and murder from 350 to 120. Also, 334 drug dealers have been arrested, with large amounts of illicit drugs seized along with 172 illegal weapons and 527 bullets. Despite the apparent success, fact remains that some crimes remain high. Approximately 1,400 weapons and 250,000 rounds of ammunition stolen following the July uprising are still unaccounted for.

What was supposed to be a two-month emergency measure has quietly stretched into a military-supported status quo. Back in September 2024, the interim government handed magistracy powers to the army, justifying it as a necessary step to restore law and order. However, compared to December 2024, murder cases increased from 204 to 294 in January 2025 while theft increased slightly to 797 compared to 729 in December 2024. Moreover, the recent abduction of 25 rubber plantation workers in Bandarban indicates ongoing lawlessness in remote regions, where insurgent groups and organised crime networks continue to operate. Violence against women and children also remains high, with 1,043 cases reported in January 2025, a marginal decline from 1,205 in December 2024, suggesting that deep-rooted societal and institutional issues are not being effectively addressed.

As March 2025 unfolds and the month of fasting begins, the law-and-order situation seems to be sliding in spite of the army's supportive role. While the army's presence may have helped reduce unrest, soldiers are not trained to deal with criminal activities in civilian life like rape, dacoity, mugging, looting, arson, toll collection, etc. Unless the root causes—i.e. corruption, economic inequality, and festering political divisions—are addressed, mere presence of the army on the streets will not help resolve the ongoing law and order crisis. It resonates with the army chief's observation, "The disorders that have happened here are of our own making... We have created these ourselves. We have to keep in mind that if we continue the contrary actions, peace and order will never be restored."

Operation Devil Hunt: A temporary fix?

The government's Operation Devil Hunt, launched on February 8, 2025, is a recent major effort to tackle unrest and crime. It has led to 10,570 arrests till February 26, including 1,141 people already wanted for various crimes. Authorities have seized weapons and ammunition. While these arrests show the state's ability to crack down on disorder, they do not address the deeper causes of instability. It may bring temporary order and relief, but without real change, it is unlikely to create lasting peace.

History shows that prolonged military involvement in law enforcement risks power being misused, as it came out in the ISPR press briefing. If long-term stability is the goal, then focus should shift towards institutional reforms, which includes professional policing and building an effective judicial system. The army's presence may have the symbolic value of show of strength and generating confidence among the citizens, but it is not a panacea to deep-rooted socioeconomic chasm, intolerant political culture, and extreme swings on the political and ideological landscape of Bangladesh.

Ongoing civil unrest

In the recent past, the army's support was required to respond to law and order crises, including 30 road blockades in key industrial areas like Gazipur, Ashulia, and Savar. They also managed 42 chaotic situations, including 14 at educational institutions, nine tied to political conflicts, and 16 involving public disorder. However, despite army's presence, unrest remains widespread.

On February 5, as an angry mob demolished the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32, the army personnel present in the scene remained passive. Hence, the chief adviser's statement that the incident was undesired did not have much buy-in from the critics as live telecast showed troops at the site largely remaining inactive. More recently, on February 16, drivers of CNG-run autorickshaws blocked the roads in Mirpur-1, Mirpur-14, and Rampura, among other places, protesting fines for overcharging passengers. They stopped moving autorickshaws with passengers, worsening traffic. A similar protest had already taken place on February 13 along Mirpur Road, causing public distress and intense traffic.

Army personnel check a private car on Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka in the early hours of February 26, 2025, amid the recent spike of crimes in the city as well as across the country. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tensions within educational institutions have intensified. On February 18, a violent confrontation erupted at the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) between members of Students Against Discrimination and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, BNP's student wing, resulting in injuries to at least 50 students, some suffering from sharp weapon wounds. The dispute arose due to restrictions on student political activities that have been in place at KUET since August 2024.

The violence sparked protests at multiple universities. Students Against Discrimination held rallies at Dhaka University, while similar demonstrations erupted at Jahangirnagar University, Chittagong University, Rajshahi University, and Jagannath University. At KUET, students have demanded a total ban on student politics, among others. Until these demands are met, classes and exams remain suspended.

All of the above exemplifies that one cannot expect the army to effectively control all forms of civil unrest. These issues are traditionally handled by the civil administration and police force working in tandem. Hence, it is the government's responsibility to reform and empower the police to maintain law and order and ensure stability, especially before and during the elections. As aptly stated by the army chief, "Maintaining law and order is not the responsibility of the army alone. Apart from 200,000 police personnel, there are BGB, Rab, and Ansar-VDP members. Army has only 30,000 troops deployed. How can I fill this void with just 30,000 soldiers?"

Past lessons should not be forgotten

Currently, the army is not in the driving seat as it was during the military-backed caretaker government of 2006-2008, and this time its role is focused on maintaining law and order in a more restrained manner. However, the prolonged use of military power, in whatever form or manner, carries an inherent risk even when efforts are made to act in a cooperative and measured way.

During 2006-2008, the army's image was negatively affected by accusations of human rights violations and political suppression. Additionally, the economic downturn during that time was exacerbated by heavy-handed military control. Investors were hesitant and industries suffered from the absence of a proper civilian legal framework. Similar risks loom if the army remains engaged in supporting law enforcement beyond the necessary timeframe.

The military has shown reluctance to remain in power for extended periods, understanding that prolonged involvement in governance risks tarnishing its reputation. Unlike the Pakistan Army, the Bangladesh Army does not get engaged in the affairs of running the country, either openly or overtly. Hence, the interim government should not extend military magistracy beyond Eid-ul-Fitr, and should find ways to install confidence in the police, who are yet to recover from the trauma of the recent past. On that note, a clear transition plan should be put in place without delay so that regular law enforcers are in the driving seat, properly empowered by the government.

What lies ahead

The current state of law and order is epitomised by five syndromes: i) an army in a supportive role whereby they are not fully functional, and hence not fully effective either; ii) a shaken and traumatised police force with low morale, high insecurity, and resulting passivity and inefficiency; iii) an indecisive government lacking the courage to lead the nation out of the mess in the aftermath of the ouster of Sheikh Hasina government; iv) an evolving political landscape which is raising concern and eroding optimism that the nation had in the immediate aftermath of August 5, 2024; and v) a country on a slippery slope as uncertainty on elections and reforms dampen the positive spirit and democratic aspirations of the people. Continuance of any or all of the above cannot bode well for the nation, as echoed by the army chief, "I am warning you. If you cannot forget your differences and work together, if you engage in mudslinging and fighting, the independence and sovereignty of this country and nation will be at stake."

The problem is that those who are in a position to do something about it seem to be in slumber or in a state of denial or too scared to do the needful. The army's limited and supportive role in maintaining law and order will not help address any of these three situations prevailing in the mindset of those who were given the responsibility to steer the nation to a new dawn of hope and aspiration, positivity and prosperity. The interim government must find ways to effectively govern the country by being decisive and firm in dealing with the troublemakers, paving the way for the army to return to the barracks sooner than later. Otherwise, it may become increasingly difficult for the army chief to ensure, "While performing duties we must avoid the use of force, it may be applied only when absolutely necessary."

How can a convicted killer escape?

MIND THE GAP

Barrister Noshin Nawal
is an activist, feminist, and a columnist for The Daily Star. She can be reached at nawalnoshin1@gmail.com.

NOSHIN NAWAL

I would love to tell you that I was surprised. That I gasped in horror when I read the news. That I clutched my imaginary pearls and whispered, "Oh dear, how could this have happened?" But alas, I am a Bangladeshi. I read horrors in ink and paper every day. Here, law and order are just suggestions, and justice is an occasional guest appearance on this tragicomic reality-show we call governance.

Muntasir Al Jemy, one of the men sentenced to death for the brutal murder of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) student Abrar Fahad, escaped from Kashimpur Central Jail on August 6 last year. Yes, you read that correctly. Last year. Not yesterday. Not last week.

And the authorities—those fine, upstanding guardians of justice—decided to keep this little detail to themselves for a neat six months.

Why, you ask? Oh, the usual reasons—bureaucratic inefficiency, incompetence, and, most likely, a cocktail of corruption and apathy. But let's give them the benefit of the doubt. Maybe they were too busy doing—oh, I don't know—absolutely nothing to bring Abrar's murderers to real justice. Maybe they were taking an extended nap, rocked gently to sleep by the lullaby of impunity that has become the theme song of our criminal justice system.

It wasn't until Jemy's lawyer failed to show up in court that anyone thought to wonder, "Hey, where is this guy, anyway?" Imagine that—a convicted killer disappears, and the only reason it comes to light is because his legal team ghosted a hearing. I can't decide whether this is a crime thriller or a bad sitcom.

Let's be clear, Jemy was in a condemned cell. That means maximum security. That means he was supposed to be under constant watch. That means there were protocols in place—except, apparently, in Kashimpur, where the only protocol is "Oops, my bad."

This isn't just about one escaped convict. This is about the rot at the heart of our justice system. This is about the fact that our prisons are about as secure as a leaky tin roof during monsoon. This is about the fact that our government, our institutions, and the very people who are supposed to uphold justice, seem to be in a committed relationship with impunity.

The official excuse? A jailbreak involving 209 prisoners. That's right—over two hundred criminals waltzed out of prison like it was an Eid sale at Bashundhara City.

But here's the kicker: it's not even the escape itself that enrages me the most. It's the duplicity. The deliberate silence. The casual, callous disregard for Abrar's family, who had to find out, six months later, that their son's murderer is out there, free as a bird. And for what? To avoid embarrassment? To sweep yet another failure under the rug?

And what does this tell us about the "efforts" to recapture Jemy? Exactly what Faiyaz, Abrar's younger brother, pointed out—there weren't any. Because if there had been, we would have heard about it. There would have been press conferences, wanted posters, manhunts. Instead, there was silence, because the authorities knew that if they didn't say anything, they wouldn't have to do anything.

This isn't just about one escaped convict. This is about the rot at the heart of our justice system. This is about the fact that our prisons are about as secure as a leaky tin roof during monsoon. This is about the fact that our government, our institutions, and the very people who are supposed to uphold justice, seem to be in a committed relationship with impunity.

And while they get away with it, families like Abrar's are left to suffer. Left to wake up every day knowing that the very system that promised justice is the same one that lets it slip through the cracks—no, scratch that—march out the front door.

If the authorities have even an ounce of shame left, they need to do two things immediately. First, find Jemy. And second, explain—truthfully, transparently—why they hid this from the public for so long. And if they can't do either, they should at least have the decency to admit that they are unfit for their jobs and resign.

But then again, accountability isn't really a thing here, is it?

CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Puts in the oven
6 Exams
11 River bend
12 Snow house
13 Led to opportunities
15 Morse bit
16 Calendar box
17 Court
18 Disgusted
20 Kyoto setting
23 Plumbing conduits
27 Full range
28 Battery unit
29 Yard plus a bit
31 Snug
32 Express stop
34 Cart puller
37 Taxi
38 Debt note
41 United in the face of a challenge
44 Less
45 Find charming
46 Borders
47 Sub sounder

DOWN
1 Car part
2 Trade fair
3 Aid illegally
4 Shipping weight
5 Stockholm setting
6 Neaten the room
7 Sense of self
8 Leisurely
9 Matador's foe
10 Mediocre
14 Pop
18 Disconcerted
19 Turning point
20 Traffic snarl
21 Had lunch
22 Cook's need
24 Small dog, for short
25 Middle-earth resident
26 Pig's digs
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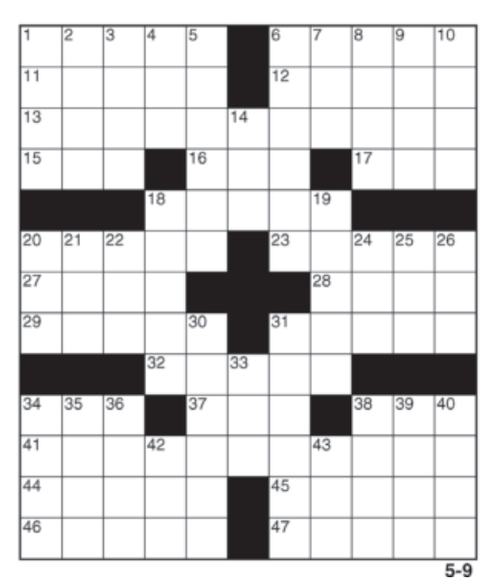
31 Hooded snakes
33 Spot to jot
34 Peak
35 Glided
36 Musical number
38 Privy to
39 Gumbo vegetable
40 Manipulative one
42 Take to court
43 Foofaraw



5-9

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

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CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

A POWERLESS SENATE?

Rethinking Bangladesh's Proposed Bicameralism

Instead of adopting a foreign model uncritically, Bangladesh has a crucial opportunity to craft a system that reflects our own unique circumstances and aspirations.

MD. IMAMUNUR RAHMAN

The Constitution Reform Commission's recently published report has reignited debate about Bangladesh's democratic future. The report proposes a bicameral legislature, with a Senate as the upper house and a National Assembly as the lower house. But a fundamental question remains: will a Senate with limited powers, modelled after India's *Rajya Sabha* (Council of States), truly strengthen democracy, or will it be a costly and largely symbolic addition, given our Parliament's recent history?

This question is particularly crucial considering the current state of parliamentary oversight. Over the past decades, Parliament has enacted laws that violate fundamental rights, including the Information and Communication Technology Act 2006, the Digital Security Act 2018, and the Cyber Security Act 2023— each used to silence dissent. One-party dominance, coupled with restrictive constitutional provisions such as Article 70, has severely weakened Parliament's ability to challenge the executive. Extensive searches of publicly available records and parliamentary proceedings from the last five years have not revealed any instances where Parliament has successfully overturned or significantly altered a major government policy decision. This pattern reveals a critical weakness: a Parliament that not only fails to hold the executive accountable but, at times, actively undermines fundamental rights.

The Commission's report proposes a Senate with limited powers, similar to the Indian *Rajya Sabha*. This proposal raises concerns that it may fail to address the existing lack of parliamentary oversight and could, in fact, further concentrate power in the hands of the executive— contrary to the Commission's stated reform objectives.

It is a foundational principle of governance that rights enshrined on paper are only as robust as the institutions that safeguard them. Effective democracy is not simply about proclaiming freedoms; it is about meticulously constructing a system of checks and balances that prevents any single branch of government from accumulating excessive power. The structure of the legislature—whether it is a single chamber or two—plays a pivotal role in this delicate equilibrium. Bangladesh's unicameral Parliament has failed to play this pivotal role. The question now is: what kind of bicameral system would best serves the country's interests?

The proposed Senate, with limited legislative powers, promises a chamber of review without outright obstruction. But is this model, inspired by the *Rajya Sabha*, a strength or only a potential trap? While a 'chamber of revision' sounds appealing, a closer examination reveals its potential pitfalls. A Senate without substantial power provides a weak check on the National Assembly. This is especially concerning in the context of Bangladesh, where power is already tilted towards the Prime Minister and the executive branch, and the Prime Minister, being a creature and leader of the legislature, effectively controls the legislative body. A weak upper house, like those in India or the UK, risks further centralising power. If the Senate's primary role is advisory, merely delaying bills for a few months, it risks becoming a costly, symbolic body. Its value must be demonstrable— not just assumed. Will it provide unique insights, or will it merely echo the National Assembly's debates, adding to the bureaucracy without real benefits?

The ability of an Indian-style Senate to protect minority rights is also questionable. Without veto power or the ability to significantly amend legislation, its capacity to safeguard marginalised communities is limited. In politically polarised environments, public pressure alone is often insufficient to counter majoritarian rule. Additionally, in parliamentary systems, the executive is drawn from and accountable to the legislature. This fusion of power means the Prime Minister, as leader of the majority party, wields considerable influence. A weak Senate would only amplify this influence, further weakening the separation of powers vital to a healthy democracy. As history shows, power becomes too concentrated, even the strongest constitutional guarantees become meaningless.

Bangladesh's democratic journey has seen both progress and persistent challenges. Does an Indian-style Senate suit the country's needs? Are we adopting a familiar model without critically assessing its implications? How robust are our existing checks and balances? The reality is that Parliament often lacks the independence and resources to scrutinise the executive effectively. The Prime Minister's dominance already limits accountability. A weak upper house may not be the solution if the real need lies in strengthening Parliament and fostering a culture of parliamentary oversight.

Bangladesh is a rapidly developing nation facing complex governance challenges. Will a Senate with limited powers help or hinder progress? Will it add valuable expertise and deliberation, or merely slow legislative processes without improving the quality of laws?

Instead of adopting a foreign model uncritically, Bangladesh has a crucial opportunity to craft a system that reflects our own unique circumstances and aspirations. This might involve investing in the independence and resources of the directly elected National Assembly in the proposed bicameral system as a more effective way to ensure accountability, protect minority rights, and promote robust debate. There are other models of bicameralism that offer more substantial checks and balances. Perhaps a system with a more powerful upper house, tailored to the specific context of Bangladesh, would be more appropriate. Addressing the broader challenges of the Indian-style parliamentary system through constitutional reforms that strengthen the separation of powers and enhance checks and balances could be a more productive path towards a more robust and accountable democracy. As the late US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia observed, 'When [power is centralised], the game is over.' Indeed, the future of our democracy depends on a proper balance of power.

The debate over the Senate is not merely an exercise in thinking about its institutional design. It is a fundamental question about the kind of democracy that Bangladesh aspires to build. We must move beyond the appeal of familiar models and engage in a critical discussion about what best serves the nation's interests. What kind of democracy do we aspire to build? The future of democracy depends on it.

The writer is Assistant Professor and Chairman, Department of Law, Z. H. Sikder University of Science and Technology.

LAW VISION

AI and the challenges in criminal liability

As AI continues to advance, integrating it into the society requires balancing innovation with accountability to uphold justice and protect human rights. Legal systems must evolve thoughtfully and pragmatically, recognising both the transformative potential of AI and the ethical obligations it brings.

MD. IBRAHIM KHALILULLAH

The emergence of artificial intelligence or AI technologies has transformed the existence of human beings. It has revolutionised the industries, reshaped societal operations and increased productivity both in personal and professional life. Alongside the advancements, there comes a crucial question with a legal dilemma: when AI causes harm or injures someone, who should be held responsible? The question is still unanswered as the traditional legal frameworks and enactments, particularly framed for human liability, cease to adapt to the complexities of AI.

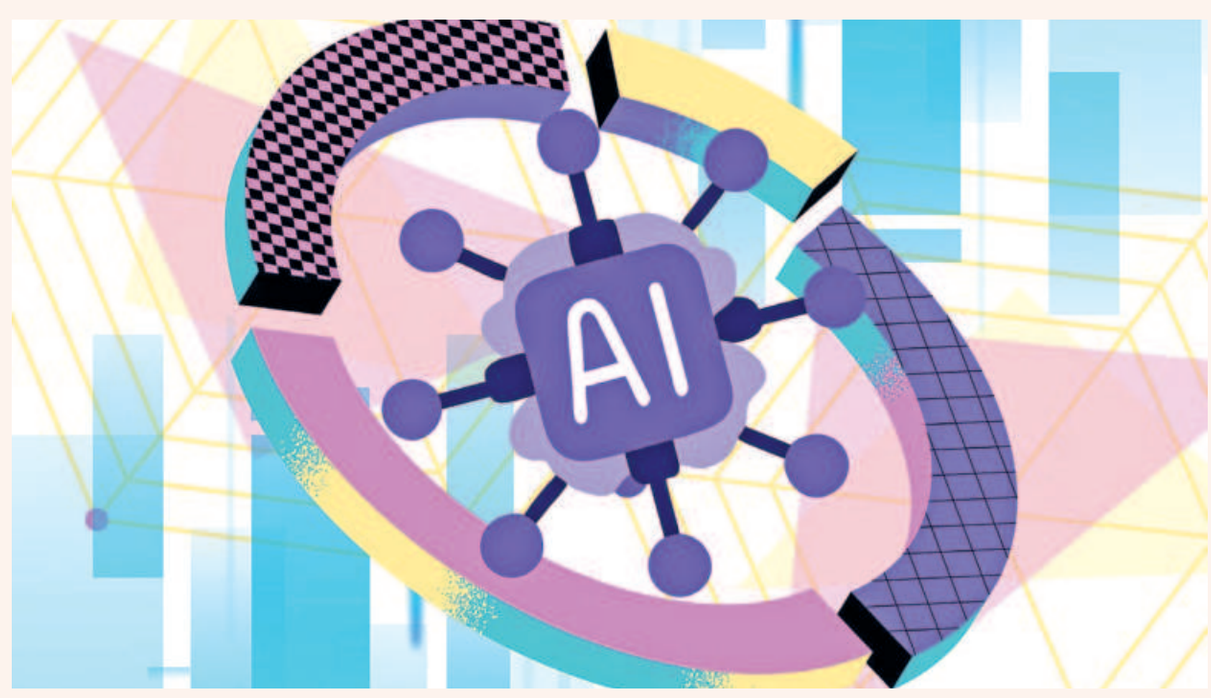
While determining the criminal liability for AI-driven actions, one of the core issues arises as to the concept of intent. Fundamentally, the *mens rea* or the existence of a mental state such as intent or recklessness is pivotal in determining criminal liability alongside the criminal actions. However, in case of AI-driven omissions there is a lack of such consciousness or intention. Intrinsically, an AI system operates its actions based on algorithms and continuous learning process. This absence of human-like competence raises a crucial question regarding the determination of responsibility of AI systems: Shall AI be held accountable for its actions itself or it is the developers or operators or corporations using such AI tools that are to take such responsibilities?

The question becomes further complicated as the AI systems encompass a distributed nature of responsibility. Most of the time, these systems involve multitudinous stakeholders such as manufacturers, programmers and end-users. Consequently, when harm occurs, such as in the case of automated vehicles, it becomes nearly impossible to determine who shall bear the ultimate responsibility. Is it the developer who is responsible for the injury or the end-user who did not update the system or the company that marketed the product who should be reliable?

Another concerning issue, in this case, is the opacity of AI working processes. Advanced AIs, especially those employing deep learning, often work as "Black Boxes" where the internal functions of such systems become difficult to interpret even by their creators. This lack of transparency makes it quite impossible to determine causation which is another fundamental factor within criminal law. Without understanding the decision-making process of AI including how it reaches to a conclusion and enacts the end-result derived from its functions, assigning blame becomes an uncertain and inherently complex process.

Additionally, the capacity of AI to learn and adapt things originates unpredictability. Unlike traditional machines, AI often works in a way that its developer never exclusively programmed or thought of. For example, Chatgpt-like AI systems that usually collect data from its users enriching its repository, at times may show results to be defamatory to someone or disseminate false information influencing the overall decision-making. These autonomous behaviors of AI systems raise questions regarding foreseeability and accountability.

To address these issues, legal frameworks should be developed to negotiate AI accountability.



One potential approach is holding corporations accountable for the AI systems they deploy. This strategy emphasises the importance of thorough testing, transparency, and routine audits, pushing companies to focus on safety and proactively address potential risks. Some experts have even proposed the idea of granting AI systems a form of limited legal personhood, similar to corporations. This would enable them to assume certain responsibilities, such as facing fines or operational restrictions for their actions.

Regulatory sandboxes offer a valuable solution by allowing AI systems to be tested in controlled environments under legal oversight. These setups help regulators better understand AI's implications and fine-tune liability rules as needed. Additionally, hybrid models of shared responsibility are gaining support, where accountability is distributed among developers, operators, and users based on their specific roles. This approach encourages a culture of collective accountability.

Recent incidents highlight the challenges of assigning liability for AI-related issues. For example, the 2018 fatality of Elaine Herzberg, a 49-year-old woman, involving an Uber autonomous vehicle raised debates about the responsibilities of the safety driver, the company, and the vehicle's manufacturers. Similarly, courts are addressing cases like defamation caused by AI-generated content, holding platforms accountable for moderating harmful outputs. These situations reveal the pressing need for legal systems to tackle the unique issues AI presents.

As AI continues to advance, integrating it into the society requires balancing innovation with accountability to uphold justice and protect human rights. Legal systems must evolve thoughtfully and pragmatically, recognising both the transformative potential of AI and the ethical obligations it brings. By creating comprehensive and forward-looking frameworks, societies can fully harness AI's benefits while mitigating its risks.

The writer is student of law, Bangladesh University of Professionals and Vice President of Bangladesh Law Alliance.

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What to WATCH
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Afghanistan vs Australia
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'Inspiration' for Shanto, a point for Tigers

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN *from Rawalpindi*

Before leaving Dhaka for the ICC Champions Trophy, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto had boldly announced his grand goal of bringing the trophy home, raising many eyebrows.

Shanto's lofty claims fell flat in the tournament after his side lost their opening two games to India and New Zealand and were already out of the running for a spot in the semifinals with one match to go.

The Tigers were supposed to play for pride against Pakistan in a dead rubber Group A match yesterday but the game got washed out with no toss due to heavy rain in Rawalpindi.

The wash out handed Bangladesh their only point in the campaign and owing to a better net run rate, they edged Pakistan and finished third in Group A.

And just like that, another global event ended in utter disappointment for the Tigers, with the players having nothing to show for other than a point which they didn't even earn.

But even after such an underwhelming campaign, captain Shanto is choosing to see the positives from the two convincing defeats instead of eating his words.

"The way we held the game for long periods of the game was very inspiring for us in the two matches. We hope we can learn from our mistakes," Shanto said in the presentation after the washed-out contest against Pakistan.

The long-held games Shanto was speaking about were the matches against India and New Zealand, which the Tigers lost by six and five wickets with 21 and 23 balls to spare respectively.

Shanto, perhaps, was trying to laud his bowlers for showing some fight in both contests after the batters put up a paltry total and also spoke how their failure to rotate the strike hurt them in both games.

"We have always struggled with our fast bowling unit, but in the last few years a lot of fast bowlers are coming through.

"We have to think about strike rotation. It is very important and I hope the boys will understand what we need to do," he added.

However, for a team that has been a Test-playing nation for quarter of a century, have taken part in 22 major ICC events but are still nowhere near conquering the summit, talks about improvements in pace attack and trying to improve rotating strike sound cheap.

Unlike Shanto, the fans in Rawalpindi did not have the same glass half-full approach after two of the three scheduled matches in their city got rained out.

"All people waited for a long time to see an ICC event but right now they are disappointed for not having games due to rain," said Pakistani photo journalist Mian Zaman, who had worked in Rawalpindi when the venue hosted three games in the 1996 World Cup. If the fans in Rawalpindi had the same approach to life as Shanto, perhaps they would be happy thinking at least they got to see one match out of three.

Liton, Fizz yet to find teams in budget-reduced DPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Two Bangladesh stars -- Liton Das and Mustafizur Rahman -- have not signed with any clubs for the upcoming Dhaka Premier League (DPL), and the latter may not play the league at all this season.

This DPL is set to be played with reduced budget from March 3. Clubs, officials and players have all confirmed about their pay-cuts. One club's official yesterday informed that even the staffs' salary has been slashed by over 50 per cent.

"We did not approach Mustafizur since we had budget issues," a Prime Bank official told The Daily Star yesterday.

While Liton has been unable to agree on a remuneration with Abahani, Mustafizur was released by Prime Bank ahead of the players' transfer.

"Yes, Prime Bank released him and he would have to take a [No Objection Certificate] NOC if he wants to play for another club," a Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) said about Mustafizur.

As per the transfer rules, Liton submitted a token to be picked from the transfer list on February 22 and 23. Meanwhile, Mustafizur, who is away on Champions Trophy duty with the national team, registered online like rest of the national team players.

Mustafizur will require a NOC from Prime Bank to play for another team in the league but the player has not prioritised playing the DPL in the past.

Afghanistan put on a 'tamasha' to remember

ASHFAQ-UL-ALAM

It was truly a 'tamasha' in Lahore on Thursday, wasn't it?

To the unaware, 'tamasha' is an Urdu word which has been naturalised in Bangla and is usually used with a negative connotation, to deride something as a joke.

But, originally in Urdu, this word is used to describe a grand spectacle -- an event that one can't look away from, and above all, something that entertains.

Cricket writers from the Indian sub-continent over the years have used 'tamasha' to describe the spectacle of cricket, especially in the limited versions.

However, some may be tempted to follow the Bangla usage of this word when describing certain drab games of cricket, such as Bangladesh's recent matches against India and New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy.

But the thousands that were present at the Gaddafi Stadium and the millions who tuned in from around the globe to watch the Group B encounter between Afghanistan and England on Thursday, witnessed an absolute cricketing 'tamasha' in the truest sense.

Afghanistan started on the backfoot, three down with barely anything on the board, before opener Ibrahim Zadran hit a career standout 177 and found some late support as the score reached 325-7.

A win for Afghanistan against Australia in Lahore today will confirm their spot in the semifinals.

Australia will qualify if they win today, but having a point in hand over Afghanistan means they will also go through even if the game is washed out -- a possibility considering there is a rain forecast in the city today.

Chasing the target, England needed at least one batter to play the big innings and Joe Root, arguably their best batter, put his hand up.

Root kept losing partners at regular successions as the valiant Afghans kept chipping away at the heavyweight English batting line up, but remained undeterred.

It was an enthralling contest, with both teams having their noses ahead at different points only for the opposing team to fight back and restore parity.

It looked like Root was destined to take England to the promised land when he hit Omarzai for a six in the 45th over.

But Omarzai, who had already done his job with the bat with a 31-ball 41, had the last laugh. He had Root edge one back to the keeper in the following over.

The game was still not over as even though England were seven down, their tail had enough ammunition.

All the remaining deliveries were an event in themselves. Jofra Archer hit two fours in the first three balls he faced before getting caught off a slower delivery while trying to play the hero shot, exactly six balls after Jamie Overton got himself dismissed the same way.

In the final over, Omarzai, who finished with 5-58, held his nerves while defending 13 and got the final wicket of Adil Rashid in the penultimate ball with once again another slower delivery. The fact that the final catch was taken by Zadran added a poetic layer to this contest, as if this was a meticulously scripted drama which had twists and turns stored at every juncture.

It was a 'tamasha' ODI fans won't forget for a long time and if the Afghans can put on another brave showing against the Aussies in Lahore today, it could bring them the ticket to the semifinals.

PHOTO: REAL MADRID

Teenage striker Endrick celebrates after scoring the only goal in Real Madrid's nervy 1-0 win at Real Sociedad in the first leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal on Wednesday. In the 19th minute, 18-year-old Brazilian Endrick took in his stride a long pass from Jude Bellingham before firing a left-footed strike past the goalkeeper.

Arsenal to witness Liverpool's PL celebration at Anfield?

REUTERS, *Manchester*

Liverpool's march towards the Premier League title could culminate with a win over closest rivals Arsenal at Anfield on May 10 in the most tantalising of the possible scenarios.

Arne Slot's men climbed 13 points clear at the top with their 2-0 victory over Newcastle United on Wednesday.

No team have been so far ahead at this stage of the season and not won the title going back to the beginning of English top-flight football in 1888-89.

Slot, however, does not dare get ahead of himself, saying after Wednesday's win: "It is still a long way to go, 10 games. In March, we only play one Premier League game, so we are not focused on the long term."

If Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta sees the writing on the wall, he is not saying so, telling reporters before Wednesday's scoreless draw with Nottingham Forest that he would concede the title "over my dead body."

Liverpool could have locked up the title sooner but, as Slot mentioned, because of the international break plus two Champions League last-16 games against PSG and the League Cup final versus Newcastle, they have only one league game in March.

Seven more wins would seal a second Premier League title for Slot's team and their 20th in top-flight football overall. Six of their final 10 games are in their home cauldron of Anfield.

Other potential scenarios have Liverpool clinching the title on April 5 versus Fulham, but that would require them winning their next three matches and Arsenal, who have a game in hand, losing their next four.

Liverpool could also claim the crown at home to Tottenham Hotspur on April 26 or on May 3 at Chelsea.

PRIMARY SCHOOL GOLD CUP FOOTBALL

New champions crowned in new-look National Stadium

ANISUR RAHMAN

Having undergone a vibrant transformation, the National Stadium in Dhaka became a festival ground for budding young footballers yesterday as the prestigious Primary School Gold Cup Football Tournament returned to the country's premier venue after nearly six years.

With newly installed sheds, colourful chairs brightening the galleries, a freshly laid greenish pitch, an athletic track, and decorative touches, the stadium radiated renewed energy. Adding to the spectacle was the electrifying atmosphere created by the excited screams of school-going boys and girls, making the stadium pulse with life once again as it hosted the finals for both boys and girls.

Since the Gold Cup's last edition held here in 2018, subsequent editions were paused due to the pre- and post-COVID period. However, the primary and mass education ministry managed to continue the tournaments in 2022 and 2023 elsewhere while the stadium underwent renovations.

Now nearing full restoration, the stadium was partially reopened to host the Gold Cup -- an event that has long been a breeding ground for future stars. Players such as Maria Manda, Monica Chakma, Shamsunnahar, Akhi Khatun, Krishna Rani, and Tahura Khatun have emerged from this very platform, turning their school-level dreams into national success stories.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

In the girls' final, Jorgacha Govt. Primary School from Sathiya upazila, Pabna, etched their name into history by becoming the eighth team to win the silverware. They overcame Bancharampur Model Govt. Primary School from Brahmanbaria with an impressive 3-1 victory.

Lamia Khatun, named the best player of the tournament, was overjoyed with the triumph and shared her dream of following in the footsteps of national forward Sabina Khatun. "I don't know many players by name, but I've watched a few matches featuring Monica, Marzia, and Akhi Khatun. However, I want to be a player like Sabina," she said, beaming with pride after lifting the trophy.

The boys' final saw Koiarbil Govt. Primary School from Kutubdia upazila, Cox's Bazar, script their own fairy tale. They claimed the title by defeating Ichagari Govt. Primary School from Sunamganj 2-0, becoming the 12th school to win the prestigious tournament.

Koiarbil's journey was nothing short of remarkable. In the early stages, they were on the brink of elimination at the union level, just as they had been in the previous edition. However, fortune favoured them, and they scraped through via a lucky toss in their second match. From that moment, they never looked back, stringing together 14 consecutive victories to emerge as champions.

"I am happy to make my school proud," said Jubair, the tournament's top scorer, who netted three goals in the final phase. Now, with his confidence soaring, he has set his sights on joining either BKSP or a private football academy to chase his dream of playing at the highest level.

This year's tournament witnessed overwhelming participation from more than 11 lakh young footballers representing 65,000 schools across the country. As the event concluded, chief guest Dr Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, adviser to the interim government, delivered an encouraging announcement. The primary and mass education ministry, he revealed, is set to appoint physical education teachers in primary schools to strengthen the foundation of school-level sports.

DEMOCRACY INDEX

Bangladesh nosedives to 100th spot

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh saw the sharpest decline in the 2024 Democracy Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), falling 25 spots to 100th out of 167.

The country remains a hybrid regime but now ranks closer to the lower end of the classification.

Bangladesh also recorded the largest score decline globally, falling 1.44 points on the 0-10 scale, following a "rigged election, the ousting of the prime minister, and political unrest".

In the index released on Thursday, India ranked 41st, Bhutan 79th, Nepal 96th, Pakistan 124th, and Afghanistan 167th, the lowest in the world.

The index highlights a continued decline in global democracy, with autocracies gaining strength. "The world's democracies are struggling," said Joan Hoey, director of the Democracy Index.

The index assesses five key factors: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, government functioning,

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Buyers push and shove for subsidised essential commodities as soon as the TCB truck carrying supplies enough for only 200 people arrives in the capital's Dhanmondi area around noon yesterday. Every day, people from low-income groups, who are unable to keep up with the soaring market prices of essentials, wait for hours for TCB trucks at various locations around the capital.

GONOTANTRIK CHHATRA SANGSAD

30 from pvt univs now in committee

Student body announces 205-member panel; 3 quit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad, the newly emerged independent student organisation, announced its full central committee yesterday.

The 205-member committee includes at least 30 private university students who were directly involved in the July uprising.

According to several private university representatives, they will review the full committee and decide whether to accept the positions or resign.

3 MEMBERS QUIT

Meanwhile, three members of the new student body have already resigned from their appointed posts.

During the organisation's inauguration on Wednesday, Rifat Rashid, a DU student, was appointed as the senior joint member secretary of the central committee. He reportedly resigned from his post yesterday, citing personal reasons. Al Mashnun, a student of Chittagong University, replaced Rifat.

Sources close to Rifat, however, said that Rifat resigned because he did not get the position he desired.

Meanwhile, hours after the full committee was announced, former SAD coordinators from Rajshahi University (RU), Mehedi Sajib and Salauddin Ammar, also resigned from their appointed posts.

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Grant NHRC power to probe disciplinary forces

Say speakers at law ministry event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law pertaining to the National Human Rights Commission needs amendments to give the watchdog more investigative powers, speakers said at an event yesterday.

Organised by the law ministry and chaired by its additional secretary, the discussion addressed the challenges the NHRC faces and the path forward in this regard.

The law currently prohibits the commission from investigating disciplined forces.

Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, a former Bangladesh Country Specialist at Amnesty International, said the law should be amended to grant full investigative powers over disciplined forces, including the authority to summon evidence directly and conduct on-site inspections.

"Many instances of serious human rights abuse directly involve disciplined forces, and NHRC intervention is required to prevent impunity."

At present, the commission's recommendations are non-binding, and the government can choose to ignore its findings.

Zakaria proposed amending the law to make the NHRC's recommendations enforceable.

Eminent human rights lawyer Sara Hossain said, "The law doesn't allow the NHRC to intervene in sub-judice or under-trial cases. But it should be allowed to investigate the human rights violation aspects of cases even if they

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Govt engaging with Arakan Army

Says CA's representative on Rohingya issue

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is maintaining contact with the Arakan Army (AA), which has occupied some 90 percent of Rakhine State, for the sake of protecting the country's border and Rohingya repatriation, said Khalilur Rahman, the chief adviser's high representative on the Rohingya issue.

"The day the AA raised its flag on our border, I instantly realised it's a new world -- you got to deal with them," he said at a seminar yesterday on the situation in Rakhine and implications for Bangladesh.

The seminar was organised by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at the North South University premises.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Most victims abused by husbands

Disturbing trend uncovered in BBS survey of 27,476

NILIMA JAHAN

Women in Bangladesh are three times more likely to be physically abused and over 14 times more likely to suffer sexual violence from their husbands than from others, according to a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics survey on violence against women.

Over half of all women surveyed (54 percent) have reported physical and/or sexual abuse by their husbands at some point in their marital lives.

The Violence Against Women Survey 2024 -- based on interviews with 27,476 women -- reveals that intimate partner violence (IPV) remains widespread, with 70 percent of respondents experiencing at least one form of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic violence, or controlling behaviours, at some point in their lives.

In the past 12 months, 41 percent of women reported being abused by their intimate partners.

- Women are over 14 times likelier to suffer sexual violence from their husbands than from others.
- 54pc of women have reported physical and/or sexual abuse by their husbands at some point in their marital lives
- 70pc of women have faced at least one form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.
- Among divisions, Barishal and Khulna have the highest IPV rates, while Sylhet has the lowest.
- IPV rates are 76pc in rural areas and 75.6pc in urban areas.

In comparison, the figures were 73 percent for lifetime prevalence and 55 percent for past-year prevalence in the 2015 survey.

The survey stresses that intimate partner violence is more prevalent than non-partner violence. For the purpose of this survey, "intimate partners" are defined as current or former husbands, and "non-partners" are those other than a current or former husband with whom the respondent has had contact since the age of 15.

BBS Project Director Iftekhairul Karim presented the study, prepared in collaboration with UNFPA, yesterday at the BBS auditorium in the capital's Agargaon.

According to the study, 76 percent of women in rural areas and 75.6 percent in urban areas

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TEESTA PROJECT

China to get the job if BNP voted to power

Says Moyeen Khan in China

UNB, *Shaanxi*

BNP Standing Committee member Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday told a senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that if his party is elected to power in the next election, it will sign an agreement with China to implement the Teesta River water management project.

"Chinese ambassador in Dhaka has recently made a clear proposal to assist us in developing a project for managing the water of Teesta River," he said during a meeting between a Bangladesh delegation and CPC Deputy Secretary of the Shaanxi Provincial Committee Xing Shanping.

Dr Moyeen said the Chinese envoy had sincerely made the offer for the welfare of thousands

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UPRISING, AFTERMATH

Human rights violated in 11,348 incidents

Finds study by Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A staggering 11,348 people fell victims to human rights violations -- including murders, injuries, torture, and attacks on minority communities -- in July and August 2024, according to a study by Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation.

The study, supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, was unveiled yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club.

The report is based on key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and conversations with 12,434 people reached through household surveys.

Between July 1 and August 5, 2024, physical injuries accounted for 75 percent of documented cases, threats 9 percent, killings 8 percent, and torture 7 percent.

In the later half of August, after Sheikh Hasina fled, attacks on properties surged, with 38 percent involving arson, 34 percent vandalism and looting, 26 percent attacks on properties of minority communities, and 2 percent attacks on temples and shrines.

Of the 881 individuals killed, 763 were shot dead, 69 burned alive, 45 beaten to death, one was stabbed to death, and another was hit with a brick, finds the study.

Of the victims, 340 were aged between 20 and 30, at least 223 between 10 and 20, and six aged below 10.

Twenty-nine percent of the killings took place in Dhaka division, 20 percent Chattogram, 11 percent Mymensingh, 10 percent Barishal, 9 percent each in Khulna and Rajshahi divisions, 7 percent in Rangpur, and 5 percent Sylhet divisions.

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A mangrove whipray spotted six feet into the Bay of Bengal, off Saint Martin's Island. This captivating stingray species inhabits the Indo-Pacific region. Solitary by nature, mangrove whiprays often rest half-buried in sandy or coral substrates during the day and become active at night, preying on small bottom-dwelling fish and invertebrates. A unique aspect of this species is its reproductive method: females nourish their developing young in the womb through "histotrophy", producing a nutrient-rich "uterine milk". Ecologically, these stingrays play a vital role in controlling prey populations, thereby maintaining a balanced ecosystem. However, they face increasing threats from habitat degradation and fishing pressures. As of July 2023, the IUCN has classified the mangrove whipray as "Endangered", highlighting the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect this remarkable species.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

Actor Gene Hackman, wife found dead at home

No indications of foul play: sheriff

REUTERS

Gene Hackman, the intense character actor who won two Oscars in a more than 60-year career, has died alongside his wife, pianist Betsy Arakawa, and their dog at home, the sheriff's office in Santa Fe, New Mexico, said yesterday.

A statement from the sheriff said deputies had found the 95-year-old actor and Arakawa, 64, deceased on Wednesday afternoon at around 1:45 pm.

"Foul play is not suspected as a factor in those deaths at this time, however exact cause of death has not been determined. This is an active and ongoing investigation by the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office," it said.

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