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College Hospital**

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The state of medical care in Bangladesh is a complex issue that demands attention on multiple fronts. While building hospitals is essential, it is equally important to develop systems that ensure efficient and accessible healthcare for all. A facility alone does not resolve the deeper challenges—without well-structured service delivery and technological integration, solutions may introduce new complications instead of resolving existing ones.

In Dhaka, efforts are underway to enhance healthcare accessibility and quality through a new medical facility. Designed with a focus on modern treatment methods and patient-centered care, it aims to address gaps in the existing system. With advancements in medical technology and a structured approach to healthcare delivery, such initiatives have the potential to improve outcomes for a wide range of patients. Bangladeshi healthcare professionals work tirelessly, though they face significant resource constraints. The challenge extends beyond infrastructure to encompass efficiency, innovation, and better management.

While the road to comprehensive healthcare reform is long, steps like these reflect progress in bridging the gap between medical needs and available services. Ensuring that quality treatment reaches those who need it most remains a priority in shaping the future of healthcare in Bangladesh.

United Medical College Hospital Ushers in a New Era of Healthcare for Bangladesh

Imagine a Bangladesh where world-class healthcare is not a dream, but a reality. That vision is becoming a reality with the advent of United Medical College Hospital in the soon-to-be heart of Dhaka. This isn't just another 300-bed hospital - it's the beginning of a new era in healthcare, a beacon of hope for millions.

Addressing a Critical Need

Bangladesh faces significant challenges in its healthcare system. Many struggle to access quality care with just 5.26 doctors per 10,000 people, far below WHO recommendations. United Medical College Hospital, the flagship facility of United Healthcare Services Ltd., steps in as a powerful solution, bringing state-of-the-art facilities and expertise to the heart of the nation.

"Our goal is to provide quality healthcare to the entire nation, not just a privileged few," says Nizamuddin Hasan Rashid, Managing Director of United Healthcare. "We are committed to creating a holistic healthcare ecosystem bringing all medical services under one unified entity."

A Journey Through Advanced Technology

Walking into United Medical College Hospital would be like stepping into the future. The diagnostic capabilities are astonishing. At its core is the Siemens Magnetom VIDA, a 3 Tesla MRI system with 64 channels providing detailed imaging of the spine, brain, heart, and other parts of the body with dedicated channels for each organ. Unlike CT scans, this high-grade MRI emits no radiation, prioritizing patient safety. Imagine needing a complex scan and being able to have it done with the utmost precision and care, right here at home.

The fully automated radiology department features portable X-ray machines capable of taking 1,200 images on a single charge. Women's health sees a significant advancement with 3D mammography (tomosynthesis), which produces 3D images instead of traditional 2D scans, often eliminating the need for invasive biopsies.

Perhaps most impressive is Bangladesh's first fully automated laboratory, operating without human intervention. Imagine samples traveling through a pneumatic tube system throughout the facility, which reduces human error and speeds up results. This means faster diagnoses and quicker treatment plans - a crucial factor in saving lives.

Every Second Counts at Emergency Care

In emergencies, time is of the essence. The hospital's emergency department sets new standards with 23 beds, a fully equipped operating theater, HEPA filters for air purification, and on-site dialysis capabilities. Each bed is equipped with weight-sensing technology, allowing patients to be weighed without moving, which enables immediate medication based on body mass index.

These groundbreaking beds are also capable of providing CPR, and the department utilizes X-ray-proof stretchers. For patient transport, the hospital has introduced double partition isolation ambulances, ensuring safe transport during infectious disease outbreaks - a vital factor in today's world.

A Holistic Approach to Healing

The hospital's diagnostic capabilities include ultrasound, ECHO, ETT, ECG, and a state-of-the-art AI-powered CATH lab featuring the latest model launched this year. For patients with kidney disease, the facility offers 63 dialysis beds distributed across multiple floors - making it the only hospital in Bangladesh with dialysis facilities on every floor. The high-end B.Braun machines come with Sustained Low-Efficiency Dialysis (SLED) options, a crucial treatment for severe snakebite cases.

Inventively so, every bed in the hospital can be transformed into an isolation chamber, providing unprecedented infection control flexibility.

Battling Cancer with Precision

Cancer treatment takes a giant leap forward at United Medical College Hospital. The hospital combines PET CT technology for precise cancer zone identification with Accuray technology that adapts to cell movement, protecting healthy tissue during treatment. Unlike conventional treatments that might damage surrounding tissue, this system targets cancerous cells from multiple angles with pinpoint accuracy, requiring only minimal skin incisions. This means fewer side effects and more effective treatment.

Additionally, the hospital will be equipped with CyberKnife technology for radiosurgery and neurosurgery - a more flexible alternative to Gamma Knife that can treat tumors throughout the body with incredible accuracy.

Surgical Excellence and Patient Comfort

With 19 operating theaters serving all departments, the surgical facilities feature cancer-detecting OT lights and laparoscopy machines that can identify cancerous tissue during procedures. The hospital will also introduce Da Vinci surgical robots, making it reportedly just the fourth hospital worldwide with this capability.

Every operating room is equipped with external suppression systems, NAFCO-certified fire doors, and specialized gas circulation systems to ensure patient and staff safety even in emergencies.

For those seeking premium care, United Medical offers 900-square-foot VIP cabins, the size of a small apartment in Bangladesh, with dedicated laboratory services, X-ray rooms, and diagnostic equipment on the VIP floor, allowing patients to receive all services without leaving their rooms.

The facility boasts the largest and most advanced nurse call system in the world, unprecedented in the subcontinent. Every door in the hospital uses sensor-based technology, enhancing infection control and convenience.

Quality extends to every aspect of operations, with a top-tier Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD), smart laundry systems with chute technology, and German-manufactured patient monitors instead of more common Asian alternatives.

A Vision for Accessible Healthcare

Abu Raihan Al Beruni, Chief Financial Officer of United Healthcare Services Ltd., emphasizes the institution's inclusive approach: "Our objective is to make primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare accessible to all, ensuring that no patient is left behind."

This commitment extends to professional development, as Nizamuddin Hasan Rashid explains: "We believe in fostering the young talent of Bangladesh by recruiting fresh graduates and guiding them to become skilled doctors, nurses, brand executives, and professionals across various sectors."

United Healthcare Services Ltd. is committed to building a comprehensive healthcare ecosystem that addresses the full spectrum of patient needs. This vision is realized through its diverse clinical network, including United Medical College Hospital, United Healthcare Hospital at United City, Medix in Dhanmondi, and MA Rashid Hospital in Jamalpur, ensuring accessible, high-quality care across regions.

Beyond direct medical services, United Healthcare strengthens the future of healthcare through United Medical College and United College of Nursing, shaping the next generation of medical professionals. It also drives innovation with Medipac, a pioneering medical equipment brand revolutionizing Bangladesh's healthcare technology. Additionally, Wellbeing, the pharmacy chain, enhances access to quality medicines, ensuring greater convenience and affordability for patients.



“ An Integrated Healthcare Ecosystem Touching Every Life

Our goal is to provide quality healthcare to the entire nation, not just a privileged few. We are committed to creating a holistic healthcare ecosystem bringing all medical services under one unified entity.

Nizamuddin Hasan Rashid
Managing Director
United Healthcare Services Ltd.

The Future of Healthcare in Bangladesh

"Patients will no longer need to travel abroad for world-class healthcare," says Dr. Ajmal Quader Chowdhury, Associate Director of Medical Services. "United Healthcare is committed to delivering the highest standard of medical services right here in Bangladesh."

As United Medical College Hospital prepares to open its doors, it stands as more than a medical facility. It represents a defining moment in Bangladesh's progress. For Bangladeshis, this institution embodies national pride and achievement, demonstrating the country's capability to create healthcare

facilities that rival those in the most developed nations. The hospital serves as a testament to Bangladesh's rising ambitions and its commitment to the well-being of its citizens.

From a global perspective, United Medical College Hospital positions Bangladesh as an emerging leader in healthcare innovation within the subcontinent. The integration of technologies like Da Vinci surgical robots, AI-powered diagnostics, and fully automated laboratories places Bangladesh on the world map of advanced healthcare providers, challenging perceptions

and setting new benchmarks for what is possible in a developing nation.

With round-the-clock specialist availability ensured by its medical college affiliation, this institution heralds the beginning of a new era in Bangladeshi healthcare—one where citizens no longer look abroad for medical excellence, and the world looks to Bangladesh with newfound respect and admiration.

The future has arrived in Bangladesh, and it begins at United Medical College Hospital.



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Home opposes idea of police commission

Says century-old laws for cops good enough, refuses to relinquish power over law enforcers

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Ignoring calls for holding police accountable through a separate commission, the home ministry refuses to let go of its control over the law enforcers.

Formation of an independent body, as the Police Reform Commission recommends, is unnecessary because the ministry is already doing what an independent body would be doing, says the ministry.

The demands for legislative changes to make the police accountable are being raised as around 1,400 people were killed — most of them shot dead by cops — during the mass uprising.

But the ministry insists that the current laws, which are from the colonial era, are good enough, and there is no need for amendments.

"If the [existing] law and regulations are abided by, the police force will be accountable," reads the home ministry response to the reform commission's proposal to "overhaul" the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the Police Regulations of Bengal, 1943, the Police Act of 1861, and several other laws and regulations.

The ministry conceded that some amendments may be made in light of emerging crimes like cybercrime and for conducting investigations in the digital sphere.

"The image of the police has been tainted because

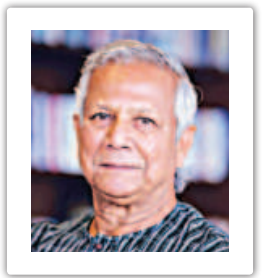


Palestinians gather for a communal iftar on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, amid rubbles of destroyed buildings in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

We must document atrocities of AL regime

Says Yunus



BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said documenting all atrocities committed during the regime of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina is necessary to ensure justice.

"There is a need for proper documentation of all atrocities committed against the people of this country. Without this documentation, it will be difficult to uncover the truth and ensure justice," the chief adviser said.

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The demands for legislative changes to make the police accountable are being raised as around 1,400 people were killed — most of them shot dead by cops — during the mass uprising.

certain policemen did not adhere to laws amid extra-legal political pressure," reads the response.

Currently, the home ministry's Public Security Division controls and supervises the police force. It is also responsible for overall management, policymaking, complaint resolution, and ensuring the security of the force.

According to estimates of the recently published fact-finding report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the police, along with other forces and armed Awami League members, shot dead approximately 1,400 people, while thousands more suffered severe, often life-altering injuries during the July uprising.

The health ministry has recorded over 12,272 injuries.

After the Sheikh Hasina regime fell on August 5 last year, the police force completely lost its moral authority to enforce the law because the image of police acting like a tool of violent oppression was fresh in the public mind.

Even the home adviser mentioned several times that the police completely lost their morale.

A UN fact-finding report also recommended replacing the police oversight unit with a commission that would be independent of the home ministry and the police chain of command.

Members of the proposed police commission would be civil society representatives. The commission will have specialised staff, capacity, and legal authority to act as a public complaints body, says the UN report.

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Prices of iftar staples hold steady, mostly

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

This Ramadan, Dhaka residents are finding some comfort in the mostly stable prices of food items and ingredients considered essential for the preparation of iftar meals.

Compared to previous years, the situation is better this time around due to an abundance of winter vegetables, essential food items and ingredients.

The Daily Star visited several key kitchen markets, including Kazipara, Mirpur-11, Ibrahimpur, Kochukhet, and Karwan Bazar yesterday, and found that buyers are generally able to get what they need according to their purchasing power, save for cooking oil and lemons, which are now out of reach for many.

Consumers are particularly frustrated with the supply and pricing of soybean oil, one of the most essential commodities.

Traders say the supply of edible oil is insufficient compared to the current demand.

The price of loose soybean oil has surged by Tk 30-40, now selling at Tk 185-200 per kg, up from Tk 155 last



PRICE UP

Cooking oil, lemons, imported fruits



PRICE DOWN

Dates, sugar, eggplants, onions, potatoes, chillies

Ramadan.

A five-litre bottle of soybean oil is priced at Tk 852, compared to Tk 780 last year.

Chickpeas have also seen a price hike, now selling at Tk 105-120 per kg, up from Tk 100-115.

The price of four lemons ranges between Tk 40-120, whereas last year it was Tk 20-80.

The prices of most imported fruits have increased by Tk 20-40 per kg, while local fruits, including bananas, are up by Tk 10-20 per dozen.

Apples, oranges, and sweet oranges are now being sold at Tk 300-380 per kg, compared to Tk 270-350 last year.

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BUSINESS

Remittances surge 25% to \$2.52b in Feb

Bangladesh received \$2.52 billion in remittances in February, a 25 percent year-on-year increase, as migrant workers sent more than expected to their families for Ramadan-related expenses and Eid shopping.

The steady inflow strengthens foreign exchange reserves and helps stabilise the exchange rate. Remittance inflows may rise in March as well, as expatriates typically send more money during Ramadan, peaking before Eid.

In order to boost remittances further, an economist suggested focusing on sending skilled workers abroad and ensuring they are placed in suitable jobs.

STORY ON B1

UKRAINE SUMMIT IN LONDON Europe to assemble 'coalition for peace'

AFP, London

European leaders closed ranks yesterday in support of Kyiv at a London summit, where they pledged to spend more on security and assemble a coalition to defend any truce in Ukraine.

Bringing together 18 allies, the talks were devoted to the key questions of how to provide security guarantees for Ukraine and bolster Europe's future defences while keeping the United States under President Donald Trump onside.

Just days after a thunderous row between Trump and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky raised fresh questions over the US leader's commitment to Ukraine and Nato, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned that Europe found itself "at a crossroads in history".

"This is not a moment for more talk — it's time to act. It's time to step up and lead and unite around a new plan for a just and enduring peace," the premier added.

With no guarantee of US involvement, "Europe must do the heavy lifting" in securing peace in Ukraine, Starmer said, indicating that several countries were ready to help defend any truce.

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Robbery on moving bus in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Passengers on a bus were robbed of their mobile phones and cash at knife-point in Dhaka's Savar yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place on a Dhaka-bound Rajdhani Paribahan in the Banktown area on the Dhaka-Aricha highway around 2:00pm, Jewel Rana, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Passenger Nazmul Hasan told this correspondent over the phone that he boarded the bus from the Chakraborty area of Ashulia.

He said that there were 20 to 25 passengers on the bus. As the vehicle reached the Banktown area of Savar around 2:00pm, four to five people got on the bus.

"Before we could realise anything, those five people, wielding knives and sharp weapons, started snatching

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North Bengal potato farmers have harvested over half of their crops but are facing financial hardship. Despite a significant increase in cultivation area this year, wholesale potato prices are barely covering production costs. Currently, a maund of potatoes sells for Tk 600-620, while production costs, according to a local agricultural office, are around Tk 600 per maund. The photo was taken recently in Bogura's Shibganj upazila.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

'I am worried, but not without hope'

Amartya Sen tells PTI about Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Voicing concern over the situation in Bangladesh, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen said his friend Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the interim government, is taking significant steps but has a long road ahead to resolve the impasse.

In an interview with PTI at his ancestral house in Santiniketan recently, he cautioned against banning the Awami League, saying such a move would repeat the same mistakes that other parties had accused the Awami League government of making.

Asked about his assessment of Yunus as Bangladesh's chief adviser, Sen said "Yunus is an old friend. I know he is highly capable and, in many ways, a remarkable human being. He has made strong statements about Bangladesh's secularism and democratic commitment."

"If you suddenly become the head of a country, as Yunus effectively has, you must consider various factions. There are Islamic parties, and now Hindu factions as well. I have great confidence in Yunus' abilities," he said.

Sen said Bangladesh, which has largely kept communal forces like Jamaat in check, should continue its admirable commitment to secularism.

According to Amartya Sen, "Bangladesh should make the best use of its tradition of working together rather than attempting to sideline any particular group. A broader perspective is needed. I hope that the Bengali commitment to freedom and pluralism will persist. And I

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A different DHAKA IN RAMADAN

JANNATUL BUSHRA

Have you ever felt the pulse of Dhaka in Ramadan? The way this unforgiving city pauses just before sunset? As if it's holding its breath with the rest of us, then exhaling in unison with the call to prayer?

If you're an unlucky officegoer like me, you probably have felt it already. For a whole month, this restless metropolis, always rushing and buzzing, has moved to a different rhythm, adjusting to the fests of millions.

This year, the usual office hours have been set from 9:00am to 3:30pm to make fasting easier.

However, the traffic in Dhaka is merciless.

The same old fight starts when everyone sets to go home from the office, with thousands of people stuck in traffic, anxiously watching the clock, and silently praying to make it home in time for iftar.

And then, just when frustration peaks, the long-awaited thing happens -- the Maghrib call to prayer.

For a moment, everything starts feeling a little kinder. People who may never have spoken to each other exchange water and dates. After all, it's the time for iftar.



FILE PHOTO



Food packets are passed from one rickshaw puller to another. Traffic cops who were just directing irate crowds now give out water bottles to anyone in the area. People who couldn't make it home in time shows kindness to each other.

If you are a silent observer like me, then you may notice suited men in cars sharing their dates with rickshaw pullers. A young woman, caught in the gridlock, accepting a bottle of water from a traffic police officer. A

CNG driver and a university student, bound by nothing but the same empty stomach, breaking their fast side by side. It is Dhaka at its finest -- raw, real, and deeply humane.

Interestingly, it's not just the streets that change -- markets and bazars take on a whole new rhythm too. As iftar approaches, vendors set up temporary seating on the ground, ready to break their fast right where they work. Those who couldn't manage to buy food are welcome to share a meal with strangers, because during this time, no one eats alone. Mosques that stay quiet for most of the year suddenly overflow with life. Even in residential areas, families set

up water filters filled with sharbat or juice outside their homes, making sure that anyone passing by can take a sip and cool down. The whole city moves with a shared spirit of generosity and togetherness during this sunset!

The busy junction points, like Bijoy Sharani, Shahbagh, or Dhanmondi 27, magically calm down right before iftar. One minute, it's all honking, yelling, and last-minute lane cutting -- then silence. The roads empty out like a classroom right after the last bell. It's an odd, almost serene experience!

To me, Ramadan in Dhaka is all about these quiet moments between the rush, the softening of the edges, and the collective act of slowing down. But like all beautiful things, Ramadan in Dhaka will go away. The old habits will come back. The honking during the sunsets will return. The jostling, the shoving, the frenzied race against time -- they will all make a comeback. The iftar stalls will disappear, and with them, so will the quiet camaraderie that binds this city together at sunset.

And yet, for those of us who have felt it -- the warmth of a stranger's generosity, the silence of a city at peace, the magic of a moment shared -- we carry a flicker of hope. Hope that perhaps, even when Ramadan is gone, we will remember. Remember to pause. Remember to be kind. Remember that Dhaka, even in its chaos, can still come together, if only for a moment, at sunset.

Home adviser urges all not to smoke in open spaces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday urged the public to refrain from smoking in open spaces as people are criticising a recent attack on two women by a group of men in the capital's Lalmaia.

"From what I understand, the two women were reportedly smoking when some people, who were on their way to say their prayers, intervened. In the altercation, the women allegedly threw tea on them," the home adviser said in reply to a question from a journalist while visiting the Public Order Management (POM) Police Lines in Mirpur.

"As you all know, smoking in public is prohibited for both men and women... It is an offence. Therefore, I request that no one smokes in public spaces. Especially during this month of Ramadan, everyone needs to show more restraint," he said.

He added that "religious advisers" are also urging everyone not to eat or drink in public, as it is a sign of disrespect for those who are fasting.

On Saturday evening, two women were taken into custody after they got engaged in an altercation with

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SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION

July victims' families to share quota with freedom fighters' children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has decided to include the family members of those injured or killed in the July uprising in the admission quota in government secondary schools for the children of freedom fighters and martyred freedom fighters.

The Ministry of Education issued a notification in this regard on February 20, signed by Mosammat Rahima Akhter, deputy secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division.

The order was published on the ministry's website yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education directed the heads of secondary schools to implement the order yesterday.

Previously, 5 percent of seats in government secondary schools were reserved for the children of

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We must document atrocities of AL regime

FROM PAGE 1

He made these remarks when Gwyn Lewis, the United Nations resident coordinator in Bangladesh, and Huma Khan, the senior human rights adviser at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Bangladesh, called on him at the State Guest House Jamuna.

Gwyn Lewis said the UN is ready to provide technical support and assist the people of Bangladesh in building their capacity for this effort.

"This is part of the process of healing and establishing the truth," Lewis said.

The chief adviser thanked the UN for its fact-finding report on human rights violations and abuses related to the July-August 2024 protests in Bangladesh.

"We are very happy to see the UN report. It came on time. It was not an easy task," he said.

The resident coordinator informed the chief adviser that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk will brief member states on the report's findings on March 5 during the 55th session of the Human Rights Council.

She expressed hope that the upcoming visit of UN Secretary-General António Guterres to Bangladesh would bring the Rohingya crisis back to the global agenda, amid dwindling aid supplies.

"We are very concerned about the financial situation," she said, adding that \$15 million per month is required just to ensure food supply for Rohingya refugees.

UN Secretary-General Guterres is scheduled to visit Bangladesh from March 13 to 16.

Robbery on moving bus

FROM PAGE 1

away our mobile phones and wallets."

The whole thing happened within four to five minutes and the robbers got off the bus with the looted items, he added.

Asked if the robbers assaulted anyone, he said, "They held everyone hostage at knifepoint. The passengers gave their mobile phones and wallets out of fear."

OC Jewel said that police went to the spot upon information.

"We are investigating the incident," he added.

Earlier on February 14, a bus was hijacked, and its passengers were looted in the Police Town area on the Dhaka-Aricha highway. At least three passengers suffered injuries from stabbing during the robbery.

Home opposes idea of police commission

FROM PAGE 1

The report also recommended replacing the Police Act of 1861 and the Police Regulations of Bengal with laws compliant with human rights.

The police headquarters had also proposed forming an independent commission like that of Sri Lanka. This model envisions a commission comprising 11 members -- a retired Appellate Division judge or a retired IGP as the chair, four MPs from ruling and opposition parties, and four independent personalities, including a woman and a rights activist.

The serving IGP would be the member secretary, while the home secretary would be an ex-officio member.

The commission would have sweeping powers to ensure the accountability and neutrality of law enforcers, make transfers, promotions, and appointments within the force transparent, and ensure that both the force and its members remain accountable. It

would also oversee the management of complaints against the police.

The Police HQ cited the example of the mass uprising in Sri Lanka and the ouster of president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, during which the police did not use lethal force on protesters and, in turn, did not face public wrath or lose their morale.

"That is because Sri Lanka's police are controlled by an independent commission," said a top officer involved in drafting the PHQ proposal.

The Police Reform Commission sent its proposals to the ministry on December 5.

Senior officials of the home ministry held a meeting on December 29, chaired by home secretary Nasimul Ghani, to review the report. The ministry then sent its opinion in writing to the Police Reform Commission, which then attached it to the full report and submitted it to the government. The report

was published online by the cabinet division in January.

Ghani neither responded to calls made by this correspondent nor replied to a text message.

Officials familiar with the matter said the home ministry objected to the independent police commission because it proposes an "arrangement akin to placing the secretary under the police chief, despite the fact that the senior secretary or secretary of the ministry is the [current] controlling authority of the force".

The reform commission said whether the proposed commission should be a statutory body under an act or a constitutionally structured institution should be decided based on expert opinion. Additionally, the composition of the police commission, its scope of work, constitutional or legal obligations, and other relevant aspects require further analysis and examination, it added.

Thousands flee after Japan's biggest wildfire in decades

AFP, Tokyo

Thousands of people evacuated from parts of northern Japan as the country's largest wildfire in three decades raged unabated yesterday after killing at least one person, officials said.

Around 2,000 people fled areas around the northern Japan city of Ofunato to stay with friends or relatives, while more than 1,200 evacuated to shelters, according to officials.

"We're still examining the size of the affected area, but it is the biggest since the 1992 wildfire" in Kushiro, Hokkaido, a disaster management agency spokesman told AFP Saturday.

Some reports estimated the fire had spread over 1,800 hectares.

Aerial footage by NHK showed columns of white smoke billowing, four days after the blaze first materialised, with military helicopters trying to douse them.

One burned body has been discovered so far, with more than 80 buildings damaged and around 1,700 firefighters mobilised from across the country.

The number of wildfires has declined since the peak in the 1970s, according to government data, but there were about 1,300 across Japan in 2023 -- concentrated in the February to April period when the air dries and winds pick up.

I am worried

FROM PAGE 1

hope future elections will be more visibly free than many claim they have been. There is room for change. I am worried about Bangladesh but I am not without hope," he said.

Sen, who spent much of his childhood in Dhaka and began his formal education at St Gregory's School there, said the situation in Bangladesh affects me deeply because I have a strong Bengali sense of identity," Sen said.

He said he was concerned about how the country would navigate the challenges.

"I have spent a lot of time in Dhaka and began my school education there. Aside from Dhaka, I often visited my ancestral home in Manikganj. On my maternal side, I regularly visited Bikrampur, particularly Sonarang. These places have deep personal significance for me. Like many others, I am worried about how Bangladesh will overcome its current challenges," he said.

On Bangladesh's progress since its independence, Sen highlighted the country's improvements in per capita income, at one point surpassing India, along with a sharp reduction in birth rates and higher life expectancy compared to India.

"Bangladesh has undergone major economic and social transformations,

particularly in advancing women's rights, with contributions from both the government and non-governmental organisations like BRAC and Grameen Bank," he said.

Sen also noted that newspapers in Bangladesh remained "relatively free", with many flourishing despite taking strong anti-government positions.

He praised the Bangladeshi Army for its restraint in not attempting to establish military rule, as has happened in many other countries.

Sen condemned attacks on Hindu minorities and the vandalism of temples, emphasising that it was the responsibility of both the government and the public to prevent such violence.

"This is an important issue because Bangladesh has historically taken pride in its treatment of minorities and its efforts to keep communal forces like Jamaat in check. Unfortunately, there have also been attacks on mosques in India. These incidents, whether in Bangladesh or India, must stop," he asserted.

"There is nothing easier than fuelling communalism by selectively amplifying certain incidents. This is how the Hindu-Muslim riots of the 1940s escalated, leading to bloodshed. We must reflect on our past and consider our future in that light. Selective publicity can be extremely dangerous," Sen said.

Prices of iftar staples hold steady, mostly

FROM PAGE 1

Eggplants, a key ingredient in iftar meals, have doubled in price within a week, currently selling at Tk 60-100 per kg. However, it's still cheaper than last year when the price surged up to Tk 200 per kg.

The prices of broiler and Sonali chicken have increased by Tk 10 per kg compared to last year. Broiler chicken is now priced at Tk 200-210 per kg, while Sonali chicken is being sold at Tk 300-320 per kg.

Meanwhile, the prices of pulse, beef, and fish remain unchanged from last year.

On a positive note, the prices of several essentials, including sugar, grass peas, dates, onions, cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes, eggs, garlic, green and dry chillies, ginger, and isabgol, have decreased.

Sugar is now priced at Tk 125-130 per kg, down from Tk 140-150 last year.

The price of normal dates has fallen to Tk 180-200 per kg from Tk 220-250, while mid-range and premium quality dates are being sold at Tk 450-800 and Tk 1,000-1,800, respectively -- Tk 30-200 per kg lower than last year.

Local onions are now available at Tk 40-50 per kg, significantly lower than last year's Tk 100-120.

Potatoes are being sold at Tk 20-30 per kg, compared to Tk 25-35 last year.

Additionally, winter vegetable prices have decreased by Tk 5-20 per kg compared to last Ramadan.

Mohammad Gofran, proprietor of Cumilla General Store in Karwan Bazar, said, "Except for soybean oil, the prices of most grocery items are satisfactory as supply is abundant. While some essentials have become more expensive, overall, prices are stable, and several items have even become cheaper."

Jahangir Alam, a private sector employee from Teigaon's Begunbari area, said, "Prices of onions, potatoes, tomatoes, green chillies, and eggs are reasonable this year. However, stricter government monitoring could have helped stabilise the prices of items that have gone up."

Saleha Begum, a domestic help from the Karwan Bazar area, said she spent Tk 1,000 and bought oil, chicken, onion, chickpeas, pulse, sugar, isabgol, and various spices.

"Prices of some items have fallen, while others have risen. All in all, the situation is stable. However, if prices fall further, it will be helpful for people like us who struggle to make ends meet."

ছুপ্ত ও নিরাপদে রেমিট্যান্স পাঠান
প্রিয়জনকে প্রয়োজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনা

সাথে আরও আছে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার
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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

Take action against organised violence

Democratic Rights Committee urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Democratic Rights Committee, a platform formed after August 5, has urged the government to take active measures against organised violence, including murder, rape, robbery, extrajudicial killings, sexual harassment, public death threats, and the suppression of creative activities.

In a statement signed by the committee member, Prof Anu Muhammad, it expressed deep concern over the rising incidents of murder, rape, mob violence, and killings across the country.

"Various cultural activities are being obstructed, and attacks continue on women's movement, sports, and other activities. Shockingly, no action has been taken despite public death threats against prominent writers and teachers," the statement said.

Referring to the recent killing of a local youth near an Air Force base at Samitipara in Cox's Bazar, the committee demanded accountability from the authorities and an independent investigation. It also urged the media to actively report such incidents.

The statement raised concerns about universities, citing the expulsion of nine female students from Chittagong University for protesting group violence and the proctor's disgraceful behaviour, which it said endorsed sexual harassment.

It also condemned naming a CU building after Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, an anti-Liberation War figure, and demanded its reversal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Members of newly-formed Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad, led by former leaders of the Students Against Discrimination, observe Flag Hoisting Day on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. On this day in 1971, the first Bangladesh flag was hoisted at DU, marking a significant step in the movement for independence.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Consider Eid, Ramadan on same dates as rest of world

Tarique urges ulema, mashayekh

UNB, Dhaka

B N P
Acting
Chairman
Tarique
Rahman



has urged the country's religious leaders -- ulema and mashayekh -- to consider whether Ramadan and Eid could be observed on the same day as the rest of the world.

"I would like to request you to consider whether this is possible in the age of science and whether a way can be found," he said.

He made the request while joining an Iftar Mahfil at the Ladies Club in Eskaton through a virtual platform from London.

BNP organised the event in honour of religious leaders and orphans on the first day of Ramadan.

FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN

Chawkbazar comes alive with iftar delicacies

HELEMUL ALAM

Airin Aktar, a resident of Dhanmondi, was seen moving through Chawkbazar around 2:00 pm yesterday, collecting an assortment of traditional iftar items on the first day of Ramadan.



She was searching for the iconic Shahi Jilapi shop at the historic Old Dhaka market. "I came on the first day to get fresh, high-quality products, as my family loves to start Ramadan with traditional iftar items," she said, having already bought Boro Baper Polay Khay, Mohabbati Sharbat, chicken shashlik, chicken keema, and Jali Kebab.

Like her, Riaz Talukdar from Khilgaon also visited Chawkbazar, hoping to secure the freshest items for his family. "Every year, I come here to buy these traditional iftar items," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

8,623 complaints filed post-Aug 5

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has ramped up its activities following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5 last year. The commission has completed investigations and filed cases against Hasina and several senior Awami League leaders after their removal in a mass uprising.

According to the ACC's upcoming annual report, set to be submitted to the president, the commission received 15,842 complaints in 2024, with 8,623 filed after the change in power -- more than half of the year's total. Of these, 1,361 were approved for investigation, while 1,894 complaints were taken up for probe throughout the year.

The report details the sources of complaints, with 9,505 directly submitted in writing to the ACC headquarters, 1,584 from divisional offices, 1,108 based on newspaper and TV reports, 792 from government agencies, 399 from private organisations, 393 via the ACC hotline or enforcement unit, and 2,061 through alternative channels, including courts, emails, and social

media.

Of the total complaints, 12,936 were officially registered, while 1,012 were forwarded to relevant ministries and departments for further action.

The scale of complaints post-August 5 is significant -- 1,361 cases were approved



ACC received 15,842 complaints in 2024, with 8,623 filed after the change in power -- more than half of the year's total. Of these, 1,361 were approved for investigation, while 1,894 were taken up for probe.

for investigation, and 895 were forwarded to government agencies. However, 6,767 complaints were deemed outside the ACC's jurisdiction or lacked sufficient evidence for further action.

In 2023, the ACC received 15,437 complaints

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

TAQI MURDER

15 eminent citizens call for swift trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen eminent citizens have called for the immediate submission of the charge sheet and the swift commencement of the trial ahead of the 12th anniversary of the murder of Tanvir Muhammad Taqi.



In a statement issued yesterday, Halim Azad, member secretary of the "Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha" -- a platform campaigning against terrorism in Narayanganj -- said justice for Taqi has been long delayed.

The statement said Taqi was murdered in Narayanganj on March 6, 2013. Twelve years on, the charge sheet is yet to be submitted, leaving the trial stalled.

"Over the years, we have repeatedly called for justice through statements, press conferences, rallies, and newspaper articles. Yet, under the previous government, the trial was deliberately delayed for eleven and a half years," it read.

The signatories acknowledged that the case gained momentum following the political change on August 5, with several accused individuals

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

নির্ধারিত ৫ তারকা ও বিলাসবহুল হোটেলে
ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংকের
নিয়ে এলো
ইফতার এবং ডিনার-এ অতুলনীয়
বুফে ও টেক অ্যাওয়ে অফার
১টি কিনলে ৩টি ফ্রি

ব্যবহার করে উপভোগ করুন এ অয়োজন

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PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON
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THE WESTIN
DHAKA
☎ 01730374871

কার্ডের জন্য এখনই কল করুন

16216

অথবা হে কেল শাখা, উপশাখা ও
ফাস্ট ট্রাকে যোগাযোগ করুন



ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

15 eminent citizens

FROM PAGE 3
arrested and confessing under Section 164.

However, they expressed concern over the stagnation in the judicial process.

"We demand that all perpetrators be brought to justice, the charge sheet submitted, and the trial concluded without further delay," they said.

The statement was signed by writer and language movement veteran Ahmed Rafique, Dhaka University Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury, Professor Jatin Sarker, rights activist Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, lawyer Dr Shahdeen Malik, economist Professor Anu Muhammad, Dr Salimullah Khan, photographer Shahidul Alam, writer and women's leader Maleka Begum, rights activist Khushi Kabir, journalist Sohrab Hassan, cultural activist Kafil Ahmed, DU International Relations Professor Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, and lawyer and rights activist Jyotirmoy Barua.

BARGUNA'S AMTALI UPAZILA
10 bridges collapsed in last 8 months

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Within the last eight months, at least 10 iron bridges over different canals in Haldia and Chawra unions under Barguna's Amtali upazila have collapsed, causing immense suffering to around 65,000 residents.

The latest incident occurred on Friday, when the dilapidated bridge over Raugha canal gave way.

The bridge in Haldia Hat collapsed on June 22 last year while a microbus carrying wedding guests was crossing it, leaving 10 people dead.

Bridges in Mallikbari, Bashbunia, Sonauda, Haldia Boro Molla Bari, Kathalia Baje Sindhuk, Kathalia Madrasa, Chandra Auwal Nagar, and Char Raugha areas have also collapsed since then.

Thousands of residents have been struggling with their daily commute within the upazila and to Barguna district headquarters, with students, patients, and elderly people being the most affected.

All these bridges were constructed in 2008.

Locals alleged that contractor Md Shahidul Islam Mridha, also president of Haldia union unit

Awami League, used poor-quality materials during construction and demanded his punishment.

According to residents, the Local Government Engineering Department in Amtali upazila awarded Shahidul the tender for constructing 21 iron bridges in Haldia and Chawra unions in the 2007-08 fiscal year, allocating Tk 2 crore for each bridge.

They alleged that Shahidul, the then chairman of Haldia union parishad, used his influence to secure the tender and completed the construction with substandard materials.

The bridges were supposed to be built using iron beams and angle plates, but low-quality materials were used instead, causing rapid deterioration, said Nasir Hawlader, a resident of Chawra village.

He said two bridges over the Chawra canal had already collapsed, severely impacting residents.

Jalal Mir of Haldia area urged authorities to reconstruct the bridges to ease public suffering.

Md Asaduzzaman Mintu Mallik, incumbent chairman of Haldia union parishad, confirmed that 10 bridges had collapsed in the past eight months, disrupting communication for thousands of people.

He called for urgent reconstruction. Shahidul Islam could not be reached for comment as his phone was switched off. He has reportedly been in hiding since August 5.

Idris Ali, upazila engineer in Amtali, claimed the bridges collapsed due to a lack of maintenance over the years.

Md Mehedi Hasan, executive engineer of LGED in Barguna, however, said the contractor was involved in irregularities during construction, which led to the collapses. He said they would conduct an investigation and take necessary actions.



Take action

FROM PAGE 3
Similarly, it protested the removal of the names of globally renowned scholars, scientists, and poets from buildings at Khulna University.

Following the July uprising, instead of ensuring safety, military magisterial powers and joint force operations have led to harassment and extrajudicial killings, the statement added.

The committee urged authorities to acknowledge the crisis, ensure justice, tolerate peaceful protests, and take strong action against organised violence.

Update list of suspects, take action against them

FROM PAGE 5

A significant number of highway robbery incidents have made headlines recently.

According to the release yesterday, the decisions include heightened security across the capital with an increased number of checkpoints and patrols at key locations and in the crime-prone areas. A joint task force comprising the army, various units of the police, and the Border Guard Bangladesh is conducting intensified operations in targeted areas to curb crime.

As part of the decision, the home ministry will monitor special operation that has started across the country from February 8 to capture identified criminals, terrorists, drug

dealers, and smugglers.

To boost the morale of various law enforcement agencies, including the police, a workshop on "Enforcing the Law with Emphasis on Human Rights and the Environment in the Changing Situation of the Country" has been held across the country with the participation of the police, administration, judiciary, and public prosecutors.

The ministry directed the officials from various law enforcement agencies, including unit chiefs, deputy police commissioners, and army brigade commanders to brief the media on the decisions and actions taken in response to security concerns.

The authorities have increased regular patrolling on major roads in the capital, with additional patrol units deployed from the navy and coast guard to enhance security.

Special law enforcement patrols have been strengthened in areas surrounding Dhaka, including Tongi, Keraniganj, and Munshiganj. To improve law enforcement response time and efficiency, steps have been taken to procure motorcycles for officers of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, BGB, Ansar, and Bangladesh Coast Guard, enabling them to conduct swift patrols on alleys and in the crime-prone zones, according to the home ministry press release.

Measures have been adopted to counter misinformation, rumours, and propaganda by disseminating accurate information to the public. Senior officials, including the home adviser, the chief adviser's special assistant, the home secretary, the inspector general of police, and DMP commissioner, have been conducting surprise inspections of police stations, checkpoints, and patrol activities during late night and early-morning hours, reads the home ministry release.

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury has already held meetings with law enforcement officials in all administrative divisions and issued necessary directives to enhance security measures.

Chawkbazar comes alive

FROM PAGE 3

The centuries old Chawkbazar iftar market, the largest in the capital, draws hundreds of visitors daily during Ramadan. Several hundred makeshift stalls sell a variety of delicacies made from meat, vegetables, sweets, milk, and spices - many dating back to the Mughal era.

The most sought-after item remains Boro Baper Polay Khay, a rich mixture of chickpeas, minced meat, potatoes, brain, flattened rice, eggs, chicken, spices, and ghee, priced at Tk 800 per kg. Other favourites include beef and chicken roasts, mutton and chicken cutlets, keema rolls, keema

parathas, borhani, and various kebabs like Suti, Jali, Irani, and Tikka.

Sweet treats such as malai cups, firni, namak para, doi bora, and feluda complete the spread.

Mohammad Afzal, a 57-year old shop owner and long-time resident of Baro Katra, recalled the market's history. "This market is around 400 years old. There are about 500 shops here this year, compared to just 100 tin-shed makeshift shops during my childhood," he said.

He reminisced about how people from Nawab Bari and Baro Katra once arrived in bullock and horse carts to buy iftar items.

For some, these delicacies

remain a Ramadan staple beyond the first day.

Wasim Uddin and Ruhani Wasim, a couple from Wari, visit Chawkbazar throughout the month. "Having grown up in Old Dhaka, we cherish these traditional items and enjoy them all Ramadan," said Wasim.

Meanwhile, vendors like Mohammad Hossain, busy selling Boro Baper Polay Khay, see the business as a family legacy. "My grandfather and father sold iftar here, and now I do too," he said.

As iftar time approached, Chawkbazar remained packed, its rich aromas filling the air, marking another Ramadan in Dhaka.

8,623 complaints filed post-Aug 5

FROM PAGE 3
but investigated only 845 - just 5.47 percent.

In 2022, 19,338 complaints were lodged, including 2,707 through courts, emails, and social media. However, only 901 cases were approved

for investigation, with 3,152 forwarded to ministries for action.

Md Akhtar Hossain, director general (prevention) of the ACC, said, "We have taken into account all complaints that

fall within our jurisdiction, regardless of whether they were filed before or after August 5. Our investigation teams are actively working on these cases, and the ACC will take appropriate legal action as required."

SKS Foundation
College Road, Uttar Horin Singha, Gaibandha

Tender Notice

SKS Foundation is inviting tender from a real supplier/vendor for purchasing goods for the Solar Home System (SHS) on the below-mentioned two projects, supported by Andheri- Hilde Bonn, Germany.

| SL# | Project Name | Location | Quantity |
|--------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Lighting the Poor and Disadvantaged Families Living in Char Areas Project | Bharatkhalai, Saghata, Gaibandha | 300 Set |
| 2 | Expanded Livelihoods for 2000 Poor Households and Increased Resilience to Flooding in Lalmonirhat District | Lalmonirhat | 50 Set |
| Total | | | 350 Set |

Detail Terms and conditions will be mentioned in the schedule.

Tender Schedule Collection: From the date of publication of the tender notice in the newspaper till 16/03/2025, during office hours (excluding holidays), each schedule will be available directly from SKS Foundation, Head Office, College Road, Uttar Horin Singha, Gaibandha (Admin Department). Rate of schedule Tk. 500/- (Not returnable).

Tender Submission and Opening Date: Tenders must be submitted directly to the tender box by 1:00 PM on 17/03/2025. Tenders must be accompanied by a recent trade license, VAT registration, income tax certificate, and previous relevant work experience certificate. The tenders will be opened in the presence of the bidders (if any) at 3:00 PM on the same day. If the amount of money in the schedule is incorrect/misrepresented, it will be rejected.

The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Convener-Procurement Committee
SKS Foundation, Gaibandha.

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 154 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:
Sayed Ahmed — Petitioner
Global Insurance Limited and another — Respondents

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Sayed Ahmed filed an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 ("the application") seeking an order to hold Annual General Meeting for the calendar year 2024 of respondent No. 01 Company, Global Insurance Limited, for submitting the audited balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended on 31st December, 2023 before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble Justice of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the application by an order dated 30.01.2025 and further the petitioner is directed to publish this notice in two daily newspaper namely "The Daily Star" and "The Daily Kalerkantho" within 3 (three) weeks from date of said order and also the petitioner is further directed to file an affidavit-in-compliance on or before 05.03.2025. The petitioner is further directed to put in requisites forthwith. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fixed. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs.

Yours sincerely,
A.K.M. Mahbub Alam Bhuiya
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Room No. 409, Annex Ext. Building, Supreme Court Bar Association, Dhaka-1000.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter No. 213 of 2025

An Application under section 81 (2) read with sections 85 (3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

ABM Jahurul Islam, Son of late Joyal Abedin and Mst. Jahanara Begum, Managing Director, Fendale Logistics Ltd., of Village: Charhossainpur, Post Office: Ishwargonj, Police Station: Ishwargonj, District: Mymensingh. — Petitioner.

VERSUS

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, T.C.B Bhaban (6th floor), 01, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 and another. — Respondents.

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed and moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of Fendale Logistics Ltd. for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023. Upon hearing of the application on 12.02.2025 Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has been pleased to admit the said application and fixed date of hearing on 17.03.2025. Any person interested to oppose the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Sayed Mishbahul Anwar
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Head of the Chamber, Sayed Mishbahul Anwar & Associates : Suite No. B-01 (5th Floor) Aziz Co-Operative Building 204, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sharani (Old-89, Bijoy Nagar) Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka-1000. Cell: 01711 444717.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter No. 214 of 2025

An Application under section 81 (2) read with sections 85 (3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

Sayed Md. Harun-ar-Rashid, Managing Director, Mercantile Freight Systems Ltd., Address: Sayed Manil, House No. 141, Village: South Manikpur, Ward No. 05, Union 5 Arjantala, Post Office: Senbag, Police Station: Senbag, District: Noakhali. — Petitioner.

VERSUS

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, T.C.B Bhaban (6th floor), 01, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 and another. — Respondents.

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed and moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of Mercantile Freight Systems Ltd. for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Upon hearing of the application on 12.02.2025 Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has been pleased to admit the said application and fixed date of hearing on 17.03.2025. Any person interested to oppose the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Sayed Mishbahul Anwar
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Head of the Chamber, Sayed Mishbahul Anwar & Associates : Suite No. B-01 (5th Floor) Aziz Co-Operative Building 204, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sharani (Old-89, Bijoy Nagar) Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka-1000. Cell: 01711 444717.

1,471 held in 6 days in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police and other law enforcement agencies arrested 167 suspected criminals, including robbers and muggers, during a crackdown in the capital on Saturday, according to a DMP press release.

With these arrests, the total number of arrests in the DMP area over the past six days has reached 1,471.

Among the arrestees were six robbers, 18 snatchers, four extortionists, 10 thieves, 22 drug dealers, and 12 individuals with outstanding warrants. A total of 66 cases were filed following the arrests.

According to the DMP's Crime Command and Control Center, 575 patrol teams operated across 50 police stations as part of efforts to ensure security and smooth movement in the capital.

Additionally, the DMP set up 65 checkpoints at key locations, while the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) operated 20 more. Additionally, 14 CTTC, 12 ATU, and 10 patrol teams of the DMP and Rab were deployed in crime-prone areas.

Meanwhile, the Police Headquarters did not provide updated data on arrests from Operation Devil Hunt yesterday.

Since the operation began on February 8, a total of 12,500 people have been arrested as of Saturday. The interim government launched the operation 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 the ongoing Operation Devil Hunt, crimes like mugging and robbery have continued.

Officials of 25 cadres protest discrimination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials from 25 different cadres of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) staged a protest yesterday, demanding an end to inter-cadre discrimination and opposing what they claim to be biased and unjust suspension by the administration cadre.

The protest, organised by the Inter-Cadre Discrimination Elimination Council, included a one-hour demonstration from 10:30am to 11:30am.

Officers stood in front of their respective offices wearing black badges and holding banners to highlight disparities within the civil service, according to a press release from the organisation.

The protests took place in front of various government offices and hospitals at district and divisional levels. However, emergency services, including hospital emergency departments, remained operational.

The council criticised the recent suspensions of 12 officials from the 25 cadres, arguing that they were penalised for "minor offences," such as Facebook posts, while administration cadre members faced no consequences for similar actions.

It claimed this reflects clear discrimination in the handling of civil service officials.

The council warned that if the suspension orders are not withdrawn within the next week, they will announce stricter protest programmes.

Coastguard, Australian HC launch training

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Australian High Commission and the Bangladesh Coast Guard have jointly organised the "Investigative Interview Course" to enhance the professional skills, operational capabilities, and investigative expertise of the law enforcement forces.

Rear Admiral Mohammad Ziaul Haque, director general of the Bangladesh Coast Guard, inaugurated the training programme at the Westin in Dhaka yesterday, said a press release.

A total of 12 officers from the Bangladesh Coast Guard, Special Branch (Immigration) of Bangladesh Police, and Bangladesh Customs are participating in the course.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
DPHE, Pirojpur District, Pirojpur.
www.dphe.pirojpur.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender notice

| Ministry/ Division | Local Government Division. |
|---|---|
| Implementing Agency | Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE). |
| Project/ Program Name | Revenue Budget, Project for Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country and PEDP-4. |
| e-Tender IDs (with Package Number) | 1081681, (Rev/Pir/Nesarabad office road Repair 2024-25), 1081680, (Rev/Pir/Bhandaria B/W and office Repair 2024-25), 1081679 (Rev/Pir/Sadar office Repair 2024-25), 1081678 (PSWSC-2074), 1081173 (PEDP4/WSS-581), 1081172 (PEDP4/WSS-580) and 1081171 (PEDP4/WSS-579). |
| Description of works | Rev/Pir/office road Repair: Repair of DPHE Internal Road and Others Work at Different Upazila DPHE Office, Pirojpur under Revenue Budget. PSWSC-2074: Installation of 96 Nos Rain Water Harvesting at Mathbaria upazila in Pirojpur district under "Project for Safe Water Supply Through out the Country during FY 2024-2025. PEDP4/WSS: Repair of toilet and construction of basin under Water Supply and Sanitary related work at URC Building and DPO Office, Different Upozilas Pirojpur under PEDP-4 Project of DPHE 2024-25. |
| Name & Designation of official Inviting Tender | Jayanta Sarker, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Pirojpur District. |
| This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP Web Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/ firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd | |

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০২-০১-২০২৫
Jayanta Sarker
Executive Engineer
DPHE, Pirojpur District.

GD-543

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Head office: 137/A CDA Avenue, Sholoshahar, Chattogram.

Memo No. 28.15.0000.257.47.002.24 Date : 27/02/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the work listed below:

| Tender ID No. | Tender Package No. | Description of works | Tender publication date & time | Last selling Date & Time | Closing and Opening Date & Time |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1071588 | 28.15.0000.257.47.002.24 | Construction and Installation of Marker Post along the Right of Way of High-Pressure Main Gas Distribution Pipe Line Of KGDCL, Chattogram. | 03/03/2025 10:00 AM | 19/03/2025 3:30 PM | 20/03/2025 2:30 PM |

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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(Engr. Md. Sohel Rana)
Deputy General Manager
Transmission Department
Fouzdarhat, Chattogram
e-mail: loaddespatchkgdcl@gmail.com

GD=539

ABU SAYED MURDER

4 accused asked to be produced before ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to produce four persons, including two policemen, before it on April 9 in connection with a case over the killing of Abu Sayed, a Begum Rokeya University student, during the July mass uprising.

The tribunal also sought investigation report on the same day.

The four are Assistant Sub-Inspector Amir Hossain, Constable Sujan Chandra Roy, former university proctor Shariful Islam, and "banned" Chhatra League General Secretary Emran Chowdhury Akash.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam told reporters after the tribunal's proceedings that ASI Amir and Constable Sujan directly shot Abu Sayed.

He also said former proctor Shariful and BCL leader Emran along with other accused attacked on a procession of students on the university camps in Rangpur on July 16 last year, beat them and forced them out of the campus when police in cold blood shot Sayed though he posed no harm to them.

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina is the prime accused in the case, he said.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Despite having a Wasa connection, Chattogram's Patenga area faces frequent water shortages. Moreover, water extracted from tube-wells remains salty due to proximity to the sea. As a result, residents have no other option but to purchase water for cooking and drinking. Small traders are capitalising on this demand, supplying water to residents at Tk 25 per drum. The photo was taken at Narikel Tala, Patenga recently.

SAD leader accused of extortion in Rangpur
Video clip goes viral on social media

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Nahid Hasan Khondokar, a leader of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) in Rangpur, has been accused of demanding extortion money from a person in the district.

A video went viral on social media on Saturday. SAD Rangpur city unit issued a show-cause notice, signed by its coordinator Ali Milon, asking Nahid to explain his actions within three days.

Imtiaz Ahmed, convener of the organisation's Rangpur committee, citing their preliminary investigation, said the video could be a part of an attempt to tarnish Nahid's reputation and discredit SAD. "If any evidence of wrongdoing is found, organisational action will be taken."

Abu Saim, superintendent of police in Rangpur, said no formal complaint has been filed so far.

Contacted, Nahid denied the accusations, claiming it was a conspiracy to tarnish his reputation and discredit the SAD. "I went [to the spot] to investigate illegal sand extraction six or seven days ago. I did not demand a single taka from anyone. They even offered me money, which I did not take," he said.

Nahid alleged the controversy was engineered by a faction of the Jubo League to defame him.

Update list of suspects, take action against them

Govt tells law enforcement agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has instructed law enforcement agencies to update the list of criminals at police stations and take swift action against them. This step aims to improve the country's law and order, including in the capital.

A crackdown is also underway against muggers, robbers, juvenile gangs, and in crime-prone zones.

The home ministry has made 16 decisions to improve law and order in the capital and across the country, according to a press release issued by Faisal Hasan, public relations officer (director) of the ministry, yesterday.

These decisions come at a time when joint forces, including the army and law enforcement agencies, continue "Operation Devil Hunt" nationwide and intensify a crackdown on criminals in the capital amid a

surge in crime.

Law and order remains a major concern nearly seven months after the interim government took office.

Murder, abduction, robbery, burglary, and theft have all seen a spike

A joint task force comprising the army, various units of the police, and the Border Guard Bangladesh is conducting intensified operations in targeted areas to curb crime.

across the country in January this year compared to the corresponding month over the last five years, according to police data based on the number of cases filed.

Operation Devil Hunt has led to nearly 12,500 arrests so far.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CARETAKER GOVT
SC hearing on review petitions
May 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed May 8 for holding hearing on four separate review petitions filed challenging its 2011 verdict scrapping the non-party caretaker government system.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam set the date after Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman prayed for fixing the date.

On February 11, the SC deferred for two weeks the hearing.

BNP, Jamaat, five citizens and Md Mofazzal Hossain, a freedom fighter from Naogaon, lodged the four review petitions last year to turn down its 2011 verdict that scrapped caretaker government system.

GRAFT CASE

Appeal hearing on Khaleda Zia's acquittal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday deferred until today the date for hearing the leave to appeal petitions filed by the state and the Anti-Corruption Commission challenging the High Court verdict that acquitted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

A three-member bench led by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam passed the deferment order after ACC's lawyer Ashif Hassan prayed for an adjournment.

On November 27 last year, the HC acquitted Khaleda in the graft case, in which she was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court on October 29, 2018.

The HC also scrapped the trial court verdict that sentenced the BNP chief and two others in the case.

The state and the ACC filed two petitions with the SC, challenging the HC verdict in January and February respectively.

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

SCRAPPING APPOINTMENT
SC to hear state's petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed today for hearing a petition filed by the state challenging the High Court verdict that scrapped a government decision to grant appointment letters to 6,531 candidates qualified for the post of assistant teachers of government primary schools.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam set the date after the attorney general prayed for holding the hearing.

On February 6, the HC scrapped the government decision to grant appointment letters to 6,531 candidates, who qualified for the post of assistant teachers of government primary schools as their recruitment process was completed under the 84 percent quota system which was scrapped by the Appellate Division in July last year.

The HC also ordered the authorities concerned to appoint the candidates to those posts in line with the apex court verdict which has ruled that 93 percent jobs in civil service will be merit-based and remaining 7 percent will be from quota.



Fishermen repair their nets near the bank of Kalabadar river in Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday. With the two-month ban on fishing ongoing, fishers are struggling to survive. They have urged the government to increase the amount of rice distributed as aid and provide cash support to them.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Freeze 44 bank accounts of Amu, family
Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 44 bank accounts of former industries minister and Awami League advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu, his wife Syeda Haque and their daughter Sumaiya Hossain in connection with corruption allegations against them.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Assistant Public Prosecutor Abul Kalam Azad, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application.

ACC said allegations of illegal recruitment trade, running a tender syndicate, embezzling money from government projects, amassing illegal wealth through corruption have been brought against Amu and the others.

'Rice alone won't solve our problems'

Barishal fishers struggle amid 2-month ban

SHUSHANTA GHOSH

Tongi Bariya Union in Barishal Sadar upazila is home to over a thousand fishermen, many of whom are facing severe financial distress due to the two-month-long fishing ban imposed from March 1 to April 30.

With no alternative sources of income, they are struggling to make ends meet, relying on loans and borrowed money for survival.

During a visit to the fishing communities, several fishermen were seen repairing their nets and boats in preparation for resuming work.

Rina Begum, 52, a resident of Ward 2 and mother of three, said she took a loan of Tk 80,000 from an NGO to sustain her family during this period. "Borrowing money was our only option, but repaying the loans now seem impossible," she said.

Delwar Hossain, 65, said he had heard that the government would provide aid during the ban, but so far, the only assistance received was rice.

"Rice alone would not solve our problems... We need cash support for survival," he added.

Kalam Hawlader, president of the local fishermen's association of Tungbaria Union, said despite over 1,000 fishermen families residing in the union, only 585 had received government-issued fishermen's cards.

According to the Barishal District Fisheries Office, the ban is being enforced across three upazilas – Barishal Sadar, Hizla, and Mehendiganj – as part of a larger conservation effort spanning ten upazilas in Barishal and Bhola divisions.

District Fisheries Officer Ripon Kanti Ghosh said while Barishal has a total of 79,370 registered fishermen, the current ban affects 43,279 fishermen in the three upazilas.

Plans are underway to distribute 80kg rice per household during the ban period. He said authorities were carefully verifying the list of fishermen to ensure that no one was left out of the government's relief programme.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Women's Affairs Office,
Day-care Center
Barisal.

Tender Notice

| Subject: Conditions of the supply of Foodstuff of 60 (sixty) children to Day Care Center 'Barisal run by the directorate of women's affair's in the monthly installment for the period for the 12 (twelve) months (Except Govt. Holidays). | |
|--|--|
| 1. | The schedule with in details descriptions, related information and the conditions of tender may be collected until the office hour from the following office of the undersigned on payment of taka 400.00 (Four Hundred) on the code 1-3021-0000-2366 through treasury chalan of Sonali Bank submitting main copy are to date 03/03/2025. The schedule won't be sold after the office hour date 16/03/2025 |
| 2. | Until 12:00 pm of the date 17/03/2025 the tender must be submitted into the box kept in the front of the office of following undersigned and on the same day the tender box will be opened in the front of the tenderers/suppliers (if anyone remains present) at the following undersigned's office at 12:30 pm. |
| 3. | The attached copy of trade license (up to date), income tax certificate (up to date), vat registration certificate of the company/institutions, bank solvency certificate, certificate of minimum two years experience of food stuff supply and the copy of bank draft must be submitted with the tender. |
| 4. | 3% of the projected cost must be submitted through payment order favoring the Districted Women's Affairs officer as earnest money. |
| 5. | Tenderer whose tender will be accepted must submit 10% of the annual price at the rate monthly total price as earnest money which will be deposited in the office until the termination of the agreement and after the termination of agreement the money will be returned. But if the agreement is renewed the 10% earnest money will be deposited until expiration of the renewed time or old earnest money will be returned depositing new earnest money. |
| 6. | Within the seven days of receiving work order, there must be an agreement on non judicial stamp of take 300.00 (Three Hundred) with the said department and have to submit the office of undersigned. |
| 7. | The tender organization must mention the unit price and monthly price of each items according to the schedule. |
| 8. | The quoted price of every item of the tendered must be accordance with market price. |
| 9. | The submitted tender must be mathematically correct and without over-writing and tempering. The authority is not bound who accept the lowest tender. |
| 10. | The bill of suppliers will be paid from the office of Divisional Controller of accountant, Barisal. According to the Government rules the income tax, vat and other taxes must be paid from the bill (Where and what necessary). The payment of the contractor will be delayed if the allocation comes late. |
| 11. | If the contractor breaks the rules or fails to supply the food stuff the work order of the contractor will be canceled with security money. If the contractor is unwilling to supply he has to inform black and white. He has to supply the food stuff till two months onward if the application. Women enterprises are encouraged to attend the tender. |
| 12. | The dry food of every week (Except Govt. Holidays) must be supplied to The Barisal Children's Day Care center, B.M College road, Barisal. Fresh raw items must be supplied every day after tomorrow. If it is not fresh, it must be supplied again according to the Authority's demand. |
| 13. | There is an allocation for 60 (Sixty) children in tender. If there presence is low or the working days are less the supply of food will be less and the bill will be accordingly. |
| 14. | If the address is changed, the contractor have to supply goods, to the changed address. |
| 15. | Three sets of bill have to submitted to the undersigned in every two month. If the standard food is not supplied, the authority may cancelled the work order with earnest money. |
| 16. | The work order will be valid for one year. The authority may increase/decrease the duration of work order without changing the price of the work order. |
| 17. | The work order will be set with adding/avoiding other conditions. |
| 18. | The authority deserves the right to accept or cancel of lowest tender without showing any reason. |
| 19. | It is the necessary to mention to follow the condition/regulation published in the newspapers except the condition of the work order. |
| 20. | If any trouble arises the decision of Director General, The Director Of Women's Affairs's will be final condition of the work order. |
| 21. | This Tender will run under the low of the public procurement regulation. |

02/03/2025

Meherun Nahar Munni
Deputy Director
Women's Affairs Office
Barisal.

PARVEEN haunted me for days: TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

After delivering outstanding projects like *Khachar Bhit* and *Ochin Pakhi* and *Surongo*, director Raihan Rafi and actress Tama Mirza are teaming up once again for *Amalnama*, an upcoming Chorki original web-film based on a true story.

Expressing her excitement about the project, Tama Mirza shared, "*Amalnama* has a powerful narrative, and every actor involved has performed with great dedication. Raihan Rafi has created an exceptional film, and I truly believe it is one of his best works."

Speaking about the film's emotional depth, she added, "Viewers always appreciate good storytelling, and I am confident that *Amalnama* will touch their hearts and stay with them for years."

In the web-film, Tama takes on the role of Parveen, a character that she found deeply immersive. "It took me quite some time to detach myself from Parveen, even after filming ended. For days, I struggled to move on. This character is one of my personal favorites," she revealed.

Tama also praised the strong collaboration behind *Amalnama*, emphasising the importance of teamwork, "A skilled director and talented actors are essential to creating something remarkable, but just as important is teamwork. *Amalnama* had outstanding teamwork that stood out in every aspect."

Encouraging audiences to watch the film, she said, "I believe our project will resonate with everyone, and I encourage them to watch it on Chorki and share their thoughts. The story is deeply relevant to contemporary times."

Noted actor Zahid Hasan plays an important role in *Amalnama*, joined by an ensemble cast of talented artistes like Kamruzzaman Kamu and Sarika Subrin, amongst others.

Meanwhile, Tama Mirza is also gearing up for the release of her new film, *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Set to premiere during Eid-ul-Fitr, the film will showcase her reuniting once again with Afran Nisho.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'CARTOON O MEME-ER RAJNITI'

The Cartoon and Meme Exhibition is set to feature a display of influential cartoons from the July Revolution alongside recently curated memes from the *cariki* platform, offering a fun and engaging experience.

Moreover, a workshop for selected meme creators and cartoonists from Jahangirnagar University will be held. The free of cost event is open to all.

Date: Sunday | March 6
Time: 11am-3pm

Venue: Zahir Raihan Auditorium, Jahangirnagar University



Forbes names Dwayne Johnson the highest-paid actor of 2024



After four years, Dwayne Johnson has returned to the top of Forbes' list of the world's richest actors. He earned a staggering \$88 million last year, surpassing Ryan Reynolds (\$85 million), Kevin Hart (\$81 million), and Jerry Seinfeld (\$60 million).

His substantial income was driven by profitable agreements for *Red One*, *Moana 2*, and royalties from previous projects. An agent referred to the total as "an ungodly amount of money."

Only three female actors made the top 20: Nicole Kidman (*Babygirl*, *A Family Affair*), Mariska Hargitay, and Scarlett Johansson, the youngest at 40.

Streaming became a major income source, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney earning \$32 million each for *Wolfs*.

Forbes' report highlights that most of the highest-paid actors accumulated wealth through ventures beyond live-action films. In 2024, six of the top ten movies were animated, a genre where actors typically don't receive huge paychecks.



Ashes to donate all new album income to hospitals

Bangladeshi rock band Ashes is set to release its new album, *Manusher Jonno*, with all proceeds going to humanitarian aid.

The band will forgo fees and royalties, donating the entire amount to hospital funds for cancer, kidney disease, paralysis, and eye treatment patients. The 10-song album is slated for release later this year.

This isn't the first time Ashes has made headlines for its humanitarian work. The band previously helped fund treatment for cancer and kidney patients. According to Ashes, they've supported more than 100 patients over the last decade.

Zunayed Evan previously told the media, "Rather than asking for donations, we started donating a portion of our concert earnings, hosting charity events where I gave my entire fee and our staff reduced their pay willingly."

The current lineup of Ashes includes Zunayed Evan (vocals), Sultan Rafsan Khan (guitar), Wahid Uz Zaman Turjo (bass guitar), Adnan Bin Zaman (keyboards), and Tawfiq Ahmed Bijoy (drums).

Theatre activists demand autonomy for Shilpakala, rally for Syed Jamil Ahmed's reinstatement

DOWEL BISWAS

A procession calling for the prompt reinstatement of eminent theatre personality Syed Jamil Ahmed as Shilpakala Director General, led by theatre activists and cultural figures under the banner of "Bikkhubdo Shikharthee-Shilpi-Nagarik Somaj", took place yesterday at around 3pm at the gates of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

This rally, which brought together theatre artistes, writers, directors, designers, and cultural activists, came in the wake of the controversial resignation of Syed Jamil Ahmed. The procession aims to voice a clear and urgent demand for not only the reinstatement of Ahmed but also for the autonomy of Shilpakala Academy, free from bureaucratic interference.

Their rallying cry, with the slogan "Gonoobhutaner Gono Akangkha,



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Syed Jamil Ahmed's resignation, announced on February 28, has become the focal point of this growing movement.

Amlatontrer Satho Aposh Na" (People's aspirations for a mass uprising: No compromise with bureaucracy), resonates across the cultural landscape, reflecting the widespread frustration with the governance of cultural institutions.

Speakers at the procession, comprised mainly of theatre artistes and university students, voiced their strong discontent over Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's critical remarks regarding

Syed Jamil Ahmed's "failure" in fulfilling his duties as the director general of Shilpakala Academy. They vehemently opposed Farooki's allegations, views on budget allocation for the cultural sector, and his remarks on bureaucratic challenges and censorship.

Ragib Naeem, central president of a section of the Chhatra Union, stated, "If this government fails to deliver on the promises it made to the people, it threatens to undermine the spirit of the mass uprisings. One doesn't have to be a cultural adviser or bureaucrat to realise the importance of a proper cultural budget."

Theatre activists Mohiuddin Roni and Riasat Salekin emphasised, "Syed Jamil Ahmed is a figure who has stood firm against fascism and oppressive regimes through his work and principles. For his career and contributions to be disparaged in such a disgraceful manner

is an affront to our entire cultural community."

Theatre activists argue that the current bureaucratic structure stifles creativity and limits the growth of the arts in Bangladesh, and they believe that an independent, self-governed Shilpakala Academy is crucial for nurturing the country's vibrant cultural scene.

Syed Jamil Ahmed's resignation, announced on February 28, has become the focal point of this growing movement. During the closing ceremony of the "Munier Chowdhury First National Theatre Festival," the eminent cultural personality cited "bureaucratic challenges" and restrictions on artistic expression as reasons for his departure. His comments ignited a wave of support from theatre professionals, who view his resignation as a sign of larger systemic issues within the institution.

However, the response from the cultural adviser, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, has been critical. Through multiple Facebook posts, he defended the bureaucratic environment at Shilpakala and suggested that Ahmed's frustrations may stem from his inability to reconcile his passion for theatre with the demands of the institutional system. Farooki questioned the accuracy of some of Ahmed's statements, noting that a balance between artistic vision and bureaucratic management is essential.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs secretary Mohammad Wares Hossain clarified that he did not have the authority to accept Ahmed's resignation, as that decision rests with the ministry's senior officials. Acting Secretary Md Mofidur Rahman, while acknowledging the resignation, stated that he has not yet received the official letter and would comment further once it is received.

'We have to stay hidden'

Trump's deportation threats spark fear among farmworkers in California

AFP, Fresno

With planting season well under way in California, the leading US food-producing state, fear is taking root among thousands of migrants who labor to feed a country that now seems ready to deport them.

"We have to stay hidden," Lourdes Cardenas, a 62-year-old Mexican living in the city of Fresno, told AFP.

"You are unsure if you will encounter the immigration authorities. We can't be free anywhere, not in schools, not in churches, not in supermarkets," said Cardenas, who has lived in the United States for 22 years.

President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric has left people like her "depressed, sad, anxious" and fearful of being deported, she said. Cardenas is one of



A young man bids farewell to one of two Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike in Beit Hanun, in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday. The International Committee of the Red Cross called on Israel and Hamas to maintain their ceasefire in Gaza to prevent the conflict-weary region from sinking back into despair. PHOTO: AFP



more than two million people working on farms in the United States.

Most were born outside the country, speak Spanish and, on average, arrived more than 15 years ago. Still, 42 percent of them lack the documents that would allow them to work legally, according to the government's own figures. In January, surprise raids by immigration officials in Bakersfield, an agricultural city about 250 miles (400 kilometers) from the Mexican border, sent chills through workers in California's breadbasket Central Valley.

They were a stark reminder that the country some of them have called home for decades elected a man who wants them gone. "We were not afraid of the pandemic," said Cardenas, who did not stop working during the worst months of Covid-19. "But right now this is getting bad for us."

While they might be staying away from church, or altering their shopping habits, the one thing these migrant workers cannot do is stay away from work.

That is why for the United Farm Workers, the largest farm workers' union in the United States, the threatened mass deportations will not translate into more jobs for Americans.

Instead, they say, it will further drive down the cost of those migrant workers, making employers less likely to pay them the much higher salaries that American workers demand.

"You have thousands of people who are so afraid of being deported that they're willing to work for way less," union spokesman Antonio de Loera told AFP.

Israel blocks entry of all aid into Gaza

Says hostages must be released for truce to continue; 4 Palestinians killed, 6 hurt in Israeli attacks

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel blocked the entry of aid trucks into Gaza yesterday as a standoff over the truce that has halted fighting for the past six weeks escalated, with Hamas calling on Egyptian and Qatari mediators to intervene.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said earlier that it had adopted a proposal by US President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, for a temporary ceasefire in Gaza for the Ramadan and Passover periods, hours after the first phase of the previously agreed ceasefire expired.

If agreed, the truce would halt fighting until the end of the Ramadan fasting period around March 31 and the Jewish Passover holiday around April 20.

The truce would be conditional on Hamas releasing half of the living and dead hostages on the first day, with the remainder released at the conclusion, if an agreement is reached on a permanent ceasefire.

Hamas says it is committed to the originally agreed ceasefire that had been scheduled to move into a second phase,

with negotiations aimed at a permanent end to the war, and it has rejected the idea of a temporary extension to the 42-day truce.

Meanwhile, the ministry of health in Hamas-run Gaza said four people were killed and six others wounded in Israeli attacks yesterday after the first phase of a fragile truce in the territory drew to a close.

"Since this morning, four dead and six wounded" have been brought to "hospitals in the Gaza Strip following Israeli attacks in various parts of the territory", the ministry said in a statement.

Egyptian sources said that the Israeli delegation in Cairo had sought to extend the first phase by 42 days, while Hamas wanted to move to the second phase of the ceasefire deal. Spokesman Hazem Qassem said that the group rejected Israel's "formulation" of extending the first phase.

Under the original agreement, the second phase was intended to see the start of negotiations over the release of the remaining 59 hostages, the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, and a final end to the war.

Hamas wants Israel to move to 2nd phase of ceasefire

Iran MPs sack minister over economic woes

AFP, Tehran

Iran's parliament sacked the country's finance minister yesterday after impeaching him over soaring inflation and a plunging currency, state television reported.

Economy and Finance Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati lost a vote of confidence, with 182 of 273 parliamentarians present backing his removal.

On the black market yesterday, the Iranian rial was trading at more than 920,000 to the US dollar, compared with less than 600,000 in mid-2024.

Earlier, President Masoud Pezeshkian defended Hemmati telling lawmakers: "We are in a full-scale (economic) war with the enemy... we must take a war formation".

"The economic problems of today's society are not related to one person and we cannot blame it all on one person."

Lawmakers took turns angrily censuring Hemmati, blaming him for Iran's economic woes.

CLIMATE REPORT TIMING Nations fail to break deadlock

AFP, Bangkok

Nations failed to break a deadlock over the timing of the UN's next blockbuster assessment of climate change science after a marathon meeting in China that US envoys skipped.

At the issue was whether the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which informs policymakers, will deliver its next three-part assessment before a 2028 United Nations "stocktake" of the global response to rising temperatures.

Many wealthy countries and developing nations exposed to climate impacts wanted an accelerated timetable, arguing the reports would allow countries to be guided by the most up-to-date science.

But they faced objections from some oil producers and major polluters with rising emissions, such as India and China.

The talks in Hangzhou ran over by more than a day, wrapping up late Saturday night with an agreement to allow work to proceed without a definitive deadline for delivery.

The outcome was a "bitter disappointment", said Zhe Yao, global policy advisor at Greenpeace East Asia. The deadlock "only serves those who wish to hold back climate action, but climate vulnerable countries cannot wait", Yao said.

Eight dead in India avalanche Rescue operation ends

AFP, Dehradun

Rescuers recovered the eighth and final body from the site of an avalanche in a remote area of northern India, the army said yesterday, marking the end of a marathon operation in sub-zero temperatures.

More than 50 workers were submerged under snow and debris after the avalanche hit a construction camp on Friday near Mana village on the border with Tibet in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

Authorities had revised down the number of workers on site at the time of the avalanche from 55 to 54 after one worker, previously believed to be buried, was found to have safely made his way home before the avalanche hit.

The army used drone-based detection system to assist in its search operations.

Multiple drones and a rescue dog were also employed. Construction worker Anil, who only gave his first name, recalled his rescue hours after being buried by the avalanche.

"It was if God's angels had come to save us," Anil, who is in his late 20s, told AFP yesterday by phone from his hospital bed.

"The way we were engulfed in snow, we had no hope of surviving."

Being alive now felt "like a dream", he said.



Protesters march in Yosemite National Park during a demonstration against the mass firings of National Park Service employees by the Trump administration in Yosemite Valley, California, US, on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

US probe lands upright on Moon

AFP, Washington

A US company successfully landed its spacecraft on the Moon yesterday, marking only the second private mission to achieve the milestone – and the first to do so upright.

Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost Mission 1 touched down shortly after 3:34 am US Eastern Time (0834 GMT) near Mons Latreille, a volcanic formation in Mare Crisium on the Moon's northeastern near side.

"Y'all stuck the landing, we're on the Moon," an engineer at mission

control in Austin, Texas, called out as the team erupted in cheers.

CEO Jason Kim confirmed that the spacecraft was "stable and upright" – in contrast to the first private landing last February, which came down sideways.

"We're on the Moon!" Nicky Fox, associate administrator for Nasa's Science Mission Directorate, rejoiced.

The first image from the lander revealed the rocky, pockmarked terrain it had to autonomously navigate in order to select its

touchdown spot, having slowed down from thousands of miles per hour to just two mph.

Nicknamed "Ghost Riders in the Sky," the mission is part of a Nasa-industry partnership aimed at reducing costs and supporting Artemis, the program designed to return astronauts to the Moon.

The golden lander, about the size of a hippopotamus, launched on January 15 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, capturing stunning footage of Earth and the Moon along its 2.8 million mile journey.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria
Phone-0851-59632
eebra@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No- 35.01.1213.406.14.259.25.424 Date- 02/03/2025.

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Brahmanbaria for the procurement of :

| S.L No | Package No. | Tender ID | Name of the works | Downloaded & Last Selling Date & Time | Closing & Opening Date & Time |
|--------|---|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-01 /2024-2025 | 1075805 | Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (05 Nos) & Bridge (2 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 20th (p) km (Ch.19+880m) to 27th (p) (Ch.26+890m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025. | 25/02/2025 14:15 to 24/03/2025 17:00 | 25/03/2025 15:00 |
| 2. | e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-02 /2024-2025 | 1076512 | Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (06 Nos) & Bridge (2 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 27th (p) km (Ch.26+890 m) to 36th (p) (Ch. 35+350 m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025. | 25/02/2025 14:15 to 24/03/2025 17:00 | 25/03/2025 15:00 |
| 3. | e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-03/2024-2025 | 1076513 | Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (9 Nos) & Bridge (1 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 36th (p) km (Ch.35+350m) to 41st (p) (Ch. 40+280m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025. | 25/02/2025 17:00 to 24/03/2025 17:00 | 25/03/2025 17:00 |
| 4. | e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-04/2024-2025 | 1076514 | Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (11 Nos) & Bridge (1 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 41st (p) km (Ch.40+280m) to 49th (p) (Ch.48+ 600m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar-Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025 | 26/02/2025 18:00 to 07/04/2025 16:00 | 08/04/2025 12:00 |
| 5. | e-GP/BRD/ADP/BABNSR and SNL/ WP-05/2024-2025 | 1076515 | Earth Work, Construction of Flexible Pavement, RCC Box Culvert (15 Nos), Drain and Protective work from 49th (p) km (Ch.48+600m) to 53th (p) (Ch.52+125m) km of Bhulta- Arahazar- Bancharampur- Nabinagar- Shibpur- Radhika R-203, (korikandi to Bancharampur - Nabinagar under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2024-2025. | 26/02/2025 18:00 to 07/04/2025 16:00 | 08/04/2025 12:00 |

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

(Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed)
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria

Step up efforts to curb misinformation

February saw at least 268 instances of fake news circulation online

We're concerned about the continued prevalence of misinformation in post-uprising Bangladesh, with Rumor Scanner identifying 268 instances of fake news circulating online in February. Of them, 127—or 47 percent of the total—were political in nature, while 73 were related to national issues, 10 to international affairs, and 18 to religion. Naturally, the interim government was a frequent target, with 16 misinformation cases about it, mostly negative, along with 16 cases against the chief adviser and several others targeting other advisers. Meanwhile, BNP and its leaders, including Khaleida Zia and Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, each faced six negative cases. Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir faced 13 and 16 cases respectively, mostly negative. The Student Against Discrimination platform also faced 10 cases, while its leaders were also targeted.

In contrast to these mostly negative portrayals, misinformation cases involving Awami League, Chhatra League, and Sheikh Hasina greatly favoured them, suggesting a campaign by the fallen regime to improve its image. Clearly, fake news is being manufactured to manipulate public opinion with often devastating consequences. Worryingly still, mainstream media outlets themselves disseminated 10 pieces of fake news, while there were also cases of media impersonation, which is quite concerning. The role of Indian mainstream and social media in propagating false narratives has been equally troubling. For example, nine instances of misinformation about Bangladesh were found in Indian media. Rumor Scanner also identified 20 instances of communal misinformation, with half traced back to Indian social media accounts.

These trends at a time of continued political upheavals do not augur well for Bangladesh. The sheer volume of misinformation that spread in the months after the ouster of the Awami League government has been truly alarming. In January, we were alarmed to learn that fact-checking organisations had debunked 58 percent more content in 2024 compared to the previous year. According to Dismislab's annual roundup, fact-checkers identified and verified over 3,000 unique pieces of false or misleading information last year, fuelling a wave of chaos the effects of which are still being felt. While everyone agrees that curbing misinformation has become more urgent than ever before, no one seems to know how to go about it in a manner that eliminates the threat without infringing on people's rights.

The dangers of misinformation should be clear to us by now—it is fuelling confusion, division, and instability. Therefore, we must adopt a multi-pronged approach to address it. There should be more digital literacy campaigns to help users identify fake news, while social media platforms should take stronger action against misinformation. Fact-checking organisations should also receive greater institutional support to enhance their reach and impact. Meanwhile, mainstream media platforms must step up efforts to restore their credibility, and debunk false narratives.

Hospitals need proper waste disposal

Resolve the crisis at Rangpur Medical College Hospital

We are concerned about the medical waste problem at Rangpur Medical College Hospital where hazardous waste has been piling up inside the premises, posing health risks to both patients and visitors. According to a report by this daily, the planned construction of a waste management plant at the hospital has remained suspended for over five months due to protests from locals.

Locals are apparently worried that the plant's location, near the district's Bangladesh Medical Association building and adjacent residential areas, would cause odour pollution and pose health risks. They also allege that the plant does not have a location clearance certificate from the Department of Environment. Meanwhile, approximately 1.5 tonnes of waste, including 300 kilograms of hazardous waste generated daily by the hospital, are not being disposed of properly, which can have serious consequences.

Unfortunately, the situation at Rangpur Medical College Hospital is not an isolated one. Around 83 percent of hospitals in our country do not have a waste management system, according to a 2022 study by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). The study also found that around 60 percent of hospitals do not have bins to store medical waste, let alone ensure basic segregation among reusable, recyclable, and non-recyclable waste—with hazardous medical waste being mixed with solid garbage in the bins that are available. In fact, at the Rangpur hospital, such waste is currently being dumped out in the open. Do the locals opposing the waste management plant not see the health risks of this uncontrolled dumping? A properly constructed waste management plant cannot pose more risks than the current situation.

Under these circumstances, hospital authorities must engage with locals, raise awareness with the help of experts if necessary, and ensure the plant's construction follows all due process. Meanwhile, all public hospitals in the country must take urgent action in line with the recommendations that came up in the TIB study. Simultaneously, the government must enforce the Medical Waste Management and Processing Rules 2008, penalising any non-compliance. The authorities also must ensure proper hygiene and cleanliness in public hospitals so that people do not fall sicker while undergoing treatment because of hospital-acquired infections.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Steve Fossett circumnavigates Earth

On this day in 2005, American adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to complete a solo nonstop circumnavigation of the globe without refuelling when he landed in Kansas after more than 67 hours in flight.

Bangladesh's economic resilience is being tested



Dr Selim Raihan is professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Dhaka and executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). He can be reached at selim.raihan@econdu.ac.bd.

SELIM RAIHAN

Economic resilience, defined as the ability of an economy to quickly rebound from shocks while remaining stable and growing over the long term, is one of the most important determinants of a country's ability to withstand internal and exogenous shocks. For Bangladesh, this resilience is being rigorously tested against the backdrop of domestic inefficiencies and global uncertainties. As much as the country has registered important economic and social advancements since its independence in 1971, mounting uncertainty in the global economic environment, internal political economy dynamics and institutional deficiencies pose fundamental questions regarding its resilience in absorbing and responding to growing disruptions. Can Bangladesh sustain and accelerate its growth while mitigating risks from both domestic vulnerabilities and international shocks? To answer this, it is essential to dissect the structural, institutional, and geopolitical factors that underpin its economic resilience.

Despite narratives of sustained economic and political stability over the past decades, deep-seated structural weaknesses pose significant threats to Bangladesh's ability to navigate ongoing and future economic crises. The most glaring weakness of the country is its excessive dependence on RMG exports and overseas remittances. Though these two sectors have been the major driving forces behind the country's economic growth, excessive dependence on them has created an unbalanced economic structure that is highly vulnerable to external shocks. Lack of diversification into alternative growth engines, such as other labour- and skill-intensive manufacturing, information technology, and high-value services, has further constrained Bangladesh's economic flexibility and resilience.

Compounding these structural weaknesses are persistent governance challenges and institutional deficiencies. Corruption, crony capitalism, lack of transparency in public policy, and political instability have undermined effective economic



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

management. As the strength of democratic institutions eroded and power became concentrated among political and business elites, it became increasingly difficult to implement much-needed structural reforms. In addition, inconsistencies and possible manipulation of official statistics have undermined the credibility of economic evaluations, impacting both domestic policymaking and foreign investment decisions.

The structural fragility of Bangladesh's economy is further reinforced by several interrelated challenges. Private investment, for instance, has remained stagnant as a share of GDP for more than a decade. Bangladesh lags behind regional peers in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), missing opportunities to integrate into global value chains and diversify its industrial base. Fiscal constraints also loom large, as the country struggles with one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world. Rising non-performing loans, inadequate regulatory oversight, and political interference in loan disbursements have weakened the banking sector. Meanwhile, the underdeveloped capital market restricts long-term financing options, hindering private sector expansion. External debt is another growing concern, as increasing reliance on non-concessional loans has raised debt

servicing costs, putting pressure on the foreign exchange reserves and raising questions about long-term debt sustainability.

Persistent underinvestment in education and healthcare has also resulted in human capital constraints, limiting the productivity and employability of the workforce. Job creation remains insufficient to absorb the growing labour force,

measures. Non-performing loans must be addressed, and development of the capital market is essential to accessing long-term financing channels.

Third, human capital development has to be central to resilience. Increased investment in education, vocational training, and healthcare is required to generate a skilled and productive workforce. Scaling up social protection programmes will help mitigate exposure to risk factors among the poor, leading to enhanced social and economic inclusion.

Fourth, proactive foreign policy and strategic engagement are essential. Strengthening diplomatic relations, leveraging regional trade agreements, and engaging in climate diplomacy will help Bangladesh navigate geopolitical risks and pursue its long-term development agendas.

Lastly, institutional and governance reforms are vital. Strengthening democratic institutions, curbing corruption, and improving regulatory efficiency will enhance state capacity and create a more stable economic environment.

It is a matter of deep concern that numerous reform agendas, debated

Human capital development has to be central to resilience. Increased investment in education, vocational training, and healthcare is required to generate a skilled and productive workforce. Scaling up social protection programmes will help mitigate exposure to risk factors among the poor, leading to enhanced social and economic inclusion.

for over three decades, have yielded minimal progress. While the civil society has consistently advocated for reforms, the lack of interest from the country's political and business elites remains a significant hurdle. To safeguard its economic resilience and effectively respond to ongoing and future crises, Bangladesh must implement decisive measures to rectify its structural vulnerabilities, governance deficiencies, and external dependencies. Continued inaction will severely limit the country's capacity to withstand shocks.

Reality is different from perceptions about RMG sector



Mostafiz Uddin is managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

For years, discussions about Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) sector have been shaped by narratives that do not always reflect the current reality. While global media often highlights past tragedies or focuses on labour concerns, it overlooks the significant strides made in safety, sustainability, and ethical business practices. However, while acknowledging these improvements, it is equally important to recognise the challenges that remain, particularly regarding workers' rights and fair wages.

As a factory owner, I have seen firsthand the transformation of our industry. Our factories have undergone rigorous upgrades, yet misconceptions persist. Changing perceptions is crucial not only for our reputation but also for ensuring sustainable growth for our workers and businesses alike. We all stand to benefit.

The collapse of Rana Plaza in 2013 was a turning point for Bangladesh's garment industry. In response, the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety were introduced, leading to over 38,000

factory inspections and significant remediation efforts. Today, over 1,600 factories have successfully remediated safety issues under the accord, making our factories among the safest in the world.

Despite these advancements, concerns remain about compliance in smaller subcontracting factories, where enforcement is weaker. While larger exporters meet international safety standards, ongoing monitoring is needed to ensure that all workers, regardless of factory size, operate in safe conditions. Standards need to be raised across the board, and I would argue that we are, as an industry, only as good as our weakest link.

The garment sector employs over 4.2 million workers, of whom nearly 60 percent are women, according to a 2023 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics report. While minimum wages have increased over the years, they remain a contentious issue. In November 2023, the government raised the minimum wage for RMG workers to Tk 12,500 (\$113) per month, a 56 percent increase from the previous Tk 8,000 set in 2018. However, worker unions argue that this wage is still not a living wage

given rising inflation and living costs.

Efforts to improve working conditions go beyond wages. Several factories have introduced healthcare facilities, childcare centres, and skill development programmes, but these benefits are not yet widespread. A stronger commitment from both government regulators and factory owners is needed to ensure that every garment worker receives fair compensation and a dignified working environment.

Bangladesh is now home to over 200 LEED-certified green garment factories, the highest number in the world. According to the US Green Building Council, investments in solar power, water recycling, and energy-efficient production have positioned Bangladesh as a leader in sustainable apparel manufacturing.

However, challenges persist. Textile dyeing remains a major environmental concern, with rivers suffering from industrial waste. While some factories have installed effluent treatment plants (ETPs), enforcement gaps allow smaller factories to discharge untreated waste. The industry must work collectively to ensure all manufacturers comply with environmental regulations. It only takes a negative report on one factory for us all to be tarred with the same brush.

One of the most effective ways to reshape perceptions is by increasing transparency. International buyers often arrive in Bangladesh with outdated assumptions about factory conditions. Factory tours provide them with firsthand insight into modern, well-equipped facilities that meet and

often exceed global safety standards.

However, transparency must extend beyond factory tours. Ensuring that all labour policies are publicly documented, workers have a voice in decision-making, and violations are addressed swiftly will reinforce Bangladesh's reputation as a responsible manufacturing hub. Encouraging direct engagement between buyers and workers, rather than curated visits, will strengthen trust in our commitment to ethical production.

While the industry has made commendable progress, we cannot overlook the areas that still need improvement. Ensuring living wages, enforcing compliance in smaller factories, and addressing environmental concerns must remain priorities.

Bangladesh's RMG sector is a success story; but for it to remain sustainable, we must acknowledge both achievements and challenges. By embracing full transparency, strengthening labour rights, and reinforcing environmental responsibility, we can ensure that our industry is recognised not just for its growth, but for its commitment to fairness and ethical business practices.

As stakeholders, factory owners, workers, policymakers, and international buyers, we have a shared responsibility to uphold the integrity of Bangladesh's most vital industry. Only through collective effort can we truly transform the narrative surrounding our garment sector for both local and global audiences.

How the interim government can make lasting reforms



Elaine Pearson
is Asia director at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

ELAINE PEARSON

Visiting Dhaka in January, it felt like the climate of fear that had pervaded the country for many years had finally been lifted.

I met with female university students who had been part of a protest movement that successfully ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her abusive Awami League government. These women, mostly in their 20s, talked about a sense of freedom that they had never experienced before.

Hasina held on to power for more than 15 years after she won office in 2008, with sham elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024 and a campaign of violence and intimidation against the opposition.

Meanwhile, her government clamped down on critics, even jailing people for critical social media posts. Many civil society leaders either fled into exile or went underground, fearing arrest. Hundreds of Bangladeshis became victims of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances by security forces. Others were arbitrarily arrested and tortured.

Hasina's political opponents faced multiple charges and unending harassment. Among them was Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus. One year ago, a Bangladeshi court sentenced him to a six-month jail sentence on politically motivated charges.

Fast forward to today, Yunus is heading the interim government as its chief adviser and has met with Human Rights Watch (HRW) to discuss the findings of our new report, "After the Monsoon Revolution: A Roadmap to Lasting Security Sector reform in Bangladesh."

A newly formed inquiry commission on enforced disappearances has estimated that there were 3,500 disappearances during the Hasina period. It is recommending the dismantling of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), which has overseen killings, disappearances, and torture with impunity. It's a far cry from 2021 when we released our report documenting a widespread pattern of disappearances and were met with blanket denials.

Now, the interim government has formed commissions to recommend reforms to key sectors including the electoral system,



Protesters face off against police in Shahbag, Dhaka during the quota reform movement on July 5, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

justice system, public administration, police, anti-corruption office, and the constitution. Politically motivated charges, like the ones against Yunus, have been dropped.

But these gains are fragile. Hard-won progress will be lost without swift and structural reforms that can withstand pressure by forces in and outside the government that wish to derail human rights

reforms. Institutions that were subject to political capture under Hasina, like the police, find it all too easy to repeat mistakes of the past, just changing the political stripes of the targets. Already, over 1,000 cases have been filed against tens of thousands of people, mainly Awami League members, accusing them of murder, corruption or other crimes. While those involved in criminal acts should be

since the Awami League government was ousted. Homes and properties of Awami League leaders have been vandalised.

Just as Hasina would insist that her political opponents were "traitors," now critics of the interim government are deemed to be supporters of her fascist government. The interim government initiated Operation Devil Hunt on February 8, which one police officer says is being "conducted to combat

Hard-won progress will be lost without swift and structural reforms that can withstand pressure by forces in and outside the government that wish to derail human rights reforms.

ousted Hasina, finding that over 1,400 people may have been killed. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk recommended "a comprehensive process of truth-telling, healing and accountability, and to redress the legacy of serious human rights violations and ensure they can never happen again," and offered assistance "in this vital national accountability and reform process."

To help cement the reforms, the Bangladesh government should bring a resolution at the upcoming UN Human Rights Council session in March under Item 10. The resolution should request technical assistance, further investigations, and monitoring and reporting by UN-backed human rights experts.

A resolution brought by the Bangladesh government would not be punitive, but would be an opportunity to garner international support and buy-in for the human rights reforms they want to pursue.

As the penholder, Bangladesh would have ownership of the text and control over the commitments and outputs. For Bangladeshis, a resolution that requests independent public reporting could also help to counter the growing misinformation and disinformation campaigns that are stoking grievances and seeking to undermine the interim government's reforms. It would make it more difficult for vested interests to undermine human rights progress.

There are precedents for this. Honduras initiated an Item 10 resolution in relation to its penitentiary, security, and justice systems, adopted by the council by consensus in 2023. It requested the UN human rights office to provide technical assistance and capacity building to national civilian authorities in penitentiary, security, and justice matters, in order to improve human rights in Honduras.

As one of the female student leaders told us, "We don't want to go back to how things were before." That means lasting reforms, strong institutions, and empowered people, so that there is never again scope for authoritarianism. No Bangladeshi should have to sacrifice their life again to win democracy.

Khaleda's call for unity is a step in the right direction



THE STREET VIEW

Mohammad Al-Masum Molla
is a journalist at The Daily Star. He can be reached at masumjm@gmail.com.

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh's political landscape has long been defined by division and vengeance. The cycle of retaliation, where one party in power seeks to silence and punish the opposition, has turned politics into a battleground of personal vendettas rather than a platform for national progress. This toxic environment has not only deepened mistrust, but has also hindered the country's democratic development. At a time when political discourse is increasingly being shaped by hostility, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent speech from London offers a rare and necessary call for unity. Her appeal to move beyond vengeance is not just a political statement—it is a vision for a more stable and democratic Bangladesh.

Khaleda's six-minute virtual speech from London was notable not just for what she said, but for what she did not say. Despite being under medical treatment and having endured 17 years of political persecution—including imprisonment—she did not utter a single word against Sheikh Hasina. She did not even directly mention the Awami League.

The former ruling party and its leaders left no stone unturned in its efforts to weaken her and her party, yet instead of responding with anger or a call for revenge, she appealed to the people with a message of unity. This makes her stand apart from her political adversary, whose rhetoric has often been laced with accusations and hostility towards opponents.

Since Hasina's government took office in 2009, Khaleda's political life has been marked by a series of humiliations and hardships. She was forcibly evicted from her longtime residence in Dhaka cantonment, an episode that saw her break down in tears at a press conference, only to have her emotional plea dismissed by the Awami League leaders as insincere. The hostility intensified further in 2013, when Khaleda was

physically blocked from participating in the BNP's "March for Democracy" protest. In an infamous display of political suppression, the government positioned sand-laden trucks outside her residence, ensuring that she would not be able to leave. It was a moment that came to symbolise the state of the country's democracy, one where dissent was not just discouraged, but actively silenced.

Khaleda's ordeal did not stop at political obstruction. She was later imprisoned on corruption charges under circumstances that many believe were politically motivated, while

Unity does not mean forgetting past injustices or allowing wrongdoing to go unpunished. A nation cannot build its future solely by seeking revenge for its past. Accountability must be pursued, but it should not be weaponised for political gain.

Hasina, despite facing similar allegations, had all cases against her dismissed upon assuming power. Even from behind bars, Khaleda became a target of ridicule, with Hasina mockingly referring to her as a "thief" and repeatedly belittling her political movement. At one point, Hasina even suggested that Khaleda should be "thrown off" the newly constructed Padma Bridge, an astonishing remark for a sitting prime minister to make.

Yet, despite all of this, Khaleda Zia chose not to focus on past grievances. She warned

held to account, mass complaints without adequate evidence only undermine justice.

Meanwhile, members of security forces, worried that they might now face prosecution, are threatening families to keep them from giving evidence to the inquiry commission on enforced disappearances.

Religious and ethnic minority communities have also faced reprisal attacks

Awami fascism." As many as 12,500 people have been arrested in three weeks, but the authorities need to be careful because describing citizens as "devils" can lead to human rights violations by law enforcement or vigilantes.

Earlier this month, the UN human rights office released its report on security force violence during the protests that

that fascist forces and enemies of the country are working to undermine the mass uprising and called upon the BNP activists to unite and reorganise with greater determination. Her message was clear: politics should be done for progress, not retribution.

In Bangladesh, power and politics have frequently been used to punish political rivals, who have been treated as enemies rather than opponents. This has resulted in a deeply polarised society where policy debates are sidelined in favour of personal attacks. Khaleda Zia's refusal to engage in this cycle of hostility sets a different precedent—one that prioritises reconciliation over retaliation.

History offers valuable lessons on the importance of unity over vendetta. Nations that have broken free from cycles of political revenge have been able to move forward and rebuild. South Africa's transition from apartheid, Chile's return to democracy after dictatorship, and Germany's post-war reconciliation all demonstrate that progress is possible when leaders choose dialogue over division. Bangladesh, with its own history of resilience, has the same opportunity: to reject the politics of punishment and embrace a future built on democratic principles.

However, unity does not mean forgetting past injustices or allowing wrongdoing to go unpunished. A nation cannot build its future solely by seeking revenge for its past. Accountability must be pursued, but it should not be weaponised for political gain. True democracy thrives when differences are debated, not suppressed, and when justice is served in a manner that strengthens, rather than divides, the nation.

For too long, Bangladeshi politics has been defined by who holds power rather than how that power is used to serve the people. Khaleda Zia's call to go beyond vengeance presents an opportunity to reset this dynamic. The real question is whether the country's political leadership—on all sides—is willing to rise to the occasion. This call for unity should not be dismissed as mere rhetoric. It is an essential step towards restoring democracy, fostering stability, and ensuring that governance serves the people. If Bangladesh is to move forward, unity must not just be an idea—it must be a practice.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Freeway exit
5 May honoree
9 Love affair
11 Wed in haste
13 Plateau's kin
14 Meyers and Rogen
15 Fire proof
16 Walkers' straps
18 Vacillates
20 Geologic period
21 Unmanned flier
22 Deuce topper
23 Unconscious
24 Egg - yung
25 Grass clump
27 Gang territories
29 Band blaster
- 30 Dickens boy
32 Grabbed with a toothpick
34 Med. coverage group
35 Sparkly crown
36 Libya neighbor
38 Blundered
39 Lover of drama
40 Other
41 Okla., once
- DOWN**
1 Moroccan city
2 Ticked
3 Button material
4 Deposit
5 Plateau's kin
6 Bullfight cries
7 Herb with an oregano-like scent
8 Bubble shape
10 Show mercy
12 School paper
17 Before, in poems
19 Promote
22 Thatcher, for one
24 Supplier of money
25 Critical asset
26 Strike caller
27 Bind
28 Smile coyly
30 Market action
31 Truck part
33 Son of Hera
37 Procured



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | R | I | B | T | I | M | E | S |
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| | O | U | S | T | N | E | D | |
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| L | A | N | A | I | E | D | W | I |
| E | D | I | C | T | D | A | T | E |
| S | E | A | T | S | | M | O | S |

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dsopinion@gmail.com.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)
For
Hiring a Firm
(National)

No. 05.86.0000.001.14.006.24-143 Date: 27-02-2025

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ministry/Division/Office | Ministry of Public Administration, Department of Printing and Publications, Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office |
| 2. Agency | Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office |
| 3. Procuring entity name | Deputy Director (Deputy Secretary), Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 |
| 4. Procuring entity district | Dhaka |
| 5. Expressions of Interest for Selection of | Hiring a Firm for Development & Maintenance of Digital Service Delivery Platform for Bangladesh |
| 6. EOI Ref. No. and date | No-05.86.0000.001.14.006.24-143, Date: 27-02-2025 |

KEY INFORMATION

7. Procurement method Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)

FUNDING INFORMATION

8. Budget and source of funds GOB (Revenue Budget)

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9. Program name Digital Archives and Searching System (1947-2017), e-Requestion Systems, Store Management System, Online Sales & Management Systems and 2 years Maintenance.

10. Last date & time of EOI submission This is a high-priority national project with utmost importance towards the future Bangladesh goal, so the firm must prove that they have a solid technical background and operational strength to undertake and take this service forward without any hindrance. Applicants must also have adequate technical ability, resources and processes. As such, the following are defined as minimum eligibility criteria of the firm/company:
1. Must have a minimum of 10 (Ten) years' experience in Software development/IT/ITES business in Bangladesh.
2. Must have update BASIS membership and ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 or ISO 27001 certified.
3. Must have valid and up-to-date Trade License, Incorporation certificate, VAT Registration certificate, TIN certificate, Updated income tax return certificate.
4. Must have experience of completing similar nature of service at least 02 (Two) large scale/ nationwide software development, implementation and maintenance service amounting Taka 5,00,00,000 (Five Crore) with the government/ semi-government/ autonomous/private organization of Bangladesh either combined or separately, where designing, developing and implementing Web based Application/ Mobile Application/ Desktop based Application is included. Must submit the work completion certificate in this regard.
5. Must have experience of successfully completing at least 01 (One) project where digital document archiving and indexing at least 1,00,000 (one lac) document archiving related work is included. Must submit the work order/completion certificate in this regard.
6. Must have had an average annual turnover above Tk. 5,00,00,000 (Five Crore) in the last 02 (two) financial years. Must submit financial audit report showing annual turnover in this regard.
7. The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk. 5,00,00,000 (Five Crore).
8. List of adequate professional staffs with relevant qualification along with experience in developing similar solutions and delivering similar services. Please submit the necessary Documents.
The Deputy Director of Bangladesh Forms and Publications Office, Department of Printing and Publications, Ministry of Public Administration now invites eligible firms to indicate the interest in providing the services. Interested firms/vendors are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. This shall require substantiation through submission of brochure and other documents describing similar assignments, experience availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among applicant's staff, resources to carry out the assignment, logistical capability, etc.
Short list of firms/vendors will be prepared upon evaluation of EOI's of the eligible applicants and 'Request for Proposal (RFP)' document will be issued in their favor.
Firm/vendor will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based (QCBS) method in accordance with the PPA 2006 and PPR 2008.

11. Submission of EOI: a) Application for Expression of Interest (EOI), b) Up-to-date Trade license, c) Constitutional documents of the firm; d) Up-to-date Audited financial reports of the firm; e) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate; f) Up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate; g) One set original copy and one set true photocopy should be submitted.

12. The sealed envelope marked as Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted to Deputy Director, Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. Short list may comprise minimum 3 or maximum 8 firms who will be requested to submit the Technical and Financial Proposal (RFP).

13. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI's.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

11. Brief description of the assignment Development & Maintenance of Digital Service Delivery Platform for Bangladesh Forms and Publications Office (BFOPO), Digital Archives and Searching System (1947-2017), e-Requestion Systems, Store Management System, Online Sales & Management Systems, help Module and 2 years Maintenance. For detail Terms of Reference (TOR) Please log in: <https://www.dgp.gov.bd/dgp/>

12. Experiences, resources & delivery capacity requirement This is a high-priority national project with utmost importance towards the future Bangladesh goal, so the firm must prove that they have a solid technical background and operational strength to undertake and take this service forward without any hindrance. Applicants must also have adequate technical ability, resources and processes. As such, the following are defined as minimum eligibility criteria of the firm/company:
1. Must have a minimum of 10 (Ten) years' experience in Software development/IT/ITES business in Bangladesh.
2. Must have update BASIS membership and ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 or ISO 27001 certified.
3. Must have valid and up-to-date Trade License, Incorporation certificate, VAT Registration certificate, TIN certificate, Updated income tax return certificate.
4. Must have experience of completing similar nature of service at least 02 (Two) large scale/ nationwide software development, implementation and maintenance service amounting Taka 5,00,00,000 (Five Crore) with the government/ semi-government/ autonomous/private organization of Bangladesh either combined or separately, where designing, developing and implementing Web based Application/ Mobile Application/ Desktop based Application is included. Must submit the work completion certificate in this regard.
5. Must have experience of successfully completing at least 01 (One) project where digital document archiving and indexing at least 1,00,000 (one lac) document archiving related work is included. Must submit the work order/completion certificate in this regard.
6. Must have had an average annual turnover above Tk. 5,00,00,000 (Five Crore) in the last 02 (two) financial years. Must submit financial audit report showing annual turnover in this regard.
7. The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk. 5,00,00,000 (Five Crore).
8. List of adequate professional staffs with relevant qualification along with experience in developing similar solutions and delivering similar services. Please submit the necessary Documents.
The Deputy Director of Bangladesh Forms and Publications Office, Department of Printing and Publications, Ministry of Public Administration now invites eligible firms to indicate the interest in providing the services. Interested firms/vendors are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. This shall require substantiation through submission of brochure and other documents describing similar assignments, experience availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among applicant's staff, resources to carry out the assignment, logistical capability, etc.
Short list of firms/vendors will be prepared upon evaluation of EOI's of the eligible applicants and 'Request for Proposal (RFP)' document will be issued in their favor.
Firm/vendor will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based (QCBS) method in accordance with the PPA 2006 and PPR 2008.

13. Submission of EOI: a) Application for Expression of Interest (EOI), b) Up-to-date Trade license, c) Constitutional documents of the firm; d) Up-to-date Audited financial reports of the firm; e) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate; f) Up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate; g) One set original copy and one set true photocopy should be submitted.

14. The sealed envelope marked as Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted to Deputy Director, Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. Short list may comprise minimum 3 or maximum 8 firms who will be requested to submit the Technical and Financial Proposal (RFP).

15. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI's.

Md. Nazrul Islam
Deputy Director and Procuring Entity
Bangladesh Forms & Publications Office
Department of Printing and Publications
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Tel: 02-226603922
E-mail: dd.fpo@dgp.gov.bd

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter No. 215 of 2025

An Application under section 81 (2) read with sections 85 (3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

Sayed Md. Harun-Ar Rashid, Son of Sayed Md. Ruhul Amin, Managing Director, Topstar Cargo Systems Ltd., of Village: South Manikpur, Post Office: Manikpur, Police Station: Senbag, District: Noakhali. — **Petitioner**.

VERSUS

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, T.C.B Bhaban (6th floor), 01, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 and another. — **Respondents**.

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed and moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of Topstar Cargo Systems Ltd. for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Upon hearing of the application on 12.02.2025 Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has been pleased to admit the said application and fixed date of hearing on 17.03.2025. Any person interested to oppose the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Sayed Mishahul Anwar
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Head of the Chamber, Sayed Mishahul Anwar & Associates : Suite No. B-01
(5th Floor) Aziz Co-Operative Building 204, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Sharani
(Old-89, Bijoy Nagar) Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka-1000. Cell: 01711 444717.

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম
সিডিএ এডমিনিস্ট্রেশন, মুরাদপুর, পাঁচলাইশ, চট্টগ্রাম
E-mail: info@bise-ctg.gov.bd, Website: www.bise-ctg.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-শিক্ষা/প্রশা-২/দপত্র/কমিটি/১৩/৯৫(অংশ-৪)/২০২৫ তারিখ ০২/০৩/২৫

দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও জমাধানের সময়-সূচির বিজ্ঞপ্তি (e-Tender)

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম এর তারিখ/প্রশা-২/দপত্র/কমিটি/১৩/৯৫ (অংশ-৫)/১২৭(২) তারিখ ০৪/০২/২০২৫ তারিখ ইস্যুকৃত ২০২৫-২৬ সেশনের এসএসসি ও এইচএসসির পরীক্ষা সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের লক্ষে আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও জমাধানের সময়-সূচি বর্ণিত করা হল।

| ক্রমিক | পূর্বের সময়-সূচি | বর্ধিত সময়-সূচি |
|--------|---|--|
| ০১ | দরপত্র জমাধান ০৩/০৩/২০২৫ রাত ১১.৫৯মিনিট | দরপত্র জমাধান ০৬/০৩/২০২৫ রাত ১১.৫৯ |
| ০২ | দরপত্র খোলা ০৫/০৩/২০২৫ দুপুর ১২.০০মিনিট | দরপত্র খোলা ১০/০৩/২০২৫ সকাল ১০.০০মিনিট |

উল্লিখিত দরপত্র ও সিডিউলের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

স্বাক্ষর:

প্রফেসর ড.এ.কে.এম.সামছুল উদ্দিন আহমাদ
সচিব
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোনঃ ০২৩৩০৩০৬৭৬৫ (ত্রিফস)
Email: secretary@bise-ctg.gov.bd

GD-540

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer
Parshuram, Feni.

Memo No. UHC/Parshu/MSR/Tender/24-25/133 Date: 01/03/2025

e-Tender Notice

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

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Emdadul Hoque, UH&FPO, Parshuram Upazila Health Complex, Feni for the Procurement of;

| Tender Id | Name of Goods | Tender/Propo sal Publication Date & Time | Tender/Propo sal Last Selling Date & Time | Tender/Propo sal Closing/ Opening Date & Time |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| 1076306 | Procurement of Non-EDCL Medicine for the F.Y. 2024-25 at Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni. | 02-Mar-2025 12:00 | 17-Mar-2025 16:00 | 18-Mar-2025 12:00 |
| 1076307 | Procurement of Surgical Instrument for the F.Y. 2024-25 at Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni. | 02-Mar-2025 12:00 | 17-Mar-2025 16:00 | 18-Mar-2025 12:00 |
| 1076308 | Procurement of Gauze Bandage and Cotton for the F.Y. 2024-25 at Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni. | 02-Mar-2025 12:00 | 17-Mar-2025 16:00 | 18-Mar-2025 12:00 |
| 1076310 | Procurement of Lilen Items for the F.Y. 2024-25 at Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni. | 02-Mar-2025 12:00 | 17-Mar-2025 16:00 | 18-Mar-2025 12:00 |
| 1076311 | Procurement of Chemical Reagents for the F.Y. 2024-25 at Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni. | 02-Mar-2025 12:00 | 17-Mar-2025 16:00 | 18-Mar-2025 12:00 |
| 1076312 | Procurement of Furniture Items for the F.Y. 2024-25 at Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni. | 02-Mar-2025 12:00 | 17-Mar-2025 16:00 | 18-Mar-2025 12:00 |

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

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

N.B: The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders/Proposals / Pre-Qualifications / EOIs.

(Dr. Md. Emdadul Hoque)
Upazilla Health & Family Planning Officer
Parshuram Upazilla Health Complex, Feni.

GD-544

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সিডিএল সার্ভিসেস কার্যালয়
মানিকগঞ্জ।
স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
email: manikganj@cs.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং: সিএম/মানিক/প্রশা/৩৩-৪৬ শ্রেণী জনবল নিয়োগ/২০২৪-২৫/২৬৯, তারিখ: ০২/০৩/২০২৫ইং।

“পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, প্রশাসন-১ শাখা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর স্মারক নং ৪৫.০৩৭.০১১.০১.০০.০১৮.২০১৩-২৪, তারিখ ০৩/০১/২০২৪ ইং ও স্মারক নং ৪৫.০০.০০০০.১৪০.১১.০০৩.২৩-৪২৬, তারিখ ১৫/০২/২০২৪ইং মূলে প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্র মোতাবেক সিডিএল সার্ভিসেস কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ ও তার নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহে রাজস্ব (স্থায়ী ও অস্থায়ী) বাতের অন্তর্ভুক্ত শুল্ক পদ সমূহে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে ১১-২০ প্রোট ৩৪ ও ৪র্থ শ্রেণী জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd/csmanikganj> বা <http://csmanikganj.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে অনলাইন দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাবে। অনলাইন বাস্তবিক কোন আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম | পদের সংখ্যা | শ্রেণি (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী) | শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা | যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|--|---|
| ০১ | কম্পিউটার অপারেটর | ০৩(তিন)টি | শ্রেণি-১৩ (১১০০০-২৬৪০/-) | ক) স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে স্নাতক বা সমমান। খ) কম্পিউটার নুসারিক প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলা ২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজীতে ৩০ শব্দের গতিসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে Standard Aptitude test এ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে | প্রার্থীকে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা হতে হবে এবং পুনরায় স্বাস্থ্য সহকারীর ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে সংশ্লিষ্ট ওয়ার্ডের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা হতে হবে। |
| ০২ | পারিসংখ্যানবিদ | ০০১(এক)টি | শ্রেণি-১৪ (১০২০০-২৪৬০/-) | ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে পরিসংখ্যান, পণ্ডিত, অর্থনীতি বিষয়ে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী খ) কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষতা। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে অনূন দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের জিপিএ-তে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। ক) কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষতা এবং কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে এসএসসি/এসএল, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, ডাটা এন্ট্রির কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। গ) টাইপিং এ প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় অনূন ২০ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজীতে অনূন ২০ শব্দের গতি থাকতে হবে। |
| ০৩ | অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার নুসারিক | ০০১(এক)টি | শ্রেণি-১৬ (৯৩০০-২২৪০/-) | ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। খ) স্টোর কিপার পদে নির্বাচিত হলে সরকারী বিধি অনুযায়ী জামানত প্রদান করতে হবে। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |
| ০৪ | স্টোর কিপার | ০৫(পাঁচ)টি | শ্রেণি-১৬ (৯৩০০-২২৪০/-) | ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। খ) স্টোর কিপার পদে নির্বাচিত হলে সরকারী বিধি অনুযায়ী জামানত প্রদান করতে হবে। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |
| ০৫ | স্বাস্থ্য সহকারী | ৪৭(সাতাত্তর)টি | শ্রেণি-১৬ (৯৩০০-২২৪০/-) | ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |
| ০৬ | কোড ডেইন টেকনিশিয়ান | ০১(এক)টি | শ্রেণি-১৫ (৯৩০০-২২৪০/-) | ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে রেজিট্রেশন বা এয়ার কন্ডিশনিং ট্রেডে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট(ডোকুমেন্টেশন) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে রেজিট্রেশন বা এয়ার কন্ডিশনিং ট্রেডে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট(ডোকুমেন্টেশন) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |
| ০৭ | ড্রাইভার | ০৩(তিন)টি | শ্রেণি-১৬ (৯৩০০-২২৪০/-) | ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। খ) হালকা/ভারী গাড়ী চালানায় হালনাগাদ বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স। গ) অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন চালকণ গ্যারান্টি প্রদান। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |
| ০৮ | লাভ, এটেনডেন্ট | ০১(এক)টি | শ্রেণি-১৯ (৮৫০০-২০৫০/-) | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। | কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |

শর্তাবলী:

- প্রার্থীকে জনসূচী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র পূরণ (০৩/০৩/২০২৫ইং) তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স নূনতম ১৮(আঠার) বছর এবং প্রার্থীকে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩৩(ত্রিশ) বছর হতে হবে।
- সকল প্রার্থীর আবেদন শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে গ্রহণ করা হবে। অনলাইন বাস্তবিক কোন আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- একই ব্যক্তি একাধিক পদে আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।
- স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহালাই, ঢাকা এর স্মারক নং স্বাস্থ্য/প্রশা-২/৩৩ শ্রেণী জনবল নিয়োগ/২০২৪-২৫/২৬৯, তারিখ: ০৩/০১/২০২৪ইং এবং সিডিএল সার্ভিসেস কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ এর স্মারক নং সিএম/মানিক/প্রশা/৩৩-৪৬ শ্রেণী জনবল নিয়োগ/২০২৪-২৫/২৬৯, তারিখ: ১৫/০২/২০২৪ইং তারিখে বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী যারা পূর্বে আবেদন করেছেন তাদের ক্ষেত্রে পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই। তাদের আবেদন সঠিক থাকলে গ্রহণযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে এবং তাদের বয়স পূর্বের বিজ্ঞপ্তি শর্ত অনুযায়ী গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে। তারা বর্তমানে আধিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি মূলে উচ্চ নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন এবং যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের উচ্চ নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রবেশপত্র ইস্যু করা হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগবিধি মোতাবেক সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ব্যবহারিক (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীরাই মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য হবে।
- আবেদনকারীকে তার সকল শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতার বিষয়টি আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- সরকারী/আধাসরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/আধা-স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীরা সরকারী বিধি বিধান অনুসরণ পূর্বক অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন গ্রহণ পূর্বক নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং সকল চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি সনদ (এনওসি) এর মূল কপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- নিয়োগ ও কোর্টা নির্ধারণের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ বিধিবিধান প্রযোজ্য হতে হবে।
- স্বাস্থ্য সহকারী পদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থী যে ওয়ার্ডের (পুনঃনিয়োগ) জন্য আবেদন করবেন সে ওয়ার্ডের (পুনঃনিয়োগ) বাসিন্দা হতে হবে। একই ইউনিয়নের অন্য ওয়ার্ডের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা আবেদন করলে (এক্ষেত্রে স্থায়ী যে ওয়ার্ডের বাসিন্দা সে ওয়ার্ড অবশ্যই আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। তবে সংশ্লিষ্ট ওয়ার্ডে শুল্কপত্রের বিপরীতে যোগ্য প্রার্থী পাওয়া গেলে অন্য ওয়ার্ডের প্রার্থীদের বিবেচনা করা হবে না এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ওয়ার্ডের বাসিন্দা যোগ্য প্রার্থী পাওয়া না গেলে অন্য ওয়ার্ডের যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের বিবেচনা করা হবে।
- প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রে বর্ণিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা (Permanent address) যদি ইতিপূর্বে কোন সার্টিফিকেট বা অন্যত্র বর্ণিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হতে ভিন্নতর হয় কিংবা মহিলা প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যদি স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করা হয় সে ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে পরিবর্তিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার স্বপক্ষে জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র (এনআইডি) ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- স্বাস্থ্য সহকারীর শুল্ক পদের তাপিকা (ওয়ার্ড, ইউনিয়ন, উপজেলা ভিত্তিক) সিডিএল সার্ভিসেস কার্যালয় ও উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ের নোটিশ বোর্ড ও ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।
- প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত যে কোন তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য গোপন করলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে অথবা কোন প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে অথবা মিথ্যা, ভিত্তিকৃত তথ্য দিয়ে একাধিকবার ফরম পূরণ করে প্রবেশপত্র গ্রহণ করলে অথবা পরীক্ষায় অসমুদায় অর্জন করলে অথবা পরীক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে পূর্ববাহার করলে পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি নিয়োগের পরে যে কোন পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বা নিয়োগ বাতিল করাসহ প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- কোন প্রার্থী বিদেশি নাগরিকত্ব বিবাহ করলে বা বিবাহ করতে প্রতিজ্ঞা করলে তিনি আবেদনের অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
- অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী/শর্তাবলী:

(ক) পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি <http://csmanikganj.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময় সীমা নিম্নরূপ:

(i) Online এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাধান পূরণ তারিখ ও সময় ০৩/০৩/২০২৫ইং সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা

(ii) Online এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাধান পূরণ তারিখ ও সময় ০৩/০৩/২০২৫ইং ইং বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা। উচ্চ সন্যাসীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীরা Online এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২(বাহাত্তর) ঘটায় মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষা ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

(খ) Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০*প্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) ও রঙিন ছবি (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০*প্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) জমা করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 100KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 60KB হতে হবে।

(গ) Online আবেদনপত্রে পূর্ণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে সেহেতু Online এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূর্ণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

(ঘ) প্রার্থী Online এ পূর্ণকৃত আবেদনপত্রে একটি প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।

(ঙ) SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের Online এর আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Review দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি USER ID, Password এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's Copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's Copy প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রঙিন প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's Copy তে একটি USER ID নম্বর দেখা থাকবে এবং USER ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই) কপি এসএমএস করে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ শ্রেণি ১৩-১৬ পর্বের জন্য ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ + ব্যাটলিং ১২/- (বার) টাকা, মোট ১১২/- (একশত বার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য এবং শ্রেণি ১৭-২০ পর্বের জন্য ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ + ব্যাটলিং ০৬/- (ছয়) টাকা মোট ৫৬/- (ষোল্ল) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘটায় মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ Online আবেদনপত্রে সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেই পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেখা পর্যন্ত Online এর আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই স্থগিত হবে না।

প্রথম SMS:: CSMANIKGANJ <space> User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: CSMANIKGANJ ABCDEF & Send to 16222
Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk. Will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678 To Pay fee Type CSMANIKGANJ <space> yes <space> PIN and send to 16222

দ্বিতীয় SMS:: CSMANIKGANJ <space> yes <space> PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: CSMANIKGANJ YES 12345678
Reply: Congratulation Applicant's Name, Payment completed successfully for CSMANIKGANJ Application for (Post name) User ID is (ABCD) and Password (XXXXX)

(চ) প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থীর বিষয়টি <http://csmanikganj.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের) খসসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে। বিখ্যে কোর্টা নম্বরটি সার্বজনিক সঙ্গীত, SMS পত্র, এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা যাবে।

(ছ) SMS এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রঙিন কপি প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে ব্যবহারিক/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

(জ) শুল্ক শার Teletalk প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল কোন থেকে প্রার্থীকে নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

(i) User ID জানা থাকলে:
csmanikganj <space> Help <space> User <space> User ID & send to 16222
Example: csmanikganj Help User ABCDEF

(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে:
csmanikganj <space> Help <space> PIN <space> PIN Number & send to 16222
Example: csmanikganj Help PIN.....

(ঝ) বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়া অনলাইন বিজ্ঞানের ওয়েবসাইটে www.cs.manikganj.gov.bd এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিহীন এডভান্সড সকল তথ্য দেখা যাবে। QR Code জমা এর মাধ্যমে টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল <http://csmanikganj.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য www.cs.manikganj.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে হতে জানা যাবে।

(ঞ) অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd বা manikganj@cs.dghs.gov.bd এই ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

(ট) জিজ্ঞাসা: প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের জিজ্ঞাসা 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 পড়লে বা কোন প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসমুদায় অর্জন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে অথবা নিয়োগের পরে যে কোন সময়ে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

১৬ প্রার্থীকে তাহে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত মোতাবেক লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় আলাদা ভাবে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। কেবল মাত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নির্ধারিত প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্র সমূহের মূলকপি বাধ্যতামূলক ভাবে প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং এতে সঠিক সত্যায়িত অঙ্গুলিচিহ্ন জমা দিতে হবে। সকল সত্যায়নপত্র/সনদ/সরকারী ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার (নাম ও পদবি উল্লেখসহ সীলসেহা) কর্তৃক সন্যায়িত

A mixed bag in NCP convening committee

FROM PAGE 14

University, and Alik Mree, leader of Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, as joint chief organisers. Mujahidul Islam Shahin, ex-general secretary of Islami Chhatra Shibir's DU unit, and Anik Roy, former general secretary of Chhatra Union, and Sarwar Tusher from Rastrochinta were named joint conveners. Pritom Das from Rastro Sangskar Andolan became a joint member secretary.

Ashraf Uddin Mahadi and Rafiqul Islam Aini from Qawmi madrasa were made joint convener and organiser for the northern region, respectively.

The committee also includes nine lawyers and twelve physicians. Two retired army majors – Abdullah Al Mahmud and Md Salahuddin – were appointed joint chief organiser and general member, respectively. Khokon Chandra Barman, an injured protester from the July uprising, and Sanjida Khan Dipti, mother of martyred protester

Anas, were included as general members.

The committee consists of two senior joint conveners and two senior joint member secretaries, 16 joint conveners, and 33 joint member secretaries, a chief organiser each for the northern and southern regions, nine joint chief organisers, 18 organisers for the northern region, 24 organisers for the

southern region, a chief coordinator, a senior joint chief coordinator, 23 joint chief coordinators, and 76 general members.

'Super Ten' Leadership
Several founding members have been referred to as the party's top 10 leaders, known as the "Super Ten".

Nahid Islam, convener of NCP, was a key organiser of the student movement that led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. A sociology graduate from DU, Nahid was one of the student representatives within the interim government and resigned from the advisory council before taking on his new role.

Akhter Hossen, the member secretary, is a former social service affairs secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) and was one of the key organisers of Students Against Discrimination (SAD).

Nasiruddin Patwary, the chief coordinator, is an ex-student of DU's marketing department. He was active in the left-wing student organisation Chhatra Federation and served as the organising secretary of its DU unit.

Samanta Shermeen, senior joint convener, was involved in left-leaning student politics and was a former member of the politico-civic group Rastrochinta.

Ariful Islam Adib, another senior joint convener, is an alumnus of

Jahangirnagar University's zoology department and served as the general secretary of Chhatra Odhikar Parishad. He was also a member of the liaison committee of SAD.

Masud, a DU student and one of the coordinators of the organisation, was named as the senior joint chief coordinator.

Dr Tasnim Zara, senior joint member secretary, completed her MBBS from Dhaka Medical College before obtaining a degree from Oxford University.

Nahida Sarwar Niva, a former student of DU's microbiology department, is the other senior joint member secretary. She was at the forefront of the 2018 quota reform and road safety protests. She was also an active member of SAD.

Sarjis Alam, chief organiser for the northern region, is an alumnus of Dhaka University's zoology department and was elected a member of the hall union in the 2019 Ducusu election from the Chhatra League panel.

Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser for the southern region, is a former student of DU's English department. He came into the spotlight after staging a hunger strike in front of the university's register building in protest against bureaucratic inefficiencies in administrative services.

PBI quizzes five, including Justice Manik

FROM PAGE 14

court, a PBI official said. Yesterday, the magistrate directed Palash to meet the investigation officer Md Azizul Haque by April 15 this year.

In the application, the investigator said Palash was arrested on October 10, 2012 but was later released on bail. He needs to be interrogated to find vital clues about the killings.

Palash yesterday remained absent by submitting an application for his non-appearance before the court.

In addition, the court yesterday extended the deadline for submitting the probe report to April 15 as IO Haque, also an additional superintendent of police at the PIB, failed to submit the report yesterday, said court police.

Sagar Sarowar was a news editor at Maasranga TV and his wife Meherun Runi was a senior reporter at AIN Bangla. They were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012 at their rented flat in the capital's West Rajabazar.

Their only child Mahir Sarowar Megh, who was only five at the time, was in the apartment.

After the killings, eight suspects – Kamrul Islam alias Arun, Abu Sayeed, Rafiqul Islam, Bakul Miah, Masum Mintu, Palash Rudra Paul, Anamul Haque alias Humayun Kabir and Tanveer Rahman Khan – were arrested. Tanveer and Palash are now out of jail, while the others are behind bars.

After the case was filed, the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station was

tasked with the investigation, which was handed over to the Detective Branch (DB) of police three days later on February 16, 2012. The DB investigated the matter until April 18 of that year.

The case was transferred to the Rapid Action Battalion in April 2012. The force conducted the probe until November 3 last year.

On November 4 last year, the PIB took over the charge of investigation into the case following a High Court order.

On October 23 last year, a four-member task force was formed to investigate the case where the PBI chief was made the convener.

The task force has been asked to submit its report to the High Court within six months after completing the investigation.

Incomplete power line delays test run

FROM PAGE 14

Committee of the National Economic Council for completion by December 2024.

As of February, the overall physical progress of the project is 44 percent and the financial progress is 33 percent.

On the other hand, the physical progress of the gridline on Jamuna river is 50 percent as of February, according to project officials.

The construction work for the transmission line through the Padma and Jamuna rivers for the Rooppur nuclear power plant started later than scheduled as its Indian contractor left the country following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 last year.

A total of 669 kilometres of the gridline, including 16 kilometres of river

crossing line in both Padma and Jamuna, is needed for power transmission to the national grid from the country's first nuclear power plant, according to the Power Grid Company Bangladesh.

However, project officials said they have resumed work and they are hopeful of completing the gridline's work soon.

The physical work of unit-1 is almost complete but the gridline work is yet to be ready, said Zahedul Hasan, project director of the Rooppur nuclear power plant.

As a result, the technical tests through the power supply in the unit cannot be done.

At least two months is needed to complete all tests.

After completing the tests, fuel needs to be loaded in the reactor building,

which will take another three months.

"After completing the gridline work, we need five to six months to reach the 'Change Reaction' step for starting up unit-1."

A top official of the IAEA will come to Bangladesh on March 7 to check the preparations.

"After IAEA's observation we will go for the next step," Hasan said.

The 2,400MW power plant is being built in Rooppur, Pabna for \$12.65 billion.

According to the original project proposal, unit-1 would be in operation on December 23, 2022, unit-2 on October 8, 2023 and the entire project would be completed by December 31, 2025.

The construction of unit-1 formally started on November 30, 2017 and unit-2 on July 14, 2018.

Our gentle giants in peril

FROM PAGE 14

63 wild elephants were killed, clearly indicating that the rate of elephant killings has doubled in the last decade.

However, it was not determined how many of the recorded deaths involved migratory elephants.

Meanwhile, a circus elephant died in Lalmonirhat in 2019 due to extreme stress, while a captive elephant calf was killed after being hit by a train in Uttara, Dhaka, in 2023.

WOES OF THE WILD

With Bangladesh's forests disappearing at an alarming rate, conservationists fear these magnificent creatures may soon vanish from the country altogether.

According to data from the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division (WMNCD) under the forest department, at least 102 wild elephants were killed in the Chattogram region alone in the past decade (2016-Jan 2025).

Data obtained by The Daily Star showed that 16 died from electrocution, while five were shot dead. The Wildlife Division reported that 53 elephants died from "old-age complications" or "natural causes" such as heart failure. At least 17 died from accidents, while the causes of the remaining deaths could not be determined.

During this period, 44 people died in human-elephant conflicts in the region.

Conservationists, however, argue that all the elephant deaths resulted from human intervention.

Despite the scale of the crisis, only 18 cases have been filed for the killing of elephants.

One such incident involved Ali Akbar, a 36-year-old welder from Chattogram's Karnaphuli upazila.

One night, upon stepping out of his home, he encountered an elephant nearby. Fearing it might trample his home and family, he attempted to chase it away, triggering the animal's "fight or flight" instinct.

Within moments, Akbar was crushed to death.

"He was the sole breadwinner of the family... His death has left us in turmoil," said Akbar's wife, Minu Akter.

Over the past six years (2019-2024), such incidents in Chattogram have claimed 44 lives, left at least 33 injured, and destroyed the property of 382 families.

The Wildlife Division attributes these encounters to habitat destruction and food shortages, which force wild

elephants into human settlements.

"Deforestation, hill-cutting, and industrial expansion are driving elephants out of their habitats and into human settlements," said Abu Naser Md Yasin Newaz, divisional forest officer of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Chattogram.

Meanwhile, 22 elephants and 39 people have died in human-elephant conflicts in the Mymensingh region since 2016, said ANM Abdul Wadud, divisional forest officer in Mymensingh.

Three cases were filed with Nalatabari and Jhenaigati police stations in 2023 and 2024 regarding the deaths of three elephants.

Additionally, a total of seven general diaries were filed with different police stations over elephant deaths, Wadud said.

According to forest department sources, elephant deaths were recorded as follows: four each in 2016 and 2017, three in 2018, one in 2019, two in 2020, two in 2021, three in 2022, two in 2023, and one in 2024.

WHY THIS CONFLICT AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

MA Aziz, a professor of zoology at Jahangirnagar University who has dedicated his career to studying elephants, warned that wild elephants are currently the most vulnerable species in Bangladesh.

"An elephant needs around 200-250kg of vegetation and 150 litres of water daily. But their habitats can no longer provide these... So, they wander into human settlements, desperately looking for food. And that's where tragedy strikes."

Bangladesh has never launched a long-term conservation initiative for elephants, he said. "If the government does not take immediate action, Bangladesh may no longer be one of the 13 Asian countries with wild elephants within the next decade."

Simanta Dipu, programme manager at IUCN, said, "In 2016, the IUCN recorded only 457 elephants in Bangladesh. A century ago, these creatures roamed freely across the country's forests."

Human settlements, agricultural lands, roads, highways, brickfields, and village markets have developed within or near elephant movement routes and corridors, exacerbating human-elephant conflicts, he said.

Amir Hossain Chowdhury, chief conservator of forests (CCF), admitted that most elephant deaths occur due to human-elephant conflicts. Of the 12

elephant corridors that once existed, one in Ramu and two in Teknaf have already been completely closed.

An elephant corridor is a narrow strip of land that allows elephants to move between habitats without human interference.

"We need to involve local communities to save these elephants," Amir said, adding, "We've submitted a project proposal to the Planning Commission for elephant conservation."

The proposed "Elephant Conservation Project," if approved, will be Bangladesh's first government-funded elephant conservation initiative since independence. Under it, the forest department will conduct an elephant census in 2026 to estimate the remaining elephant population.

With a budget of Tk 41 crore, the three-year pilot project aims to support elephant response teams with funding and logistics, raise public awareness, and install solar fencing to prevent elephants from straying into human settlements.

Solar fencing, which delivers a harmless shock, is expected to deter elephants while protecting villages from destruction. Currently, farmers set up illegal electric fences to keep elephants away from their farmlands, leading to fatal consequences for the animals.

To address this, the conservation project also plans to ensure that affected farmers receive compensation for crop damage, aiming to reduce hostility towards elephants.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan, said, "The situation has reached a alarming level as we've destroyed almost all the elephant corridors. Elephants have the habit of using the same routes they're familiar with."

"With the involvement of experts and different organisations, we've already resolved the human-elephant conflict issue in the KEPZ [Korean Export Processing Zone] area [in Chattogram's Anowara]."

Regarding the elephant conservation project, she said it is expected to be approved by the Planning Commission by the end of March.

"Under the project, a certain area of the Gazipur Safari Park will be assigned to rehabilitate captive elephants. We'll also protect the remaining elephant corridors and form elephant response teams in different areas."

Cultural affairs ministry

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finance ministry would send the money.

He also left the WhatsApp group chat meant for swift production of the video to be showcased at UNESCO headquarters on February 20-21 to depict Bangladesh's efforts in preserving the history of International Mother Language Day.

The group included the cultural affairs adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki and high-ranking officials from the UNESCO headquarters, the Bangladesh embassy, and the ministries of foreign affairs and cultural affairs.

"Therefore, the allegation that the ministry 'pressured' the academy to provide money for the video is untruthful and personally disrespectful to the cultural adviser himself."

The ministry also refuted the allegation that there was undue interference in the academy's proceedings as it neither interfered nor stopped any programme.

"Rather, it suggested increasing the number of cultural programmes

to bring forth a collective cultural statement."

The ministry suggested nationwide filmmaking initiatives across eight districts. It also allocated increased and special budgets for eight new theatre productions and the establishment of guerrilla theatre.

On the allegation of improper budget allocation, the ministry said the matter is under the jurisdiction of the finance ministry.

"When the prescribed budget of Tk 200 crore was presented by Shilpakala at a meeting on February 27, the finance adviser said that due to the current economic recession and other limitations, the prescribed budget might be re-evaluated. However, the next allocated budget for Shilpakala will be more than the current one, and special allocations will be provided in case of new projects at Shilpakala."

Ahmed intentionally held up the musical composer from taking part in rehearsals for the recital of the national anthem and the background score for the Ekushey Padak award giving

ceremony in the name of a meeting, the press release said.

He also held up a singer who was supposed to take part in the musical arrangement.

Ahmed's claims of bureaucratic delays are untrue too, the ministry said.

On February 28, Ahmed handed in his resignation after giving a fiery speech in which he made several allegations against the cultural ministry.

He alleged financial mismanagement within the academy, claiming the administration treated allocated funds as "personal assets".

"My request for a Tk 165 crore budget was not fully met. If we [Shilpakala authorities] must repeatedly call upon the administration and still fail to establish a collaborative and peaceful working environment due to bureaucratic obstacles, I don't see how I can effectively fulfill my role here."

"I've given this decision a lot of thought. It's now time for me to return to my own theatre work," he said in his speech.

Election rigging never ends well

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longer just a right; it is also a responsibility."

He said differences in opinion on various issues among the political parties are not a problem; rather, it is the beauty of democracy, and he believes the parties will unite on the matters that are fundamental to upholding democratic practices.

FREE, FAIR POLLS MAIN GOAL

The CEC said that their prime objective is to hold a free, fair, and credible election.

He urged EC officials to make a promise that in the holy month of Ramadan, they would work impartially to make the next election free and fair.

Election Commissioner Tahmid Ahmed suggested holding elections in open fields instead of inside closed rooms to ensure transparency.

"I want our elections to be transparent. How can they be transparent if they are held in closed rooms? Therefore, I propose that our elections be conducted in open fields."

Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmanuel Masud said people have the right to choose their representatives, and this right can only be upheld if they are able to vote freely.

Election commissioners Anwarul Islam Sarkar and Abul Fazal Md

Sanaullah also spoke at the programme.

TOTAL VOTERS: 12.37 CR

While inaugurating the day's proceedings in the morning, CEC Nasir said that the total number of voters in the country now stands at 12,37,32,274.

Of them, 6,33,61,615 are male, 6,03,69,665 are female, and 994 are "hijra" voters.

The number reflects a 1.54 percent growth compared to the previous year's voter count of 12,18,50,160.

As per tradition, the final updated voter list is published on March 2 every year, coinciding with the observance of National Voters' Day.

Tk 2.42 crore seized

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the raid, he said.

However, the ACC has yet to disclose further details regarding the case or any potential legal action against the former intelligence chief.

Saiful's arrest warrant was issued as he had been in charge of the DGFJ between February 28, 2020, and July 5, 2021, during which time some enforced disappearance victims were reportedly held in the Joint Interrogation Cell inside the directorate's compound.

In a letter to the ACC yesterday,

Saiful's wife, Lubna, stated that his passport had been cancelled in the last week of November 2024 and that his current situation remains uncertain.

"Since my husband's future is uncertain for the foreseeable moment, he liquidated the savings earned from his job and left the money with me," she wrote.

She requested that the money be returned to her for the sake of her children, elderly parents, and in-laws.

Saiful was forcibly retired on September 10, 2024, under Section 289(A) of the Army Regulations,

which pertains to removal for misconduct and inefficiency.

Following the fall of the Awami League government on 5 August, he was posted to the foreign ministry the next day.

Previously, on September 3, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) froze the bank accounts of Saiful, his wife, and children and instructed all banks to submit account-related information or documents, including account opening forms, KYC records, and transaction statements, to the BFIU within five working days.

Home adviser urges all

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locals for smoking in public, police said.

The women were physically assaulted by the group of men.

Jewel Rana, additional deputy commissioner of Mohammadpur zone, said the women were escorted to Mohammadpur Police Station for their safety.

According to police, the women were smoking at a tea stall in Lalmatia, behind Aarong, when some locals confronted them, asking them not to smoke in public. The situation escalated into a heated argument,

prompting police intervention.

Meanwhile, the home adviser also requested that businessmen refrain from increasing the prices of goods during Ramadan.

"You will see that in other religions, during their religious events, they reduce the prices of goods. However, in our country, the opposite happens. During Ramadan, prices are actually raised."

He urged businessmen to lower the prices to ease the burden on consumers.

Compared to last Ramadan, the prices are somewhat lower this time, he said.

10 gunmen, one soldier killed in northern Benin

AFP, Cotonou

Clashes in Benin over the last week between armed groups and the military left ten dead, including one soldier, as the West African country faces an uptick in attacks on army positions.

While the country's economic capital Cotonou, in the south, continues to draw in international tourists, Benin's poorer north has for years now seen such attacks, often blamed by the government on jihadist groups seeking to extend their reach from neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger.

Overnight Thursday into Friday, the army launched "an offensive operation" that led to "the neutralisation of nine terrorists," a source close to the military high command told AFP on Saturday.

The operation – which a local source said took place in the commune of Karimama – came after an improvised explosive device left one soldier dead and two others

injured in nearby Kantoro.

Both communities are near the border with Niger. While the border near Burkina Faso remains the epicentre of such attacks, communities near the Niger border have seen an uptick in violence recently.

"Offensive aerial operations aided by those on the ground resulted in the destruction of an important logistics hub" belonging to unnamed "terrorists," an officer told AFP, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Long-running insurgencies in Burkina Faso and Niger have seen Islamic State and Al Qaeda-linked groups seize swathes of rural territory, often capitalising on long-standing ethnic or local political disputes as well as weak state presence.

Attacks in Benin's north have led observers to worry of a spillover of violence in the country.

In February, six Beninese soldiers were killed by unidentified gunmen. The army killed 17 assailants in response.

July victims' families to share quota

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freedom fighters and martyred freedom fighters.

According to the order, applicants seeking admission under this quota must submit certified copies of relevant documents or gazettes with their applications and present the original documents during admission.

Authorities must verify freedom fighter certificates issued by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the official gazettes listing those martyred in the July uprising before finalising admissions.

If no eligible candidates from these categories are available, the seats must be filled from the merit list. The order also specifies that these seats cannot be left vacant under any circumstances.

TCB outlets

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complete the distribution of smart cards by March 17, as new cardholders will then become eligible for TCB services.

Additionally, he urged DCs to monitor and prevent the hoarding of goods by traders attempting to create an artificial shortage of commodities.

On February 12, Bashir Uddin announced that the TCB would sell certain essential commodities at subsidised rates to low-income individuals via mobile truck sales during Ramadan.

As part of this initiative, an additional 9,000 tonnes of goods will be distributed, he said while inaugurating TCB's mobile truck sales in Khulna last month.

At present, each buyer receives two litres of soybean oil, two kilogrammes each of lentils and chickpeas, one kilogramme of sugar, and 500 grammes of dates from TCB trucks. Prices have been set at Tk 100 per litre for oil, Tk 70 per kg for sugar, Tk 60 per kg for lentils and chickpeas, and Tk 156 for dates.

RECLAIMING PANTHOKUNJO from spectral wastelands

The concept of wasteland implies that land becomes productive only when it is occupied and improved. Lord Cornwallis's classification of one-third of Bengal's land as wasteland reinforced the East India Company's objective.

SHAYER GHAFUR

We live within ecosystems, engaging in mutual interactions. Ecosystems such as rivers, forests, and agricultural lands are shared resources. In cities, ecosystem services provide essential resources, regulate natural processes, and offer recreational and cultural benefits, enhancing overall quality of life. They are crucial for urban resilience, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development.

Today, cities increasingly recognise the life-sustaining role of ecosystem services in ensuring the well-being of both humans and non-humans. People's access to these services is integral to their right to the city. However, cities in the Global South struggle to protect ecosystem services with care, often neglecting them instead of ensuring equitable access and distributional justice.

Access to ecosystem services aligns with Sustainable Development Goals



For the past 78 days, Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement protesters have been staging a sit-in at Panthokunjo Park.

PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV



The composite image shows Panthokunjo in April 2016 at the top, the park in 2025 in the middle, and a layout of the Moghbazaar Intersection at Panthokunjo at the bottom.

It is time to question why citizen movements advocating for the protection of ecosystem services have failed to translate into concrete policies that put an end to the government's and its development partners' alienating practices.

(SDGs) 10 and 11, which focus on reducing inequality and achieving sustainable cities and communities. While most cities strive toward these goals, Dhaka stumbles, prioritising infrastructure development for private interests at the expense of ecological sustainability.

Citizens have recently expressed concerns about the impact of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) project, implemented by the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), on local ecosystems. The mega infrastructure project involves tree cutting in Panthokunjo, a 5.39-acre urban green space, and landfilling in the adjacent Hatirjheel water catchment area to construct approach ramps at the Moghbazaar intersection. The DEE is a 19.73 km public-private partnership project connecting Kaola, near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, to Kutubkhali on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway. It also includes an additional 27 km of entry and exit ramps at 31 points. Concerns have been raised over multiple deviations at the Moghbazaar intersection, which defy conventional planning principles. These include the investor's late inclusion of approach ramps, the approval of a 3.4 km elevated link to Palashi—expected to generate 18% of total revenue—without feasibility studies, and the suppression of ecological losses in the Environmental Impact Assessment. The project's encroachment on an urban green space and water catchment area raises legal and environmental concerns.

We locate the DEE deviations in the following phases of its chequered evolution: First, BBA pre-qualified investors in November 2009 by carrying out their respective feasibility studies. Second, BBA-appointed consultants prepared alternative route alignments

of DEE in August 2010; among the five proposed alternative routes, Routes 1, 3 and 4 were located in greenfield outside Dhaka's Eastern fringe, while Routes 2 and 5 were in the city. Route 3 was the suggested feasible option because of its compatibility with the Strategic Transport Plan 2005, although Route 5 matches the implementing route. Third, an Italian-Thai investor with two Chinese co-investors signed a contract in January 2011 to construct DEE for US\$ 1.13 Billion (BDT 4917.57 crore) for completion during 2011-2014 with 27 per cent of the estimated project costs shared by Bangladesh; a revised alignment, overlapping Route 5, was approved in October 2013. Fourth, BBA initiated a parallel "Support to Dhaka Elevated Expressway PPP Project" for land acquisition, rehabilitation of the affected people and transfer of utilities in October 2011 for BDT 4917.57 crore; this raises the public share to BDT 7330.57 crore or 52.9 per cent of the total BDT 13,857 crore public-private investments. Fifth, local consultants prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for BBA in November 2014. Sixth, legal contestation among overseas investors over ownership of shares further deferred the deadline to 2025.

The urgency of the Save Trees Movement, a citizens' rights protection platform with support from the local community, is palpable as they protest the DEE's disruption of local ecosystem services. Their actions, a testament to human resilience, are a response to the exacerbation of the suffering of people in an already least liveable city in the world. More than two months of on-site camping in Panthokunjo have garnered increasing support and built alliances, yet the authorities have not responded. Protests for reclaiming Panthokunjo show an institutional failure to respond and restore the disrupted ecosystem services, underscoring the need for immediate action.

Citizens' movements to resist and reclaim ecosystem services have been evident in Bangladesh since the 1990s, albeit with mixed results; for example, Osmani Udyan in Dhaka was saved from being chosen as the site for the NAM building in 1998, while resistance in 2017 could not stop the construction of the Rampal coal power plant in the Sundarbans, Khulna. It is time to question why citizen movements advocating for the protection of ecosystem services have failed to translate into concrete policies that put an end to the government's and its development partners' alienating practices. Why have mega development projects in ecosystem service provisioning khas lands kept recurring for an alleged best return by violating prevailing laws and public well-being? While failures outweigh the few successes of citizen movements, are we witnessing the colonial past casting a post-colonial trope in disrupting urban ecosystem services? Regarding DEE's disruption over access to urban ecosystems in Dhaka, we argue that the colonial consideration of wastelands for revenue generation has created a post-colonial hegemony in determining present land-use choices, prioritising accumulation over common use for public well-being. Let us examine the possible historical entanglements of the present disrupted ecosystem problem.

Western physiocratic thought on the primacy of land's produce and Western universal liberalism regarding private property were instrumental in the establishment of colonialism in Bengal. In particular, John Locke's labour theory of property guided revenue extraction from land while legitimising colonialism in Bengal. The land remaining idle anywhere in the world, Locke argued, legitimised colonisation for getting the best return from the land. Labour adds value to

land for the best return only when people hold land as private property. The East India Company (EIC) directors had their philosophical underpinning in getting the best return from land by the labour theory of property. The EIC implemented colonisation as a scheme for ruling native people in Bengal, arguing that the productive capacity of land in yielding produce would, in turn, generate trade and commerce, leading to the creation of wealth.

The process of turning land into private property in colonial Bengal had never been smooth, considering the nature of disrupting the land-people relation. EIC tapped on the property-constituting power of labour by its translation into the context of Bengal, considering local customs and traditions. The epistemology of this translation led us to probe our present problems around urban ecosystems and their subsequent public acquiring or private illegal grabbing in a longer-term perspective. This epistemological enterprise in historiography is provisional and explores the following questions: How has colonialism differentiated native people in relation to their respective ecological contexts, and how has the colonial legacy continued in disrupting the ecosystem during the post-colonial period, especially under neo-liberalism in Bangladesh since the 1990s? By understanding this historical context, we can better comprehend the present challenges and work towards effective solutions, informing us about the roots of our present challenges.

Scholars in environmental history claim that no long equilibrium of the ecological regime had ever existed in South Asia, let alone in the Bengal Delta (Rangarajan, 1996). Since ancient periods, unfolding changes explain the transformation of nature into human habitation through a 'common-enclosure dialectic', especially in the Bengal Delta. The concept of commons as shared resources—grazing land, forests, water bodies—and enclosure as

was radically altered during the colonial period with the emergence of the landed gentry as revenue farmers with their proprietary right to collect revenue from land and the consequent pauperization of the peasantry despite their right to cultivation. How colonial rulers ascribe value to the land is central to the disruption of the common-enclosure dialectic.

The EIC started colonial rule in South Asia by acquiring Dewani of Bengal in 1765. The concept of wasteland has been integral to EIC's progressive imposition of the rule for private property in South Asia, which was implemented by the rule of law. EIC did not use the concept of wasteland in Bengal as a natural category to identify infertile or barren land; it was instead a social category that referred both to unproductive uses of land and to lands held in commons, featuring idle native mentality of not striving for greater productivity of land (Gidwani, 1992). The concept of wasteland implies that land becomes productive only when it is occupied and improved. Lord Cornwallis's classification of one-third of Bengal's land as wasteland reinforced the East India Company's objective. The Permanent Settlement Act of 1793 was the most important land law, aiming to ensure the right of property on land. Its intentions were twofold: to ensure a steady flow of revenue to the EIC coffers and to secure the permanence of the EIC dominion through property. The rule of property and its implementing land laws constituted the basic principles of colonial governance (Guha, 1963).

By adding value to individually enclosed land reclaimed from

the commons as wastelands was embedded in the colonial construction of a set of exclusionary, if not racial, binaries such as forests/fields, tribes/castes, plains/hills, wastelands/settled cultivation.

Wasteland, in the colonial grand narrative, was a physical category of unmeasured and uncultivated land imbued with social representation of an idle native society in colonial Bengal; this deeply entrenched representation has led to post-colonial (re)categorisation of khas land as state-owned unproductive land of ecosystem services. Spectres of wasteland loom large over post-colonial khas land of ecosystem services, representing unproductive, unauthorised and temporary uses by the marginal people in rural and urban areas just as in plains and hills. Denying rightful claims by landless and marginal people, the post-colonial authoritarian state sanctions the public and private sectors' appropriation of khas land, often in collaboration with overseas lenders and investors, in pursuit of growth-driven development. This sanctioning by the state is part of the neo-liberal development doctrine that normalises khas land grabbing of ecosystem services by the elite and the powerful for 'accumulation by dispossession,' treating it as a zone of exception. Like the EIC Board of Directors, an unholy nexus of politicians, bureaucrats, and technical experts present themselves as the custodians of this neo-liberal development narrative, often justified by a compromised stakeholders' consultation.

The colonial discourse of wasteland produced a form of knowledge—political economy—for governing its subjects that did not decline after its abolition in 1947. On the contrary, it gained a new lease of life; the rule of property around a public-private binary has constituted the spaces of citizenship in post-colonial democracy. Extension of private property and appropriation of khas land continued under the modernisation theory during the 1960s-70s in pursuit of nation building and intensified through neo-liberal doctrine since the 1990s. Neo-liberal development doctrine views Dhaka ecosystem services—public spaces, peripheral agricultural land, green and blue networks, etc.—as stock spaces waiting for new enclosures in the name of development. The neo-liberal doctrine thus maintains the status quo—ecosystems, whether in khas land or urban spaces, await value addition by and for capital accumulation through either dispossession or exclusion—originating from the colonial translation of Western liberalism through the universal idea of property in Bengal.

Neo-liberal urbanism has made its irreversible mark in Dhaka, with foreign investments and lending in mega urban infrastructure projects aiming to get maximum returns. We acknowledge that these investments have started benefiting mobility patterns within Dhaka for all except marginalised people. Discrepancies in the agreement, however, raise questions about whose interests the positive impacts serve. In DEE, the Chinese investors will collect tolls for twenty-five years for their 47.1 per cent share of investment, contributing only a meagre BDT 272 crore to the public coffers! As the country of origin of global investors is increasingly tangled with regional geopolitics, should citizens passively accept what they are given and endorse a non-responsive state while refraining from voicing concerns over access to ecosystem services? Certainly not. Civic non-response at the cost of urban liveability cannot be an option in a functioning democracy.

We expect our esteemed experts to act as our first line of defence. Citizen dissent should not be left to young activists sleeping rough in tents during long, cold winter nights for months, while experts maintain a conspicuous silence and benefit from the spoils of investments. Last but not least, the DEE debacle is a reminder that no regime can implement its 'production of space' without local expertise. We hope this knowledge does not go to waste.

Shayer Ghafur is a Professor at the Department of Architecture, BUET, where he teaches Southern Urbanism.



PHOTO: FAHIM ABEDIN



Citizens stand in solidarity during a cultural programme organised by the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement on the 30th day of the sit-in protest.

PHOTO: ABU SUFIAN JEWEL

an intended parcelling of commons by denying free access are rooted in feudal England; however, their manifestations in south Asia, in ancient periods, are noted in the writings of Kautilya and others. Commons and enclosure are dialectical, as changes in one cause changes in the other; hence, they are discussed as both/and instead of either/or. How this dialectic unfolded in Bengal by appropriating ecosystem services and extending human habitation helps us trace its concomitant impacts on people's lives and livelihoods.

The common-enclosure dialectic in the pre-colonial Bengal Delta was predicated on land clearance; the reclamation of land through forest clearing provided the sovereign ruler with an increasing revenue base while entitling the subjects to the right to cultivation. This dialectic was linked to the spread of religion and the establishment of villages around religious edifices such as temples and mosques in the Bengal Delta. However, the continued nature of this dialectic

commons, cultivation initiates the move from a 'state of nature' to a 'state of civilisation,' albeit as a step towards enlightenment (Whitehead, 2012). A state of nature refers to people subsisting as hunter-gatherers on commons without settled agriculture. In contrast, a state of civilisation is equated with acquiring the right to private property in individually enclosed land. Colonial schemes in Bengal, south Asia in general, did not intend the former's progressive dissolution in the latter; scholars of environmental history have noted their retaining instead through a set of binaries. For example, tribes lived in forests in a state of nature, whereas castes lived in fields in a state of civilisation. Castes were seen as productive because they added value to land, generated revenue, and could reclaim wastelands to attain civilisation. Tribes, on the other hand, were judged unproductive for their dependence on the forest commons in a state of nature without private ownership of land. The status of

A heartbroken city and an empty stadium

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Lahore

People call the city of Lahore 'The heart of Pakistan', owing to its rich history, cultural heritage and the fact that it's the capital of Punjab, the most influential province of the country.

Pakistan, a country where millions of people live and breathe cricket, is now reeling from the heartbreak of their unceremonious exit from the ICC Champions Trophy, a tournament where despite being the host, Pakistan has become an afterthought.

So, it should not be a surprise that the symbolic heart of the nation has also put on a somber look, leaving no signs of the fact that the country is hosting its first major ICC event in 29 years and that Lahore is set to host a semifinal on Wednesday.

Silence is usually hard to find in Lahore, which is Pakistan's second most densely populated city, but on Sunday, it was there in abundance at the Gaddafi Stadium, as other than a few security personnel and some birds flying overhead, there was no other signs of life anywhere in the



premises.

The reason why the stadium was empty even though in only two days' time it will host the second semifinal of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy, is because none of the four semifinalists were even in Pakistan yesterday.

All four confirmed semifinalists - India, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia - were in Dubai, waiting for the semifinal fixtures to be confirmed after

the last group phase match between India and New Zealand yesterday.

Australia and South Africa, who played their last Group B match in Lahore and Karachi respectively, left for Dubai after their respective matches and were waiting for the outcome of the Group A match between India and New Zealand to know who will be their semifinal opponent and where they would be playing it.

South Africa, who emerged Group B

champions, will take on Group A runners-up while Australia, the Group B runners-up, will face Group A champions.

Whether India finish top of Group A or in second position, they would play their semifinal in Dubai while New Zealand will play the other semifinal in Lahore.

Pakistan Cricket Board's director of media and communications Sami Ul Hasan yesterday confirmed The Daily Star that the teams who will play the semifinal in Lahore will arrive in the city on Tuesday, a day before the match.

"They will come in Pakistan on March 4 and will be doing a pre-match press conference before the match," Sami said.

"That was on the schedule and the schedule was approved by the ICC after consulting with all the participating countries," he said, admitting the irony of no teams being in Pakistan at the moment even though they are the hosts.

"That's a fair point. But you should ask this question to the ICC. They should answer this question," he concluded. If India fail to win their semifinal, Lahore will also host the final on March 9, otherwise, it will be played in Dubai.

Kapp wants more women's Test matches

REUTERS

There should be more women's Test cricket in order to improve standards in the game, South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp has said.

Kapp, who made her international red ball debut in 2014, scored 150 against England in 2022 but has played in only four Tests.

Since 2010, only 19 Test series have been played in women's cricket, of which nine have been England v Australia, with most of them one-off matches.

"It's the longest format of the game where you probably need the most skills," Kapp told Reuters.

"It can only help the women's game and how players grow as well because you learn so much about yourself and your skill and your game when you play the longest format.

"For me, it's about getting as much international women's cricket as possible. It doesn't matter the format. The more games and teams you get to play, the stronger it will get and the better everyone will get."

The Twenty20 format of the game is thriving with the introduction of cash-rich franchise leagues around the world. Kapp plays in the Women's Premier League (WPL) for Delhi Capitals who signed the 35-year-old for around \$181,000 in the inaugural auction in 2023.



Phillips 'the Superman'

AFP, Dubai

New Zealand's Glenn Phillips pulled off a stunning catch to dismiss India great Virat Kohli in the final group match of the Champions Trophy on Sunday.

Kohli fell for 11 off 14 balls after New Zealand invited India to bat first in Dubai.

But it was Phillips' fielding marvel that brought the match alive as he dived full stretch to his right at backward point and held on to the ball travelling at a fast pace from Kohli's bat off fast bowler Matt Henry. Kohli, 36, stood in disbelief for a few seconds before trudging back to the pavilion as the fans went silent.

Social media, however, was soon abuzz with reactions to the catch: "The Superman of the tournament", wrote one fan on X.

Phillips, fielding at backward point, grabbed another stunner earlier in the tournament when he stretched to take a left-handed catch, dismissing Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan during the tournament opener in Karachi last month.

Hence, the 28-year-old all-rounder was asked before the India game whether he has glue on his hands.

"I wish I could say that I've got a special little glue tag that I use, but unfortunately, that's not the case. If anything, my palms are more sweaty than anything else," he said.

Tigers' CT performance on agenda in BCB meeting

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will hold the 18th board of directors meeting today with one of the main agendas being the performance of the national team in the ICC Champions Trophy.

While BCB directors said they were unaware of the agendas, sources have revealed that along with national team's performance in the Champions Trophy, where they got eliminated from the group phase without a win, the central contracts of the national team players will also be discussed.

According to media reports, some senior national team stars will not be part of the new central contracts.

Contracts of head coach Phil Simmons and senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin are also in the agenda. Both of their contracts have expired after the Champions Trophy, however, the BCB is positive about renewing with both of them. The scheduling of domestic tournaments will also be discussed in today's meeting.

DPL BEGINS TODAY

Same old concerns in a new mould

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Premier League (DPL), the most important tournament in the country's domestic calendar, begins today across venues in Dhaka with very little change from previous years as questions could be raised about its competitiveness owing to political influences.

The tournament's competitiveness especially comes into the limelight because political ties in the past garnered unseen advantages. Abahani dominated the recent era with many national team players thrust into the side.

What changed this year is that Mohammedan - Abahani's archrivals - and Legends of Rupganj have created strong teams, while the rest of the teams have found national team stars to be limited in stock.

Legends of Rupganj have recruited quite a few top order batters from the national team, such as Soumya Sarkar and Tanzid Tamim. They also have Mahmudul Hasan Joy in the lineup, and team management sources yesterday told The Daily Star that he is being lined up to bat at number four, with Afif Hossain also in the squad.

Joy's case exemplifies how outside influences could impact the quality of a tournament and also a cricketer's career. Joy has always batted at the top, and



PHOTO: STAR

when a player is pushed into a middle-order role, it raises questions about the surplus of quality in a team. At the same time, the player himself has to adjust to this new role, making it more difficult for him to perform in the position where he aims to establish himself - as an opener.

This, in turn, reduces the effectiveness that the DPL should have in nurturing players who can serve the national team and the country's cricket.

Gulshan Cricket Club were promoted to the Premier Division last season, and former national team star Tamim Iqbal claimed to have arranged for investors for the club this season.

Tamim, who will be leading Mohammedan, will play the opening round's fixture against Gulshan Cricket Club at BKSP 3 today. "I am with them [Gulshan Cricket Club]. But the team is not mine, I just helped them get sponsors. So, I don't see any conflict of interest," Tamim told reporters in Mirpur yesterday.

Tamim's statement of being 'with them' sounds like a page out of the script from previous DPL editions, which were often marred due to conflicts of interest - particularly concerning club officials.

Tamim also highlighted the heat factor during the March-May window and the difficulties

faced by players traveling to different grounds, such as those at BKSP in Savar. The heat factor could impact performance levels, especially as many cricketers would also be fasting during Ramadan.

Mohammedan official Tariqul Islam Titu mentioned that following a request made in a Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) meeting, the tournament would be moved to November next year.

Other than the timing, Titu found some positives in this DPL.

"Previously, for one team, the championship was almost guaranteed, while the rest were playing to be runners-up. Whether you talk about backdoor deals or umpiring, whenever we protested these issues, legal actions were taken against us," he added.

When asked whether Abahani's influence in past editions would now shift to Mohammedan due to the abundance of national team stars, he said: "Previously, other teams could not recruit national players, and Abahani would build their team with the maximum number of national team players or those on the fringes. Now, isn't it better that they won't have to play for just one team under any pressure? There was a fear that if you weren't in Abahani, you wouldn't get selected for the national team, but now it is open."



Atletico's focus now on CL clash with Real

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone urged his players to quickly switch focus onto their Champions League clash with Real Madrid rather than getting carried away with Saturday's 1-0 home win over Athletic Bilbao that provisionally lifted them to the top of LaLiga. Atletico face Real in the first leg of the Champions League last-16 in a mouth-watering Madrid derby, something Simeone is wary of despite his team's good form. "We have a big game in the Champions League, and at the moment, we just have to focus on that and get well rested during these three days off," Simeone told a news conference. Hailing substitute Julian Alvarez, who sealed the victory minutes after coming on for Alexander Sorloth just before the hour mark against Athletic Bilbao yesterday, Simeone said: "We were lucky to have Julian in the second half and for him to finish the counter-attack the way he did." Atletico top LaLiga with 56 points, two clear of Barcelona, who host Real Sociedad on Sunday. Meanwhile, Real Madrid dropped a place to third in the standings after losing 2-1 at Real Betis on Saturday.

Women's kabaddi team aim to end 20-year drought

SPORTS REPORTER

With gold and silver apparently out of their reach, Bangladesh women's kabaddi team have set their sights on the bronze medal, subject to being placed in a favourable group in the seven-team Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship, scheduled for March 4-9 in Iran.

Defending champions India, runners-up Iran, Thailand, Nepal, Iraq, Malaysia and Bangladesh are scheduled to vie for the trophy of the sixth edition. Bangladesh's progress to the knockout rounds may depend on the grouping of the tournament, which has not been done yet.

If Bangladesh are placed in the same group with either India or Iran alongside fast-improving Nepal, then their hopes of winning a bronze medal or progressing to the semifinals may get a jolt.

Bangladesh's only medal in the history of this championship was a bronze in the inaugural edition in 2005.

Nepal have now become the new rivals of SA Games' two-time silver medallists Bangladesh, who lost to the Himalayan kingdom in the semifinals of the 2019 South Asian Games and in the group stages of the 2023 Asian Games.

"We can't deny that Nepal are now our new rivals because we lost to them in the



last two meetings, but we will try our best to win a bronze medal," assistant coach Shahnaz Parvin Maleka told The Daily Star over phone.

When asked about the 37-24 points defeat against Nepal in the 2023 Asian Games, Maleka said: "To be honest, the players panicked under pressure of delivering good results despite having a good Indian coach.

"However, I am confident after more than six weeks of training. Even though the time is not enough to prepare a team for such an assignment, I'm sure they will perform better than last year. This is a team comprising experienced and young

players who are motivated and committed to doing something good."

Former men's team captain Arduzzaman Munshi, who also worked as an assistant coach of the women's team, echoed the same sentiment, saying: "I have heard that female players could not hold their nerve in international tournaments but this time if the players can show their natural performance, they will be able to win at least a bronze medal."

The Bangladesh team, who are usually better in raids than in defence, will largely rely on players like Shraboni Mallick, Bristi Bishwas, Smrity Akter, Lucky Akter and Rupali to achieve their target.

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SHILPAKALA ACADEMY Cultural affairs ministry refutes Jamil's claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cultural affairs ministry yesterday refuted many of the allegations brought forth by Syed Jamil Ahmed while he stepped down from the post of director general of the Shilpakala Academy.

"The ministry deems it necessary to refute and clarify the untruthful, fictional and personally motivated slander made by the eminent cultural personality," said a press release.

The claim that the cultural ministry pressured Shilpakala authorities to release funds without a formal letter for a 15 minute video on International Mother Language Day is untrue, it said.

The ministry had sent two letters to the Shilpakala authorities: first on February 2 and again on February 10. And yet Ahmed refused to provide the money to the video's director and 'misbehaved' with him, the press release added.

Ahmed insisted that the ministry allocates the respective budget to Shilpakala first although the second paragraph of the letter mentioned that the RELATED STORY ON PAGE 6 SEE PAGE II COL 1



An elephant grazing freely in the eco-friendly KEPZ in Chattogram's Anowara, where human-elephant conflict issues have lessened recently. Without further conservation efforts, Bangladesh may no longer be one of the 13 Asian countries with wild elephants within the next decade, experts warn.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Our gentle giants in peril

PINAKI ROY WITH SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg; AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Over the past decade, nearly half of the country's wild elephant population has been wiped out.

These gentle giants, which once roamed freely across Bangladesh's lush forests, have been falling victim to human-elephant conflict, driven by relentless deforestation and habitat loss.

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

In the last 10 years, at least 124 wild elephants were killed across Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and Mymensingh regions. Many fell prey to retaliatory killings, electrocution, poaching, and train accidents.

Conversely, 83 people have also been killed in elephant encounters during this period. Yet, the government's response has been limited, with few visible actions to prevent further losses.

According to a 2016 survey by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), there were only 457 elephants in the country, including 268 wild elephants, 93 migratory elephants, and 96 in captivity. The study found that from 2003 to 2015 (13 years),

SEE PAGE II COL 1

TCB outlets in all dists from Wednesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin directed DCs to monitor and prevent hoarding of goods by traders in an attempt to create an artificial shortage of commodities.

The state-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will begin selling essential commodities to low-income people in all 64 districts starting Wednesday, Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin said.

He announced this in a virtual meeting with deputy commissioners (DCs) yesterday.

Currently, the TCB is selling essentials in six districts, according to the commerce ministry.

In the meeting, the adviser said the government is aiming to expand the TCB services to one crore people at the grassroots level. He instructed the DCs to ensure the preparation of an accurate list of beneficiaries.

Currently, 57 lakh smart card holders purchase essential items through TCB's truck sales programme.

The adviser further directed the DCs to

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A mixed bag in NCP convening committee

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The recently formed National Citizen Party (NCP) has announced a 217-member convening committee, incorporating individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The committee disclosed early yesterday includes 24 women, two representatives from the Dalit and Harijan communities, an injured protester from the July uprising, and the mother of a martyred protester.

The committee includes 24 women, two representatives from the Dalit and Harijan communities, an injured protester from the July uprising, and the mother of a martyred protester.

The "partial" committee will serve for one year, according to a press release signed by NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen.

However, LGBTQ activist Muntasir Rahman, included in the initial 151-member committee, was removed from the expanded 217-member body following objections from key NCP leaders Hasnat Abdullah and Sarjis Alam.

The committee features 24 women in various roles, including Senior Joint Convener Samanta Shermeen and senior joint member secretaries Dr Tasnim Zara and Nahida Sarwer Niva.

Representing marginalised communities, Kailash Chandra Rabi Das and Vimpalli David Raju from the Dalit and Harijan communities were made joint chief coordinators.

Other significant appointees include Abu Sayeed Leon, former Jatiya Chhatra Samaj leader from Dhaka

SEE PAGE II COL 1

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER PBI quizzes five, including Justice Manik

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has interrogated five people, including a retired judge of the Supreme Court who is now in jail, in the case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi.

The five people are sacked army official Ziaul Ahsan, former Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Mashur Rahman, former justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, former Navy officer Mohammad Sohail, and Humayun Kabir, an accused of the double murder case.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate MA Azharul Islam yesterday allowed the PBI, which took charge of the investigation in November last year, to interrogate the accused Palash Rudra Paul, who was a security guard at the house where the couple was murdered.

In another development, the investigators have spoken to more than 50 people regarding the case where there was no need to get permission from the

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ROOPPUR POWER PLANT Incomplete power line delays test run

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The test run of the Rooppur nuclear power plant may start by the end of 2025 after a year's delay as the gridline on the Padma river is taking longer than anticipated to materialise.

Initially, the Awami League-led government had planned to conduct the test run of the 1,200 MW unit-1 by December last year.

Earlier in January, Finance and Science and Technology Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that ROSATOM had conveyed to the government that they were trying to conduct the test run by April.

When Alexey Likhachev, the director general of ROSATOM last week paid a visit to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, he could not say anything specific about the test run.

"The dry run of the project is going on while the test run will commence soon," Likhachev said. While 85 percent of the construction work for unit-1 has already been completed, the subsidiary projects, which included developing a high-frequency telecommunications system and setting up gridlines over the Padma and the Jamuna rivers, are taking longer than expected, Ahmed said.

While completion of the gridline over the Jamuna river will take time, the government was trying to complete the gridline over the

Padma river soon. The test run will commence once the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is the global watchdog for any atomic energy-related power plant, visits the project site and certifies it, Ahmed added.

The gridline on the Padma river will take some time, said Md Delwar Hossain, the chief engineer of the Rooppur power plant project.

As of January, the physical progress of the gridline on Padma river is 85 percent, according to Hossain.



However, apart from those under construction, there are two completed gridlines that could be used for the test run.

One is from Rooppur to Baghabari and the other is from Rooppur to Bogura.

However, Russia emphasised using the Padma river gridline for the test run, Hossain added.

The project for the gridlines on the Padma and Jamuna rivers was approved in 2018 by the Executive

SEE PAGE II COL 4

Tk 2.42 crore seized from former DGFI chief's home

ACC raided the cantonment house on February 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has recently raided the cantonment residence of Lieutenant General Saiful Alam, former director general of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

The raid, during which the commission seized Tk 2.425 crore in cash, took place on February 28 as part of an ongoing probe into alleged corruption and irregularities, the ACC said.

Earlier on January 6, the International Crimes Tribunal issued an arrest warrant against Saiful on allegations of involvement in enforced disappearances.

During the raid, Saiful was not found at home, according to ACC sources.

ACC Director General (Prevention) Md Akhtar Hossain confirmed the development to the media yesterday when the recovered money was deposited in court. The joint forces were involved in

SEE PAGE II COL 4

Election rigging never ends well

Says CEC Nasir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin has urged political parties to refrain from attempting election engineering and ballot stuffing to win polls.

"Winning elections through engineering or vote rigging does not end well for the party in the long run. This is not only true for Bangladesh, but this is what we learn from world history."

He made the remarks while speaking at a discussion meeting marking National Voters' Day at the Election Commission headquarters in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

For a long time, the country's citizens have been denied the right to vote freely, the CEC said, adding that the time has now come to restore that right.

"I want to say that the National Consensus Commission can take written promises from political parties that they will follow the electoral code of conduct and take internal action if any party candidate causes trouble during polls."

The CEC believes such written statements will exert pressure on political parties to adhere to the electoral code of conduct, making the EC's job easier.

"People are dreaming of a new Bangladesh. If this dream is not realised, the sacrifices of the injured and martyred of the July uprising will have been in vain. Voting is no



SEE PAGE II COL 4



1st semifinal, March 4
India vs Australia, Dubai

2nd semifinal, March 5
New Zealand vs South Africa, Lahore

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy stamped his authority yesterday, claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in ODIs to help India clinch a 44-run victory against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy in Dubai. Defending a 250-run target, India bundled out the Black Caps for 205 runs in 45.3 overs to seal the top spot in Group A. New Zealand made it through to the semifinals as group runners-up.

PHOTO: AFP

Chawkbazar comes alive with iftar delicacies

P3



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 3

| | Fajr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN | 5:03 | 12:45 | 4:30 | 6:03 | 7:30 |
| JAMAAT | 5:13 | 1:15 | 4:45 | 6:18 | 8:00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

| RAMADAN | APRIL | SEHRI | IFTAR |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2 | 3 | | 6:03 |
| 3 | 4 | 5:02 | 6:03 |
| 4 | 5 | 5:01 | 6:04 |