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WFP halves food ration for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The World Food Programme has cut the monthly food aid for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh from \$12.50 to \$6 per person, beginning in April, raising the risk of widespread hunger in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char.

"What they are receiving now is already not enough. So, it's hard to imagine the consequences of this new cut," Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, told news agency Reuters yesterday.

Rahman received the letter confirming the \$6.60 cut from April 1 yesterday after being informed verbally the previous day.

A spokesperson for the UN World Food Programme in Dhaka did not immediately return a Reuters request for comment.

The WFP decision comes amid the Trump administration's termination of USAID funding worldwide. Initially, when the decision was announced in January, it was said that emergency food aid would remain out of the purview.

The WFP, however, did not specify in its letter if the reduction was due to the decision by the Trump administration, Rahman told Reuters.

But he said it was likely as the US was the top donor to the refugee response.

The US Embassy in Dhaka did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In the letter to the RRRC, seen by Reuters, the WFP said it had been

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Fear of hunger grips camps

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Rohingya refugees and locals of Cox's Bazar have expressed a deep concern over the reduction in funds for food aid.

They fear that it will lead to limited access to nutritious food, a rise in crimes in the refugee settlements and their surrounding areas, and increased tension between locals and refugees.

Currently, the World Food Programme provides \$12.50 a month for food for each Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh. From April, the allocation will drop to \$6.

Relief officials warn that this decision will worsen food shortage and malnutrition in the camps.

"I am speechless hearing the news," said Mohammad Zubair, chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights.

"There is no way for Rohingyas to survive. Even what we get now is not enough to maintain a nutritious diet," he said, adding that hunger may cause a spike in crimes like robberies, theft, and drug trafficking in the area.

"We don't want to live here on financial assistance. We want to return to our country and grow our own food," he said, urging UN agencies to establish a safe zone in Rakhine State for the Rohingyas.

Selim Khan, a Rohingya youth from Kutupalong camp, said, "We have no earning. We live entirely on food assistance. This is devastating news," he added.

SM Suza, secretary of the Rohingya Affairs unit of Jatiya Nagarik Committee, said, "When their food rations are cut, they will leave the camps in search of livelihood, putting immense pressure on local job market."

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Mob ransacks Gulshan flat late at night
Attack follows rumours of stashed cash; three held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob stormed a flat in the capital's Gulshan on Tuesday night, claiming that it belongs to Tamir Imam, the son of HT Imam, who was an adviser to the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Alleging that a large cache of illegal weapons and cash were there, the mob ransacked the flat.

Mokhlesur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station, told The Daily Star the flat does not belong to HT Imam or his son.

The daughter of the flat owner, one Rahman, had married Tamir, a former lawmaker, but they got separated around 20-25 years ago.

Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police,

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Focus should also be on healing, reconciliation

Says Volker Turk about Bangladesh's future course

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must focus not only on accountability but also healing and reconciliation, said Volker Turk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at a press conference in Geneva yesterday.

"I think it's a historic opportunity for the country to stop the cycle of reprisals that we have seen in the past, to bring the nation together, to engage in trust building and healing," said Turk.

He said the process of healing must involve truth telling, reconciliation, memorialisation, and reform. He called it a unique chance for every citizen of Bangladesh, irrespective of whatever group or community they belonged to.

"It's a huge chance for the country and its people to deal with its past, to overcome its past, to reach a moment of healing and truth-telling. And that includes each and



"It is absolutely critical to overhaul and dismantle the repressive laws and institutions that were there for much too long."
VOLKER TURK

everyone within the society of Bangladesh. It includes people from different religious and ethnic groups. It is one country. It is one citizenship."

Turk said that if all groups and political parties have the spirit to make this happen, "[...] the world will have a story of hope to tell in what is otherwise, frankly, a very difficult environment all over the place."

Citing the UN fact-finding report, Turk said the UN had reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity were committed, directed against protesters during the July-August massacre that killed 1,400 and injured thousands.

"It is absolutely critical to overhaul and dismantle the repressive laws and institutions that were there for much too long."

He called on the international community to aid Bangladesh in its rebuilding efforts.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Leading the world from home

CR Abrar outlines visions for students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The size of the interim government, led by Prof Muhammad Yunus, increased once again yesterday, the third such expansion since it took office.

An oath-taking ceremony was held at 11:00am at the Bangabhaban, where migration expert and former Dhaka University professor Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar, known as CR Abrar, was sworn in as an adviser.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath. With Prof Abrar's inclusion, the number of advisers in the government now stands at 23.

After assuming office at the education ministry, Prof Abrar outlined his vision for the education system "where students can see their futures right here, in our own country".

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PRY, SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Millions of students still without textbooks

Govt misses deadline again

ARAFAT RAHMAN

Despite repeated assurances, the interim government has once again failed to distribute textbooks to crores of students across the country, with the 40-day Ramadan and Eid vacation already underway.

After missing the usual January deadline, then education adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud stated that the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) would complete the distribution of all 40.15 crore textbooks by February. However, this deadline was also missed.

With students now on their Ramadan and Eid holiday, Wahiduddin, on his final day as adviser yesterday, once again promised that the books would be delivered by March 10.

NCTB officials, however, have indicated that this deadline may also be missed due to a scarcity of paper.

Amid these repeated promises and missed deadlines, students remain the worst affected.

Crates of children began their academic year without essential textbooks, and now, as they enter their long holiday, their studies have been severely disrupted.

Secondary school students commenced their vacation on February 27, while primary school students began a day earlier. By that

"It's true that we aim to print all the books by March 10. However, we need help from the printing industry owners. As far as we know, there is a scarcity of paper, which has contributed to the delay."
NCTB Chairman Prof REAZUL HASSAN

same issue," Rihad told this newspaper.

His elder sister, Jasmine Ara, expressed frustration, saying, "Teachers have given study assignments for the holidays, but how can he study when he only has two books? When I asked this, they suggested printing PDFs of the books as a temporary solution."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Perks, bonuses of MPO teachers set to increase

Says Prof Wahiduddin on his last day as education adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On his last day as education adviser yesterday, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said he believed private institution teachers' demand for a pay rise is fair but the issue cannot be settled with just one or two years' budgets.

"It is very difficult to make people understand this.... However, the process must begin, and [the authorities] are taking that first step," the adviser said.

He said that private institution teachers under the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme would see increases in their allowances for festivals, entertainment, house rent, and medical, starting from this year's Eid-ul-Azha and in the next budget.

"I am not making any announcements regarding the exact amount of the increase. However, I know that the current budget will cover parts of it, and next year's budget will provide further provisions," he added.

Prof Wahiduddin said that a portion of the funds for the retirement and welfare benefits of MPO-listed private institution teachers is being established this year.

"Some of it has already been set up, and more will be allocated in the next budget. However, making the entire fund sustainable will not be possible within one



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Obituary



**In Loving Memory of
Mrs. Hosne Huq**
(01 February 1947 – 02 March 2025)

We announce with deep sorrow the passing of Mrs. Hosne Huq on 2nd March 2025, following a cardiac arrest at United Hospital, Dhaka. (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Layhi Rajiun).

She touched countless lives with her inimitable joy for life and kindness. She was a source of love and strength for her husband Captain Nurul Huq, first Chief of Naval Staff of Bangladesh.

She will be deeply missed by her son, Saad Huq, daughter, Samia Huq, son-in-law Syed Nasim Manzur, and beloved grandchildren Saira, Niamat, Sana and Niam.

We request your prayers for her departed soul. May Allah grant her eternal salvation. Ameen.

Man arrested for harassing female DU student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a man on charges of harassing a female student of Dhaka University in Shahbagh.

The arrestee, Arnob Sardar, works as a bookbinder at the DU library.

He was handed over to Shahbagh Police Station in the evening by the university authorities after he allegedly verbally abused the woman for not having her "scarf" in the right place.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh police, confirmed the arrest to The Daily Star.

The student had earlier made a post on Facebook, detailing the incident.

She shared a photo of a man in the post and wrote, "This man harassed me today on my way from Shahbagh. He suddenly stopped me on the road and told me that my clothing was 'inappropriate', among other things... When I said I will call the proctor, he ran away."

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CR Abrar being sworn in as the new education adviser by President Mohammad Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Mob ransacks

FROM PAGE 1

said a former caretaker of the building Shakil Ahmed, 28, instigated the mob by spreading rumours that Tk 200-300 crore might be stashed in the flat.

Police arrested Shakil and two others in this connection. Incumbent caretaker Abdul Mannan filed a case with Gulshan Police Station.

The two other arrestees are Shakil Khandakar, 24, and his father Jewel Khandakar, 48.

The vandalism began after the intruders, identifying themselves as locals, carried out a "search" around 11:30pm on Tuesday.

They told reporters that they had information that apart from illegal firearms and cash, people involved in killing student protesters were holed up there.

As the crowd gathered in and around the building near Shahabuddin Park in Gulshan 2, journalists and YouTubers followed. Some of the intruders said they called the media to cover their search.

They chanted anti-Awami League slogans. At one stage, they broke open the door of the flat. The entire incident was broadcast live by some TV channels.

On information, police and later army personnel rushed there and intervened.

Before leaving the building, journalists talked to some of the intruders who said they did not find any illegal firearms, cash or any suspects.

One youth, who identified himself as Shakil Ahmed, told reporters, "We are locals and we entered the flat to see if any illegal firearms or money was kept there."

When a journalist asked whether they have any permission to conduct such a search, he said, "We did it on our own."

Shakil said they had informed the law enforcers about their suspicion, but they did not take any action.

Talking to reporters, caretaker Mannan said the flat was owned by one Rahman, who was Tanvir's father-in-law.

The couple was divorced long ago, possibly in 2001.

Manan said the people broke the door and entered the flat. "We tried to resist but failed. They ransacked the flat."

Meanwhile, the chief adviser's press wing yesterday said another group attempted to enter the house on Monday night under a similar pretext but was dispersed by police.

The home ministry has reiterated that no individual should take the law into their own hands, said a statement of the press wing.

Fear of hunger grips camps

FROM PAGE 1

"A conflict between locals and Rohingyas may emerge in this situation. It's a major humanitarian crisis. The international community must step in to ensure the basic human rights of the Rohingyas," Suza said.

Samsuddauza Nayan, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, said, "This decision will impact the community, and refugees may turn to crime to meet their basic needs."

Such incidents have been reported across the country, including Bogura, Madaripur, Tangail, Chattogram, Khulna, Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Tongi, Rajshahi, and Barishal. While some have led to murder charges or police cases, proper investigations and punishments remain elusive.

As the perpetrators have not

trying to raise funds to keep the ration at \$12.50 per month but had failed to find donors.

A cut in rations to anything less than \$6 would "fall below the minimum survival level and fail to meet basic dietary needs", it said.

The WFP said it accepted that "given the refugees' complete reliance on humanitarian aid", the cut would strain families struggling to meet basic needs and heighten "increasing tensions within the camps".

It said it had appealed to multiple donors for funding and that cost-saving measures alone were not enough.

"I have come to know that the UN is going to cut food ration for the Rohingyas – this is shocking and very unfortunate," Khing Maung, a youth official working for a humanitarian project in Cox's Bazar, told this correspondent yesterday.

"Cutting this fund means a disaster for the Rohingya people," he said.

WFP halves food ration for Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 1

"I appeal to the world community not to ignore us. We are already stateless and our wish to return to Myanmar is not materialising anytime soon," he said.

A previous round of ration cuts to Rohingyas in 2023 led to a sharp increase in hunger and malnutrition, according to the UN. The food rations were brought down to \$8 a month then.

Within months, they said, 90 percent of the camp population "struggled to access an adequate diet" and more than 15 percent of children suffered from malnutrition, the highest rate recorded. The cut was later reversed.

Nearly 50 percent of the total humanitarian assistance for Rohingyas comes from the US government, Jashim Uddin, an NGO official working for a humanitarian project in Cox's Bazar, told this correspondent yesterday.

"Cutting this fund means a disaster for the Rohingya people," he said.

Millions of students still without textbooks

FROM PAGE 1

Jahid Hasan, an eighth-grader at Gaibandha Government Boys' High School, has received only four out of 14 textbooks.

"Teachers are assigning chapters from books we haven't even received yet. How are we supposed to study?" he asked.

A teacher at Bhatai High School in Jhenidah, speaking on condition of anonymity, admitted, "We're trying to follow the academic calendar, but without books, we're struggling. If we don't assign tasks, it will lead to significant learning gaps. That's why we printed PDF copies of some of the more important books and distributed them to certain classes."

Sharmi Sultana, the mother of a ninth-grade student at Rajdhani

High School in the capital, said, "The delay in January due to national issues was understandable, but February has ended, and some books are still missing. Now, with Ramadan, Eid, and SSC exam holidays, half the academic year will be lost. How will students catch up?"

The situation has also forced many parents to bear additional costs.

Liton Karmaker, the father of a ninth-grade student at Dinajpur Zilla School, said, "My son's teachers told him to print out PDFs and complete assignments. I may be able to afford it, but many parents can't. Some don't even know where to find these PDFs. This is an extra burden on parents, caused by the government's failure."

NCTB member (Textbook) Riad Chowdhury claimed that, as of Monday,

"The situation has also forced many parents to bear additional costs.

Mir Snigdho, the brother of Mir Mugdho who was shot and killed during the protests, said, "The international community must do more than just issue statements. International bodies must enforce accountability, and civil society must push for lasting change from this tragedy. Decisive action is needed, supporting independent investigations, enforcing consequences for non-compliance, and ensuring justice mechanisms."

"We need resources for victim-centered reparation programmes, for compensation, long-term medical treatment, rehabilitation, care and livelihood opportunities for victims. We also need member states to support us in this effort."

"We need truth-telling about the fate of the disappeared people, because that brings closure for the families and the loved ones. It is a part of this victim-centered approach."

He said the recommendations provided in the UN report were crucial for ensuring the country's future stability, protecting human rights and strengthening democracy. He also said his office was in the process of finalising a physical presence in Bangladesh to provide support and technical cooperation on all the areas of reform.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said, "The collective resolve of the people of

Bangladesh for a just, inclusive and functioning democracy with the promotion and protection of human rights at its core, should define Bangladesh of the future and place our nation as a responsive and responsible state in the global community."

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"Justice is not a single act but a process, one that demands prosecution, truth-seeking, reparations and institutional reforms for victims. Justice means accountability, not just for those who pull the trigger, but also for those who gave the orders," he said, adding that despite progress, gaps remain.

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Π

JULY UPRISING Former US diplomats offer support to ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former US Ambassador to Bangladesh William B Milam and former US diplomat John Danilovich have expressed their willingness to assist the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in ensuring justice, combating misinformation, and shaping international opinion.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam shared this information while briefing journalists yesterday after meeting with the two former US diplomats, who now represent the US-based think tank Right to Freedom (R2F).

Tajul said Milam and Danilovich visited his office to inquire about the judicial progress regarding the atrocities committed during the July uprising.

"They also asked whether

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



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

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Two held over attack on Iranian nationals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were arrested yesterday over the attack and robbing of two Iranian nationals during a "mob attack" in Bashundhara Residential Area on Tuesday.

The arrestees are Abdullah, 20, and Sabbir Mia, 19, said Bhatara Police Station Sub inspector Habibur Rahman.

Earlier, Sub-inspector Chhoton Chandra Das filed a case with the police station in this regard.

According to police, the two Iranian nationals were injured and allegedly robbed of cash and mobile phones during the attack.

They had arrived in Bangladesh two days prior and planned to stay for a month. The incident took place near Bashundhara's main gate around 1:45pm that day when they got into an argument with local currency exchange brokers over the exchange rate, which they had arranged over the phone.

They were taken to Kurmitola General Hospital for treatment and later escorted back to their hotel.

Freeze 39 bank accounts of ex-minister Saifuzzaman Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 39 bank accounts of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed in connection with corruption allegations against him.

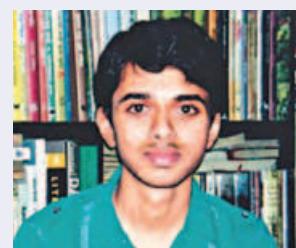
The former minister had deposited around Tk 5.27 crore in these accounts.

Judge Md Zahir Hossain passed the order following an application from ACC.

The commission said during the inquiry, it was discovered that the former minister was attempting to transfer his movable assets. To prevent this, the ACC sought a freeze on his bank accounts.

12 YEARS OF TAIQI MURDER AL's ouster revives hope, but justice still elusive

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM



When Sheikh Hasina declared her support for the Osman family, all progress in the case came to a halt. We demand a fair and just charge sheet be submitted to the court. We are still waiting for justice.

Rafiur Rabbi, Taqi's father

chalked out a two-day programme on Thursday and Saturday marking the 12th anniversary of the killing.

"Six people have been arrested recently following the formation of the interim government. One of them has given a confessional statement. The case is progressing, and we hope it will be completed soon," said Taqi's father, Rafiur Rabbi.

"Within a year of the killing, Rab had uncovered details of the murder. But when Sheikh Hasina declared her support for the Osman family, all progress in the case came to a halt," he said. "We demand a fair and just charge sheet be submitted to the court. We are still waiting for justice," Rabbi said.

The court has extended the investigation deadline 81 times so far, as Rab repeatedly sought more time to complete the probe.

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Don't let river grabbers contest polls HRPB urges EC to amend RPO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission requesting it to amend the Representation of the People Order (RPO), incorporating a provision to disqualify the river polluters and encroachers from elections.

A delegation of HRPB led by its president Advocate Manzill Murshid placed the memorandum to the EC at its office.

Earlier, the High Court in 2016 ordered a provision in this regard.

The Supreme Court also suggested that the grabbers and polluters should be disqualified from contesting the elections.

Despite the suggestions, no law has been formulated in this regard, said HRPB.

Reform labour law maintaining global standard CA asks ministry



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Yunus yesterday asked the officials concerned to reform the labour law to meet international standards for improving the living conditions of millions of labourers employed in different sectors.

The chief adviser issued the directive during a meeting with the officials of the Labour and Employment Ministry ahead of the 353rd session of the International Labour Organisation to be held in Geneva between March 10 and 20.

Labour and Employment Ministry adviser M Sakhawat Hossain will lead the Bangladesh delegation in the ILO session.

"We have to do everything positive and get things done. We are not here to make an excuse," said Yunus. He also asked the officials to ensure insurance coverage and healthcare benefits for workers.

Labour and Employment Ministry Adviser M Sakhawat Hossain, secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman, Law and Justice Division Secretary Sheikh Abu Taher, and ILO Country Representative Tuomo Poutiainen were present at the meeting.



50 illegal depots knocked down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday dismantled more than 50 illegal warehouses for bricks, sand, and stone, along with other unauthorised structures in Gabtoli Beribadh area.

DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azad during the drive said the DNCC owns approximately 150 acres of land along both sides of the Gabtoli Beribadh road, much of which has been unlawfully occupied for years. The eviction drive will continue in phases, he added.



In Dhaka, vendors have taken over not only the footpaths but also the footbridges, leaving little space for pedestrians. Despite the daily inconvenience this causes, the problem persists without intervention. This photo was taken from the Farmgate footbridge yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A smiling Shajahan and a worried Salim

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

As former shipping minister Shajahan Khan was escorted into the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka yesterday, he maintained a smile.

Shajahan, a presidium member of the Awami League, entered the dock under tight police security, accompanied by other party leaders, including former law minister Anisul Huq, former DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam, former state minister for Liberation War affairs AB Tajul Islam, former lawmaker Mohammad Salaiman Salim, and former Supreme Court judge AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik.

Minutes later, journalist couple Shakil Ahmed and Farzana Rupa were brought into the same dock, followed by former state minister for industries Kamal Ahmed Majumder.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Monirul Islam formally showed the AL leaders and journalists arrested in connection with various cases filed with different police stations regarding the July uprising.

SHAJAHAN AND HIS REMARKS

As the accused were led back to the lockup, a journalist asked Shajahan how he was faring.

"Doing alright with your prayers. Pray for me," he replied.

When asked what prayers they should offer, he said, "Pray that I am released soon so I can work towards restoring peace and order and participate in the upcoming election."

A journalist remarked, "Everyone is saying you have ruined the country."

Shajahan countered, "It will soon be proven whether we ruined the country or someone else did."

When another journalist inquired about his frequent smiles,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

JULY UPRISING

Meal allowance raised to Tk 250 per injured patient

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has directed the relevant authorities to increase the dietary allowance for injured and admitted patients of the student-led mass uprising to improve the quality of their food.

According to a circular issued by the Health Services Division on Sunday, the daily allowance has been raised to Tk 250 per person, up from Tk 175.

The circular was sent to the director general of the DGHS, all directors of medical colleges and specialised hospitals, all divisional directors of DGHS, superintendents of government hospitals, all civil surgeons, and all upazila health and family planning officers.

Former US

FROM PAGE 3

we face any obstacles in ensuring justice. They expressed interest in learning more about the enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings that occurred over the last 15 years under Sheikh Hasina's rule," he said.

He said the two diplomats emphasised their neutral stance and urged the government to ensure punishment to prevent such crimes in the future.

Meanwhile, the ICT yesterday extended the deadline by three months for submitting the probe report on the killing of college student Muhammad Hridoy during the uprising in Gazipur's Konabari.

The tribunal also approved a one-day interrogation of Constable Akram Hossain, who directly shot Hridoy, an eleventh grader at Hemnagar Degree College in Tangail. On August 5, Akram allegedly shot Hridoy at point-blank range after police encircled him.



A man transporting watermelons on a boat to reach the wholesale markets in the Port Road area of Barishal Sadar yesterday. Farmers from various char areas in Bhola use such boats to take their produce to the market via the river.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

WATER CRISIS IN CHATTOGRAM

Residents struggle amid salinity surge

SIFAYET ULLAH, City

Residents in various areas of the port city of Chattogram are grappling with an acute water crisis as supplies from the Chattogram Water and Sewerage Authority (CWasa) have significantly diminished.

CWasa is compelled to shut down its treatment plants daily for extended periods due to saltwater intrusion in the Halda river and reduced water release from Kaptai Lake. As of November last year, the state agency had a total of 98,755 registered consumers.

"We are only getting water once or twice a week. Due to the shortage, we are forced to buy bottled water from the local market," said Abdullal Al Noman, a resident of the Akbar Shah area.

Tofayel Ahmed, a resident of the Bahaddarhat area, said, "With our limited income, we are compelled to buy bottled water for consumption. This is putting extra financial strain on us."

CWasa operates four surface water treatment plants -- two in Rangunia on the bank of the Karnaphuli River and two in Madunaghat and Mohora areas along the Halda River -- with a combined production

capacity of around 46 crore litres of water daily. However, the ongoing crisis has seen daily production reduced to around 40-41 crore litres.

According to CWasa's data, salinity levels in the Halda have spiked significantly above the usual range of 100-250 mg per litre near the Mohora plant.

The salinity levels recorded most recently were 2,300 mg per litre on March 2, followed by 2,280 mg per litre on March 3, and 1,520 mg per litre on March 4.

Higher salinity levels were also noted at the Madunaghat plant area -- 1,700 mg per litre on March 2, followed by 1,500 mg per litre on March 3, and 1,020 mg per litre on March 4.

"Halda's increasing salinity has forced the closure of the two plants for two to three hours daily, leading to reduced water production by at least 3-4 crore litres," said Maksud Alam, chief engineer of CWasa.

"Meanwhile, the water release from Kaptai Lake into the Karnaphuli has reduced significantly as the lake's water level has dropped following prolonged periods of low rainfall. Consequently, the water level of the Karnaphuli River has also fallen, reducing water production at the two plants in Rangunia by around 2 crore litres daily," he added.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh has expressed concern over the high salinity levels in CWasa's water in a statement yesterday. "Due to the negligence of certain CWasa officials, city residents are being forced to endure water shortages and are even having to drink salty water, especially during the

Ramadan," the statement read. The CWasa chief engineer said, "We maintain salinity levels in the water at a maximum of 250 mg per litre. While some salinity may remain after the purification process, it does not exceed the 250 mg per litre limit."



AL's ouster revives

FROM PAGE 3

A total of 11 people have been arrested in connection with the murder. Of them, six remain in jail, while the others have been released on bail.

Since the killing, the victim's family has consistently alleged that members of the influential Osman family were involved in the murder. They also claimed the investigation was stalled due to interference from high-ranking officials of the then AL government.

The leaked probe findings also supported their claims, as according to the findings, Azmery killed Taqi as his father Rabbi, along with his supporters, actively campaigned for Salina Hayat Ivy ahead of the Narayanganj City Corporation election.

After the fall of the AL government, Rab arrested six individuals in September last year in connection with the case.

According to Rab, all six were close aides of Azmery Osman. The arrested individuals are Azmery's driver Jamshed Hossain, his relative Abdullah Al Mamun (alias Jamai Mamun), and his close aides Kajal Hawlader, Shafayet Hossain Shipon, Mamun Mia, and Yar Mohammad.

Among them, Kajal Hawlader has given a confessional statement before the court under Section 164.

In September last year, Lt Col Tanvir Mahmud Pasha, the then commanding officer of Rab 11, told The Daily Star that the investigation had been stalled for years due to "pressure".

He had vowed to complete the probe quickly, however, it still remains unfinished.

Lt Col Pasha was recently transferred and replaced by Lt Col HM Shazzad Hossain.

Contacted yesterday, Lt Col Shazzad said he will submit the charge sheet soon.

A smiling Shajahan and a worried Salim

FROM PAGE 3

Shajahan responded, "I always smile. I will keep smiling until my last breath."

'A RUSHED JUDGEMENT IS NO JUDGEMENT'

While in the dock, Solaiman Salim was approached by a lawyer who inquired about his prison experience.

"I am fasting, reading books, and can talk to my family over the phone. Schri and Iftar meals are normal," he replied. He paused and added, "Don't you see how drained everyone's faces look?"

When the judge entered,

Solaiman continued addressing journalists.

"Many journalists publish false news. They wrote that Shajahan Khan and others are getting good food in prison. These lies are making our situation worse," he stated.

Police instructed him to stop speaking, to which he retorted, "You are going to slaughter me anyway. Give me a little time."

He then told the lawyer, "A death sentence could come at any moment. I wouldn't be surprised. Look at how Bangabandhu's house was demolished. The

message is clear."

After the hearing, while being taken to the lockup, he asked a lawyer about his father's health.

When a journalist asked about his comment on a possible death sentence, he replied, "A rushed judgement is no judgement."

'ONE MURDER CASE IS ENOUGH'
Inside the dock, former head of news at Ekattor Television Shakil Ahmed and principal correspondent Farzana Rupa exchanged words.

During the hearing, Rupa sought permission to speak.

"I do not have a lawyer. May I speak in favour of my bail?" she asked.

The judge replied, "This is a hearing to show you as arrested, not a bail hearing."

She continued, "The number of cases is piling up. I am a journalist. A single murder case is enough to frame me."

Meanwhile, former Supreme Court justice Manik was placed on a two-day remand in connection with the death of 24-year-old Abujor Sheikh in Dhaka's Gulshan area on July 19 last year.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 345 OF 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85 (3) of the Companies Act, 1994 AND

IN THE MATTER OF: Waqar Ahmad Choudhury

--VERSUS--

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another.

--RESPONDENTS--

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85 (3) of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed by the petitioner before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court to Bangladesh praying for condonation of delay for holding the Annual General Meetings of Nascom (Pvt.) Limited for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. The Hon'ble High Court Division presided over by Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel vide order dated 27.02.2025 was pleased to admit the said application and fix the date for filling an affidavit-in-compliance. Any person interested in the said application may appear in the matter either personally or through his duly authorised Advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed charge.

Margub Kabir
Barrister-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Margub Kabir & Associates
House No. B-111, 1st Floor, Masjid Road, Mohakhali DOHS,
Dhaka-1206. Mobile-01912061566



Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer Zone-9, Dholpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka.

Ref No. 46.207.000.21.16.006. 2024-2025

Dated: 05/03/2025

CORRIGENDUM:1

e-Tender are invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-9 Dholpur, Jatrabari, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website from date 12-02-2025, 23:00. This is notify for all concern that the e-tender Notice which was circulated vide this Office Memo No: 46.207.000.21.16.005. 2024-2025 Dated: 12/02/2025 Due to unavoidable circumstances the following tender selling and closing date has been shifted as below:

SL. No.	Tender ID, Ref. No.	Name of works	As in Notice		Amendments (1 st)	
			Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
01.	1074230 egp/dscc/z09/24- 25/p-08	Repairing works of damaged section of various roads at ward No 62,63,64,65 under zone-9, Dhaka South City Corporation	06-Mar-2025, 12:00	06-Mar-2025, 15:00	10-Mar-2025, 12:00	10-Mar-2025, 15:00

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>).

(Mohammad Lutfor Rahman)
Executive Engineer
Zone-9
Dhaka South City Corporation

তিপসিসি/পিআরটি/১৪৭/২০২৪-২০২৫

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka www.mopa.gov.bd

No: 05.00.0000.113.07.050.2024-223

Date : 05-03-2025

Ministry of Public Administration of Bangladesh invites the flowing tender in the National e-GP Portal:

Si	Tender Id	Name of Supply	Publishing Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1	1082548	Electrical equipment: LED TV, Microwave Oven, Paper, Shredder, CC Camera and Accessories etc..		
2	1083231	Office Furniture: Wooden Office Table Side Table, Utility Table with Drawer Unit, Side Table wooden Lacquered Polish (wooden), Computer Table, Visitor Chair Visitor Chair, Sofa Set Pure Leather, Steel Almirah, Steel file cabinet etc.	06 March 2025 & 10:00	20 March 2025 & 14:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal should be deposited on-line through any registered Bank.

Further Information and Guidelines are Available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abu Aowal
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Phone: 55100540

TRISHAL UPAZILA

Sutia river turns into waste dump

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Indiscriminate dumping of garbage along the banks of the Sutia river in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila has continued unchecked for years due to the municipality's lack of a proper waste management system.

Since its establishment in 1998, Trishal municipality has failed to secure dedicated land for waste disposal, leaving residents to endure worsening environmental pollution. Astonishingly, there is not a single waste bin across the municipality.

Once a vital source of water for agriculture, fisheries, and the local ecosystem, the Sutia river is now choking under piles of waste.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found heaps of garbage scattered across a vast stretch of the riverbank along the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Local resident Khorshid Ali said during the monsoon, these waste piles leach into the river, contaminating the water and accelerating siltation.

Other rivers in the upazila, including the Khris, Banar, and Pagalia, are facing a similar crisis. As tributaries of the Old Brahmaputra river, their pollution



What looks like a waste dumping zone is actually the bank of Sutia river in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila. Once a vital source of water for agriculture, fisheries, and the local ecosystem, the river is now choking under piles of waste.

PHOTO: STAR

is having a cascading effect on the region's entire river system.

Locals said they have repeatedly urged municipal authorities to take action and designate a proper waste dumping site, but their pleas have largely been ignored.

According to municipal sources, around 10 tonnes of garbage is generated daily in

Trishal, with almost all of it ending up on the riverbank.

"We have not been able to secure government land for a dumping station. The municipality does not have the financial resources to purchase land on its own," said Nowshin Ahmed, executive officer of Trishal municipality.

Contacted, Abdulla Al Bari, upazila nirbahi officer of Trishal,

said efforts are being made to mitigate river pollution.

"Bamboo fences have been set up around the dumping site to prevent garbage from contaminating the water," he said.

"We are actively trying to secure funds to acquire land for a dedicated waste disposal station and address this longstanding issue," he added.

Toddler dies after crawling onto railway tracks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A 14-month-old child died after being hit by a train as he crawled onto the railway tracks on the Dhaka-Mymensingh route in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila.

The deceased is Abdulla, son of Al-Amin, from Gararan village in the upazila.

Sreepur Railway Station Master Saidur Rahman said the child, whose house was next to the railway tracks, crawled onto the tracks without the family's knowledge.

Later, the child was struck by a Dhaka-bound commuter train.

Bijon Malakar, resident medical officer of Sreepur Upazila Health Complex, said, "A child was brought to the hospital dead. He had injury marks on his head. The child's body has been handed over to the family."

The railway police are looking into the incident.

Woman dead, 13 houses gutted in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman was burned alive, and 13 houses gutted in a fire in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Azila Begum, wife of Jiarul Islam of Asma village, said Md Aminul Islam, inspector of Ishwardi Fire Service and Civil Defence Station.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a house around 11:50am, he added. Seven firefighting units from Pabna, Ishwardi, and Lalpur areas rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control in an hour.

Due to the densely packed nature of the residences, the fire spread quickly, he said.

Aminul said they are investigating the incident and estimating the loss caused by the fire.



ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড

(A subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

e-TENDER Notice No: ER/TN/e-GP/C-14/2024-2025

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of work as stated below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Package No. & Description	Tender Last Selling/Downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	1081696	Package No : ER/Civil-15/2024-2025 RECONSTRUCTION OF SECURITY TOWER POST 17, 22 & 24 (3 Storied with a Washroom & RCC Stair) at ERL.	19 March 2025 12:00 Hrs	20 March 2025, 12:00 Hrs

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Once a vital source of water for agriculture, fisheries, and the local ecosystem, the Sutia river is now choking under piles of waste. According to municipal sources, around 10 tonnes of garbage is generated daily in Trishal, with most of it ending up on the riverbank.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Narisingdi, www.iged.gov.bd			
Memo No:46.02.6800.000.07.001.24-313			
e-Tender Notice-24/2024-2025			
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for 01No. Package under CAFDRIRP FY 2024-2025 for District: Narisingdi.			
Last selling date & time : 06-04-2025 Opening date & time : 07-04-2025 Date : 08/03/2025			

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

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

The Tender Security have to be deposit online through any registered Bank's branches up to 07 April 2025 12:00PM for only One Tender ID of this notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

MD. RAJIBUL ISLAM
(Mohammed Rajibul Islam)
Executive Engineer
Phone : 02-9462260
e-mail : ged.narisingdi@iged.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director, PIU
Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project
Room No-326, 2nd Floor, 1st Building
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.

Date : 08-03-2025

Memo No:12.01.0900.000.14.054.25-213

(Invitation for Tenders (Non-Consulting service)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1. Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)		
2. Agency	:	Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)		
3. Procuring Entity Name	:	Project Director, Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project.		
4. Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka		
5. Invitation For	:	Vehicle Hire/Transportation For monitoring Field Activities		
6. Invitation Ref. No.	:	12.01.0900.000.14.054.25-213		
7. Date	:	05-03-2025		
8. Procurement Method	:	OTM		
9. Budget & Source of Funds	:	GOB		
10. Project Code	:	2243213		
11. Project Name	:	Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project.		
12. Tender Package No	:	GK/DAE/FMP-01		
13. Tender Package Name	:	Vehicle Hire/Transportation : For monitoring Field activities.		
14. Tender Publication Date	:	05-03-2025		
15. Tender Last Selling Date	:	09-03-2025 (at 03:30 pm)		
16. Tender Droping & Closing Date & Time	:	11-03-2025 (at 03:30 pm)		
17. Tender Opening Date & Time	:	11-03-2025 (at 03:30 pm)		
18. Eligibility of Tender	:	* Minimum 05 (Five) years experience in providing car/vehicle rental services. The firm should have financial solvency of BDT 50,00000 (Fifty lakh taka) as Working capital to ensure service delivery or as per Bid Document. * The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non Consultant Service of at least two contracts of similar nature completed over a period of last three (3) years each with a value of at least Tk. 80.00 lakh (Eight lakh Taka Only) shall be required in Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous body. * Contract for providing Service will be treated as similar nature.		
19. Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	:	2000/-		
20. Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time in Weeks/Months
GD/DAE/FMP-213	Vehicle Hire/Transportation: For monitoring field activities by HQ, FSW, DG, DAE office including ICT Wing in Regions, Districts, UZ, UP & PIU.	Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project, Room No-326, 2 nd Floor, 1 st Building, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.	50,000/-	14-Month (Approx)
21. Name of Official Inviting Tender	MD. MONZUR-UL-ALAM			
22. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director			
23. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project, Room No-326, 2 nd Floor, 1 st Building, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.			
24. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	01713045502			
25. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				

MD. MONZUR-UL-ALAM
Project Director
Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.
E-mail : mechanization@dae.gov.bd

নথর-৫৪, ১১, ০০০০, ০৪৯, ৩৭, ১১৬, ২৪-১৯৮

তারিখ: ১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫
০৮ মার্চ ২০২৫

ক্লিয়াসিং প্রশিক্ষণে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যুব ও ক্রাড়া মন্ত্রণালয়ীয় যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃত বাস্তুবানী যুবদের ক্লিয়াসিং প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় নিয়মিত প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠান e-Learning & Earning Ltd. 7 South Kollayanpur, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207 এর মাধ্যমে প্রচারিত আগামী ১ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত দুয়োর্ষ বাস্তু ক্লিয়াসিং প্রশিক্ষণে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ৪৫টি জেলার ১৮ হতে ৩৫ বছর বয়সী কাম্পাঙ্কে এই এস সি বা সমাজের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচার মাধ্যমে যুবক ও যুব নারীর নিকট থেকে অনলাইনে দরখাত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

জেলা বিভাগ নারায়ণগঞ্জ, মানিকগঞ্জ, মুরিগাঁও, কিশোরগঞ্জ, টাঙ্গাইল, কাইদপুর, বয়ানগঞ্জ প্রশিক্ষণ ক্লিয়াসিং প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠান আগামী ১ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত দুয়োর্ষ বাস্তু ক্লিয়াসিং প্রশিক্ষণে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোনো প্রকার আবেদন প্রাপ্ত হওয়ার ফলে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোনো প্রকার আবেদন প্রাপ্ত হওয়ার ফলে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোনো প্রকার আবেদন প্রাপ্ত হওয়ার ফলে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোনো প্রকার আবেদন প্রাপ্ত হওয়ার ফলে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও স

Sabila Nur ventures into writing, co-authors debut book

Popular actress Sabila Nur has officially stepped into the world of writing, albeit she previously wrote stories for television dramas.

She debuted as an author at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair with the book *Bhalobasha Otopor*, a collection of 10 short stories co-written with Salam Russell.

Surprising fans Sabila announced her book belatedly on February 26 via her Facebook account, just before the fair ended.

She recently explained her decision to local media, stating, "Acting is my priority. I simply write occasionally, so I don't consider myself a professional writer. That's why I chose to keep it all low-key. Despite the late reveal, *Bhalobasha Otopor* remains available online."

Previously, her scripts inspired the dramas *Parapar* (2021) and *Ridika* (2022), in which she also starred.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

Everything we do in life is our 'Amalnama': ZAHID HASAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zahid Hasan is making his highly anticipated return to the screen with *Amalnama*, a web film directed by Raifan Rafi. The film's teaser, recently released by Chorki, features the veteran actor in a bold new role as a police officer.

Excited about the project, the *Made in Bangladesh* actor shared with The Daily Star, "I am returning with a web-film after a considerable break, and it feels great. I chose this project because I connected with the story and my character. The project represents how I envisioned making my comeback."

Amalnama, inspired by a true story, has already generated buzz on social media. Zahid's decision to join the film was largely influenced by his admiration for both the script and the director's vision. He explained, "Raifan Rafi approached me with the story. I liked the plot and my character, so I agreed to be part of it."



As a seasoned actor, Zahid prioritises meaningful roles over quantity. "I'm an actor because I love the job. I've come this far thanks to my passion for acting. Now, let's see how the audience responds to *Amalnama*. I'll be happy if they enjoy it," he said.

Alongside *Amalnama*, Zahid

will also appear in *Uthob*, a film directed by Tanim Noor, set for release this Eid ul-Azha. Reflecting on his choices, he added, "I don't take on projects unless I truly like them. After my break, I've worked on two projects and enjoyed both. The audience will see me in different roles in these films."

Zahid also offered an insightful perspective on the theme of *Amalnama*, "Everything we do in life becomes part of our 'Amalnama,' and that's what the film highlights."

He notably praised Raifan Rafi's growth and success, saying, "Raifan is like a younger brother to us. He keeps delivering great projects, and it's exciting to see his success. His work is well-loved by the audience, and he's even receiving offers from across the border."

With *Amalnama* set to premiere soon, fans are eagerly awaiting Zahid Hasan's return. His comeback, combined with Raifan Rafi's storytelling, promises an exciting web-film experience.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



'Late Night Comedy Show 1'

The *Late Night Comedy Show 1*, among a series of shows, has been announced to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Naveed's Comedy Club (NCC). Tonight, comedians Tashdid, Sarah, Toru, and Naveed Mahbub will take the stage at the club's venue, which has fast gained popularity as a hub for comedy performances.

Guests wishing to attend must register with a fee of Tk 350. The event is scheduled for late night, aligning with the time people typically stay awake in anticipation of Sehri during Ramadan.

DATE: THURSDAY | MARCH 6

TIME: 11:59PM

VENUE: NAVEED'S COMEDY CLUB

University of Cambridge screens Mro-language film 'Dear Mother'



A Mro language film titled *Kio Ri Pekra Uo*, known in English as *Dear Mother*, is being showcased at the University of Cambridge. According to a press release from the film's creators, the film was screened yesterday at 8:30pm (Bangladesh time), organised by the Indigenous Studies Group at Cambridge.

Directed by SK Shuvo Shadique, the 67-minute long film, released in 2023, has been screened at top universities in Bangladesh, as well as the University of British Columbia and the University of Edinburgh. The International Centre for Social Science in Amsterdam has preserved the film researchers and cinephiles.

David Warner to make Tollywood debut with 'Robinhood'

Australian cricketer David Warner has long admired Indian cinema, especially Allu Arjun. During the pandemic, he often recreated Arjun's dialogues and dances with his family. Though many expected a collaboration, Warner's Telugu cinema debut will take a different path.

At a Hyderabad event on March 3, producer Ravi Shankar officially announced that Warner would make his Telugu film debut. However, rather than joining an Allu Arjun project, he will be featured in Venky Kudumula's directorial *Robinhood*, featuring Nithiin and Sreeleela.

Hints of Warner's cinematic venture had surfaced months earlier when Australian media leaked behind-the-scenes snapshots from an Indian film shoot in September last year.

This cinematic milestone comes after his partnership with acclaimed director SS Rajamouli on a commercial project earlier in April last year.



Govt to blame if crimes against women

FROM PAGE 12
group of students against another in the name of ensuring disciplinary actions? Is this the kind of repressive and authoritarian academic environment we envisioned for post-uprising Bangladesh?"

Private university students made undeniable contributions to the mass uprising, but their roles were not recognised even by the new student organisation.

"Naturally, this exclusion led to frustration. But instead of addressing their grievances, they were assaulted and subjected to sexual harassment [on Dhaka University campus]."

The statement put forth several demands, including the immediate withdrawal of the expulsion of nine CU students, resignation of the proctor, and formation of an independent and impartial investigation committee with

Besides, the teachers expressed deep anger at the incidents of "mob injustice".

"To make matters worse, the home affairs adviser himself justified the attackers' actions by invoking religion and misinterpreting the law, effectively shifting the blame onto the victims in an utterly condemnable stance. We strongly denounce this act of power abuse and intimidation."

The statement also called for the immediate identification and prosecution of those responsible for the mob attack on two female students in Lalmatia, as well as an unconditional retraction of the home affairs adviser's misogynistic statement.

representation from the University Grants Commission and female student representatives.

Other demands include a proper investigation by Dhaka University's Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell into the assault and sexual harassment of female private university students by members of the new student organisation at Dhaka University.

The statement also called for the immediate identification and prosecution of those responsible for the mob attack on two female students in Lalmatia, as well as an unconditional retraction of the home affairs adviser's misogynistic statement.

In a separate statement, the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka said both sides reviewed the current state of Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, which are based on "mutual respect and shared values".

They expressed satisfaction over the "positive trajectory of ties" and agreed to remain engaged in further enhancing cooperation.

Siddiqui also held meetings with Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman, Cultural Affairs Secretary Ataur Rahman and Home Secretary Nasimul Ghani.

Man arrested

FROM PAGE 2
Speaking to this newspaper, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said, "Around 4:30pm, we received a complaint that one of our students was harassed by our library's assistant bookbinder, Arnob Sardar. Later, some students brought him to my office. When we questioned him, he admitted to the harassment. We then handed him over to the police."

"He is now at the station [early today]. A case has been filed against him, and the librarian has been asked to take official action against him."

SI Ekramul Haque, duty officer at Shabagh Police Station, around 10:00am told The Daily Star that a group of seven or eight people showed up at the station to question why Arnob was in police custody and why he was being punished.

The arrestee will be produced before a court tomorrow, he added.

NEWS

Hasina, clan to be tried in person

FROM PAGE 12
physically present in Bangladesh or in absentia, in India.

Prof Yunus recently visited one of the now "infamous secret jails", code-named the "House of Mirrors".

"This is just the ugliest thing that you can see, you can feel, or you can observe."

Prof Yunus said the number and range of people involved in the alleged crimes was "taking time" to work through. "Everybody was involved in it all."

"The whole government was involved in it. So, you cannot distinguish who was really and enthusiastically doing it, who was doing under orders and who was not quite supportive but carrying out those kinds of things."

Hasina, the military and police are also accused of a violent crackdown on protesters in July and August which the UN estimates killed as many as 1,400 people in the days before the former prime minister fled.

Prof Yunus tried to manage expectations around how quickly the

families of victims will see justice, and whether that will happen under his watch.

Elections for a new government in the country could happen as early as December.

"Some will get punished, some will still be under the process, some will still be untraceable," the chief adviser said.

ANTI-GRAFT PROBES

Prof Yunus has had a large in-tray to deal with since taking over a country in turmoil, including anti-corruption probes into those connected to Hasina.

British Labour MP Tulip Siddiq, who is Hasina's niece, is one of those being investigated by the country's Anti-Corruption Commission.

Prof Yunus said the case against her was "serious", that she had a large amount of "wealth left behind" in the country and "everything" would be looked at.

Tulip resigned as anti-corruption minister in January after being named in the investigation in Bangladesh.

Mushfiqur retires from ODIs

FROM PAGE 12

announced the decision himself.

"I am announcing my retirement from the ODI format as of today. Alhamdulillah for everything. While our achievements may have been limited on a global level, one thing is certain: whenever I stepped onto the field for my country, I gave more than 100% with dedication and honesty," the veteran star wrote on his Facebook.

A decorated player with 274 ODIs to his name, Mushfiqur holds the record for the most ODIs played for

A spokesperson for the London MP said she "totally denies the claims" and had "not been contacted on these matters".

REFUGEE CRISIS

The influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh is another challenge for the Yunus-led interim government.

There's been a sharp rise in the number of the mainly Muslim minority fleeing Myanmar into Bangladesh amid violence escalating in the country's long-running civil war.

Prof Yunus said they were now in talks with "rebel groups" in Myanmar about the possibility of a "safe zone" to eventually help the Rohingya refugees to return to their homeland.

He also acknowledged big problems in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, home to the largest refugee camp in the world, where an estimated one million Rohingya refugees have fled to -- and where "violence, drugs and paramilitary activities" are rife.

The tension, Yunus said, "will not disappear".

all-time list behind the likes of Kumar Sangakkara, Adam Gilchrist, MS Dhoni, and Mark Boucher.

The middle-order batter had also captained Bangladesh in 37 ODIs. With his retirement from ODIs, Mushfiqur will now only remain available in the Test format for the Tigers, having debuted in T20Is in 2022.

Bangladesh captain Nazmul Hossain Shanto expressed his admiration for Mushfiqur on Facebook. "Bangladesh cricket will never forget your contribution," wrote Shanto.

Protest halts work at BSEC

FROM PAGE 12

gate around 2:15pm. They rescued BSEC Chairman Rashid and other commissioners and escorted them to Rashid's room around 2:30pm.

Some BSEC officials attempted to escape upon seeing the army personnel, who charged truncheons on the protesters. At that time, BSEC officials were chanting slogans demanding Rashid's resignation.

Saifur had been made an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) seen as a punishment, in September 2024 due to alleged corruption.

Chairman Rashid said the commission ordered Saifur's forced retirement following rules and regulations, as significant violations

had been allegedly found against him in several investigations.

He said the BSEC requested the protesters to submit a list of their demands for a review by the commission. "However, they insisted on immediate acceptance of their demands," he said.

In a written statement, the BSEC chairman said the regulator is investigating multiple instances of corruption in the stock market that took place over the last 15 years and has found that several BSEC officials were involved. Therefore, the BSEC is taking action against them.

Due to these measures against corruption, some officials confined the BSEC chairman and commissioners and

engaged in misconduct, the statement added.

Farzana Lalarukh, a commissioner of the BSEC, said, "Despite repeated requests, the protesters did not restore electricity supply. They created a frightening situation by threatening us and throwing things."

Before all officials were dispersed, Md Mahbubul Alam, an executive director of the BSEC, said the commission did not provide a clear response to the officials' demands when those were raised before the commission.

"Now, they are demanding the resignation of the chairman and commissioners. If they do not resign, all BSEC officials will go on work abstention from tomorrow [Thursday]."

Sheikh Mujibur Hall renamed Shah Azizur Hall

FROM PAGE 2

Meanwhile, Chhatra Union of IU unit has issued a statement condemning the renaming of a hall after Shah Azizur Rahman.

In a joint statement, IU Chhatra Union President Mahmudul Hasan and General Secretary Nur Alam said, "Renaming a residential hall after an identified war criminal like Shah Azizur Rahman is a disgraceful decision.

"Now, they are demanding the resignation of the chairman and commissioners. If they do not resign, all BSEC officials will go on work abstention from tomorrow [Thursday]."

the hall after Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani."

IU VC Prof Nakib Muhammad Nasrullah told this correspondent, "Shah Azizur Rahman was involved in the establishment of the university. People may criticise it, but he contributed to the creation of this university. Whether people are condemning it or not is not a matter for the syndicate. He was an important figure in the country's politics, particularly within the BNP's political sphere."

US, Israel reject Egypt's Gaza plan

Hamas welcomes it

REUTERS, Cairo

Israel criticised a plan put forward by Arab states for Gaza's reconstruction on Tuesday, while Palestinian group Hamas welcomed it.

The White House said the plan adopted by Arab states did not address Gaza's reality and that US President Donald Trump stood by his proposal.

Meanwhile, Israel's newly appointed military chief Eyal Zamir said yesterday that his country's mission to defeat Hamas was not yet accomplished.

Arab leaders adopted an Egyptian reconstruction plan for Gaza that would cost \$53 billion and avoid displacing Palestinians from the enclave.

Trump's plan to displace Palestinians in a US takeover of the enclave received global condemnation last month.

TERRORIST ARREST

Pakistan hails renewed co-op with US

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan trumpeted the arrest of Mohammad Sharifullah, whom it blames for a 2021 attack on US troops, in a military operation along the border with Afghanistan, as the result of its renewal of counter-terrorism cooperation with US.

Yesterday's news came hours after US President Trump thanked Pakistan for the arrest during remarks to Congress, adding that Sharifullah was on his way to the US to face justice. "We will continue to partner closely with the United States in securing regional peace and stability," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a statement.



Municipal workers remove debris at the site of houses hit by a Russian drone strike in Odesa, Ukraine, yesterday. Russia staged night-time attacks on energy facilities in Odesa, cutting electricity to the Black Sea territory and leaving at least two dead.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Zelensky ready for Russia talks, mineral deal

Says Trump during his speech to Congress; US curbs intelligence sharing with Ukraine

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said later on Tuesday that Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky has told him Kyiv was ready for talks with Russia and the finalisation of a US minerals deal, days after the pair's explosive White House meeting.

The dramatic collapse of Kyiv and Washington's wartime alliance has played out in the open since the televised dispute in the Oval Office last week, followed by Ukraine's top ally suspending crucial military aid.

Zelensky has since sought to bring Trump back onside, posting on social media that their clash was "regrettable" and he wanted "to make things right".

Trump tells Greenland US will get it 'one way or the other'

US 'taking back' Panama Canal after ports deal: Trump

In his partisan speech to US Congress, Trump read aloud from a letter he said he recently received from Zelensky, which matched the social media statement.

Russia welcomed Zelensky's statement that Kyiv is willing to negotiate over the war, but it is not yet clear to Moscow who it might

be negotiating with, the Kremlin said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the US has "paused" intelligence sharing with Ukraine, CIA director John Ratcliffe said yesterday.

During his address to Congress, Trump urged Greenland to choose to join the United States but vowed to take the Danish-ruled island "one way or the other" – whatever the locals decide.

The US had started to take back the Panama Canal after a deal by a Hong Kong firm to sell ports to a US-led consortium, he also said.

"To further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal, and we've already started doing it," he told Congress.

EU states agree to roll out automated border system

AFP, Brussels

EU member states yesterday agreed on a phased rollout of a new border check system for non-EU nationals which will do away with passport stamps.

The so-called Entry/Exit System (EES) was initially supposed to kick in last November but was delayed at the last minute as several states were not ready.

First agreed on in 2017, the automated system will record visitors' date of entry and exit and keep track of overstays and refused entries.

But its introduction has raised fears of longer waiting times for people travelling to Europe on trains, ferries and planes.

DELIMITATION EXERCISE

India opposition unites against Modi's plan

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's opposition party politicians in the southern states yesterday met to protest plans by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to redraw constituencies based on the 2011 census, on concerns the northern states would dominate in parliament.

The protest, led by M K Stalin, chief minister of Tamil Nadu state, has been backed by the national Congress party and over a dozen others in five southern states, which are enjoying faster economic growth than northern counterparts while keeping a lid on population growth.

Stalin tabled a resolution to ensure that the so-called delimitation exercise, or redrawing of boundaries, be based on 1971 population levels and retained till 2056 to ensure that densely populated northern states taper population growth.

The 1971 census paved the way for the last redrawing of such boundaries and created 543 seats in parliament. Now, leaders from the south want the status quo retained, until a formula providing equal representation is drawn up.

"We are not against delimitation and yet it shouldn't be a punishment for those who are successful in controlling population," said Sarvanan Annadurai, spokesperson of DMK party.

4,000 displaced by battle for port site in Rakhine

Says Myanmar aid group

AFP, Yangon



Fierce fighting between Myanmar's military junta and ethnic minority rebels closing in on the planned site of a strategic China-backed port has displaced 4,000 people, a local aid worker said yesterday.

The Arakan Army (AA) is battling the military in western Rakhine state, where projects including oil pipelines, power plants and transport links are sprouting up with billions of dollars of Chinese funding. The region has emerged as a key front in Myanmar's civil war, pitching a myriad of rebels and pro-democracy fighters against the junta.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Conversion of existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track Project
Rail Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Memo No. 35.01.0000.083 17.015.21-82

Date: 04 March 2025

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) – International

For

Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Conversion of the existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track

1. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) have applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (hereinafter referred to as 'ADB') for **Conversion of the existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track**. A portion of the proceeds of the loan is intended to be used for payments under the Contract for Construction Supervision Consultancy Services for which this Request for EOI is issued.
2. The overall objective of the project is the Conversion of Pahartali-Chattogram-Dohazari Metre Gauge Track to Dual Gauge Track and Construction of a Dual Gauge Connecting Line from Pahartali to Jhautala. The specific objectives are
 - i. Conversion of 52 km metre gauge track into dual gauge track (among which approximately 11 Km would be constructed by another railway project) including bridges/culverts and all infrastructure from Pahartali-Chattogram-Dohazari and Chattogram Bypass section to increase line capacity.
 - ii. Providing uninterrupted railway service in between Capital City Dhaka and Cox's Bazar tourist attractions connecting Dhaka-Chattogram rail corridor with Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail corridor.
 - iii. Improvement of operational facilities by improving Signaling & Interlocking System.
 - iv. Improvement of maintenance of track and rolling stocks.
3. Bangladesh Railway invites eligible International Consulting Firms to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing the required services. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information by writing to the undersigned during normal office hours preferably through email.
4. The assignment will enable Bangladesh Railway to ensure that the project is carried out in an economical and efficient manner consistent with internationally accepted standards and practices. Under the project, two contracts will be undertaken for the conversion and construction of the route. The Consultant's major responsibility will be to supervise the construction of civil and signaling works. The assignment will cover, inter alia, the following services:
 - Overall contract management, administration and planning and providing technical support;
 - Construction Supervision, Testing and Inspection;
 - Environmental Aspects;
 - Gender and Other Social Aspects;
 - Resettlement Aspects
 - Defect Liability Period.

In addition to the above services, the consultant will undertake quality checks for the project with regard to the technical, contractual and financial aspects of the project implementation. The consultant shall provide to the Client an assessment report on the quality of the completed works.

5. The Consulting Firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) (80:20) Method in accordance with the procedures set out in the 'ADB Procurement Policy 2017 ("Policy") and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers 2017 ("Procurement Regulations")

<https://www.adb.org/documents/adb-procurement-policy>
<https://www.adb.org/documents/procurement-regulations-adb-borrowers>

6. Bangladesh Railway will conduct 'short-listing' of the interested Consulting Firms who will have submitted REOI Applications for the above-mentioned Consulting Service. For this purpose, key qualifications and experience of the Consulting Firms required are as follows:

- a) Management Competence: Firm's management and organizational strength, financial strength, number and capabilities of permanent employees and key staff, etc.
- b) Technical Competence
 - i. General Experience
 - ii. Specific Experience: Design/Design Review, Construction Supervision Consultancy particularly in railway/mass transit field with comparable scale and technical complexity.
- c) Geographic Competence: Experience in similar geographic area (SAARC/ASEAN/International)
- d) Contractual Management Experience: Substantial experience in managing FIDIC contracts as a Firm and by the key members of the team.
7. The interested Consulting Firms should submit necessary documentary evidence in favor of their submission. i.e. in case of turnover audited financial report of last 5 years in USD/BDT to be furnished.
8. Interested Consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Registration certificate, registered address, legal status brochures, company profile including management, personnel, Equipment, firm's specialty, and performance, financial capacity). The firm shall also provide contact information of the clients to whom services have been rendered.
9. The Consulting Firms may associate with other firm(s) to enhance their qualifications in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or Sub-Consultancy arrangements. If a Consulting Firms submits an EOI as a JV, the EOI will be submitted by the lead firm/partner and should clearly identify each joint venture partner.
10. According to the latest ADB procurement guidelines, an REOI for this Consulting Service has been published electronically in the ADB Consultant Management System (CMS) which can be accessed through the following link:
https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXCRS_CSRN_HOME_PAGE

The interested Consulting Firms are hereby advised to access the REOI through the above link. The firms shall have to submit their Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) electronically (submission of documents through cloud storage/similar link will not be allowed) through ADB website (CMS) by 11:59 PM (Manila Local Time) and by 09:59 PM (Dhaka Local Time) on or before 21 April 2025 through the link of <http://csm.adb.org> of Consultant Management System of ADB.

If any contradiction is found between CMS notice and Newspaper notice, the information on CMS notice shall prevail.

For technical inquiries/assistance, the Consultants may seek advice by emailing to the following email address: cmshelp@adb.org

11. Only EOIs submitted electronically through ADB website using ADB template will be allowed and evaluated. EOI submitted using other than ADB templates will not be evaluated. Any offline or manual EOI submission is not permissible and will not be considered.
12. Under no circumstances will ADB or BR, be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI. Interested consulting firm(s) is/are requested to submit relevant documentary evidences in support of their competence in EOI submission.
13. The Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

4.3.2025

Md. Shuboktagin

Project Director

Conversion of existing Chattogram - Dohazari Meter Gauge track into Dual Gauge Track Project
Bangladesh Railway,
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Email: pdctg_dhz@railway.gov.bd

Bring the true perpetrators to book

Justice must be ensured for the victims of enforced disappearances

At a press briefing on Tuesday, the chairperson of the inquiry commission on enforced disappearances once again stated how the highest level of the ousted Awami League government had been directly involved in cases of enforced disappearances, abusing the state's security apparatus to this heinous end. While this has been known for some time now, Tuesday's revelation reinforced the extent to which the fallen regime perverted the purpose of security forces to commit this absolute aberration of justice, rule of law, and human rights. Not only is it deeply saddening, but it is also a dark, shameful stain on the country's image as well as collective psyche.

The commission, which has been investigating cases of enforced disappearances since its formation on August 27, 2024, said it had interviewed 45 members of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and identified those within these forces who had carried out the orders of their political masters. The commission chief also mentioned the prevailing apprehension among security forces in this regard and warned against what he called "community shielding" of the perpetrators, clarifying that individuals directly involved in this abominable crime must take personal responsibility for their actions.

We could not agree more. As we learnt from the inquiry commission's preliminary report, submitted to the chief adviser in December, various security agencies—from different wings of the police to intelligence bodies—were involved in a well-coordinated system set up by the fallen regime to abduct, detain, disappear, torture, and execute or frame in trumped-up charges those critical of the government. Members of these forces thus strayed from their true purpose—serving the people and upholding the rule of law—at the behest of the deposed prime minister and her cohorts. Therefore, justice must be served, and as the commission chief said, those involved must be held accountable.

We appreciate the inquiry commission's efforts to bring justice to the victims of enforced disappearances. We also believe all details of this clandestine system of suppression should be made public. Doing so would serve as a lesson for the nation, ensuring that such a horrific abuse of our law enforcement and security forces, which are meant to protect us, is never repeated. To this end, laws could be enacted if necessary to shield security agencies from the undue influence of any government. This we suggest with the best interests of these institutions and the nation at heart.

Streamlining citizen services is crucial

More scrutiny of the draft ordinance is needed before a final decision

It is encouraging to learn about the government's plan to streamline vital certification services by bringing national identity (NID) cards and other essential records under a single authority. Reportedly, the Cabinet Division has prepared a draft ordinance to establish a dedicated body overseeing the preparation of NID cards, birth and death registrations, marriage, divorce, and adoption records, etc. The draft also proposes implementing a robust unique ID system, integrating it with various service delivery processes. However, while having a centralised authority for managing citizens' data is logical—as it could reduce public hassles and enhance service efficiency—there are also significant challenges associated with it.

At present, different government bodies oversee various civil registration processes. While NID-related services are provided by the Election Commission (EC), the Directorate of Registration under the Law and Justice Division handles marriage and divorce data, and the Directorate General of Health Services collects health data, including causes of death. NID services include issuing secure national identity cards, maintaining a national citizen registration database, and providing identity verification services to qualified public and private entities.

However, as proposed in the draft ordinance, a new entity—namely the Civil Registration Commission—would be the central authority overseeing all these data-related activities, including NID services. It remains unclear how the entire process will function, and experts have differing opinions on the matter. For instance, the chief election commissioner believes that NID services should remain under the Election Commission, especially as the country prepares for a national election. On the other hand, the registrar general (Birth and Death Registration) argues that integrating NID and birth registration under one authority will expedite citizen services. Given these differing perspectives, we think thorough discussions among all stakeholders are necessary before a decision is made. The government may also consider delegating NID services to the proposed Civil Registration Commission while allowing the EC to retain authority over voter list related functions, as some have suggested.

If a central agency is indeed tasked with managing all citizens' data and certifications, it must be able to ensure strict data security measures as well as uninterrupted services. We know how the previous government's failure to protect citizens' data led to numerous scams and security breaches—something that must not happen again. The primary goal of a central data authority should be to provide citizens with secure, efficient, and hassle-free services.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

King Tut's tomb opened



On this day in 1924, the Egyptian government opened the mummy case of King Tutankhamen, ruler of Egypt in the 14th century BCE, whose burial chamber had been discovered in 1922 by renowned British archaeologist Howard Carter.

EDITORIAL

India's influence and the quest for a democratic South Asia



Anu Muhammad
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ANU MUHAMMAD

During British rule, present-day India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were part of the same colonial structure: British India. Therefore, we have a shared history of resistance against British imperialism, where the people of the subcontinent fought together, bound by common aspirations and cultural connections. However, to counteract this unified struggle, the colonial rulers and their local allies, including the emerging capitalist class and ideological forces, contributed to creating communal divisions. This led to the rise of Hindutva politics and, as a reaction, Muslim-centric political movements, strengthening identity politics. As a result, those who were earlier involved in the anti-British movement later became adversaries based on religious identity. When the British eventually left, the region was left in turmoil, where Hindus and Muslims saw each other as enemies while the British remained the common "friend" of all.

During British rule, investments were made in various sectors, leading to the emergence of a capitalist class that later became the driving force behind the region's development path. After independence, under Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership, India adopted policies that facilitated the

merged, reinforcing each other. This connection became especially evident in the 1990s.

While India has witnessed the expansion of large capital, what has been the condition of its people? India is home to some of the world's richest people, but it is also home to the largest number of poor people, where

Japanese and German capital through subcontracts, partnerships, and joint ventures, forming a multinational economic dominance. This is why the US has been promoting India as the regional leader for decades. Washington relies on India as a strategic counterbalance to China, seeking to establish its footing in the region through India.

International financial institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have promoted policies such as structural adjustment programmes, privatisation, commercialisation, and globalisation. Indian capital has been one of the major beneficiaries of these policies. This is evident in the various agreements Bangladesh has signed

Another critical question is: just because the Indian people supported Bangladesh in 1971, does that mean Bangladesh should now be indebted to the Indian government? Should Bangladesh be forced to favour Indian conglomerates like Adani? Must we sacrifice the Sundarbans, our airports, seaports, and borders to serve India's interest over our own? A state is never benevolent—its actions are always driven by strategic interests. India's decision to support Bangladesh in 1971 was also strategic. However, the support from the Indian people was driven by humanity and ideology. While we remain thankful for the Indian people's past support, that does not mean that we have to give in to India's capitalist exploitation.



VISUAL: MONOROM POLOK

Due to the nature of global capitalism, Indian capital cannot always be separated from multinational capital. Indian capital is practically interlinked with, among others, US, Japanese, and German capital through subcontracts, partnerships, and joint ventures, forming a multinational economic dominance. This is why the US has been promoting India as the regional leader for decades.

growth of a state-sponsored capitalist class. Because of sustained political stability, this capitalist expansion continued uninterrupted, leading to the rise of powerful business groups and a strong industrial foundation in India. However, by the late 1980s, Congress began to weaken, allowing Hindutva politics and the BJP to gain significant traction. Over the past two decades, we have witnessed how large capital and Hindutva politics have

caste- and class-based discrimination is rampant, despite the country's consistent economic growth.

Meanwhile, to sustain its expanding capital, India needs more markets and raw materials. Thus it is easier to understand why India seeks to assert its influence beyond its borders. Alongside economic expansion, the country has also aspired to become a global military power. In the 1990s, India became a nuclear-armed state, conducting nuclear tests that prompted Pakistan to do the same. India has one of the largest military forces globally and is the largest importer of arms.

Within India's own borders, there has been a heavy militarisation process, closely linked to capital interests. In mineral-rich areas, entire communities have been displaced to pave the way for corporate exploitation; this has even led to the emergence of armed resistance movements. Today, a number of areas in India is under some form of militarised control. The most extreme example of this is Kashmir. Beyond Kashmir, military forces have been used to displace people in resource-rich areas under the guise of "development."

Due to the nature of global capitalism, Indian capital cannot always be separated from multinational capital. Indian capital is practically interlinked with, among others, US,

with India concerning electricity, water, rivers, and industrial sectors. While these agreements reflect competition between capital interests, they also highlight strategic alliances.

Over the past decade, Bangladesh has entered into agreements with India that have significantly favoured the latter's big capital interests. Previous governments also made unequal agreements with India, but the Sheikh Hasina administration showed unprecedented submission. Hasina needed a guarantee of perpetual power without elections, leading to her complete dependence on India. She openly admitted, "What we have given to India, they will remember forever." She further stated that she expected no return. However, it now seems she does seek something in return: her own security.

Whenever Bangladesh's issues with India are discussed, the 1971 Liberation War is brought up. It is true that India supported Bangladesh during our Liberation War. When Pakistan's military launched a brutal genocide, around one crore Bangladeshis took refuge in India. The Indian people provided invaluable support, demonstrating unparalleled empathy and solidarity.

We must always remain grateful for this. However, it is important to note that the government in power at that time was led by Congress, not the BJP, which did not even exist then.

The people of Bangladesh have specific grievances, problems, and opinions regarding India. Among these are water and river disputes, border killings, transit issues, unbalanced trade, and political interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs. And grievances against India's current foreign policy stance are not limited to Bangladesh alone; it has also attempted to exert influence over Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. Consequently, India has different levels of distrust, conflicts, and tensions with these countries as well.

The problems between us, therefore, are not just communal issues; rather, they stem from the "big brother" attitude of a powerful state and its large capital.

For the interest of the people of the region, we badly need a peaceful, democratic South Asia. To eliminate unrest, violence, and inequality in South Asia, we need collective efforts. In this regard, it is also important to recognise how the Indian people themselves are victims of the existing system. Ultimately, the interests of the people of South Asia, including India, are fundamentally aligned.

Our common struggle should, therefore, be for a South Asia free from oppression, inequality, and imperialistic control. To achieve this, it is now more crucial than ever to build solidarity among the people of the entire region.

The fatherhood we owe our children

Nicolas Weeks is Swedish ambassador to Bangladesh.
Gitanjali Singh is representative of UN Women in Bangladesh.
Stefan Liller is the resident representative at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh.
Masaki Watabe is representative for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh.

NICOLAS WEEKS, GITANJALI SINGH, STEFAN LILLER, and MASAKI WATABE

"Bangladeshi and Swedish Baba," the photo exhibition inspired by Swedish photographer Johan Bävman, featured many of the "babas" whose voices echoed this reflection—We say we love our children more than anything. We dream of giving them a better life, a better world. We cheer them on at school plays, celebrate their birthdays, and promise that the future is theirs. And yet, when it comes to shaping the future, really shaping it, we don't walk the talk.

The images exhibited tell stories of love, commitment, and the quiet but powerful shifts in attitude towards fatherhood. Through words and experiences, one question emerges: if we adore our children and want the best for them, why are we, as a society, still holding on to outdated ideas about what it means to be a father? How often do fathers truly assume

responsibilities beyond the provider role? Society still tells fathers that their job is to earn, and to be the pillar of financial stability. But when did fatherhood become a paycheck rather than a presence? Many of the fathers in the exhibition shared how they once thought caregiving was a mother's duty, until they stepped into it themselves and realised the deep, life-changing bond that comes with being fully involved with your children.

Many societies admire the fathers who change diapers, take their children to school, cook dinner—not because it should be remarkable, but because it still feels like an exception. Why? Because we are told—from generation to generation—that certain roles belong to men and others to women. That fathers "help," but mothers "raise." That fathers' involvement is optional, while mothers' is expected.

But let us flip that script for a moment. What if real fatherhood meant being fully present? What if being a great "baba" was not just about playing the hero in big moments but in the small, everyday ones—listening, teaching, standing up against inequality and injustice. Perhaps then, our sons and daughters can grow up in a world where roles are not decided by gender, but by capacity, effort, and dedication.

This is not just about personal choices; it is about societal transformation. Research highlights that involved fathers help shift established gender norms and that children who grow up seeing their fathers equally engaged in caregiving are less likely to reinforce rigid gender roles as adults. In addition, when men share unpaid care work, women have greater opportunities to pursue education and employment—strengthening families and economies alike. Research by the International Labour Organization shows that closing the gender gap in labour force participation could boost gross domestic product (GDP) by over 30 percent in countries like Bangladesh.

Fathers influence the way their children see relationships and understand respect and fairness. If we

want a more equal world, we have to start at home. We can teach our sons that strength is not dominance, and we can show our daughters that they deserve the same opportunities as their brothers. But we can only do that if we step up, if we break the cycle of outdated expectations.

The young generation is watching. They learn from what we do more than what we say. If we want them to believe in equality, we have to live and exemplify it. If we want them to thrive in a more just world, we have to help build it—starting with the way we father.

So, the question is: what kind of future do we really want for our children? And what are we willing to do, as fathers, to make it happen? Bangladesh stands at a crucial moment where shifting social norms can redefine the roles of men in caregiving and beyond.

The "Bangladeshi and Swedish Baba" photo exhibition will have its final show in Dhaka on March 7 at the Jahangirnagar University after travelling across Bangladesh, where it has sparked dialogues and reflections on gender stereotypes, while demonstrating how active fatherhood can be a transformative force for positive social change.



The challenge of breaking away from past undemocratic practices



ROUNAQ JAHAN
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The dramatic downfall of Sheikh Hasina's regime has given rise to high hopes, particularly amongst the youth who participated in the July movement, about a new beginning for Bangladesh. The youth leaders are now demanding *rastra sanskar* (reforms of the state), so that in future another autocrat would not rule Bangladesh.

The interim government headed by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, installed in the wake of the mass uprising, has set up various commissions to work out reform proposals for different areas. Several political parties have also put forward proposals for reforms.

The reform proposals, now being debated, mostly focus on creating new structures and enacting new laws and rules. However, this preoccupation with changing structures and rules misses the significance of the role of political practices in defining the political system as it operates on the ground in Bangladesh. I would argue that the return of another autocratic ruler cannot be prevented by simply adding or changing structures, laws and the constitution. It is not the absence of laws and rules but the state's failure to implement them and hold violators of laws and rules accountable for their misdeeds, which have led to the perpetuation of undemocratic political and governance practices. Our priority now is to challenge and dismantle these undemocratic practices. I briefly highlight below a few of these practices, which have been entrenched over successive regimes since the independence of Bangladesh.

Election engineering and forming king's party

All regimes in Bangladesh, whether led by the military or political parties, have abused state institutions to perpetuate their regimes. Election engineering and party building through use of state institutions have been longstanding political practices which different regimes have pursued in Bangladesh. Military regimes (1975-1990) initiated the practices of election engineering, floating of "king's parties" and fake opposition parties. Unfortunately, elected civilian leaders who came to power following military rule also pursued the same strategies.

opposition. These repeated fraudulent elections and engineered parliaments ultimately resulted in people's loss of trust in our election system.

State-sponsored party building has been another longstanding undemocratic political practice. In 1975, one-party system BAKSAL was formed under regime sponsorship. The military rulers then started building their own parties using state agencies and patronage. Both the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the JP were floated by military regimes. Again, this legacy of using state patronage to build and maintain support for political parties did not end with military rule. It was exacerbated during the subsequent years of electoral democracy. Under each regime, its supporters monopolised control over financial institutions and business contracts that funded party and election expenses. A vicious nexus of politicians, bureaucrats and business people emerged who used control over state resources to perpetuate specific regimes in power.

Erosion of institutions

Eroding the autonomy of institutions has been another entrenched undemocratic political practice. This led to malgovernance and corruption. Over the years, successive regimes used their own partisan interests in recruiting and promoting people in all institutions. The end result was the weakening of the institutions of democratic governance and the institutionalisation of the "winner takes all" culture. In the last 15 plus years, without exposure to any form of electoral accountability, the executive perpetuated the partisanship of the administration as well as the law enforcement agencies and eroded

availability of patronage resources over which contestations were taking place.

All powerful executive

From the beginning, Bangladesh has been ruled by an all-powerful executive where all key decisions have been taken *de facto* by the prime minister when we had a parliamentary form of government or the president when we had a presidential form of government. The practice of the same individual holding the position of the head of the executive and legislative branches of the government as well as the head of ruling political party has led to the rise of a single supreme regime leader who became unaccountable and controlled all state institutions.

The challenge ahead

The challenge before both the government and the people of Bangladesh now is the need to dismantle the above-mentioned undemocratic political and governance practices so that we can move towards a regime of accountability in both politics and governance. We can build democratic institutions only when we practice democratic norms and rules. Our plan of returning to a system of free, fair and inclusive elections must ensure an electoral process which minimises the influence of money and muscle power so that people of modest means can freely participate in the political process.

Meaningful, more inclusive elections will also require restoration of full freedom to the media, unfettered right of public assembly and a genuinely independent judiciary. Such institutions of good governance as an independent

Military regimes (1975-1990) initiated the practices of election engineering, floating of 'king's parties' and fake opposition parties. Unfortunately, elected civilian leaders who came to power following military rule also pursued the same strategies.

the independence of the judiciary. With increasing elite capture, where close to two-thirds of the members of parliament were businessmen, the legislature was disinclined to hold the executive accountable for its various misdeeds. This encouraged willful bank default, weak enforcement of building codes and road safety rules, land grabbing, river erosion and a variety of other regulatory abuses.

Undemocratic party politics

Despite their original ideological differences, the policy preferences and support base of both the AL and the BNP became increasingly similar. Both indulged in undemocratic practices such as use of state patronage, clientelism, money, muscle power and violence as instruments of building and retaining political support. Both lacked internal party democracy. In both parties, decisions were taken by the top party leader, who was a dynastic successor and was given authority by the party to select party office bearers in different strata as well as candidates for elections.

Political violence

The divisive politics, the practice of "othering" the opponent, the absence of inner party democracy—all these led to the routine use of violence to win political competitions or business deals. Generally, student and youth organisations were used by political parties to carry out political violence. Some of this violence took place between political parties, but more violence occurred between groups and factions within the same party. According to data from Ain O Shalish Kendra, between 2002 to 2023, inter-party violence resulted in 266 deaths, whereas intra-party violence caused 447 deaths. Interestingly, the incidences of intra-party violence were always higher within ruling parties compared to opposition parties which implies that the former had greater

election commission, a credible anti-corruption commission, a strong public services commission and other empowered regulatory agencies should be appointed through a non-partisan process and their integrity should be protected through an uncompromised judicial system.

To achieve such goals, all political parties need to come to an understanding that they will give up the practice of the "winner takes all" culture that had made Bangladesh's politics confrontational and exclusionary, marginalised the loser, and has made political discourse intolerant, leaving little space for public reasoning.

Democracy means more than just free elections. Bangladesh needs to address again the challenge of democratising the democratic process to ensure that the representative institutions are no longer exposed to elite capture and are rescued from the influence of money and muscle power. Parliament needs to regain its rightful place as the source of constructive debate to address the problems of the country rather than serve as an arena for confrontational politics. Citizens' trust in the rule of law needs to be established so that they can believe that one law for all prevails without partisan application of law enforcement.

The prospects for meeting such challenges depend to a large extent on the commitment of the diverse political forces now competing to gain state power for building a sustainable democratic political order in the country.

This is a brief version of a keynote address delivered at the 1st International Conference on Politics, Society, and Development (ICPSD 2025) at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology from January 31 to February 01, 2025.

12 YEARS OF TAJI MURDER

A case delayed, not forgotten



Rafiur Rabbi
is a writer, activist
and father of Tanvir
Muhammad Taqi.

RAFIUR RABBI

Corporation election in 2011; second, the movement he organised with the people of Narayanganj against Shamim Osman and his loyalists' widespread extortion in public transport; third, the leadership role he played in the people's movement against land grabbing by an identified group.

RAB prepared a charge sheet mentioning these three reasons, which angered the killers, and provided it to journalists in a press conference. RAB then informed that this charge sheet would soon be submitted to the court. However, on June 3, 2014, when then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledged to stand by the Osman family in a parliament session, the investigation into Taqi's murder came to a complete halt. Although the trials of several high-profile murders in the country had been completed during that time, the charge sheet for Taqi's murder was not submitted to the court. As a result, the identified killers, including the accused who confessed under Section 164, either went abroad or roamed around the country on bail from the High Court. Although identified as guilty, Azmeri Osman was never arrested. He

me under the Digital Security Act and also made the Hefazat-e-Islam leaders file cases against me, accusing me of blasphemy. He organised rallies and led processions against me with slogans like, "We want his head, we want his execution," etc.

Protests have taken place in 23 countries around the world demanding justice for Taqi's murder. For 12 consecutive years, various programmes such as rallies, human chains, press conferences, candlelight vigils, roundtable meetings, and symbolic hunger strikes have been held to demand justice. Writers, artists, and intellectuals in the country have continuously sought justice for this murder—through their writing, poetry, painting, song composition, documentary films, commemorative books, and the release of songs and CDs of recitation. Since March 8, 2013, the day when Taqi's body was found, the Narayanganj Sangskritik Jote has been holding a candlelight vigil on the 8th of every month for the last 12 years. Such continuous movement demanding justice for a murder is rare. We learned from newspapers that Sheikh Hasina



PHOTO: COURTESY

Taqi with his parents.

roamed around the city arrogantly, with the help of the administration and the police.

In the 12 years since Taqi's murder, Sheikh Hasina's government and administration have provided protection to Taqi's killers for eleven and a half years. Shamim Osman, on the other hand, failing to prevent those who sought justice for Taqi's murder through various forms of intimidation, resorted to attacking them and harassing them by filing cases. He threatened to cut us into pieces and feed us to the fish in the Shitalakkhya River, cut our tongues to feed dogs, trample us underfoot like ants, dismantle our homes brick by brick, and abduct our wives and daughters to prevent us from seeking justice.

Many cultural and political activists fell victim to his attacks. They have even attacked various cultural events, including Rabindra Jayanti. Shamim Osman filed seven cases against me through his party cadres, his wife, his uncle-in-law, and various relatives and close associates. He filed cases against

her party leaders that she knew who killed Taqi and that she had all the intelligence agency reports with her. The sad truth is that she had not ensured justice for Taqi's murder but rather stopped the process of justice.

After the change of government in August last year, the case proceedings resumed. Six new accused have been arrested, and one of them, Kajal Hawlader, gave a confessional statement under Section 164. He has provided a detailed description of Taqi's murder in Azmeri Osman's torture cell, which is similar to the previous confessions.

The investigation revealed that, at the direction of Shamim Osman, his son, nephew, and party cadres killed Taqi in their torture cell. We demand that the investigation into Taqi's murder be completed quickly and that all the criminals, including those who ordered it, be brought to justice. Let us create a society where no such murder occurs again, where our justice system is independent, and the rule of law prevails.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর
কাজী আলাউদ্দিন রোড, ঢাকা।

স্মারক নং-৫৮,০৩,০০০০,০১২,২৭,০৬৮,২২-০৭

তারিখঃ ২০/০৯/১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৮/০১/২০২৪ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

বিভাগীয় মামলা নং-০১/২৪

বিশ্বাস ফায়ার স্টেশনের ফায়ারফাইটার জনাব মোঃ আলমগীর হোসাইন (পিএন-৮৪৬২) এর বিরুদ্ধে ২০১৮ সালের সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আগীল) বিধিমালায় বৃক্ষকৃত বিভাগীয় মামলাঃ

অভিযোগনামা

হেবেতু আপনি জনাব মোঃ আলমগীর হোসাইন, ফায়ারফাইটার, বিশ্বাস ফায়ার স্টেশন আপনি গত ০১/১২/২০২১ তারিখ হতে কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনা অনুমতিতে কর্মসূলে অনুপস্থিত থাকেন। আপনার এখন অনুপস্থিতির কারণে সহকারী পরিচালক বিশ্বাস তার ০৬/১২/২০২১ তারিখের ৫৮,০৩,০০০০,০১২০, ০৩,৫২০৩০ সংখ্যক স্মারকমূলে এবং উপপ্রিচালক বিশ্বাস তার ০৩/০১/২০২২ তারিখের ৫৮,০৩,০০০০,০১৮,০৮,০১৮,১৩ সংখ্যক স্মারকমূলে আপনাকে কাজে যোগদানের জন্য আপনার স্থায়ী স্থিতিকার্যালয়ে কর্মসূলে অনুপস্থিতির কারণ বাধ্যাসহ পত্র প্রাপ্তির ৪৮ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে কাজে যোগদানের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন এবং ডাক প্রাপ্তির প্রেরণ করে হয়। তারপরও আপনি কাজে যোগদান না করে যোগাযোগ বিধিভাবে ০৩/১১/২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ৩৯৫ দিন কর্মসূলে অনুপস্থিত থেকে ০১/১/২০২২ তারিখ কাজে যোগদানপ্ত দাখিল করেন। আপনার এহেন কর্মসূলে অনুপস্থিতির কারণে সরকারী কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আগীল) বিধিমালার ৩ (গ) বিধিমতে "ডিজারশন" এবং শামিল এবং শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

৩। এক্ষে, সেহেতু, আপনার উপরিউক্ত বে-আইনী কার্যকলাপের প্রেক্ষিতে আপনাকে সরকারী কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আগীল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ৩ (গ) বিধিমতে "ডিজারশন" এর অভিযোগে অভিযুক্ত করা হলো এবং উক্ত বিধিমতে অন্য কোন প্রকার শাস্তি প্রদান করা হবে না তার লিখিত জবাব এ পত্র প্রাপ্তির ১০ (দশ) কার্য দিবসের মধ্যে নিয়ন্ত্রকরকারী বাবার সরকারি দাখিল করার জন্য নির্দেশ দেয়া হলো। লিখিত জবাব এ পত্র আপনি উপরিউক্ত অভিযোগের প্রেক্ষিতে বাস্তিগত শুনানিতে হাজির হতে ইচ্ছুক কিনা বা আঘাতক সমর্থনে সাক্ষাৎ প্রমাণ উপস্থাপন করবেন কিনা তাও লিখিতভাবে জানাতে হবে, বার্তাতায় বিষয়টির উপর একতরকা সিক্ষাত্প গ্রহণ হবে।

৪। যে অভিযোগ বিবরণীর উপর ভিত্তি করে এ অভিযোগগুলি আনয়ন করা হয়েছে তার একটি অনুলিপি এ সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দেয়া হলো।

সংযুক্তঃ অভিযোগ বিবরণী।

জনাব মোঃ আলমগীর হোসাইন (পিএন-৮৪৬২)
ফায়ারফাইটার
বিশ্বাস ফায়ার স্টেশন।

মহাপ্রিচালক
ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর
কাজী আলাউদ্দিন রোড, ঢাকা।

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

FROM PROTESTS TO POWER:

The journey to Bangladesh's July Uprising

Review of 'Bidroho Theke Biplob: Nirapod Shorok Andolon O July Obhobhutthan' (Oitijhya Publication, 2025) by Anupam Debashish Roy

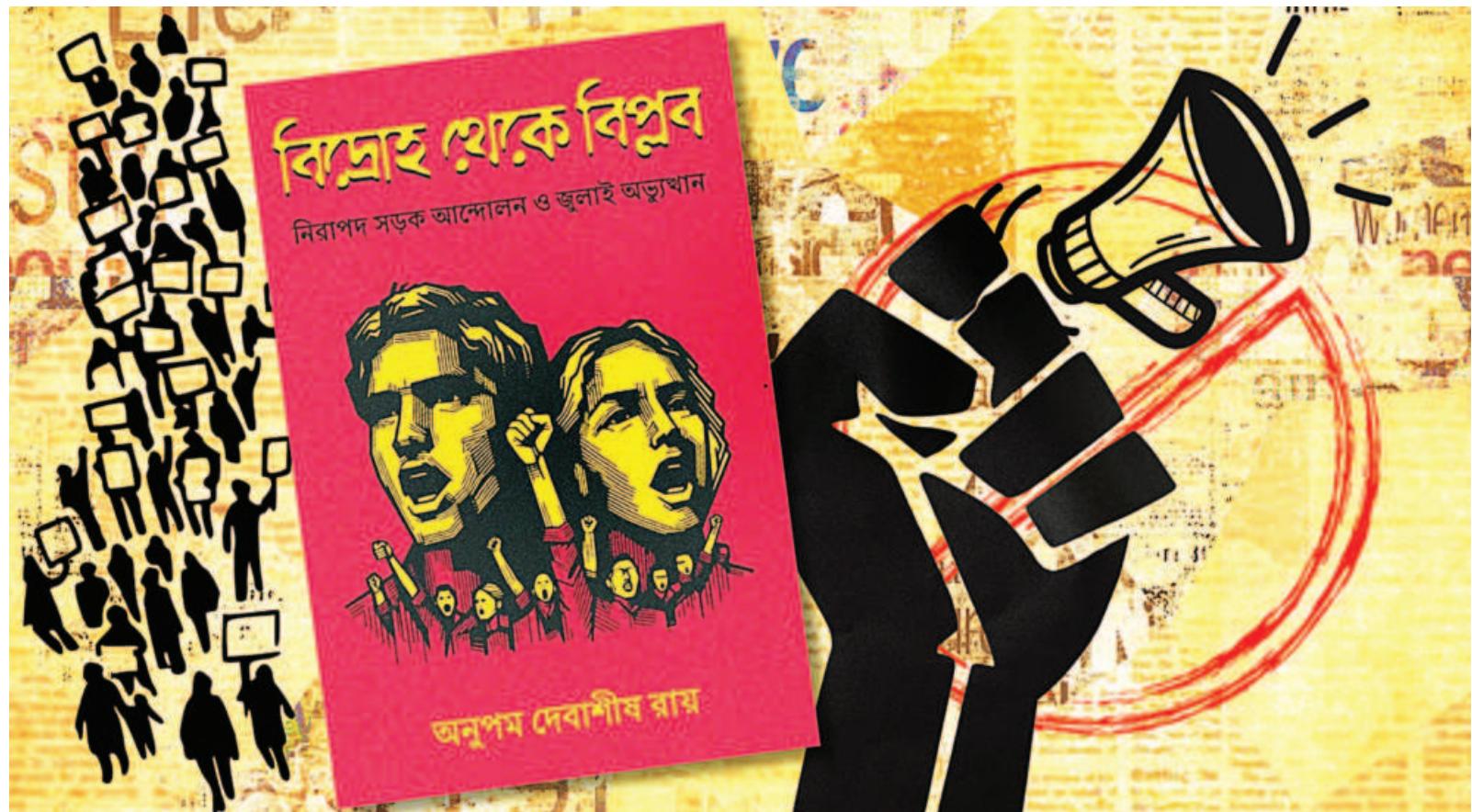


ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

The author ingeniously captures and juxtaposes the essence of both movements, providing readers with a vivid retrospective that highlights what was effective and what faltered.

MAHMUDA EMDAD

Over the past couple of decades, Bangladesh has witnessed three significant social and political movements that have shaped the course of its history. From the uproar over VAT on education to the Quota Reform Movement, culminating in the July Uprising of 2024, these movements have not only spanned a broad spectrum of issues—ranging from education reform to legislative changes but have also seen the active participation of people from all walks of life. Predominantly led by students, these upheavals against perceived injustices and authoritarianism are vividly captured in *Bidroho Theke Biplob*, a compelling narrative that seeks to connect the dots between past activism and the monumental July Uprising of 2024.

In *Bidroho Theke Biplob*, the author delves into a profound analysis of the pivotal political movements in Bangladesh, specifically comparing the Road Safety Movement of 2018

and the monumental July Uprising of 2024. The text seeks to uncover why the 2018 movement, despite its intensity and widespread support, was more readily suppressed by the authoritarian regime of the time, which employed extensive measures to quell the protests. In contrast, the July Uprising not only sustained its momentum but also achieved its monumental goal: the overthrow of an entrenched government that had dominated for roughly 16 years.

The author ingeniously captures and juxtaposes the essence of both movements, providing readers with a vivid retrospective that highlights what was effective and what faltered. This comparative study not only brings to light the continuous struggle and evolution of the student-led activism in Bangladesh but also emphasises the political maturation of the participants over the intervening years. Most of them were the same students from 2018 who carried with them not just the scars of past suppression but a sophisticated

understanding of political oppression, legislative injustices, and the dynamics of mobilisation. It articulates how the July Uprising differed fundamentally from its predecessor in its organisation and political backing. Unlike the leaderless Road Safety Movement, the July Uprising was characterised by its political drive and leadership, partly orchestrated by the Gonotantrik Chhatra Shakti and various other political entities. This strategic evolution in leadership and political collaboration is what fortified the movement, enabling it to adapt and persist, ultimately leading to a successful overthrow of the regime.

Bidroho Theke Biplob goes beyond mere chronicling of events to provide a critical analysis of the strategies employed during the Road Safety Movement of 2018 and the July Uprising of 2024. A significant part of the book is dedicated to analysing the impact of rhetoric used by political leaders during these periods. Notably,

the author examines how the former prime minister's inflammatory remarks about "razakars" in mid-July of 2024 spurred a substantial number of students, previously hesitant, to join the protests. This analysis is presented not just as a recount of events but as a critical examination of how specific words can act as catalysts in volatile political climates. Furthermore, during the Road Safety Movement of 2018, the satirical expressions and dismissive comments about student deaths by the then-Minister of Road and Transport, Shajahan Khan, also played a crucial role. His controversial statements, which seemed to trivialise the tragedies affecting young lives, significantly inflamed the student body and broadened the scope of the protests.

The narrative also credits social media as a formidable tool in orchestrating these movements. The author explores how digital platforms were used to amplify the protests' reach and engage a broader audience, which was crucial in maintaining the momentum of both movements. The strategic use of memes, viral content, and videos is highlighted as a key component in energising and sustaining participant involvement, transforming social media from a mere communication tool into a powerful agent of change.

Further enriching the narrative, the book includes interviews with six activists who participated in these movements. These interviews offer a window into the emotional and intellectual landscape of the participants, providing insights into what drove them to take action, their reflections on the effectiveness of their strategies, and their perceptions of the movements' successes and shortcomings. From this academic and personal vantage point, the author presents a multifaceted picture of modern activism. Readers gain not just a historical understanding of these significant events but also a profound appreciation of the complex interplay between strategy, leadership, and the power of collective action. This dual approach of combining detailed narrative with personal accounts makes *Bidroho Theke Biplob* an invaluable resource for understanding the nuances of political resistance and the evolution of student-led movements in Bangladesh.

While it provides a comprehensive analysis of the July Uprising of 2024 and its roots in the Road Safety Movement of 2018, the book is not without its potential criticisms. One notable omission noted by readers, however, is the limited depiction of the broader cross-section of society that participated in the July Uprising. Post-July 18 and 19, as the movement gained unprecedented momentum, it wasn't just the students at the frontlines; masses from various walks of life joined in, many laying down their lives in the quest for justice and the ousting of the authoritarian regime. But the book primarily focuses on the student activism aspect, which, while central, does not fully encapsulate the widespread national involvement that characterised this historical period. The book concludes with probing questions that aim to unearth deeper insights into the movement's dynamics. The author posits a poignant inquiry about the true orchestrators of the July Uprising, a topic of much debate and speculation. He suggests that the masterminds were not just a few individuals but rather the collective effort of all those involved—whether directly or indirectly. This includes numerous student leaders from politically active backgrounds who emerged as pivotal figures during the protests. By framing the uprising as a collective endeavour, the author emphasises the decentralised and inclusive nature of the leadership that contributed to its success.

As a work of academic significance, *Bidroho Theke Biplob* stands out not only as a narrative recount of significant historical events but also as a piece of scholarly research. Authored by a researcher, activist, and journalist currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Oxford, this book serves as part of his thesis and is a valuable contribution to the academic study of political movements. For those in academia or anyone looking to analyse the nuances of the July Uprising from a scholarly viewpoint, this book offers a compelling and insightful read, making it a noteworthy addition to the literature on contemporary social movements in Bangladesh.

Mahmuda Emdad is a women and gender studies major with an endless interest in feminist writings, historical fiction, and pretty much everything else; all while questioning the world in the process. Feel free to reach out at mahmudaemdad123@gmail.com.

THE SHELF

Literature thrives beyond the centre too

SHAHRIAR SHAAMS

"All literature is regional; or conversely, no literature is regional"—a common sentiment to have today, but I had first read those lines from Joyce Carol Oates, in her preface to a book of stories by one of Canada's most gifted storytellers, Alistair MacLeod. In MacLeod's short stories, his Cape Breton Island was a refrain through which the momentous lives of his ordinary characters came through. I vividly remember how I wept after reading the short story "The Boat" and each time I went back to it, I knew how special this place had to be, beyond the familiarity of the city and amidst desires borne out of relative insignificance.

It is due to the urge that we must give our due to the poetry and prose written outside the capital, for literature thrives beyond the centre too, that I had decided to highlight the following books. I had found something of that fervour that is missing in the works of writers based here in Dhaka.

UTHOLLO
Sadia Sultana
Oitijhya, 2025

Sadia Sultana's seventh novel *Uthollo* is perhaps one of the most underrated novels to be published this year. "Uthollo" refers to the peripatetic and the nomadic, and in Sultana's novel they are the biharis, the stranded Pakistanis, who must make a living in a land increasingly hostile towards them. The characters in *Uthollo* are all too real. Sultana mentions her countless moments of research, navigating through the camps in Saidpur, Rangpur, and unable to document the stories conventionally, opting finally to novelise these lives. A



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

GUPTO GAAN
Shekhar Dev
Shakh, 2025

Shekhar Dev is a prominent poet based in the port city. In his latest book of poems, *Gupto Gaan*, he takes on the beginnings of the *Mahabharata*—a skillful tribute that does not resort to banal devotion. The

poet, an adept translator and novelist as well, manages to blend faith and desire with considerable ease. As he narrates the events of an epic, contemporary anxieties creep in, so does the fear of failure and succumbing to petty, material comforts. One set of verses end with, "Adventures of the instinct is half-hearted...at times, failure itself proves impossible", cautioning for more level-headedness during trying times. Another poem talks about the religion of "survival" and how "[w]ithout self-knowledge, how can one live?" *Gupto Gaan* is a short, yet

notable book that illustrates the power of poetry and an interesting, modern take of a universal tale.

SONAR KHATAI CHORANO JIBON
Mamun Rashid
Behula Bangla, 2024

Mamun Rashid, a poet and journalist, brings to his prose a liveliness seeped in the appreciation of the past. *Sonar Khatai Chorano Jibon* is a series of sketches

of the poet's life. In it one finds Rashid candidly discussing his writerly life, his dismal performances in school, and of lost friendships. One brief yet longing chapter begins with lyrics to a forgotten song: "Bidesh give bondhu tumi amay bhulio na/chithi dio, potro dio, janayo thikana", followed by accounts of drifting friendships in Bogra. Mamun Rashid's prose, much like his poetry, has the tendency to move the reader through the simplest of words.

JANMANDHO GHORA
Bango Rakhal
Anuprana Prokashon, 2023

The young poet Bango Rakhal (from Jhenaidah who runs a library in his village on weekends) first came to my attention through an anthology of writing about Pagla Kanai—the Bangali mystic and folk singer—which he had edited. Over the years, he had written a lot of poetry, heavily influenced by folk traditions of Bangladesh. Indeed, in *Janmandho Ghora*, we see the poet at his strongest, with verses that try to emulate the devotional and hypnotic aspects of baul. "The body is merely a casting, a quest till death/A poem is a soul—and the soul is poetry", he says. In poems like "Khuda" (hunger), he talks of the incurse blindness of a society full of individuals and their unfulfilled desires. "Everyday I go to the Shopping Mall, dreaming like Aladdin/I see storms...Now only a little food is needed." While Rakhal has come out recently with more books of essays, it is this collection of poems which readers might find more suitable to enjoy.

Shahriar Shaams has written for The Business Standard, Dhaka Tribune, and The Daily Star. Find him on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/shahriar.shaams/) @shahriar.shaams.

'Retirement call should come from seniors' end'

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed attended Champions Trophy semifinal between South Africa and New Zealand in Lahore yesterday. During New Zealand's innings, he spoke to travelling Bangladeshi journalists, including The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan, on diplomatic ties with cricket boards and BCB's stance on senior players after Bangladesh's group-stage exit. Here are excerpts from the interview:

The Daily Star (DS): Could you tell us more about your trip to Pakistan following Dubai visit?

Faruque Ahmed (FA): The invitation came from the ICC. I feel it's an opportunity not only to watch the games but also to develop cricketing ties. Apart from that, I'm also looking to secure a few tours in between. I have previously mentioned a white-ball series against Pakistan outside the FTP schedule. I also came here to confirm that series. [In Dubai] my main focus was on strengthening ties with subcontinental teams.

DS: You came to Pakistan at a time when a fresh Bangladesh Premier League-related controversy



Whatever you have achieved, my friend, it has been phenomenal. Whatever you have done as a captain, as a player for Bangladesh, this will be remembered for years and years to come.

Tamim Iqbal lauded Mushfiqur's career in a video message on his official Facebook page yesterday.



involving Chittagong Kings brand ambassador Shahid Afridi has emerged.

FA: Actually, the board doesn't have a three-party deal. We only have contracts with franchises and players. It is entirely the franchise's decision whom they bring as a brand ambassador. However, when a renowned player like Shahid Afridi makes such comments about a franchise, the blame often falls on the entire nation.

If players' payments are not made properly, the board can take a stance. However, in such cases, the board cannot do much beyond pushing the franchise or being more cautious about them in the future.

DS: Is there any chance BCB will discuss with Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad their final call on international retirement?

FA: Until now, we haven't had any discussions with them. But I feel the decision should come from their end. We won't play ODIs until May-June, so we have time to discuss the matter.

DS: You are planning too many series, but the players are not getting breathing space, which affects their performances in big tournaments. This was evident in the Champions Trophy, where they played just days after the BPL.

FA: It's a valid point, but the FTP and other commitments are extremely hectic. I don't know how the players manage it. I was thinking that if we could separate white-ball and red-ball squads, it might help players adjust better.

But as you said, ICC events are the platform where teams showcase their progress over the years. These events draw the most attention, and people talk about them, so performing well in them is crucial. Let's be honest -- our last three ICC events didn't go well. That's a fact. We need to try and do better.

Calling it a day the Australian way

ASHFAQ-UL-ALAM

"I considered maybe giving up ODI cricket after this summer and try and get a bit more Test cricket in over the next 12 months. But a moment came and just gave complete clarity in my mind, and I just knew the time was right," said Adam Gilchrist after the Adelaide Test against India in 2008, explaining how he had decided to retire from international cricket while playing the match.

The moment of clarity Gilchrist was talking about came on Day 1, when India's VVS Laxman gave a regulation catch to Gilchrist, but he could not react in time and grassed the chance.

One dropped catch, and Gilchrist immediately knew his time with the baggy green was up.

"I reckon before the ball hit the ground, I turned around at [Matthew] Hayden and said, 'Mate, I'm done, I'm out,'" Gilchrist described his immediate realisation in an interview in 2021.

Yesterday, another modern-day Australian great called time on his ODI career a day after he top-scored for his side but could not deliver what was expected off of him.

With Australia batting first in the first semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy against India, Steve Smith came to the crease in the third over after opener Cooper Connolly got out for a nine-ball duck.

Smith absorbed the pressure from the Indian pacers, kept the scoreboard ticking against a skilled spin attack, and brought up his 35th ODI half century along the way.

But when it was time to press on the accelerator, Smith missed a full toss from Mohammad Shami and was bowled for 73 off 96 balls.

"I missed a full toss. It wasn't ideal," Smith said after the match, specifying that as the turning point of the match.

And, within 24 hours, Smith announced he is done with the one-day format.

"It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it... Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup, so, it feels like the right time to make way," Smith was quoted in a Cricket Australia press release.

Now, whether his mode of dismissal played a role in his decision to retire is something only Smith himself can clarify.

But Smith's sudden decision to move on from the format is very much in line with the cricket culture in Australia, where players

prefer stepping aside at the right time rather than waiting to be told to move on.

For Bangladesh fans who often see their heroes turn villains over the course of their careers, it won't be hard to notice the stark cultural difference that exists between the two nations.

Smith's ODI average in the format had dipped to 35.32 since 2023, but the cricketer who finished on 5800 ODI runs with an average of 43.27, he was still an important figure in the Australian line-up for his ability to buckle down in tough situations.

Smith could've strived to join the likes of Ricky Ponting, Glenn McGrath and Gilchrist by winning a third ODI World Cup in 2027, but didn't, as clinging on to a place in the side by virtue of past achievements and blocking the way for new stars to emerge is just not the Australian way.

Such examples are rare in most cricketing countries and is impossible to find at a place like Bangladesh, where, for out-of-touch senior players, that moment of clarity never arrives.



'No more than a small advantage for Real'

AGENCIES

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was pleased with his side's resilience as they earned a 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid at the Bernabeu in the hard-fought first leg of their Champions League Round of 16 tie on Tuesday.

Ancelotti, however, is seeing the game as it is, saying that they now hold just a slender advantage and nothing more



Real Madrid became the first team to win 300 matches in the European Cup/UEFA Champions League.

Real Madrid have won their last five Champions League knockout round games, while they're unbeaten in 10 consecutive such matches in the competition for the first time.

than that as there is a lot to play in the second leg.

Brahim Diaz scored the second-half winner after Atletico forward Julian Alvarez had cancelled out Rodrygo's

opener.

Vinicius Jr and Kylian Mbappe both missed good chances that could have given Real a bigger margin for the second leg but Ancelotti was not in the mood to lament missed opportunities.

He preferred to stick with the positive which is a win against what he considers one of Europe's best teams this season, and said his players will need even more effort to make the most of their narrow advantage to advance in their title defence.

"These are evenly matched games. It's a Round of 16 in the

Champions League as it could be a final or a semifinal. Atletico are a top team in Europe, and you can't think about finishing the tie in the first leg," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"We've gained a small advantage that gives us confidence for the second leg, but that's it. It was a difficult match ... as usual. It always is against Atleti."

"In the first half, we lost too many balls, we had unnecessary mistakes that almost cost us, they levelled the game with Julian Alvarez. But in the second half we were better. We

were able to take advantage and we did it."

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone, meanwhile, was disappointed that his side failed to capitalise on the control they had for long periods of the game.

"We should have taken better advantage when we had control of the game," Simeone said.

The Argentine said he was confident that the atmosphere at their home ground would give Atletico "a stimulus" and that while his team go into the second leg behind, it could have been much worse had Real taken a late chance on Tuesday.

Real's Kylian Mbappe failed to find Vinicius Jr with a pass in the final moments of the match that could have led to another goal.

"Maybe the hope of that no goal opens the door for what's to come," he said.

The winners of the tie will most certainly meet Arsenal, who are in a virtually unassailable position to reach the quarterfinals after a 7-1 victory at PSV Eindhoven in Tuesday's first leg.

SOUTH ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

No Imranur in 14-member Bangladesh team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) picked 14 athletes while leaving out England-based sprinter Imranur Rahman for preparation for the South Asian Senior Athletics Championships, which are scheduled to take place in Ranchi, Jharkhand from May 3-5.

Bangladeshi athletes will compete in six men's events -- 100m sprint, 400m sprint, 400m hurdles, 110m hurdles, long jump and high jump, and three women's events -- 100m sprint, high jump and long jump.

Out of the 14 selected athletes, 11 won gold medals in their respective events in the just-concluded 48th National Athletics Championships while three of them won silver and bronze medals in 100m men's and women's sprint events.

"We have picked those who performed well in the national championships and their timings were close to the 2019 SA Games ones," BAF general secretary Shah Alam told The Daily Star.

Asked why they did not consider Imranur, the country's fastest sprinter, Alam said: "We will call him for trial when we start preparation for the South Asian

Games. If he can pass the trial, he will represent Bangladesh again."

The five-time fastest sprinter Imranur skipped the national championships in a bid to avoid picking up injury following a surgery but he has been in training in England. He even claimed that he would be available for selection for next international competitions.

The selected athletes will train at the Army Stadium in Banani from March 6 to May 1, with Bangladesh Army Sports Control Board providing track, gymnasium and training kits while the athletes will stay at the stadium's BOA dormitory.

BAF joint secretary Mohammad Kitab Ali will act as coordinator while Farid Khan Chowdhury, Abdullah Hel Kafi and Fouzia Huda Jui have been nominated as coaches for the residential camp.

Squad: M Ismail, M Rakibul Hasan, M Jubail Islam (100m), Jahir Rayhan (400m) Mahfuzur Rahman (High Jump), Najimul Hossain Roni (400m hurdles) and Md Masud Rana (110m hurdles), Md Tanvir Faisal (110m hurdles) and Md Al-Amin (Marathon). Shirin Akter and Sumaiya Dewan (100m women's sprint), Mst Ritu Akhtar (high jump) and (Sonia Akter (long jump).



SONY SPORTS 1	Man Utd
Europa League	Live from 11:45 pm
AZ Alkmaar vs	SONY SPORTS 5
Tottenham	Conference League
Live from 11:45 pm	Copenhagen vs
SONY SPORTS 2	Chelsea
Real Sociedad vs	Live from 11:45 pm

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Pakistan FM due in April

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is set to visit Bangladesh in April as part of efforts to boost bilateral ties following the ouster of the Awami League government last year.

The diplomatic relationship between the two countries worsened during the 15 years of the AL government.

For instance, the last time a Pakistani foreign minister visited Bangladesh was in 2012, when Hina Rabbani Khar came for a 12-hour visit. In 2022, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, then foreign minister of Pakistan, attended the D-8 ministerial conference virtually.

After the political changeover in August last year, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke on the phone and met twice --

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Parked trucks occupy several lanes on Mayor Annisul Huq Road in Tejgaon. Several drives to end this illegal activity over the years failed to yield a lasting result as truckers resume illegal parking there days after eviction drives.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Hasina, clan to be tried in person or in absentia

Yunus tells Sky News

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina will stand trial for crimes against humanity.

"A trial will be taking place. Not only her, but also all the people who are associated with her -- her family members, her clans or associates," Prof Yunus said in an interview with Sky News published yesterday.

Hasina is accused of overseeing a system of enforced disappearances during her time in office, as well as for the mass killing of protesters in July and August last year, the Sky News mentioned.

She is accused of overseeing a network of secret detention centres where it's alleged her political opponents were interrogated, tortured, and some killed -- all under the banner of a "war on terror". After she was toppled by the protests fled to India on August 5, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal issued two arrest warrants for her.

Bangladesh had sent formal letters for her extradition but received no official response from New Delhi, Prof Yunus said.

However, he insisted that Hasina would face the court, whether



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Protest halts work at BSEC

Officials confine chairman, 3 commissioners after ED forced to retire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The activities of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission came to a halt yesterday due to officials' protest against the forced retirement of Saifur Rahman, an executive director.

The protesters confined Chairman Khondkar Rashid Maksud and three commissioners to the BSEC meeting room for around four hours yesterday.

The demonstrators demanded the resignation of the chairman and the commissioners and withdrawal of the order that sent Saifur into forced retirement.

They also threatened to go an indefinite work abstention from today if their demands were not met.

Among other demands, they sought a stop to the issuance of any show-cause notices on BSEC officials through "disputed investigations" and cancellations of previously issued show-cause notices.

The protesting officials also demanded that a lawyer be appointed by the BSEC for 127 officials whose recruitment was controversial.

A writ petition was filed last September against their recruitment amid allegations that due process was not followed.

The demonstrators also demanded an end to alleged mistreatment of officials and insisted on an apology.

Investors apparently remained indifferent as the benchmark index DSEX closed marginally higher yesterday.

This is the first time BSEC has seen such agitation by its officials since its inception in 1993.

In August last year, protests were held on a smaller scale against the appointment of M Masrur Reaz as the chairman of the regulatory body. Masrur then refrained from joining the office.

Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, who had been the chairman during the Hasina regime, landed in jail for alleged corruption after Hasina's ouster.

During the protest yesterday, officials did not allow anyone, including journalists, to enter the commission building. They cut electricity supply for a couple of hours when they had confined the four top officials.

Army personnel arrived and entered the office by climbing over the

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Mushfiqur retires from ODIs



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's veteran wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim drew the curtain on his ODI career, announcing the decision on his social media page late last night.

The murmurs had been growing over Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah Riyad's careers in the past few days after Bangladesh's early exit from the ongoing Champions Trophy. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), meanwhile, had delayed approval of a proposed central contract list, with the intention of discussing senior stars' future plans before finalising central contracts.

There was an expectation that something might give, and finally, Mushfiqur

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

119 killed by mobs in 7 months: HRSS

2024 deadliest year in past decade; 201 reported cases of mob beatings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mob beatings have surged with at least 119 people killed and 74 injured in 114 incidents since the interim government took office in August 2024, according to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

In a press statement, signed by its Executive Director Ejazul Islam, the rights organisation said the highest number of mob beatings in the last decade occurred in 2024, with at least 201 reported cases. These incidents, counted from the beginning of the year, resulted in 179 deaths and 88 injuries.

Though mob beatings were already commonplace, there has been a rise in such incidents after the August 5 political changeover.

Previously, the key reasons included suspicions of theft, robbery, or mugging; however, in the aftermath of August 5, many incidents of mob violence were related to political score-settling.

The continuation of such violence even months after the interim government took office is worrying and exposes how the law and order situation remains vulnerable, according to rights activists.

HRSS statement added that in 2025, at least 30 cases were recorded in the first two months alone, leading to 19 deaths and 20 injuries.

Between 2015 and 2024, Bangladesh witnessed 1,009 mob beating incidents,

resulting in 792 deaths and 765 injuries, according to HRSS data and various media reports.

However, the actual figures could be even higher due to underreporting, the organisation added.

Several recent incidents highlight the brutal nature of mob beatings.

In 2025, at least 30 cases were recorded in the first two months alone, leading to 19 deaths and 20 injuries.

On March 3, two individuals were beaten to death in Chattogram's Aulia union after being accused of robbery. On February 28, five people were killed by a mob in Madaripur's Dasar upazila. A day earlier, on February 27, two individuals were beaten and hung upside down.

On December 15, 2024, an unidentified man died in a mob beating in Rajshahi's Shitalakkhya area. On September 20, a former Chhaktra League leader named Shamim Molla was beaten to death by a mob at Jahangirnagar University, and the day before, a young man named Tofazzal suffered the same fate at Dhaka University.

Earlier that month, another Chhaktra

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Govt to blame if crimes against women are spurred on
Says univ teachers body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Teachers' Network yesterday said if continuous sexual harassment, violence, and hatred against women are encouraged, the government and parties concerned must take the responsibility.

The network, comprising university teachers, demanded thorough investigations, justice, and punishment for every instance of sexual harassment and violence against women.

The teachers also denounced the unjust expulsion of nine female students from Chittagong University (CU).

"The nine female students have been expelled in an undemocratic and authoritarian manner, which we consider a systematic form of oppression against women," reads the statement.

There are allegations that the CU assistant proctor and a professor sent messages to members of various political organisations, requesting that they demonstrate in front of the proctor's office under the banner of Students Against Discrimination, demanding that the expulsion of nine students be upheld, says the statement.

"What kind of educators incite one

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

NZ crush SA to set up final against India

AFP, Lahore

Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson struck hundreds as New Zealand eased to a 50-run win over South Africa in Lahore on Wednesday to set up a rematch with India in the Champions Trophy final.

Ravindra made 108 off 101 balls and Williamson hit 102 off 94 deliveries as New Zealand posted a Champions Trophy record 362-6 before restricting South Africa to 312-9.

David Miller finished unbeaten on 100 but his 67-ball innings came in vain with the game already well out of reach, as South Africa suffered their fifth Champions Trophy semi-final defeat after those in 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2013.

They won the first edition of the tournament in Bangladesh in 1998, when it was named the ICC KnockOut Trophy.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner excelled with the ball and took 3-43 with his left-arm spin, breaking a 105-run partnership for South Africa's second wicket by removing rival skipper Temba Bavuma for 56.

Bavuma started slowly before steadying the innings with Rassie van der Dussen, who scored a fluent 69 before being deceived by a beautiful delivery from Santner.

Santner then dealt a critical blow when he dismissed Heinrich Klaasen for three, caught by a diving Matt Henry at long-on, dashing South Africa's hopes of pulling off the highest chase in the tournament's history.

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New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson celebrate during their 50-run victory in the second semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy against South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Ravindra scored 108 off 101 balls while Williamson scored a 94-ball 102 as the Kiwis posted 362 for six before restricting the opposition 312 for nine.

PHOTO: AFP



Zelensky ready for Russia talks, mineral deal: Trump

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Prime Bank ISLAMIC BANK



PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-01 12-45 4-30 6-04 7-30
JAMAAT 5-11 1-15 4-45 6-19 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI,IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
5	6		6:04
6	7	4:59	6:05
7	8	4:58	6:05