

Who will the citizens vote for in the next election?  
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Sutang: from thriving ecosystem to toxic waterway  
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## Move to revise DAP bad news for Dhaka

Experts say if carried out, the revision may worsen liveability

HELEMUL ALAM

The government is weighing potential revisions to the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), a blueprint meant to guide Dhaka's development, just two years after its approval, raising serious concerns among urban planners.

The proposed amendments, driven largely by demands from real estate developers, would increase the population density in an already overcrowded city, urban planners say.

They warn that these changes, if implemented, will aggravate the city's liveability, but real estate developers argue that the revisions are needed to meet the growing demand for housing in the rapidly expanding urban centres.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirippakha (Rajuk) drafted the amendment after real estate developers intensified protests against DAP-2022 following last year's political changeover.

The amendment proposal was discussed at the first meeting of an evaluation committee, which included seven advisers



“Such changes would not align with fundamental urban planning principles and would encourage the indiscriminate construction of high-rise buildings solely to benefit developers.”

Adil Mohammad Khan  
urban planning expert

to the interim government, on March 19.

The committee decided to seek stakeholders' input before finalising the amendment.

If the amendments are approved, it will allow developers to raise building heights by two to four stories and floor area in most neighbourhoods, significantly increasing population density.

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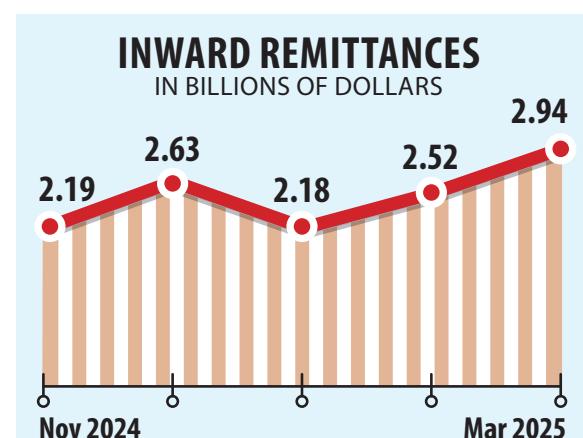


With the approach of Eid vacation and the closure of offices, the rush to return home has increased at railway stations in and around the capital. This was evident yesterday at Joydebpur Railway Junction in Gazipur, where a departing train was packed to its absolute limit with passengers occupying every inch of available space.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Eid spurs record remittance surge

Expected to pass \$3b by month end



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh received a record \$2.94 billion in remittances during the first 26 days of March, driven by Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the largest festivals for Muslims.

The inflow was 82.46 percent higher than the same period last year, according to industry insiders. Central bank data showed that expatriate Bangladeshis sent \$1.61 billion during this period in 2024.

Remittance receipts are expected to exceed \$3 billion by the end of the month, marking a historic

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## Unite to ensure Rohingya repatriation

Yunus urges Asian leaders at Boao Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As global efforts to deal with the Rohingya crisis are drastically shrinking, Asian leaders must come together to ensure the refugees' safe and dignified repatriation, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad

Yunus has said. "The protracted crisis in Myanmar threatens regional stability", Yunus said yesterday, addressing the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025 in Hainan, China, with the theme of "Asia in the Changing World: Towards a Shared Future".

Yunus joined the conference on the second day of his four-day visit to China. The Boao Forum for Asia is an international organisation that promotes economic integration in Asia. Its mission is to pool positive energy for the development of Asia and the world.

The chief adviser said Bangladesh has been hosting over 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas for more than seven years. "We continue to bear significant social, economic, and environmental costs."



On global conflicts, he said that in today's poly-crisis world, wars, and conflicts erode rights and disrupt economies.

The genocide in Gaza continues despite global condemnation. The crisis in Palestine is not just an Arab or Muslim concern, it is a humanitarian issue. The continued tension in Ukraine is heavily tolling on global supply chain.

Yunus said the Boao Forum conference took place at a critical juncture. Global governance under multilateralism is being questioned. Geopolitical tensions are rising. Climate change is escalating. Debt burdens are unsustainable. Humanitarian crises are growing, according to the full text of his speech shared by the chief adviser's press wing.

Political will for development cooperation is weakening. The world faces an alarming shortfall in collective action.

Asia, home to 60 percent of the global population who contribute 55 percent to global GDP, is at the centre

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## BUSINESS

### 75pc factories yet to pay March wages

Nearly 75 percent of the 9,596 garment and non-garment factories across Bangladesh were yet to pay workers their March wages till yesterday, according to Industrial Police, as Eid holidays are just around the corner.

The figures, compiled until 3:00pm yesterday, also show that 74.57 percent of the factories have so far paid Eid bonuses.

BGMEA Administrator Anwar Hossain said most factories would likely pay wages in the next two days before the holidays, as is customary.

"Paying earlier risks workers leaving before the official holiday, disrupting urgent production and shipments," he added.

STORY ON B1

## No emergency without JS nod

Says NCP in its proposals to consensus commission

MD ABBAS

The National Citizen Party (NCP) has proposed that parliamentary approval be made mandatory to declare a state of emergency.

In its proposals submitted to the National Consensus Commission, the NCP also said an election must be held for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. The assembly will later transition into the legislature.

The newly-formed party opposed the president's appointment by parliament and proposed setting the minimum age for MP candidates at 23 and the voting age at 16.

It supported replacing the existing four principles of the constitution -- nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism -- with equality, human dignity, social justice, pluralism, and democracy. The party stressed that "pluralism" should be explicitly defined to acknowledge multiple nationalities, religions, languages, and cultures.

Additionally, the NCP sought constitutional recognition for the indigenous communities, proposed the president's advisory role to be non-binding, advocated for curtailing the absolute powers of the prime minister, and recommended that a National Constitutional Council function as the election period caretaker government.

The party also suggested that the protection of life and nature be considered fundamental rights.

The NCP agreed partially or in total with several proposals, while opposing some key provisions recommended by the Constitution Reform Commission.

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Hasina sued for conspiring to wage civil war, oust govt



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, along with 72 others, has been sued for conspiring to overthrow the interim government through a civil war.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police filed the sedition case with the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The court took cognisance of the case and directed the CID to investigate, said a press release issued by the CID yesterday.

According to the case statement, the CID received



Readymade garment workers from TNZ Group protesting outside the head office of the labour department (Sromo Bhaban) in the capital yesterday. Their demands include three months of unpaid wages and Eid bonus. Over the past week, there have been similar demonstrations by workers from several RMG factories in Dhaka and its outskirts.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Court declares Ishraque Dhaka south mayor

Cancels results of 2020 polls

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday declared BNP leader Ishraque Hossain mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

Judge Md Nurul Islam of the Election Tribunal of Dhaka pronounced the judgment, cancelling the result of the DSCC polls held in February 2020, a court staffer told The Daily Star.

The tribunal also cancelled the gazette notification that declared Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh the winner of the 2020 election, he said.

Ishraque, son of former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Sadeque Hossain Khoka, was present in the courtroom during the verdict.

Shortly after the judgement, BNP leaders and activists, accompanied by pro-party lawyers, held a procession on the court premises to celebrate the victory.

"I express my gratitude to Almighty Allah. I have received justice. Whether I can become the mayor or take the oath as mayor is entirely a party decision," Ishraque told the journalists on the court premises yesterday.

Taherul Islam Tawhid, a lawyer for Ishraque, spoke to this newspaper yesterday about why it took over five years to dispose of the lawsuit.



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## Yunus urges China to reduce interest rates

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has reiterated its call for reducing interest rates for Chinese loans from 3 percent to 1.2 percent, while also seeking a waiver on commitment fees for Chinese-funded projects.

The call was made yesterday during Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's bilateral meeting with Chinese Executive Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Hainan.

In yesterday's meeting, Ding said his country would fund modernisation efforts of the Mongla Port and the Dasherkandi Sewage project and assured Chinese funding to purchase four ocean-going vessels for Dhaka's state-run Bangladesh Shipping Corporation.

In a separate meeting with China's Export-Import Bank Chairman Chen Huaiyu, Bangladeshi officials sought quick disbursement of Exim Bank's funding and support in new infrastructure projects such as the Dasherkandi Sewage plant.

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PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS SECRETARY

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus is given a red carpet reception as he lands in Beijing yesterday.

## NEWS

### DECLINING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: CA press wing rebuts US panel report on Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Adviser's Press Wing has refuted a US commission's report that says religious freedom conditions in Bangladesh declined amid a series of attacks on religious minority communities.

It is simply not true that the interim government of Bangladesh is responsible for the violence alleged in the 2025 report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), says a statement issued by the press wing yesterday.

The USCIRF report says, "Following a violent crackdown on protests that resulted in 200 deaths and the removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Hindu groups claimed an increase in attacks against their communities and temples."

However, a UN Fact-Finding Mission earlier reported an estimated 1,400 fatalities during the 2024 mass uprising in Bangladesh.

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## Hasina sued for conspiring to wage civil war, oust govt

FROM PAGE 1

information about an online meeting held on December 19, 2024, where participants formed a platform called the "Joy Bangla Brigade" and discussed plans to bring ousted premier Hasina back to power by waging a civil war. A total of 577 individuals from home and abroad attended the meeting and showed support for Hasina's directives.

Rabbi Alam, vice president of Awami League's US chapter who convened the virtual meeting, has been named as the second accused in the case.

At the home ministry's approval, the case has been filed under Sections 121, 121A, 124A, and 34 of the Penal Code.

## Court declares Ishraque Dhaka south mayor

FROM PAGE 1

"Following the lawsuit, Taposh submitted various applications through their lawyers to contest it. And it delayed the trial," he said.

"After the fall of Awami League government, the court proceedings sped up as the defendants remained absent and couldn't obstruct the process," he also said.

"In accordance with the court's verdict, the EC Secretariat will take necessary steps for a gazette amendment notification, declaring Ishraque as mayor," added Tawhid.

During the trial, five witnesses, including Ishraque, gave their statements before the court.

On August 19 last year, the government removed the mayors of 12 city corporations, including Taposh, from their positions.

On February 1 of 2020, the DSCC polls were held where Ishraque contested for the post of mayor from BNP.

But he was defeated, and the Election Commission declared Taposh as mayor of the DSCC.

On March 3 of 2020, Ishraque, a member of BNP Chairperson's Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee, filed a lawsuit with the election tribunal, demanding cancellation of the election.

The chief election commissioner, commission's secretary, winner candidate Taposh and five others have been made defendants to contest the suit.

In the suit, Ishraque claimed that the February 1 election was held amid irregularities and corruption, adding that on the day, a satisfactory number of voters did not turn up to cast their votes.

Ishraque also alleged that the election commissioner, in collusion with others, declared Taposh the mayor of DSCC.

He also appealed to the tribunal to declare the election process for the post of mayor in the DSCC polls 2020 void and order a fresh election.

On October 1 last year, the Election Tribunal of Chattogram declared BNP leader Shahadat Hossain the mayor of Chattogram City Corporation.

The tribunal gave the verdict following a case filed to cancel the results of the CCC election held on January 27, 2021. Shahadat filed the lawsuit on February 24, 2021.

On October 8 last year, the Election Commission (EC) issued a notification declaring Shahadat as the mayor of Chattogram City Corporation.

TABITHA'S LAWSUIT

On March 2 of 2020, Tabitha Awal, BNP-nominated candidate for the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayoral election, filed a similar lawsuit with the same election tribunal, demanding cancellation of the February 1 election.

The tribunal is scheduled on April 7 this year to deliver a verdict in the lawsuit.

## Move to revise DAP bad news for Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

The population density in certain neighbourhoods would increase to 50,000 people per square kilometre, far exceeding global benchmarks for liveable megacities, according to Adil Mohammad Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP).

Adil attributed this to the proposal to change the Floor-Area Ratio (FAR) in the DAP.

FAR is the ratio of the total area of all floors in a building, including habitable and non-habitable spaces, to the area of the land on which the building is located. A higher FAR indicates a greater building volume relative to the lot size.

Mohammad Fazle Reza Sumon, former president of BIP, slammed the proposal for changing the FAR value based on planned roads, instead of existing roads.

He said the setback distance between buildings should be strictly maintained, ensuring adequate sunlight and ventilation within residential structures.

A building setback is the minimum distance required between a house or structure and the property line. It is mandated by building codes to allow sunlight to reach streets and lower floors.

Setbacks are necessary to protect various areas such as streets, rivers, floodplains, and existing structures.

"To prevent fire hazards and ensure safety, high-rise construction on narrow roads must be prohibited, and buildings taller than six stories should be required to have fire prevention measures," he said.

Such changes would not align with fundamental urban planning principles and would encourage the indiscriminate construction of high-rise buildings solely to benefit developers, said Adil.

For example, he said, the introduction of plot-based measurement would increase the FAR to 3.4 from 2 in Badda.

Under the current FAR values, around

three families can live on a two katha (1,440 square feet) piece of land. The number of families would increase to six if the proposal is approved, Adil said.

"Such modifications will increase the population density beyond sustainable limits, undermine the unique character of different neighbourhoods, disrupt urban balance, and risk the destruction of residential communities in Dhaka," he added.

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overwhelming the city's management system," Sumon said, urging the interim government advisers to avoid any changes that could harm Dhaka's liveability.

He was also critical of the inclusion of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) in the technical committee responsible for revising DAP. "It creates a clear conflict of interest. Such involvement of real estate businesses in policymaking is unacceptable and must be stopped."

Rehab Senior Vice President Liakat Ali Bhuiyan defended the proposed changes, arguing that restrictive regulations have hurt the real estate sector.

"The new FAR regulations, which limit the height of buildings in many areas, have led to a significant reduction in the available space for residential and commercial properties. As a result, many construction projects have been rendered financially unfeasible," he said.

"Instead, the new regulations are making it even more difficult for developers to meet the growing demand for housing in the country's rapidly expanding urban centres," he added.

Md Ashraful Islam, chief town planner and project director of DAP at Rajuk, said they would send the draft of the amended DAP to all stakeholders for their feedback.

The stakeholders, including planners, will be able to share their observations on the draft during a meeting scheduled for April 17. The proposal will then be finalised after several more meetings with the stakeholders, he added.

They exceed 0.5 percent.

The party conditionally agreed to some executive branch reforms. While supporting a model where the prime minister is "first among equals" in the cabinet rather than holding absolute authority, they insisted that the president's advisory role should be non-binding.

Moreover, it agreed that a person cannot hold the positions of PM and party chief at the same time.

For the judiciary, the NCP supported establishing an independent Supreme Court Secretariat. It agreed that the Supreme Judicial Council should have the authority to investigate the NCC when necessary.

Additionally, they suggested that the Supreme Court should consider previous annual confidential reports and records of appointments to profit-based positions when reviewing judicial appointments.

Sarwar Tushar, coordinator of the NCP's reform coordination committee, said his party emphasised that most constitutional reforms should be implemented either through a constituent assembly or a dual function parliament that first serves as a constituent assembly before transitioning into the legislature.

"Our party found this method to be the most logical and precise approach," Tushar, also the joint convenor of the NCP, said.

technology incubation and innovation. Collaboration on digital solutions will drive progress," the chief adviser said.

Yunus also mentioned that food security is under increasing pressure. Rising prices of essential commodities are straining household budgets, especially for low-income families.

Climate change and natural disasters are exacerbating this crisis. Strengthening food supply chains is essential. Energy security is critical, especially for net-importing developing countries.

Energy supply disruptions drive inflation, economic instability, and debt distress. "We must find sustainable energy solutions and scale up investments in renewables," the chief adviser said.

Investing in health and education is crucial for human capital development. A well-educated, skilled workforce drives economic growth and innovation. Countries that invest in universal healthcare see better economic productivity. Digital education and vocational training must be expanded to equip our youth for the jobs of the future, Yunus said.

Asia must promote resource-efficient farming. Domestic production must be enhanced for food security. "We need to reduce import reliance and achieve self-sufficiency," Yunus added. Expanding tech-based sustainable agricultural solutions and innovation in regenerative and climate smart farming is the key.

Asia must build a strong tech ecosystem, which should be restorative, distributive, and inclusive. "We need to share knowledge, data, and invest in

## Eid spurs record remittance surge

FROM PAGE 1

high for a single month.

From July to March 26 of the current fiscal year, the country received \$21.43 billion in remittances, up from \$16.69 billion during the same period in the previous fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

Industry insiders noted that remittance inflows typically increase during Ramadan, as Bangladeshi expatriates send more money to their families ahead of Eid.

Additionally, the demands for hundi and hawala -- illegal cross-border money transfer channels -- have declined following a crackdown on operators after the political changeover, said Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Jamuna Bank.

"This has diverted more remittances through formal banking channels," he added.

He also mentioned that the forex market had stabilised in recent months due to higher dollar inflows driven by increased remittances.

Central bank officials also noted

## Monthly food ration

FROM PAGE 16

food assistance remains at a nearly consistent level. This crucial assistance will help sustain food security and nutrition among the displaced communities.

"We acknowledge and appreciate WFP's relentless efforts to mobilise resources, ensuring that those in need are not left behind. We also urge the international community to step forward with the necessary funding so that these life-saving programs can be sustained in the long term."

Meanwhile, the news of the restoration of the food ration to nearly the previous amount brought joy among the Rohingya refugees.

Mohammad Zubair, chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, thanked the WFP for their consistent support.

He also urged the international community to ensure safe and dignified Rohingya repatriation to Myanmar.

He demanded establishing a safe zone for Rohingya in the Rakhine state.

Around 1.2 million Rohingya refugees have been living in the squalid camps of Cox's Bazar. Most of them fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar facing a brutal military campaign in 2017.

US TO GIVE \$73M FOR ROHINGYAS

The Trump administration said yesterday it will provide \$73 million in new financial aid to Rohingya refugees through the WFP, amid concerns that aid cuts could deepen the crisis for the world's largest stateless population, reports news agency Reuters.

"This food and nutrition support through @WFP will provide critically needed food and nutrition assistance for more than one million people," US State

X and Facebook, just the day after IPD published it.

Another IPD article that attracted social media attention was written by one Gustav Ellison, titled "The Unelected Banker: Ahsan Mansur's Gamble with Bangladesh's Economy". That too was shared by Bangladesh Chhatra League on Facebook. Dismislab could not find any information about this author either.

On March 25, when Dismislab was wrapping up its investigation, The Guardian reported concerns among British MPs about being targeted by disinformation campaigns related to Bangladesh. Emails containing links of such IPD articles were sent out to UK MPs by a such ghost writer and a public relations firm before a session with Mansur. The British daily could not trace the so-called journalist behind the email, and the PR firm declined to disclose on whose behalf it had sent the article to the British MPs, according to the Dismislab investigation.

To test IPD's editorial process, Dismislab submitted two fabricated articles under fake identities and credentials.

One article, slamming the United Nations of bias in its OHCHR report on the July 2024 uprising, was

'Be clear about  
polls date'

Rizvi urges Yunus  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior  
Joint  
Secretary  
General  
Ruhul  
Kabir Rizvi  
yesterday  
called on Chief Adviser to the interim government, Professor Muhammad Yunus, to make a clear and genuine commitment regarding the national election.

"You (chief adviser) have mentioned December, March, and June as possible election dates, but the public is not taking it well. You must make a clear and genuine commitment to people about when you will announce elections, and then tell that to the public. After that, political parties can talk," Rizvi said.

He made the remarks in the afternoon while distributing Eid food aid in Uttarkhan, Dhaka.

Rizvi criticised Yunus for what he called inconsistent statements on the election schedule.

"One moment, you say the election will be in December, then in June. The people of this country respect you; you are an accomplished person. This sort of talk would have suited Sheikh Hasina," he added.

While acknowledging Yunus's efforts to curb

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ACC sues  
Hasina's  
former DPS  
Khokon, wife

Files case against  
Nasim's son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed two cases against Ashraful Alam Khokon, former deputy press secretary of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and his wife Rezwana Noor for illegally acquiring assets worth Tk 17.03 crore.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain confirmed this information at the commission's headquarters in Segunbagicha, Dhaka yesterday.

In each case, Khokon has been named as an accused.

Khokon was accused of acquiring illegal wealth worth Tk 13.34 crore. Additionally, he allegedly conducted suspicious transactions worth Tk 1.34 crore through three bank accounts under his name.

Rezwana was accused

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Australia opens  
new 'Home  
Affairs Office'  
in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

As part of Australia's growing bilateral relationship with Bangladesh, the Albanese Labor Government has announced the establishment of a new Home Affairs Office in Dhaka.

"The office will support prospective Bangladeshi migrants, as well as a central point of contact for the Bangladesh government to facilitate increased engagement and cooperation on immigration and border related matters," said a press statement of the Australian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

Last week, Bangladesh and Australia signed a Standard Operating Procedures for the safe and quick repatriation of Bangladeshis attempting to reach Australia illegally

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## DUG UP, UNFIXED ROADS a nightmare for residents



A man jumps over a dug-up section of the road in Khilgaon Railgate area in Dhaka, which was excavated for gas line installation. Unfinished trenches and piles of debris at construction sites contribute to air pollution and pose serious health risks to the residents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SHARIFUL ISLAM and  
HELEMUL ALAM

There are several parts of Dhaka city where, if you travel through the roads and alleys by a rickshaw or an auto-rickshaw, you will experience a jerky ride, as many streets remain unrepainted for months after being dug up by utility service providers.

The dug up roads leave residents struggling with dust clouds and severe congestion. Even a drizzle turns these pathways into mud slicked hazards, making walking a nightmare.

Unfinished trenches and piles of debris at construction sites contribute to air pollution and pose serious health risks to the residents of the city, which frequently tops global charts for the worst air quality.

The problem persists due to a lack of oversight and accountability, as the guidelines outlined in Dhaka's 2019 Road Excavation Policy are routinely flouted by contractors and utility service providers.

The policy states that only small sections should be excavated at a time, with all work to be completed within 15 days. Trenches must then be compacted with sand and reinforced with bricks to make the road suitable for vehicles. Additionally, contractors must clear debris within 24 hours and cannot bring equipment to sites before the designated start time.

Further provisions require that both the excavated road and its surface drains be thoroughly cleaned after completion, restoring the area to its original condition.

In reality, these guidelines are seldom enforced, leaving city dwellers to suffer.

A glaring example is a kilometre-long stretch of Falpatti Road in

West Senpara. Nearly a year ago, trenches were dug at 20-metre intervals to upgrade Wasa's supply line. Once completed, the trenches were left half-filled with debris and unrepainted.

"Often, axles and wheels of loaded rickshaw vans break when they fall into the trenches," said three-wheeler driver Harun Mia.

West Senpara resident Masudur Rahman said many alleys have been in disrepair for years, making rickshaw and auto-rickshaw travel nearly impossible. "A significant part of the road is occupied,



causing severe congestion. With no repairs in sight, many have been forced to move elsewhere."

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (Desco) dug a trench along Begum Rokeya Sarani's western lane from Kazipara to Mirpur 10 months ago for cable installation but left it half-filled.

Loose sand piles near Kazipara Metro Station create dust hazards for locals.

"They left without compacting the sand. Every passing vehicle stirs up dust, harming our health," said Md Yusuf, a shop employee.

Documents show that in

November last year, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) approved road-cutting permits for 19 individuals and nine service-providing organisations in 44 areas under its jurisdiction. Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) also granted road excavation permissions for around 10 locations in February.

These correspondents visited Mohammadpur, Indira Road, Malibagh to Khilgaon Railgate, Khilgaon Taltala, Khilgaon Tilpapara, Gandaria's Dinanath Sen Road, Satish Sarkar Road,

Mohammad Jalal, a fruit trader at Khilgaon Cumilla Hotel Crossing, said, "My income has dropped by three-quarters over the past few weeks due to the road excavation for DPDC line installation."

A similar situation persists at Honda Gali on Indira Road, where DNCC has been digging for stormwater drainage.

Holy Cross School student Ashna Fabiyana said excavation, ongoing since before Ramadan, has forced her to walk or take alternative routes.

Contractors failed to install project signboards or caution tape as required by guidelines, she added.

Kazipara to Monipur Road remains nearly unusable despite recent brick reinforcement after last year's sewerage work.

Shop owners Md Ripon and Mohammad Jalal report heavy losses, with Ripon losing Tk 7 lakh in a year due to inaccessible roads.

Officials from the utility service providers responsible for the excavations said road repairs are the responsibility of the city corporations, as they are required to pay advance funds before obtaining permission to dig.

AKM Shahid Uddin, deputy managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, and Md Monjurul Hoque, executive director (engineering) of Desco, said they inform the city corporations after completing their work, and it then becomes the corporations' duty to repair the roads.

DNCC Chief Engineer Brig Gen Md Moinuddin said due to the absence of an administrator and a chief executive officer for a period, necessary actions could not be taken.

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Compromisers  
don't view uprising  
as independence  
Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who engaged in opposition politics through compromises over the past 15 to 16 years may not view the July uprising as a form of independence, said National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday.

"Yesterday, I saw the debate about first and second independence. But for those of us who have suffered various forms of oppression for the past 16 years, this is undoubtedly independence. On August 5, we were truly liberated once again," Nahid said at a discussion and prayer gathering held at the Nagorik Committee's office in Banglamotor, Dhaka.

The NCP organised the event to demand state recognition and a list of those killed during the 2021 anti-aggression movement against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh.

The party leaders argued that those who maintained financial stability and engaged in opposition politics through compromise might not feel the impact of the uprising.

"For them, neither the first nor the second independence holds significance. What matters to them is the freedom to loot," Nahid stated.

He alleged that the former Awami League government primarily served India's interests, accusing it of rigging three consecutive elections and suppressing opposition parties with India's backing.

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY Controversies mar celebrations in three districts



The covered mural at the Liberation War Memorial in Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: STAR

STAR REPORT

At least three incidents disrupted this year's Independence Day celebrations across different districts, drawing widespread criticism from civil society groups and war veterans.

In Lalmonirhat, a mural at the Liberation War Memorial was found covered, prompting condemnation from Transparency International Bangladesh and the Conscious Citizens Committee (CCC).

The mural, depicting key moments from the 1952 Language Movement to the 1971 Liberation War, was concealed when TIB representatives arrived to pay their respects.

Moshed Alam, TIB's area coordinator, said: "We were shocked to see the mural covered. Instead of offering floral wreaths there, we went to the Railway Martyrs' Memorial on Station Road."

TIB alleged that the district administration was responsible for the act, as it had also covered the mural on Victory Day last year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



People browse through various traditional clothing items at a shop yesterday. With Eid just days away, many are busy with some last minute shopping for the festival. The photo was taken at a shopping mall in the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Man arrested over rape of 10-yr-old girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

Police arrested a man in Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur early yesterday on the charge of raping a 10-year-old girl.

Yasin, 32, from Purbo Jhalorchar in Bahadurabad, was held in Bakshiganj upazila, said police.

On Wednesday afternoon, Yasin took the girl to a cornfield and raped her, according to local and police sources.

Upon hearing the girl's screams, locals rushed to the scene, but Yasin managed to escape.

That night, the girl's mother filed a rape case against Yasin.

Dewanganj Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nazmul Haque said, "He [the accused] was sent to jail through Jamalpur court."

## Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A man was stabbed to death over a trivial matter in Mymensingh city's Kanchijuly area on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Sajid Mia, 23, police said.

Quoting locals, Md Shafiqul Islam Khan, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said Sajid had an altercation with Monti Mia over a trifling matter.

At one stage, Monti stabbed Sajid with a sharp weapon, injuring him critically around 11:30pm.

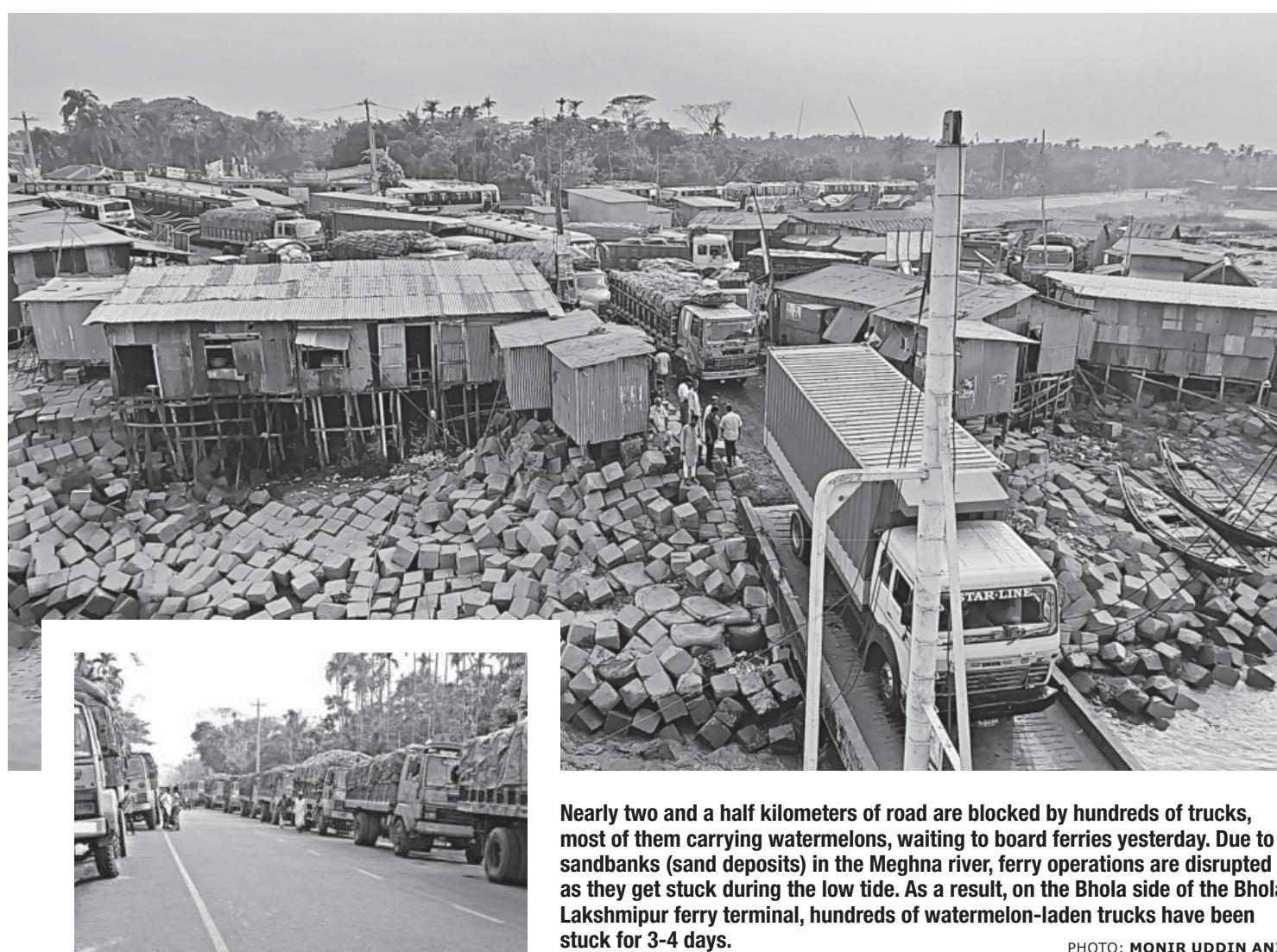
He was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, said the OC.

Monti fled the area soon after the incident.

Police quizzed Sajid's uncle Nuru Mia over the incident.

On information, police sent the body to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

The victim's mother Rozi Begum filed a case with the police station accusing Monti yesterday, said the OC.



Nearly two and a half kilometers of road are blocked by hundreds of trucks, most of them carrying watermelons, waiting to board ferries yesterday. Due to sandbars (sand deposits) in the Meghna river, ferry operations are disrupted as they get stuck during the low tide. As a result, on the Bhalia side of the Bhalia-Lakshimpur ferry terminal, hundreds of watermelon-laden trucks have been stuck for 3-4 days.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

## Sutang: from thriving ecosystem to toxic waterway

MINTU DESHWARA, *Moulvibazar*

Once a thriving aquatic ecosystem, the Sutang river in Habiganj has now transformed into a toxic waterway due to indiscriminate industrial pollution from nearby factories.

The river's water, now pitch black and tainted with microplastics and heavy metals, has oxygen levels so low that no aquatic organism can survive.

Sutang, an 82-kilometre-long transboundary river between Bangladesh and India with an average width of 36 metres, is meandering in nature.

It originates in the hilly region of India's Tripura and enters Bangladesh through the Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj before joining the Kalni river in Lakhai upazila.

"I've used water from this river for domestic purposes for years, but now I wouldn't even dare go near it. The water is extremely polluted due to industrial runoff," said Joytara Bibi, a farmer from Nurpur village.

Ranjit Paul, a potter from the Paul Bar area, said he earlier used to collect soil from the river for making pottery items, but not anymore.

According to sources, 35 to 40 factories along the riverbank – producing plastics, food and beverages, textiles, stationery, and ceramics – discharge untreated industrial waste into the river, contaminating its waters.

Mahbubul Mia, a fisherman from Sutang village, and several others lamented the loss of their traditional livelihood. "For generations,



we lived by fishing, but those days are gone. Now drive a rickshaw because the Sutang river is disappearing," he said.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Habiganj unit, said, "Sutang is now completely devoid of fish and other marine species. The water is so contaminated that even after casting

nets at 12 different locations on February 22, we barely found trace of any thriving aquatic life."

A team of researchers from Habiganj Agricultural University is conducting a study on the water quality and fish of Sutang and has collected water, fish, and sediment samples from different points of the river to assess the extent of contamination.

"Laboratory analyses have already confirmed the presence of microplastics in both water and fish samples. We have also found that industrial pollution has significantly deteriorated the river's physicochemical parameters, making survival increasingly difficult for fish and other aquatic organisms in the downstream areas," said Iftekhar Ahmed Fagun, a researcher in the team and a lecturer in Department of Aquatic Resource Management of the university.

Contacted, Md Ferdous Anwar, director of the Department of Environment in Sylhet, said his office has submitted an action plan with 8-9 recommendations to headquarters. "If approved, the river can be saved. We are also implementing measures for 24-hour monitoring of industrial ETPs," he added.

## 2 journos attacked at Barishal court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barishal*

Two journalists were assaulted while covering an event at the Barishal court premises yesterday afternoon, with assailants also setting fire to a motorcycle, eyewitnesses and victims said.

The injured journalists, N Amin Russell and Monirul Islam, who work for two local dailies in Barishal, were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for treatment.

According to the victims, the attack was led by Barishal District Chhatra Dal's Organising Secretary, Sohel Rari, and his associates.

Amin said they were reporting on an incident involving the confinement of some accused individuals when they were ambushed near the main gate of the District and Sessions Judge Court while leaving on a motorcycle.

The journalists alleged that Sohel and his group accused them of having links with Awami League before physically assaulting them and setting their motorcycle on fire. Police later rescued them.

Following the attack, local journalists staged a protest, blocking Fazlul Huq Avenue near the court and demanding justice.

Law enforcement, including police and army personnel, arrived at the scene, assuring swift action against the perpetrators.

The journalists withdrew their protest after receiving assurances.

Sohel denied any involvement, calling the allegations a "political conspiracy" against him. Barishal Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam said, "We have identified Sohel Rari and others involved in the attack, and an operation is ongoing to bring them to justice."

## Fire destroys 5.5 acres of Sundarbans



OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

Fire in two separate locations within the Chandpuri Range of the Sundarbans East Forest Division has damaged approximately 5.5 acres of forestland.

According to Divisional Forest Officer Kazi Muhammad Nurul Karim, the affected areas include 1.5 acres in Tepar Beel area under the Kolomteji Patrol Outpost of Dhan Sagar Station and 4.05 acres in the Teisher Chila-Shaplar Beel area under the Dhan Sagar Patrol Outpost.

Reports indicate that most of the trees in the Tepar Beel and Teisher Chila-Shaplar Beel areas have dried up, he said, adding that several large Sundari trees in Teisher Chila-Shaplar Beel show visible signs of burning at their bases.

It is feared that these trees, weakened by the intense heat, will die soon.

"There are no active fires at the site now. The fire has been completely extinguished. However, as a precautionary measure, we are continuing to spray water during high tide. We will also continue monitoring," he said.

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-৩১ এর সংশোধনী

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, শিক্ষা প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর, পাবনা এর স্মারক নং-৫৭.০৭.৭৬০০.০০.০৭.০৩০.২৪-২৫/১৮, তারিখ: ২৫/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দে উল্লেখিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং এ তে নির্দেশ করা হয় এবং The Daily Star, Dhaka প্রতিক্রিয়া ২৪/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দে প্রকাশিত হয়। প্রতিক্রিয়া Last Date Selling document, Last Date of Security Submission এবং Tender Opening Date বিদ্যুতে ০৯-মার্চ-২০২৫, ১০-মার্চ-২০২৫ ও ১০-মার্চ-২০২৫ রাতে হয়।

কিন্তু যাহার সংশোধিত তারিখ হবে ০৯-এপ্রিল-২০২৫, ১০-এপ্রিল-২০২৫ ও ১০-এপ্রিল-২০২৫ এবং সময় অপরিবর্ত্তিত থাকবে।

The victim's mother Rozi Begum filed a case with the police station accusing Monti yesterday, said the OC.

## Man, daughter killed in Natore road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A man and his daughter died yesterday when their private car lost control and crashed into a tree in the Godhra area in Natore on the Natore-Pabna road.

The accident occurred at around 11:00am.

They were on their way to Bogura from Jashore.

The deceased are Shahriar Shakil, 27, and his 2-year-old daughter Sumaiya Akhter.

Shakil's wife, Ayesha Akhter, 23, and the car's driver, whose identity could not be immediately known, were injured.

They were rescued and admitted to a local hospital.

Banpara Highway Police Officer-in-Charge Md Ismail Hossain confirmed the incident.

He said legal action is underway.

### GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation

For Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER) (DAM part)

Department of Agricultural Marketing

Dipnagar, Gabtoli, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.

Web: www.dam.gov.bd

Date: 27.03.2025

### e-Tender Notice

E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the Procurement of Works mentioned below under Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part), Department of Agricultural Marketing, Dhaka.

S.L No	Tender ID	Package No & Name of Goods	Tender Opening date & Time, Tender Closing date & Time
01	1093763	(Package No.-WD/PARTNER/DAM-3.1) Construction for Development Of Farmers Hub - One Stop Service Center With Packing And Washing Facilities At Meherpur, Chuadanga & Jhinaidah District	27-Mar-2025 14:00:00 13-Apr-2025 16:00:00
02	1093883	(Package No.-WD/PARTNER/DAM-3.2) Construction for Development Of Farmers Hub - One Stop Service Center With Packing And Washing Facilities At Magura & Madaripur District	27-Mar-2025 14:00:00 13-Apr-2025 16:00:00
03	1094063	(Package No.-WD/PARTNER/DAM-3.3) Construction for Development Estimate For Development Of Farmers Hub - One Stop Service Center With Packing And Washing Facilities At Thakurgaon & Rangpur District	27-Mar-2025 14:00:00 13-Apr-2025 16:00:00
04	1094179	(Package No.-WD/PARTNER/DAM-3.4) Construction For Development Of Farmers Hub - One Stop Service Center With Packing And Washing Facilities At Noogaon, Bagura & Natore District	27-Mar-2025 14:00:00 13-Apr-2025 16:00:00

This is the 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](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd))

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to the time mentioned in the table.

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

Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Faroque  
Agency program Director  
(PARTNER- DAM Part)

### প্রশিক্ষণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় উন্নয়ন প্রশাসন একাডেমি

জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়

৩৯, রূপনগর, মিরপুর-১১, ঢাকা

জাতীয় উন্নয়ন প্রশাসন একাডেমি কর্তৃক মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগে কর্মরত যুগ্মসচিব এবং বিভিন্ন দণ্ডের অধিদপ্তর ও সংস্থায় যুগ্মসচিব/সম্পর্কার্থীয়ের কর্মকর্তাদের জন্য ৩ (তিনি) সংগ্রহ মেয়াদে Leadership and Strategic Management কোর্স আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। কোর্সটি আগামী ০৫ মে, ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ২৫ মে, ২০২৫ তারিখ মেয়াদে জাতীয় উন্নয়ন প্রশাসন একাডেমিতে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় হতে মনোনয়ন চেয়ে ইতোমধ্যে যেরেবসাইটে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে ([www.mopa.gov.bd](http://www.mopa.gov.bd) ও [www.nada.gov.bd](http://www.nada.gov.bd))। প্রশিক্ষণে অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী কর্মকর্তাদের জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

GD-799

জাতীয় উন



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

DHAKA FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2025  
CHAITRA 14, 1431 BS  
The Daily Star **7**

## BTV's 'Band show' brings together 13 bands



BTV is set to air a special Eid programme titled **Band Show**, featuring 13 popular bands over three consecutive days.

On Eid day at 7pm, bands Chirkutt, Ark, Different Touch, Obscure, Orbit, and Feedback will perform their hit songs. This episode is hosted by Salsabil Labonne and produced by Nasir Uddin.

On the second day of Eid at 7pm, legendary band Miles will take the stage, performing fan favourites like **Chand Tara, Nila**, and **Phiriye Dao**. The episode is produced by Shahriar Mohammad Hasan and hosted by Momrej Mahmood.

Eid day 3 will feature performances from Symphony, Shubhajatra, Rock and Melody, Natai, Pentagon, and Reshad and Q, with Abdullah Al Mamun producing and Sabronno Towhida hosting.



## Producer reacts to casting rumours as 'Taandob' filming commences

Filming for Raihan Rafi's upcoming project, **Taandob**, officially commenced this week at BFDC. Actors Shakib Khan and Jaya Ahsan have already started working on the film.

Recently co-producer Shahriar Shakil finally addressed the ongoing speculation about Sabilia Nur starring opposite Shakib Khan.

He stated, "We haven't finalised the casting for the second female lead yet. We've initially listed five to six potential names, and Sabilia's inclusion in that list is not unusual—she's a talented artiste."

He emphasised that much of the circulating information is speculation.

The shooting schedule will continue through April, with a short Eid-ul-Fitr break.

**Taandob**, slated for release during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, revolves around a television station.

## A whirlwind journey with 'Jongli'

### SIAM AHMED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

From romantic characters to socially charged ones, Siam Ahmed has steadily established himself as one of Dhallywood's most versatile and dependable stars. With acclaimed performances in films like **Poramon 2**, **Dohon**, and **Mridha Bonam Mridha**, among others, he has become a familiar name to cinephiles. As Eid draws near, the actor returns to the silver screen with **Jongli**—a film he considers to be among his most deeply personal endeavours.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Siam shared, "I'm going through a very hectic schedule as all hands are on deck to promote our upcoming Eid release. I went to bed after *sehri* just the other night. We had a late-night shoot at a TV channel, followed by several promotional video shoots. It's been a whirlwind and **Jongli** has kept me on my toes."

This Eid-ul-Fitr, major film releases include **Jongli**, **Daaagi**, **Borbaad**, **Chokkor 302**, and **Jinn 3**. When asked about feeling competitive, Siam responded, "I don't see any of the films as competition. As fellow artistes and collaborators, we're all in this together."

"I'll myself be watching all the Eid releases," he added. "I'll go to the theatres with my entire team to watch the other films."

Opening up about the demanding aspect of **Jongli**, the actor remarked, "I love acting. I don't see it as a struggle—it's my work and passion. That's what defines me. I admit **Jongli** demanded a lot of



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

effort from me, but I did it all happily."

Siam further revealed, "I was involved with the film right from the scripting phase. Usually, lead actors come on board after the script is finalised—but in this case, I was part of it from the beginning."

"I've dedicated much time to **Jongli**, made with great care by our team. My co-artistes gave their best, and everyone worked with mutual respect. This film means a lot to me, and I truly hope the audience connects with it."

Speaking about the story, the actor shared, "**Jongli** has a powerful storyline. Audiences will find it relatable as it tells a story of our country, of the things that happen around us."

Looking ahead to the film's reception, the **Shaan** star remarked, "It is the love of the audiences that has made me who I am today. They have showered my previous films with love. I hope **Jongli** rises above those. If it does, I'll know that all our hard work paid off."

## Zendaya to star in Barry Jenkins' A24 biopic 'Be My Baby'

Oscar-winning director Barry Jenkins is set to helm **Be My Baby**, a biopic on '60s music icon Ronnie Spector, with Zendaya in the lead role. The A24 film is adapted from Spector's 1990 memoir and will explore her turbulent marriage to producer Phil Spector. Before her death in 2022, Spector personally chose Zendaya to portray her and served as an executive producer. Dave Kajganich will write the screenplay. The film will be produced by A24, Marc Platt, Zendaya, and Jenkins' production team Pastel. Spector rose to fame as the lead singer of the Ronettes, with hits like **Be My Baby** and **Baby I Love You**. The project's timeline is yet to be confirmed as Jenkins and Zendaya juggle other commitments.

## Netflix to revive 'Scooby-Doo' in new live-action series

Netflix is set to bring back **Scooby-Doo** in a new eight-episode live action series, reimagining the iconic mystery-solving gang for a new generation.

Based on the classic Hanna-Barbera animation, the show will explore the eerie origins of Scooby, Shaggy, Daphne, Velma, and Fred during their last summer at camp.

The plot kicks off with a lost Great Dane puppy who may have witnessed a supernatural murder. Josh Appelbaum and Scott Rosenberg will write and serve as showrunners, with Greg Berlanti among the executive producers.

Described by Netflix as a "groovy adventure for a new era," the series aims to honour the franchise's legacy while offering a darker, modern twist. The project was first announced in April 2024.



# NEWS

## Yunus urges China to reduce interest rates

FROM PAGE 2

They also urged the bank to reduce its commitment fees, which raise project costs.

Chen said his bank would look into the proposals, but also urged Bangladesh to consider taking on more concessionary loans in renminbi, the Chinese currency.

Bangladesh had made similar requests when Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain held a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing in January.

During that visit, Beijing had agreed in principle to extend the repayment period for Chinese loans and assured of looking into the request to lower the interest rate.

Asked if China has taken action towards this end, Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin said on Tuesday said that there might be an announcement on the matter after Yunus's bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday.

China is Bangladesh's fourth-largest lender after Japan, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, with total loans disbursed since 1975 coming to \$7.5 billion.

During yesterday's meeting with Chinese Executive Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang, Yunus sought Chinese support in an array of development and livelihood projects while offering a site for possible relocation of Chinese manufacturing industries.

He reiterated Bangladesh's firm commitment to the One-China policy and said Dhaka takes pride in being the first South Asian country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The two leaders agreed to deepen the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and China, with Beijing saying it would extend full support to the interim government of Bangladesh.

They also agreed to boost investment, trade and cultural ties and people-to-people exchanges as they mark 50 years since the establishment of their diplomatic relationships.

"President Xi Jinping attaches tremendous importance to your visit," Ding said, adding that China hopes Bangladesh would prosper and grow under the leadership of Yunus.

He said Beijing will extend duty-free and quota-free access to

Bangladeshi goods to China until 2028, two years after Bangladesh graduates from the least-developed country bracket to a middle-income economy. Beijing is also keen to start free trade negotiations with Dhaka, he said.

China last year signed a protocol to import mango from Bangladesh. The mango export would begin this summer. Beijing would also import jackfruit, guava and other aquatic products from Bangladesh in its attempt to minimise trade imbalance, he said.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain; Energy, Rail and Road Transport Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan; High Representative of the Chief Adviser Khalilur Rahman; and BIDA Executive Chairman Ahsik Chowdhury were present during the meeting.

Yunus also held meetings with former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Wu Xiaoling, former vice president of the Central Bank of China; and Alexei Overchuk, deputy prime minister of Russia.

He sought support and advice from Ban Ki-moon for a smooth transition to democracy in Bangladesh.

Ban Ki-moon said Bangladesh progressed a lot but should have done better politically and democratically.

Yunus said Bangladesh recently settled a long pending land issue with the Korean EPZ in Chattogram, hoping that it would encourage more Korean business people to invest in Bangladesh.

BIDA Chairman Ahsik Chowdhury informed the meeting that Kihak Sung would lead a 26-member strong business delegation from Korea in the upcoming Investment Summit in Dhaka.

He also met China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation President Chen Sichang and discussed a potential second Chinese economic zone in Mongla of Bagerhat and potential collaboration to employ Bangladeshi workers across the globe in CCECC-run projects.

During his meeting with FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, Yunus urged him to act as a matchmaker between Chinese importers and Bangladeshi farm and fruit producers.

"We need support in fruit processing and vegetable preservation, storage and packaging. You can connect China with our farmers and exporters," Yunus said.

In response, Qu said FAO would take up a new project to export Bangladeshi farm products to China.

## Target was the jeweller's

FROM PAGE 16

Bin Mosharraf, 33, Yesin Hasan, 22, Mobasher Ahmed, 23, Wakeel Mahmud, 26, Abdullah, 32, and Sumon, 29.

The first four were held at the spot and the rest in the Hazaribagh area early yesterday.

DC Masud added that a lot of gold jewellery were stolen from the shop in August last year, and a case was lodged with Tejgaon Police Station in this connection.

Investigators said they would also look into whether there were any links between the robbery and the theft or any shop employee was involved.

Shah Mostafa Tariquzzaman, assistant commissioner (Dharmundi zone) of DMP, told The Daily Star that they primarily suspect that four to five of the robbers were the masterminds.

At least three of the arrestees claim to be students of private universities, a claim that investigators are verifying.

Arrestee Wakeel told investigators that he and another suspect went to

Dhanmondi for having *sehri* at a restaurant when an acquaintance asked them to join a raid as student representatives.

The AC said police were verifying their claims.

According to the officer, the gang initially planned to loot a large amount of gold and money from the building. When they failed to get as much gold as they expected, they vandalised the offices of SM Sourcing, a buying house, and took Tk 35 lakh.

As the amount was not sufficient for them, they then planned to abduct Hannan.

"They planned to demand a ransom by kidnapping Hannan. However, as locals and police came to the spot, their efforts failed," he said.

At that time, six people, including security guards from a nearby under-construction building, assisted the police in detaining four suspects.

The DMP has rewarded the six Tk 5,000 each and decided to appoint them to its auxiliary force.

## 1,42,000 displaced in Gaza in one week

FROM PAGE 16

dangerously low."

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) warned yesterday it had only two weeks' worth of food left in Gaza.

In northern Gaza, Hamas spokesperson Abdel-Latif Al-Qanoua has been killed in an Israeli airstrike, Hamas affiliated media said early yesterday, the latest group figure to be killed since Israel resumed its operations in the enclave.

Al-Qanoua was killed when his tent was targeted in Jabalia, the Hamas run Al-Aqsa television said. The same strike wounded several people, while separate attacks killed at least six in Gaza City and one in southern Gaza's Khan Younis, medical sources said.

At least 855 people, over half of them children and women, have been killed since Israel resumed major military strikes in Gaza on March 18, according to Gaza's health ministry.

that these investigations are ignored in the USCIRF report only raises questions about the thoroughness and fairness of their research.

"The report mentions the proliferation of false claims through traditional and social media following the violent protests." Sources of the media, often driven by political agendas, have spread misinformation aimed at discrediting the interim government, says the statement.

If USCIRF truly operates as an independent, bipartisan organisation, it is disappointing that it did not carry out its own investigations into these events, it says.

"Instead, it appears to have relied on unfounded claims and one-sided narratives, which serve only to taint Bangladesh's reputation unfairly. Had the USCIRF done its due diligence, it would have recognised that the situation in Bangladesh is not as dire as the report suggests, particularly regarding religious violence."

"The political unrest in Bangladesh, including protests and clashes between political factions, has sometimes been misrepresented as religious violence. While there may have been tensions involving religious groups, it is essential to understand that these incidents were primarily linked to political affiliation rather than religious persecution. This distinction is critical in understanding the situation accurately and avoiding the oversimplification of complex political events as religious conflicts."

## CA press wing rebuts

FROM PAGE 2

USCIRF REPORT

According to the USCIRF report, the attacks on minority communities included vandalism and mob violence.

"Simultaneously, traditional and social media proliferated false or unsupported claims of violence to discredit the interim caretaker government ... Hundreds of Hindus were reportedly killed in the violence following Prime Minister Hasina's departure, though reporting suggests the killings were likely related to political affiliation rather than religion."

Ahmadia Muslim communities also reported physical attacks and vandalism to their property. In response to these and other incidents, the caretaker government expressed its intention to protect minority communities.

Despite the pledges of the interim government, systematic pressure on religious minorities continued to generally worsen, reads the report.

"Prior to the July protests, two judges of the Bangladesh High Court expressed support for harsher punishments for blasphemy, including capital punishment. Prime Minister Hasina further issued controversial statements suggesting that Christians in the country were plotting to carve out a 'Christian state' from parts of Bangladesh and Myanmar."

The USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan US government advisory body that monitors and reports on religious freedom in other countries

and makes policy recommendations to the president, secretary of state, and Congress, says the report.

CA PRESS WING'S REACTION

"The claim that hundreds of Hindus were killed due to religious violence following Prime Minister Hasina's departure is simply false. Since Hasina's removal, almost no Hindus—or any other religious communities—have been killed in attacks driven by communal violence. This type of violence, which the report mentions, has not been substantiated by any reliable evidence. In fact, Bangladesh has witnessed a period of relative calm for religious minorities, contrary to the narrative suggested in the USCIRF report," reads the statement.

The assertion that the violence occurred following the removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is misleading and lacks solid evidence, says the statement.

"There is no credible evidence supporting the claim that the Interim government, led by Professor Muhammad Yunus, is responsible for violence targeting religious minorities."

"The Bangladesh Police have investigated the claims made by religious minority groups, such as the Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Unity Council, and found only a handful of organised, communal violence or hate crimes against religious groups. The nature of the deaths cited in the report was due to personal or familial reasons, not religious animus. The fact

## Taiwan jails 4 soldiers for spying for China

AFP, Taipei

Four Taiwanese soldiers, including three from a unit in charge of security for the president's office, have been sentenced to prison for photographing and leaking confidential information to China, a court said.

The number of people prosecuted for spying for Beijing has risen sharply in recent years, with retired and serving members of Taiwan's military the main targets of Chinese infiltration efforts, official figures show.

It comes after President Lai Ching-te announced this month plans to reinstate military judges to hear Chinese espionage cases and other offences involving Taiwanese service members.

Three members of a military unit in charge of security for the Presidential Office, and a soldier in the defence ministry's information and telecommunications command were convicted for violating national security law, the Taipei district court said on Wednesday.

"Their acts betrayed the country and endangered national security," the court said in a statement.

The four received jail terms ranging from five years and 10 months to seven years for passing "internal military information that should be kept confidential to Chinese intelligence agents for several months", the court said.



A firefighter uses a water cannon from atop a fire engine to extinguish the remaining flames after a wildfire at a synthetic wood factory in Andong, South Korea, yesterday. Wildfires in South Korea are now the largest and deadliest on record, burning more forest and claiming more lives than any previous blaze. Officials have confirmed the death toll has reached 27.

PHOTO: AFP

## 14m children face hunger, malnutrition

Unicef warns as major donors like US slash aid budgets

AFP, United Nations

At least 14 million children face hunger and a heightened risk of malnutrition or death this year, Unicef warned Wednesday, as major international donors like the United States slash aid budgets.

The United Nations children's agency urged governments and philanthropic institutions to contribute to its Child Nutrition Fund to head off a wave of starvation.

Unicef executive director Catherine Russell said great progress had been made in eradicating child hunger since the start of the century, but these gains could quickly be lost.

"Good nutrition is the foundation of child survival and development, with impressive returns on investment," she said,

in a Unicef statement.

"Dividends will be measured in stronger families, societies and countries, and a more stable world," Russell said.

Since US President Donald Trump returned to office two months ago, his billionaire advisor Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has gutted the USAID agency.



## US drops bounties on top Taliban officials

AFP, Kabul

The United States has removed multimillion-dollar bounties on leaders of Afghanistan's feared Haqqani militant network, including the current Taliban interior minister, the State Department and Taliban government said.

The Haqqani network was responsible for some of the deadliest attacks during the decades-long war in Afghanistan.

A Taliban spokesman said Washington had "cancelled rewards" for Sirajuddin Haqqani -- who also heads the Haqqani network -- as well as other key leaders, Abdul Aziz Haqqani and Yahya Haqqani.

## EGYPT'S COAST 6 killed as tourist submarine carrying Russians sinks

REUTERS, Cairo

Six foreigners were killed yesterday when a tourist submarine sank off Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Hurghada, the local governor's office told Reuters, without confirming the nationalities of the victims.

The Russian consulate in Hurghada said the submarine, named "SINDBAD", had 45 Russian tourists on board in addition to crew members.

The consulate said four people had died, but did not specify if they were Russian.

According to initial data, most of those on board were rescued and taken to their hotels and hospitals in Hurghada," the consulate said.

The fate of several tourists was still being clarified, the consulate added. Local media reported that rescue teams had saved 29 of the 45 passengers aboard the submarine.

The Red Sea, renowned for its coral reefs and marine life, is a major hub for Egypt's tourism industry, which plays a critical role in the country's economy.

In November, a tourist boat capsized off Egypt's Red Sea coast, killing four people.



PHOTO: AFP

Protesters clash with anti-riot Argentine Federal Police (PFA) on Wednesday in front of the National Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The demonstration demanded an increase in pensions and expressed opposition to the government of President Javier Milei.

**সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড**  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
**Sylhet Gas Fields Limited**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)

Ref. No. 28.20.9153.144.64.002.25

Date: 27-03-2025

গ্যাস জাতিয় সম্পদ।  
এর অপর্যাপ্ত রোধ করে জাতির  
দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

**AMENDMENTS OF TENDER**

Tender No: SGFL/3WELLS/WO/SLICKLINE/FP3 Date: 20-02-2025

Tender for procurement of Slickline Operation Services for Workover of Well no Kailashilla-1, Rashidpur-3 & Beanibazar-2, Bangladesh.

The following amendments in the tender schedule are hereby made in connection with the submission of tender:

1. Tender last selling date will be 21-04-2025 instead of 07-04-2025.
2. Tender closing/Receiving date will be 22-04-2025 instead of 08-04-2025.
3. Tender opening date will be will be 22-04-2025 instead of 08-04-2025.

All other information, terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

(Md. Atikur Rahman)  
Deputy General Manager (Procurement)

**সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড**  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
**Sylhet Gas Fields Limited**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)

Ref. No. 28.20.9153.144.64.001.25

Date: 27-03-2025

গ্যাস জাতিয় সম্পদ।  
এর অপর্যাপ্ত রোধ করে জাতির  
দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

**AMENDMENTS OF TENDER**

Tender No: SGFL/3WELLS/WO/LOGGING/FP1 Date: 20-02-2025.

Tender for procurement of Wireline Logging Services for Workover of Well no Kailashilla-1, Rashidpur-3 & Beanibazar-2, Bangladesh.

The following amendments in the tender schedule are hereby made in connection with the submission of tender:

1. Tender last selling date will be 21-04-2025 instead of 06-04-2025.
2. Tender closing/Receiving date will be 22-04-2025 instead of 07-04-2025.
3. Tender opening date will be will be 22-04-2025 instead of 07-04-2025.

All other information, terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

(Md. Atikur Rahman)  
Deputy General Manager (Procurement)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur.  
Phone No.0981-63691  
email:ee.rhdjam@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.3936.430.00.003.25-688

Date: 27-03-2025

**e-Tender Notice**

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

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

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender Security Submission Date and Time	Last Selling Time	Tender Closing Time
1092304	53-e-GP/JRD/2024-2025	Repair of Damaged Pavement by providing Earth filling, repair of potholes, Aggregate base type-II, carpeting & Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) at 8th km,10th (p) km and 11th(p) km of Bakshigonj-Shanandabari-Char Razibpur Road (Z-4615) under Road Division Jamalpur during the year 2024-2025.	16-04-2025 11.30	15-04-2025 17.00	16-04-2025 12.00
1092385	54-e-GP/JRD/2024-2025	Repair of Damaged Pavement by providing Earth filling, repair of potholes, Aggregate base type-II, carpeting & Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) at 11th(p) km,12th km, 13th km and 14th(P) km of Bakshigonj-Shanandabari-Char Razibpur Road (Z-4615) under Road Division Jamalpur during the year 2024-2025.	16-04-2025 11.30	15-04-2025 17.00	16-04-2025 12.00
1093396	55-e-GP/JRD/2024-2025	Repair of Damaged Pavement by providing Earth filling, repair of potholes, Aggregate base type-II carpeting & Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) at 14th(p),15th(p) & 19th(p) km of Bakshigonj-Shanandabari-Char Razibpur Road (Z-4615) under Road Division Jamalpur during the year 2024-2025.	16-04-2025 11.30	15-04-2025 17.00	16-04-2025 12.00

(Md. Nawajish Rahman Biswas)  
Executive Engineer (C.C)  
Road Division Jamalpur

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Principal  
Mymensingh Engineering College, Mymensingh  
E-mail: [mec.ac.bd@gmail.com](mailto:mec.ac.bd@gmail.com)

Ref. 57.03.0000.020.07.241.23-118

Date: 27.03.2025

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods mentioned below:

e-Tender ID No	Description of goods	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1094672	Supply of Sports Materials	16/04/25, 16:00	17/4/2025, 16:00
1091163	Supply of Raw Materials and Spare parts for EEE dept. and other Dep.	16/04/25, 16:00	17/4/2025, 14:00
1091162	Supply of Computer Consumable	16/04/25, 16:00	17/4/2025, 13:40
1091158	Supply of Raw materials and Spare parts for CSE Dept. and Others Dep	16/04/25, 16:00	17/4/2025, 13:20
1091152	Supply of Teaching & Teaching learning	16/04/25, 16:00	17/4/2025, 13:00

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

(Prof. Engr. Md. Mizanur Rahman)  
Principal (Addl. Charge)

## MASS PROTESTS

Turkey court orders release of AFP journo, 2 others

AFP, Istanbul

A Turkish court yesterday ordered the release of three journalists, including AFP photographer Yasin Akgul, held after covering the country's worst unrest in over a decade, his lawyer and an NGO said.

Akgul, 35, was one of 11 journalists detained after days of covering mass protests that erupted on March 19 when Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu -- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main political rival -- was arrested.

Eight were detained in Istanbul, and three others in the western coastal city of Izmir.

Seven of them were remanded in custody on Tuesday on charges of "taking part in illegal rallies and marches and failing to disperse despite warnings", court documents showed.

Myanmar junta preparing for Dec election  
Says top general

REUTERS

The chief of Myanmar's ruling junta yesterday vowed to hold a free and fair election in December, as he urged armed opponents in a widening civil war to renounce violence and pursue dialogue.

Min Aung Hlaing during a speech at the country's annual armed forces day parade said the military was seeking to hold a "dignified" election and promised to transfer power to the winning party.

He told hundreds of soldiers assembled at the sprawling parade ground in the capital Naypyitaw that they must support a free and fair, multi-party vote.

The necessary preparations are underway for the election," he said.



A demonstrator gestures on top of a fence during a protest outside the Indonesian Parliament against revisions to the country's military law, which would allocate more civilian posts for military officers, in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Putin's 'promises are hollow' in Ukraine talks

Warns UK PM; Macron says European countries to deploy to Ukraine after peace deal

AFP, London

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Russian President Vladimir Putin's "promises are hollow" on any eventual ceasefire with Ukraine, as Kyiv's allies met in Paris for a summit.

"Unlike (Ukrainian) President (Vladimir) Zelensky, Putin has shown he's not a serious player in these peace talks," Starmer said.

"Playing games with the agreed naval ceasefire in the Black Sea despite good faith participation from all sides -- all while continuing to inflict devastating attacks on the Ukrainian people. His promises are hollow," he said.

The British leader said the United States "is playing a leading role by convening the ceasefire talks", adding, "President Zelensky has demonstrated his commitment repeatedly, and Europe is stepping up



to play its part to defend Ukraine's future.

"Now Putin needs to show he's willing to play ball," Starmer added.

French President Emmanuel Macron was hosting European leaders including President Volodymyr Zelensky for a summit aimed at boosting Ukrainian security ahead of any potential ceasefire with Russia to end the over three year war.

The meeting that began later yesterday was seeking to set out what security guarantees Europe can offer Ukraine once a ceasefire deal is agreed, including the possible deployment of military forces by a so-called "coalition of the willing".

Macron said that France and Britain were leading efforts to send a "reassurance force" to Ukraine after any peace in the conflict with Russia, even if the idea was not approved by all European allies.

Yemen's Houthis say two killed in US strikes

AFP, Sanaa

Yemen's Houthi rebels said yesterday that two people were killed in overnight air strikes near Sanaa that they blamed on the United States.

The Houthis' Al-Masirah TV channel reported nearly 20 strikes on Sanaa governorate, both north and south of the capital.

"The American aggression killed two and injured two," the Houthi-run health ministry's spokesman Anis al-Asbahi said on social media platform X.

Al-Masirah also reported strikes early yesterday in Saada, the Iran-backed rebels' northern stronghold which Houthi media had said was hit 17 times the day before. The United States launched air strikes against the Houthis on March 15.

## SOUTHWEST PAKISTAN Gunmen kill 8 in 'coordinated' attacks: police

AFP, Quetta

Gunmen killed at least eight people in "coordinated" attacks in southwestern Pakistan that largely targeted bus passengers based on their ethnicity, police said yesterday, the latest in a spike in violence in the region.

Pakistan has been battling a separatist insurgency in Balochistan for decades, where militants target state forces, foreign nationals and non-locals in the mineral-rich southwestern province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

"Terrorists have targeted passenger buses and security officials in multiple districts of Balochistan, killing at least five non-local passengers and a security official," a senior provincial police official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The incident took place in the coastal town of Pasni in Gwadar district.

"They stopped passenger buses and identified non-local travellers," the official added.

Dozens of militants have carried out the attacks in several districts of the province after they took control of major highways and set up posts to search vehicles, the official said.

In some areas the attacks are still ongoing, he added. Interior Minister Mohsin Nagvi said in a statement the attacks were "a cowardly act" and "a crime against humanity".

**'We have to have' Greenland  
Says Trump ahead of Vance trip to the island**

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump ramped up his claims to Greenland on Wednesday, saying ahead of a visit by Vice President JD Vance that the United States needed to take control of the Danish island for "international security."

Since coming to power in January, Trump has repeatedly insisted that he wants the self-governed territory to be in Washington's grip, refusing to rule out the use of force to do so.

"We need Greenland for international safety and security. We need it. We have to have it."

Trump told podcaster Vince Coglianese. "I hate to put it that way, but we're going to have to have it."

Greenland, which is seeking independence from Denmark, holds massive untapped mineral and oil reserves, though oil and uranium exploration are banned.

### Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**Bangladesh Jute Research Institute**  
Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207  
[www.bjri.gov.bd](http://www.bjri.gov.bd)

Phone: 58151241,  
E-mail: dg@bjri.gov.bd

Date: 27-03-2025

Ref. no. 12.23.0000.006.07.273.24.2604

#### e-Tender Notice

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender last selling Date & Time
1	1085007	OTM	Procurement of Computer accessories	25-Mar-2025 15:30	14-Apr-2025 15:30
2	1085700	OTM	Procurement of Accessories	25-Mar-2025 15:30	14-Apr-2025 17:00
3	1084107	OTM	Procurement of Toner	24-Mar-2025 15:30	15-Apr-2025 15:30
4	1091733	OTM	Procurement of consumables	24-Mar-2025 15:30	15-Apr-2025 17:00
5	1094092	OTM	Procurement of Stationaries	27-Mar-2025 15:30	16-Apr-2025 15:30
6	1094642	OTM	Printing and packaging of Annual Research Report, Research Highlights and Annual Research program (ARB, TRB, JTPDC)	27-Mar-2025 15:30	20-Apr-2025 17:00
7	1094090	OTM	Repairing, renovation and necessary works of Director General's Building Roof top and 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Office room & Common space at BJRI H.Q. Dhaka-1207.	27-Mar-2025 15:30	16-Apr-2025 17:00
8	1092073	OTM	Necessary repair and renovation work of the drainage canal on the south side adjacent to Banglow No. 1, 2 and the large field in the residential area of BJRI H.Q. Dhaka-1207.	27-Mar-2025 15:30	16-Apr-2025 17:00
9	1094670	OTM	Procurement of Chemicals	27-Mar-2025 18:00	20-Apr-2025 17:00

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. Interested Persons/Firms can see details in the website: <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

(Dr. Md. Yearuddin Sarker)  
Director (Admin & Finance)  
BJRI, Dhaka

GD-810

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**Chief Adviser's Office**  
**Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority**  
**Cumilla Export Processing Zone**  
**Old Airport Area, Cumilla-3500.**  
[www.bepza.gov.bd](http://www.bepza.gov.bd)



Ref. no. 03.06.1933.33.013.24-273

Date: 27 March 2025

#### "Revised Auction Notice"

An open auction notice no.03.06.1933.33.013.24-176, dated: 25 February 2025 for selling of the structure, machinery, equipment and other assets of the closed and terminated enterprise M/s. Royal Denim Ltd., Plot # 108-110, 111 (part), 122 (part), 123 (part) & 124-126, Cumilla EPZ, was published on March 05, 2025, in the newspapers namely "Daily Shironam", "Daily Ittefaq" and "The Daily Star". As per the published auction notice, the date and time for physically seeing the materials were from 20-25 March 2025 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; purchasing auction schedule were 06 April 2025 during office hours; dropping of auction schedule in the tender box were from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on 07 April 2025 and for opening of the submitted auction documents in the tender box were scheduled at 12:30 PM on the same day. In order to make the said auction more participatory, the date and time of the ongoing published auction notice have been revised as follows:

Sl	Description of Auction	Subject	Rescheduled date & time
1	Sale of inventoried and valued structure, machinery, equipment, and other assets of the terminated textile product manufacturing enterprise M/s. Royal Denim Ltd., Plot # 108-110, 111 (part), 122 (part), 123 (part) & 124-126, Cumilla EPZ, on "as and where basis" through auction.	Inventoried Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets under the inventory list may be seen	08-10 April 2025 & During office hours
		Last date for purchasing of auction schedule	Up to 16 April 2025 & During office hours
		Date & Time of auction schedule dropping into the tender box	17 April 2025 & From 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
		Date & Time of opening of submitted schedule in the tender box	17 April 2025 & At 12:30 pm

(Abdullah Al Mahbub)  
Executive Director  
Phone # 02334400055  
E-mail: ed.cumepz@bepza.gov.bd

GD- 806

## Take steps to curb Eid fare irregularities

Passengers being forced to pay extra amid weak monitoring

Just the other day, we talked about the highway safety concerns and traffic hassles leading into the extended Eid holiday. An estimated 1.5 crore people may leave Dhaka for their hometowns by Eid day, with similar movements expected nationwide. Amid this massive exodus, one problem that can rival the severity of other travel challenges is the widespread fare irregularities across various transport sectors. According to an estimate by Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, 98 percent of transport operators are overcharging passengers in the name of "Eid tips." This extortion—which may total a staggering Tk 832.30 crore—is an unfair burden neither deserved by travellers nor expected under the interim government, exposing the failure of existing oversight mechanisms.

Jatri Kalyan Samity has also presented figures for how much would be extorted through each mode of transportation, with long-distance buses and minibuses taking Tk 90 crore extra from 30 lakh passengers and city buses taking Tk 12 crore extra from 40 lakh trips. Between March 20 and 31, it says, approximately 22.74 crore trips are expected across road, rail, water, and air transport in and around Dhaka for Eid-related purposes. On average, an extra Tk 200 is being charged per passenger. These findings are consistent with our own, with a report published on Wednesday highlighting the miseries of passengers on AC buses.

As per the report, passengers travelling on AC buses, with the exception of a few, are having to pay more than usual. After visiting various ticket counters and talking to passengers at Sayedabad and Arambagh bus terminals, our correspondents found that the extra fares being charged range from Tk 200 to Tk 1,000. Although the fare hike is not as steep for non-AC buses, most operators, particularly lesser-known ones, are overcharging by taking advantage of the Eid rush. According to the Road Transport Act, 2018, the BRTA is responsible for determining fares for public transport with government approval. Although AC coaches and public transport with special amenities are exempt from this regulation, the authorities can still regulate fares if there are allegations of overpricing—something they have not done.

All this shows how unregulated, and unmonitored, Eid fare practices remain. Several factors have been attributed to this, including inflation, a culture of extortion in transport sector, employee Eid bonuses, and owners' profit motives. While this trend has persisted for years, this year it prompted a sense of heartbreak with one passenger saying, "I thought things would be different this time given that a new government came to power following a mass uprising." The government must take stern action to prevent these irregularities. As experts have recommended, it should introduce digital fare collection for better control, use CCTV for fare monitoring, and improve transport governance in general.

## We must save forests for our own sake

Firm action needed to stop forestland grabbing

It is quite disheartening that the fate of life-saving forests in our country does not change regardless of whether there is a political or non-political government in power. Somehow, influential locals and unscrupulous businesses always manage to get the backing of someone in power to destroy and loot our natural resources for their own gain. The encroachment of the reserve forest in Majher Char in Patuakhali's Rangabali is a glaring example of this.

According to a report in this daily, a local named Jewel Sikder has allegedly been expanding his fish enclosure encroaching upon the forestland. During Awami League's rule, he had its backing, and now, he is allegedly using BNP's banner although the latter has denied any affiliation. Jewel's list of alleged illegal actions includes not only felling trees to occupy deforested areas for expanding his business but also constructing a dam, digging drainage canals, and installing culverts inside the forest to facilitate water flow to his fish enclosure. Though evidence of forest grabbing was found, and an inquiry launched, no action has been taken against him yet. We hope that the inquiry process will not get stalled in bureaucratic delays, but the question remains: why did the forest officials not notice these activities beforehand? Why no action at all was taken? Surely, the dam and the culvert were not built overnight, nor could those be hidden away at will.

Unfortunately, forestland grabbing, felling trees, and illegal logging are too common all over Bangladesh. These crimes continue happening right under the noses of authorities, and often with their help. There hardly seems to be any proactive supervision or patrolling to prevent such activities. Beyond their significance in maintaining ecological balance, forests, particularly in the coastal belts, have time and again shielded local residents from the severity of devastating storms. It is beyond comprehension why anyone would want to take down these protections. We urge the authorities, including local administrations and forest officials, to take firm action so that individual greed, political shelter, negligence of duty, and bureaucratic red tape do not lead to further loss of forestland in Bangladesh.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### Constantinople renamed Istanbul

On this day in 1930, the Turkish city Constantinople, founded as Byzantium and later renamed after Emperor Constantine, was officially renamed Istanbul.

# EDITORIAL

## Stability is the need of the hour

Contrary actions are very worrisome



### THE THIRD VIEW

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

#### MAHFUZ ANAM

Several recent developments have forced us to fear that we are on a self-defeating course. The most damaging development refers to the armed forces, especially the army chief. For quite some time, a section of social media influencers have been attacking the army chief and demanding his replacement because he was appointed as the chief of army staff (CAS) by the past regime. Institutional appointments are an integral part of the governance process, and that should not be questioned just because it happened before the July uprising, especially if it had to do with the armed forces, which are tasked with the vital function of ensuring national security.

The latest controversy started with a Facebook post by one of the student leaders of the uprising, Hasnat Abdullah. He wrote on March 21 about a meeting with the CAS on March 11, in which the army chief allegedly suggested that a "refined" Awami League, which would renounce the atrocities committed against the students and the people and purge all those guilty of being involved with crimes, corruption, abuse of power, etc., should be allowed to participate in the upcoming general election. Hasnat renounced the suggestion and triggered a social media controversy.

Several questions arose as a result. Why raise it 10 days after the meeting? Why on Facebook and not on the party platform? Why without first discussing with his party colleagues? Hasnat may be young, but he is a political figure of considerable stature and must be aware of the consequences of creating controversy around such a vital institution as the army as well as the person who heads it. Taking advantage of the situation, some others made some vicious, dangerous and outright insulting remarks against the army, the aim of which could only be to create chaos.

Whatever our armed forces' past mistakes were, their role in giving crucial support to the interim government and the round-the-clock work they are doing to maintain law and order should be highly appreciated. We must realise that without such support, the interim government wouldn't have been able to perform as it did. The accusation

that our armed forces are trying to take power and that the CAS has his eyes on the takeover has no basis in ground reality as of now, and there are no facts or even remote actions to support this allegation. These are products of deliberate attempts to instigate. Gen Waker Uz Zaman has repeatedly stated that the army is eager to go back to the barracks and is reluctant to stay even a day longer than necessary in aid of the interim administration.

So, why attack this vital institution that has been and is serving us so well? If the army really wanted power, then

Bangladesh government was "lying on the ground," so to speak, which was a perfect opportunity for any CAS interested in power to make the crucial move. Gen Waker Uz Zaman passed the test of his and his institution's belief—that armed forces should not get involved in the running of a government—with flying colours.

The chief adviser, in his address to the nation on Tuesday, indicated that attempts were being made to create instability and warned us about rumours and false information that are being circulated—most likely by the ousted forces. That is not to be unexpected. But what worries us more is that rumours, false information, and distorted facts are being circulated by people who profess to be activists and supporters of the July mass movement. It becomes far worse when people in the leadership of that movement do the same.

What we need most at this stage is stability, followed by accountability

year-on-year in the July–February period despite political unrest and severe production and supply chain disruptions. A particularly bright spot was the 23.8 percent surge in inward remittance year-on-year during the same period.

However, public safety issues continue to worry citizens.

Right now, there are two major issues: progress of reforms, and the prospect of election. About the debate as to whether we need reform or election, our position—as we have repeatedly stated—is that we need both and can have both by December this year. By that time, we should have our first fully free and fair general election after 2008—after a gap of 17 years. Much valuable work has been done by the respective reform commissions, and the follow-up work is now in progress to bring about a consensus on them, which will form the basis, as Prof Yunus declared, of the July Declaration, which is expected to give us a direction for future transformation.

The BNP, as the biggest political party in the country at the moment, seems to feel that talking too much about reforms is a ploy to postpone the election. While we also want the election as early as possible, we cannot underestimate the importance of reforms. BNP has already agreed to: i) a caretaker government with a tenure of 90 days only to hold a free and fair election; ii) a bicameral legislature with 400 seats in the lower house, National Assembly, and 105 seats in the upper house, the Senate, and a four-year term for both; iii) raise the women's reserved seats to 100; iv) two speakers for the assembly with one from the opposition; and v) limiting the prime minister's tenure to two continuous terms, with a possibility of re-election after a gap. On many others, there are partial agreements.

Most other important political parties have expressed similar views on the above-mentioned issues. These reforms are very important and consensus seems already in hand. On proposals of other commissions, similar points of agreements exist and the prospects of reaching consensus are quite high as well.

We strongly feel that consensus on reforms are well in hand and there is no reason not to hold the election by the year's end. Here, the interim government is guilty of creating confusion. It repeats December and then suddenly brings up June as a possible option. The chief adviser did so in his last speech. Time is ripe for a definite position on the election date. The Election Commission has said it is ready for December. So what is the reason for the ambiguity?



Army soldiers with general people in Shahbagh, Dhaka on August 5, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: AMRAR HOSSAIN

the best time for them was between the time Sheikh Hasina fled (August 5, 2024) and the day Prof Muhammad Yunus returned home from Paris and took oath as the chief adviser (August 8, 2024). For three days, there was a total power vacuum, which was the perfect moment for them to make their move. But they did no such thing. I think very few armies in developing countries would have forsaken such an opportunity, and fewer army chiefs would let such an opportunity slip through their fingers, especially when they would not have been blamed for ousting any sitting government. This reminds me of the famous saying by Napoleon Bonaparte, "I found the crown of France lying on the ground and I picked it up with my sword." For those three fateful days, the

of the killing of students and others and a path towards restoration of democracy. The sudden power vacuum created after Sheikh Hasina fled to India and the instant disappearance of not only the existing government but practically the whole governmental structure—particularly the law enforcement agencies—made the situation unstable. The inevitable impact of that on the economy and public safety further contributed to lack of public confidence.

But after seven months of rule, Prof Yunus's government can be credited with having brought a sense of stability in the economy. Inflation eased during December 2024–February 2025, dropping below 10 percent over the last two months. Export earnings grew by around 10 percent

## How China's green energy strategy can inspire Bangladesh



Naziba Basher  
is a journalist at  
The Daily Star.

#### NAZIBA BASHER

China has emerged as a global leader in the green energy sector, making significant strides in transitioning to renewable and sustainable energy sources. This is a crucial part of China's environmental goals and commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

Over the past decade, the country has invested heavily in green technologies, such as solar, wind and hydropower, while reducing its reliance on coal. In 2024, China became home to the world's largest solar and wind energy capacities as well as the largest electric vehicle market.

Additionally, it is a major player in the manufacturing of solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage systems. China's leadership in addressing domestic environmental challenges is positioning the country as a key influence in global environmental policies and technologies.

A central strategy behind the success in green energy is aggressive investment in renewable energy infrastructure. For example, tax breaks and low-interest loans for solar and wind energy companies have spurred

innovation and growth. Alongside investments in energy production, China has developed an extensive electric vehicle network to reduce emissions from transportation, one of the largest sources of pollution in the country.

Sichuan Shudao Equipment and Technology Co., a leading company in the renewable energy sector, has made significant strides in promoting green technology, especially in wind and solar energy. The company develops and manufactures advanced equipment for clean energy generation. Its expertise in wind turbine production and solar panel efficiency has positioned it as a prominent player in China's green energy transition, contributing to the country's goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Sichuan Shudao excels in the development of high-efficiency wind turbines, with innovations that increase energy output and lower operational costs, making wind energy more competitive. Its turbines are designed for both onshore and offshore applications, expanding the potential for wind power generation. This technology could also serve as a

valuable model for Bangladesh, as we are looking to diversify the energy mix and reduce our environmental footprint.

The company has also advanced solar energy solutions by developing high-performance solar panels using innovative materials and production techniques. These are now deployed in large-scale projects, including solar farms that power entire regions.

Sichuan Shudao is also exploring energy storage solutions to ensure solar energy availability even when sunlight is scarce. This combined focus on generation and storage is key to creating a reliable renewable energy supply.

For countries like Bangladesh, which experience high sunlight levels but face energy access challenges, taking a leaf out of Sichuan Shudao's book on solar technologies could be crucial in meeting the growing demand for clean energy.

With deteriorating environmental conditions, China's green energy methods could provide significant guidance to Bangladesh, which has long struggled with poor air quality, particularly in Dhaka, where pollution levels rank among the worst in the world. This has caused public health issues, including respiratory diseases, cardiovascular problems, and premature deaths.

Additionally, Bangladesh's reliance on coal and fossil fuels significantly contributes to its carbon footprint. Shifting to renewable energy could reduce pollution and decrease dependence on fossil fuels. By taking inspiration from China's green energy

strategies, Bangladesh could design measures to reduce its reliance on coal and natural gas. With abundant sunlight and wind resources, the country has the potential to harness these renewable sources.

China's model of incentivising renewable energy infrastructure development could be replicated in Bangladesh, encouraging private and public sector investment. Offering tax incentives for solar panel installation or wind farm development could promote the widespread adoption of these clean energy sources. By investing in energy storage, Bangladesh could ensure renewable energy availability even during low production periods. Shifting towards green energy would significantly improve air quality, with a reduction in coal-fired power plants and the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

Furthermore, Bangladesh could learn from China's "green manufacturing" initiatives, where industries are retrofitted with energy-efficient technologies to reduce emissions.

In short, China's leadership in green energy offers a model that Bangladesh could follow to address its air quality issues. By investing in renewable energy, energy storage, and green technologies, Bangladesh could reduce its environmental footprint, improve public health, and build a sustainable energy future. Through targeted policies, incentives, and long-term investments, Bangladesh could not only address air quality problems but also contribute to global climate change efforts.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### Constantinople renamed Istanbul

On this day in 1930, the Turkish city Constantinople, founded as Byzantium and later renamed after Emperor Constantine, was officially renamed Istanbul.

# Who will the citizens vote for in the next election?

Dr Mirza Hassan is senior research fellow at Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD).

Syeda Salina Aziz is fellow of practice in the politics and governance cluster at BIGD.

Dr Asif Shaham is professor at Dhaka University and visiting research fellow at BIGD.

MIRZA HASSAN, SYEDA SALINA AZIZ and ASIF SHAHAM

Thanks to consecutive rigged elections after 2008, voters' preference structure has become almost like a black box to us. Now that the July uprising has created an opportunity to restore the democratic system in Bangladesh, surveys are being conducted to understand the evolving voters' preferences. Recently, Innovision, a research and consulting organisation, conducted a survey on this. It released the results of the survey on March 8, focusing on capturing citizens' election-related perceptions through a set of sharp and well-designed questions. The survey covered a total sample of 10,696 respondents across eight divisions and 64 districts.

The most discussed aspect of the survey—circulating widely on social media and in mainstream media—was the findings of voting preferences. According to the survey results, of those who expressed a party preference in the upcoming election, 41.7 percent expressed support for Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), 31.6 percent for Jamaat-e-Islami, 13.9 percent for Awami League (AL), and 5.1 percent for the youth-led political party. The remaining 7.6 percent opted for other parties. While some of the political parties and their supporters were excited about the result, some were quite upset about the findings and discarded them outright.

While the survey was accurate, the presentation of the statistics

## A barber's lament

### The harsh reality of Bangladesh's common people



Abu Afsarul Haider  
is an entrepreneur. He can be reached at [afsarulhaider@gmail.com](mailto:afsarulhaider@gmail.com).

#### ABU AFSARUL HAIDER

Sitting in the familiar chair of my local barbershop, I decided to strike up a conversation with the man holding the scissors. As he worked with steady hands, I asked, "Now that we have managed to bring down the authoritarian government, how do you feel? What changes are you expecting in this new Bangladesh?"

He let out a weary sigh, his face reflecting years of silent struggle.

"Sir, for ordinary people like us, nothing really changes. We remain unnoticed, unheard. People only think of us when they need us. I don't know how old you were during the Liberation War, but we fought for a Bangladesh free from discrimination and oppression—just as we did in the July-August movement. Yet, since independence, governments have come and gone, but our lives remain the same."

He paused for a moment, then continued, his voice tinged with resignation. "We keep hearing about economic growth and development. The city expands before our eyes—new flyovers, high-rise buildings, shopping malls—but none of it benefits us. We are not part of this progress. We still struggle for the basics: housing, education, healthcare, even daily essentials."

His words carried the weight of a lifetime of disappointment. "Sir, since you asked, let me be frank with you. Common people don't ask for much. Our demands are simple: we want a fair and safe environment to live and work in, free from the fear of bribery and extortion. We hope for fair prices for essentials, uninterrupted electricity, clean water, and a reliable gas supply. We don't seek luxury, just a life of dignity. But tell me, in the past 54 years, has any ruling party truly cared about us? They have ruled us, but they never wanted us to prosper. Their own prosperity was their only concern."

He set down his scissors momentarily, his eyes meeting mine

in the mirror. "The ruling class—no matter which party is in power—has captured the state. They use bureaucrats, the judiciary, and the police to tighten their grip. And so, nothing changes for people like us."

Then, after a brief silence, he asked me, "Sir, have you ever seen where we live?"

"No, I haven't," I admitted. He nodded knowingly. "It's not just me—most people like us live in small, one room tin-shed houses in slums. Overcrowded, with no clean water, no proper sanitation. In the summer, our homes are unbearably hot; during the monsoon, our streets flood because of poor drainage. Every year, the authorities promise that things will improve, but that never comes. We are left wading through knee-deep water, watching our homes get inundated, year after year."

Picking up his comb, his voice now edged with frustration, he continued, "Sir, tell me, they spend so much on roads, flyovers, and luxury buildings—can't they build low-cost housing for us? Small, 200-300 sq ft affordable flats in the same slum areas? We are not asking for charity. We will buy them in monthly instalments. Wouldn't that be real development?"

I nodded, realising how little policymakers consider the everyday struggles of people like him.

"Many politicians claim their politics serves the people and upholds democracy. Do you believe them?" I asked.

He gave a bitter smile. "Sir, all political parties sell democracy before elections. But isn't it funny that most of them lack democracy within their own parties? If they don't practise democratic values internally, how can they establish democracy in the country? It's all a one-man show. Real democracy means ordinary people have a say, leaders are accountable, and policies benefit everyone—not just

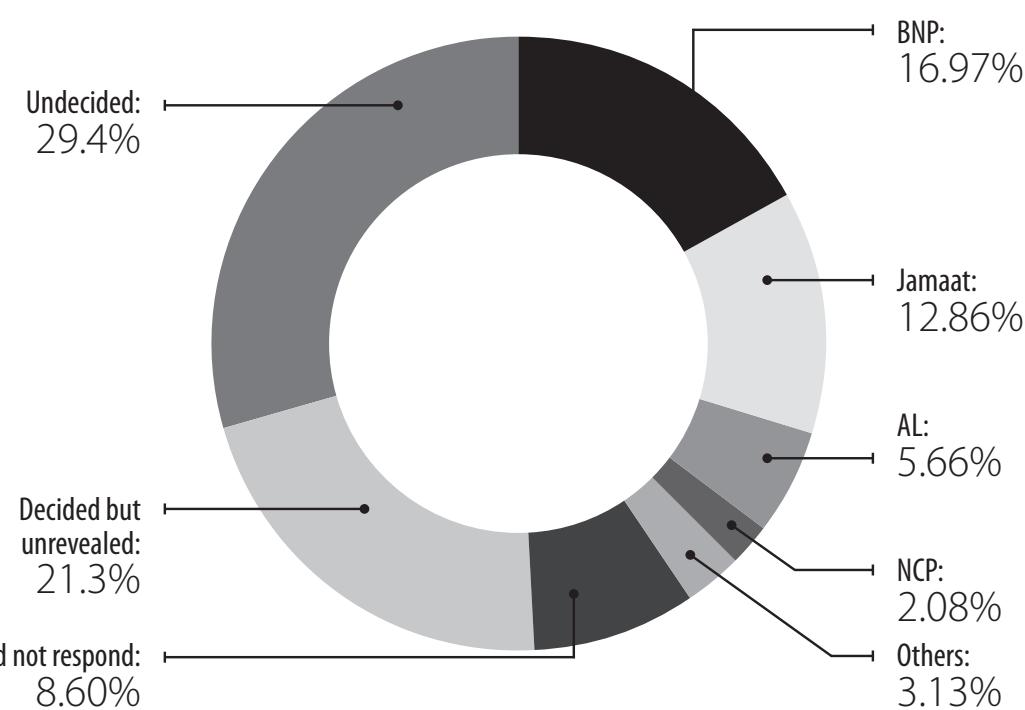
determining the electoral outcome.

At the same time, it is important to note that the undecided voters (29.4 percent) are most likely to be swing voters (who could go either way) because their choices are not determined by rigid party loyalty. We have converted the multiple response question to a single response for simplifying. The responses of 40 percent indicate that they are likely to consider the qualifications of the candidates to determine their preferences, while 27 percent of them would make their decisions based on the political situation before the election. It is likely that among the undecided voters, there is a percentage of "shy" AL voters, especially the five percent who are concerned that their preferred party may not participate in the next election. About eight percent of the undecided voters mentioned that they are undecided because they don't trust any mainstream political parties, and three percent of them are not satisfied with the options available. Therefore, there is a possibility that this 11 percent (8+3) of the undecided voters may opt for a new political party if the party succeeds in playing its card right. This is not surprising because, over the years, different surveys have shown that people in Bangladesh are getting frustrated with the mainstream political parties and are looking for alternatives. For instance, in the TAF-BIGD surveys in 2018 and 2022, more than 60 percent of respondents said they would affiliate with a new party if its ideology matched theirs.

The survey also sheds light on how citizens make their voting decisions. Family voting history and community political norms appear to play a disproportionately significant role in shaping individual choices. When we categorise the responses

to the question asking participants to identify the three most influential factors in their electoral decisions, two broad groups emerge. Again, we convert the multiple-response

(2.6 percent), and talk shows (1.3 percent). Combining the responses of the first group, it appears that the majority (51 percent) of responses pointed to the influence of family, religion-based groups, and the entry of a new challenger—the youth-led political party. However, such emerging voters' choice structure is in a fluid state, and we will have



question to single responses for simplicity.

The first group encompasses personal and community influences, including family members (28.6 percent), neighbours (12.1 percent), friends (5.5 percent), colleagues (2.1 percent), and religious and community leaders (2.4 percent). The second group consists of influence by various media sources such as social media news (11.1 percent), television news (9.2 percent), social media content (three percent), newspapers

friends, and community, while only about 27 percent indicated that media sources played a role in shaping voting decisions.

The first of the key trends that we can observe from the most recent survey is that the old and predictable electoral scenario of AL and BNP's duopolistic and hegemonic control over voters' choices seem to be casting a long shadow over current voters' preferences, and this will, perhaps, hugely benefit BNP and, to a limited extent, Jamaat. The youth-led new party—NCP—will need to embark on a Herculean task to deal with this.

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	40 Copenhagen natives
	41 Totals
DOWN	1 Inventor Nikola
	2 Massage targets
	3 Puritanical ones
	4 Bliss
	5 Stylish
	6 Some golf clubs
	7 Poorly lit
	8 Stores
	9 "Come on, help me out"
	12 Beachcombing finds
	16 Vaccine type
	21 Long-reigning queen
	22 Imperfect
	23 Explorer Byrd
	24 Oregon city
	25 Shopping aid
	27 Bank fixtures
	29 Lead to
	30 Correct, as text
	31 Zealous
	32 ERA and RBI
	36 Marsh



## MONDAY'S ANSWERS

S	T	R	O	P	S	S	P	U	D
T	E	A	P	O	T	A	R	N	O
A	R	T	E	R	Y	T	O	L	L
I	R	E	N	E		N	A	S	A
D	A	R	E		D	O	N	A	T
					R	E	A	M	I
									C
S	A	S	Q	U	A	T			Y
B	A	G	U	N	D				
E	L	I	C	I	T	P	A	V	E
G	E	T	U	P		L	A	P	E
G	R	A	B		W	I	Z	A	R
A	N	T	E		E	M	E	R	G
R	O	E	S		T	I	E	S	T

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO  
[dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

**Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1:**  
**National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization**  
**National Board of Revenue (NBR)**  
**IDEB Bhaban (10<sup>th</sup> Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh**

Memo No. 1(192) Active items/ Hardware /NSW/2024/2670

Date: 27 March 2025

**Subject: Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project -1. Request for Proposals (RFP) No. NBR-GD2A.01**  
**RFP name: Supply and installation of Hardware and infrastructure (network, communication, cabling, etc.) and standard software for NSW solution; other network, communication equipment, structure, hardware and cabling: Server & Storage and Network & Security Components for NSW Server Room & DR.**

**Addendum to the Request for Proposals Document.**

**Addendum No. 10**

This is for the information of all Proposers concerned that the following amendments/modifications have been made to the Request for Proposals: Information Systems Design, Supply and Installation (RFP) No. NBR-GD2A.01 pursuant to **ITP Clause 8** of the said Request for Proposals Document. Necessary amendment/modifications to the Request for Proposal document have been made through this addendum to address the issues raised in the **Clarification Requests/Queries** received and as a result of the **pre-Proposal meeting** pursuant to **ITP Clause 7** of the Request for Proposal Document.

Sl. No	RFB Reference	Existing Provision (as in initial RFP, amended vide Addenda 1-8)	As Amended
SL-1	Cover Page	Request for Proposals Information Systems Design, Supply and Installation (One-Envelope Procurement Process) (Without Prequalification)	Request for Proposals Information Systems Design, Supply and Installation (Two-Envelope Procurement Process) (Without Prequalification)
SL-2	Cover Page	RFP No: <b>NBR-GD2A.01</b>	RFP No: <b>NBR-GD2A.01</b>
SL-3	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). ITP 1.1, Page 45 Section IV – Proposal Forms, Pages 85-106 Section X – Contract Forms, Page 301	“The reference number of the Request for Proposals is: <b>NBR-GD2A.01</b> .”	Accordingly, the reference number of the Request for Proposals (RFP No.) shall be changed to: <b>NBR-GD2A.01</b> throughout the Request for Proposals Document.
SL-4	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). ITP 1.1, Page 45	“The Purchaser <b>shall</b> accept Proposal for multiple lots under this request for proposals document”.	“The Purchaser <b>shall</b> accept Proposal for multiple lots under this request for proposals document. A Proposer can bid for either one lot or two lots under this request for proposals document.”
SL-5	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). ITP 17.2, Page 48	The Proposer <b>must not</b> propose Recurrent Cost Items. The recurring cost during 3 year warranty period should be included in the bid price.	The Proposer <b>must not</b> propose Recurrent Cost Items. The recurring cost <b>during 5 year</b> warranty period should be included in the bid price.
SL-6	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). ITP 19.1, Page 49	The Proposal shall be valid until: November 05, 2024.	The Proposal shall be valid until: <b>October 16, 2025</b> .
SL-7	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). ITP 23.1, Page 50	The deadline for Proposal submission is: Date: March 13, 2025 Time: 14:00 hours BST (Bangladesh Standard Time).	The deadline for Proposal submission is: <b>Date: April 21, 2025</b> Time: <b>14:00 hours BST</b> (Bangladesh Standard Time)
SL-8	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). ITP 26.1, Page 51	The Proposal opening shall take place at: Date: March 13, 2025 Time: 14:30 hours BST (Bangladesh Standard Time).	The Proposal opening shall take place at: <b>Date: April 21, 2025</b> Time: <b>14:30 hours BST</b> (Bangladesh Standard Time).
SL-9	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). G. Evaluation of Technical Part of Proposal. ITP 32.2, Pages 51-54	PDS entry for ITP 32.2 providing the technical factors, sub factors and the corresponding scores for Lot-1 and Lot-2	The entire PDS entry for ITP 32.2 shall be replaced with new provisions provided in Annex -05 to this Addendum
SL-10	Section II – Proposal Data Sheet (PDS). J. Evaluation of Combined Technical and Financial Parts and Most Advantageous Proposal. ITP 39.1, Page 55	The weight to be given for cost is: <b>0.70 (point seventy)</b> . Discount Rate (I) for net present value calculations of recurrent costs Not Applicable	The weight to be given for cost is: <b>0.60 (point sixty)</b> . The weight to be assigned for Technical Factor is: <b>0.40 (point forty)</b> . Therefore, the <b>weight for cost plus weight for total technical score is 1 (one)</b> . Discount Rate (I) for net present value calculations of recurrent costs: <b>Not Applicable</b>
SL-11	Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, Para 2 – Technical Evaluation, Pages 63-72	Provisions governing evaluation and scoring of technical features pursuant to ITP 32.2, including documentary evidence required to demonstrate compliance with requirements.	The entire Para 2 ‘Technical Evaluation’ shall be replaced with revised paragraph provided in <b>Annex -04</b> to this Addendum.
SL-12	Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, Para 4 – Financial Evaluation (b) (i) & (ii) Pages 72-73	Recurrent Cost: 3 Years from Operational Acceptance (coincides with 3 year warranty period)	Recurrent Cost: 5 Years from Operational Acceptance (coincides with 5 year warranty period)
SL-13	Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, Para 6 – Qualification, Table 1.4 – Experience, 1.4.2 Specific Experience, Column ‘Requirement’, Pages 81-82	Participation as a prime supplier, management contractor, JV <sup>5</sup> member, sub-contractor in Information System contracts:  <b>Lot-1: at least with a value of USD 7.0 (seven) million equivalent during the last five years of the equipment similar to the equipment described in Section VII, the aggregation of quantities from several contracts is allowed;</b> <b>Lot-2: at least value of at least USD 7.0 (seven) million equivalent during the last five years of the equipment similar to the equipment described in Section VII, the aggregation of quantities from several contracts is allowed</b>  that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed Information System.  <b>Note: in case of Proposal for both lots (e.g., Lot-1 and Lot-2) the Proposer shall meet the requirements for each lot separately.</b>  The successfully completed similar contracts shall be documented by a copy of an Operational acceptance certificate (or equivalent documentation satisfactory to the Purchaser) issued by the purchaser(s).	Participation as a prime supplier, management contractor, JV <sup>5</sup> member, sub-contractor in Information System contracts <b>during the last five (5) years</b> :  <b>Lot-1: at least one (1) contract with a value of at least USD 5.5 (five million and five hundred thousand) or equivalent or at least two (2) contracts with a value of at least USD 2.5 (three point five) million each and totaling USD 6 (six) million or equivalent; Lot-2 at least one (1) contract with a value of at least USD 5.5 (five million and five hundred thousand) or equivalent or at least two (2) contracts with a value of at least USD 2.5 (three point five) million each and totaling USD 6 (six) million or equivalent;</b>  that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed Information System. <b>Similarity should be defined based on nature and complexity of the equipment described in Section VII – Requirements of the Information System for the lot offered.</b>  <b>Note: in case of Proposal for both lots (e.g., Lot-1 and Lot-2) the Proposer shall meet the requirements for each lot separately.</b>  The successfully completed similar contracts shall be documented by a copy of an Operational acceptance certificate (or equivalent documentation satisfactory to the Purchaser) issued by the purchaser(s).

SL-14	Section IV –Proposal Forms. Technical Responsiveness Checklist (format). Pages 122-125	The format, e.g. Tables for Lot-1 & Lot-2, to provide the values of parameters of the System and the individual Information Technologies, Goods, or Services to be evaluated using rated criteria / sub-criteria stated in PDS ITP 32.2.	The Tables for Lot-1 & Lot-2 to provide the values of parameters to be evaluated using rated criteria / sub-criteria stated in PDS ITP 32.2. shall be replaced with revised Tables provided in <b>Annex -07</b> to this Addendum.
SL-15	Section IV –Proposal Forms. Price Schedule Forms. Pages 137-151	Price Schedule Forms: 3.1 Grand Summary Cost Table 3.2 Supply and Installation Cost Summary Table 3.3 Training Cost Summary Table 3.4 Recurrent Cost Summary Table 3.5 Supply and Installation Cost Sub-Tables 3.6 Training Cost Sub-Tables 3.7 Recurrent Cost Sub-Tables 3.8 Country of Origin Code Table	The entire set of Price Schedule Forms shall be replaced with revised Price Schedules provided in <b>Annex -08</b> to this Addendum.
SL-16	Section VII –Requirements, of the Information System. Implementation Schedule. A. Implementation Schedule Table. Pages 169-173	Implementation Schedule Table No. 1 (Lot-1) Implementation Schedule Table No. 2 (Lot-2)	The entire set of Implementation Schedule Tables for Lot-1 & Lot-2 (Implementation Schedule Tables Nos. 1 & 2) shall be replaced with revised Implementation Schedule Tables provided in <b>Annex -06</b> to this Addendum.
SL-17	Section VII –Requirements, of the Information System. System Inventory Tables. Pages 181-196	System Inventory Tables Nos. 01-1, 01-2, 01-3 (Lot-1) & Nos. 02-1, 02-2, 02-3 (Lot-2)	The entire set of System Inventory Tables for Lot-1 & Lot-2 shall be replaced with revised System Inventory Tables provided in <b>Annex -03</b> to this Addendum.
SL-18	Section VII –Requirements, of the Information System. Technical Requirements. Part D: Technology Specifications – Supply & Install Items Appendix/Attachment-1. Technical Requirements for Lot-1. Pages 337-372	Technical Requirements for Lot-1	The entire Technical Requirements for Lot-1 provided in Attachment -1 to the RFP documents shall be replaced with revised Technical Requirements provided in <b>Annex -01</b> to this Addendum.
SL-19	Section VII –Requirements, of the Information System. Technical Requirements. Part D: Technology Specifications – Supply & Install Items Appendix/Attachment-2. Technical Requirements for Lot-2. Pages 373-480	Technical Requirements for Lot-2	The entire Technical Requirements for Lot-2 provided in Attachment -2 to the RFP documents shall be replaced with revised Technical Requirements provided in <b>Annex -02</b> to this Addendum
SL-20	Section IX – Special Conditions of Contract (SCC). Securities (GCC Clause 13). SCC applicable to GCC Clause 13.3.4, Page 293	During the Warranty Period (i.e., after Operational Acceptance of the System), the Performance Security shall be reduced to <b>six percent (6%)</b> of the Contract Price, excluding any Recurrent Costs.  <i>The Performance Security shall be further reduced by two percent (2%) of the Contract Price, excluding any Recurrent Costs, upon completion of each year of the 5-year IT Support and Maintenance Period (which coincides with the Warranty Period), subject to satisfactory performance by the Supplier.</i>	During the Warranty Period (i.e., after Operational Acceptance of the System), the Performance Security <b>shall not be reduced and shall remain at ten percent (10%)</b> of the Contract Price, excluding any Recurrent Costs.  <i>The Performance Security shall be reduced by two percent (2%) of the Contract Price, excluding any Recurrent Costs, upon completion of each year of the 5-year IT Support and Maintenance Period (which coincides with the Warranty Period), subject to satisfactory performance by the Supplier.</i>
SL-21	Section IX – Special Conditions of Contract (SCC). Defect Liability (GCC Clause 29). SCC applicable to GCC Clause 29.4, Page 298	There are no Special Conditions of Contract applicable to GCC Clause 29.4.	The Warranty Period shall commence from the date of Operational Acceptance of the System (or of any major component or Subsystem for which separate Operational Acceptance is provided for in the Contract) and shall extend for <b>sixty (60) months</b>

All other terms and conditions of Request for Proposals (RFP) Document No. NBR-GD2A.1 issued on 16 May 2024 shall remain unchanged. **This Addendum No. 10** shall be considered an integral part of the Request for Proposals Document and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained the Request for Proposals Document from the Purchaser and intends to obtain in accordance with ITP 6.3.

The request for proposals document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Proposers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD 100.00 (one hundred) or BDT 11,000.00 (eleven thousand)**. The method of payment will be bank draft, cashier's check or pay order. The document will be sent by registered mail or electronic mail, or, at the Proposer's choice, may be collected from the Project Office in person.

The Bidders who Purchased the RFP documents earlier, are requested to collect all eight (8) Annexures mentioned in this Addendum Notice from the office of the undersigned.

**(Jewel Ahmed)**

**Project Director**

**Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1:**

**National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization**

Email: [pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com](mailto:pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com)

Phone: +8801552462593

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance  
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)  
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.  
[www.sicip.gov.bd](http://www.sicip.gov.bd)

Ref. No. FD/SICIP/Proc./SD-308/72/2025/769

Date: 27-03-2025

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance			
Agency	Finance Division			
Name of Procuring Entity	Executive Project Director, Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)			
Title of Service	Audit Service for Performance Audit			
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
Expressions of Interest for	Consulting Firm (National) (Lump-Sump)			
EoI Ref No	FD/SICIP/Proc./SD-308/72/2025/769			
Date	27-03-2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
Procurement Sub Method	Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
Budget and Source of Funds	Development budget			
Development Partners	Asian Development Bank (ADB)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
Project / Programme Name	Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)			
EoI Closing Date and Time	24 April 2025 at 11 AM			
Information for Applicant				
Brief Description of the Assignment	Details are provided in Terms of Reference (ToR). For Terms of Reference (TOR). Please visit: <a href="http://www.sicip.gov.bd">www.sicip.gov.bd</a>			
Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	Minimum Qualification criteria: a) At least 10 years' experience in the field of auditing of public and private organizations. b) The firm must have experience of conducting performance audit. c) Last year's audit report of the firm. d) Availability of appropriate skills/experts among staff with demonstrated capacity to handle such assignment in terms of resources. e) Updated Trade License, VAT & TIN Certificates and other legal documents. A shortlist of consultants will be prepared upon evaluation of EoI's of the eligible applicants and a "request for proposal" document will be issued in their favor. The tentative duration of the contract is 8 (Eight) months.			
Other Details (If Applicable)				
Association with foreign firms is	Not Applicable			
EoI Detail Information				
Ref No	Phasing of Services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
01	Single	Dhaka	September, 2025	April, 2026
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
Name of Official Inviting EoI	: Mohammed Walid Hossain			
Designation of Official Inviting EoI	: Executive Program Director			
Address of official Inviting EoI	: Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna Dhaka-1000.			
Contact details of official Inviting EoI	: Phone: +880255138753-5 Ext: 100 E-mail: epd.sicip@gmail.com			
The procuring entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs without assigning any reasons whatsoever.				

Mohammed Walid Hossain  
Executive Program Director, Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)  
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance.  
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15<sup>th</sup> Floor), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka.

GD-792



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Police  
Police Telecommunication Organization  
Police Telecom Bhaban, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.  
[www.telecom.police.gov.bd](http://www.telecom.police.gov.bd)

## Invitation for International Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Suppliers in their official pad for Supply of VHF DMR Tier-2 Repeater, Fixed Set and Walkie-Talkie with necessary accessories in FY 2024-2025.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Agency	Bangladesh Police
3. Procuring Entity Name	SP (Logistics), Police Telecom Organization
4. Invitation for	Supply of VHF DMR Tier-2 Repeater, Fixed Set and Walkie-Talkie with necessary accessories in FY 2024-2025
5. Invitation Ref. No.	44.01.0000.057.11.048.24/812/Betar
6. Date	27/03/2025

7. Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) - (International)
Funding Information	
8. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)

9. Particular Information	
10. Tender Publication date	28 March 2025.
11. Tender last selling date	12 May 2025.
12. Tender closing date and time	13 May 2025 at 12:00 hrs.
13. Tender opening date and time (Technical offer only)	13 May 2025 at 12:30 hrs.

Name & address of the office	Bangladesh Police, Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.
Selling tender document	ASP (Procurement), Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.
Receiving tender document	Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.
Opening tender document	Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.

14. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	15 April 2025 at 12:00 hrs. at Police Telecom Conference Room (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor), Police Telecommunication Organization, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.
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INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
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15. Eligibility of Tenderer	1) Up to date Export license (2) Written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the tender in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Principal (3) Affidavit confirming the legal capacity and financial capability (4) Original full Brochure of products of the Principal (5) Other requirements described in the tender document.
16. Brief description of goods:	Supply of VHF DMR Tier-2 Repeater, Fixed Set and Walkie-Talkie with necessary accessories in FY 2024-2025

SL. No.	Description of Good	Price of tender document (Non-refundable)	Tender security	Completion time
1.	VHF DMR Tier-2 Repeater, Fixed Set and Walkie-Talkie with necessary accessories	10,000/-	TK-18,00,000/- or US\$-14,755.00	150 days from the Date of Opening I.C.

Procuring Entity Details	
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17. Name of official inviting tender	Shahriar Bin Saleh
18. Designation of the official inviting tender	SP (Logistics), Bangladesh Police, Rajarbagh, Dhaka-1217.
19. Address of official inviting tender	Police Telecom Organization, Rajarbagh, Dhaka-1217.
20. Contact details of official inviting the tender	Phone: +880 2-8301253 FAX: +880 2-8301404, Mobile: +88 01320-020041 e-mail: <a href="mailto:splog.telecom@police.gov.bd">splog.telecom@police.gov.bd</a>

21. The tenderers shall submit their Technical and Financial offer in separate sealed envelope. Furthermore both envelopes shall be covered by an outer envelope which is sealed.
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Special instructions	
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22. a) No tender will be received after the deadline of submission time & date.
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b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.
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c) The Procuring entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item(s) of the tender.
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d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.
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e) Evaluation will be done by Lot basis.
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f) Date of financial offer opening will be duly informed to the Technically Responsive Tenderers and their local agents.
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g) The Tender must comply with all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule.
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h) The Tender Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee issued by an internationally reputable bank and shall require to be endorsed by its any correspondent bank located in Bangladesh.
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i) The Procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Regulation 2008.
---

(Shahriar Bin Saleh)

BP 7810126915  
SP (Logistics)  
Police Telecommunication Organization  
Rajarbagh, Dhaka.  
Mobile: 01320020041

E-mail: [splog.telecom@police.gov.bd](mailto:splog.telecom@police.gov.bd)

GD-793



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd  
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Chief Engineer  
Sirajganj Power Station, NWPGCL  
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.007.07.0002.19.156

Date: 27/03/2025

## e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1092334	Renovation of lab room, decoration of containers, construction of washroom at different places and other works	27/03/2025	15/04/2025, 02:28 PM	16/04/2025 12:00 PM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

27/03/2025  
Md. Shafiqul Islam

Chief Engineer  
Sirajganj Power Station  
NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj  
Contact No.: +8801755630007

GD-801

## B-R Powergen Ltd.

(A Government Owned Power Generation Company)  
IEB Bhaban (8th Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka

Memo No. 27.31.0000.005.23.013.25.105

Date: 27.03.2025

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

B-R Powergen Ltd. (BRPL), a Government owned power generation company under Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources is inviting applications for the following posts:

Managing Director (01 Post)	Executive Director (Technical), (01 Post)
<b>Job Description</b>	<b>Job Description</b>
Report to the Chairman and the Board of Directors of the Company and accountable for the Company's entire day-to-day operations, profitability and growth. The Managing Director is the Chief Executive of the company. Subject to the supervision and approval of the board, the Managing Director will be responsible for overall management, e.g. administration, corporate planning, business development and ensuring the compliances of law, rules and regulations and for good governance. He is also responsible for supervision of all technical, financial & welfare aspects, negotiation for project financing issues with donors/development partners, governments. Moreover, also responsible for listing the company in the stock exchanges and comply all formalities with stock exchanges and securities regulators.	Report to the Managing Director of the company and is responsible as chief technical officer for overall technical matters of the company. Exercise overall supervision and control for efficient, economic and safe operation of the power plant(s). Ensures quality technical studies, engineering construction supervision of the power station(s) of the company and accords technical, administrative and financial approval as functional director in accordance with the delegation of authority. Supervise Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and overall operation and maintenance of the power plant(s) and be responsible for technical efficiency of the company. Forge strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders of the company to win support for the company's growth initiatives.
<b>Educational Qualification and Requirements</b>	<b>Educational Qualification and Requirements</b>
a. At least graduate in Mechanical/Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering from any recognized university/institute;	a. At least graduate in Mechanical/Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering from any recognized university/institute;
b. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable;	b. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable;
c. In case of Public Sector (GoB/ SOEs/Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector;	c. In case of Public Sector (GoB/ SOEs/Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay scales substantive grade 3 & above) in power sector;
d. In case of State-owned companies (SOCs) of the power sector, the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (Chief Engineer or equivalent & above) in power sector;	d. In case of State-owned companies (SOCs) of the power sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (DGM or equivalent & above) in power sector;
e. In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organization(s) in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority;	e. In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organization(s) in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority;
f. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations;	f. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations;
g. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in company law, labor law, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), corporate Governance, etc.;	g. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in company law, labor law, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), corporate Governance, etc.;
h. Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in corporate Management;	h. Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in corporate Management;
i. Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely, and convincingly for the intended audience;	i. Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely, and convincingly for the intended audience;
j. In-depth knowledge of the electricity industry, including regulatory requirements, market dynamics, and technical advancements.	j. In-depth knowledge of the electricity industry, including regulatory requirements, market dynamics, and technical advancements.
k. Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management.	k. Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management.
l. Proficiency in project management, including planning, execution, and evaluation of large-scale projects. Project Management Professional (PMP) certification will be an advantage.	l. Proficiency in project management, including planning, execution, and evaluation of large-scale projects. Project Management Professional (PMP) certification will be an advantage.
m. Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.	m. Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.

## Age

Between 50-62 years of age as on 27/04/2025.

## Tenure of Appointment

The initial contract will be for 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years, it can be extended for one more term of 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years in case of competent candidate.



## LAW OPINION

## The statehood of Palestine

**The centralisation of power within the big five veto-powered nations, their dogmatic self-interests, and the creation of an extra-legal international environment with express patronisation by the US has led to these unimaginable sufferings of the Palestinian people.**

MD. SHAKIBUZZAMAN

Much can be said as to the ongoing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity in Gaza, and the flagrant violations of International Humanitarian Law as well as International Human Rights Law by the Israeli occupation forces. It is important to understand what drives them to commit these heinous crimes—self defence, imperialist ideologies, theological rights of the holy land, thirst for more power, thirst for the remaining unoccupied land, or perhaps the false sense of superiority, the sense of looking down upon the Palestinians as lesser human beings.

On that note, what needs to be first discussed is the decades-old question of the statehood of Palestine through the efficacy lens of international law theories and in the eyes of the so-called world leaders. Perhaps a seat as a state, equal to all the other 193 states, at the United Nations (UN) will make the global elites not look down upon the Palestinians as lesser human beings; perhaps the abstract legal fiction of sovereignty and statehood will make Netanyahu and Trump think twice before sending in another barrage of missiles; perhaps settlement of this statehood issue will at least make them stutter before speaking about forced displacements and ethnic cleansing in broad daylight; perhaps, just perhaps, it will provide a much needed lumbar support to the rulers of the Middle East for them to truly stand up against the decades

of oppression and occupation of Israel, in the proper materialisation of 'collective Self-defence' alongside Palestine.

There are two governing theories relating to the role that 'recognition by other states' plays in the determination of statehood in international law, namely the constitutive or recognition theory and the declaratory theory. As per the constitutive theory, a state can enjoy international personality only if it is recognised by the other already existing states of the international community. However, Article 3 of the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States 1933 (Montevideo Convention) prescribes that recognition is not required to bring a state into existence. If the existence of statehood were dependent on recognition, the determination would become dependent on the political considerations of other states and may create complex situations where a state is considered a state according to some states but not others. Notably, with regard to Palestine, as of March 2025, 147 countries of the world, almost 75 percent of the UN member states have recognised Palestine as a state.

On the other hand, under the declaratory theory, a state becomes a state by fulfilling the minimum criteria of statehood under the Montevideo Convention (Art. I). The elements of statehood laid out in Article 1 are—defined territory, permanent population, government, and capacity to enter into relationships with other states. It

is submitted that all of them are satisfied by the state of Palestine. After fulfilling these required elements, in modern times, a state acknowledges itself as a state before the whole world through the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI), as did Bangladesh in 1971 in the exercise of the people's right to self-determination. Palestine also voiced her UDI back in 1988. However, the dependency of statehood on the coloniser and the occupied forces, as well as the hypocrisy of the United States as the all-knowing moral police of the world, have restricted Palestine from gaining a full member status at the UN.

In the context of Palestine, even after fulfilling all these requirements under both the theories, the state of Palestine is yet to be allowed to sit at the negotiating table with Israel regarding ceasefire as equal states and equal sovereign authorities. The centralisation of power within the big five veto-powered nations, their dogmatic self-interests, and the creation of an extra-legal international environment with express patronisation by the US has led to these unimaginable sufferings of the Palestinian people. Nevertheless, hope is what we have right now and the worldwide movement for the statehood and permanent full-member status of the state of Palestine is definitely a step in the right direction.

*The writer is lecturer, Department of Law & Justice, Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.*

## LAW VIEWS

## Structural reforms to address sexual violence cases

FAZLE ROHANY

Every year, Bangladesh witnesses horrifying incidents of sexual violence against women, triggering public outrage. Social media erupts in protests, streets fill with demonstrators, and the collective demand for justice—often in the form of capital punishment—grows louder. We are also staging demonstrations, advocating for the establishment of a separate tribunal dedicated to handling rape cases, while some demand public execution for convicted rapists. However, my core argument is that an overarching reform within the entire criminal justice system is imperative; as indeed, piecemeal reform initiatives will not be sustainable.

The issue is not the absence of laws in our country. Bangladesh has legal provisions to punish perpetrators. *The Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000*, prescribes the death penalty or imprisonment for life as punishments for rape. Special tribunals exist to ensure trials are completed within 180 days.

**Strict law does not deter crimes unless they are effectively enforced. Laws exist, but when perpetrators consistently evade punishment, "the fear" of going through the punishment as a legal consequence diminishes. Instead, criminals become more spurred.**

However, legal measures alone seem insufficient, as conviction rates remain dismally low generally. The survey reveals the extremely low conviction rate in rape cases (around 3%), which means that in a substantive number of cases, perpetrators potentially walk free. Several factors are involved in this— influence over and threats against the victims' families, negligence in evidence collection by the police resulting in defective investigations, inefficiency of the prosecution in building the case, the misuse of legal provisions, and



prolonged trial proceedings. Strict law does not deter crimes unless they are effectively enforced. Laws exist, but when perpetrators consistently evade punishment, "the fear" of going through the punishment as a legal consequence diminishes. Instead, criminals become more spurred.

Moreover, media coverage significantly impacts public discourse. If a case does not attract media attention, it often goes unnoticed. If the victim does not belong to a well-known institution or a class having social capital and mobility, justice seems even more elusive. Furthermore, if the perpetrator is influential, then often there is no question of justice at all.

Besides, there are societal issues too. In our society, before a victim can even demand justice, they face societal judgment. Questions arise: *Was her clothing appropriate? Why was she outside at night? Was this due to a personal relationship?* Instead of holding perpetrators accountable, we scrutinise the victims. This victim blaming culture not only silences survivors but also allows the perpetrators to repeat the crimes, and a culture of impunity subsists. Religious education is frequently cited as a solution, but does faith truly permit such crimes? Moral teachings exist in all religions, yet sexual abuse cases have surfaced

even in religious institutions. This raises concerns about structural failures rather than the absence of religious teachings.

If Bangladesh is to address the rape crisis, reforms must go beyond demanding harsher punishments. Ending sexual violence is not just about punishment; it is about dismantling the structural barriers and socio-cultural issues that allow it to persist. Unless we address the structural issues, the cycle of violence as well as impunity will continue. To ensure swift and fair justice for rape victims, it is required to establish a separate tribunal for speedy trial and form an independent investigation and prosecution services is crucial to ensure impartiality and build a solid case for justice, which resonates with the reform proposals made by the Police Reform Commission and the Judiciary Reform Commission too. Because the purpose of criminal justice system is to ensure fairness by upholding justice with transparency, accountability and integrity.

As a society, we must ask ourselves—is the person next to me safe? What is my responsibility?

*The writer is final year law student at the University of Dhaka.*

## LAW VISION

## Problems and Prospects of ADR in Bangladesh

ALPH IMRAN CHOWDHURY

The judiciary is considered the foundational rock of any nation's pursuit of justice and rule of law. But in Bangladesh, this essential institution is facing several challenges to its conduct, including crushing backlogs of cases, soaring costs of litigation and delays stretching for decades. These barriers can lead citizens to become disinterested in the formal legal system as unresponsive and ineffective. Here, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a viable solution, providing an efficient and cost-effective approach to resolving disputes.

ADR refers to an informal method for resolving a dispute without resorting to traditional litigation. In contrast with the adversarial nature of court proceedings, ADR encourages cooperation and consensus between the two parties involved. Its methods—arbitration, mediation, conciliation and negotiation, while designed to save time and money, also preserves confidentiality and goodwill between the parties. ADR practices are quite well-known across the globe for resolving commercial, family, and labour disputes.

Dispute resolution has been an informal



**To ensure ADR is effectively integrated into the legal system, courts should actively engage ADR for appropriate cases and track their outcomes.**

yet important practice among the people of Bangladesh, particularly in rural areas, where the *shalish* dominates as a village-based mechanism for dispute resolution. Yet, ADR received its formal legal treatment only after several pieces of legislature intervened to address the wrongs through methods alternative to traditional litigation.

The Arbitration Act 1940 initially regulated the concept of arbitration. However, subsequently, the Shalish Ain 2001 was enacted to modernise arbitration and is one of the latest statutes in harmony with the principles of the UNCITRAL Model Law. The mandatory requirement of mediation in civil matters under Part V of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 is further proof of formalisation and institutionalisation of ADR processes. For family and labour disputes, ADR mechanisms were established by the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act 2003, the Family Courts Ordinance 1985 (now replaced with the Family Courts Act 2023), and the Labour Act 2006.

In fact, court cases in Bangladesh can drag on for years or even decades, whereas, ADR provides resolution in weeks or months, facilitating quicker relief to disputants. ADR processes, such as mediation and arbitration, are far more cost-effective than traditional litigation. Hence, ADR not only ensures justice for people from all walks of life, but also alleviates pressure from the courts, allowing the judiciary to focus on more complex and critical matters.

However, there are challenges towards the effective implementation of ADR in Bangladesh. For example, the awareness level of litigants and even legal practitioners about ADR mechanisms and processes is quite low. Again, almost all ADR facilities e.g., arbitration centers and trained mediators, are largely located in urban areas.

On the other hand, there have been efforts to strengthen institutional support for the promotion of ADR. The Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) has been established as a dedicated platform for arbitration and mediation. The promotion of ADR is also supported through funding and technical assistance of the initiatives from international organisations, such as the World Bank and UNDP.

Finally, ADR must be explained nationally to citizens, especially in rural areas. The quality of ADR services can be increased by a robust training programme for the judges, lawyers, mediators and arbitrators. More ADR facilities in rural and remote geographical areas would improve access and institutional backing. To ensure ADR is effectively integrated into the legal system, courts should actively engage ADR for appropriate cases and track their outcomes.

*The writer is law student at the University of London.*

## 'If we don't score big, we don't stand a chance'

Bangladesh women's team will be spending this year's Eid-ul-Fitr not with their families but at a preparation camp in Mirpur as they are busy in last minute preparations before leaving for Lahore, Pakistan on April 3 for the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifiers, scheduled to be held on April 5-19. On Thursday, skipper **Nigar Sultana Joty** talked to **The Daily Star's** **Samsun Arefin Khan** regarding her team's preparation, expectations and chances at the event. The excerpts are as follows:

**DS:** Despite being in Bangladesh, you won't get to celebrate Eid with your families this year...

**Nigar Sultana Joty (NSJ):** We're kind of used to it. Initially we felt bad but now it doesn't sting as much. As this is our full-time job, sacrificing these things is not such a big thing for us.

**DS:** How have the preparations been for the World Cup qualifiers?

**NSJ:** The most important thing was the [Women's Dhaka] Premier League. We have played on very good wickets. There were good scores and there were a few competitive games as well. As we will compete in the same format [50-overs], it was very crucial for us. I think playing matches is more important than practice. The more matches you have played, the better impact it will have in international cricket.

**DS:** Will Pakistan and West Indies be Bangladesh's main obstacle in the qualifiers?



**NSJ:** I think all the teams are going there to qualify for the main event. I think except Pakistan, the condition will be difficult for all others. If you see the stats, West Indies and Pakistan are ahead of the other teams. But Ireland is also a good side. If you win every match, only then you can qualify.

**DS:** Are there any special plans regarding the wickets in Lahore?

**NSJ:** Our new batting coach David Hemp was the head coach of the Pakistan women's team. He is well versed about

the wickets and condition in Pakistan. Pakistan is usually a batting paradise. If you can't score big, irrespective of how strong your bowling is, you can't defend the total. If we can score at least 240 run plus on a regular basis, we will have a very good chance.

**DS:** The team also has a new head coach in Sarwar Imran. What's your assessment of him so far?

**NSJ:** I first had him as a coach in 2016. We were quite afraid of him at the time. Still, we are scared of him. He is a senior

coach and a well-organised person. Most importantly, he is a Bangladeshi coach, so there is no communication gap with the girls which I feel was needed.

**DS:** Some top WDPL performers were picked for the qualifying event whereas some regular players like Murshida Khatun were overlooked. Do you feel this is how the team should go about selection moving ahead?

**NSJ:** Those who got dropped from the side, their performance were monitored in the last 2-3 series. Those who performed really well in the WDPL were included. Like off spinner Sumona, who was the highest wicket-taker. Batters like Ishma was also included as she batted with a healthy strike-rate at the top-order. We often see our top-order batters struggle to score at a good pace and then the pressure falls on the middle-order. Because of these specific reasons, specific players were included in the side.

**DS:** Have Nahida Akter and Marufa Akter, who couldn't play in the WDPL, fully recovered?

**NSJ:** Nahida is 90-95 percent fit. She will join the side very soon. I think she has already started bowling. Marufa's recovery is also going well.

**DS:** How confident is the team about qualifying for the World Cup?

**NSJ:** Everyone is in good touch and if we can perform team-wise, we will do well. If we can apply our training in the matches, we can definitely qualify.

Search Committee members threaten resignation over NSC's decision

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday formed three more ad hoc committees of different sports federations, dissolving the present committees.

However, the Search Committee, responsible for recommending names for the ad hoc committees, has raised objections regarding the Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) committee. The controversy centers on the retention of long-serving General Secretary Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapal. In response, members of the Search Committee have threatened to resign.

"This is not the committee we recommended; it is the committee of Mr. Aminul Islam (NSC Secretary). If they do not withdraw the committee, we will resign because we are not fit for the Search Committee," Search Committee Convener Jobaydur Rahman Rana told **The Daily Star**.

He further added, "Retaining Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapal as general secretary contradicts the policy outlined by the Youth and Sports adviser." He also hoped that NSC would issue a new circular withdrawing the ad hoc committee announcement.

Previously, Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahamud had stated that an individual could hold key positions, such as president or general secretary, for a maximum of two successive terms. However, Chapal has served as BAF secretary for over 15 years.

He also said that they recommended the president of the archery ad hoc committee (Dr. Md. Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration) as per the request of the NSC secretary.

Meanwhile, the NSC has also formed two additional ad hoc committees for the Bangladesh Kho Kho Federation and the Bangladesh Baseball and Softball Association.

With the formation of these three new ad hoc committees, the total number of new ad hoc sports bodies now stands at 24.

## WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS Bangladesh drawn in strong group

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were drawn with hosts Myanmar, Bahrain, and Turkmenistan in Group C of the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers as the draw of 34-team, split into eight groups, was held in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The qualifiers will be played from June 23 to July 5. The champions of each group will advance to join automatic qualifiers China, Korea Republic, Japan and Australia in the 12-team final round to be held from March 1 to 26, 2026.

It is set to be a tough challenge for Bangladesh. Only Turkmenistan, ranked 141, are behind 133rd-ranked Bangladesh. Placed 55th in the FIFA rankings, Myanmar are the top-ranked side in this group, while Bahrain are 92nd in the rankings.

"We will be trying our best to get out of the group," Bangladesh Football Federation women's wing chairman Mahfuzia Akter Kiron hoped.

The local game's governing body has already decided to start the preparation camp of the national women's team from April 6 with 55 players, including 18 senior players who were not part of two friendly matches against United Arab Emirates.

Kiron also informed that they are trying to arrange two friendly matches before starting the AFC Women's Cup Qualifying campaign in Myanmar in June.

## 'Humble' Hamza captivates Bangladesh

STAR SPORTS DESK

In a country where football fans have long craved a new hero, Hamza Choudhury arrived – not with swagger, but with a smile. He left the country for England yesterday, with a similar grin on his face and a promise to return in June for Bangladesh's next Asian Cup qualifying fixture, against Singapore on June 10.

The English Premier League midfielder, currently with Sheffield United in Championship, touched down in Bangladesh with little more than a two-day visit planned to his ancestral home in Habiganj. But what followed was a national embrace. From heartfelt welcomes in rural Sylhet to a packed stadium in the Asian Cup Qualifiers clash against India, Hamza became the beacon of hope for a football-hungry nation.

Yet, it wasn't just his skills on the pitch that won hearts – it was his character.

Bangladesh cricket star Liton Das summed it up in a simple yet touching social media post on Thursday. Sharing a picture with Hamza, Liton wrote: "It was wonderful to meet Hamza Choudhury – such a humble person & what a player! Hoping for a brighter future for Bangladesh football with him in the team."

That one word – humble – has echoed through every corner of Bangladesh's football fraternity.



Sohel Rana, one of Bangladesh's most experienced midfielders, couldn't help but be amazed by how seamlessly Hamza blended in. "He has adapted to the team very quickly – it feels like he has been playing with us for a long time," Sohel said. "Despite being an English Premier League player, he has no ego."

From the dressing room to training grounds, his presence has felt more like a long-lost teammate returning home than a star guest from one of football's biggest stages.

What truly sets Hamza apart is his eagerness to learn. "I come from a different league and style of play, but these players – like Jamal – have far more international experience. That counts for a lot. I'm here to learn from them too," he had said.

At a time when Bangladesh football has been struggling to rediscover its pulse, Hamza's presence – both as a player and as a person – feels like a revival. The goalless draw against India in the Asian Cup Qualifier may not have lit up the scoreboard, but it was enough to show one thing clearly: Bangladesh football is finally dreaming again.

And, one thing that would assure the entire country are the following words from Hamza: "I'll be playing for Bangladesh for years."

## Gerrard or McManaman: Who will TAA follow as Real knock?

AFP, Liverpool

Trent Alexander Arnold's proposed move from Liverpool to Real Madrid has split opinions on whether a local hero can leave Merseyside without a lasting stain on his legacy.

Alexander Arnold joined the Reds 20 years ago as a six-year-old and has gone on to win a clean sweep of Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup titles.

His status is reflected in a mural that stands just metres from the club's Anfield stadium, emblazoned with the quote: "I'm just a normal lad from Liverpool whose dream has come true." However, how he will be remembered for years to come in his home city will for many be dictated by decision he takes in the coming weeks over his future.

In Spain, Alexander Arnold, whose Liverpool contract expires at the end of the season, would be lining up each week alongside his close friend and England colleague Jude



Bellingham, among a cast of stars also including Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior. The spotlight could also offer Alexander Arnold the chance to fulfil his dream of becoming the first full-back to win the Ballon d'Or. "I believe I can (win it)," Alexander Arnold told Sky Sports earlier this season.

By running his contract down, Alexander Arnold is in a strong position to make millions from a signing-on bonus in lieu of Madrid having to pay a huge transfer fee.

And he can argue there is little more to be gained by staying as Liverpool are 12 points clear at the top of the Premier League, meaning by the time his current deal expires,

Alexander Arnold should be a two-time English champion to go with six

other major trophies.

"It's about his legacy at Liverpool and how he is seen. Do you want to be seen like (Steven) Gerrard or (Steve) McManaman?" former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher, himself a one-club legend, said of Alexander Arnold's choice.

McManaman made the move from Liverpool to Real Madrid on a free transfer back in 1999. He won two Champions Leagues and two LaLigas in his four years and yet is being used as the counter argument encouraging Alexander Arnold to stay.

"He (McManaman) went to Real Madrid and won cups but he is not adored. If (Alexander Arnold) stays, he will be remembered as one of the best to play for the club and not far behind Gerrard."

Should he stay, Alexander Arnold, vice-captain of Liverpool, could be front and centre of trophy lifts in years to come as a local lad turned legend. But Liverpool are just the latest club to learn that the magnetism of Madrid is hard to resist.

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Trump keen to boost US-Bangladesh relations



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump, in a message to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, expressed confidence in advancing bilateral relations between the two nations and promoting regional security in the Indo-Pacific.

In his message, Trump extended greetings to Yunus and the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of Independence Day (March 26), according to the chief adviser's office.

"This period of transition [in Bangladesh] presents an opportunity for the people of Bangladesh to strengthen democracy, drive economic progress, and enhance security," Trump said, adding that the US looks forward to continuing its partnership in this decisive year.

"I am confident that we can advance our bilateral economic development while we strengthen our relationship and work together on promoting regional security in the Indo-Pacific," he said.



Army personnel maintaining order and ensuring safety at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal where thousands of people have been thronging in recent days to travel to the southern districts for the Eid holidays. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 1,42,000 displaced in Gaza in one week

Says UN after Israel resumes military ops

AGENCIES

The resumption of Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip has displaced 1,42,000 people in a mere seven days, the United Nations said Wednesday, warning of dwindling stocks of humanitarian aid.

"In just one week, 1,42,000 people have been displaced," the spokesman for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, pointing out that about 90 percent of Gaza's

population has been displaced at least once between the start of the offensive on October 7, 2023 and January of this year.

The space available for families is "shrinking," he said, adding that displacement orders currently cover some 17 percent of Gaza.

With each wave of displacement, thousands of people "lose not just their shelter, but also access to essentials such as food, drinking water and health care," said the

spokesman, Stephane Dujarric.

The "relentless bombardments and daily displacement orders" coupled with blocks on aid "are having a devastating impact on the entire population of more than two million people," he said.

"Our humanitarian partners are warning that as a result, medical stocks, cooking gas and fuel needed to power bakeries and ambulances are running

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### SILENT SENTINEL OF THE SUNDARBANS

A saltwater crocodile enjoys a mud bath in the Sundarbans, regulating its body temperature and preventing overheating. The largest living reptile, it thrives in coastal brackish waters, rivers and mangrove swamps across South and Southeast Asia. Once widespread in the Sundarbans, its population has plummeted due to habitat destruction, poaching and human-wildlife conflict, leaving only 100-150 mature individuals. As a keystone species, it helps maintain ecological balance by controlling prey populations and supporting the health of aquatic ecosystems. Its nesting behaviour also aerates soil and sustains the mangrove ecosystem. Conservation efforts, including habitat protection and breeding programmes, are now critical to preventing its extinction and preserving the world's largest mangrove forest.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬  
আপনার রাস্তার কাজ শেষ হবে থাকলে  
ঞ্চনি গ্যাসের হাতাঁ নিয়ে ফেলুন

**জরুরি গ্যাস শাট-ডাউন বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন পিএলসি-এর আমিনবাজার ডিআরএস -এ জরুরী ব্রেকাবেন্স কাজের জন্য দুল ফিল্টারের পারের ২য় দিন সকা঳ ৬:০০ ঘটিকা হতে পরাদিন সকাল ৬:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত মোট ১২ (বারো) ঘটা আমিনবাজার ডিআরএস -এর সকল রানে গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে বিধায় সাভার ও হেমায়েতপুর এলাকা এবং ঢাকা মহানগরীর আমিনবাজার, মিরপুর এলাকা, মিরপুর রোডের উভয় পাশের এলাকা, শ্যামলী, আদাবর, আগারগাঁও, মোহাম্মদপুর, লালমাটিয়া, ধানমন্ডি, হাজারীবাগ, কামরাসীরচর, কেরানীগঞ্জ (খোলামুড়া হতে কলাতিয়া, হ্যারতপুর) হাতিবপুর, ফার্মগেট, আজিমপুর, নিউকোর্ট, লালবাগ, শাহবাগ এবং তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকায় গ্যাসের স্লিপাপ বিরাজ করতে পারে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দৃঢ়ুক্তি।

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

Prime Bank

ISLAMIC BANKING

### PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 28

Faz Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:39 12:30 4:45 6:13 7:45  
JAMAT 4:49 1:15 5:00 6:28 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

### SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
27	28	4:36	6:13
28	29	4:36	6:14
29	30	4:35	6:14

### DHANMONDI HEIST

Target was the jeweller's stashed gold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The robbery in Dhanmondi was well planned, as criminals collaborated with a network of individuals, who posed as Rab members, intelligence officers, informants, a magistrate, and even student representatives.

Their target was to loot a large amount of gold and money they believed was stashed in the building owned by a jewellery trader in Dhanmondi, investigators said.

Around 4:00am on Wednesday, a group of 25-30 criminals stormed the six-storey building on Dhanmondi Road No 8, owned by MA Hannan, proprietor of Alankar Niketan Jeweller's at Bashundhara City.

They took away Tk 36.5 lakh and 2.5 bhoris of gold ornaments, according to the case filed with the Dhanmondi Police Station.

"They introduced them as law enforcers, a magistrate, journalist, informants, and students to enter the building in the name of conducting a raid," Masud Alam, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press conference at its media centre yesterday.

Police have arrested six suspects, including an army sergeant. They are army sergeant Farhad

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Monthly food ration per Rohingya now \$12

WFP backs away from drastic cuts; US promises \$73m for refugees

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has moved away from its recent decision to halve the monthly food aid for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char.

The monthly ration per refugee has been revised, and it would now be \$12 in Cox's Bazar and \$13 in Bhashan Char, Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Mohammed Mizanur Rahman told this newspaper.

The WFP informed the RRRC of its decision through a letter yesterday afternoon.

Earlier on March 5, the WFP announced that it would cut the monthly food aid from \$12.50 to \$6 per refugee from April.

The RRRC said that despite significant funding challenges, WFP has now ensured that

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Ghost writers dish out dubious articles on Bangladesh  
Dismislab investigation finds

STAR DESK

US-based International Policy Digest (IPD) has been allowing ghost authors to publish articles critical of Bangladesh's interim government since the August 2024 political changeover, an investigation by Dismislab has found.

These articles, often containing misinformation, have been republished in some Bangladeshi media, adding to a questionable narrative. They have also been shared and re-shared on social media.

They gained traction when posted by ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and other official pages linked to the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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