



## Toxic smoke damages crops in Chattogram

P3



## Israeli missiles strike Gaza hospital

P7



## The law is blind, but so are the people

P8



## A confluence of nature and culture

P9

# 33% hike in gas tariff for new industries

### Businesses, consumer rights groups slam the move

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government has set new gas tariffs for the industrial sector, hiking the price by 33 percent for new units, despite objections from businesses and consumer rights organisations.

According to the new rates announced by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), upcoming industries must pay at this new rate, while the existing units that use more than their sanctioned load will have to pay at the new rate for the excess consumption.

On the other hand, plants that got primary approval for connections but have yet to start their operation will have to pay 50 percent of their bills at the existing rate and the rest of their sanctioned load at the new rate.

The latest rates mean new industrial connections will be charged Tk 40 per cubic metre, up from Tk 30.

Similarly, new captive users will have to pay Tk 42 per cubic metre, up from Tk 31.5. Captive gas consumers

## GAS PRICE SHOCK FOR INDUSTRIES

GAS PRICE TK/PER CUBIC METRE	EXISTING RATE	NEW RATE
------------------------------	---------------	----------

Industries	30	40
------------	----	----

Captive	31.5	42
---------	------	----

➡ New rate for new connections

➡ Existing connections to be charged existing rate for sanctioned load

➡ Existing rate to be charged for half the sanctioned load for approved connections

are entities that have their own gas-powered plants to produce electricity primarily for their own use.

The gas distributor companies had proposed that the tariff for new industries be raised by more than 150 percent, BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said while announcing the new rates.

"But it would be tough [for them] to bear at the moment," he said, adding that the new prices were set after getting inputs from all stakeholders.

The BERC held a public hearing on February 26 on the proposal from the distributors to set gas prices for the new industries based on the actual cost of LNG imports.

Most of the stakeholders, including businesses and consumer rights bodies, opposed the proposal, saying it was illogical.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) staged a human chain against the proposed hike, arguing that raising gas prices would stifle new investment, hinder job creation, disrupt exports and severely impact the economy.

Bangladesh has ample gas reserves, but the authorities have never taken the initiative to drill new wells, said Shawkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, one of the largest industrial gas consumers.

"Instead, they have become dependent on LNG imports,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



**LAST-MINUTE PREP...** Dhaka University's former fine arts students yesterday put the final strokes on traditional cloth-based scroll paintings known as "Patachitra". These artworks portray motifs inspired by Bangladesh's rural life, history, mythology, and folklore. Five of these expansive 20-foot artworks will be carried overhead as part of today's grand procession celebrating the Bangla New Year.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

# Most parties want changes in basic principles, preamble

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Perceived to be an embodiment of the July uprising, the interim government was empowered with an overwhelming mandate for reforms. There is a firm expectation that this government would help bring about a state befitting the aspirations of millions who had taken to the streets in July. As such, constitutional reforms have become the centrepiece of the incumbent's efforts. Prior to the Consensus Commission's meetings, political parties came up with their proposals for constitutional reforms.

BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and 14 other political parties and platforms sought changes to the basic principles of the constitution. Of them, 15 called for revisions to the preamble, and 11 advocated for changes to both the basic principles and the preamble.

According to the proposals to the Constitution Reform Commission, the 16 parties and platforms that sought changes to the basic principles include BNP, Jamaat,

**BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and 14 other political parties and platforms sought changes to the basic principles of the constitution. Of them, 15 called for revisions to the preamble, and 11 advocated for changes to both the basic principles and the preamble.**

Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Gono Odhikar Parishad (ex-Ducus VP Nur faction), Bhashani Anusari Parishad, Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM), I2 party alliance, Khelafat Majlish, Ganosamhati Andolon, AB Party, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Nagorik Committee, and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

Fifteen parties that sought changes to the preamble are BNP, Jamaat, Rastro Sangskar Andolon, Bangladesh Jashod, Labour Party, I2 party alliance, Ganosamhati Andolon, CPB, Jatiya Nagorik Committee, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Khelafat Majlis, AB Party, Jatiya Gano Front, NDM, and Bangladesh Kalyan party.

**PROPOSALS ON PREAMBLE** BNP wants to keep "Bismillah-Ar-Rahman-Ar-Rahim" along with the Bangla text.

The party wants the preamble to read how it was prior to the 15th amendment, which was: "We, the people of Bangladesh, having proclaimed our independence on the 26th day of March 1971 and through [a historic war for national independence], established the independent, sovereign People's Republic of Bangladesh..."

The 15th amendment changed this sentence to read "national liberation" instead of "national independence" in brackets, which had been introduced to the preamble through the fifth

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## MEGHNA ALAM'S DETENTION

# Due process was not followed

### Says law adviser; HC asks why her detention shouldn't be declared illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of public outrage, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said the way model Meghna Alam was detained was not right.

The High Court also questioned the legality of Meghna's 30-day detention under the Special Powers Act.

On Saturday, the chief of the DMP's Detective Branch, which detained her from her home, was removed from his post.

These developments come as legal experts and rights groups raise concerns over the way she was picked up and how a late-night court hearing was held more than 24 hours after her detention.

They also term the Special Powers Act a draconian legislation and call for its abolition.

"There are some allegations against Meghna; but the process involving her arrest was not right," Prof Asif told a press briefing at the Secretariat.

"Her detention was approved by the home ministry. A meeting of senior government officials was held in this

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



## MAGURA RAPE

# Main accused charged with murder

STAR REPORT

A month after the death of the eight-year-old girl, who was brutally raped while visiting her sister's in-laws in Magura, police have pressed murder charges against the main accused.

The horrifying crime sent shockwaves across the nation, with many demanding that the government expedite justice for rape victims and reform laws related to the safety of women and children.

The charge sheet, which accused three others of concealing information and intimidation, came a month after her death at Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital (CMH), where she lost a week-long battle for her life.

"We have submitted the charge sheet to Magura Judicial Magistrate Court pressing charges against four persons," Inspector (investigation) of Magura

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



**RACING AGAINST THE STORM...** Farmers in Khulna are working tirelessly to harvest their ripe Boro paddy as fast as possible, worried they might get damaged by the nor'wester storms common during the Bangla month of Baishakh. The photo was taken from Pashchim Bilpabla area in Dumuria upazila. Related story on page 5.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# Power prices not going up anytime soon

### Finance ministry informs visiting IMF mission

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The subsidy allocation for the power sector is not going down anytime soon as the interim government does not plan to increase electricity prices on inflationary fears.

The disclosure was made during a meeting between the finance ministry and the visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund, The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the discussion.

The IMF mission arrived in Dhaka on April 6 on a 12-day visit to review Bangladesh's progress against various conditions before releasing the fourth and fifth tranches of the \$4.7 billion loan.

A final meeting on this -- involving the finance ministry and the Bangladesh Bank -- will take place tomorrow.

The IMF has been concerned about Bangladesh's increasing subsidy allocation for the power sector for long as they deem it to be an inequitable distribution of scarce state resources.

Over the past few days, the visiting mission held discussions with several relevant ministries and departments to learn whether the government would increase electricity prices and whether it would allocate more funds for power sector subsidy.

This fiscal year, Tk 40,000 crore has been allocated as power sector subsidy, which was later revised upwards to Tk 62,000 crore, including arrears.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1









## Country belongs to people of all religions, ethnicities Says army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army is committed to maintaining peace and harmony in Chattogram Hill Tracts and the rest of the country, Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman said yesterday.

Bangladesh belongs to people of all religions and ethnicities, he said.

"We want a peaceful and orderly country. We do not want conflict or hatred here. Whatever it takes to uphold peace in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, we are ready to do

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus laid the foundation stone of the Sampriti Bhavan at International Buddhist Monastery in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

## BRICK KILNS

# Toxic smoke damages crops in Chattogram

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Hundreds of farmers in Chattogram's Fatikchhari and Hathazari upazilas are facing losses due to toxic smoke from nearby brick kilns, which has been damaging their crops.

This has left many local farmers concerned about their livelihoods. Md Harun, 55, a farmer from Pindong union in Fatikchhari upazila, said, "Crops grown near brick kilns do not grow as expected, and are often covered in dust from the smoke emitted by the chimneys. As a result, these crops must be washed before being sold."

Harun, who cultivated tomatoes, brinjals, cucumbers, and sweet pumpkins on 80 decimals of land, said his crops were severely affected by dust from nearby kilns, preventing him from even recovering his production costs.

During a recent visit to several areas in the upazila, this correspondent observed that croplands near brick kilns were covered in dust particles from toxic fumes released by the chimneys.

Abdus Salam, 48, a farmer from Fakira Chan area in Fatikchhari upazila, was seen cleaning tomatoes in his field near the MA brick kiln.

"Since the brick kiln started operating, my crop yields have dropped by more than half. If this continues, we may have no choice but to abandon farming and find



alternative livelihoods," he said.

Didarul Alam, a farmer from Mirzapur union in Hathazari upazila, who grows mangoes and betel nuts, said, "The trees have been severely affected. Most of the kiln owners are financially and politically influential, so we are afraid to speak out against them, fearing possible retaliation."

According to data from the Department of Environment (DoE), over 90 brick kilns are operating across the two upazilas. Under the Brick Production and Kiln Installation (Regulation) Act, establishing brick kilns on or

within a one-kilometre radius of agricultural land is prohibited.

However, many kilns in these areas have been set up in direct violation of the law, often with the knowledge of the local administration.

Most of the brick kilns use firewood as fuel, which not only breaches existing regulations but also contributes significantly to harmful emissions, exacerbating the damage to nearby croplands.

A brick kiln owner in Hathazari upazila, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "Smoke

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## 'We seek balance in ties with China, India' Khalilur Rahman tells seminar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh does not consider its relationships with China and India as a zero-sum game but aims to maintain meaningful and balanced ties with both.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Reassessing Sino-Bangla Relations: Chief Adviser's Landmark Visit," organised by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University (NSU), he said Bangladesh's foreign policy is now entirely its own, no longer reliant on any external power, according to an NSU press statement.

He described Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's recent visit to China as a historic milestone.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said the visit was both symbolic and substantive. He reaffirmed China's commitment to deepening ties beyond politics, including cooperation in education, healthcare and people-to-people contact.

Dr Liu Zongyi, senior

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## CONSENSUS COMMISSION

# First phase of talks nears completion



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission (NCC) is aiming to complete the first round of dialogues with political parties by mid-May, with a second round of discussions to follow.

In the initial phase, the commission sent spreadsheets to political parties, seeking their opinions on various reform proposals. Based on the responses, it will identify the proposals that have generated significant disagreement and prioritise them for further dialogue.

"Dialogue may not be necessary on those reform proposals that receive broad consensus. But for those that show divergence, we will engage in discussions with the political parties to address and revise them," Prof Ali Riaz, vice-chair of the commission, told The Daily Star yesterday.

As of yesterday, the commission had received responses from 34 political parties and held dialogues with eight of them. "We are in contact with the political parties that have yet to submit their opinions on the reform proposals," said Prof Riaz, adding that the commission remains hopeful of completing the first round of dialogues by mid-May.

"We are requesting all parties to submit their views. However, if they do not, we won't be able to incorporate their opinions," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

**Talks with BNP are set for April 17, followed by meetings with the National Citizen Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.**

## CAMERA AT MADRASA DORM MJF concerned over safety of female students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed outrage and deep concern over the violation of privacy and safety of female students at a madrasa in Jashore.

Sixteen CCTV cameras – some equipped with night vision – were reportedly installed inside the girls' dormitories at Fatimatuzzohra Qawmi Female Madrasa in Navaron, Sharsha upazila, Jashore.

The discovery came to light after a parent filed a complaint and alerted the authorities.

MJF described the incident as a flagrant act of surveillance, constituting a serious breach of trust, dignity, and human rights – particularly of minors – within an educational institution where families rightfully expect safety and security for their children.

"This is not merely a violation of privacy – it is a criminal breach of their sanctity and safety in a place of learning," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF.

"That such equipment was installed in dormitories where girls reside and sleep is utterly shocking. We demand an immediate, impartial, and transparent investigation, along with the swift arrest and prosecution of all those responsible," she added.

MJF also voiced concern that the incident may not

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## Ex-JCD leader Jakir walks free after acquittal in 32 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Jakir Khan, who had been accused in 33 criminal cases including murder, walked out of jail yesterday morning.

He was released after being acquitted in 32 of the cases, having already served time for the remaining one.

Mohammad Forkan Wahid, superintendent of Narayanganj District Jail, said Jakir was released around 10:15am after all necessary legal procedures were completed.

Supporters gathered outside the district jail early in the morning with floral garlands and a motorcade to welcome Jakir.

Following his release, he led a procession through the city, causing a two-hour traffic jam on the Dhaka-Narayanganj link

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A woman browses pottery items at a stall on the first day of a two-day fair organised by the Gulshan Society at Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park in Gulshan-2 yesterday, marking the start of Bangla New Year celebrations. The event, titled "Oligoli Halkhata," aims to bring together residents through cultural festivities to celebrate Pehela Baishakh.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## Martyrdom anniv of five family members

STAR REPORT

The 54th martyrdom anniversary of five members of the family of Saidur Rahman, founder (president) of Projonmo '71, will be observed tomorrow.

The deceased are the father, mother, and three elder brothers of Saidur Rahman, a senior news presenter at Channel-i.

The father,Fazlur Rahman, an engineer; mother Hosne Akter, an NGO trainer; and brothers Mostafizur Rahman (Mojnu), a college student; Hasinur Rahman (Hiron), and Azizur Rahman (Babu), both high school students, were killed at their railway residence in Saidpur by Pakistani occupation army and its collaborators on April 15, 1971.

The perpetrators charged Saidur's mother with a bayonet and buried her alive. They were killed for their involvement in the Liberation War. Saidur, his elder sister Dilruba Khatun (Kajol) and younger sister late Camellia Rahman (Kakon) narrowly escaped.

## DU allowed to hold ‘Ga’ unit entry test afresh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday allowed Dhaka University to hold its “Ga” unit (business studies faculty) admission test (MCQ) for sixty marks afresh.

The bench of Justice Razik-Al-Jalil and Justice Tamanna Rahman Khalidi passed the order following a petition moved by Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir on behalf of DU authorities while hearing a pending petition.

In the petition, the DU authorities said that they have decided to hold “Ga” unit admission test afresh as there were some printing mistakes in the question paper. The exam was held on February 8.

Following the writ petition filed by a candidate, another HC bench on March 19 stayed for two months the publication of the results of DU’s “Ga” unit admission test.

## Farmers protest sand extraction from Atrai

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Farmers and residents of Dinaipur's Birganj upazila formed a human chain yesterday, demanding immediate cancellation of the lease for the Baldiyapara sand extraction site on the Atrai river.

The two-hour event began at 11:00am at Shantir Mor.

Speakers alleged that previous unplanned dredging had already caused nearly 200 bighas of farmland to be lost to river erosion. With the lease of the sand site renewed this year, they fear hundreds more bighas are now at risk.

More than 300 farmers joined the event.

**ফ্ল্যাটের শেয়ার বিক্রয়**  
বসুন্ধরা আই-ব্লকে ১০ কাঠায় ২ ইউনিট ৫০% কম খরচে লাক্সারিয়াস ফ্ল্যাটের জমির শেয়ার বিক্রয় চলছে।  
যোগাযোগঃ ০১৮৯৬০৮৮০০৪, ০১৮৯৬০৮৮৮০৫, ০১৮৯৬০৮৮৮০৭

**প্লট বিক্রয়**  
বারিধারা বসুন্ধরায় কে-ব্লকে প্লট নং ৪৯৬৬, ৫ কাঠা প্লট জরুরী বিক্রয় হইবে।  
যোগাযোগঃ ০১৯১১৬৮৬৮৯ ০১৯১১-৩২৮৪০৩

**Plot Sale**  
Bashundhara R/A, Block- I Extension 6 Bigha Corner, Road Size: 100/50/25 Feet. VIP road  
**Contact: 01706617524**

**পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি**  
**POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC**  
*(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)*


Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212  
www.powergrid.gov.bd  
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.৫৬৭৮.৬৪১.০০২.২৫.২৪২  
তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ

**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, আরিচা দপ্তরে আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works
1083939	Painting works of ground floor of control room, brick saling and RCC works of roads west side of control room, repair of cable trenches and construction of Slab Manikganj Grid Sub-station under GMD, Aricha, Aricha, Power Grid.
1095926	Anti Corrosive Painting, Tower Painting , & Supplying Name/Danger plate Work of 230 kV East West Interconnector Transmission Line & 132 kV Manikganj Kabirpur Transmission Line Under GMD, Power Grid, Aricha.
1096486	Supplying of office Stationary, sanitary and computer accessories for GMD office, Manikganj and Dhamrai grid Substation under GMD, Aricha, Power Grid.

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

প্রকৌশলী দেওয়ান মোঃ গিয়াস মাহমুদ  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, আরিচা

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ**  
**পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ।**  
**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ বিভাগের নিম্নের হতে বর্ণিত বেসমত/সম্মত প্রকল্পসমূহ বাস্তবায়নের নিমিত্তে পাবলিক প্রিকটমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এবং ততকাল সকল সংশ্লিষ্ট আইন মোতাবেক প্রকৃত টেন্ডারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহিতকৃত বামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মহলায়/বিভাগ	২.	সহপট্ট মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	সহপট্ট	৩.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
৪.	ক্রমকর্তী সফর নাম	৫.	সেবীর, পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ
৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিধি	৭.	পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ এর বিভিন্ন মহলায়/সহপট্ট কাজ
৮.	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	৯.	স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০৪০০.৩৭৯.১৪.০০৩(অংশ-৪).২০২৫/১০১২তারিখঃ১৩/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি.
১০.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	১১.	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
১২.	বাস্কেট ও অন্তর্ভুক্তিকৃত	১৩.	কোট নং-১২০২০১১০১০৪৪৪-৩২৪৮১০৬ "আবাসিক" বাত, কোড-১২০২০১১০১০৪৪৪-৩২৪৮১০৮ "অন্যান্য ভবন ও স্থাপনা" বাত।
১৪.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১৫.	পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ
১৬.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৭.	২৯/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি. অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
১৮.	অবেদনপত্র ও দরপত্র মাফিসের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৯.	০৩/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি. ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
২০.	দরপত্র বস্ত্র উন্মুক্ত কলেজের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	২১.	পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ ৩০/০৪/২০২৫ খ্রি. ১২:০০ ঘটিকা
২২.	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	২৩.	(১) টেন্ডারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ফরমানদ ট্রেন্ড শাইনেল ও জাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ (২) ফরমানদায় আরবক পরিষেবার পে-ট্রাফ/সিটিফিকেট (৩) মাসিককৃত সদস্যপত্র (৪) গত ২০/০১/২০২৫ খ্রি-২০-০৪-২০২৫ খ্রি. পর্যন্ত ০০(তিন) মাসের ব্যাক স্টেটমেন্টের ব্যাক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (৫) সফটওয়্যার সফটওয়্যার (৬) সফটওয়্যার (৬) কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিম্নের পাতে যোগদান (৭) দরদাতার ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ফটো বর্ণিত কাগজপত্র গ্রন্থ প্রেরণ প্রোগ্রামে কবর্তকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে (সত্যায়ন কর্মকর্তার নাম ফুল সীল ও মোবাইল নম্বর প্রাপ্ত হতে হবে) উপর্যুক্ত যেকোন সদস্যপত্র বা ফরম দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

ক্র. নং.	প্রকল্পের নাম	সিডিংয়ের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়-সীমা
১.	ফরমিটারি ভবনের নিচতলার টাইলস পরিষ্কার, কোর্সে ব্যারাক ট্রাব, পূর্ব ও পশ্চিম পার্শ্ব সিঁড়ি ঢালাই, সাদাঘর ও উল্টো সোফা/সোফাটেক্স কাল	১০০০/-	৪৪,০০০/-	২১ দিন
২.	পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ এর অভ্যন্তরে জিরেকট মাস্টের দক্ষিণ পার্শ্ব প্রাক্করণে ও সিঁড়ি ট্রাকের সফার/সোফাটেক্স কাল	১০০০/-	৫৮,০০০/-	২১ দিন

নিম্নের নির্দেশনা

(ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় নির্দেশনা/শর্তাবলী টেন্ডার সিডিংয়ে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে।

(খ) দরপত্র জামানত/পে-অর্ডার পরিচালক (প্রকল্প ও উন্নয়ন) পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ এর অনুমূল জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

(গ) দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত সকল কর্তৃপক্ষ PPA-২০০৬ ও PPR-২০০৮ এবং এর তদারকি সংশ্লিষ্ট অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে।

(ঘ) বাড়ি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের যুক্তিবাহী যন্ত্রাঙ্ককে পাঠে অবৈধন পূর্বক নির্ধারিত তারিখে অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিংয়ে সন্নিবেহ করা হবে।

(ঙ) দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রাপ্তি পর ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা নগদ জুটিনিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পে ছীক করতে হবে।

(চ) সীলদালা বৃত্ত বাবের উপর কাজের নাম উল্লেখ পূর্বক অফিসঘরে দরপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(ছ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে নির্দেশনা বাতীত যে কোন অর্থের সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের পৃথকভাবে সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মো সোলেহা হানা)  
ফোন-৯০১১১০৬৬  
পরিচালক (প্রকল্প ও উন্নয়ন)  
অতিরিক্ত ডিউটিরি  
গণ/সেবীর  
পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ।

GD-875

## Country belongs

FROM PAGE 3

it," he said at an event at the International Buddhist Monastery in the capital's Merul Badda, where Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus laid the foundation stone of a building titled Sampriti Bhaban.

Waker said, "Bangladesh is a land of peace and unity. For thousands of years, people of all religions, castes, and communities have lived here together in peace. Today's event reflects that spirit. It is not just the foundation of a building – it is a gathering of harmony."

The Sampriti Bhaban will cost approximately Tk 7.5 crore, and the army will do the construction work, he said.

Recalling his early career spent in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Waker said, "I spent

a large part of my youth working closely with the Buddhist community there. I attended many 'Kothin Chibor Dan' ceremonies and was actively involved in supporting them."

Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain, CHT Affairs Adviser Supradip Chakma, Religious Secretary AKM Aftab Hossain Pramanik; Bangladesh Buddhist Federation Advisory Council Acting Chairman Prof Sukomal Barua, and International Buddhist Monastery Deputy Chief Bhikkhu Sunandapriya also spoke.

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation arranged the programme with Venerable Dharmapriya Mahathera, the deputy chief patriarch of Bangladesh Buddhist Sangha Council, in the chair.

## Ex-JCD leader Jakir

FROM PAGE 3

road, Bangabandhu Road, and adjacent streets. Traffic normalised nearly three hours later.

Jakir was arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion on September 3, 2022, after spending years in hiding.

He had been accused in 33 cases, including charges of murder, extortion, arms possession, and drug-related crimes.

On January 7 this year, he and all the other accused were acquitted in the high-profile murder case of Sabbir Alam Khandaker, a former BKMEA vice president who was shot dead near his home on February 18, 2003.

Jakir's lawyer, Rajib Mondal, said, "Jakir Khan has been acquitted in 32 out of the 33 cases filed against him. In one case, filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1994, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison. The sentence was later reduced to eight years by the High Court, and further reduced by another three years following a review petition

in the Supreme Court. He has now completed the full term of this final sentence."

Jakir began his political career in the 1990s with the Jatiyo Party's student wing before joining JCD. He gained notoriety as a "cadre" and was made JCD's district president in 1999.

After being named in the 2003 Sabbir murder case, he went into hiding and was arrested nearly two decades later in 2022.

He allegedly led a large criminal network in Narayanganj and was also accused of killing rival drug kingpin Dayal Masud.

Following the fall of the previous regime, Jakir's followers were accused of asserting control over several local sectors, including transport and the jhoot (garment waste) business.

On September 22, a clash involving gunfire broke out at the city's central bus terminal between Jakir's supporters and a rival BNP faction over control of a transport route.

## We seek balance

FROM PAGE 3

research fellow at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, highlighted the socio-cultural and strategic significance of bilateral ties and China's readiness to support Bangladesh's post-LDC graduation and expand cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

In his keynote, Prof Mohammed Nuruzzaman of NSU's political science and sociology department said Bangladesh's foreign policy has undergone strategic recalibration since the July uprising, and ties with China have entered a new phase.

He said tensions with India have influenced the trajectory of Dhaka-Beijing relations.

SIPG Director Prof Sk

Tawhique M Haque said the visit marks a critical shift in foreign policy towards regaining strategic autonomy.

Senior Research Fellow Mohammad Sufiur Rahman stressed the importance of future engagement in transboundary water cooperation, agriculture, and vocational and technical education. He reiterated Bangladesh's expectation of a meaningful Chinese role in stabilising Myanmar's Rakhine State to enable the safe return of Rohingya refugees.

French Ambassador Marie Masdupuy, NSU Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, and foreign policy analyst Syed Shahnawaz Mohsin also spoke at the event.

## MJF concerned over

FROM PAGE 3

be isolated, raising alarm over the potential presence of similar surveillance in other madrasas and residential institutions.

"This may just be the tip of the iceberg," said Shaheen Anam, warning that both girls' and boys' hostels nationwide may face similar threats.

MJF called upon the women and children affairs ministry and the education ministry to launch coordinated or independent investigations into all hostels of educational institutions.

The statement also highlighted a series of deeply troubling incidents involving video based sexual violence and cybercrime in recent weeks in Bagerhat, Narayanganj, and Narsingdi.

MJF urged that criminal proceedings be initiated against those involved, under relevant child protection and privacy laws.

It also advocated for the establishment of a nationwide regulatory and monitoring framework for madrasas, educational institutions, and other residential facilities for children, to ensure that effective safety protocols are in place.

MJF stressed the urgent need for a strengthened cybercrime monitoring and response system to combat the digital harassment and exploitation of girls and women.

Toxic smoke

FROM PAGE 3

emission is inevitable during brick production. Unfortunately, we are helpless in addressing the issue."

Mojahidul Islam, deputy director of the DoE in Chattogram, confirmed that most of the kilns in both upazilas are illegal. "We have already demolished several kilns and are working to shut down the remaining ones."

60 more

FROM PAGE 3

She said 26 specialist doctors from China, the UK, the US, France, Singapore, and Bangkok have arrived in Bangladesh to assist with ongoing treatment.

"Among the injured, 21 have lost both eyes and 450 have lost one. We are updating and verifying the list to build an accurate and error-free database," she said.

## First phase of talks nears

FROM PAGE 3

Once the first phase concludes, the commission will determine its next course of action. It is scheduled to meet the National Democratic Movement (NDM) Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Revolutionary Communist League on April 15. Talks with BNP are set for April 17, followed by meetings with the National Citizen Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

"In the meantime, the commission will continue to hold dialogues with other parties to build national consensus, based on which a July charter will be prepared," Prof Riaz added. He noted that the commission aims to identify a clear path toward comprehensive state reforms through this process.

Yesterday, Gono Forum and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Bangladesh submitted their opinions on the reform proposals to the NCC. An eight-member delegation from Gono Forum, led by General Secretary Md Mizanur Rahman, submitted their proposals to Prof Riaz at the commission's office in the parliament building in the morning. Later, a delegation from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Bangladesh, led by Secretary General Maulana Manjurul Islam Afendi, also submitted the party's reform proposals.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, a member of the commission, was present during the submissions. Although Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam had earlier submitted their proposals to the

Constitutional Reform Commission, this was their first formal submission to the NCC.


The NCC was formed under the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus with the goal of building national consensus on key reform agendas.

The commission officially began its activities on February 15. Formal discussions on the proposals began on March 20.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
APRIL 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:45	6:24	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	5:00	6:28	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**PC Pole Manufacturing Plant**  
**BPDB, Saidpur, Nilphamari**  
**E-mails [xen.pcpole.saidpur@gmail.com](mailto:xen.pcpole.saidpur@gmail.com)**

Memo No. 27.11.7385.550.01.018.25.121  
Date: 13-04-2025

**Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)**


Tender ID	Name of Work, Ref. No. & date	Tender publication date & time	Tender/proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time
1091752	Supply of Different Types of Electrical Tools, Flood Lights, Cable etc. 27.11.7385.550.01.018.25.119 Date: 13-04-2025	13-04-2025 11:00	27-04-2025 16:00	28-04-2025 11:30
1090683	Supply of Busbar, Different Types of Air Cylinder, Current Connector, Serbo Motor etc. 27.11.7385.550.01.018.25.120 Date: 13-04-2025	13-04-2025 11:15	27-04-2025 16:00	28-04-2025 11:45

This is one online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১০২৩(২)/১৩/০৪/২৫

Signed  
**Engr. Md. Shofikul Islam**  
ID No. I-01923  
Executive Engineer  
PC Pole Manufacturing Plant  
BPDB, Saidpur, Nilphamari

GD-873

**অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
**প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।**  
**Website: [www.agranibank.org](http://www.agranibank.org)**  
**দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ**  
**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০৪/২০২৫  
তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২৫

"অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে চুক্তিভিত্তিক একজন খসড়াশীল পর্যায়মর্ক (তথ্য প্রযুক্তি) নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদের নাম	খসড়াশীল পর্যায়মর্ক (তথ্য প্রযুক্তি)
শিক্ষাবৃত্ত	কোন যৌক্তিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান/প্রোগ্রামিং, পর্যায় বিজ্ঞান, চলিত পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান, পলিত, পরিমাপন বা ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল ও ইলেক্ট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (ইইই)-এ স্নাতক স্নাতক ডিগ্রীধারী অথবা আইসিটিতে ডিপ্লোমাস যে কোন বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারী হতে হবে।
অভিজ্ঞতা	১) তথ্য প্রযুক্তি খাতে কমপক্ষে ১২ (বারো) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা; তদুপরে ব্যাক বা অর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। এছাড়া ব্যাংকিং-আইটি সম্পর্কিত কাজ যথাঃ আইটি পলিসি এড প্রান্সি, ফিন্যান্সিয়াল নেটওয়ার্ক এড অ্যান্ডপারকেন, আইটি বিষয়ক বিভিন্ন প্রকার রিপোর্ট, ফিন্যান্সিয়াল ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেম, সাইবার সিকিউরিটি টেকনোলোজি, পেমেন্ট টেকনোলোজি, ইত্যাদি কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ২) অনুমানিত/নির্ধারিত কোন কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যার সনদ/সহযোগী সনদ হতে হবে। ৩) তেজের ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ক্রম সংক্রান্ত অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ৪) বিভিন্ন অপারেটিং সিস্টেম (UNIX, Linux & Windows) পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে বাবর ও কপিরাইট জ্ঞান থাকতে হবে। ৫) MS SQL Server, Oracle Database & Information Security সম্পর্কে বাবর ও কপিরাইট জ্ঞান থাকতে হবে। ৬) Network System, Hardware, Web and Mobile Application, SAN Storage System, Tape Library, পরিকল্পনা, নকশা এবং হকমেন্টেশনের বাবর ও কপিরাইট জ্ঞান থাকতে হবে। ৭) যে কোন ব্যাংকের Core Banking Solution (CBS) তদারকিকরণে বাবর ও কপিরাইট জ্ঞান থাকতে হবে। ৮) বিভিন্ন সিস্টেম যেমন- জেনারেল ব্যাংকিং, সোন/প্রোডাক্স, রেমিটেন্স সিস্টেম, ফরেন ট্রেডিং, আন্তর্জাতিক হিসাব সমন্বয়, ট্রেজারী ও স্ট্রাটেজি সিস্টেম ইত্যাদির সাথে আইসিটি এর সমন্বয় বিষয়ক বাবর বাবর থাকতে হবে। ৯) ব্যাংকিং জ্ঞানকে প্রযুক্তিগত জ্ঞানে রূপান্তরের বাবর/প্রকল্প ও বাবর দক্ষতা থাকতে হবে। ১০) ব্যাংকিং বাবর প্রয়োজনীয়তা অনুযায়ী সের্বিসে বাবর/প্রকল্পের আলোকে System Design and Development এর অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে। ১১) বাংলা বাবর এবং ইউজার-বাবর বাবর/প্রকল্প দাখলা উপস্থাপনের দক্ষতা থাকতে হবে।
বয়স	সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ বছর।
চুক্তির সময়েকাল	০১ (এক) বছর (পরবর্তীতে নবায়নযোগ্য)।
পারিশ্রমিক/সম্মানী	কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে নির্ধারিত হবে।
কার্যপত্র, নিয়োগের শর্ত ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	প্রার্থীর কার্যপত্র, নিয়োগের শর্ত ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী <a href="http://www.agranibank.org">www.agranibank.org</a> এ প্রদর্শন করা হয়েছে।

অবেদন পদ্ধতি

(i) অবেদনপত্রের সাথে সকল শিক্ষাবৃত্ত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত সনদ; (ii) অর্থিত অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত প্রমাণসমূহ সংযুক্ত করতে হবে; (iii) ১ম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেক কন্ট্রোল/ডেভেলপার/ক্যাডিলার-এর নিকট হতে সত্যায়িত পৃষ্ঠা চরিত্রিক সদস্যপত্র; (iv) সদ্য তেজা ৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে; (v) অবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতার নাম, ছাত্রী ঠিকানা, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, শিক্ষাবৃত্ত যোগ্যতা (পটীকা, বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বিভাগ/শ্রেণী) সিডিং, পাসপোর্ট সনদসহ, জন্ম তারিখ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র নম্বর, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র নম্বর, (vi) ০৬/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখে বঙ্গ, নিজ জেলার নাম, যোগাযোগের জন্য কোন নম্বর, ই-মেইল ঠিকানা, ই-বৈধিক অঙ্ক, জাতীয়তা, বর্ষ ইত্যাদি উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে; (vii) ডেভেলপার/ক্যাডিলার-এর নিকট হতে পৃষ্ঠা নথিভুক্ত সনদ (viii) বাবর উপ পদের নাম সুপারিজারে উল্লেখ করতে হবে; (ix) সরকারি, আধা সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরি/বর্তমান প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই যথার্থ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে অবেদন করতে হবে; (x) পটীকা/সাক্ষরকারের উদ্দেশ্যে যাত্রাযোগের জন্য ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার বস্ত্র বহন করতে হবে না; (xi) অবেদনপত্র এবং এর সাথে সংযুক্ত আনুষ্ঠানিক ও পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতার কাগজপত্রাদি অবশ্যই ০৬/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে মহাব্যবস্থাপক, এটিআর প্রান্সি, ডিপ্লোমেন্ট অ্যান্ড অপারেশনাল ডিভিশন, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি., প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৯/ডি, নিলুপুশা বা/এ, মতিভিল, ঢাকা বাবর ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করতে হবে; (xii) অবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত আনুষ্ঠানিক কাগজপত্রাদি scan করে soft copy সহ [gmdadmin@agranibank.org](mailto:gmdadmin@agranibank.org) এ e-mail এ অবশ্যই প্রেরণ করতে হবে; (xiii) সদস্যের কোন অবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না; (xiv) নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন অবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না; (xv) অবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে বিচারবিহীন সাক্ষরকার লেটার নং-২৭ তারিখ-১২/০৪/২০২১ এর নির্দেশনা অনুসরণ করতে হবে; (xvi) সুস্বাক্ষরিত ও অসম্পূর্ণ অবেদনপত্র কোন কারণে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করার ক্ষিৎ নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা, সংশোধন ও বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

**জায়েদুল হক**  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
এটিআর প্রান্সি, ডিপ্লোমেন্ট অ্যান্ড অপারেশনাল ডিভিশন  
অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৯ডি নিলুপুশা বা/এ  
মতিভিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

GD-868



## Russian warships arrive in Ctg on goodwill visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three Russian Navy warships arrived at Chattogram Port yesterday for a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

Upon their arrival at Chattogram Port, the ships were welcomed by the chief staff officer of the commander, Chattogram Naval Area, who greeted the officers and sailors on board.

The visiting ships are -- "Rezkiv", "Hero of the Russian Federation Aldar Tsydenzhapov", and "Pechenga".

Also present at the welcoming ceremony were the Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh, the military, air, and naval Attachés, the Honorary Consul of Russia in Chattogram, and senior officials of the Bangladesh Navy.

Earlier, as the visiting ships entered Bangladesh's maritime boundary, they were received by the Bangladesh Navy ship BNS Khalid Bin Walid.

During their stay, the captains of the visiting warships, along with the Russian ambassador and a delegation, are scheduled to pay courtesy calls on the commander of the Chattogram Naval Area, the commander of the Bangladesh Navy Fleet, and the chairman of the Chattogram Port Authority. The Russian warships are scheduled to depart on April 16.

## Two killed as lift cable snaps at Sitakunda factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two workers were killed when a cable of a lift snapped at GPH Ispat, an iron rod manufacturing factory in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram yesterday, said police.

The deceased are Md Rifat, 25, and Md Mostafa, 24. The incident took place in the afternoon, said Mojibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station.

The two were declared dead upon arrival at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

### PANGSHA UPAZILA IN RAJBARI

## Bridge work not finished after 5yrs



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Construction of a 650-metre-long bridge over the Gorai river in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari remains incomplete five years after the project began.

According to the officials concerned, the construction work has been going on with a sluggish pace due to complication with installation of spans and acquisition of land for connecting roads.

The bridge is expected to improve road connectivity between Rajbari, Magura, and Jhenaidah districts once operational.

According to the sources of Local Government Engineering Department in Rajbari, the bridge is being built under the Critical Infrastructure in Rural Roads project at a cost of Tk 63,91,68,170. The contract was awarded to Mir

Habibul Alam's MM Builders Engineering. The work started on June 3, 2020 with an initial deadline till June 3, 2023. Later, the deadline was extended.

Visiting the construction site at Naduria Ghat in Pangsha upazila, this correspondent saw five spans and three girders are yet to be installed, while only a few workers were engaged at the site.

Locals said officials had discussed acquiring land in 2023, but in February last year, they were informed that it would not proceed. Now, fresh discussions about land acquisition have emerged, further delaying the project.

"In absence of a bridge, we have to cross the river on boats at risk, especially during monsoon. The bridge will significantly ease our connectivity with neighbouring Jhenaidah and Magura districts,"

said Apurbo Kumar Ghosh, a resident of Bangana village under Kalukhali upazila.

Md Kheyar Uddin of Bitidanga village under Pangsha upazila, said, "The bridge would be beneficial for businessmen like me as it would make goods transport from Rajbari to other neighbouring districts convenient and less costly."

KM Yahia, a representative of the contractor firm, claimed that 80 percent of the construction work has been completed, while the remaining work cannot proceed without land acquisition.

SM Abu Darda, upazila nirbahi officer of Pangsha, said steps are being taken to resolve complication regarding land acquisition.

Yusuf Hossain, executive engineer of LGED in Rajbari, said, "Once the land acquisition is done, the work will be completed promptly."



### SYLHET'S HAOR REGION

## Weather fear drives early boro harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Harvesting of boro paddy has begun early in Sylhet's haor region, including Hakaluki and Kawadighi haor areas, as farmers rush to avoid possible losses due to inclement weather.

Hailstorms, a recurring event towards the end of the Bangla month of Chaitra, often disrupt the harvest process and damage crops. Fearing a repeat of such events, farmers are opting for an early harvest to ensure minimal disruption.

Despite the concerns, growers remain hopeful for a profitable season following favourable weather conditions. Many are looking forward to repaying their loans taken from local lenders.

According to Bimal Chandra Shome, additional director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Sylhet division, boro paddy was cultivated on 4,97,219 hectares of land across Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, and Habiganj districts this year.

In Moulvibazar alone, 62,140 hectares were cultivated with a production target of 2.48 lakh tonnes. The early variety BRRI-92 is currently being harvested on 350 hectares of cropland in the district.

During a recent visit to the haor belt from Alinagar and Parkandi to Jabda and Futbeel in Moulvibazar, this correspondent witnessed golden paddy swaying in the breeze as hundreds of farmers gathered to reap their harvest. In Hakaluki haor, harvesting began four days ago.

Md Jalal Uddin, deputy director of DAE in Moulvibazar, said, "So far the paddy has been harvested from 350 hectares of land."

## Nation ushers in spirit of hope, renewal

FROM PAGE 1

Faculty of Fine Arts, the procession, formerly known as "Mangal Shobhajatra," is to be called "Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra", a change that has stirred criticism from various quarters.

Meanwhile, Chhayanaut is set to hold its iconic Pahela Baishakh cultural programme at Ramna Batamul, featuring the theme "Amar Mukti Aloy Aloy" (My Freedom Lies in Light).

This year's theme resonates deeply, carrying messages of hope, resilience, and renewal.

The event is particularly poignant, as it is dedicated to Sanjida Khatun, the co-founder and president of Chhayanaut. Her lifelong dedication to music, culture, and the nation's identity remains a beacon of inspiration, said Sarwar Ali, executive president of Chhayanaut. The programme will begin at 6:15am.

Except for a few occasions, the revered cultural institution has been hosting the event

since 1967, greeting the rising sun with timeless classical ragas under the banyan tree at Ramna.

Pahela Baishakh, one of the most colourful festivals held in the country, is when the Bangladeshis welcome the new year and bid farewell to the old. Symbolising the unity and cultural richness of the nation, the event is celebrated by people regardless of religion, sect, class, or creed.

Business communities also organise the age-old tradition of Halkhata, the ceremonial opening of new ledger books.

At a programme in the capital, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has greeted the people saying that Pahela Baishakh is one of the symbols of our harmony. Everyone will celebrate it in their own way, following their own customs.

Meanwhile, a group of current and former students of DU's Faculty of Fine Arts yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over changing the name of the procession.

The DU authorities on

April 11 changed the name of the procession, saying they haven't renamed the procession rather they have "restored" original name of the celebration to "Anondo Shobhajatra", which was introduced in 1989.

During yesterday's press briefing, the students criticised the new system of organising the procession, which excludes students from taking lead roles, a departure from previous years. They also voiced concern over what they described as a lack of adequate security measures surrounding the event.

Talking about security, Rab DG AKM Shahidur Rahman yesterday said that security has been beefed up to prevent any untoward incidents during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

DU Proctor Prof Saifuddin Ahmed yesterday said that fellow students of Arabic department have reportedly identified Rabiul Islam Rakib, who had set fire to the two motifs prepared for the new year's procession

in the early hours of Saturday.


Motifs were "Portrait of Fascism" describing face of fallen prime minister Sheikh Hasina and "a dove figure" describing peace.

This year's procession will have the theme, "Symphony of the New Year, End of Fascism," was designed to capture the spirit of the July uprising and in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

The cultural affairs ministry will organise a drone show and concert on Manik Mia Avenue in the afternoon. A seven-day Baishakhi Fair will begin at Bangla Academy jointly organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation and Bangla Academy.

Cultural organisation Shurer Dhara and Channel i will welcome the new year at Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi in the morning.

Mughal Emperor Akbar introduced the tradition of celebrating the Bangla New Year to mark the closing of the annual tax collection.



## Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur

Phone : 06822-52156, Fax : 06822-51904, Webmail: <http://www.kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd>  
e-mail: [mayor@kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd](mailto:mayor@kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd), [mayor\\_kaliakair@yahoo.com](mailto:mayor_kaliakair@yahoo.com), [xen\\_kaliakair@yahoo.com](mailto:xen_kaliakair@yahoo.com), [xen@kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd](mailto:xen@kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd)

---


Memo No-KKP/Engg/ADP/2025-322(1-5)
Date- 13.04.2025

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following Procurement-


Sl No	Tender ID No	Package No	Description of the Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1097282	KKP/ADP/REV/2025/W-01	Improvement of Roads & Construction of Drains at word 1,2,3 Under Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur.	28-Apr-2025; 17:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM
2	1097287	KKP/ADP/REV/2025/W-02	Improvement of Roads & Construction of Drains at word 4,5,6 Under Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur.	28-Apr-2025; 17:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM
3	1097289	KKP/ADP/REV/2025/W-03	Improvement of Roads & Construction of Drains at word 7 Under Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur.	28-Apr-2025; 17:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM
4	1097291	KKP/ADP/REV/2025/W-04	Improvement of Roads & Construction of Drains at word 8,9 Under Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur.	28-Apr-2025; 17:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM
5	1097293	KKP/ADP/REV/2025/W-05	Improvement of Dumping Station & Shafipur Bazar & Cleaning of Drains Under Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur.	28-Apr-2025; 17:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM	29-Apr-2025; 15:00 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/ hardcopies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)).



**Engr. Haripada Roy**  
Executive Engineer  
KaliakairPourashava

GD-860



## বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন

টিসিবি ভবন (৪র্থ তলা) ১, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ওয়েবসাইট: [www.berc.org.bd](http://www.berc.org.bd)

নং-২৮.০১.০০০০.০১২.১৪.০০১.২৫.১৮৮০
তারিখ: ৩০ চৈত্র ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ  
১৩ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

**প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের শিল্প ও ক্যাপটিভ বিদ্যুৎ শ্রেণিতে নতুন, প্রতিশ্রুত ও বিদ্যমান (অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত গ্যাস ব্যবহারকারী) গ্রাহকের ভোক্তাধিকারে মূল্যহার সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি।**

বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন আইন, ২০০৩ এর ধারা ২২(খ) ও ৩৪ এ প্রদত্ত দায়িত্ব ও ক্ষমতাবলে বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা), তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, জালালাবাদ গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন সিস্টেম লিমিটেড, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, কর্ণফুলী গ্যাস ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড ও সুন্দরবন গ্যাস কোম্পানি লিমিটেড এর প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের শিল্প ও ক্যাপটিভ বিদ্যুৎ শ্রেণিতে নতুন, প্রতিশ্রুত ও বিদ্যমান (অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত গ্যাস ব্যবহারকারী) গ্রাহকের মূল্যহার পুনর্নির্ধারণের প্রস্তাবের বিষয়ে আগ্রহী পক্ষগণকে গণশুনানি প্রদানপূর্বক সকল তথ্যাদি পর্যালোচনা ও বিশ্লেষণের মাধ্যমে গ্যাস বিতরণ লাইসেন্সসমূহ কর্তৃক বর্ণিত গ্রাহককে সরবরাহকৃত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের ভোক্তাধিকারে মূল্যহার নিম্নলিখিতভাবে পুনর্নির্ধারণ করা হলো:

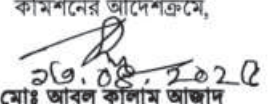
ক্রমিক নং	গ্রাহকশ্রেণি	মূল্যহার (টাকা/ঘনমিটার)	
১	ক্যাপটিভ বিদ্যুৎ (ক্যাপটিভ পাওয়ার প্ল্যান্ট, স্মল পাওয়ার প্ল্যান্ট ও বাণিজ্যিক বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র):		
	(ক) নতুন গ্রাহক	৪২.০০	
	(খ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহক:		
	(i) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার	৩১.৫০	
	(ii) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% এর উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার	৪২.০০	
	(গ) বিদ্যমান গ্রাহক:		
	(i) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোড পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার	৩১.৫০	
	(ii) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোডের উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার	৪২.০০	
	২	শিল্প:	
		(ক) বৃহৎ:	
(i) নতুন গ্রাহক		৪০.০০	
(ii) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহক:			
(অ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার		৩০.০০	
(আ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% এর উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার		৪০.০০	
(iii) বিদ্যমান গ্রাহক:			
(অ) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোড পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার		৩০.০০	
(আ) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোডের উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার		৪০.০০	
(খ) মাঝারি:			
(i) নতুন গ্রাহক		৪০.০০	
(ii) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহক:			
(অ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার		৩০.০০	
(আ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% এর উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার		৪০.০০	
(iii) বিদ্যমান গ্রাহক:			
(অ) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোড পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার		৩০.০০	
(আ) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোডের উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার		৪০.০০	
(গ) ক্ষুদ্র, কুটির ও অন্যান্য:			
(i) নতুন গ্রাহক		৪০.০০	
(ii) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহক:			
(অ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার	৩০.০০		
(আ) প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহকের অনুমোদিত লোডের ৫০% এর উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার	৪০.০০		
(iii) বিদ্যমান গ্রাহক:			
(অ) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোড পর্যন্ত ব্যবহার	৩০.০০		
(আ) বিদ্যমান অনুমোদিত লোডের উর্ধ্বে ব্যবহার	৪০.০০		

১. গ্যাস সরবরাহের জন্য নতুন Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) সম্পাদিত হলে তা নতুন গ্রাহক হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।  
২. অত্র আদেশ জারীর তারিখ অর্থাৎ ১৩ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ইস্যুকৃত ডিমান্ড নোট অনুযায়ী নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অর্থ পরিশোধকারী গ্রাহক প্রতিশ্রুত গ্রাহক হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

২। কমিশনের ৩০ জুন ২০১৯ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নম্বর:- ২৮.০১.০০০০.০১২.১৪.০০১.১৯-৪১০৫ অনুসারে শিল্প এবং ক্যাপটিভ বিদ্যুৎ (ক্যাপটিভ পাওয়ার প্ল্যান্ট, স্মল পাওয়ার প্ল্যান্ট ও বাণিজ্যিক বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র) এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রতি ঘনমিটারে (মাসিক অনুমোদিত লোডের বিপরীতে) ০.১০ টাকা হারে ডিমান্ড চার্জ অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

৩। এ আদেশ ১৩ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ হতে প্রযোজ্য ও কার্যকর হবে এবং পরবর্তী আদেশ না দেয়া পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকবে।

কমিশনের আদেশক্রমে,



**মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজাদ**  
সচিব (অতি: দায়িত্ব), বিইআরসি।  
ফোন: ০২-৫৫০১৪০০৭

GD-874
GD-874



‘AMAR MUKTI ALOY ALOY’

The spirit of defiance and freedom fuels Pahela Baishakh

DOWEL BISWAS

As the nation now stands on the cusp of renewal, Pahela Baishakh 1432 arrives at a time when the people of Bangladesh are eager to reclaim their cultural voice—seeking a deeper connection to its identity, heritage, and hope. For centuries, it has been an occasion of collective celebration, resilience, and unity.

One of the country’s most revered cultural institutions, Chhayanaut, will usher in Pahela Baishakh 1432 with its signature early morning celebration *Borsho Boron Onusthan* at the Ramna Batamul. The event will begin at 6:15am with Rabindranath Tagore’s *Amar Mukti Aloy Aloy*, beckoning the first light of the new year as it rises over Dhaka.

Now in its 58th year, the tradition continues with 150 vocalists and instrumentalists—prepared since January—to offer a deeply rooted presentation of music and poetry.

the Palestinian flag and perform songs of resistance as part of the procession.

A drone show, themed “New Bangladesh in New Year” and sponsored by the Chinese Embassy, will illuminate the sky over Manik Mia Avenue as part of this year’s Pahela Baishakh celebrations at 3pm. Meanwhile, Bangla Academy will host a vibrant Baishakhi fair, adding to the spirit of the national festivities.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is arranging a cultural programme titled “Baishakhi Sangskritik Onusthan” from 4:30pm today at the National Theatre Hall where seasoned artistes will welcome the new year with songs, dances and poetry recitals.

In celebration of the Bengali New Year,

various departments of the University of Dhaka and Rabindra Sarobar are hosting cultural programmes. Dhaka North City Corporation is organising a Baishakhi Fair at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Smriti Park, featuring diverse stalls with traditional handicrafts, ethnic clothing, *pitha-puli*, and cultural performances of folk songs and Baishakhi music from 10am to 10pm for three days.

Popular theatre troupes Shwapnadal and Prangonemor will showcase their revered plays titled, *Chitrangada* and *Shesher Kobita* at 5pm and 7pm at BSA’s Experimental Theatre Hall and Bangladesh Mohila Samity, respectively.

Yet, as Pahela Baishakh dawns with its usual splendour—bursting with colour, music, and collective energy—it arrives this year with a shadow of unease. The recent decision by Dhaka University authorities to rename the iconic “Mangal Shobhajatra” as “Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra” has sparked widespread criticism. For many, the change feels like more than just a name—it is seen as a symbolic erosion of a cultural landmark born out of defiance during military rule in the 1980s. That unease deepened when the fascism-themed motif at Charukola was set ablaze by an arsonist, leaving behind a charred emblem of protest and a lingering question about the future of this beloved tradition.

Still, the Bangalee spirit is not easily dimmed. We are a people who sing the same songs to express both celebration and dissent. As thousands gather beneath the Ramna Batamul and march through Shahbagh, the name on the banner matters less than the spirit in the steps. The procession—whatever it may be called—remains a powerful testament to cultural memory, resilience, and unity. It is a living, breathing archive of our collective struggle for expression, shaped through centuries of resistance.



Swapnadal's production of 'Chitrangada'.

The structure will remain true to its origins, opening with classical ragas and concluding with an address from Chhayanaut’s president and the national anthem.

Despite political shifts, Chhayanaut holds firm in its mission. “The spirit of the programme—awakening the Bengali consciousness through music at dawn—remains unchanged,” said Dr Sarwar Ali, vice president and a Chhayanaut trustee. “It



PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

is through this atmosphere that our cultural identity is reaffirmed.”

This year’s lineup includes 12 solo songs, nine group performances, and three poetry recitations. The programme will end by 8:30am.

At the break of dawn today, crowds will gather in Shahbagh, ready for the year’s most symbolic procession—Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra. Following Chhayanaut’s Borsho Boron at Ramna Batamul, the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University (Charukola) will lead the colourful march with the national anthem. First launched in the 1980s as a defiant cultural act against military rule, the procession has since grown into a nationwide emblem of unity, joy, and resistance—recognised by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage in 2016.

This year, Charukola promises the grandest, most inclusive Shobhajatra yet, themed “Nabobarsh-er Oikhyatan, Fascibaad-

er Oboshan” (in harmony with the new year, towards the fall of fascism). Featuring six major installations and hundreds of handcrafted motifs—tigers, fish, masks, traditional tools, and a bold depiction of “the face of fascism”—the event will highlight Bangladesh’s rich folk traditions and voices of resistance. With participation from 28 ethnic communities and symbolic solidarity with Palestine through a watermelon motif, the procession aims to send a message of peace, inclusivity, and defiance.

This year’s Shobhajatra is set to resonate with powerful new voices, as over 200 musicians—including members of popular bands like Miles, Warfaze, Lalon, Vikings, AvoidRafa, and Dalchhut, alongside ethnic bands like F Minor (Garro), Laa Rong (Marma), Emang (Tripura), Unity (Khasi), and Invocation (Chakma)—will join to sing *From the river to sea, Palestine will be free* in a dedicated segment of solidarity. Musicians will carry



the Palestinian flag and perform songs of resistance as part of the procession.

A drone show, themed “New Bangladesh in New Year” and sponsored by the Chinese Embassy, will illuminate the sky over Manik Mia Avenue as part of this year’s Pahela Baishakh celebrations at 3pm. Meanwhile, Bangla Academy will host a vibrant Baishakhi fair, adding to the spirit of the national festivities.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is arranging a cultural programme titled “Baishakhi Sangskritik Onusthan” from 4:30pm today at the National Theatre Hall where seasoned artistes will welcome the new year with songs, dances and poetry recitals.

In celebration of the Bengali New Year,

various departments of the University of Dhaka and Rabindra Sarobar are hosting cultural programmes. Dhaka North City Corporation is organising a Baishakhi Fair at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Smriti Park, featuring diverse stalls with traditional handicrafts, ethnic clothing, *pitha-puli*, and cultural performances of folk songs and Baishakhi music from 10am to 10pm for three days.

Popular theatre troupes Shwapnadal and Prangonemor will showcase their revered plays titled, *Chitrangada* and *Shesher Kobita* at 5pm and 7pm at BSA’s Experimental Theatre Hall and Bangladesh Mohila Samity, respectively.

Yet, as Pahela Baishakh dawns with its usual splendour—bursting with colour, music, and collective energy—it arrives this year with a shadow of unease. The recent decision by Dhaka University authorities to rename the iconic “Mangal Shobhajatra” as “Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra” has sparked widespread criticism. For many, the change feels like more than just a name—it is seen as a symbolic erosion of a cultural landmark born out of defiance during military rule in the 1980s. That unease deepened when the fascism-themed motif at Charukola was set ablaze by an arsonist, leaving behind a charred emblem of protest and a lingering question about the future of this beloved tradition.

Still, the Bangalee spirit is not easily dimmed. We are a people who sing the same songs to express both celebration and dissent. As thousands gather beneath the Ramna Batamul and march through Shahbagh, the name on the banner matters less than the spirit in the steps. The procession—whatever it may be called—remains a powerful testament to cultural memory, resilience, and unity. It is a living, breathing archive of our collective struggle for expression, shaped through centuries of resistance.



NEWS

Most parties want changes in basic principles

FROM PAGE 1

amendment of 1979 during the rule of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

BNP proposed that the section enshrining the ideals of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism be reverted to the form as prescribed by the fifth amendment. Currently the section reads, “Pledging that the high ideals of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism, which inspired our heroic people to dedicate themselves to, and our brave martyrs to sacrifice their lives in, the national liberation struggle, shall be the fundamental principles of the constitution...”

The party suggested that it should read, “...Pledging that the high ideals of absolute trust and faith in the almighty Allah, nationalism, democracy and socialism meaning economic and social justice, which inspired our heroic people to dedicate themselves to, and our brave martyrs to sacrifice their lives in, the war for national independence, shall be the fundamental principles of the constitution...”

Jamaat called for significant changes to the preamble, saying that the “July revolution” should be recognised in the preamble.

It proposed that the first paragraph should read: “We, the people of Bangladesh, have established the independent and sovereign People’s Republic of Bangladesh declaring independence on March 26, 1971, through the historic struggle for national liberation; and are making all-out efforts to safeguard democracy in the country through different democratic movements, including the July Revolution of 2024.”

The Islamist party also said that nationalism, democracy, economic and social justice, full trust and faith in almighty Allah, and multiculturalism should be the basic principles of this constitution.

Jatiya Nagorik Committee proposed drafting a fresh constitution, forming a constituent assembly, and recognising the July uprising in the new constitution.

The proclamation of the Liberation War should be included as a proposal of the first republic, while a proclamation of the second republic should be included as a preamble to the new constitution, said the civic platform comprising the July uprising leaders.

Ganosamhati Andolon suggested that the proclamation of the Liberation War in 1971, the long struggle against fascism and dictatorship, and people’s aspirations expressed in the 2024

mass uprising become the basis of a democratic constitution.

According to Islami Andolan Bangladesh’s proposal, in the preamble, “the legitimate judgment of the people” must be recognised as the basis for government formation.

Khelafat Majlish sought the inclusion of two sentences in the preamble: “We, the people of Bangladesh, having declared independence on March 26, 1971, have established the independent and sovereign people’s democratic Bangladesh through the historic struggle for national liberation.

“We, the people of Bangladesh, established a democratic Bangladesh by overthrowing the erstwhile regime on August 5 [through a historic uprising for the formation of a non-discriminatory state] in July-August 2024.”

Rastro Sangskar Andolan and AB party proposed significant changes to the preamble.

AB party advocated rewriting the constitution and making sweeping changes in the preamble to read: “After the independence, the old system of the republic based on the three principles of the proclamation of 1971 independence—equality, human dignity and social justice—has failed and become ineffective.

“Time and again, the people were shackled by one-party, military-civilian and dynastic dictatorships over the last 53 years, and the first republic fell in July-August 2024, ending a long period of fascist oppression in a student-led uprising.

“In the light of the Declaration of Independence, and since the first republic failed, the establishment of a second democratic state [second republic] has become imperative to build Bangladesh 2.0.”

Jatiya Gonofront demanded abolishing the 1972 constitution.

NDM proposed that the preamble should uphold the three principles of equality, human dignity and social justice, and reflect the dreams of the 2024 mass uprising.

**REFORM COMMISSION’S PROPOSED PREAMBLE**

The Constitution Reform Commission proposed rewriting the first two sentences to read: “We, the people of Bangladesh, who achieved independence through a people’s war as a continuation of the historic struggle for the liberation of the people of this land, and united in resistance against autocratic and fascist regimes to establish democracy;

“We, in solemn memory of all the

martyrs’ sacrifices, pledge to uphold the ideals of equality, human dignity and social justice that inspired the people of Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War and the ideals of democracy and equality that united us in 2024 against fascist rule, aiming to establish these noble principles within the state and society.”

**BASIC PRINCIPLES**

BNP said the current principles of the constitution were added through the 15th amendment and should be repealed.

Islami Andolan Bangladesh is of the view that full trust and faith in almighty Allah should be the basis of all activities of the state.

The party proposed that the principles of the constitution should include equality, human dignity, social justice, government accountability, the abolition of fascism and hegemony, the elimination of bad culture, and good education aimed at creating ideal citizens.

Gono Odhikar Parishad (Nur) and Bhashani Anusari Parishad demanded that equality, human dignity and social justice be included as basic principles.

The 12-party alliance wants “religious freedom for all people” instead of “secularism”, and “social justice and equitable distribution of wealth” in place of “socialism”.

Khelafat Majlish suggested that steadfast trust and faith in Allah, active participation of the people, creation of a society free from exploitation, oppression and discrimination and ensuring public representation in all aspects of the state should be the basic principles.

Jamaat proposed that “nationalism, democracy, and economic and social justice, full trust and faith in almighty Allah and multicultural society” should be the principles.

Ganosamhati Andolon called for a non-discriminatory and democratic state that upholds the 2024 aspirations of students, workers as well as the masses, in the light of equality, human dignity, and social justice as stated in the Proclamation of the War of Independence in 1971.

AB Party recommended “equality, human dignity and justice” as the basic principles.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal proposed incorporating equality, human dignity, and social justice, as mentioned in the Proclamation of Independence, into the preamble, in line with the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War and the 2024 mass uprising.

It also suggested keeping democracy, socialism, secularism intact, and qualified nationalism, “as being free from

the influence of imperialism to ensure independent national development”.

Jatiya Nagorik Committee advocates five new fundamental principles—equality, human dignity, social justice, citizen rights and democracy.

Insaniyat Biplab Bangladesh proposed removing nationalism and socialism as basic principles, and suggested that they be replaced with religious values, state ownership by the people, freedom of life, and universal human rights.

The existing preamble contains the principles of nationalism, secularism, socialism, and democracy, while the Constitution Reform Commission proposes equality, human dignity, social justice, pluralism and democracy.

The commission also recommends the deletion of articles 8, 9, 10, and 12, which elaborate on these key principles.

**PROPOSALS ON STATE RELIGION**

BNP and Rastro Sangskar Andolon don’t want any changes in the Article 2A as it stood after the 15th amendment. This article deals with state religion. It says, “The state religion of the Republic is Islam, but the State shall ensure equal status and equal right in the practice of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions.”

The eighth amendment, made during dictator HM Ershad’s regime in 1988, declared that Islam would be the state religion.

BNP also wants articles 8, 9, 10, and 12 on nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism to be reverted to the versions prior to the 15th amendment.

Jatiya Gonofront proposed that people of all religions in Bangladesh shall have full freedom and equal rights, and religions should not be used in politics.

CPB, Bangladesh Jashod and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal sought scrapping of state religion and also proposed repealing the article.

Khelafat Majlish said Islam should remain the state religion, but the state will ensure dignity and equal rights for those practising other religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity.

The party also suggested that the state should take effective measures to protect the dignity of Prophet Muhammad (SM) and this should be included in the constitution.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) said respect for Prophet Muhammad (SM) should be an integral part of the moral and spiritual foundation of the state. Any intentional insult to the prophet should be regarded as an offence and punishable under the law for protecting public order and religious sentiment.

BNP questions Yunus’ repeated ‘shifts’

FROM PAGE 12

Salahuddin said that whenever the BNP demands a roadmap for an election by December from the chief adviser, it hears statements from government advisers that the people supposedly want them to stay for five years.

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury made a similar remark recently, the BNP leader said. “But we have seen numerous comments [on social media] calling for his [the home adviser’s] resignation. Hasn’t he seen those?”

Salahuddin said he wanted to criticise Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter less than others because he has a “very good relationship” with her.

“Now she has said the people elected them through the mass uprising. Then why does this country have an Election Commission?”

“If governments are changed through street protests, that perhaps reflects the will of the people. But you [interim government] cannot be an alternative to an elected government. You are definitely unelected. And you will be reminded of that every single day.

“And her husband, our Bhai Saheb Farhad Mazhar [poet, writer, and thinker] gave a speech two or three days ago that a realm of looters, not democracy, is created through elections. What more can I say?” Salahuddin said.

He asked why the advisers and their allies were denying the right to vote after thousands of people sacrificed their lives and mounted a mass uprising for the restoration of their democratic and constitutional rights.

Recalling Yunus’s remarks at a meeting with the BNP, Salahuddin said the chief adviser assured them that all the activities of the government were aimed at holding the election with December as the possible time in mind.

“We also sat with the Election Commission, and it said all preparations for the polls would be completed by June. It said it was very eager to hold the election by December.”

The BNP leader also said he has seen criticism on Facebook whenever the topic of the election is raised. “Is it good for democracy when you speak about democracy but create confusion over the election?”

Salahuddin said that the BNP appreciate the work of some people holding top positions in the government who dedicate their talent to the service of the state. “But can you do that without democracy?” he asked.

The BNP leader said those who orchestrated 1/11 also made various attempts to remain in power for two years.

“I’m not suggesting that similar measures are currently visible. But don’t you remember Moeen U and Fakhruddin of 1/11? Didn’t they make significant efforts toward depoliticisation?”

Cancel reciprocal tariffs

FROM PAGE 12

The new exemptions will benefit US tech companies like Nvidia and Dell, as well as Apple, which makes iPhones and other premium products in China.

US Customs data suggests the exempted items account for more than 20 percent of those Chinese imports, according to senior RAND researcher Gerard DiPippo.

However, semiconductors could still become a target of industry-specific tariffs Trump has suggested placing on imports from all countries.

Trump said Saturday that he would give a “very specific” answer to the question of any future semiconductor levies today.

Facing steep tariffs, China has sought to present itself as a stable alternative to an erratic Washington, courting countries spooked by the global economic storm.

Trump’s reciprocal tariffs have “not only failed to solve any of the United States’ own problems but have seriously undermined the global economic and trade order”, Beijing’s commerce ministry said in the statement yesterday.

Commerce Minister Wang Wentao on Friday warned that tariffs would “inflict serious harm” on developing nations in a call with the head of the World Trade Organization.

Chinese President Xi Jinping kicks off a five-day Southeast Asia tour today for talks with the leaders of Vietnam, a manufacturing powerhouse, as well as Malaysia and Cambodia.

It comes after Xi said China and Europe should “jointly resist unilateral bullying practices,” state media quoted the leader as saying in a meeting with the Spanish prime minister.



## Separatists kill eight Pakistanis in Iran

AFP, Islamabad

Separatists killed eight Pakistanis in Iran, Islamabad said yesterday, across the border from Pakistan's Balochistan province where there are regular deadly attacks.

The Baloch Nationalist Army (BNA), a Pakistani separatist group, and Jaish al-Adl, a Baloch jihadist group that is based in Pakistan but is also active in Iran, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the "brutal killings of eight Pakistanis", calling on Tehran to "immediately arrest the culprits, give them appropriate punishment, and make the reasons behind this brutal act public".

The eight men killed were from Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan news agency.



In this handout photograph, taken and released by the Ukrainian Emergency Service yesterday, a rescuer works to extinguish a fire at the site of a Russian missile attack in Sumy, northeastern Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

## Israeli missiles strike Gaza hospital

Hundreds of patients evacuated; separate strikes in Khan Younis kill 14, including police head, brothers

REUTERS, Cairo

Two Israeli missiles hit a building inside a main Gaza hospital yesterday, destroying the emergency and reception department and damaging other structures, medics said, in a strike which Israel said was against Hamas fighters exploiting the facility.

Health officials at the Al-Ahli Arab Baptist Hospital evacuated the patients from the building after a phone call from someone who identified himself as Israeli security shortly before the attack.

No casualties were reported in the strike. The Israeli military said in a statement it had taken steps to reduce harm to civilians before it struck the compound, which was being used by Hamas members to plan attacks.

The hospital - an institution of the Anglican Church and a major medical facility - was knocked out of operation, according to Gaza's health ministry. The strikes also came after the United Nations

warned that medicines and related supplies are rapidly running out in Gaza as casualties surge.

"Hundreds of patients and injured people had to be evacuated in the middle of the night, and many of them are now out in the streets without medical care, which puts their lives at risk," said the ministry's spokesperson, Khalil Al-Deqran.

Separate strikes in the enclave yesterday killed at least 14 Palestinians, including the head of a police station in Khan Younis, in the southern part of the Hamas-run enclave, according to Hamas and health authorities. Six brothers were killed when an Israeli strike hit their car in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza Strip, medics said.

Yesterday's strikes at the Baptist Hospital came as Hamas leaders began a fresh round of talks in Cairo, in a bid to salvage a stalled ceasefire agreement with Israel, as Egypt, Qatar, and the United States have stepped up efforts to bridge gaps between the sides.

## Fellow DU students

FROM PAGE 2

"We are trying to verify the evidence," he said.

Two installations -- Portrait of Fascism, presumably depicting deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Dove of Peace -- were set ablaze on the premises of DU's Faculty of Fine Arts early Saturday.

The fire destroyed Portrait of Fascism, while Dove of Peace was partially damaged.

On Saturday, police claimed that the arson was "a deliberate act."

After reviewing CCTV footage, police and university authorities said a young man wearing a black T-shirt, brown pants, and sandals, with his hair tied in a bun, was seen entering and exiting the premises by climbing over the central gate between 4:44am and 4:46am, before heading toward the Chhobir Haat gate of Suhrawardy Udyan.

The suspect was seen pouring a liquid -- presumably flammable -- on Portrait of Fascism and igniting it with a lighter.

The DU administration has formed a five-member committee, headed by Prof Dr Mohammad Siddique Rahman Khan, dean of the Faculty of Arts, to investigate the incident.

Khaled Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said a case has been filed under the Special Powers Act, 1974, over the incident.

This year's Borsho Boron Anondo Shobhajatra theme -- Symphony of the New Year, End of Fascism -- was designed to reflect the spirit of the July mass uprising.

According to organisers, Face of Fascism was the main motif for the rally. Standing 20 feet tall and crafted from bamboo and cane, the structure portrayed a woman with a toothy grin, four horns on her head, a large nose, and two fearful eyes. The striking image led many to believe it resembled ousted PM Sheikh Hasina.

## SUDAN'S DARFUR

## 56 killed in paramilitary attacks: UN

AFP, Port Sudan

Sudan's paramilitaries killed 56 civilians over two days in attacks on a newly-retaken town on the road to El-Fasher, the last major city in Darfur still in army hands, activists said yesterday.

The killings, which occurred on April 11 and 12, targeted residents in Um Kadadah, around 180 kilometres (112 miles) east of El-Fasher, "on an ethnic basis", said resistance committee.

## Tk 3,100 crore promised: BIDA

FROM PAGE 12

for improvement. However, this was our first attempt to organise an investment summit of a global standard..."

Around Tk 5 crore was spent on organising the summit, of which around Tk 1.5 crore came from the government and the rest from partner organisations.

If the costs and returns are compared, the outcome is fantastic, Ashik said.

He said that those experienced in such events understand that significant investments don't happen overnight; investors must first visit and experience the

country. The summit played a key role in changing global perceptions of Bangladesh. Many foreign participants remarked that what they saw online was different from reality.

Concerning the process for converting potential investments into actual investments, he said that a diligent registration process was followed, collecting contact information to maintain engagement with interested parties. Follow-ups are planned to ascertain their decision-making progress and the potential for further visits, aligning with standard business

development practices.

During the BIDA's executive committee meeting, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the chief adviser directed to form a committee to expedite the launch of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Additionally, a directive was issued to explore bringing various investment promotion agencies, about eight, under a single umbrella for better coordination. The chief adviser also suggested developing an exclusive economic zone for Nepal.

Shafiq said that there

is also strong interest of foreign investors in the Chittagong Port.

The BIDA executive chairman said a decision has been made to cancel the plan of developing 10 economic zones. "We don't think these are necessary."

Acknowledging the current higher costs of flying goods from Dhaka compared to transshipping via Kolkata or Delhi, he said that the government is considering India's revocation of transshipment facility for Bangladesh as an opportunity to enhance the efficiency of Bangladesh's airports.

## Arrest warrants issued against Hasina

FROM PAGE 12

Rehana's daughters Tulip Siddiq, Azmina Siddiq and her son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby are among those against whom the arrest warrants were issued.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after accepting the charges brought against them.

The court has now accepted charges against Hasina and her family members in four out of a total of six cases filed over the plot allocation irregularities, said an

official of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The ACC officials showed all the 23 accused as fugitives, as they did not secure bail from any courts in the country.

The judge directed the officers-in-charge of over a dozen police stations in Dhaka and other parts of the country to submit progress reports on the execution of the arrest warrants by April 27.

On March 25, the ACC pressed charges against Hasina, Rehana, Tulip, Radwan, Azmina and 18

others in these three cases. On the same day, charges were pressed in the other three cases as well.

The ACC filed six separate cases over alleged irregularities in the allocation of the six plots, each measuring 10 kathas, in the diplomatic zone of Sector-27 in the Purbachal New Town project.

Hasina has been made a common accused in all the six cases filed in connection to the irregularities.

According to ACC documents, Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, had six

plots allotted to herself, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, Rehana, Radwan, Bobby, and Tulip and Azmina, in violation of rules.

On April 10, the same court issued arrest warrants against 18 people, including Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, in one of the cases over the plot allocation irregularities.

The court is scheduled to pass an order on April 15 on whether it would take cognisance of the charges in the two remaining cases.

## Pahela Baishakh a symbol of our harmony

FROM PAGE 12

are united by a shared diversity of language, culture, and tradition.

The International Buddhist Monastery, he said, is one of the symbols of communal harmony in Bangladesh. Since its inception, it has played a significant role in issues of national interest, including those related to the

Buddhist community.

Referring to Gautam Buddha's message of non-violence and equality, Prof Yunus said the monastery has been engaged in various public welfare programmes, such as preserving the religious, social, and cultural heritage of the Buddhist community and providing technical

education.

He expressed hope that the "Sampriti Bhaban" will play a notable role both nationally and internationally by reflecting the values of harmony and humanity upheld in Bangladesh.

Religious Affairs Adviser Dr AFM Khalid Hossain, Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs Adviser Supradip

Chakma, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Religious Affairs Secretary AKM Aftab Hossain Pramanik, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation Advisory Council Acting Chairman Prof Sukomal Barua, and International Buddhist Monastery Deputy Chief Ven Bhikkhu Sunandapriya also spoke at the event.

**EAST WEST UNIVERSITY**  
Progoti Foundation for Education and Development  
Permanent Sanad Holder

**ADMISSION SUMMER 2025**

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

BBA	B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)
BSS in Economics	BSc. in Information & Communications Engineering (ICE)
BA in English	BSc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)
BSS in Sociology	B.Sc. in Civil Engineering
BSS in Population and Public Health Sciences	B.Sc. in Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (GEB)
BSS in Information Studies	B.Sc. in Data Science and Analytics
LL.B.	B.Sc. in Mathematics
	B. Pharm

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

MBA	Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics
EMBA	
MDS	Master of Population, Reproductive Health, Gender and Development (MPRHGD)
MSS in Economics	
MA in English	Postgraduate Diploma in Population, Public Health and Disaster Management (PPDM)
MA in TESOL	
LL.M.	Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship Development (PGDED)
M. Pharm	
MS in CSE	

**DEADLINE 14 MAY 2025** **ADMISSION TEST 17 MAY 2025**

Fully-owned Beautiful Campus  
Annual Scholarship of 12 Crore Taka  
Teaching Assistantship  
Group Insurance for Students

FOR ADMISSION FORMS AND PAYMENT FACILITIES  
CONTACT TO ENU ADMISSION OFFICE, OR ONLINE.  
www.enw.edu.bd https://admission.enwbd.edu

EAST WEST UNIVERSITY  
AFRANGHUR, DHAKA-1212  
PHONE: 8966-775577, EXT. 234  
MOBILE: 01755-987224, 01851-833094

**HBL**  
HABIB BANK  
হাবিব ব্যাংক

নববর্ষের নতুন ভোর রাঙিয়ে তুলুক  
নতুন স্বপ্ন আর সম্ভাবনাকে।  
শুভ নববর্ষ ১৪৩২

0088 01977742523 | www.hbl.com/bangladesh



## A chilling reminder of past legal abuses

### Circumstances surrounding a model’s arrest raise alarm

Repressive laws have no place in post-uprising Bangladesh. It’s unfortunate that such a thing needs to be reiterated even now—after over eight months since the political changeover—following an abuse of the Special Powers Act that led to a model being incarcerated. Both the manner in which she was first picked up and her subsequent detention under this law have brought, for many, painful memories of similar abuses of draconian laws during the rule of now-deposed dictator Sheikh Hasina. For decades, this law has been a symbol of state repression. That it is still being invoked today, under a non-political government no less, raises questions about whether the state machinery has truly turned a corner, or whether it remains addicted to the same old authoritarian tools of control.

Reportedly, former Miss Earth Bangladesh Meghna Alam was forcibly taken from her home by men identifying themselves as police officers on Wednesday. They produced no warrant, and even violated the High Court guidelines on warrantless arrests—that officers must properly identify themselves, explain the reason for arrest, and allow the person to contact a lawyer or meet their relatives. Moreover, Meghna was held incommunicado for over 24 hours, and later sent to jail under vague and sweeping allegations—mostly based on a personal dispute involving a Saudi diplomat—that fail to meet the threshold of a “prejudicial act” as defined by the law, according to legal experts. We understand the sensitivity of the issue involved, but that is all the more reason why due process should have been followed from the start.

On Sunday, the law adviser of the interim government acknowledged that the arrest procedure was flawed. The authorities have already removed Detective Branch chief Rezaul Karim Mallick from his post. This can be indicative of the government taking accountability measures or, alternatively, it is just damage control amid fierce criticism by rights activists and social media commentators. Whatever the reason may be, the fact is, such statements and initiatives mean little if they are not followed by concrete actions to repeal the very abusive law in question and bring in systemic reforms to ensure that officers never bypass due process under any circumstances.

The incident serves as a wake-up call for the interim government. The people did not hold a bloody uprising simply to change the faces in power. Their want a complete overhaul of the way power has been abused, whether by police or powerful political actors. So, all repressive laws like the Special Powers Act must go, and overzealous officers still beholden to past abusive tendencies must be duly punished. The authorities also must allow for a fresh, impartial investigation into the whole Meghna Alam saga, ensuring her rights and dignity as an accused.

## Preventive steps vital to control dengue

### Public awareness is also crucial

The scorching summer sun may give us a false sense of safety regarding dengue threats, as we often associate the disease with rainfall. The reality is, 16 people have already died from dengue this year. Some 2,074 have also been hospitalised, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A report in this daily warns of the growing risk of dengue with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecasting rain and thunderstorms in many parts of the country this week. Entomologists say that even light rain can lead to an increase in dengue cases, as the mosquito population will proliferate once the first generation of Aedes mosquitoes matures after rain. Therefore, the larvae must be destroyed now to keep the mosquito population under control. Such preventive action is crucial to help us avoid a situation similar to 2023, when Bangladesh saw the highest number of cases and fatalities from dengue in recorded history. That year, a total of 321,179 people were hospitalised, and 1,705 people died from it.

By comparison, last year’s dengue prevalence was better—101,214 hospitalisations and 575 deaths. These numbers, however, can be disputed as last year’s political turmoil upended anti-mosquito drives at the local government level, with almost all councillors and public representatives arrested or on the run since the July uprising. Over eight months later, the situation has somewhat improved, with public officials now supervising basic municipal duties including cleanliness. However, proactive early actions to tackle the threat of dengue in advance of the monsoon are still not visible. This is particularly true for areas outside Dhaka, where mosquito populations are nowhere near under control and almost no anti-mosquito drives are being carried out.

We urge the authorities to act early to keep dengue in check. They must identify and eliminate breeding grounds not just in Dhaka but also in places like Barishal, which has seen a spike in cases this year. Anti-mosquito drives should be carried out in neighbourhoods where people have been infected with dengue. Larvae should be destroyed using environment-friendly methods before they hatch, and public awareness campaigns must be launched before the regular downpours begin. Preventive measures will not only save millions in public health expenditure but also hundreds of precious lives.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### 275 girls abducted in Nigeria

On this day in 2014, the Islamic sectarian movement Boko Haram abducted more than 275 girls from a boarding school in Chibok, Nigeria, sparking worldwide condemnation.

# The law is blind, but so are the people



H.M. Nazmul Alam is an academic, journalist, and political analyst. He can be reached at nazmulalam.rijohn@gmail.com.

#### H.M. NAZMUL ALAM

In 1835, Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay laid down the framework for the Indian Penal Code, a legal system meant to be clear, comprehensible, and universal across the subcontinent. His vision was pragmatic: law should be a self-evident truth, requiring no special knowledge to understand. It should be, in essence, as obvious as the laws of nature. And yet, nearly two centuries later, the legal landscape in many “Third World” nations has become a confusing maze of incomprehensible statutes, selective enforcement, and mass disobedience.

Today, the reality of law in many developing nations, including Bangladesh, is anything but self-evident. Rather than being a respected pillar of civilisation, law often becomes an alien, distant force—feared, manipulated or outright ignored. Public beatings occur under the watchful eye of cameras, legal verdicts are swayed by corruption rather than justice, and police forces often act as enforcers of power rather than defenders of the rule of law.

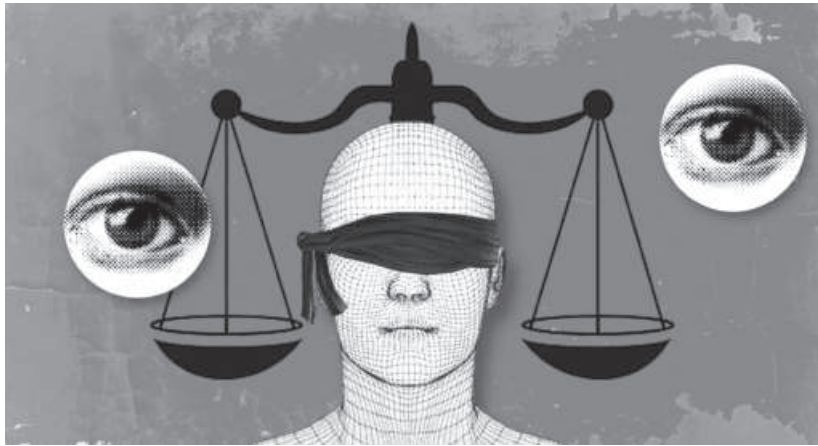
How did this happen? How did Macaulay’s dream of a transparent and rational legal system morph into a fractured, distrusted institution?

Jean Jacques Rousseau, in *The Social Contract*, famously argued that laws are legitimate only when they stem from the general will of the people. However, in many developing countries, the law does not feel like a social contract; it feels like an imposition. Legal codes, drafted in colonial times or shaped by elites, are written in legalese so convoluted that even the educated struggle to grasp them. As British jurist Jeremy Bentham noted, “The power of the lawyer is in the uncertainty of the law.” This uncertainty has bred a system where the common man feels alienated from the very institution that’s meant to protect him.

Consider the phenomenon of mob justice, a manifestation of this alienation. If the law is perceived as distant, corrupt or ineffective, people take justice into their own hands. In recent months, viral videos have captured brutal street beatings across

Bangladesh, where mobs—aware that they are being recorded—continue their violent acts unfazed. Why? Because the fear of legal consequences is absent. The legitimacy of law is undermined when its enforcement is selective, corrupt, or incompetent.

In his *Theory of Justice*, John Rawls emphasised that justice must not only be done but must be *seen* to be done. Yet, in many developing countries, justice is either unseen or glaringly absent. The powerful evade punishment with impunity, while the weak suffer the full brunt of a draconian legal system. This inconsistency erodes the very foundation of legal respect.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

The adage “Justice delayed is justice denied” is nowhere more relevant than in the slow-grinding judicial systems of developing nations. Court cases often drag on for decades, sometimes outliving the accused and even the complainants. The legal backlog in countries like Bangladesh, India and Pakistan runs into the millions, leaving justice not only delayed but effectively denied.

Michel Foucault, in *Discipline and Punish*, argued that laws derive their power from their ability to discipline and surveil society effectively. However, when enforcement is inconsistent, the disciplinary function collapses. This is why a corrupt minister, despite glaring evidence, may walk free, while a poor labourer is jailed for a minor infraction.

Selective enforcement further

citizen of Sweden or Canada receives a traffic ticket, they pay it not just because they fear punishment, but because they believe in the fairness of the system. In many developing nations, however, laws are often seen as arbitrary.

Furthermore, cultural narratives shape legal perceptions. In many “Third World” countries, the “hero” archetype is often someone who defies the system—a rebel rather than a law-abiding citizen. The celebration of outlaws in folklore, cinema, and literature reflects an ingrained scepticism towards authority. This narrative, reinforced over generations, makes it psychologically difficult for societies to develop an intrinsic respect for legal institutions.

One of Macaulay’s core ideas was

# How will LDC graduation impact our RMG sector?

#### RMG NOTES



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

#### MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

Set to officially graduate from the United Nations’ Least Developed Country (LDC) category in November 2026, Bangladesh is on the brink of entering a new chapter in its development journey. The decision to proceed with the graduation on schedule, despite recent global economic shocks, was reaffirmed by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus last month, dispelling any lingering uncertainty surrounding a potential delay. While this move symbolises remarkable progress and reflects our steady economic growth since the country’s war-torn beginnings in 1971, it also brings with it significant challenges, particularly for our ready-made garment (RMG) sector, the backbone of our export economy.

Bangladesh’s graduation from the LDC category is a long-awaited milestone, achieved through meeting all three of the UN’s eligibility criteria: Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, Human Assets Index (HAI), and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). It shows the nation’s impressive strides in poverty reduction, human development, and economic resilience.

Initially designated an LDC in 1975, Bangladesh benefited from a wide range of international support measures. These include duty-free, quota-free market access to many

developed nations, as well as relaxed rules around intellectual property rights and development finance. These preferential treatments have helped power our rapid industrialisation and trade growth, especially in the dominant RMG sector.

The RMG sector is the crown jewel of our economy, accounting for over 80 percent of the country’s exports and employing around 40 lakh people. The industry has leveraged LDC trade privileges to become the second-largest global apparel exporter after China, becoming highly dependent on the trade preferences. Presently, 78 percent of Bangladesh’s exports enjoy duty-free or reduced-tariff access in 38 countries under LDC schemes. Removing these preferences will significantly alter the cost dynamics of our RMG exports, which are highly price-sensitive.

Once the LDC benefits expire, we will potentially lose over \$8 billion in trade annually, and face tariffs of 12 percent or more in many major markets. For a sector built on low-cost competitiveness, these added duties could erode the price advantages that have long fuelled our global rise.

The decision to stick to the 2026 graduation deadline has stirred mixed reactions. Some economists, industry insiders, and even cabinet members

had called for a deferment of two to three years, citing the economic toll of the COVID pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and persistent global inflationary pressures. Their argument is that Bangladesh needs more time to build resilience and adjust to the impending loss of preferential market access.

Yet, the interim government, after consulting with experts, has chosen to embrace the transition, acknowledging the potential drawbacks but also preparing mitigation strategies.

One of the critical aspects of this transition is that certain LDC benefits will remain in place for three years post-graduation. This “grace period,” extending to 2029, offers a window of opportunity for industries to adapt. Encouragingly, key trading partners like the European Union, the UK, Canada and Australia have signalled their willingness to maintain favourable trade terms during this transition period, albeit with some conditions.

While the concerns are valid, this graduation also presents new opportunities for our RMG sector and broader economy. Removal of the LDC status can bolster our international reputation, potentially leading to better credit ratings, increased foreign direct investment (FDI), and a greater bargaining power in global trade negotiations.

The transition could also serve as a catalyst for much-needed reforms in the RMG sector. It would incentivise manufacturers to climb up the value chain, shift towards more sophisticated products, and invest in quality, branding, and sustainable practices. There is also an urgent need to diversify export markets and reduce overdependence on a few destinations,

that law should be clear and self-explanatory. Yet, in most post-colonial countries, legal texts remain obscured in archaic, technical jargon. German Philosopher Jürgen Habermas, in *The Theory of Communicative Action*, argued that true democracy requires transparent, comprehensible laws that enable public discourse. But when laws are written in dense, colonial-era language, they alienate the average citizen, rather than empowering them, as they are unable to comprehend the legal talk.

Legal philosopher Lon L. Fuller, in *The Morality of Law*, argued that the law is not just a set of rules but a reflection of a society’s moral fabric. If people do not see morality in the law, they will not respect it. In many developing countries, laws are perceived not as ethical guidelines but as bureaucratic obstacles. The result is legal nihilism—where people follow the law only when convenient, and break it when they can get away with it.

The consequences of this are dire. When legal respect collapses, the rule of force takes over. The weak are left defenceless, and the powerful operate with impunity.

What happens when people lose faith in the legal system? The rise of “people’s courts”—extrajudicial mobs delivering instant justice—is a disturbing trend in many areas. From lynchings in Bangladesh to vigilante killings in Latin America, these acts are not mere crimes but symptoms of a society that no longer trusts its judiciary.

Italian criminologist Cesare Beccaria, in *On Crimes and Punishments*, warned that when laws become instruments of oppression rather than justice, society will naturally rebel against them. This rebellion manifests not in political uprisings but in the daily disregard for legal structures—whether through bribery, mob justice, or outright anarchy.

In many ways, “Third World” societies are walking a precarious tightrope. The monster of lawlessness, once unleashed, is not easily contained. Macaulay envisioned a law that would be obvious and self-evident, but in much of the developing world, the law is neither respected nor feared—it is merely *negotiated*.

The legal crisis in developing countries is not just a governance problem, it is a moral and social one. As long as the law remains distant, selective and incomprehensible, it will continue to be ignored. And if that remains the case, the anarchy of the jungle will continue to reign.

such as the EU and the US.

Additionally, the industry must improve efficiency and productivity through automation, upskilling of workers, and infrastructure enhancements. Innovation and environmental sustainability will become critical in ensuring long-term competitiveness in a post-LDC landscape.

Our strong performance in sustainability certifications, green factories, and labour compliance could serve as differentiating factors in an increasingly conscious global market.

The garment industry, which has been both the symbol and engine of Bangladesh’s rise, now stands at a pivotal moment. How well we adapt to this new environment will largely determine our economic trajectory in the coming decades.

A collaborative approach is essential. The government must actively support the private sector through targeted policy measures, including export subsidies, tax incentives, and upskilling programmes. Trade negotiations should focus on securing duty-free access under alternative frameworks such as GSP+ (Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus) with the EU, or bilateral and regional trade agreements. Equally important is fostering innovation and value addition within the industry. Only by moving away from dependency on basic, low-margin apparel can Bangladesh truly future-proof its RMG sector.

With the right mix of policy, innovation, and global cooperation, we have the potential not just to survive the post-LDC era, but to thrive as a confident, competitive developing nation. The path ahead is steep, but not insurmountable, if navigated wisely.



YEAR-END AND NEW YEAR FESTIVALS

A confluence of nature and culture



Pavel Partha, an ecology and biodiversity conservation researcher, is director at Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK). He can be reached at animistbangla@gmail.com.

PAVEL PARTHA

We are gradually becoming disconnected and displaced from a once-thriving agrarian world. A clear indication of this trend is our tendency to engage in needless debates over the rituals and festivals associated with year-end and new year celebrations. We constantly attempt to impose artificial binary divisions and authoritarian narratives upon the majority of the country's rural, subaltern population. To truly understand the festivities of the year's end and another beginning, we must understand the local ecosystems and seasonal cycles. It is essential to understand how rural communities establish their cultural relationships with the ecosystems across different seasons.

The relationship between the subaltern population and the living environment is deeply intricate. That is why, during year-end observances, some in the hills prepare Pazon (festive dishes), while those in the plains cook *tita shak* (bitter greens). Some mark the year's end with the blooming of Bhatjara flowers, others with the Bhat flower, some with the Nageshwar, and others with the emergence of Salleaves. These are the outcomes of a millennia-old, complex interaction between nature and culture. Such experiences cannot be hidden or erased by the fabricated binaries of Hindu versus Muslim. Exploitative and oppressive regimes often fear the influence of the rural subaltern culture. Throughout human history, the transitions, beginnings, and ends of seasons have been celebrated through rituals and festivals. These year-end and new year celebrations deliver a collective message about the protection of life and nature, and that message poses a serious threat to the ongoing neoliberal system.

Bhatiporob in Baishakh, Kormadi in Jaishtho-Ashar, Korondi in Shraban, Karam in Bhadro, Dasai in Ashwin, Jalabarta in Kartik, Wanna in Agrabayan, Pushra in Poush, Baghai Shirni in Magh, Ghatabandha in Phalgun, and Chaitporob or Chaitra Sankranti in Chaitra—each marks the seasonal transition with unique cultural expressions. In each season, nature signals its ending and beginning through various living forms. Communities organise rituals to seek permission and blessings for harvesting and using nature's new produce. During the months of Phalgun and Chaitra, nature blossoms

with Bhath, Bhatjara or Biju flowers, Sal, Mahua, sweet pumpkin, Biliinbi, Venna, Amrul, Nageshwar, Palash, Kanthalichanpa, Dolanchanpa, and Konokchanpa. Fields and lands become filled with the spread of *tita shak*. Nature offers leaves, flowers, and fruits of all tastes—bitter, sour, sweet, salty, and spicy.



Locals perform the ritual of Charak Puja in the Sundarbans to mark Chaitra Sankranti, or the end of the Bangla year.

Across different regions of the country, year-end and new year celebrations are marked by festivals such as Chaitra Sankranti, Gajan, Del, Neel Puja, Charak, Halkhata, Noboborsho, and the Baishakhi fairs. Chakmas observe the Biju festival in three phases—Phulbiju, Mulbiju, and Gojjapojje. Tanchangyas, Pangals (Muslim Manipuris), and Bishnupriya Manipuris celebrate the Bishu festival. The Gurkhas and Assamese communities in Rangamati also observe the Bihu festival during this time; for the Koch people, too, the festival is known as Bihu. Many among the Hajong community celebrate the Hongorani festival. The Indigenous Bawm people celebrate Chapchar Kut festival. Around the same time, the Marmas observe Sangraing, the Tripuras celebrate Baisu or Baisuk,

the Rakhines observe Sangrain, the Chaks also celebrate Sangraing, the Mros celebrate Changkran, and the Khyiangs mark the new year with their Sanglan festival. The Barman and Koch communities of Bhawal and Modhupur Garh celebrate Chaitra Sankranti through Sanyasi Puja, Gajan, and Charak Puja. Many Indigenous people in the tea gardens of Sylhet observe the Dondoborto festival during this period.

These year-end and new year festivals are generally held around the same time—at the end of Chaitra and the beginning of Baishakh. However, there is no such festival anywhere in the world called “Boi-Sa-Bi.” This awkward and nationalistically motivated term was coined by combining the first

thousands of years, the rural subaltern population has revered these instructions of nature, integrating them into the rhythm of life. From this reverence have evolved numerous rituals and festivals like those marking the year's end and beginning. The mass uprising of July-August 2024 raised a strong collective voice in favour of expanding this space for people's culture. The state must recognise this public aspiration and channel cultural reform and transformation into an inclusive and pluralistic framework.

The role of bitter greens

In both Bangalee and Indigenous communities, year-end rituals are incomplete without bitter greens and vegetables. Across different regions of the country, people consume 13 to



PHOTO: DIGANTA CHAKMA

Chakma community celebrates Biju festival in Rangamati.

mangoes ripen on the trees. It is customary to seek permission to eat the first mangoes of the season. Among the Rabidas community, the end of the year is observed with the *hajra* ritual. On this day, a mixture of roasted barley powder (*chhatu*) and green mango is prepared and consumed, known as *aam-chhatuya*. During Charak and Baishakhi pujas, green mangoes are often pierced onto iron tridents as part of the offerings. The Rabidas community also places their tools of shoemaking—shovels, scissors, knives, and chisels—at a sacred site known as *Deokuri*. During this time, traditional musical instruments such as dhak, dhol, khajri, and jhajhar are played.

And the trees and flowers...

The Santal calendar year begins in Phalgun, and the Baha festival is observed during this month. Around this time, flowers like Sarjam, Ichauk, Murup, and Mahua bloom across the trees. Through the Baha festival, the Santal community seeks blessings and permission to consume and use the nectar of these flowers. Before Baha, the social use of these blossoms was considered prohibited.

In the hills, the blooming of the Biju or Bhatjara flower signals the arrival of the Biju festival—also referred to by some as the Bei flower. During this time, the Biju bird can be heard calling at the hills. Children, adolescents, and women roam on the hills, in the forests and villages, gathering Bhatjara flowers. These wild blossoms are used to make garlands, exchange greetings, and decorate homes.

Kaikono or Nageshwar flowers are also natural markers of the year's end and beginning. During Sangraing, the Chakma people gather these flowers. On *Paingshwet*, or Flower Day, villages host traditional Chak games like *peko* (spinning tops), *gyang* (top toss), and *maikanikcha* (blindfold game). The second day of Sangraing is *Akyai*, when village youths play instruments like *baik* (drum), *langhowak* (cymbal), and *hne* (bamboo flute) and proceed

together to the *kyang* (temple).

Pujas and fairs

One of the most widely recognised symbols of Chaitra Sankranti is the Gajan, Del, Neel, or Charak troupes that roam village to village. Dressed in red clothes and adorned as Shiva and Gauri—or sometimes masked—they collect alms. The Charak tree made from Sal wood and the Neel wood used in Neel Puja are iconic features of the celebration.

The traditional rural fairs held during Chaitra Sankranti and Pahela Baishakh also serve as grassroots cultural markers. In Gazipur, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Tangail, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj, Chattogram, and various corners of the country, ancient fairs still survive. Records indicate that an ancient Biju fair was once held in Kadalpur, Chattogram, but it has disappeared over time.

People, not the state, are keepers of nature

We are gradually moving away from the intricate markers and symbols of nature. We are losing our connection to the transitions of the seasons and the historical language they embody. As a result, unnecessary debates are emerging around the year's end and beginning, dominated by self-serving elite narratives. The historical relationship between the rural subaltern, agricultural production, and Mother Nature is repeatedly being dismissed. Chaitra Sankranti or Pahela Baishakh marks the transition from one season to another. This moment of transition should be met with harmony and friendship—not with conflict or opposition. People have interpreted nature through various cultural symbols, and the state must ensure the preservation of those symbols.

What does the Bangla New Year mean to me?



Selim Jahan is former director of the Human Development Report Office under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and lead author of the Human Development Report.

SELIM JAHAN

“What does the Bangla New Year mean to you?” I could hear the question as if coming from thousands of miles away, as a journalist interviewed me on the occasion. She is the head of the Bangla section of a renowned radio station in Europe. We were discussing the Bangla New Year of 1432. As she finished her question, I paused for a while. Usually, at the beginning of a new year, the question that most people face is “how do you feel?” But no, that was not the question asked of me. I hurriedly put together my thoughts and somewhat answered her question. But that question did not leave me altogether. I took time to contemplate further, and it seemed that the Bangla New Year holds five meanings for me: celebration, heritage, identity, universality, and humanity.

The celebratory aspect of the new year is well-known. The fairs in villages, in cities, in big fields, by the roadsides; all those clay dolls, figures of horses and elephants, brides and bridegrooms; the merry-go-rounds and various games all are part of the Bangla New Year celebrations. The Baul songs in rural fairs; the musical gatherings of Chhayanaout in Ramna; dressed-up men and women, boys and girls in new colourful outfits; all the happy and excited children—all reflect the celebratory aspect of the Bangla New Year.

In fact, on the first day of the Bangla New Year, every nook and corner of Bangladesh is brightened. Colours come up on the sarees of women, the punjabis of men, in flower arrangements, in arcades erected. Lines take their places in *alpanas*, on walls, masks, and

paintings. The fine arts students of Dhaka University spend the whole night before the new year drawing alpanas, finishing graffiti on the walls, making masks of various colours and kinds, and creating different figures with coloured papers for the processions next morning. All of these are parts of the Bangla New Year celebration. We welcome the new year by exchanging greetings, singing songs, and savouring traditional Bangalee food. The environment around us becomes thick with the chattering of men and women, of boys and girls, and of the old and the young. Joy, excitement and interest abound all

**The Bangla New Year has a universal aspect. On the first day of Baishakh, we come together, irrespective of colour, creed, religion and beliefs. The new year belongs to all of us—we all feel an ownership of it. Yes, there is an English New Year, and various Indigenous communities have their new years, too. Yet, over and above everything, people from all groups take part in the celebrations, enjoy the events, and observe its rituals. It is observed in villages as well as in cities; the rich and the poor observe it simultaneously.**



FILE PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The baul songs in rural fairs, the musical gatherings of Chhayanaout in Ramna; dressed-up men and women, boys and girls in new colourful outfits, all the happy and excited children reflect the celebratory aspect of the Bangla New Year.

around—happiness and celebrations mark the occasion.

The Bangla New Year has an aspect of tradition based on the age-old heritage, the culture, life and the living of the Bangalee society. Some rituals have emerged over time. In some rural areas, at dawn, women swim across the ponds and in one breath and pick green mangoes from the stooping branches of a mango tree. Similarly, the act of cleaning the front yard of the house and drawing alpanas also reflect the tradition of rural Bengal. The simple faith that “If you are fed well on the first day of the new year, you will eat well during the rest of the year,” or the ritual of halkhata—new accounts ledger—by businesses and shopkeepers holds that tradition too.

During the halkhata event, shopkeepers welcome their regular customers and serve different kinds of sweets to them with the

utmost affection and love. The shopkeepers ask for the blessings of the customers so that their businesses do well the whole year. And the red-coloured halkhata, leaning against the cash box of the shop is also part of the tradition. Nearby, one can see the tips of mango leaves in a brass pot, beside which rests a pen and an inkpot.

The Bangla New Year has a universal aspect. On the first day of Baishakh, we come together, irrespective of colour, creed, religion and beliefs. The new year belongs to all of us—we all feel an ownership of it. Yes, there is an English New Year, and various Indigenous communities have their new years, too. Yet, over and above everything, people from all groups take part in the celebrations, enjoy the events, and observe its rituals. It is observed in villages as well as in cities; the rich and the poor observe it simultaneously.



# Jamdani as the battleground

## The neo-imperialism of the “shared history” narrative

SHAHANA SIDDIQUI

### The Dangers of “Shared History”

Against my better judgment, I found myself in a rather heated online debate with Indian Bengalis regarding a video made by a popular Indian influencer on the issue of Jamdani. Ishita Mangal, in her series on regional Indian outfits, highlighted the Jamdani saree as a symbol of pride for West Bengal, noting how the British attempted to destroy or erase it but ultimately failed.

There are several things happening in the short clip: a quick photo of a Bangladeshi Jamdani, a reference to Charulata, and then her own Rabindric styling of what she presents as a Jamdani but is, in fact, a Dhakai Jamdani. In trying to explain the mistakes in the video—and that the Jamdani is not an Indian product but a Bangladeshi one—I was bombarded with a barrage of unsubstantiated claims and comments, all under the guise of “shared history.” Indian sentimentality had been hurt.

I usually enjoy Mangal’s content, which blends good humour with well-researched fashion and styling insights. And yet, just like a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film about Bengalis that prioritises grandeur over depth, Mangal made a rather khichuri—a debacle—out of Jamdani classification in a 30-second reel.

More so, the online comments—often ill-informed yet brimming with confidence—fall squarely within the current trend of Indian insistence on their dominance over all things Bangladesh. What is more interesting is the construction of the “shared history”



At the Jamdani Saree market in Narayanganj’s Rugganj, shopkeepers display their wares to eager buyers. Open from midnight every Thursday, the prized sarees—priced between Tk 4,000 and Tk 20,000—are usually sold out within hours.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

technical expertise largely remain on the Indian side of the border—with only a select few Bangladeshis having access to such spaces.

Social media-driven commerce has created immense opportunities for entrepreneurs across the region.

There is no doubt that Indian fashion houses play a significant role in globalising regional craftsmanship. Designers like Sabyasachi, Rahul Mishra, and Anita Dongre have become synonymous with luxury, comparable to global icons like Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Dior.

Indian fashion houses excel in e-commerce, and Bangladeshi counterparts have started adopting similar strategies. To appeal to the Indian market, Bangladeshi Jamdani sellers either directly sell pieces to Indian boutiques—who then rename them as “Dhakai Jamdani”—or, worse, Bangladeshi boutiques themselves have begun calling Jamdanis “Dhakai Jamdani.”

While it is both difficult and morally unjustifiable to police individual sellers who are simply trying to keep their businesses afloat, this act of compliance—to make Jamdani more digestible for the Indian market—is a manifestation of Bangladesh’s perpetual approval-seeking behaviour from India in all matters: from politics to economics to socio-cultural production.

**What’s in a name? Jamdani by any other name would not be Jamdani!**

Some may argue that perhaps I am too sensitive about what gets called “Jamdani”—



COURTESY: LS ARCHIVE/SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

by the elites but was also recognised as a saree from Dhaka, not from Kolkata or its surrounding regions. There’s also a quick image of a contemporary Jamdani—one that any Bangladeshi woman might have in her wardrobe. Again, this is not a Dhakai Jamdani but a Bangladeshi Jamdani, wrongly labelled as a West Bengal product.

One may argue—what is the harm in a little mix-up? This is precisely where the danger of the “shared history” framing comes in. Another quick internet search reveals hundreds of Indian websites extensively discussing “Bengal Jamdani,” using photos of sarees that are clearly not Bangladeshi Jamdani—or even related to it. Many of these sites also mention that Jamdani is UNESCO GI-protected, but conveniently omit the fact that this recognition belongs to Bangladesh, not India. It is an act of deliberate misinformation by omission. As a result, Jamdani is increasingly portrayed as an Indian fabric and form of craftsmanship.

Little lies have big consequences.

From the Indian side, the “shared history” framing appears frequently—be it in seemingly trivial cricket banter, difficult trade and diplomatic negotiations, or even the dangerous reduction of Bangladesh’s War of Independence to the so-called “Indo-Pak War.” This framing becomes a convenient

who routinely undermine Bangladeshi colleagues. They attempt to “educate” us in our own areas of expertise.

Some have even committed gross academic dishonesty by ignoring well-documented Jamdani history and presenting it as their own research at world-renowned universities. The “shared history” narrative has been used to play dirty, while expecting us to roll over and take it.

But why this fascination—almost obsession—with the Jamdani?

The simple answer is that the Jamdani is magnificent. According to the seminal book Traditional Jamdani Designs (2018) by the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB), the Jamdani, as it is crafted in Bangladesh, is the last remnant of Bengal’s muslin weaving tradition, which was systematically destroyed during British colonial rule. It is cotton weaving at its finest.

Unlike other sarees, the motifs are not embroidered or printed, but woven directly on the loom. This craftsmanship is a family affair, passed down orally from generation to generation. In the same book, one of the pioneers of Bangladeshi heritage conservation, the late Ruby Ghuznavi, wrote extensively about the indigeneity of cotton in ancient India, the superior Indian cotton looming techniques that captivated the world through Arab traders, the evolution of

weavers remained in the greater Dacca region—a reality that holds true to this day.

Jamdani is not just the material or the motifs; it encompasses everything—from the river system and flora-fauna of the Dhaka region, to the pit loom, the weaving technique, the oral directives, the family heritage, and the way of life surrounding this art.

Along with the story of master craftsmanship, the Jamdani is also one of quiet resilience and resistance—surviving British atrocities against Bengal/Mughal muslin, colonial and World War-induced famines, the partition of India and Pakistan, and later, Bangladesh’s War of Independence.

The Jamdani, I will argue, is a material expression of Bengal’s decolonisation. Its sheer existence is an act of resistance—with the weaving technique serving as the subaltern’s way of speaking to power, telling their stories, and expressing the human necessity to create art, even in the face of great adversity.

There was a time when the Jamdani community was dying out. Through extensive resurgence efforts by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in the 1980s and 1990s—supported by designers, craft specialists, academics, development organisations, and patrons—the Jamdani Village was established in Sonargaon, Bangladesh (Ghuznavi 2018: 33). On a personal note, growing up in different countries as a child, I was taught by my mother and the Bangladesh Foreign Service aunts the importance of always having at least one Jamdani and one Nakshi Kantha saree in our wardrobes. It was predominantly a women’s collective effort to support local craftsmanship and ensure that the younger generation understood the importance of representing our heritage on the world stage. This is a lesson I continue to practise to this day.

But we are a long way from that earlier struggle. Today, the Jamdani industry in Bangladesh is booming—with established handicraft stores such as Aarong, Aranya, Kumudini, and others boasting wide collections, hosting fashion shows and fairs dedicated to Jamdani.

There are innumerable saree stores across the country selling affordable Jamdanis, as well as niche boutiques specialising in high-end, one-of-a-kind pieces.

And yet, despite this thriving Jamdani industry, it continues to be subsumed under the Indian “shared history” narrative.

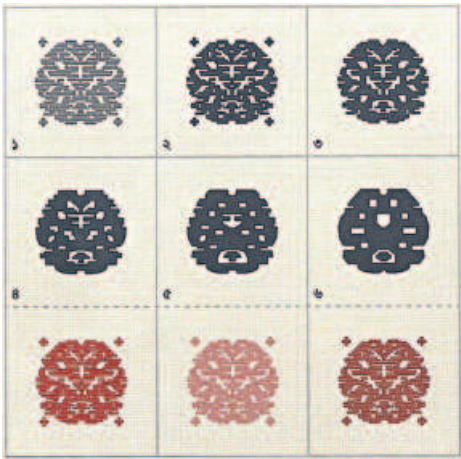
Moreover, under this insidious framing, global art exhibitions and conservation projects continue to showcase Bangladeshi Jamdani as Indian heritage, almost never acknowledging that the Jamdani is thriving in this part of Bengal.

Last year, I was able to visit The Design Museum of London’s SARI/STATEMENT exhibition in Amsterdam twice. And while the exhibition was well-curated, the West Bengal Jamdani on display was perhaps one of the worst I have ever seen.

No self-respecting Bangladeshi woman or tanti would ever own or claim such a poorly woven saree—nor insult Jamdani by calling it such. And yet, it was one of the main pieces in the exhibition, claiming to be the continuity of Bengal’s muslin legacy.

Our weak diplomatic efforts, our inability to effectively market Bangladesh and showcase our histories, allow for such blatant misrepresentation to go unchecked. When enough layers of falsity are repeated, even well-documented history can be overturned.

There are those working across the two Bengals to curate and restore our shared heritage. But the exhibitions, research, and



A collection of traditional Jamdani motifs

because, to quote the famous bard, “*What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet.*”

And yet, there is something specifically known as the “English Rose,” which is a trademark in and of itself!

Correct naming, recognition, and differentiation of Jamdani matter. It is crucial to ensure that the regal Jamdani is not lost in the misnomer of the “Dhakai Jamdani.” Our Jamdani is uniquely a Dhaka story, intricately woven into the region and the city. It is a story of resilience through waves of turmoil, of a community’s continuity in the face of change, and of resistance to adversaries—both large and small, foreign and local.

It would be a tragedy if, after surviving all these challenges, the name and history of Jamdani became blurred with “Dhakai Jamdani” for the sake of social media relevance and Indian comfort.

Perhaps now is the time to hold ourselves and our national agenda to higher standards.

### A big step towards that would be:

- engaging in critical archival research,
- restoring historical documents and monuments,
- ceasing the demolition of buildings and structures simply because we disagree with their politics, and
- investing in arts and craftsmanship.

And perhaps, this is also a good time to reflect on how much of this regressive “shared history” discourse we are willing to endure in the name of maintaining neighbourly peace.

Maybe we can learn from the Jamdani itself—how it survived immense adversity and still carries its resplendence.

Many of the motifs have changed over time, and yet the cotton yarn, weaving techniques, tutelage, and pit loom have remained enduring markers.

My personal favourite part of the Jamdani’s history is that all the original materials are indigenously Dhaka: the cotton that grew in the region, the mineral-rich silt deposited by the Meghna and Shitalakhya rivers, and the *boal* fish bone that was initially used for weaving.

The topography of Dacca/Dhaka is woven into the Jamdani—*nodī, mati, maach*. To lose Jamdani is to lose ourselves.

**Shahana Siddiqui is an anthropologist and currently a guest researcher at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. She is a saree—especially Jamdani—enthusiast.**

(Special thanks to Maheen Khan, Sheikh Saifur Rahman, and Sharmin Rahman for expert insights. Thank you, Seama Mowri and Muntasir Mamun, for your valuable comments.)



A weaver meticulously crafts intricate motifs on a Jamdani saree, each thread a testament to centuries-old artistry.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

tool to water down political tensions while subtly encroaching on anything uniquely Bangladeshi.

In recent years, India has tried to register the GI status of Tangail craftsmanship—a tradition from a Bangladeshi district nowhere near India. Designers like Gaurang Shah have even blatantly lied (and gotten away with it) in interviews, claiming to have “invented” the Jamdani, a weaving tradition that dates back centuries.

This “shared history” narrative offers an easy way out when Indians are caught in an international lie or fact-checked on social media. It is layered with neo-imperialism that manifests as a constant infantilisation of Bangladeshis.

Even in global academic circles, while I’ve been fortunate to work with phenomenal mentors and students of Indian origin, there remains a significant number of Indian academics—both seniors and juniors—

muslin, and the perfection that was Bengal/Dhaka muslin during the Mughal era.

Important for this piece is her discussion of the factors that made Dhaka muslin superior to any other of its time:

(a) Phuti karpas—a specific cotton that grew around the Dhaka region due to the mineral-rich silt deposits of the River Meghna,

(b) the fineness of its handspun yarn, and

(c) the delicate yet extraordinary skills of the weavers—initially Brahmin women.

Bit by bit, design motifs—jaam (flower), dani (vase)—inspired by Persian designs, appeared on the muslin yards, becoming what is now known as Jamdani.

“While muslins were woven mainly by Hindu weavers (tantis), Jamdanis were primarily the forte of Muslim weavers (julaha)” (Ghuznavi 2018: 25).

Due to various factors, muslin weavers migrated to other textile centres in what is now West Bengal. Interestingly, Jamdani



## Hridoy gets 2-match ban for ‘unacceptable’ behaviour

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board director Ittekhkarul Ahmed Mithu termed Mohammedan captain Towhid Hridoy’s behaviour as unacceptable after the cricketer was sanctioned for a Level 2 offence following continuation of his grievances against umpiring decisions during Saturday’s DPL match against Abahani.

The match referee sanctioned the player with Tk 80,000 and added three demerit points to four already slapped, in effect handing him a two-match suspension which originally was of one match.

Talking with The Daily Star, Mithu said that Hridoy’s overall behaviour was ‘unacceptable’ and that he didn’t know where the cricketer got this attitude from.

Hridoy was slapped with four demerit points and a one-match suspension for his heated exchange with on-field umpires Tanvir Ahmed and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat during the match.

“A notice has been sent to the player and if he accepts the sanctions, there would be no further hearing,” a BCB umpires’ committee official told The Daily Star. However, if Hridoy does not accept the verdict, a further hearing will take place on Monday.

Following his public grievances to the media regarding umpiring after the match, three more demerit points were added, making it seven demerit points in total.

It was learnt that Hridoy misbehaved during the hearing of the initial sentence and the match officials found him to be in breach of section 2.7 and 2.8 of BCB’s Code of Conduct.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Ten members of the Bangladesh cricket team, including skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, joined a training camp in Sylhet ahead of their opening Test of the two-match series against Zimbabwe, starting on April 20.

## Ritu, Nigar guide Bangladesh to thrilling win over Ireland

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Ritu Moni played the innings of her life to give Bangladesh a thrilling two-wicket victory in their ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup Qualifier fixture against Ireland at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

Ritu’s tremendous knock under pressure – an unbeaten 61-ball 67 featuring six fours and a six – rescued Bangladesh from the brink of a likely defeat as the Tigresses chased down Ireland’s 235 run total with eight balls to spare after being reduced to 82-4 in the 22nd over.

**Ritu Moni and Nahida Akter’s 54-run partnership is the highest for the ninth wicket in WODIs, breaking the record of 37 between Panna Ghosh and Jahanara Alam.**

Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty 68-ball 51 alongside useful contributions from the middle- and lower order ensured Bangladesh got their second win in two matches, following a 178-run win against Thailand in their opening game on Thursday.

While the top-order failed to produce anything of substance, Ritu, batting at six, put together a 45-run stand with Fahima Khatun (28 off 38 balls), a 40-run partnership with Jannatul Ferdus (19 off 23 balls), and a record 54-run ninth wicket stand with Nahida Akter (18 off 17 balls) to see the Tigresses through. Earlier, Rabeya Khan had taken three wickets and Fahima Akter two wickets as Bangladesh restricted Ireland to 235-5 after being asked to field first.

Bangladesh, who sit second on the points table, will take on Scotland in their next match tomorrow.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### IRELAND

235-8 in 50 overs (Prendergast 41, Delany 63; Fahima 2-50, Rabeya 3-39)

#### BANGLADESH

240-8 in 48.4 overs (Sharmin 24, Joty 51, Ritu 67 not out, Fahima 28, Jannatul 19, Nahida 18; Prendergast 2-14, Kelly 2-53)

#### RESULT

Bangladesh won by two wickets.

#### PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH

Ritu Moni



## Penalty corner now our main strength: Mimo

ANISUR RAHMAN

Converting penalty corners will be Bangladesh hockey team’s “main strength” during their title defense in the upcoming Men’s AHF Cup in Indonesia, said new captain Pushkor Khisa Mimo yesterday.

Bangladesh have struggled to convert from penalty corners in past, with hardly any penalty corner specialists in the squad.

But the 26-member Bangladesh contingent that will leave for Jakarta in the early hours of Tuesday to take part in the 10-team competition, from which the top two teams will qualify for next Asia Cup, has as many as four penalty corner specialists, a prospect that excited Mimo.

“We have participated in the last four editions of the AHF Cup and have become champions every time. We are going there to defend the title but it is going to be challenging because only two teams instead of four will qualify for the Asia Cup,” Mimo told The Daily Star yesterday.

“I think converting penalty corners is going to be our main strength this time because we have drag and flick specialists like [Sohanur Rahman] Sabuj, Hujaila [Hossain], Ashraful [Islam] and Amirul [Islam],” said the 31-year-old forward who is going to captain Bangladesh for the first time since co-captaining the side during the 2017 Asia Cup in Bangladesh.

Under coach Mamun Ur Rashid, the team had a six-week-long preparation camp ahead of the tournament but did not play any practice matches against international sides.

Heading into a tournament without



FIXTURES

April 18 – Bangladesh vs Kazakhstan  
April 20 – Bangladesh vs Indonesia  
April 22 – Bangladesh vs Thailand  
April 23 – Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka  
April 25 – Semifinals  
April 27 – Final

“We had a plan to play three practices matches in Malaysia before heading to Indonesia but we could not arrange it despite going door to door for funds.”

– BHF joint secretary and team’s assistant manager Abu Jafar Tapan

PHOTO: STAR

playing practice matches is nothing new for the team. Expectations were that the newly-formed adhoc committee would break away from this practice and arrange practice matches before the tournament but much like the previous committees, it failed to do so.

“We are happy with the preparation, with the way the boys practiced. They were out of action for a long time, they improved

their fitness by 80 to 90 percent. The only lacking is that we couldn’t evaluate the team’s capacity due to not playing any practice matches,” Bangladesh Hockey Federation joint secretary and team’s assistant manager Abu Jafar Tapan said.

“We had a plan to play three practices matches in Malaysia before heading to Indonesia but we could not arrange it despite going door to door for funds.”



PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool extended their lead to 13 points at the top of the Premier League with a hard-earned 2-1 win over West Ham at home yesterday. Luis Dias scored the opener in the 18th minute, a lead which Liverpool managed to hold till the 85th minute. Left-back Andre Robertson scored an own goal which levelled the scoreline but captain Virgil Van Dijk found the net three minutes later to clinch the game for The Reds.

### DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Wasi shines as Gazi secure third Super League spot

SPORTS REPORTER

An 18-year-old Wasi Sddiquee, who first grabbed the spotlight during the ACC U-19s Asia Cup in 2023, is coming up through the ranks as the leg-spinner claimed six wickets to help Gazi Group notch up a 51-run win over Brothers Union in a Dhaka Premier League (DPL) game at BKSP 4 yesterday.

Gazi’s win saw them secure third position in the DPL Super League standings, with eight wins in 11 games. Wasi’s six wickets saw him equal Rishad Hossain in the top wicket-takers’ list with 11 wickets. Wasi, however, has a better average and economy rate than Rishad, who is now away to play in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Shamsur Rahman Shuvo struck a 90-ball 84 while Mohammad Salman’s rapid 27-ball unbeaten 51 saw Gazi post 301 all out as Brothers’ Sumon Khan bagged four for 64.

Brothers got off to a rapid start with a 110-run stand off 97 deliveries between Mahfijul Islam and Zahiduzzaman Khan. Wasi came into the attack in his second spell and had an immediate effect. First, Mahfijul holed one out at long-off, unable

to clear a flighted delivery before Wasi.

Wasi castled Aich Mollah in the next delivery with a googly that came in sharply to bamboozle the batter. On a hat-trick, Wasi produced another googly that rapped Mushukur Rahman’s pads, but the batter survived as the impact was outside the line.

Wasi would account for Myshukur Rahman later in the 31st over, and when Zahiduzzaman departed in the 33rd over to Wasi after a dazzling 122 off 92, the momentum shifted towards Gazi as Wasi picked up the final wicket in the 44th over.

Agrani Bank, meanwhile, secured fifth position as Shadman Islam starred with 87 in their 89-run win over Legends of Ruppangjat Mirpur’s Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium. Apart from Shadman, there were fifties from Imranuzzaman and Amite Hasan while veteran Marshall Ayub came up with a handy 36-ball 48 to help Agrani to 306 for six.

In reply, the majority of the star-studded Legends of Ruppangj batters got starts but could not counter Agrani. Tanzid Tamim managed 27 while Soumya Sarkar, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, and Ahif Hossain scored 27, 32, and 29, respectively.

Medium pacer Robiul Haque bagged four for 39 for Agrani. As the league phase ended today, Shadman and Joy joined the national team in Sylhet for the Tigers’ camp ahead of their two-Test series against Zimbabwe this month.

At BKSP 3, Partex Sporting clinched a two-wicket win over Dhanmondi Sports Club despite a 90-run knock from Yasir Ali. Yasir’s 90 and Moin Khan’s 80 saw Dhanmondi reach 229 all out while Ahran Amin’s unbeaten 85 saw Partex secure their third win in the tournament.

Partex, Brothers, and Shinepukur Cricket Club will now play the relegation league.





THE BEST QUALITY  
EVERY TIME GUARANTEED  
BSRM

THE NATION'S  
LARGEST ROD  
MANUFACTURER

★★★★★

BSRM

building a safer nation

COMPLETE  
GUIDANCE APP FOR  
HOME BUILDING

শহুরে  
নির্মাণে  
আমি

নির্মাণে  
আমি

GET IT ON  
Google Play

Download on the  
App Store

QR CODE

POLLS TIMELINE

BNP questions  
Yunus' repeated  
'shifts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed has questioned Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' "repeated shifts" in the election timeline.

Speaking at the National Representative Conference 2025 of the Bhasani Anushari Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Salahuddin said that such changes would not be well-received.

"Whom are you encouraging? Which undemocratic forces are you giving benefits to midway? To serve whose agenda is the chief adviser constantly wavering between 'December to June', 'December', 'June'? Why can't you stay still?" the BNP leader said.

"You [chief adviser] are a world-renowned, respected person. This kind of shifting will not be well-received by the nation or international community," he added.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

The preparations made for today's Pahela Baishakh festivities at Chattogram's DC Hill were ruined last night when a group of vandals swooped on the organisers, wrecked the stage, smashed chairs, and tore down banners. The event held here to welcome the Bangla New Year is one of the major celebrations in the port city.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Pahela Baishakh  
a symbol of our  
harmony: Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Extending greetings to all on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said people of all faiths and communities in Bangladesh are members of one family.

"Tomorrow [Monday], the first day of Baishakh, is one of the symbols of this harmony. Everyone will celebrate in their own way, according to their customs, and take part in the festivities," he said while laying the foundation stone of "Sampriti Bhaban" at the Dhaka International Buddhist Monastery.

Yunus said despite differences in beliefs, religions, and customs, the Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and other communities living in the mountains and plains of the country

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT

Arrest warrants  
issued against  
Hasina, Rehana  
Rehana's children Tulip,  
Azmina, Bobby, also wanted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, and 21 others in three cases filed over irregularities in plot allocation in Purbachal New Town.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Cancel reciprocal tariffs

China calls on US after Washington announces exemptions for consumer electronics

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday called on the United States to "completely cancel" its reciprocal tariffs after Washington announced exemptions for consumer electronics and key chipmaking equipment.

"We urge the US to... take a big step to correct its mistakes, completely cancel the wrong practice of 'reciprocal tariffs' and return to the right path of mutual respect," a commerce ministry

spokesperson said in a statement.

The world's two largest economies have been engaged in a tit-for-tat tariff war since US President Donald Trump announced this month sweeping global tariffs -- since escalating the blanket duty on Chinese goods to 145 percent.

Retaliatory Chinese import tariffs of 125 percent on US goods took effect Saturday, with Beijing standing defiant against its biggest trade partner.

But after his tariffs sent global markets into a tailspin, Trump announced a 90-

day delay for most countries.

China was excluded from the reprieve. Washington again dialled down the pressure Friday when the US Customs and Border Protection office said smartphones, laptops, memory chips and other products would be excluded from the global levies.

Beijing's commerce ministry yesterday called the exemptions a "small step" by Washington and said that China was "evaluating the impact" of the decision.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Tk 3,100 crore  
promised: BIDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recently concluded Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 has yielded investment declaration worth Tk 3,100 crore, says Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).

He shared the information at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

"Personally, I believe the summit hasn't achieved a perfect 10. There's still plenty of room

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

আড়ং  
ডেইরি

শুভ  
নবর্ষ  
১৪৩২

গোলাপজাম

পানতোয়া

গুড়ের রসগোল্লা

কালোজাম

রসগোল্লা

a BRAC social enterprise

f /AarongDairyBRAC

09613 456 456