

Now, if for some reason one of the two parties makes it very difficult, we're just going to say, 'you're foolish, you're fools, you're horrible people, and we're going to just take a pass'.
Donald Trump on Ukraine talks

The Daily Star

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Eliminate gender disparities in laws

Women's Affairs Reform Commission pitches a slew of changes

NILIMA JAHAN

The Women's Affairs Reforms Commission has proposed a series of comprehensive reforms to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women embedded in the country's laws, constitution, policies, and institutions.

The 10-member commission yesterday submitted a report containing 433 recommendations, grouped under 15 thematic areas and categorised into three groups, to Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.

"There are those [recommendations] that can be implemented by the current government, those for the next elected government, and a separate section outlining the hopes," Shireen Huq, the commission's chief, said at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital.

Among the commission's most notable proposals are the elimination of all discriminatory and contradictory constitutional provisions and laws, and the adoption of a uniform family code to ensure equal rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance, and maintenance for women across all religions.

The commission also urged the effective implementation and strengthening of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act-2010, including increasing penalties and ensuring the resolution of divorce



Toxic industrial waste has devastated Tangail's Louhajang River, wiping out all aquatic life since mills and factories were established along its banks nearly three decades ago. Once a source of life, the river is now a burden for locals, who continue to seek action from authorities in vain. The photo was taken from Sadar upazila's Khudirampur area recently. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Will hold 'best election' in nation's history

Reiterates Yunus before ANFREL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed his commitment to ensuring that the upcoming national election will be the best in Bangladesh's history.

According to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing, Yunus assured the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) that Bangladesh would hold a free and fair election between December 2025 and June 2026.

"We want to make sure the election will be the best in Bangladesh's history and a milestone for the country's democratic journey," he said during a meeting with an ANFREL delegation at the State

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Star INTERVIEW

'BNP's 31-point charter embodies public will'

Mahdi Amin, a former academic at the University of Cambridge, is in demand these days. As the adviser to BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, people want to sit him down to learn of the latter's plans, policies and thoughts. Earlier this month, he met with The Daily Star's Zina Tasreen for an interview.

Before talks of reforms became the de rigueur, the BNP and its acting chairman Tarique Rahman have been talking about it. So the question on everyone's mind is why the party opposed some of the proposals by the six reform commissions.

"Many of the proposals that we vetoed seem experimental -- there are hardly any examples of those occurring anywhere in the world. We believe changes have to be sustainable and practical and in keeping with the culture and nature of the people of the land," Amin said.

For instance, the constitution reform commission proposed to establish a National Constitutional Council (NCC) with a majority of opposition representatives, alongside assigning opposition parliamentarians to lead all parliamentary committees.

"Allocating more seats to opposition parties than the ruling party within the NCC contradicts the electoral principle that the majority party should hold greater influence."

This structure could grant disproportionate leverage to opposition parties, potentially enabling them to obstruct government policies or destabilise governance if they do not act responsibly.



If the BNP forms the government at this moment, Tarique Rahman has a concrete plan for what would be done in the first 100 days, 180 days and 360 days.

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BANGLADESH CONSTITUTION

Do we need any fundamental principles at all?

Says NCP during talks with consensus commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stating that political parties have embedded their own ideologies as fundamental principles in the Constitution of Bangladesh, the National Citizen Party has questioned whether there should be any fundamental principles in the charter at all.

"In 1972, the Awami League included its own ideologies as fundamental principles in the Constitution. Later, several parties added their own ideologies through amendments," NCP Convener Nahid Islam told reporters after he and several other leaders of the party met the members of National Consensus Commission at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"We questioned whether we need fundamental principles in the constitution, and whether we can think of another framework. Our constitution already declares Bangladesh a people's republic and a democratic state, and it also mentions the fundamental rights. Is there any need for additional fundamental principles?"

NCP Joint Convener Sarwar Tusher said lawmakers should be allowed to vote against party lines through amending Article 70 of the constitution.

The right to cross the floor is one of the conditions of an effective parliament, he said, adding that the only

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cases within three years.

To guarantee equal rights for mothers in matters of guardianship and custody, it called for amendments to the Guardians and Wards Act-1890.

The commission proposed that the government withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 16.1(g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which ensure legal equality in marriage and divorce. Additionally, it called for the ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organization's Conventions C189 and C190 on domestic workers' rights and protection from workplace violence and harassment.

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Interpol red notice sought for Hasina, 11 others



UNB, Dhaka

The National Central Bureau (NCB) of Bangladesh Police has submitted a request to Interpol seeking a "red notice" against 12 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Confirming the development, Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general (media) at the Police Headquarters (PHQ), said the NCB branch makes such requests to Interpol based on appeals received from courts, public prosecutors, or investigating agencies.

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A traffic control volunteer rushes across the Gulshan-1 intersection to stop a battery-run rickshaw from entering. Battery-run rickshaws were banned from all roads in Gulshan-1 and Gulshan-2 from yesterday morning, with only registered pedal rickshaws now permitted.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JULY UPRISING

A martyr without a country

The state won't recognise 17-yr-old Nur Mostofa as he was a Rohingya

MASHFIQ MIZAN

Last year, 17-year-old Nur Mostofa, like many of his peers, took to the streets, standing shoulder to shoulder with the masses to protest the killings of hundreds at the hands of law enforcers during the July uprising and to demand the resignation of then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

On August 5, when he joined the protest ignoring his father's warnings, Mostofa was shot in front of Eidgaon Police Station in Cox's Bazar. He died in a hospital a day later.

However, the local authorities refused Mostofa the martyr status reserved for the fallen heroes of the movement.

What was his fault? Why couldn't he get the recognition for the ultimate sacrifice?

Mostofa was a Rohingya and not legally a citizen of the country, despite being born and raised here.

His father, Shafiu Alam, fled persecution in Myanmar and settled in Eidgaon upazila of Cox's Bazar in 1992. It was there his wife, Nur Begum, gave birth to Mostofa in 2007.

His birth certificate was issued by the Islamabad Union Parishad in 2008. However, he was not granted citizenship because Bangladesh does not grant citizenship to children born of non-citizen parents.



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OLD DHAKA'S FOOD TRAIL

A nostalgic gastronomic adventure

RBR

I went to the Lalbagh area last Saturday to finalise an interesting project for My Dhaka readers (stay tuned), but this business meet-and-greet was unlike any I had ever attended or conducted. It was exactly the “Dhakai way” of dealings -- warm-hearted, raucous, and with a table full of delicious food.

Old Dhaka people genuinely have a way of winning your heart through your stomach. A simple cup of milk tea or a glass of chilled lassi with a kabab paratha roll is all you need to melt away.

I was waiting beside the fort gate in the parking lot that was lined with all sorts of snack vendors. The aroma of corn cobs being roasted on a coal fire, and peanuts being fried in a wok full of sand were inviting, but I chose to wait in front of an “aam shotto” cart.

Aam shotto is a sun dried mango pulp roll mixed with sugar. This mouth-watering tangy snack cart had a line of buyers, waiting to get a pack of either the sweet aam shotto roll, or the sour one with a dash of rock salt and chilli flakes. Jalaluddin, the happy vendor, earns around Tk 800 a day.

But it was the worn-out wooden cash box, which also served Jalaluddin as a cutting board, that stole my heart. I tried in vain to buy it off him, and after a lot of laughs and paper packets full of aam shotto, we exchanged our cell numbers -- with me promising to haunt him till he makes a new one for himself and sells off the old one to me.



PHOTO: STAR

This type of bizarre meets is only possible in the narrow lanes of old Dhaka, where there is no pretence of class hierarchy, and every person is amiable and fun-loving.

Finally, when my mates came, we walked to the Mughal Kabab restaurant at the corner of Horonath Ghosh Road, opposite the pocket gate of the fort, to discuss our business agenda.

Informal and random, this place had the best juicy and tender kababs, done just right -- khiri kabab, beef boti, beef sheekh with rumali roti, and shukha paratha were just simply delightful.

The meal reminded me of a tiny

three-storied kabab place beside the old Central Jail, where the evenings are at full gear, selling scores of orders of chicken tikka, chicken reshmi, mughalai beef sheekh, and parathas being sent down from the third-floor window, tucked in a bucket tied with a rope.

I had the best beef sheekh for just Tk 30 from an unknown roadside stall in Bakshi Bazar. Besides the popular restaurants, old Dhaka boasts tasty and tender kababs in all sorts of hole-in-the-wall restaurants.

I dare to compare the kababs here with Old Delhi, and

believe me, Dhaka's Mughal cuisine recipe should be the only one to follow. The hype that old Delhi kababs enjoy falls flat in front of our old Dhaka kababs.

Kababs, Nihari, biriyani, and chaaps are decadent here in Dhaka. Marinated beef chunks in skewers, slowly roasted in an open coal fire can give any Delhi minced meat sheekh a run for its money.

In my childhood, my grandmother's lavish two-storied mansion in Purana Paltan was right beside Baitul Mukarram masjid, and all those lanes had restaurants lined up. Breakfast during weekends was vegetable labra and paratha, and transparent suji halwa, and evenings were about kabab, paratha rolls, and puri.

Neem shukha or Bakarkhani, and shutli kababs were sold by vendors coming to your doorstep till the 70's. Jhalfrezi, brain masala, and offal kabab were all the rage at Ruchita, a posh eatery in the late 70's at Bangabandhu Avenue. The beef chaap of the Provincial Hotel at the stadium market was considered the supreme treat of the times. These food tales and legacy continue to hold to date, with just the shops relocated deep inside the belly of the old town, rather than being on the fringes of Old Dhaka.



Interpol red notice

FROM PAGE 1

“These applications are filed in connection with allegations that emerge during investigations or through ongoing case proceedings,” he said.

Interpol plays a key role in identifying the locations of fugitives residing abroad, the AIG added.

In November last year, the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the International Crimes Tribunal formally requested the Police Headquarters to seek Interpol's assistance in arresting Sheikh Hasina and others deemed fugitives.

Will hold ‘best election’ in nation’s history

FROM PAGE 1

Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on Thursday.

ANFREL, a Bangkok-based independent non-governmental organisation comprising members from 18 countries, is dedicated to the advancement of electoral democracy in Asia. It has been actively supporting election observation, democratic reforms, and civic engagement across the region for over two decades.

The ANFREL delegation included Executive Director Brizza Rosales; Consultant for the Bangladesh Elections and Democracy Programme May Butoy; Senior Programme Officer for Campaign and Advocacy Tharindu Abeyrathna; Programme Officer Ayan Rahman Khan; and Programme Associate Afsana Aney.

During the meeting, ANFREL shared details of its ongoing initiatives in Bangladesh, particularly its commitment to rebuilding independent, citizen-led election observation efforts. The delegation also discussed its activities in conducting stakeholder mapping and needs assessments, aimed at identifying opportunities to strengthen civil society engagement and promote electoral transparency.

ANFREL expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the chief adviser and reaffirmed its commitment to continued collaboration with stakeholders in Bangladesh to support transparent and credible elections.

Since December 16 last year, Prof Yunus on many occasions stated that the next parliamentary election could be held either this December or next June, depending on the extent of reforms implemented by the interim government.

Yunus is spearheading a comprehensive reform agenda aimed at rebuilding key institutions and reshaping national priorities. Six key reform commissions have already submitted their recommendation reports to the government.

A National Consensus Commission, led by the chief adviser, is currently holding discussions with political parties to finalise which recommendations will be implemented.

Eliminate gender disparities in laws

FROM PAGE 1

It further recommended a new law against sexual harassment, based on the 2009 High Court guidelines, ensuring clarity, strength, and reforms in rape laws to guarantee justice that is neutral in terms of gender, age, religion, ethnicity, language, and disability, with victim-friendly trials and clear accountability mechanisms.

The commission proposed amendments to the citizenship law, allowing Bangladeshi women to confer citizenship on their foreign spouses; the enactment of laws to protect victims and witnesses; the upholding of the rights of persons with disabilities; and the inclusion of domestic and sex workers under labour laws without criminalising sex work.

It also recommended the establishment of a permanent and independent Women's Commission to oversee and protect women's rights nationwide, and the restructuring of the National Women and Child Development Council, alongside amendments to its jurisdiction.

The commission urged the restructuring of the women and children's affairs ministry, and the integration of equal rights responsibilities into every ministry through Gender Equality Units, with measures for accountability, gender-sensitive planning, and the monitoring and evaluation of the gender budget.

In November 2024, the government formed the 10-member Women's Affairs Reform Commission with Shireen Parveen Huq, a founding member of Naripokkho, as its chief.

Other members of the commission are Maheen Sultan, senior fellow at the Brac Institute of Governance and Development; Advocate Kamrun Nahar, director of Naripokkho; Fawzia Karim Firoze, senior Supreme Court lawyer and president of the Foundation for Law and Development; Kalpona Akter, president of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation; Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, women's health expert; Sumaiya Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra; Nirupa Dewan, former member of the National Human Rights Commission; Ferdousi Sultana Begum, gender and social development expert and former senior social development adviser at the Asian Development Bank; and Nishita Zaman, a student representative.

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus directed the relevant ministries and divisions to promptly implement the commission's recommendations. He gave the directive after receiving the report at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday.

“Let the recommendations that can be implemented quickly be carried out through us. Let us, through this work,

set an example for other countries around the world. The women of the world are watching this. They will review it. They will be inspired...”

“This is not just a women's issue; it's a matter of national importance. The report will be printed and distributed. It will be published as a book, like a textbook. It cannot just be shelved as a document; it must be made accessible to people.”

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

The commission proposed transformative steps to boost women's representation in politics, such as introducing 300 seats for women in the national parliament with direct elections, thereby doubling the current total number of seats to 600.

Shireen Huq acknowledged the scepticism surrounding the proposal. “Although it may seem unrealistic to many, as there is currently no space for 600 people in the parliament chamber considering the country's population, [but] increasing women's representation is crucial.”

The commission's report stated, “If an upper house of parliament is established, 50 percent of the seats should be filled using a ‘zipper system’ -- alternating male and female nominees on party lists to ensure gender parity. The remaining half should be filled with non-partisan representatives, including those from women's movements.”

To ensure women's participation within parties, the commission recommended promoting democratic practices and creating an enabling environment, and formulating regulations to remove social and corruption-related barriers to women's political engagement.

It also strongly suggested that compliance with the provision of 33 percent women's participation in the Representation of the People Order be made mandatory.

At the local government level, each ward should have one general seat and one women's seat for the next three elections as a temporary special measure.

It further recommended establishing a system to ensure that female MPs are accountable to the wider community of women.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The commission recommended ensuring 24 weeks (six months) of fully paid maternity leave and two weeks of paid paternity leave across all sectors.

It also proposed amending the labour law to replace the term “maternity welfare” with “maternity rights”, prohibit dismissal during pregnancy and maternity leave, and include all necessary related benefits.

The commission called for the formal recognition of domestic and sex workers as labourers under existing labour laws, along with the recognition of women's work in the

informal economy.

To protect female migrant workers and support returnees, the commission urged amendments to existing migration laws, policies, and regulations.

It stressed the need for bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding with destination countries to ensure safety, dignity, and effective monitoring, including quarterly and annual reporting.

It also recommended finalising and implementing a reintegration policy to facilitate returnee women's access to training, employment, and financial support.

For the next elected government, the commission proposed setting an equal minimum wage for male and female workers across all sectors to eliminate pay disparities. It called for annual revisions of the wage based on global standards and the introduction of policies to ensure a living wage.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

To address gender-based violence in public transport, the commission suggested incorporating specific provisions into relevant laws and ensuring their enforcement to guarantee safety and protection against violence and sexual harassment.

Emphasising the need for decentralisation and local-level development, Shireen Huq said, “We believe that only through decentralisation can the voices of grassroots women reach the national level. Those at the centre -- be they policymakers, politicians, or others -- will then be able to hear and respond to their pleas and demands.”

Other notable recommendations include ensuring access to modern, life-oriented education for girls that aligns with the labour market, the inclusion of comprehensive sex education, and efforts to reintegrate school dropouts and victims of child marriage into the education system.

Additionally, the commission recommends setting 18 as the minimum legal age of marriage for girls to prevent adolescent and high-risk pregnancies, and implementing the 2023 High Court directive to control unnecessary Caesarean sections.

It also calls for the revision of the 2013 National Policy on Older Persons to prioritise the health needs of elderly women, with effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

Furthermore, a nationwide system should be established to track maternal and neonatal deaths, identify causes, and address service gaps through corrective action.

The commission also urged the introduction of appropriate education for children with special needs and their inclusion in mainstream education.

Do we need any fundamental

FROM PAGE 1

exceptions should be finance bills and no-confidence votes, because those can destabilise a government.

“Our view is to strike a balance between the freedom of MPs and parliamentary stability. This is why we want this reform.”

The NCP also proposed that an individual may serve as prime minister no more than twice, and anyone who becomes prime minister would be considered ineligible to ever hold the office of president.

“We propose a cabinet-led government, not one led by the prime minister,” Nahid said.

Any amendment to the constitution should be done through referendum even if two-thirds of the members of the upper and lower houses support the amendment, he said.

The party also recommends making uninterrupted internet access a fundamental right.

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the National Consensus Commission, delivered the opening speech at the day-long meeting between the NCP and the commission.

According to consensus commission sources, the participants discussed constitutional, judicial, and electoral reforms.

As all the topics were not covered due to time constraints, the adjourned meeting is likely to resume next Tuesday or later.

From the National Consensus Commission, Safar Raj Hossain, Badiul Alam Majumdar, and Iftekharuzzaman attended the meeting while Justice Emdadul Haque joined in the afternoon.

A martyr without a country

FROM PAGE 1

At the time of his death, Mostofa was a 10th-grade madrasa student preparing to sit for the Dakhil exam.

His father Shafiul told this correspondent that when he stopped his son from joining the protests on August 4, Mostofa showed him a clip of Abu Sayed and said, “If Abu Sayed can give his life, if hundreds of our brothers can, why can't I?”

On the morning of August 5, as Mostofa was sneaking out to join the protests, he pleaded with a friend who spotted him not to tell his father where he was going.

That afternoon, he was shot. The bullet pierced through his back and exited through his chest, according to his inquest report.

He was rushed to a hospital. He breathed his last the following day, on the afternoon of August 6.

“My son was born on this soil. He was a student at a local madrasa. He would have sat for the Dakhil exams now if he had not been killed,” said Shafiul.

“Only because we are Rohingya and don't have NID cards, Mostofa's name was struck off the official list of martyrs.

“I don't care about the money. But Mostofa was born here, he went to school here, and he died for this country. He deserves the recognition.”

Nur Begum, Mostofa's mother, said, “Our biggest crime is that we are Rohingya. How else do we explain the disrespect and lack of recognition even after my son gave his life for the country?”

Ensure youth-led

FROM PAGE 12

With runaway inflation for three years, he said, restoring purchasing power through monetary policy is a priority.

He also emphasised the need to diversify exports beyond garments to sectors like leather, pharmaceuticals, plastics, and electronics. “We are working to attract foreign investment, but unless governance improves and corruption is checked, those efforts won't succeed,” he cautioned.

He described the current administration as transitional and said foundational reforms will allow future governments to build further. “We hope to leave behind positive changes that the next elected government may continue--or the people will demand it,” he said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed optimism that the nation is headed toward positive change, saying interim government chief Prof Muhammad Yunus would succeed in resolving political and other challenges.

“We have problems, and these will be resolved. Much progress has already been made. Let us all help him [Yunus], help ourselves, and move forward,” he said.

Fakhrul asserted that the people of Bangladesh--not India, the US, or China--will determine the country's future.

He credited the youth as the driving force behind the nation's democratic and rights-based movements, from the 1952 Language Movement to the July-August uprising of 2024.

He also emphasised that there is no alternative to democracy. “And democracy cannot be imposed; it must be practised. The spaces for this practice must remain open.”

In the second session, Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre, said marginalised communities must be able to see themselves reflected in the exercise of power.

“Only then will grassroots people feel empowered,” he noted, stressing the need for a balanced distribution of authority within the police and local administrations.

Political analyst Dr Dilara Chowdhury said there can be no real empowerment of women in the country without their participation in policymaking.

“Women in Bangladesh are treated as second-class citizens, which starts from home and continues to the society and the state,” she said.

Without women empowerment, the dream of a discrimination-free Bangladesh would be illusive, she added.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the environment ministry, said the youth must be engaged more to build a new Bangladesh since they are not hesitant or cannot be restrained. “We need to understand the language and expectations of the new generation,” she said.

Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser; Jashim Uddin, foreign secretary; Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, NSU vice chancellor; Farah Kabir, ActionAid Bangladesh's country director; and Assaduzzaman Fuaad, the AB Party's general secretary, also spoke at the event.

Four students were awarded the Ambassador Serajul Islam Future Leaders Scholarship supported by a grant from the Dr Prabir and Mukul Roy Foundation. They are Fatema Tuj Johura and Arpita Paik from Dhaka University, and Shahnewaz Kabir and Samia Yesmin from NSU.

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Standing with Palestine is a moral duty

Says Serajul Islam Choudhury

DU CORRESPONDENT

Standing with Palestine is no longer the duty of 1.5 billion Muslims alone but a moral responsibility of all seven billion people, said eminent academic and Dhaka University Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury yesterday.

He made the remarks while addressing a solidarity rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, organised by the Palestinian Solidarity Committee Bangladesh.

Criticising the indifference of the United Nations, he said, "The conscience of the world no longer exists. The world is now split -- on one side stand the powerful, exploitative oppressors; on the other, the powerless, oppressed victims."

He described Israel's actions as "not a war, but genocide," carried out with "chilling brutality and premeditated cruelty." He said global capitalism has now transformed into fascism and is complicit in the ongoing massacre.

Also speaking at the event, noted economist and academic Prof Anu

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Prominent citizens under the banner of "Palestine Solidarity Committee" form a human chain in front of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, protesting against the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza. Among others, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and noted economist Anu Muhammad were present.

PHOTO: STAR

Battery-run rickshaw drivers clash with locals over ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Battery-run rickshaw drivers engaged in sporadic clashes with locals in Gulshan and Banani yesterday while protesting a ban on their vehicles in the area.

The protests disrupted traffic in both neighbourhoods, with drivers blocking roads and marching in procession. Tensions flared as scuffles broke out between the protesting drivers and locals, including pedal-rickshaw pullers and ride-sharing motorcyclists.

The ban, which took effect yesterday morning, was jointly enforced by the Gulshan and Banani Society, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and Dhaka North City Corporation, following complaints from residents about unregulated traffic and road safety concerns.

Under the new

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER PROBE

New task force, same old delay

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The high-powered task force, led by Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) chief Additional Inspector General Md Mustafa Kamal, has failed to submit any report to the High Court in connection with the murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi, despite the six-month deadline given by the court expiring over two weeks ago.

The HC on September 30 last year ordered the home ministry to transfer the responsibility of the investigation from the Rab to a new task force comprising experienced personnel from various law enforcement agencies. The directive came after years of delay in the investigation by Rab, which had taken over the case in 2012.

The newly constituted task force was instructed to complete the investigation and submit its report by March 31 this year.

However, Deputy Attorney General Tanim Khan told The Daily Star on April 2 that his office had not received any probe report from

the taskforce. "Once we receive the probe report, we will submit it to the High Court," he said.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court on April 15 extended the deadline for the probe for the 118th time.



The newly constituted task force was instructed to complete the investigation and submit its report by March 31 this year.

Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, counsel for the complainants in the case, said he would bring the matter to the attention of the HC bench when it reopens today.

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Registration of bus with torn-off roof suspended

Owner sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority yesterday suspended the registration of a passenger bus that continued travelling for several kilometres even after its roof was torn off in a series of collisions on Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj on Thursday night.

BRTA also served a notice yesterday to owner of the Barishal Express bus seeking an explanation as to why its registration should not be permanently cancelled.

Md Sanaul Haque, deputy director (engineering) of BRTA's Dhaka Metro-2 Circle (Ekuria), issued the notice.

According to the letter, the speeding bus rammed into a private

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

AIR POLLUTION

Govt plans 24 roadside monitors in Dhaka and Ctg

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is set to install roadside monitoring stations at 24 locations in Dhaka and Chattogram to curb air pollution caused by motorised vehicles, with technical and financial assistance from Japan.

Dhaka is among the worst cities in the world in terms of clean air, with vehicular emissions being one of the main contributors. According to the global AQL, Dhaka frequently tops the list of cities with the worst air quality. Chattogram also experiences similar conditions due to heavy vehicular movement.

To address the issue, the environment ministry will today place a Tk 103 crore project proposal at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec).

Under the plan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) will provide a Tk 68 crore grant, with the remaining funds to be covered by the government.



AT A GLANCE

- Dhaka, Ctg to get 19, 5 stations respectively
- Tk 103cr project to be placed at Ecneec meeting
- Jica to fund Tk 68cr as grant
- Stations to monitor vehicle emissions
- Project aims to cut transport-related air pollution

Once implemented, the roadside monitoring stations will operate continuously. The project will also introduce vehicle-customised monitoring stations aimed at tracking vehicle emissions and drivers' behaviour.

Nineteen of the stations will be installed in Dhaka and five in Chattogram.

The objectives of the project include identifying the sources and levels of air pollution from road transportation, formulating effective policy guidelines and strategies for mitigation, and reducing health hazards caused by pollution.

Currently, the Department of Environment has 31 air quality monitoring stations, of which 16 function continuously. The department publishes real-time data based on readings from these stations.

According to the proposal, although motorised vehicles are a major source of air pollution, the country currently has no roadside monitoring system in place.

The air pollution control project is among five projects totalling Tk 1,090 crore that are expected to be placed at today's Ecneec meeting. The other four focus on making urban areas more

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

End contractual appointments in civil admin

Demands govt officials' platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of government officials under the banner of "Baisamya Birodhi Karmachari Oikya Forum" has demanded cancellation of all types of contractual appointments across all levels in the civil administration.

The demand was made at a press conference held at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

ABM Abdus Sattar, president of the forum and a former secretary, placed five additional demands aimed at ensuring a neutral administrative structure, including: appointing all officials who have been subjected to discrimination to important positions in ministries, including the role of secretary, and in other agencies and departments; granting promotions to those deprived; and holding those who patronise fascist collaborators and corrupt officials accountable in matters of promotion and posting.

"To make the administration effective and to ensure a fair and impartial upcoming national election, all contractual appointments must be immediately cancelled," said Abdus Sattar.

"To establish a transparent and accountable administration, officials who were loyal to the ousted ruling party, act as political lackeys, or are undue

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



The stellar duo -- Mabia Akhter Shimanta, left, and Afsana Luqman, right -- at a gathering at bti Celebration Point in Gulshan-2, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Bti Star honour two stellar women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Way back in the year 2023, bti and The Daily Star came together to launch the "bti The Daily Star Stellar Women" initiative -- a unique platform created to honour and celebrate women from diverse walks of life for their contributions to society.

The inaugural season recognised 12 outstanding women across various fields.

The second season of the initiative began in September 2024, with the first two awards being presented in November.

Recently, a gathering was held at bti Celebration Point in Gulshan-2, Dhaka, where two more extraordinary women were recognised for their achievements.

National weightlifter Mabia Akhter Shimanta received the award in the "Sports" category

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

24th convocation of EWU held



CITY DESK

The 24th convocation of East West University (EWU) was held at Aftabnagar Sports Ground in Dhaka on April 16, said a press release.

Education Adviser Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar conferred degrees on 2,885 students at the convocation.

Six students received gold medals.

Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Limited, Bangladesh, was the convocation speaker. UGC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz attended the programme as the special guest.

Prof Mohammed Farashuddin, chairperson of the board of trustees of EWU, and Vice Chancellor Prof Shams Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Khalilur Rahman, the national security adviser; vice chancellors of different universities and cultural figures were present at the convocation.

Bti-Star honour two

FROM PAGE 3

for her representation of Bangladesh on the international stage. On the other hand, architect Afsana Luqman was also honoured in the “Architect (Residential & Commercial)” category for her innovative and impactful designs.

This season, several new award categories have been introduced, reflecting the initiative's commitment to expanding its recognition each year and ensuring deserving women from all sectors receive the spotlight they deserve but are often deprived of.

The Stellar Women

initiative is now halfway through, and it continues to gain momentum the further it goes.

Nominations are now open across multiple new categories, including “Art & Culture,” “Engineering (Civil, Structural, Water Resources & MEP),” “Bank & Financial Institutions,” “Healthcare,” “Environment,” and “Agriculture.”

The event was attended by bti's Managing Director FR Khan, Head of Sales and Marketing at The Daily Star Imran Kadir, and bti's Executive Director of Brand & Communication Management Aysha Siddiqua.

Danger lurks

FROM PAGE 6

“Work is ongoing. At the site of the recent incident in Kapasgola, the city corporation has temporarily set up bamboo fencing as a safety measure,” he added.

Pranab Kumar Sharma, deputy chief cleaning officer of the CCC, said, “The major drains and canals under the CCC are still open. Once the waterlogging project is complete, we plan to cover them with slabs.”

When asked whether the CCC maintains data on how many people have died in such incidents over the past five years, he replied, “We don't have such data.”

Chattogram urban planner Delwar Mazumder said, “We have urged the City Corporation before to build protective barriers around roadside drains, canals, and water bodies, and to initiate related projects. But no one listened. Such tragic incidents happen every year in Chattogram. It's heartbreaking.”

“At the very least, if proper fencing is installed along roadides, the number of such accidents will decrease,” he said.

Standing with Palestine

FROM PAGE 3

Muhammad said, “Israel has for decades pursued a systematic campaign to erase Palestine.” He said 70 percent of the victims are women and children.

“Israel is killing Palestinian children to stop future resistance,” he said, adding that Israel has violated every ceasefire and international protocol, with the backing of the United States.

The Palestinian Solidarity Committee Bangladesh placed five key demands at the rally.

These include: an immediate halt to

Govt plans 24 roadside

FROM PAGE 3

liveable, transforming the agriculture sector, and rehabilitating farmers affected by last year's floods.

One of these is a Tk 53 crore project funded by the Gates Foundation, aimed at transforming agriculture to reduce climate-related risks. It will target coastal, Barind, drought-prone, haor, and flash flood-prone areas by addressing gaps between policy and investment. The project will be implemented jointly by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Another project, costing around Tk 75 crore, seeks to make cities more inclusive and liveable by strengthening the capacity of climate-related institutions at both local and national levels.

A Tk 599 crore project will be carried out by the Water Development Board to support sustainable flood recovery and

enhance emergency preparedness. The project will be implemented in Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali, Laxmipur, and Brahmanbaria.

The fifth project, titled “agricultural system restoration”, is estimated to cost Tk 260 crore. Of this, Tk 244 crore will be provided by the World Bank as a loan.

The Department of Agricultural Extension and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will jointly implement the project, which includes training and the distribution of agricultural equipment among flood-affected farmers in the same five districts.

PRAYER
TIMING

APRIL 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-25	12-45	4-45	6-27	8-00
JAMAAT 5-00	1-15	5-00	6-31	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Battery-run rickshaw

FROM PAGE 3

restrictions, battery-run rickshaws are prohibited on both main and inner roads of Gulshan 1 and Gulshan 2. Only registered pedal-powered rickshaws are now permitted to operate.

Locals said the vehicles began entering Gulshan after August 5 last year, claiming their speed and unregulated movement posed risks and contributed to traffic congestion.

To enforce the ban, 20 additional guards were deployed by the Gulshan Society at nine entry points to assist police.

Around noon, 80 to 100 drivers rallied from Gulshan-2 towards Gulshan-1.

While protesters alleged they were assaulted during the demonstration, locals claimed the drivers turned aggressive first.

Shahidul Islam, a driver, said he was beaten by a ride-sharing biker near Gulshan-2.

Abdul Jalil, president of the Gulshan-Banani-Badda Autorickshaw, Easybike Drivers Association, said around 8,000 such rickshaws operate in the area.

He said the protest was called off after police assured them they could use alleyways but not main roads.

Ziaur Rahman, ADC (Traffic-Gulshan), said the drive will continue.

Polytechnic

FROM PAGE 6

“We want to get our message across without disrupting public life. Our protests will continue until our demands are met,” said Sabbir Ahmed, a central leader of the movement.

On Friday, students marched in Dhaka's Teigaon area wearing white burial shrouds (kafon), symbolising their frustration. Similar protests took place in Jhenaidah, Lakshmipur, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur, and other districts.

The protests followed dissatisfaction over the outcome of a meeting with education ministry officials held at the Secretariat on Thursday. After the meeting, student representatives said they had not received any official documents or seen any concrete initiatives from the ministry, prompting them to announce fresh programmes.

Their six-point demand includes the removal of “controversial instructors” appointed after 2021, the conversion of the diploma engineering programme into a full four-year course with six-month-long semesters, and ensuring that only diploma holders can apply for the post of deputy assistant engineer (Grade 10) and equivalent positions.

End contractual

FROM PAGE 3

beneficiaries must be removed from office,” he also said.

He warned of a strict movement soon unless their demands are met.

The forum also alleged that the government has appointed foreign nationals on a contractual basis to certain posts due to prior associations or special connections.

Additionally, some controversial figures, allegedly collaborators of fascist regimes and beneficiaries of the 1/11 political changeover, have also been appointed on contract.

Several former civil servants, including Bijon Kanti Sarkar, Abdul Khalek, Abdul Bari, and Kazi Meraj Hossain, were present at the briefing.

New task force, same old delay

FROM PAGE 3

objective of finally moving the investigation forward after more than a decade of stagnation. “The officials have communicated with key persons, including the victims’ family members and lawyers, and examined forensic evidence. As far as we know, significant developments have taken place,” he said.

He, however, expressed concern over the prolonged obstruction of justice in the case.

“The investigation has suffered from a lack of competent manpower and political will over the last 13 years. Evidence and documents have disappeared during this time. Still, we hope the efficient officials now involved will submit a

credible report to the High Court.”

Shishir Manir also alleged that the investigation had been deliberately impeded by influential figures in the previous Sheikh Hasina-led government.

“Failing to unearth the mystery behind the murder in 13 years is a serious failure on the part of the state,” he said during a press briefing at the SC.

Meherun Rumi's brother and complainant in the case, Nawsher Alam Roman, echoed this allegation and directly accused the previous government of involvement in the murder.

Sagar and Rumi's son, Mahir Sarowar Megh, who was also present, said, “I see the light of hope this time. Hopefully something good

will happen.”

Earlier in July last year, another HC bench remarked in its full verdict that the delay in completing the investigation and starting the trial had “continuously ridiculed our criminal justice system and damaged it to an unreparable stage.”

Sagar Sarwar, then news editor at Maasranga TV, and Meherun Rumi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were murdered in their rented West Rajabazar flat on February 11, 2012. Megh, who was five at the time, was at home during the killing.

Rumi's brother filed the murder case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station the next day, initially without naming any suspects. The case changed hands several times before being handed to Rab on April 18, 2012.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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তারিখঃ ১৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫

স্মারক নম্বরঃ ০৫.৪১.৫৬০০.২০৩.০২.০৫৯.২৪-১৪৭

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার ০৭ (সাত)টি উপজেলায় কর্মরত ৬৩০ জন (ছয়শত ত্রিশ) জন গ্রামপুলিশদের (দফাদার ও মহস্তাদার) “খ” তফসিল বর্ণিত পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত অতিজরতাসম্পূর্ণ প্রকৃত পেশাক প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) এর নিয়মাদুসারে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাদিমূত্বা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

তফসিল ‘ক’

ক্র. নং.	বিবরণ	বিকারিত তথ্য
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগের নাম	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।
০৩	সম্মানিত কর্তার নাম	জেলা প্রশাসক, মানিকগঞ্জ।
০৪	কাজের নাম	২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরের মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার ০৭টি উপজেলার ৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশদের (দফাদার ও মহস্তাদার) পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।
০৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের (ইউপি-২ শাখা) স্মারক নম্বর ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০১৮.০২.০০২.১৭(অংশ-২)-১৫২৭, তারিখঃ ১৬.১০.২০২৪
০৬	ক্রম পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
০৭	অর্থের উৎস	২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে অনুদান বাজেট মঞ্জুরি নং-৩৪ হিসাবের খাত-১৩৭১০১১১০০০১৩০৮/৩৬৩১১০৩
০৮	টেন্ডার ও প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	০১ (এক)টি
০৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), মানিকগঞ্জ। গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ। ঘ) উপজেলার নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ সদর।
১০	দরপত্র দাখিল ও গ্রহণের স্থান	(১) পরিচালক, স্থানীয় সরকার, বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা (২) স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ (৩) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ ও (৪) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ সদর।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস সময়কালীন পর্যন্ত
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	০৭.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও স্থান	০৭.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ বিকাল ০৪.০০ ঘটিকা
১৪	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	(ক) দরপত্রাদাতার ভাট প্রজিন্টেশন, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতাচারিত ব্যাক সনদ এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। (খ) দরপত্রাদাতার নিবৃত্ত ০৫ বছরের মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করেছেন এই মর্মে সত্যিষ্ট নথি হতে ০১ (এক) বছরের অতিজরতাসনদ দাখিল করতে হবে। (গ) পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্রাদাতার ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
১৫	দরপত্র সিটিভিকের বিক্রয় মূল্য	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
১৬	কাজের মেয়াদ	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ৬০ দিনের মধ্যে।
১৭	কাজের বিবরণ	দফাদার ৩০ জন (পুরুষ), মহস্তাদার ৪৯৯ জন (পুরুষ) ও মহস্তাদার (মহিলা) ৭৬ জন সর্বমোট ৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশদের পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।

তফসিল ‘খ’

পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির বিবরণ

ক্র. নং.	পেশাক/মাল্যাদারের বিবরণ	পেশাক সরঞ্জামাদির সংখ্যা/পরিমাণ
০১	৫৫৪ জন গ্রামপুলিশের ব্যক্তি হস্তের ফুলাপ্যাক প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০২ (দুই)টি করে কোমরে ০২ (দুই) ইঞ্চি চওড়া বেল্ট, পায়ের দুই পাশে ০২টি বড় পুকেট, পরিধানযোগ্য ০৪টি লুপ সজ্জিত প্রত্যেকের নির্দিষ্ট বাম অঙ্গাঙ্গী(অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৫৫৪×২=১১০৮টি
০২	৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশের (পুরুষ ৫৫৪ জন ও মহিলা ৭৬ জন) সাদা রঙের জামা প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০২ (দুই)টি করে ০১ (একটি) ফুল ও ০৩টি হাফ। পুকের দুই পাশে ০২ (দুই)টি পকেট ও বোতাম ঢাকাসহ (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৬৩০টি ফুল+৬৩০টি হাফ মোট = ১২৬০টি
০৩	৭৬ জন মহিলা গ্রামপুলিশের বেটি ব্র হস্তের লাঠি। প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০২ (দুই)টি করে (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৭৬×২=১৫২টি
০৪	৬০ জন দফাদারের সোফার ব্যাচ পারদেপল কালার Four Pointed Cross ব্যক্তি কালার, Four Pointed Cross এর মধ্যে গোলে, আকাশি রঙের রিবন এবং গ্রামপুলিশ লোগোটি সাদা রঙের হবে।	৬০ জোড়া
০৫	৫৫৪ জন গ্রাম পুলিশের সোফার ব্যাচ পারদেপল কালার, আকাশি রঙের রিবন এবং গ্রামপুলিশ লোগোটি সাদা রঙের হবে।	৫৫৪ জোড়া
০৬	উন্নতমানের নাইলনের বেট প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১ (একটি) করে (পুরুষ ও মহিলা) (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৬৩০×১=৬৩০টি
০৭	উন্নতমানের ব্র রঙের কাপড়ের ব্রাউজ প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১ (দুই)টি করে (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৭৬×২=১৫২টি
০৮	উন্নতমানের কাপড়ের ব্র রঙের পেটিকোট (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে) প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০২ (দুই)টি করে।	৭৬×২=১৫২টি
০৯	৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশের (৫৫৪ জন পুরুষ ও ৭৬ জন মহিলা) উন্নতমানের কাপড়ের জুতা (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে) প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১ (একটি) করে (মোজাবা) প্রত্যেকের নির্দিষ্ট মাথা অনুসারে।	৫৫৪ জোড়া পুরুষ+৭৬ জোড়া মহিলা মোট =৬৩০ জোড়া
১০	৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশের প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১টি করে উন্নতমানের ৪.৫০ সোপের চার্জার লাইট (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৬৩০×১=৬৩০টি
১১	৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশের প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১টি করে উন্নতমানের লাইনার বার্নি (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে)।	৬৩০×১=৬৩০টি
১২	৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশের প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১টি করে বেডের লাঠি।	৬৩০×১=৬৩০টি
১৩	৬৩০ জন গ্রামপুলিশের (৫৫৪ জন পুরুষ ও ৭৬ জন মহিলা) উন্নতমানের রেইন কোট (অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনা অনুসারে) প্রতিজ্ঞাধার ০১টি করে।	৬৩০টি

শর্তাবলী

০১. দরপত্রের জামানত বাবল উদ্ধৃত তথ্যের ৩০% টাকা যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাক হতে ব্যাক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাক ড্রাইউ/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে জেলা প্রশাসক, মানিকগঞ্জ এর অনুমুদ্রে দাখিল করতে হবে।

০২. ক্রেতার প্রাপ্ত পুঁজি উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% অর্থ যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার জেলা প্রশাসক, মানিকগঞ্জ এর অনুমুদ্রে কাজের জামানত (পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি) হিসেবে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

০৩. (ক) দরপত্রের সাথে দরদাতার সনদ ফোটা ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি দাখিল করতে হবে (খ) প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/পেশাক প্রস্তুত ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ০১ (এক) বছরের অতিজরতাসনদপত্র কিংবা সমজাতীয় মানসম্মত সরবরাহ/সমজাতীয় কর্মসম্পাদনের সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে। (গ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়নপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, ব্যাক সলভেশন সনদ দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্ববর্তী ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ৫০,০০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ) টাকার ব্যাক ফ্রিডি এবং একই ধরনের কার্যের অতিজরতাসনদপত্রের (সত্যায়িত) কপি দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে, (ঘ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ছায়াচিত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। (ঙ) দরপত্র সীলমোহরকৃত বামে কাজের নাম, দরদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং পিপিআর এ বর্ণিত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদিসহ প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।

০৪. দরপত্রের স্পষ্টিকরে উদ্ধৃত নথি অস্বাক্ষর এবং কথায় বিবৃত হবে এবং দরপত্রে কোন কাটকাটি বা ঘাঘামাঝা করা যাবে না।

০৫. দরপত্রের সাথে প্রত্যেকটি সরঞ্জামাদির নমুনা অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত সরঞ্জামাদির সাথে অফিসের সংরক্ষিত নমুনার তুলনামূলক ওগুণত মান বিবেচনাপূর্বক কমিটি পরবর্তী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করবে।

০৬. কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক গৃহিত দরপত্র দরদাতার অবহিত হওয়ার ০৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে ৩০০.০০ (তিনশত) টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পের উপর শর্ত মোতাবেক পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করা হবে মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা সম্পাদনেনে পর (NOA) প্রদান করা হবে।

০৭. দরপত্রের সকল স্বাক্ষর ও শর্তাবলী পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন (পিপিএ), ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।

০৮. কোন প্রকার কাজ/জুতা কাগজপত্র/সনদ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। এ ধরনের কোন প্রমাণ পাওয়া গেলে দরপত্র বাতিলসহ দ্বি বি বি মোতাবেক আইনদুপ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

০৯. সিটিভিলে বর্ণিত পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি যথাযথভাবে ওগুণতমান ও মাপ বহির্ভূত হলে তা গ্রহণ করা হবে না। সেক্ষেত্রে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ঠিকাদারের সাথে থাকরিত চুক্তি বাতিলপূর্বক জমাকৃত জামানত বাতিল করা হবে। একই সাথে ঠিকাদার সমুদয় পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি ফেরত নিতে বাধ্য থাকবে।

১০. চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে সমুদয় পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করতে হবে। বার্ষিক্য জামানত বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

১১. সনদ, পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি গ্রহণের জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে দাখিল করতে হবে। অতঃপর সরবরাহকৃত পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির ওগুণতমান মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক যাচাইঅন্তে সন্তোষজনক বিবেচিত হবে এবং জেলা প্রশাসক কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত হলে সরবরাহকারীকে নিজ খরচে জেলার সকল ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে পৌঁছাতে হবে এবং উক্ত মালামাল গ্রহণপূর্বক ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের স্যোরায়ান/সিটিসের প্রত্যয়নপত্র সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কার্যালয়ে দাখিল সাপেক্ষে বিল গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১২. সরকার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নমুনা মোতাবেক গ্রামপুলিশদের (দফাদার/মহস্তাদার) পেশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি ও জুতার মাপ যথাযথভাবে গ্রহণকরতঃ তাদের শরীরের মাপ অনুযায়ী জামা, প্যান্ট, ব্রাউজ, পেটিকোট, জুতারবে অন্যান্য সামগ্রী প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে গ্রামপুলিশের পেশাক পরিধান করিয়ে পেশাক সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

১৩. দরদাতাকে প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সংক্রান্ত হলফনামা দাখিল করতে হবে।

১৪. কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনবোধে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্ত অর্থের মধ্যে ভরপেমেন্ট সেকেন আইটেম সন্মোদন/বিলোজন এবং মাল্যাদারের পরিচয়/সংখ্যা/হাস/বৃদ্ধি করতে পারবেন। তাতে দরদাতা কোন আপত্তি করতে পারবেন না।

১৫. বিল হতে বিলি মোতাবেক আট ও আয়কর কর্তন করা হবে।

১৬. সরবরাহকৃত মালামালের বিষয়ে যদি কোন আপত্তি না থাকে তবে বিল পরিশোধের ০৬ (ছয়) মাস পরে জামানতের অর্থ ফেরত দেয়া হবে।

১৭. যে কোন কারণে বাতিলের কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে এবং এ ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

১৮. প্রয়োজনে অধিকারের তথ্যাবলী স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ হতে জানা যাবে।

১৯. উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলীর কোন ব্যত্যয় ঘটলে সরবরাহ আদেশ বাতিলের জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।

GD-907

২৭/০৪/২০২৫

ড. মাসোহর হোসেন মোস্তাফিজ, মুদ্রাসিদ্ধ

জেলা প্রশাসক

মানিকগঞ্জ

ফোনঃ ০২-৯৯৬৬১০৩৯৫

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

District Primary Education Office

Chattogram

dpe.chittagong.gov.bd

স্মারক নম্বর-৩৮.০১.০৩০০.০০০.১১.০২৫.২১-১২৩৭ তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
2	Implementing agency	District Primary Education Office
3	Project/program name	NBIDGSPSI Project
4	e-Tender IDs	1095198, 1095209, 1095211, 1095213, 1095214
5	Description of works	Supply of Furniture under NBIDGSPSI Project at different Schools at different Upazilas in Chattogram District. FY 2024-2025
6	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	S. M. Abdur Rahman District Primary Education Officer, District Primary Education Office, Chattogram.
7	This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/Firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

১৩.০৪.২০২৫

S. M. Abdur Rahman

District Primary Education Officer

District Primary Education Office

Chattogram

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‘BNP’s 31-point charter embodies public will’

FROM PAGE 1
“Such an imbalance is uncommon in other democracies and could undermine effective governance.”

The suggestion to change the country’s name in Bangla appears to be a symbolic gesture rather than a substantive reform.

“Such changes may not address the core issues affecting citizens’ lives and could divert attention from more pressing matters that require practical solutions, and the name ‘Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea’ can be an example.”

Changing the voting age to 16 years is another suggestion that the party opposed. Only a handful of countries in the world including Argentina, Brazil and the Channel Islands have that as the voting age, Amin said.

The constitution reform commission proposed a four-year term for the prime minister. The BNP maintains that it should be for five years, following the norm in the Westminster parliamentary system followed in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and others.

The four-year tenure of the presidential system that is followed in the US and some Latin American countries is not suitable here, Amin said.

In its landmark 31-point charter, the BNP said none should be the prime minister beyond two consecutive terms, a position the party has stuck to. However, the commission proposed an individual cannot be the prime minister for more than two terms in their lifetime, following the US practice.

“If we look at the best cases of Westminster-style democracy, there is no cap on the prime minister’s tenures. As the most liberal political party in the country, we are still proposing it – and we were the first to do it. The logic was to develop and allow leadership to grow but at the same time allow the previous democratically-elected leader who did a good job to get another shot, reflecting the wishes of the people.”

It is unfortunate that reforms and elections have been made mutually exclusive, he said, while recalling the discussions that took place between the party leadership and the other stakeholders between August 5 and August 8 last year before the formation of the interim government.

The main deliverable of the interim government back then was to organise polls after implementing the election-related reforms.

From day one of the interim government, the party insisted on reforms in four areas: election commission, law enforcement, bureaucracy and judiciary.

The issue of wholesale reforms, which has now become a tool to linger the

election procedure, was not discussed then, Amin said.

“We see new tools and mechanisms popping up to prolong the duration of the interim government and one may ask if it goes with the aspiration of the mass uprising that we saw. The main job of the interim government is to fulfil what we saw people discuss leading up to the 5th of August and that was the lack of agency and opportunities, which is a by-product of an unelected government where people were deprived of their voting

roadmap after eight months as a case in point.

“As a deep-rooted political party with public engagement, we understand people have the common interest to have an election as soon as possible. It is about time that the interim government looks beyond the urban-centric narratives that are disconnected from the grassroots or real-world problems.”

The leisurely pace of the trial for atrocities committed during the July uprising and the lack of support of victim

a specific timeframe and then an elected government will come – does that mean the elected government will not do any reforms? Does the country become static? It never works that way.”

The BNP views reforms as a holistic exercise that would not only ensure checks and balances in the government but also correct the system to enable the development and welfare of the people, said Amin, who has been instrumental in giving form to Rahman’s vision of a progressive, tolerant and rules-based Bangladesh, which has been in the works for about a decade and a half.

His association with Rahman goes back to 2011, when the latter was engaging with bright Bangladeshi minds in British academia to give intellectual and practical heft to his vision.

A PhD student of management studies then, he was inducted into Rahman’s team to work on inclusive development policies and state reforms and was subsequently made his adviser in 2014.

“I particularly appreciated the opportunity he gave me to work on the contextual application of the best practices of the Westminster-style democracy in Bangladesh. That was a whole different world in 2011, 2012, 2013 – no one could think of such a massive shift in the political culture back then but Tarique Rahman thought about it. That was the vision.”

Specifically, Rahman was fascinated with the bicameral parliament system; establishing the independence of the judiciary; creating a balance of power between the executive branch, the parliament and the judiciary; and creating a balance of power between the head of state (president) and head of government (prime minister).

Rahman’s vision was articulated in what became the 31-point charter unveiled in 2023, which his teams in Bangladesh and abroad put together from countless brainstorming sessions with relevant professionals, experts and pro-democracy stakeholders; empirical research and grassroots feedback.

The charter accommodated the views of all like-minded political parties involved in the movement against the previous regime and was adopted by them, too.

Each of the 31 points came about through an iterative process, Amin said.

“Our 31-point reform agenda not only attempts to ensure accountability and transparency in the state structure, it also attempts to financially empower people regardless of profession and background and to solve problems in their regular life. The BNP’s biggest pride is that whatever discourse there

is in Bangladesh today about reforms, pretty much all the practical and widely accepted proposals came from that charter.”

With Rahman’s direction, dedicated backend teams are working to fine-tune the working procedure for each of these reform and development policies.

So much so that if the BNP forms the government at this moment, Rahman has a concrete plan for what would be done in the first 100 days, 180 days and 360 days.

“Our leader is very confident of delivering those – and he is promising only as much as we can deliver.”

The teams and the roadmap would be unveiled before the election, Amin said, adding that a glimpse of the party’s plan for the economy and businesses was shared during the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025.

“How do we create jobs? How can we empower women and ensure their safety? How do the labourers and farmers get fair compensation for their efforts? How can we provide quality multilingual education and healthcare for all? How do we solve the traffic problem? How can we keep inflation at a tolerable level? Our leader has worked on those and has targeted policies.”

This leads to the question of the BNP’s involvement in the epoch-making July uprising, which has created the ground for the party’s second coming. The BNP – and particularly Rahman – was more involved than what it publicly takes credit for, according to Amin’s version of events.

About 1,400 died during the uprising, according to the estimates of the UN’s fact-finding mission – and more than 500 of them were BNP party workers, Amin said. About 5,000 of the party’s members were arrested, including the top brass, while its central office was raided and district offices were vandalised, according to reports.

However, the party does not want unilateral recognition for toppling the Goliathan Awami League-led government.

“BNP as the main opposition party was always in the field against the Hasina regime. But when a ruling party loses its nature and becomes a human rights violator and takes a turn towards fascism, it cannot be toppled through a political movement – a mass uprising is needed.”

This is what happened in the July uprising.

“For the first time in 16 years, people from all walks of life at home and abroad came out and participated in their own capacities, on the internet and the streets. And the BNP leaders and activists ensured the numbers on the ground and were prepared for the ultimate sacrifice,”

said Amin, who shared how Rahman worked round the clock to see the movement to its finishing line.

The conversation then veers towards the BNP’s preparedness to lead the government after so many years in the wilderness.

“We have the capacity and the technical human resources and most importantly, the commitment to the country’s development, as demonstrated by the past BNP governments of President Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.”

And stumping out corruption will be the single overarching ethos of the BNP government.

The party will commission a white paper in all ministries to unearth the length and breadth of corruption over the past 16 years and start an ombudsman, a system through which people can lodge complaints against any government official and

Rahman has zero tolerance for such activities and doles out the harshest punishment if credible proof of the offences is obtained “as there is a lot of misinformation and disinformation”.

“We have seen many rags-to-riches stories since the 5th of August among other stakeholders but we saw no visible action against those individuals. In a departure from the culture of impunity indulged by the political parties in Bangladesh, the BNP is the only party that is investigating all incidents and has so far expelled about 2,000 of its members after allegations against them proved true.”

The current orchestrated campaign is not too dissimilar from the one faced by the party, its chairperson, Khaleda Zia, and Rahman since the turn of the century at the hands of the media.

“Even after using the entire state apparatus, the Awami

the fundamental democratic values, which are freedom of expression, human rights and rule of law.”

In a BNP-led government, press freedom, safety and security of journalists and freedom of expression will be ensured, he said.

However, the party will have zero tolerance for extremism, terrorism and separatism.

“Living in a multicultural environment and pluralistic society for so long, our leader Tarique Rahman’s vision is to replicate that setting here, where different beliefs and ideologies coexist.”

Asked how pragmatic that vision is in the Bangladesh context, he said: “He is aware of the ground reality and will work to educate and engage people through awareness campaigns and school curriculum.”

Besides, the political ideology of the BNP is “Bangladeshi nationalism”, which means ensuring the ownership of people and that every Bangladeshi has the same rights and freedom irrespective of creed, religion, ethnicity and beliefs.

This ideology informs any BNP government’s foreign policy, which is based on “equality, fairness and justice”.

“The underlying philosophy is that Bangladesh will forge sustainable relations at bilateral and multilateral levels that will take no masters but only friends. The BNP-led government will not side with a camp at the cost of our national interest and instead focus on policies of mutual interest. We like to foster global integration through trade and investment and ensure that we play a responsible actor in this integrated world.”

This then leads to the million-dollar question: when would the party’s leader Tarique Rahman be coming back given that there is no legal bar to his return to Bangladesh?

“Arrangements are being made for his return as we speak – it’s just a matter of time. He is eager to be among his people and the people of Bangladesh and fight for the rights of his activists who are still in jail or have fake politically motivated cases on them.”

“At least two of them remain in the government and we don’t know yet if they will run in the election. We see student representatives in almost all ministries and there is an inherent conflict of interest: are they representing their political party or the interim government?”

rights for 16 years.”

Asked if the party miscalculated when it passed on the chance to be part of a national government after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, he said that would have been betraying the values and motivations of the party’s decade-and-a-half fight, which was to restore democracy in Bangladesh and the caretaker system for conducting elections.

When the interim

families and the injured have been disappointing, he said, adding that the BNP is trying to support the victims with limited capacity, but the state has “all the resources to cover each case”.

“And despite the trust and belief that they would not be running in the election, someone has come out of the interim government and formed a political party.”

That political party is getting state patronage for its

“We have seen many rags-to-riches stories since the 5th of August among other stakeholders but we saw no visible action against those individuals. In a departure from the culture of impunity indulged by the political parties in Bangladesh, the BNP is the only party that is investigating all incidents and has expelled about 2,000 members after allegations against them proved true.”

government was formed, there was a segmentation: the traditional political parties who had fought over the last 16 years and wanted to run in the election; and the non-political stakeholders who had a notable role in the July uprising but had no intent to run for office.

“We had an understanding that those who would go to the interim government would organise a free, fair and credible election as soon as possible. And the ones running in the election would remain outside the government.”

Which is why all political parties stayed away from the interim government.

But how the interim

government is going about its obligations has been unexpected, Amin said, citing the lack of an election

expansion, Amin said.

“At least two of them remain in the government and we don’t know yet if they will run in the election. We see student representatives in almost all ministries and there is an inherent conflict of interest: are they representing their political party or the interim government?”

That conflict of interest should be resolved as soon as possible, Amin said.

“As part of a changing political culture and a fair political landscape that we want to create together, we urge them to remain over and above any political controversy.”

Both reforms and elections are dynamic, continuous processes in a democracy, he said.

“Now, if someone says that they will do all reforms within

Tigresses qualify

FROM PAGE 12

Turned out, that innings from Chantham, which helped anchor Thailand’s innings from 64 for two to 166 all out, kept Bangladesh in contention for one of the two spots from the six-team competition.

West Indies, having started the day with a much inferior net run-rate to Bangladesh’s, were faced with a daunting task of chasing down the target between 10.1 and 11 overs. They had three scenarios to overtake Bangladesh’s net run-rate – a win by 10.1 overs, a win with 170 runs on the board off 10.4 overs, and a win with 172 runs on the board off 11 overs.

The Caribbean side took

the target head on, going all guns blazing right from the word go, with captain Hayley Matthews (70 off 29), Qiana Joseph (26 off 12) and Chinelle Henry (48 off 17) keeping them on course for an incredible chase.

However, despite failing to achieve the first two targets with the score at 162 for four in 10.4 overs, West Indies were still in with a chance to get to 172 runs off 11 overs with a boundary off the next ball and a six off the final delivery.

But former captain Stefanie Taylor, perhaps unbeknownst of the equation, hit a six off the fifth delivery of the over, sealing the victory but in the process allowing

Bangladesh (net run-rate of 0.639) finish ahead of West Indies (0.626).

Earlier in the day, Bangladesh put on their worst batting display against Pakistan, managing only 178 for nine in 50 overs, with Ritu Moni’s 48 and Fahima Khatun’s unbeaten 42 helping avoid utter humiliation.

In reply, Pakistan, powered by Muneeba Ali’s 69 and an unbeaten 52 from Aliya Riaz, chased down the target in 39.4 overs and with six wickets in hand, leaving Bangladesh with a rollercoaster ride of emotions over the next few hours till the West Indies-Thailand fixture arrived at a dramatic conclusion.

FROM PAGE 12

where their hometowns are so that they do not have to live too far away from their families.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a statement urged city dwellers not to be afraid about the flash processions of banned organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and several like-minded groups.

These groups were attempting to create panic, the DMP said.

It said the BCL activists watch out for police movement and march for a minute or two before disappearing from the scene. They later share the photos and videos of these processions on social media.

“Although it is not always possible to arrest these miscreants on the spot, many have been apprehended later,”

the statement said, adding that law enforcers were analysing photos and videos to identify the participants.

The Detective Branch of the police arrested six members of the AL and its front organisations from different parts of the capital in separate drives in the last two days.

DMP sources said that the arrestees tried to spread panic with flash processions.

The arrestees are Abul Bashar Khan, vice-president of ward-12 AL; Ashrafur Islam Naim, senior organising secretary of ward-5 BCL; Ripon Hossain Fahim, general secretary of Jatrabari BCL; Sheikh Sohel, vice-president of ward-59 Sramik League; Sohel Rana, relief and disaster affairs secretary of Badda Swechhahasebak League; and Mohammad Yamin, organising secretary of ward-37 BCL.

BNP now sees

FROM PAGE 12

stated that the national election would be held by December this year.

“They [the interim government] are now saying the election will be held between December and June. But they also said this doesn’t mean it won’t be held in December. It still can be,” he explained.

On Wednesday, a seven-member BNP delegation led by party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir met with Prof Yunus at the state house, Jamuna, to

press for a specific election roadmap.

However, the chief adviser reiterated that the polls would be held between December and June next year—a response that did not sit well with the party.

Nazrul said yesterday that BNP has begun holding meetings with parties and alliances that participated in the movement against the Awami League government, to inform them about the outcome of their recent meeting and work out the next steps.

Dhaka terms Delhi’s claim

FROM PAGE 12

with them as suspicious. The autopsy report did not detect any prima facie sign of bodily injury. This notwithstanding, the authorities have ordered viscera analysis to conclusively determine the cause of death. Appropriate actions will be taken once the viscera report is available.

“We invite all quarters to refrain from making fabricated and inciteful comments on the incident.”

The government responded after Indian MEA condemned the killing, following reports in various Bangladeshi media outlets.

In a statement yesterday, Indian MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the incident “follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity.”

Condemning the incident, he reminded “the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions”.

Bhabesh, 58, a resident of Basudebpur village in Dinajpur’s Biral, was “abducted and beaten to death” on Thursday, according to some media reports quoting witnesses and family members.



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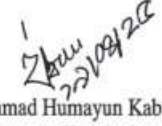
Date: 19.04.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for supply of following goods.

Sl No	Tender ID No	Description	Publication date and time	Online tender closing & Opening date and time
01	1098287	Medicine unable to supplied by EDCL	20-april-2025 11.30	04May-2025 13.30
02	1098288	Surgical instrument	20-april-2025 11.30	04May-2025 13.30
03	1098289	Linen materials	20-april-2025 11.30	04May-2025 13.30
04	1098290	Gauze, bandage, cotton	20-april-2025 11.30	04May-2025 13.30
05	1098291	Chemicals with x ray films	20-april-2025 11.30	04May-2025 13.30
06	1098292	Furnitures and kitchen utensils	20-april-2025 11.30	04May-2025 13.30

These are online tenders, where only e-tender will be accepted. No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender registration in the national e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further informations and guidelines are available in the national e-Gp System portal and from e-Gp help desk(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Dr. Mohammad Humayun Kabir
Civil Surgeon, Jhalokati,
Superintendent (extra charge)
100 bedded sadar hospital, jhalokati

GD-926

No elections without trial of fascists, reforms

Jamaat ameer tells rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said no national election should be held without necessary reforms and the trial of fascists.

"We want to support the government in the reform process. But no election should take place without reforms. An electoral environment must also be ensured," he said while addressing a public meeting organised by Lalmonirhat district Jamaat on the Collectorate Ground in Lalmonirhat town.

He said fascism has collapsed, but fascists remain active. "A group is still involved in extortion. People want a Bangladesh free from extortion."

On relations with India, he said, "We seek friendly ties with India, but it is up to India to determine the nature of that relationship."

Man hacked to death in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A man was hacked to death allegedly by a group of miscreants in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Hai, 60, a resident of Jarulia village in the upazila, said Md Nur Alam, officer-in-charge of Chunarughat Police Station.

Abdul Hai was reportedly cutting bamboo by the roadside at around 1:00pm when a group of people attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him dead on the spot, locals said.

He sustained multiple injuries, including severe wounds to the head.

On information, police went to the spot around 2:00pm, recovered the body, and sent it to Habiganj 250-bed District Sadar Hospital's morgue for autopsy, said OC Nur Alam.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Danger lurks in the open drains

14 die in five years; 6-month-old becomes the latest victim

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

Men, women, children... even infants.

In Chattogram, no one is safe from the deadly grip of open drains and canals. Every year, lives are lost as people fall into uncovered drainage systems scattered across the city. It has become a tragic and seemingly inevitable fate for its residents.

The latest victim is six-month-old Seherish, who went missing after falling into an open drain in the city's Kapasgola area on Friday night. Her tiny body was recovered 14 hours later.

According to the Chattogram City Corporation, the city has around 1,600 kilometres of drains, sewers, and canals.

Of these, about 300 kilometres fall under the jurisdiction of the Chattogram Development Authority, while the rest are maintained by the CCC.

On August 25, 2021, vegetable vendor Saleh Ahmed disappeared after falling into an open drain at Muradpur intersection during heavy rain. Despite extensive rescue operations, his body was never found.

Just a month later, on September 27, university student



Father of six-month-old Seherish holds his daughter one last time before burial. The infant's body was recovered 14 hours after she fell into an open drain at Kapasgola in Chattogram city on Friday night.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Seherin Mahbub Sadia died after falling into a drain while walking in the Agrabad area.

In 2022, a child named Kamal went missing after falling into a drain in Sholoshahar. His body was discovered three days later in Muradpur.

On August 28, 2023, one-and-a-half-year-old Yasin Arafat fell into a drain in Agrabad Rangipara.

His body was recovered 16 hours later by fire service personnel.

In June 2024, seven-year-old Saidul Islam fell into a drain in Gosaidanga. His lifeless body was found the next day in Nasir Canal.

Residents have long been complaining that most of the city's canals lack protective fencing, and many drains remain uncovered, effectively turning

them into open death traps.

Neither the CCC nor the CDA maintains accurate data on how many people have died after falling into these hazards. However, based on reports from various media outlets, at least 14 people have died in the past five years, while two remain missing.

The unofficial tally shows five deaths in 2021, one in 2022, three in 2023, and four in 2024 so far.

Kapasgola resident Zahid Hossain said, "Most of the city's drains and canals have now become death traps. Even after so many lives lost, there has been no effective action. Every time someone dies, there's a public outcry for a few days, and then it fades away."

Following the latest incident, CCC Mayor Dr Shahadat Hossain yesterday said the CDA is currently working on 36 canals under the city's waterlogging project, while the CCC is responsible for one canal. "The projects are progressing rapidly, and we hope to soon install safety barriers along the canals," he said.

He also mentioned that initiatives are underway to construct retaining walls around open drains.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

6-POINT DEMAND

Polytechnic students to hold nationwide rallies today



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Polytechnic students rally in Barishal yesterday amid presence of members of joint forces.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polytechnic students across the country are set to hold rallies today to press home their six-point demand. The announcement was made yesterday during a human chain organised in front of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute.

Students, under the banner of Karigori Chhatra Andolon, said the demonstrations would take place simultaneously at polytechnic campuses nationwide. Their primary objective is to draw the attention of top government officials. They also urged fellow students to maintain order and avoid causing public inconvenience during the rallies.

As part of yesterday's "Rise in Red" campaign, students draped red cloth over campus gates and formed human chains, holding placards at strategic locations and along roadsides.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

316 rice mills lose registration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The registrations of 316 rice mills in Dinaipur have been revoked after they failed to reach an agreement with the government for supplying rice and paddy during the recently concluded Aman procurement season.

The cancellations were confirmed in an official order issued by Subir Nath Chowdhury, district food controller. According to the District Food Controller's Office, the Aman procurement drive began on November 17 last year. The procurement deadline was set for February 28 for boiled rice and paddy, and March 15 for non-parboiled (Atap) rice.

A total of 911 rice mills signed contracts to supply boiled rice, while 83 mills initially signed up to supply Atap rice. By the end of the season, the government managed to procure 48,724.40 tonnes of boiled rice (98 percent of the target) and 11,306.460 tonnes of Atap rice (96 percent).

However, paddy procurement remained low, with only 2,258 tonnes collected, just 13 percent of the target.

Owners of several mills, whose registrations were revoked, cited high market prices for paddy and increased production costs as reasons for not participating in the procurement.

Food Controller Subir Nath said Dinaipur has 1,210 rice mills eligible to supply boiled rice and 110 eligible for Atap rice. "Many millers did not sign the contracts during the recent procurement drive. Actions have been taken as per the directives."

SREEMANGAL HEALTH COMPLEX

Patients suffer due to shortage of doctors, nurses

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Patients are being deprived of essential healthcare services at the 50-bed Sreemangal Upazila Health Complex in Moulvibazar due to an acute shortage of doctors, nurses, and technical staffers.

Although the hospital has 23 sanctioned doctor posts, only 10 doctors are currently in service. On average, the health complex receives around 90 emergency patients, 300 outdoor patients, and 40 admissions daily, according to sources.

The facility is functioning with just one junior consultant and one assistant surgeon against the sanctioned six and seven posts respectively. Several other key positions remain vacant, including those of senior staff nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists, statisticians, health assistants, and cleaners.

Medical equipment such as the X-ray machine, ultrasonogram, and ECG are lying non-functional due to the lack of technical support and staff members. As a result, many patients – even those with minor health issues – are compelled to travel to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for treatment.

Due to the ongoing manpower crisis, four deputy assistant community medical officers from Union Health and Family Welfare Centres have been reassigned to the hospital's emergency department,

disrupting primary healthcare services at the grassroots level.

A recent visit revealed overcrowded wards for women, children, and men, with no vacant beds available. Long queues were seen outside doctors' chambers, where the deputy assistant community medical officers were offering only basic treatment.

Many patients expressed their

poor sanitation, lack of lighting during power outages, and insufficient medicine supplies.

A senior nurse, said, "We have had no gynaecologist for nearly a month, so we had to suspend C-section surgeries."

A senior staff member of the emergency department added, "We are currently offering only primary care and referring all other patients



frustration. "I have been waiting with my child for two hours. He has an ear problem, but there is no ENT specialist here," said Solaiman Hossain, a local resident.

Husna Begum, a patient, said she had been waiting for more than an hour without being able to consult a doctor. "I'm already ill, and this prolonged wait is making it worse."

Patients also complained about

to Moulvibazar."

Dr Cynthia Tasmin, health and family planning officer of Sreemangal upazila, acknowledged the mounting pressure on the existing workforce. "We have only 10 doctors against 23 approved posts. I've written to the higher authorities requesting urgent recruitment. Once manpower is appointed, service quality will improve," she said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National board of Revenue

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization IDEB Bhawan (10th floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo no. 1(192) Active items/ Hardware /NSW/2024/ 2690

Date: 17.04.2025


Subject: Addendum to bidding document for supply and Installation of Hardware and Infrastructure (network, communication, cabling etc.) and standard software for NSW solution; other network, communication equipment, structure, Hardware and cabling: Server & Storage and Network & Security components for NSW Server Room & DR. Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: Request for Bids (RFB) No. NBR-GD2A.01.

Addendum No. 11

This is for the information of all Bidders concerned that the following amendments have been made for the procurement mentioned in the subject above;

Ref	Existing Entry	Amended entry
SI No. of 6, SPN ITP-23.1 & 26.1	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: April 21, 2025, Time: 14.00 hours. Date & Time for Bid Opening April 21, 2025, Time :14:30 hours	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: April 28, 2025, Time: 14.00 hours. Date & Time for Bid Opening April 28, 2025, Time :14:30 hours

All the terms and conditions of bidding Documents (RFB) NBR-GD2A.01 shall remain unchanged. **This Addendum No. 11** shall be considered an integral part of the Request for Proposals Document along with earlier addendums and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained the Request for Proposals Document from the Purchaser and intends to obtain in accordance with ITP 6.3.


(Pramila Sarker)
Deputy Project Director
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1:
National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization
Email: pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com

HUNGER IN GAZA

‘Deprivation by design’: UN

92 killed by Israel in two days

AGENCIES

Israeli strikes killed at least 92 people in the Gaza Strip in the last 48 hours, the health ministry said yesterday, as UN said the tiny Palestinian territory is being subjected to “deprivation by design”.

“The death toll from the Israeli aggression has risen to 51,157 martyrs and 116,724 injuries since October 7, 2023,” the ministry said in its statement, adding that since Israel resumed hostilities on March 18, 1,783 have been killed.

According to Al Jazeera, at least 39 people have been killed yesterday in Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip.

After 18 months of devastating war and an Israeli blockade on aid since March 2, the United Nations has warned of a dire humanitarian situation for the 2.4 million inhabitants of the Palestinian territory.

Hamas on Thursday accused Israel of using “starvation as a weapon” against Gazans by blocking aid supplies.

The heads of 12 major aid organisations warned on Thursday that “famine is not just a risk, but likely rapidly



unfolding in almost all parts” of the territory.

Jonathan Whittall, an official with the UN humanitarian affairs office (OCHA), said in a video message recorded yesterday that Israel’s continuous blockade of Gaza has been disastrous for all areas of life in the Strip.

“In Gaza today, people are being deprived of the basic necessities of life,” he said from Rafah, in southern Gaza. It has been almost 50 days of total aid blockade.

“This is deprivation by design,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has warned of plans by settler organisations circulating on Hebrew-language platforms that discuss attacking and demolishing Al-Aqsa Mosque and constructing a temple in its place.

In a statement published on X, the ministry said it considers the plans a “systematic incitement to escalate the targeting of Christian and Islamic holy sites in occupied Jerusalem”.



People gather at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on the day of the Holy Fire ceremony in Jerusalem’s Old City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran, US end talks in Rome

Agree to meet next week; talks held in ‘constructive atmosphere’

AGENCIES

Iran and the United States yesterday agreed to hold another round of talks next week over Tehran’s nuclear ambitions, Iranian state TV reported, as they ended their second round of negotiations in Rome over their decades-long standoff.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and President Donald Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff negotiated indirectly through an Omani official who will shuttle messages between the two sides, Iranian officials said, a week after a first round of indirect talks in Muscat that both sides described as constructive.

Araqchi and Witkoff interacted briefly at the end of the first round, but officials from the two countries have not held direct negotiations since 2015 under former US President Barack Obama.

Araqchi, in a meeting with his Italian counterpart ahead of the talks, said Iran had always been committed to diplomacy and called on “all parties involved in the talks to seize the opportunity to reach a reasonable and logical nuclear deal”.

“Such an agreement should respect Iran’s legitimate rights and lead to the lifting of unjust sanctions on the country while addressing any doubts about its nuclear work,” Araqchi was quoted as saying by Iranian state media.

He said in Moscow on Friday that Iran believes reaching an agreement on its nuclear programme with the US is possible as long as Washington is realistic.

Tehran has however sought to tamp down expectations of a quick deal, after some Iranian officials speculated that sanctions could be lifted soon. Iran’s utmost authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said this week he was “neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic”.

I’m for stopping Iran, very simply, from having a nuclear weapon. They can’t have a nuclear weapon. I want Iran to be great and prosperous and terrific.

DONALD TRUMP

Portrait of a Gaza boy wins Press Photo of the Year

CNN ONLINE

A striking portrait of a young Palestinian boy who lost both arms in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City has been named Press Photo of the Year.

Photographer Samar Abu Elouf, who is also from Gaza, met nine-year-old Mahmoud Ajjour three months after an explosion severed one of his arms and mutilated the other. Ajjour and his family were evacuated to Doha, Qatar, where Abu Elouf is based, to receive medical treatment.

“One of the most difficult things Mahmoud’s mother explained to me was how, when Mahmoud first came to the realisation that his arms were amputated, the first sentence he said to her was, ‘How will I be able to hug you?’” Abu Elouf wrote in her accompanying notes on the image, which was taken for and published in The New York Times.

The photo is a stark reminder of the long-term costs of the war in Gaza, which has killed tens of thousands and led to widespread destruction and displacement of its residents. The UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates about half of those killed are women and children.

“This is a quiet photo that speaks loudly. It tells the story of one boy, but also of a wider war that will have an impact for generations,” said Joumana El Zein Khoury, executive director of World Press Photo, in a press statement.

The jury observed three central themes — conflict, migration, and climate change — in the entries this year, said Lucy Conticello, director of photography for Le Monde’s M magazine and one of the judges.

“Another way of seeing them is as stories of resilience, family, and community,” Conticello said in a press statement. The contrast in the winning photo — light and dark, beauty and pain — captured the attention of the judges, she added.

The winning photo was selected from nearly 60,000 entries submitted by 3,778 photographers across more than 140 countries.

Two other works were selected as runners-up: an otherworldly image of Chinese migrants warming themselves by a fire after crossing the US-Mexico border, and a haunting image of a young man walking to his village, once accessible by boat, along a desert-like riverbed in the Amazon.



Sarjis, Hasnat take flak at NCP meet

FROM PAGE 12

raised concerns about Sarjis’s perceived lavish lifestyles, extravagant motorcade in his locality in March, alleged financial irregularities involving Tanvir, and repeated instances of sensitive party matters being aired publicly on social media by Hasnat and Sarjis.

Sarjis and Hasnat also faced criticism for independently taking positions on various issues and allegedly “dealing” with matters without prior party consultation.

In response, Sarjis defended himself, saying his family bore the cost of his motorcade and that his lifestyle was “nothing new”. He said he sometimes rents luxury cars for security reasons and claimed that most of the social media allegations were exaggerated.

Hasnat, for his part, denied all accusations and said he would resign if any allegation could be proven. He maintained that his controversial Facebook post about a meeting with army personnel had already been clarified and did not warrant further explanation.

Both leaders alleged that they were being targeted by vested quarters aiming to discredit the NCP. They claimed that they had helped numerous people following the July uprising without any financial gain.

They claimed that many people want to take photos with them when they visit places across the country. However, if allegations later arise against those individuals, people tend to associate them with the wrongdoers, they said.

On April 9, the two leaders met with Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Abdul Momen and submitted written complaints against unknown individuals. Later, Hasnat described the meeting as a personal initiative unrelated to the party.

No direct allegations of financial misconduct were raised against Sarjis or Hasnat in the meeting, the sources said.

However, concerns regarding “financial irregularities” by Gazi Salahuddin Tanvir were discussed. Tanvir denied the accusations and said he would welcome any investigation.

According to party sources, the NCP leadership agreed to draft a social media usage policy to prevent further controversies.

“We agreed on principle about prioritising party

over person,” a joint convener of NCP told The Daily Star. “A decision was also taken to discuss issues related to the party on the party forum before making any statements online.”

The meeting, chaired by NCP Convener Nahid Islam and moderated by Member Secretary Akhter Hossen, also addressed organisational matters.

It decided to take steps to meet the Election Commission’s registration requirements within the next month, formulate the party’s future programmes, and finalise state reform proposals.


NCP has divided the country into 19 organisational zones to facilitate party activities across 64 districts.

The meeting decided that district committees will consist of 31 to 51 members, and upazila committees will have between 21 and 41 members. The minimum age for a convener will be 40.

A press release issued after the meeting said the party discussed ongoing global issues, including the Israeli violence in Gaza, India’s Waqf act protests, and domestic ones such as trial for Awami League men who took part in killings during last year’s uprising, border killings and rising commodity prices.

The new “discipline and investigation” committee will be formally constituted today, the release added.

Meanwhile, the party’s Dhaka city unit is set to launch protests this week, pressing for the trial of Awami League members over the July killings, state reforms, and the formation of a constituent assembly.



খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

খুলনা-৯২০৩।

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। নিলাম আহ্বানকারী	ঃ সভাপতি, নিলাম কমিটি, কুয়েট, খুলনা।
২। নিলাম দাখলার যোগ্যতা	ঃ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট ও আয়কর নিবন্ধন নথ্যবাহী প্রকৃত টিকাদার।
৩। নিলাম সিডিউল বিক্রির স্থান	ঃ পরিকল্পনা ও প্রকৌশল ভবন, রুম নং-১১৩ ও ৩১৩, কুয়েট, খুলনা।
৪। নিলাম সিডিউল বিক্রি শুরু তারিখ	ঃ ২৭/০৪/২০২৫ইং রবিবার (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)
৫। নিলাম সিডিউল ক্রমা দেওয়ার স্থান	ঃ পরিকল্পনা ও প্রকৌশল ভবন, রুম নং-১১৩, কুয়েট, খুলনা (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) ও পুলিশ কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, খুলনা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, খুলনা।
৬। নিলাম সিডিউল খোলার স্থান	ঃ সভাকক্ষ, প্রকৌশল শাখা, কুয়েট, খুলনা।
৭। নিলাম সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৫/০৫/২০২৫ইং সোমবার, বেলা ০৩ঃ০০ টা পর্যন্ত।
৮। নিলাম সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৬/০৫/২০২৫ইং মঙ্গলবার, বেলা ১১ঃ০০ টা পর্যন্ত।
৯। নিলাম সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৬/০৫/২০২৫ইং মঙ্গলবার, প্যাকেজ-০১ বেলা ১৪ঃ৫৫ টা, প্যাকেজ-০২ বেলা ২ঃ০০ টা, প্যাকেজ নং-০৩ বেলা ২ঃ৫৫ টা, প্যাকেজ নং-০৪ বেলা ২ঃ০০ টা, প্যাকেজ নং-০৫ বেলা ২ঃ৫৫ টা এবং প্যাকেজ নং-০৬ বেলা ৩ঃ০০ টা।
১০। নিলাম সংক্রান্ত তথ্য সংগ্রহ	ঃ ০২৪৭৭৭৩৩০৫১-৭০ EXT.-৬০৫, ৮৩৮৭, ৮৯৮৭ (সেন্ট্রাল ট্রোর, পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন স্তর)।
১১। নিলামের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিবরণ	ঃ

প্যাকেজ নং	নিলামের মালামালের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	নিলামের মালামাল গ্রহণের সময়সীমা
প্যাকেজ-০১	পুরাতন লালন শাহ হলের উত্তর ব্লক	০১,২৫,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা)	১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা)	৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন
প্যাকেজ-০২	পুরাতন লালন শাহ হলের ডাইনিংয়ের অংশ	৭৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচাত্তর হাজার টাকা)	৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত টাকা)	২০ (বিশ) দিন
প্যাকেজ-০৩	বাস নং-খুলনা মেট্রো- স- ১১-০০০২ (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)	০১,২৫,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা)	১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা)	১০ (দশ) দিন
প্যাকেজ-০৪	বাস নং-খুলনা মেট্রো- স- ১১-০০০৬ (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)	০১,০০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ টাকা)	১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা)	১০ (দশ) দিন
প্যাকেজ-০৫	ক) মাইক্রো বাস নং-খুলনা মেট্রো- চ- ৫১-০০০৪	০১,০০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ টাকা)	১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা)	১০ (দশ) দিন
	খ) মাইক্রো বাস নং-ঢাকা মেট্রো- চ- ৫১-২৮২৯	০১,০০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ টাকা)	১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা)	
প্যাকেজ-০৬	ক) ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী, (পরিকল্পনা ও প্রকৌশল ভবন)	০৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত টাকা)	০৫ (পাঁচ) দিন
	খ) টায়ার (হোট/বড়), (যানবাহন শাখা)			

শর্তাবলী :

(ক) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তির ফর্মের অরিজিনাল প্যাচেট (মোবাইল নম্বরযুক্ত) সভাপতি, নিলাম কমিটি বরাবর আবেদনসহ ধার্যকৃত টাকার পরিমাণ পে-অর্ডার/বাংক ড্রাফট যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে জমাদান পূর্বক সিডিউল গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

(খ) দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত এবং তফসিলের মূল্য আইস-চ্যান্সেলর, কুয়েট-এর অনুমূলক জনতা ব্যাংক, কুয়েট শাখা, খুলনা অথবা যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/বাংক ড্রাফট আকারে প্রদান দিতে হবে।

(গ) দরপত্র দাখলপত্রকে সিডিউলে নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে স্বাক্ষর সহ সীল দিয়ে একক দর কথায় ও অংকে লিখতে হবে এবং খামের উপর প্যাকেজ নাম ও নম্বর অবশ্যই লিখতে হবে।

(ঘ) নিলাম সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।

(ঙ) নিলাম সিডিউল খোলার সময় দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।

(চ) সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাকক্রীকে মাল্যমানসিল থেকে যে অবস্থার আছে তা কার্যসেপ মোতাবেক ক্যাপাস হইতে নিম্ন দিহিত্তে ও ব্যবস্থাপনায় বাহিরে শইয়া ঘাইতে হইবে। স্বার্থ হলে তাহার নিলাম ডাক জামানত সহ বাতিল হবে। এছাড়াও কার্যসেপের কোন এক বা একাধিক আইটেম গ্রহণ না করলে অথবা বিলম্ব করলে উক্ত মাল্যমানসিলের কার্যসেপ মূল্যের ১০% জরিমানা নগদ আদায় করা হবে।

(ছ) লট/আইটেম ওয়াই সর্বমোট মূল্যের উপর ২৫% সরকারী বিধি মোতাবেক (ভ্যাট ও আয়কর) প্রদান করিতে হবে।

(জ) সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাকক্রী নিলামের মাল্যমান গ্রহণে ব্যর্থতা প্রকাশ করলে/কার্যসেপ দেওয়া সময় শূর হলে জামানত বাতিলপূর্বক দ্বিতীয় ডাকক্রী টিকাদারকে মাল্যমান প্রদান করা হবে।

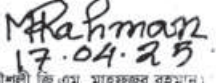
(ঝ) অদম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।


(ঞ) দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত থাকিতে হইবে (ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট ও আয়করের হালনাগাদ) সনদপত্র ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং প্রয়োজনবোধে মূল কপি দেখাতে হবে।

(ট) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে পরে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের কোন দরদাতা গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় এবং নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে পরে সিডিউল দাখিল করা যাবে না।

(ঠ) টেন্ডার সিডিউল ক্রয়ের পর ০৬/০৫/২০২৫ইং মঙ্গলবার বেলা ১১ঃ০০ টা এর পূর্বে যে কোন কার্যদিবসে বৈজ্ঞানিক ডাক মারফতেও সিডিউল জমা দেওয়া যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, ডাক বিক্র্যের কারণে বা অন্য যে কোন কারণে বিলম্ব হইলে শৌখালে উভা গ্রহণযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেনা।

(ড) নিলাম সংক্রান্ত সকল ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।


(প্রকৌশলী জি.এম. মাহফুজুর রহমান)
সভাপতি
নিলামের দরপত্র ও প্রকল্প মূল্যায়ন কমিটি
এবং
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
কুয়েট, খুলনা-৯২০৩।



Public Notice

Be Aware of Fraud and Misleading Information

It has recently come to our attention that a company named "Berger Furniture Limited" has commenced operations at 496/6, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Kazipara, Mirpur, Dhaka. The name of this company closely resembles that of our organization.


We would like to clearly inform our customers, stakeholders, shareholders, and well-wishers that Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited has no affiliation whatsoever with "Berger Furniture Limited."

The unauthorized and misleading use of our brand name has already been reported to the relevant authorities, and legal proceedings are currently underway.

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Open drains continue to claim lives

Why is such gross negligence being tolerated?

The body of a six-month-old baby was recovered on Saturday from a canal in Chattogram after the child had gone missing on Friday. A woman and her baby were travelling in a rickshaw when the baby fell into an open sewer, which had a strong current after rainfall. This story has tragically become one that plays out every now and then in Chattogram, notorious for its open drains and canals, where many have perished while others have been severely injured. A significant number of the victims were children. Despite lofty—and expensive—projects by the authorities to fix the city’s drainage system, something as basic as closing all the open drains and canals to prevent people from falling into them has not been completed. Why such apathy for public safety?

In the last several years, there have been innumerable reports of people falling into open drains or canals, with some of the bodies never found. People have been expressing their fear, as most drains do not have protective slabs or retaining walls, which make them deadly after rainfall. The media has been relentlessly reporting on these incidents. Yet these deaths continue, robbing families of their loved ones.

The Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) are the agencies responsible for maintaining and repairing the drainage system. They are therefore the main government bodies that should be held responsible for such criminal negligence. In 2021, the CCC found 5,527 risky spots along the drains, canals, and footpaths of the city. While around 80 percent of these spots have been covered and 70 percent of retaining walls built along the canals (according to a news report), there are still many vulnerable spots that are potential death traps—which is why a six-month-old baby had to die.

It is well known that these open drains and canals become clogged with silt and waste during the rainy season, causing them to become submerged, making it impossible to see them on the flooded roads. Thus, pedestrians or rickshaws falling into the drains, or people getting swept away by the open canals, has become a common occurrence. Yet the four projects worth Tk 14,389 crore initiated by the Awami League government could not complete the renovation of these canals and drains.

We expect the interim government to immediately take steps to demand answers from the CCC and CDA, and instruct them to cover the remaining risky spots on an urgent basis. Deaths caused by official negligence can no longer be tolerated. With the upcoming rainy season, they cannot afford to waste any more time.

A father’s death and the state’s failure

Authorities must arrest and hold the perpetrators accountable

It is outrageous that a father had to lose his life for protesting against his daughter’s harassment in Rajshahi City’s Talaimari area on April 16. Reportedly, the victim’s daughter was returning home from private tuition that day when a local youth named Nantu verbally harassed her on her way back. After she informed her parents of the incident, her father, Akram Hossain, complained to Nantu’s parents about the harassment. At this, Nantu became furious and, along with his gang, attacked Akram Hossain and his son. One of the attackers struck him on the head with a brick, causing critical injuries. The man later died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

This incident highlights the miserable state of women’s safety, and the security of people in general, across the country. While harassment and stalking of adolescent girls are common occurrences, these incidents mostly go unreported unless they escalate to more severe forms of violence such as rape or murder. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), at least 11,758 women and girls have fallen victim to torture and violence, with 6,305 of them being raped between 2020 and 2024. During this time, a total of 2,624 women and girls have suffered sexual harassment.

Parents of girls do not always protest such incidents for fear of retaliation from the harassers. Since the perpetrators are often powerful and politically connected, victims often lack the courage to go to the police, file cases, or seek protection. In many instances, parents stop sending their adolescent daughters to school and marry them off at a young age to prevent cases of stalking and sexual harassment. While it is the state’s responsibility to ensure the safety of our women and girls in educational institutions, workplaces, and public places, it has failed us miserably in this regard, emboldening the perpetrators to continue their crimes with impunity.

The situation is so dire that anyone attempting to stop harassment and violence often becomes a victim themselves. For instance, earlier in April, a man was stabbed for protesting against the harassment of a schoolgirl in Netrakona’s Atpara upazila. Several similar incidents have been reported in recent times.

We must ask: why should a father lose his life for standing against his daughter’s harassment? Why doesn’t the state take decisive action to ensure such crimes are never repeated by holding perpetrators accountable under the law? In the Rajshahi incident, the victim’s family filed a case against Nantu and his associates. We hope the police will swiftly arrest all the accused and ensure they are punished according to the law. Only by ensuring justice can such violence be curbed.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Deepwater Horizon oil spill

On this day in 2010, the largest marine oil spill in history occurred due to an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig located in the Gulf of Mexico.



DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Our aspirations and Europe’s contradictions



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ZAKIR KIBRIA

On April 17, 2025, two stories unfolded in Europe, each a mirror to the other. In Amsterdam, the “Best of Bangladesh in Europe 2025” event began with fanfare, celebrating the nation’s economic dynamism, its booming ready-made garment sector, and its aspirations to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2040. Meanwhile, in Italy, the United Nations revealed that 2,589 Bangladeshis had arrived by sea in the first two months of 2025, a 115 percent increase from the previous year. Many more Bangladeshis were lost to the Mediterranean’s unforgiving waves. This duality—a nation lauded for its progress even as its citizens perish in pursuit of a mirage—demands a reckoning.

Bangladesh’s economic narrative is one of resilience. From a war-torn nation in 1971 to the 35th largest economy in 2022, its growth has been fuelled by export-led industrialisation, digital innovation, and a youthful population. The Netherlands event showcased this success: 32 exhibitors from sectors like apparel, IT, and agro-food promoted “Made in Bangladesh” as a symbol of ethical production and opportunity. The European Union (EU), Bangladesh’s largest trading partner, praised the country’s “skilled workforce” and pledged support for labour rights and green energy transitions.

Yet, beneath this veneer lies a darker truth. While the elite negotiate trade deals in Amsterdam, young men from Madaripur, Cumilla, and Sylhet pawn ancestral land to pay traffickers Tk 5–16 lakh (\$4,500–\$14,500) for a seat on a rickety boat to Italy. Their desperation is not born of ignorance but of systemic failure: unemployment, wage stagnation, and a culture where migration is seen as the only escape from poverty.

The Mediterranean has long been a mass grave. In 2024 alone, 10,457 migrants died attempting to reach Spain, while UNICEF estimates 3,500 children perished on the Central Mediterranean route over the past decade. For Bangladeshis, the journey begins in Libya, which is a “false gateway” where 93 percent endure torture, extortion, or indefinite detention. Survivors describe boats

capsizing, fuel tanks suffocating passengers, and families drowning together.

The EU’s border policies exacerbate this carnage. By outsourcing migration control to states like Libya and Tunisia, which detain migrants in warehouses and push them onto riskier routes, Europe has turned



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Young Bangladeshi men pay huge sums of money to traffickers for a seat on a rickety boat to Europe.

the Mediterranean into a “kill zone.” Spain’s aerial surveillance and Italy’s refusal to rescue distressed vessels epitomise a regime that prioritises deterrence over humanity. As Shariful Hasan, head of programme of migration at BRAC, notes, “This is not a dream journey; it’s a death journey.”

The hypocrisy of EU-Bangladesh relations

The EU’s “Talent Partnership” with Bangladesh, aimed at promoting legal migration, rings hollow against this backdrop. While Erasmus+ scholarships and renewable energy projects are commendable, they pale

year of exploitation in Libya. Titu, 19, suffocated in a fuel tank, betrayed by a broker who promised a work permit. These are not isolated tragedies but symptoms of a global order that commodifies hope.

Survivors like T. D., a Malian man who watched his brother drink seawater to death, recount horrors that defy comprehension. For every body recovered, countless others vanish into the Atlantic unidentified, unmoored and, erased from history. As Rayhan Kabir, a migration specialist at BRAC writes, “The wrong ship does not take you to Europe. It sinks you in the deadly sea.”

about the realities of the journey is a must.

Europe cannot claim moral leadership while its shores are littered with corpses. Bangladesh cannot celebrate “growth” while its youth drown in despair. The Mediterranean, a sea that once connected civilisations, now symbolises our collective failure. The Amsterdam event should not be just another photo op but a catalyst for change. For every garment displayed, let us remember the hands that stitched it, and also the hands that grasped at a lifeboat, only to sink into darkness.

The dead have no use for elegies. But the living owes them action.

Economic lessons from the tariff war



AN OPEN DIALOGUE
Dr Abdullah Shibli
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ABDULLAH SHIBLI

The first round of Trump’s tariff war has ended in a stalemate. China and the US, the two key players, are contemplating their next move. President Xi Jinping is visiting Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia to shore up support for the next round of the war. Before President Trump declared the 90-day pause, the global financial market was jittery, and many developing countries, including Bangladesh, were scampering for a countermove or a response to offset the damage to their respective economies.

The current tariff war offers some important lessons for economists as well as the practitioners of statecraft. In this age of artificial intelligence (AI), one wonders why the small group of US policymakers, including the Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent and the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers Stephen Miran, sign off on the so-called Liberation Day tariff package, which marked the beginning of a global trade war and triggered a global stock market crash?

During my studies at the Dhaka University and the graduate school at Boston University, we were reminded that tariffs can be harmful to the domestic economy, but developing

countries may use tariffs to protect an “infant industry” only for a temporary period. However, US President Trump is using tariffs to achieve some of the economic and political goals he promised during his election campaign. For months, his team has worked on the policy package, particularly its timing, target commodities and countries. However, we now know that some of the resultant fallout has surprised his core team of advisers.

What can policymakers and the next generation of economists take away from the first round? I will answer these questions and add some notes for economics professors.

First, in most textbooks, economic models are based on the assumption of free trade, perfect competition, and “small country.” It can be shown that tariffs harm the consumers and should be avoided since they reduce economic welfare. However, in real life, gains from trade are distributed unequally between trading partners. Some countries, particularly the rich and the strong, have the upper hand in trade negotiations. Therefore, the discussions on trade theory in economics must be part of a broader discussion, touching upon political

science.

Second, tariffs, once introduced and codified, leave their marks on the markets. If US introduce tariffs to re-shore manufacturing on a large scale, the next administration will find it difficult to reverse it. In other words, the assumption of a “frictionless world” in the textbooks is a myth.

Third, new textbook authors and researchers need to consider “international trade theory” in the context of Game theory. The Game theory model is better equipped to take into account the realities of the modern world where one country (the US) is the world’s largest debtor and its enemy (China) is the largest creditor.

Fourth, undergraduate students must be made aware of the importance of the “model” or assumptions behind each theory. For example, the existing “Pure Theory of International Trade” is based on the theory of comparative advantage stating how two countries evolving from autarky can experience gains based on comparative advantage after they open up for trade.

Former World Trade Organization Director Pascal Lamy in one of his speeches talked about a paper by pioneering economist Paul Samuelson which was published in the Summer 2004 issue of the Journal of Economic Perspectives. He said that the paper theoretically showed “how technical progress in a developing country like China had the potential to reduce the gains from trade to a developed country like the United States.” He added that the paper, “appeared to be a dramatic about-face against the idea that open trade based on comparative advantage is mutually beneficial.”

Harvard’s Greg Mankiw wrote, “I

agree with Paul Samuelson..., who has recently spoken and written about how comparative advantage as it is classically understood may not be descriptive of the 21st century economy in which we find ourselves.”

Fifth, countries use tariffs today for reasons other than protection. As discussed in my previous column in this newspaper, tariffs can be used for retaliation, as the US is now doing. However, politicians who use tariffs as a tool of statecraft, which is the skillful management of state affairs, should be conscious that issues of statecraft require great deliberation.

The next generation of economics professors should review and remove some prevalent misconceptions about tariffs. For example the assertion that higher tariffs strengthen the value of a country’s currency is not totally correct.

As we saw, Trump’s tariff announcement sent the value of the US dollar plunging. One of the goals of Trump’s tariff war is to weaken the dollar. By weakening the dollar and imposing strategic tariffs, Stephen Miran believes that the US could correct long-standing imbalances in the global system. He outlined his idea in a 41-page essay titled “A User’s Guide to Restructuring the Global Trading System.”

If students of economics are taught that tariffs are bad, they should take it with a grain of salt. If civil servants, businesspersons, or policymakers face export tariffs, they should consider the current environment, assess the situation, and then negotiate a deal with their opponent or trading partner.

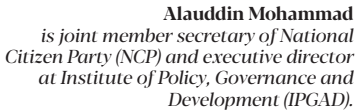
**ALAUDDIN MOHAMMAD**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Nighttime habits that help you burn fat and sleep better

Losing weight is not just about what you eat or how much you exercise—it is also about the small habits you follow at night. Your evening routine can have a surprising impact on your weight goals. Here is how to make your nights work in your favour:

1. Keep yourself occupied: Late-night snacking often happens out of boredom. Instead of heading to the kitchen, stay engaged with low-stress activities like reading, journaling, doing crafts, or catching up with a friend. Keeping your mind active can reduce the urge to eat unnecessarily.

2. Get better sleep: Not sleeping well can throw off your hunger hormones and lead to overeating the next day. Aim for 7–9 hours of restful sleep. Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day, and keep your room dark and quiet to promote deeper sleep.

3. Exercise early in the evening: Physical activity boosts metabolism and helps reduce stress. Try not to do high-intensity workouts right before bed, as they can leave you too energised to fall asleep easily. A light walk or stretching is better late at night.

4. Avoid late meals and snacks: Eating



right before bed can lead to weight gain, especially if the food choices are unhealthy. Try to finish your last meal at least two to three hours before sleeping. Brushing your teeth after dinner can also help you resist the urge to snack.

5. Plan your next day's meals: Packing your lunch the night before helps you avoid high-calorie meals the next day. Include whole grains, lean proteins, vegetables, and healthy fats for a balanced meal.

6. Reduce screen time and stress: Watching TV or using your phone during meals can distract you from how much you are eating. Also, try relaxation techniques like deep breathing or meditation before bed to lower stress, which can contribute to belly fat.

With a few simple nighttime changes, you can support your weight loss journey and feel better overall.

Global guidelines released for Meningitis diagnosis and care

STAR HEALTH DESK

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released its first global guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment, and care of meningitis, aiming to accelerate detection, ensure timely treatment, and enhance long-term care. The guidelines bring together evidence-based recommendations to reduce the deaths and disabilities associated with the disease.

Despite the availability of effective treatments and vaccines against certain types of meningitis, the disease remains a major global health threat. Bacterial meningitis, the deadliest form, can become fatal within 24 hours. In 2019, there were an estimated 2.5 million cases globally, including 1.6 million cases of bacterial meningitis, leading to approximately 240,000 deaths.

About 20% of those who contract bacterial meningitis develop long-term complications that affect quality of life. The disease also imposes heavy financial and social burdens on individuals, families, and communities.

"Bacterial meningitis kills one in six of the people it strikes and leaves many others with lasting health challenges," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Implementing these new guidelines will help save lives, improve long-term care for those affected by meningitis, and strengthen health systems."

Meningitis can affect people of any age and in any location, but the burden is especially high in low- and middle-income countries and in areas prone to large-scale epidemics. The sub-Saharan African region, known as the 'meningitis belt', remains at high risk of recurrent meningococcal meningitis outbreaks.

The new guidelines offer comprehensive recommendations for managing acute community-acquired meningitis in children over one month old, adolescents, and adults.



They address all aspects of clinical care, including diagnosis, antibiotic therapy, adjunctive treatment, supportive care, and management of long-term effects. The guidelines cover both bacterial and viral causes, acknowledging the similarities in their clinical presentation and treatment approaches.

Designed for both non-epidemic and epidemic scenarios, the new document replaces the 2014 WHO guidelines focused on outbreak response. Given the disease's disproportionate impact in low-resource settings, these updated guidelines are tailored to be implementable in low- and middle-income countries.

They are intended for healthcare professionals at first- and second-level facilities, including emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services. Policymakers, health planners, academic institutions, and civil society organisations may also use them for education, research, and capacity-building initiatives.

The launch of these guidelines supports the WHO's broader Defeating Meningitis by 2030 Global

Roadmap, adopted in 2020. This roadmap sets ambitious targets: to eliminate bacterial meningitis epidemics, reduce vaccine-preventable cases by 50% and deaths by 70%, and improve life quality for those affected.

Achieving these goals requires coordinated action across five key areas:

- **Diagnosis and treatment:** Enhancing early detection and clinical management.
- **Prevention and epidemic control:** Expanding affordable vaccine access and strengthening outbreak responses.
- **Disease surveillance:** Improving monitoring systems.
- **Care and support:** Ensuring early identification of long-term effects and access to care.
- **Advocacy and engagement:** Raising political commitment and public awareness.

With the release of these guidelines, WHO offers countries a critical tool to close existing gaps in meningitis care, paving the way for faster detection, timely treatment, and better long-term outcomes.

Source: World Health Organisation

RUNNING STRONGER, SAFER:

What is behind the drop in cardiac deaths?

Long-distance running continues to attract millions, and while it is known for boosting cardiovascular fitness, rare but serious heart-related emergencies can still occur during races. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) highlights an important trend: although the risk of sudden cardiac arrest during marathons and half-marathons has remained steady over the years, the likelihood of dying from one has significantly decreased.

This improvement points to better emergency preparedness at race events, increased availability of defibrillators, quicker CPR response, and possibly earlier identification of heart risks among runners. Common underlying causes of cardiac arrest in these settings include coronary artery disease, congenital heart abnormalities, and conditions like hypertrophic cardiomyopathy—many of



which may be asymptomatic until a crisis occurs.

Unexplained cardiac arrest also remains a notable concern, particularly when standard testing or autopsies do not reveal a clear cause. This highlights the importance of pre-participation screenings, especially for those with a family history of heart disease or symptoms like chest pain or fainting during exercise.

The findings reinforce that while endurance running is generally safe, awareness and preparedness are key. Race organisers, medical teams, and runners themselves all play a role in minimising risks. As long-distance events grow in popularity, ongoing education about heart health and emergency response can help keep runners both motivated and protected.

Emotional first aid: Why we need to treat psychological wounds like physical ones

SRINJOYA JUNAN

If you got a deep cut, you would clean it and apply a bandage. But what do you do when you experience emotional pain—like rejection or failure? We have been taught how to maintain our physical health and practice dental hygiene since childhood. But how much do we really know about maintaining our psychological well-being? Why do we devote more time to caring for our teeth than nurturing our minds?

We experience psychological injuries—such as failure, rejection, or loneliness—even more frequently than physical ones. And just like physical wounds, they can worsen if left untreated, significantly affecting our lives. Yet, despite scientifically proven methods to heal these emotional wounds, we often neglect them. Imagine telling someone with a severe infection, "Just ignore it; your immune system will take care of it." Yet, when it comes to emotional pain, we dismiss it with, "Oh, you are feeling depressed? Get over it."

The problem: why we ignore emotional pain—People often prioritise physical health over mental health because emotional wounds are not as visible as physical injuries. Winch (2014) explains that while most people instinctively treat a physical wound, they fail to recognise psychological wounds like rejection or failure, allowing them to worsen over time. Unlike physical injuries, the consequences of emotional pain often appear gradually. Nolen-Hoeksema (1991) found that unresolved emotional pain can lead to rumination and increased risk of depression, but because the impact is not immediate, people tend to dismiss it until it becomes overwhelming.

The consequences of neglecting emotional wounds—Emotional wounds, like rejection, leave a deep psychological impact, distorting our perceptions and clouding our thoughts. They make us believe that others care about us far less than they actually do. This fear holds us back from reaching out—after all, why risk more rejection and heartache when you are already struggling with pain that feels unbearable?

You can be in a sea full of people and still feel lonely because it depends solely on whether you feel emotionally or socially disconnected from those around you. Loneliness does not just make you miserable—it can be life-threatening. Research shows that chronic loneliness increases the risk of early death by 14%. It contributes to high blood pressure and high cholesterol and even weakens the immune system, leaving you more vulnerable to illness.

Like loneliness, failure is also a psychological wound that distorts and misleads us. A lot of people who fail at something start believing, "I am not smart enough. I will never succeed." By neglecting emotional wounds, we often get stuck in a habit called rumination. It is what happens when you make a mistake, and you can not stop replaying the moment in your mind. Ruminating in this way can become a very unhealthy habit, putting you at risk for clinical depression, alcoholism, eating disorders, and cardiovascular disease.

How to practise emotional first aid—Be attentive to emotional pain—recognise it when it happens. Cognitive reframing helps—change "I failed" to "I can learn from this". Monitor your self-esteem and practice self-compassion. Kristin Neff (2003) found self-compassion reduces anxiety, depression, and rumination. Disrupt negative thoughts with a positive distraction. And just as we see a doctor for physical injuries, seek professional help for emotional distress.

Next time you face emotional pain, will you ignore it or treat it with the care it deserves?

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New guidance calls for urgent transformation of mental health policies



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched new guidance aimed at helping countries strengthen their mental health policies and systems. Mental health services worldwide remain underfunded, with significant gaps in access and quality. In some countries, up to 90% of people with severe mental health conditions receive no care, and many existing services rely on outdated institutional models that fail to meet international human rights standards.

The guidance provides a clear framework to transform mental health services, ensuring quality care is accessible to all. It focuses on five key areas for reform: leadership and governance, service organisation, workforce development, person-centred interventions, and addressing social and structural determinants of mental health. The guidance promotes a holistic approach, addressing not just mental health but also lifestyle, physical health, and the social and economic factors that influence mental well-being.

This guidance is designed to be flexible, allowing countries to tailor their mental health policies based on their national context, needs, and available resources. Developed in consultation with global experts, policymakers, and individuals with lived experience, it builds on the WHO QualityRights initiative, which advocates for a person-centred, recovery-orientated approach to mental health. WHO has committed to supporting countries in implementing these strategies through technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives.

Source: World Health Organisation

Beat the headache: Top treatments and tips for lasting relief

STAR HEALTH DESK

Headaches are a common yet disruptive ailment, ranging from mild discomfort to severe pain. With various types, each with distinct triggers and symptoms, it is essential to understand your condition to manage it effectively. Here is a guide to the most common headache types and their treatments, plus tips for prevention.

1. Tension headaches: Tension headaches are the most frequent type. They feel like a dull, constant ache, often around the forehead or temples, and may result from stress, poor posture, or muscle strain. Symptoms include mild to moderate pain without nausea. Over-the-counter (OTC) pain relievers like ibuprofen or acetaminophen often provide relief. For chronic cases, doctors may recommend antidepressants or muscle relaxants.

2. Migraines: Migraines are intense, throbbing headaches, usually affecting one side of the head, often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light and sound. They can last from 4 to 72 hours and may be preceded by visual disturbances known as an aura. Treating migraines involves NSAIDs, triptans, and preventive measures like beta-blockers or anti-seizure medications. Identifying triggers—such as hormonal changes or specific foods—can help reduce frequency.

3. Cluster headaches: Cluster headaches are rare but extremely

painful, often occurring in cycles. The pain is sharp and usually felt around one eye or temple, with accompanying symptoms like redness or watering of the eye. Oxygen therapy provides quick relief, and triptans or corticosteroids can reduce the frequency of attacks. Verapamil is commonly used for long-term prevention.

4. Sinus headaches: Sinus headaches are caused by sinus infections or inflammation. Pain is felt in the forehead, cheeks, or around the nose, worsening when bending over. Treating the underlying sinus infection with antibiotics or decongestants can relieve the headache. If the sinus headache persists, stronger medications may be necessary.

5. Rebound headaches: Overusing pain medications like acetaminophen or ibuprofen can lead to rebound headaches, causing daily or frequent headaches. The pain is typically dull and constant, often accompanied by irritability. The best solution is to stop using pain-relieving medications under the guidance of a doctor.

6. Hypnic headaches: Hypnic headaches, also called "alarm clock headaches", wake people from sleep, typically in the older population. The pain is dull or throbbing and may occur at the same time each night. Treatment options include caffeine or medications like lithium.

7. Cervicogenic headaches: Cervicogenic headaches are caused by neck issues like muscle tension or

poor posture. The pain starts at the base of the skull and spreads upward. Treatments often include physical therapy, neck exercises, and pain-relief medications.

Preventing headaches: Understanding your headache triggers is key to prevention. Common triggers include stress, certain foods, alcohol, bright lights, and weather changes. Keeping a headache diary can help identify patterns, allowing you to avoid or manage these triggers effectively. Lifestyle habits, such as regular exercise, staying hydrated, and maintaining a regular sleep schedule, are also important in reducing headache frequency.

Alternative treatments: In addition to conventional treatments, some alternative therapies, including osteopathy, acupuncture, and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), can help manage headache pain, particularly for tension headaches. These treatments focus on the mind-body connection and stress reduction.

Headaches, though common, can be managed effectively with the right treatment. Whether through medications, lifestyle changes, or alternative therapies, it is possible to reduce the frequency and intensity of headaches. Working with your healthcare provider to develop a personalised plan can ensure long-term relief, allowing you to regain control over your life and minimise the impact of headaches.

Simple mindfulness techniques for stress relief and better well-being

DR NUR-A-SAFRINA RAHMAN

Mindfulness is a powerful practice that can enhance mental and physical health. It involves focusing on the present moment and cultivating awareness without judgement. Several techniques can help you incorporate mindfulness into your daily routine for better well-being.

• **Deep breathing:** One of the simplest ways to practise mindfulness is through deep breathing. Sit or lie down in a comfortable position. Close your eyes, and take a slow, deep breath in through your nose, letting your belly rise. Exhale slowly through your mouth. Focus entirely on your breath, letting go of any thoughts or distractions. This technique helps to calm the nervous system and reduce stress.

• **Body scan:** The body scan is a technique where you mentally "scan" your body from head to toe, paying attention to each part without judgement. Start at the top of your head and slowly move down, noticing any areas of tension or discomfort. Breathe into these areas to release tension. This practice can increase body awareness and promote relaxation.

• **Mindful walking:** This technique involves paying full attention to each step as you walk. Focus on the sensation of your feet touching the ground, the movement of your legs, and your breathing. Whether you are walking indoors or outside, let go of all distractions and immerse yourself in the present moment. Mindful walking promotes both physical and mental

well-being.

• **Guided meditation:** In guided meditation, an instructor or an app leads you through a series of exercises designed to help you focus and relax. These can include visualisation techniques, breathing exercises, or mindful awareness practices. Guided sessions are especially useful for beginners who need structure in their practice.

Regularly practising mindfulness techniques can reduce stress, improve emotional health, and enhance overall well-being. Each practice fosters mindfulness, helping you stay present and calm in daily life.

The writer is a public health specialist. E-mail: safrinarahman16@gmail.com

Tigers eye bringing away form in home Tests

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Sylhet

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” for Bangladesh in Test cricket last year, as simultaneously they had their best ever year in Tests in abroad and the worse possible one at home. While touring, Bangladesh played six Tests, won three – most ever in a calendar year for them – and lost three. For the first time ever, the Tigers beat Pakistan 2-0 in a Test series, and also ended their 15-year wait to clinch a Test victory against the West Indies in the Caribbean.

“In the match, when Nahid [Rana] bowls and the opponents bat against him, you will see it in their body language, how fast Nahid bowls and how extraordinary he is.”

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto issued a warning to the Zimbabwean batters during a pre-match press conference yesterday.

But at home, the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side lost all four Tests they played, getting clean-swept 2-0 by both Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Due to the poor returns at home, even after a record-setting year in abroad, Bangladesh finished seventh in the 2023-25 cycle of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) with overall four wins in 12 matches.

Even though it was their most successful cycle till date and for the first time they avoided finishing at the bottom since the tournament's inception in 2019, they could've finished even higher had they not performed so poorly at home.

As Bangladesh begins the two-match Test series against Zimbabwe in Sylhet today, which isn't part of the next Test WTC cycle, Shanto was questioned about their recent poor record at home and if they have figured out any remedy.

“What I felt was that we didn't play good cricket in those Test matches we played at home last year. We definitely had some plans but as players we couldn't execute them,” Shanto said during a pre-match press conference at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

“We are working on overcoming the shortcomings which kept us from getting favourable results in home Tests last year,” said Shanto.

Rain threat is looming large over the first day's action and there was some rain at the venue on the eve of the Test as well.

Attendance at the venue is also expected to be low as ticket sales have been abysmal even on the day before the first Test.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Bangladesh women's team ended their ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier 2025 campaign with a seven-wicket defeat to Pakistan but qualified for the main event as tournament runners-up after a dramatic end to the West Indies-Thailand match. The Nigar Sultana-led side could only muster 178-9 which hosts and undefeated champions Pakistan chased down with 62 balls in hand, leaving Bangladesh's fate dependent on the West Indies-Thailand tie. Thailand's Natthakan Chantam made 66 as West Indies were set a 167-run target, which they either needed to chase by 10.1 overs or level the scores and then hit a six to reach 172 by 11 overs to trump Bangladesh in net run-rate. West Indies were on track to accomplish the second scenario before Stephanie Taylor hit a six in the penultimate ball of the 11th over, taking the score to 168-4 as West Indies won by six wickets but finished 0.013 behind Bangladesh on net run-rate.

Zimbabwe out to redeem Test record

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Sylhet

For many years, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe have possessed a great rivalry in cricket. The African side had a big edge over Bangladesh across formats during the early phase of the rivalry. However, in the last 12 years, the scenario has taken a complete U-turn with the rise of Bangladesh on the cricketing world map, along with the downfall of the African side due to various reasons.

The glamour of a Bangladesh-Zimbabwe series started to lose its colour since the Tigers began dominating the African side across formats. In the last eight Tests between these two sides, the Tigers have won seven of them, with their last defeat coming nearly seven years ago.

Interestingly, Zimbabwe's only Test victory over Bangladesh in more than a decade came at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, which will host the opening Test of a two-match series, starting today.

Although Zimbabwe have a relatively inexperienced side compared to Bangladesh, they have some exciting names in Brian Bennett, Ben Curran, Johnathan Campbell, Richard Ngarava and Blessing Muzarabani, with whom their skipper Craig Ervine hopes to turn things around.

“There was always rivalry between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. It is slightly tougher for Zimbabwe playing in Bangladesh but we always feel that we have a chance (against Bangladesh). This group of players can pose a decent threat,” Ervine, the most experienced Test campaigner in the side, told reporters in Sylhet yesterday.

“I think it is a great opportunity for the young players to stamp their authority in Test



cricket,” said the 39-year-old, adding that they want to play without fear and aim to utilise the seam-friendly surface in Sylhet.

“We want to bring a no-fear attitude. The guys are not familiar with Bangladesh conditions but long preparations give you confidence to go out and express yourself.

“We can probably expect the wicket to be seamer-friendly. There's grass on the wicket. We trained for a couple of days. We are confident of our preparations, so we are looking forward to it.”

Ervine believes that with the growing number of Test matches they will play this year, they can actually end their 10-match winless streak in this format very soon.

Zimbabwe, who have not had the chance to play against top-ranked Test sides often in the last decade, will be facing England, South Africa and New Zealand in red-ball cricket in the coming months.

“I understand we haven't had a great run in Test cricket. I think it's really exciting with the amount of Test cricket that we will play [this year],” he said.

SHORT CORNER

BCB facing ‘tough time’, says Faruque after media rights go unsold

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed thanked Bangladesh Television (BTV) for stepping in to telecast the first Test in Sylhet, starting today.

“I think there is a financial lull in both domestic and international cricket... We are going through a bit of a tough time, it's taking some time after the change in government,” Faruque told reporters at an event in Dhaka yesterday, adding that the board is still trying to telecast the match on a private channel.

Neymar out for 4-6 weeks after latest injury: Reports

Brazilian superstar Neymar will be reportedly out for four to six weeks to recover from the latest injury he suffered while playing for Santos against Atletico Mineiro on Thursday, in a match was set up to be a day of celebration for Neymar as it was his 100th appearance for his boyhood club Santos.

Neymar, who has a long history of injuries, had earlier suffered an ACL injury in October 2023 while playing for Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia.

Ancelotti to discuss Real Madrid future at ‘end of season’

Carlo Ancelotti will discuss his future with Real Madrid at the end of the season, the coach said Saturday, following the Champions League holders' elimination by Arsenal.

Ancelotti, whose contract is due to end in 2026, told reporters: “At the end of the season we will speak about (my future) with the club.”

Read full stories on The Daily Star website

Liverpool poised for Premier League coronation

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool could seal the Premier League on Sunday should the runaway leaders condemn Leicester to relegation and Arsenal suffer a Champions League hangover by losing at Ipswich.

Victory for the Gunners at Portman Road could also see Ipswich mathematically relegated should West Ham and Wolves win.

Unlike the battles for the league

title and to avoid the drop, the race for a place in next season's Champions League is set to go down to the wire.

Thirteen points clear at the top of the table with six games to go, it is only a question of when not if Liverpool will move level with Manchester United on a record 20 English top-flight titles.

Two more wins will finish the job for Arne Slot's men and they could not ask for more obliging fixtures

as a trip to beleaguered Leicester is followed by struggling Tottenham's trip to Anfield.

However, the title race may not even go beyond Easter Sunday should Ipswich inflict Arsenal's first league defeat since February.

The focus of attention for Mikel Arteta's men has been switched to Champions League glory after an emphatic 5-1 aggregate win over holders Real Madrid in the quarter-finals.

➡ Mohamed Salah is on the verge of breaking the record for most away goals in a single Premier League season. He currently shares the mark of 16 with Kevin Phillips (1999–2000) and Harry Kane (2022–23). One more assist on the road would also see him surpass Cesc Fàbregas' record of 11 away assists set in 2014–15.

➡ Liverpool are on a four-match winning streak against Leicester in the Premier League. Leicester, meanwhile, have managed just two wins in their last 13 league meetings with Liverpool -- both coming in back-to-back home games in 2021.

“It's good to have some new energy in and around the place with one or two new players, but it isn't really a necessity if you look at the quality we have and the quality of the season we have had.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot



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Sarjis, Hasnat take flak at NCP meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party leaders Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah came under intense scrutiny at a key party meeting on Friday over allegations of breaching party discipline, said sources.

Allegations of financial irregularities were also raised against another top leader, Gazi Salahuddin Tanvir, during the closed-door general meeting held at the NCP's temporary central office in Rupayan Trade Center in the capital's Banglamotor area.

In response, the less-than-two-month-old party decided to form a "discipline and investigation" committee to address the allegations and uphold internal discipline.

Requesting anonymity, at least three leaders of NCP, who know the developments, confirmed to The Daily Star that, during the nine-hour-long meeting, the allegations against Chief Organiser (North) Sarjis, Chief Organiser (South) Hasnat, and Joint Member Secretary Tanvir dominated the discussions.

They said, referring to various allegations swirling against the three leaders on social media, participants

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Carrying a pitcher and a large container, Bhaktilata Mandal and her husband set off with his bicycle in search of fresh drinking water. Another woman is seen returning with a pitcher full of water. This everyday ritual is all too familiar for communities living in coastal regions highly affected by salinity. The struggle for freshwater sources is particularly immense in summer when rain is sparse. Residents must hike several kilometres daily to fetch drinking water. The photo was taken recently from Dakshin Kadamtala village in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira.

DEMAND FOR POLLS BY DEC

BNP now sees no need to go for movement

UNB, Dhaka

BNP does not see the need to launch a movement against the Prof Yunus-led administration, for now, to compel it to hold the next national election in December, said BNP senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan.

"We don't think we have to do anything like that [waging a movement], because we brought this government to power with the expectation that it would play a role in establishing democracy in the country and act according to the people's aspirations," he said.

Nazrul, also a member of the BNP Standing Committee, made the remarks while speaking to reporters at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office following a meeting with leaders of the 12-party alliance — one of the components that carried out a joint movement with BNP against the Sheikh Hasina regime.

"We don't think there is a need to initiate a movement against this government. We believe it will work in line with the people's wishes," he added.

However, Nazrul said a final decision regarding their next course of action will be made after discussions with other parties and alliances that took to the streets against the Awami League government.

The BNP leader claimed that during a meeting with BNP leaders on February 10, the chief adviser had clearly

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Ensure youth-led inclusive development

Say speakers at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must shift from an economy and polity controlled by vested interest groups to a system that ensures active participation of the youth and equal access to opportunities and state benefits for all citizens, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Government advisers, political leaders, diplomats, teachers, and economists, who attended the discussion, also emphasised inclusive growth, good governance, and amplification of marginalised voices to navigate the current political and developmental challenges.

In his keynote, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said a concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a few oligarchs led to persistent problems in the financial sector.

"The visible development hasn't reached the poor and marginalised," he noted.

The discussion, titled "Empowering Bangladesh: Pathways to Leadership, Unity, and Growth," was organised by the Bangladesh Empowered Foundation and North South University's Department of History and Philosophy.

Salehuddin said the past 15 years saw widespread irregularities, corruption, and money laundering, driven by vested business interests.

"The banking sector is in a mess. Bank chairmen and directors looted vast sums, while similar issues plagued the capital market, non-bank institutions, and trade," he said.

The interim government, he added, inherited serious challenges on political, economic, administrative, and law-and-order fronts. To stabilise the financial sector, reforms have begun in banking, capital markets, the NBR, taxation, and non-bank development institutes.

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BHABESH'S DEATH

Dhaka terms Delhi's claim 'baseless'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has rejected the claim made by India's Ministry of External Affairs regarding the death of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, saying Bangladesh is not a country where one will find government-sponsored systematic discrimination against minorities.

Responding to a question on the comments of Indian MEA on the death of Bhabesh of Dinajpur, Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, yesterday in a statement said, "It is unfortunate that the death of Mr Bhabesh Chandra Roy has been described as part of a 'pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government'."

"We reject this baseless claim. This government protects the rights of all of its citizens irrespective of religious denominations.

"In this particular case, we have ascertained that the victim went out with some individuals previously known to him. Nobody from the victim's family reported his going out

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Putin declares Easter ceasefire in Ukraine

Trump warns of ditching Ukraine talks if no progress is made soon

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a unilateral Easter ceasefire in Ukraine, ordering his forces to end hostilities at 6:00pm Moscow time (1500 GMT) on Saturday until the end of Sunday.

There was no immediate reaction from Ukraine.

"Based on humanitarian considerations... the Russian side announces an Easter truce. I order a stop to all military activities for this period," Putin told his military chief, Valery Gerasimov, at a meeting in the Kremlin.

"We assume that Ukraine will follow our example. At the same time, our troops should be prepared to repel possible violations of the truce and provocations by the enemy, any aggressive actions," Putin added.

The development came after the United States said it will walk away from efforts to broker a Russia-Ukraine peace deal unless there are clear signs of progress soon.

"Quickly, we want to get it done," Trump told reporters at the White House. "Now, if for some reason one of the two parties makes it very difficult, we're just going to say, 'you're foolish, you're fools, you're horrible people, and we're going to just take a pass. But hopefully we won't have to do that.'"

Trump's comments followed remarks by Rubio, his top diplomat, who said the sides had just days to show progress or Washington would walk.

"We're not going to continue with this endeavour for weeks and months on end. So we need to determine very quickly now, and I'm talking about a matter of days, whether or not this is doable in the next few weeks," Rubio said in Paris after meeting European and Ukrainian leaders.

"If it's not possible, if we're so far apart that this is not going to happen, then I think the president is probably at a point where he's going to say, 'well, we're done'."

Trump, when asked, declined to set a specific deadline for how long he was willing to wait.

"Marco's right in saying... we want to see it end," Trump said. Asked if Russian President Vladimir Putin was stalling, Trump replied: "I hope not."

Over the past few weeks, Trump officials have acknowledged privately that the chances of a quick peace deal in Ukraine have grown elusive. Rubio's comments, three European diplomats said, reflected growing frustration in the White House over Russian intransigence to end the war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said some progress on a peace settlement had already been made but that contacts with Washington were difficult. He said Russia was striving to resolve the conflict while ensuring its own interests. Moscow remained open to dialogue with the United States, he added.

» Rubio says US needs to decide on Ukraine talks 'in a matter of days'

» Russia says retook penultimate village in Kursk seized by Ukraine

» Moscow launches 8 missiles, 87 drones on Ukraine: Kyiv

Pvt univ student stabbed to death hours after brawl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Primeasia University student was stabbed to death allegedly by another student in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Jahidul Islam Parvez, 24, was a student of textile engineering. He was from B h a l u k a , Mymensingh.

Jahidul was having snacks in front of the university campus in Banani area around 4:00pm when two students of the English department came to the scene and attacked him, said Russel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, quoting witnesses.

Al Mamun Apu, a student of the university, told this correspondent that Jahidul and several others were hanging out on campus around 10:00am when another group confronted them, saying that they were making fun of female classmates.

As the groups quarreled, university authorities intervened and resolved the matter.

Jahidul was stabbed hours later.

His body was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said the OC, adding that there was a stab wound on his chest.

As of last night, no arrests had been made in connection with the incident.



Jahidul Islam

Tigresses qualify for WC by barest of margins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh qualified for the Women's ODI World Cup for the second consecutive time by the barest of margins despite a seven-wicket defeat against Pakistan in their last match of the qualifying campaign in Lahore on Saturday.

The Tigresses needed a victory to seal their second-ever World Cup spot, but a poor batting display saw concede a seven-wicket defeat against the already-qualified Pakistan, and in the process, suffering a bit of a blow to their net run-rate.

The result kept the Tigresses waiting for the last match of the qualifying competition, with West Indies taking on Thailand and hoping to overtake Bangladesh on net run-rate.

Winning the toss, West Indies put Thailand in to bat, and bowled them out for 166 runs in 46.1 overs, despite a defiant 66-run knock from Natthakan Chantham.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



People mourn near the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, at Nasser hospital of the southern Gaza Strip's Khan Younis yesterday. Israeli air strikes killed at least 92 people in Gaza in the last 48 hours, said the Palestinian territory's health ministry.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Law enforcers ordered to stop AL processions

Says home adviser; DMP to take action by analysing photos, video footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said police had been ordered to make sure that the Awami League cannot organise any more processions.

Officers who fail to prevent the AL from marching will face disciplinary action, he said when reporters asked him about allegations that police personnel had not done anything when AL activists marched in the capital's Uttara on Friday.

Earlier on April 15, Dhaka North AL Organising Secretary Mazhar Anam led another procession in Rampura.

The home adviser spoke to journalists after visiting the Airport Police Station in the capital. He also visited Uttara West, Turag, and Uttara East police stations.

He said the government was trying to further improve law and order.

About allegations that some police officers were not complying with transfer orders, he said the authorities would take action if they got "specific information".

The government was considering whether low-ranking police personnel could be posted within the divisions

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