

Announce nat'l minimum wage for all workers

Labour Reform Commission asks govt in its report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Labour Reform Commission has recommended that the government ensure legal protection and recognition of all workers in both formal and informal sectors, as well as migrant workers and self-employed individuals under a labour law.

In its report submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday, the commission also proposed establishing national minimum wages that guarantee a dignified living standard. It also suggested that both the national and sectoral wages be revised every three years, taking inflation and living costs into account.

To expand labour rights to organise, the commission

- 放松要求 for forming trade unions
- Dismiss protest-related cases against workers
- Ensure universal application of labour laws at EPZs
- Form anti-sexual harassment policy at all institutions
- Ensure migrant workers' safety and rights



Residents stand close to the crumbling riverbank next to the Char Dakatia Government Primary School in Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur. Severe and unexpected erosion has devastated three upazilas in the district -- Dewanganj, Islampur, and Madarganj -- with hundreds of homes and vast farmland swallowed by the Jamuna. With the erosion situation getting worse, the school now also faces the threat of being devoured by the river. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB

JULY ATROCITIES
ICT's probe agency submits its first report

Involvement of ex-DMP chief, 7 others found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal has found the involvement of eight police personnel, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman, in crimes, including killings, committed during last year's mass uprising in the capital's Chankharpool area.

On Sunday, the agency submitted its probe report -- the first related to crimes against humanity

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Tk 2.26 lakh crore lost to tax evasion in FY23

Estimates CPD, recommends bringing comprehensive reforms to tax policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh lost an estimated Tk 226,236 crore in potential revenue to tax evasion and avoidance in the 2022-23 fiscal year, largely due to rampant corruption and a weak but complex system, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The sum, if recovered, could fund the construction of about seven metro rail lines, each costing as much as the revised budget for Metro Rail Line-6 from Uttara to Kamalapur, which now stands at Tk 33,472 crore.

"Had the NBR managed to plug the Tk 2.26 lakh crore lost annually to tax evasion, it could have come significantly closer to meeting its revenue targets," CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem said at the unveiling of the report at its Dhaka office

FACTORS BEHIND TAX EVASION

- Widespread corruption
- Weak enforcement
- Complex legal framework
- High tax rates

tax evasion since 2011. The estimated loss was Tk 96,503 crore in 2012 and surged to Tk 133,673 crore by 2015.

CPD, in partnership with Christian Aid in Bangladesh, unveiled the findings of the study at a media briefing session titled "Corporate Income Tax Reform for Graduating Bangladesh: The Justice Perspective".

Alongside corruption, the CPD identified a

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yesterday.

"We've been talking about digitalisation for years, but what's missing is the will to act, both from the tax administration and the business community," he added.

Corporate tax evasion alone accounted for roughly half of the total loss -- about Tk 113,118 crore -- according to the study, which reveals a concerning trend of rising



Tributes pour in as Pope Francis dies

STAR REPORT

Pope Francis died yesterday, aged 88, prompting mourning across the world for the energetic reformer who inspired devotion from Catholics but riled traditionalists during a 12-year papacy.

Mourners gathered, many in tears, in St Peter's Square, where just a day earlier the frail-looking pontiff had greeted worshippers on Easter Sunday, having recently left hospital following a 38-day battle with double pneumonia.

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advocated for easing the requirements for forming trade unions and implementing a participatory, transparent, and accountable framework for collective bargaining. It also recommended establishment of a permanent labour commission to safeguard workers' rights.

For improved access to justice, the commission suggested increasing the number of labour courts to ensure fair and swift resolution of the cases, and proposed review or withdrawal of protest-related cases filed against workers and trade union leaders over the years.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shahjul Alam said Prof Yunus has already instructed the reform commission to submit a list of tasks that can be implemented in a short time.

"We expect that these recommendations will be discussed in the cabinet in the future. From there, an actionable plan or strategy will be developed," he told a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

After receiving the report earlier in the day, Yunus advised the Labour Reform Commission to brief the

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Brothers take the body of a four-year-old child for funeral. The child was killed in an Israeli strike at a site of a tent camp for displaced Palestinians in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tap into youth potential for sustainable future

Says Yunus at ESCAP session



UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has called for enhanced regional cooperation to tackle climate and urban challenges and urged nations to tap into their youth's potential and innovations to shape a sustainable future.

Speaking at the 81st session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) yesterday, Yunus highlighted Bangladesh's commitment to inclusive and climate-resilient urban development, emphasising the country's reform journey.

At the inaugural session, Nobel Laureate Prof Yunus addressed the participants through a video message.

He also highlighted his "Three Zeros" -- zero wealth concentration, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emissions.

The 81st session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি

বিশ্বস্ত ও স্মার্ট

ATM & Card সেবা সাময়িক বন্ধ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসির Payment System

Upgradation এর জন্য ২১ হতে ২৭ এপ্রিল ২০২৫

তারিখ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংকের ATM, Debit/Credit Card, VISA, NPSB, Bangla QR Merchant সহ কার্ড

সংক্রান্ত সকল ধরনের লেনদেন বন্ধ থাকবে। সাময়িক এ অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দৃঢ়ুখিত। তবে ব্যাংকের অন্যান্য স্বাভাবিক লেনদেন ও কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত থাকবে।

পণ্যের হালাল পরীক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি



এভাবে সর্বসাধারনের অভ্যন্তর জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিশ্বাসী বাংলাদেশী হালাল পণ্য প্রসারে কার্যকর পদক্ষেপের অধি হিসেবে বিএসটিআইতে হালাল পণ্য পরীক্ষণের জন্য অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্র নির্মিত Porcine Detection Via DNA Analysis, Alcohol Content (Ethanol and Methanol), Pesticide Residue (Aldrin and Dieldrin), Heavy Metals (Arsenic), Lead and Cadmium), Microbiological Parameter (Total Plate Count, Yeast and Mold Count, Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, Escherichia Coli (E. coli) and Salmonella) ইত্যাদি প্রারম্ভিক পরীক্ষণের জন্য অত্যাধুনিক যন্ত্র যেমন: Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), Gas-Chromatograph (GC), Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer(GC-MS), Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES) ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে।

পণ্যের বিতরণের বিষয়ে জেতো-জেতোর আছা বৃক্ষ, মধ্যাঞ্চলসহ অত্যাধুনিক ব্যাংকের রেজিস্ট্রি স্যুরেগ বৃক্ষ, পণ্যের মান ও নিরাপত্তা নির্দিষ্ট করে ব্যাংকারিক ধরনের ও সুন্ম বৃক্ষেতে হালাল সমন অন্তর্ভুক্ত কর্তৃত্ব নির্মান করে থাকে।

বিএসটিআইতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ন্যাশনাল হালাল স্যার্কেটের হালাল পণ্য পরীক্ষণসম্পর্কে রাজনৈতিক/আমন্ত্রণিকরী/প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

এস এম সেরেনিটি অলম

মহারিচালক (ম্যাট্রিক)

Bangladeshis worry amid US immigration crackdown

31 already deported; officials say more could be sent back

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The United States has deported at least 31 Bangladeshis after President Donald Trump took a tough immigration policy.

Since February, the Trump administration has intensified efforts to deport undocumented immigrants.

Over the past one and a half months, Bangladeshis have been deported by commercial and chartered flights. Most of them had lost their immigration cases.

Sources at the Special Branch (SB)

of police and the immigration desk at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka confirmed the developments to The Daily Star.

"We have so far received 31 Bangladeshi nationals deported from the US at different times. Most recently, five arrived on a chartered flight two days ago," said Golam Rasul, additional inspector general and the SB chief.

According to officials, the deportations followed a series of meetings between US embassy representatives in Dhaka and officials from the home ministry of

Bangladesh.

Home ministry sources said a meeting was held on February 23, where Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser on home affairs, represented Bangladesh, and Megan Bouldin, deputy chief of mission at the US embassy, represented the American side.

A subsequent meeting on March 5 at the home ministry discussed logistical preparations to receive the deported Bangladeshis.

The number of deported

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Yunus leaves for Doha to attend Earthna Summit

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus left for Doha yesterday evening to attend the Earthna Summit 2025.

"A flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the chief adviser and his entourage departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7:00pm," Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, chief adviser's deputy press secretary, told BSS.

About the chief adviser's Qatar tour, his Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said Prof Yunus will pass busy days during the tour on April 22 and April 23.

"The chief adviser will speak at the Earthna Summit 2025 ... he will have a series of engagements during his visit," he told a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Prof Yunus is paying the four-day official visit at the invitation of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

During the visit, he is likely to have meetings with both Emir of Qatar and Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed apart from other engagements.

Shafiqul said the chief adviser will have meetings with Qatar Charity and Qatar Foundation and will give an interview with Qatar-based Al Jazeera channel.

As Bangladesh has a long-term agreement with Qatar on LNG imports, there will be a discussion on greater energy sector cooperation, he said.

He added that there will be an investment summit on April 23 and Prof Yunus will speak at a conference on the Rohingya issue where global stakeholders will join.

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzil Kabir Khan, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun and Principal Coordinator on SDG Affairs Lamia Moshed, among others, are accompanying the chief adviser.

UN peacekeeping chief lauds army's professionalism

STAR DESK

UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix yesterday paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General Waker Uz-Zaman at Army Headquarters.

During the meeting, Lacroix praised the professionalism and competence of the Bangladesh Armed Forces in United Nations peacekeeping missions, according to a statement from the Army Headquarters.

They also discussed matters related to deployment, training, and capacity building for ongoing and future peace operations.

Lacroix further commended the Bangladesh Army's role in Aid to Civil Power operations within the country, highlighting the discipline and dedication of its personnel.

General Waker reaffirmed the Bangladesh Army's steadfast commitment to UN peacekeeping efforts and assured continued cooperation in support of global peace and security initiatives.

DHAKA NUMIS SHOW 2025

Preserving history through collectables

JAWWAD SAMI NEOGI

A three-day collectable exhibition titled "Dhaka Numis Show 2025", organised by Old Dhaka Collectors Society (ODCS) was held at the National Museum from April 18 to 20. The event brought together collectors, currency researchers, and enthusiasts from all over Bangladesh.

Participants displayed rare collections of coins, banknotes, tokens, cheques, prize bonds, and more turning the exhibition gallery into a visual archive of monetary history. With around 100 framed displays, visitors could explore the evolution of money from ancient Kori and Mughal coins to British Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi currencies.



ODCS was formed on 26 March, 2022 and this was their biggest event to date.

Faizur Rahman, the exhibition coordinator, said, "This may be an Old Dhaka-based initiative in name, but our members come from all over the country. Our core team includes students, professionals, and collectors from different walks of life."

What made this exhibition special is its focus on themed collections. Instead of simply showcasing large volumes of collectables, each exhibitor was encouraged to focus on a specific topic they are passionate about or an expert in.

Shamsul Alam, chairperson of ODCS, said, "Collecting is a vast field. The exhibitors you see here each own thousands of items, but what we did for this event was ask each of them to showcase a unique topic -- something

they specialise in."

Alam added, "My area of expertise is bird-themed collectables. I have a collection of over 1,250 banknotes and 20,000 stamps, all featuring birds. So, I created a dedicated showcase on that subject."

Each exhibitor presented a unique theme, making the exhibition rich in variety. Md Afiz Uddin came from Rangpur to showcase a unique theme: portraits on banknotes where the featured person is wearing glasses!

Md Robiul Islam presented his collection of "Error notes" -- banknotes that were misprinted or flawed during production.

"Around 15 years ago, I wanted to collect something unique, and that's when I started focusing on error notes," he said.

When asked why such events are necessary, Shamsul Alam explained, "Exhibitions like this help preserve history. As you can see, we have Bangladeshi items alongside British Indian coins and Mughal era coins. That's how you learn history -- by seeing it, touching it. You become a part of history."

Shahriar Ahmed Tusher, additional Director at Bangladesh Bank, visited the event to buy stamps for his daughter, an eighth grader and a passionate stamp collector.

"I couldn't bring her along because of her exams, but I know I would have had to bring her along if the exams weren't ongoing," he said.

Ahsan Al Amin, a stamp seller, said, "Collectors are gradually increasing. While the growth is not huge, we now see buyers from all backgrounds, including those from elite circles."



The exhibition also featured 14 booths where visitors could buy, sell, or trade items including banknotes, coins, stamps, and first day cover. Both experienced collectors and newcomers had the chance to explore the wide variety of items.

Announce nat'l minimum wage

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consensus commission about the recommendations, so that the latter can discuss those with political parties, Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Azad Majumder told reporters at the same venue.

On November 18, the interim government formed the Labour Reform Commission to recommend necessary reforms to ensure workers' rights and welfare. The 10-member commission is headed by Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, a think-tank.

At a separate briefing in Dhaka, Sultan said that the commission believes reforms in the labour sector are essential for building a discrimination-free society.

"A fair transformation of the standard of living of 8 crore working people will be achieved only through the implementation of the outline presented in this report," he added.

According to the commission, up to 85 percent of the workers in the country lack legal protection.

"All workers in Bangladesh -- regardless of industry, sector, specialised labour region, type of work, institutional or non-institutional employment, or whether they work for profit or non-profit organisations -- will be equally covered under the protection of labour laws. To achieve this goal, significant reforms to existing labour laws or the enactment of one or more new and integrated labour laws will be necessary," said the report.

The commission also recommended that the government ensure the universal applicability of labour laws and the recognition of workers, specifically for those in specialised zones such as Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

The commission recommended that the government announce a national minimum wage for all workers in formal and informal sectors, government and private jobs, foreign organisations, as well as individuals who are self-employed.

The universal national minimum wage will be based on the concept of a living wage and will be reviewed and reassessed every three years, based on inflation and living standards.

Based on the national minimum wage, separate minimum wages will be set for specific sectors and professions, considering the nature of work, sector-specific demands and regional differences. These sector-specific and professional minimum wages will not be lower than the national minimum wage; instead, they will be equal to or higher than it, the report reads.

While determining the minimum wage, the consideration will be based on a single breadwinner in the family, ensuring that the worker can meet the needs of their family. The total wage will include basic salary along with allowances for housing, medical care, and communication.

However, allowances for food, transport, education, and ration will be kept outside this structure, said the report.

TRADE UNION

The commission also wants a simpler registration process for trade unions, and recommended formation of a tripartite committee to immediately determine the required minimum number of workers for establishing trade unions and to review relevant experiences and models from neighbouring countries.

Currently, at least 30 percent workers of a factory are required to form a trade union. The commission proposed that the requirement be reduced to only 50 workers.

The Department of Labour must decide on the application for registration within 55 days from its filing and be held accountable for delays in timely decisions. If there are any deficiencies, the department must provide written objections within 12 days.

The commission also wants safe working environment for all workers, and a re-evaluation of compensation criteria and amount for workers killed or injured due to accidents or negligence.

It also called for the creation of a

"National Labour Force Registration System and Information Repository" to ensure the professional and legal protection of workers. In addition, the commission recommended ensuring access to universal social security rights for all workers, in case of accident at work, death, sick leave, maternity benefit or any other adverse conditions.

To prevent all forms of harassment and violence including sexual harassment, anti sexual harassment and anti violence policy will be formulated in all institutions in line with a High Court order of 2009.

The state will take initiatives to ensure six-month maternity leave with pay for all women workers. In this case, the government should provide support and formulate special schemes for workers in the informal sector.

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host of structural issues fuelling tax evasion, including high tax rates, weak enforcement, and a labyrinthine legal framework that complicates compliance.

"From a tax justice perspective, high levels of tax evasion undermine compliance by discouraging honest taxpayers and increasing the burden on those who follow the law," the CPD said in the report.

Speaking to The Daily Star following the event, Moazzem pointed to the NBR's regulatory failure and flawed financial reporting as key enablers of rampant tax evasion.

"Digital integration of financial transactions across the country is no longer a choice -- it's a necessity," he said. "We need a unified system that ensures every transaction is traceable and verifiable."

To tackle these challenges in the period after Bangladesh's expected graduation from the Least Developed Country bracket, the CPD recommended a multi-pronged approach: strengthening institutions, upgrading digital infrastructure, and bringing comprehensive reforms to tax policy.

It also stressed the importance of aligning with global tax agreements and fostering cooperation with other countries to ensure a fair and transparent tax regime.

Additionally, it called for a gradual reform of the corporate income tax (CIT) structure to ensure that the statutory rate for both export-oriented and non-export sectors does not fall below 15 percent -- bringing Bangladesh in line with the global minimum tax commitment.

As part of this effort, the CPD proposed raising the current CIT rate for export-oriented industries, including the ready-made garment (RMG) sector, from 12 percent to 15 percent.

45% FIRMS REPORT BRIBERY

Nearly half of the firms surveyed in the study alleged that they were asked for bribes by officials while seeking tax-related services in FY23. The think tank said it surveyed 103 publicly listed firms in Dhaka and

Chittogram.

It indicates a lack of transparency and corruption within the tax administration, said Tamim Ahmed, senior research associate at the CPD.

In addition, 40 percent of the surveyed companies reported facing problems while adjusting their tax refunds.

The study said 82 percent of the firms that took part in the survey believed the current tax rates imposed on them were unfair. They identified it as one of their major challenges in paying taxes.

A lack of accountability among tax officials, widespread corruption, and the absence of a fully digital tax submission system were flagged as other key concerns.

For example, 79 percent of the surveyed firms said there was a lack of accountability among tax officials. And 72 percent blamed widespread corruption in the tax administration. In addition, 65 percent of the businesses reported persistent disputes with tax officials over the calculation of their payable tax amounts.

Such practices create an intangible burden that often outweighs the tax itself, making the overall tax environment unfair, Tamim said, citing businesses.

He added that there is also a prevailing sense of distrust among the surveyed businesses regarding whether the taxes they pay will be utilised in ways that benefit them.

INCENTIVE, EXPENDITURE

At the briefing, Moazzem criticised the existing tax expenditure and incentives policies.

Investment should never be driven by blanket tax incentives, which are meant for targeted support -- not for subsidising profit-making businesses or politically linked firms, he said.

"Bangladesh's tax incentive structure is deeply entangled with political interests. It's time to break away from this and introduce merit-based, time-bound incentives."

"Each year, over Tk 71,000 crore is spent on tax expenditures in the corporate sector. But where's the accountability? Who benefits, and at

ICT's probe agency

FROM PAGE 1
committed during the uprising -- to the office of the Chief Prosecutor.

Habibur Rahman and several other accused were allegedly involved under the principle of command responsibility, while other police personnel directly participated in the killings of six protesters that took place in the city's Chankharpool on August 5.

Disclosing the information at a press briefing at his office yesterday, ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said that they would now scrutinise the report and supporting evidence and file formal charges against the accused to the tribunal in a few days.

"Once the formal charges are submitted to the court, the official trial process will begin," he added.

The other accused are Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, the then DMP joint commissioner; Sha Alam Mohammad Akhterul Islam, former additional deputy commissioner; Mohammad Imrul, former assistant commissioner of Ramma Zone of DMP; Arshad Hossain, former police inspector (operation) at Shahbagh Police Station; and constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam.

Arshad Hossain, Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam are in jail, while the others are on the run.

Tajul Islam said, "Former DMP Commissioner Habibur Rahman, acting on the prime minister's directive to use deadly force against the protesters, had instructed the entire police force

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট রিপোর্ট প্রাপ্তি প্রাপ্তি
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...
যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যাল অহশ করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রশ়াদন
সাথে অন্যও আরও নিশ্চিত আত্মস্থীয় পুরস্কার
* শর্ত প্রযোজন

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূর্বালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

'Govt to form task force for newspapers'
Info adviser says step taken for dev of the industry
BSS, Dhaka

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Mahfuj Alam yesterday said the government will form a task force for the development of newspaper industries.

"The task force will transparently find out actual circulation of the newspapers, take steps for implementing the wage board awards and fix the advertisement rates for the overall development of newspaper industry," he said.

The information adviser said this at a meeting with the stakeholders of Department of Films and Publications (DFP) at the ministry.

Stressing the importance of the newspapers to follow

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The construction of Jagannath University's long-awaited second campus in Keraniganj has stalled due to bureaucratic delays. On January 16, the education ministry instructed JnU and other relevant authorities to initiate the remaining work of the project. However, the work is yet to start.

PHOTO: STAR

Clash erupts over ban on battery-run rickshaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Battery-run rickshaw drivers yesterday clashed with pedal rickshaw pullers while protesting a ban on their vehicles in Banani.

The drivers, armed with sticks and canes, also swooped on motorcyclists, and anyone documenting their demonstration, at different points in Banani.

Video footages of the clashes quickly went viral on social media.

The protest, which has been ongoing for several days, escalated yesterday, with chases and counter chases between battery-run rickshaw drivers and pedal rickshaw pullers.

"Since 11:00am, battery-run rickshaw drivers had gathered on Banani Road-II and began attacking pedal rickshaw pullers. People from the local society stepped in to support the pedal rickshaw drivers. Battery-run rickshaw drivers then chased them. Later, some residents from Karail slum and nearby areas joined the protest and blocked the road," said Mehedi Hasan, inspector (Investigation) of Banani Police Station.

Abdul Jalil, president of the Gulshan-Banani-Badda Auto-rickshaw, Easybike

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

JNU SECOND CAMPUS Project stalled amid bureaucratic hurdles

RAKIB MADBER

The construction of Jagannath University's long-awaited second campus in Keraniganj has stalled due to bureaucratic delays.

In January, students boycotted classes and exams and observed a 35-hour hunger strike on the present campus, calling for the army to be assigned the project work.

In response, on January 16, the education ministry instructed JnU and other relevant authorities to initiate the remaining work of the project, "Establishment of New Campus of Jagannath University: Land Acquisition and Development", through the army under a "procurement through assignment basis".

As the original Development Project Proposal contained multiple errors, JnU authorities submitted a Revised Development Project Proposal.
However, the RDPP has yet to be approved by the Ecnec, stalling fund release and official handover of the project to the army.

project yet. The RDPP is still awaiting ministry approval," Lt Col Iftekhar Alam, project director, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

As the original Development Project Proposal (DPP) contained multiple errors, JnU authorities submitted a Revised Development Project Proposal (RDPP) to the Planning Commission. However, the RDPP has yet to be approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec), stalling fund release and official handover of the project to the army, sources said.

A meeting on the revised proposal was held on April 13 at the Planning Commission, but it remains unapproved, halting all progress.

"We haven't officially received the project yet. The RDPP is still awaiting ministry approval," Lt Col Iftekhar Alam, project director, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

2nd tribunal to be formed to try rights violations

Says Tajul; victims of enforced disappearance seek justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Prosecutor of International Crimes Tribunal Mohammad Tajul Islam yesterday said a second tribunal will soon be formed to try the atrocities committed during the July uprising and the last 15 years of human rights violations.

"Everyone is saying to increase the number of tribunals. We also think it is difficult for a single tribunal to cover the entire scale of the atrocities. We are working to form another tribunal. It will soon be established," he said while speaking at a discussion.

He said the prosecution team would also be expanded to meet the growing workload.

The discussion was organised by the platform Voice of Enforced Disappeared Persons (VOED) at Jatiya Press Club.

At the event, survivors of enforced disappearances called for the immediate withdrawal of all false cases, punishment for those involved in disappearances and extrajudicial

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

KILLING OF PRIMEASIA STUDENT

Three put on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three individuals on a seven-day remand in connection with the killing of Jahidul Islam Parvez, a third year student of Primeasia University, in the capital's Banani area on April 19.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sanaullah passed the order after police produced Al Kamal Sheikh, 19, Alvi Hasan Zunayed, 19, and Al Amin Sani, 19, before the court.

Police arrested them in Mohakhali early yesterday, said AKM Moin Uddin, inspector (operations) of Banani Police Station.

"They are not named in the FIR, but primary investigation suggests they were involved in the murder," he said.

CCTV footage confirmed their presence at the crime scene, he added.

On April 20, Jahidul's

JCD demands justice for Parvez

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabdil Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday staged demonstrations on university campuses across the country, demanding justice for Jahidul Islam Parvez, a third year student of Primeasia University, who was reportedly stabbed to death in Banani on Saturday.

In Dhaka, JCD held a protest rally in front of Primeasia University, where BNP's Dhaka South unit leader Ishraque Hossain issued a 48-hour ultimatum to arrest those responsible. Warning of tougher programmes if the killers were not apprehended, he alleged that members of the Students Against Discrimination were involved in the murder.

"There is pressure on police not to arrest them," Ishraque claimed. "Anyone obstructing justice will face resistance," he added.

At Dhaka University, JCD leaders gathered at the base of the Raju Sculpture around 1:00pm, demanding swift action. DU JCD president GC Roy Shahid and JCD general secretary Nahiduzzaman Shipon spoke at the rally.

At Jahangirnagar University, over a hundred JCD activists held a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar in the afternoon. The unit's convenor Jahir Uddin Babor said they are giving the government 24 hours to act or face intensified protests.

Jagannath University JCD also held a rally echoing similar demands.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



People hurriedly cross the Bhadra railway crossing in Rajshahi, ducking under or climbing over the closed rail gate, even as a train approaches. Motorcycles also cross recklessly, ignoring the danger. A single misstep could lead to a serious accident. The photo was taken yesterday.

ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
ঝুলুন



পাই ব্যাংক (PI Banking) -
একটি পূর্বালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

COURT CORNER

High Court seeks full disclosure of presidential mercy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the respondents to show cause as to why their failure to publish and disclose all records related to the presidential prerogative of mercy from January 1, 2019, to July 31, 2024 should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries at the ministries of home and law, and the cabinet have been made respondents.

The HC bench of Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque and Justice Aynun Nahar Siddiqua issued the rule following a petition that sought its order to disclose all the records regarding the president's mercy including a list of names of people whose sentences have been commuted, suspended, or reduced.

1971 WAR CRIMES Azharul's appeal hearing today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set today to hold hearing of an appeal filed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam challenging his death penalty for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The appeal has been included as item 28 for hearing in today's cause list of a four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed.

On February 27, the SC allowed Azharul to move a fresh appeal before this court challenging his death penalty and also fixed April 22 for hearing.

A five-member bench passed the order after hearing a petition seeking a review of its earlier verdict that upheld the ICT's ruling sentencing Azharul to death. The SC upheld his death sentence on October 31, 2019.

SC SECRETARIAT ORDINANCE SC sends draft to law ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday sent a draft of the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance 2025 to the law ministry.

The Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance 2025 has been prepared in order to institutionalise judicial independence, outlining recruitment, promotion, transfers, budgeting, training, and development of judicial officers (lower court judges) and staff members under the SC secretariat, said an SC press release.

According to the press release, in a letter signed by the SC's Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan, the concept paper regarding the establishment of the SC Secretariat, the draft of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Seminar on blue economy held at Maritime University

CITY DESK

A seminar titled "Blue Economy: Unlocking the Potential of Oceans for Sustainable Development of Bangladesh" was held at Bangladesh Maritime University, located at Senapranjan, Dhaka Cantonment, on April 21, said a press release.

Education Adviser Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar was present as the chief guest during the closing ceremony.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral MNazmul Hassan attended as the chief guest during the inaugural ceremony of the daylong seminar.

The seminar was presided over by the university's Vice-Chancellor, Rear Admiral Ashraful Hoq Chowdhury.

The keynote paper was presented by Prof Pierre Failer of the University of Portsmouth, UK.



Govt to form task force

FROM PAGE 3

the government policies, he said government facilities and advertisements will be available for the newspapers that will follow the government policies.

Tax return of the mass media organisations should also be verified, he noted.

Mahfuj said the government does not want to terminate publication of any newspaper. However, it's required for all newspapers to ensure transparency at every level.

He also said an environment of competition must be created among newspapers.

Mahfuj said many ministers and parliament members became owner of mass media in various ways

during the regime of last fascist government. The present condition of those media should be examined and necessary steps should be taken, he added.

At the meeting, Media Reform Commission chief Kamal Ahmed said the government should not patronise those newspapers which are "out of the competition".

He stressed making separate policy for English newspapers.

Director General of the DFP Khaleda Begum said the newspaper audit system needs to be reformed. She sought cooperation of all concerned to allow the DFP to work freely and transparently.

Information and Broadcasting Secretary

Mahbuba Farjana, Media Reform Commission Member and Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Department faculty Prof Giti Ara Nasrin, Jatiya Press Club President Hasan Hafiz, Daily Manabzamin Editor Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, BFUJ Secretary General Kader Gani Chowdhury, DUJ President Shahidul Islam, Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif, Daily Dinkal Managing Editor Shimul Biswas, Daily Naya Diganta Executive Editor Masumur Rahman Khalifi and representatives of various media houses and government officials were present.

will follow based on its recommendations, he added.

"More doctors, nurses, and medicines will be provided, and these hospitals will be open to the general public," he also said.

Speaking at the event, Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum said there is currently a shortage of 8,000 doctors nationwide, so it would be unrealistic to expect these hospitals to become fully functional overnight.

However, she expressed hope that about 2,000 doctors could be appointed through a special BCS by mid-September. Once the minimum requirements are met, the hospitals will be opened to the public, she added.

Government resources must not remain idle, he said.

A joint committee will assess each hospital's needs and potential next week. Further actions

addition, or removal.

The Health Services Division will bear the cost of development and operations, while existing staff will remain under BR's employment.

As BR's manpower structure lacks posts for specialist doctors, the Health Services Division will assign such doctors to ensure advanced care.

The railways adviser said many general hospitals are overwhelmed, while BR hospitals remain underutilised.

Government resources must not remain idle, he said.

A joint committee will assess each hospital's needs and potential next week. Further actions

will follow based on its recommendations, he added.

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will follow based on its recommendations, he added.

Govt to open 10 BR hospitals for public use

MoU signed between ministries; 2,000 doctors to be hired through special BCS by mid-September

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ministries of railways and health yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly operate 10 hospitals under Bangladesh Railway (BR) in a bid to improve healthcare services.

Once preparatory work is complete, the hospitals will be opened to the public. Currently, they only serve railway officials, staff, their family members, and railway passengers.

Railway officials said these hospitals fail to provide expected services due to a shortage of doctors, nurses, and other staff, as well as a lack of modern medical equipment and other necessary resources.

Railways Ministry Secretary Fahimul Islam and Health Services Division Secretary Saidur Rahman signed the MoU on behalf of their respective ministries at the Health Services Division auditorium at the secretariat.

This move comes over a decade after a similar MoU was signed in 2015 regarding BR's hospital in Dhaka's Kamalapur. That agreement failed to bring significant improvement, which BR officials blamed on inter-ministerial friction and the inaction of the managing committee formed at the time.

The new initiative follows a recent visit by Railways Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan to the Railway General Hospital in Chattogram. During the visit earlier this month, he found only five patients receiving treatment in the 92-bed facility.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

No new industrial units within 10km of Sundarbans ECA

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to prohibit any new industrial unit and project from being established within 10 kilometres of the Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) surrounding the Sundarbans.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Environment and Climate Change Committee at the Secretariat with Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan in the chair yesterday.

The ministry will soon issue a gazette notification in this regard, officials said.

A panel of experts will assess the environmental impact of existing industrial units within 10km of the ECA. Based on these assessments and existing court orders, further decisions will be made regarding those establishments.

The meeting also approved amendments to the Climate Change Trust Rules allowing joint project proposals from government, private organisations, and NGOs.

It was also decided that all ministries will be consulted to formulate the next action plan to tackle noise pollution.

Besides, a target was set to ensure that at least 30 percent of bricks used in public and private construction are concrete blocks by 2025.

A coordination meeting at the secretary level will be held in May to follow up on the implementation.



The bridge over the Jhenai river in Tangail's Basail upazila remains unfinished more than three years after its scheduled completion date, causing immense suffering to hundreds of people.

PHOTO: STAR

BASAIL UPAZILA IN TANGAIL

3 years past deadline, bridge still incomplete

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Construction of a bridge over the Jhenai river in Tangail's Basail upazila remains incomplete more than three years after the deadline, causing immense suffering to hundreds of people.

Blaming the negligence of the contractor and the authorities, locals have urged the government to complete the work without further delay.

The bridge is crucial for connecting Basail and Mirzapur upazilas. Its absence has severely disrupted daily life, forcing residents to cross the river by boat.

Farmers said they face difficulties transporting produce and cattle across the river.

According to the LGED office in Basail, work on the 256-metre bridge began on March 18, 2020,

after the old one collapsed into the river in 2019.

The construction was awarded to Haider Construction Private Limited and Md Liaquat Ali (JV) at a cost of Tk 27.23 crore. The deadline in the work order was September 24, 2022.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw people crossing the river on a small boat. Locals said the fare is Tk 10 per person or bicycle, and Tk 20 for each motorcycle.

Motaleb Hossain, a local resident, said the bridge has been under construction for five years, with only the piling and pillars at both ends completed so far. The rest of the work remains pending. If a patient falls ill at night, boats aren't available, and cars can't reach us either. We urgently need the bridge to be completed," said Rashida Akter, a local resident.

Shamim Al Mamun, chairman of Kanchapur Union Parishad, said, "We are trying our best to make sure the work is completed."

Fattaur Rahman, upazila engineer in Basail who joined recently, said about 60 percent of the bridge work has been completed. He said they have repeatedly told the contractor to finish the remaining work, but the contractor has cited a financial crisis.

"If he does not work, we will re-tender and give the work to someone else," he added.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not reach the owner of the contracting company, Haider Ali, or the engineer.

Mohammad Kamruzzaman, executive engineer of LGED in Tangail, said necessary steps will be taken to complete the construction work as soon as possible.



If a patient falls ill at night, boats aren't available, and cars can't reach us either. We urgently need the bridge to be completed.

Rashida Akter, a local resident



MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES DIRECTOR OF WORKS AND CHIEF ENGINEER (AIR) INVITATION FOR TENDER

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services
3.	Procuring Entity Name	DW & CE (Air), Dhaka Canton
4.	Tender Name	Project Works under Works Programme of Bangladesh Air Force for the financial year 2024-2025 (As per SI No.14)
5.	Invitation for Tender No.	10 of 2024-2025/E-4 Dated: 21 April 2025
6.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
7.	Source of Funds	Govt. of Bangladesh (GOB)
8.	Tender publication date	24 April 2025
9.	Tender last Selling date	07 May 2025 (During Office hours)
10.	Last date of Tender submission	08 May 2025 upto 1200 hours
11.	Tender opening date and time	08 May 2025 at 1230 hours
12.	Name & Address of the Tenders selling, receiving and opening Tender documents	DW & CE (Air), Dhaka Canton, Dhaka-1206.
13.	Eligibility of Tenderer	a. MES Enlisted Contractors 'Class' as below. b. Contractors enlisted in other Govt departments may also participate in tenders of the work on receipt of security clearance from DGF.
14.	Description of works	Location Class Price of Tender Document (Non-refundable) Amount of Tender Security (Tk) in the shape of Pay Order / Bank Guarantee / Bank draft in favour of DW & CE (Air)
a.	Supply & Installation of Air Conditioner for Construction of K-8W Aircraft Simulator Building (4 Storey with 4 Storied foundation) including ancillary works at BAF Base Cox's Bazar.	BAF Base Cox's Bazar 'C' & 'D' Tk. 1,000/- Tk. 1,33,000/- 03 (Three) Months
b.	Provision of External Water Supply line for Construction of 1x50,000 Gallon Capacity over ground Water Reservoir including ancillary works for Pump House (Rocket Type) at Saudi Colony area BAF Base Bashar, Tejgaon (Last Phase) (Group-I)	BAF Base Bashar Tejgaon 'C' & 'D' Tk. 1,000/- Tk. 82,000/- 03 (Three) Months
c.	Provision of External Water Supply line for Construction of 1x50,000 Gallon Capacity over ground Water Reservoir including ancillary works for Pump House (Rocket Type) at Saudi Colony area BAF Base Bashar, Tejgaon (Last Phase) (Group-II)	BAF Base Bashar Tejgaon 'D' & 'E' Tk. 1,000/- Tk. 1,13,000/- 06 (Six) Months
d.	Provision of External Water Supply line for Construction of 1x50,000 Gallon Capacity over ground Water Reservoir including ancillary works for Pump House (Rocket Type) at Saudi Colony area BAF Base Bashar, Tejgaon (Last Phase) (Group-III)	BAF Base Bashar Tejgaon 'D' & 'E' Tk. 1,000/- Tk. 1,08,000/- 06 (Six) Months
e.	Construction of Footpath with Draining system for (12 stored foundation/150 feet height) BOQ and Officers' Mess Complex at Officers Mess area at BAF Base Bashar, Tejgaon.	BAF Base Bashar, Tejgaon 'D' & 'E' Tk. 1,000/- Tk. 78,000/- 08 (Eight) Months
15.	Contact Details	Tel : 9836520, e-mail : dwceair@gmail.com
16.	Special Instructions	a. Tenderers shall submit copy of valid Enlistment letter & security clearance with application on company letter-head when purchasing Tender. b. Detailed requirements are mentioned in Tender Data sheet of Tender documents. c. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tenders.

Mohammad Shah Alam
Superintending Engineer
For DW & CE (Air)

আই. এস. পি. আর/বিমান/১৯

GD-946

3,382 buildings being built violating rules Says Rajuk chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 3,382 under-construction buildings in the capital have recently been found to be violating regulations, said Rajuk Chairman Riazul Islam yesterday.

"If necessary, these buildings will either be demolished or corrected," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a dialogue titled "Dhaka: A City of Problems, Which Way to the Solution?"

The Urban Development Journalists Forum-Bangladesh (UDJF) organised the programme at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity with its President Matin Abdullah in the chair.

Sheikh Mohammad Mehedi Ahsan, general secretary of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), presented the keynote paper.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

No reason to delay polls beyond Dec Says BNP's Nazrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP sees no reason to delay the national election beyond December, said the party's standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday.

"We do not see any obstacle to holding the election by December since the Election Commission has said they will be ready by June," he told reporters after a meeting with the Labour Party at the BNP Chairperson's office in the capital's Gulshan area.

He said if any party disagrees with BNP's position, they should explain why further delay would be necessary.

After the meeting with BNP, Labour Party Chairman Mostafizur Rahman said, "Our demand is to hold the national election by December. For this, the government must formulate a roadmap."

BNP also held a separate meeting with leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Somonoma Jote at the party chairperson's Gulshan office, where both sides reiterated their demand for the election to be held within December.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH HEADQUARTERS BORDER GUARD BANGLADESH COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, PEELKHANA, DHAKA		
Reference No : 44.02.1205.005.01.412.25.59&60	Dated : 22 April 2025	
e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)		
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement works as stated below :		
Package No.	Name of Work	Tender ID
59/2024-25/BGB/CB	Service, Maintenance and management of DC Dhaka (PDU, UPS Battery, ATS, Compressor, De-humidifier, Fire Extinguisher & EMS)	1100958
60/2024-25/BGB/CB	Service, Maintenance and management of DR Jashore (PDU, UPS Battery, ATS, Compressor, De-humidifier, Fire Extinguisher & EMS)	1100959
1. This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.		
2. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.		
3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).		
4. The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.bgb.gov.bd		
 MUHAMMAD MASUDUR RAHMAN Lieutenant Colonel Director (IT) For Director General dircomm@bgb.gov.bd		
GD-941		

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH		
অফিসের জন্য বাড়ী ইজারা গ্রহণের দরপত্র প্রস্তাব আহ্বান		
<p>বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড এর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, (এসওডি), পাবনা এর জন্য পাবনা জেলা শহর এলাকায় সর্বনিম্ন ১৮০০-২০০০ বর্গফুটের একটি ফ্ল্যাট/বাড়ী তে সর্বনিম্ন ০৪টি রুম (দুইটি সংযুক্ত বাথরুমসহ) কিচেন রুম, কমন বাথরুম, পিয়েন/দারোয়ান কোয়ার্টার, ০২টি গাড়ী পার্কিং এর সুবিধাসহ ০১টি গাড়ী রাখার গ্যারেজ, লোহার গেইট, উন্মুক্ত আংগিনাসহ সীমানা প্রাচীর বেষ্টিত, পানি, বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ ও অন্যান্য আধুনিক সুবিধা থাকতে হবে। ফ্ল্যাট/বাড়ী ০১ জুন ২০২৫ খ্রিৎ তারিখ হতে ৩১ মে ২০২৮ খ্রিৎ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ০৩ (তিনি) বছরের জন্য ইজারা গ্রহণ করা হবে। আগ্রহী ও প্রকৃত বাড়ীর মালিকানা, নক্সা ও প্রকৃত আয়তন সংক্রান্ত কাগজ পত্রাদিসহ প্রত্যাশিত মাসিক ভাড়া (ভ্যাট) ও প্রযোজ্য ট্যাক্সসহ) উল্লেখ পূর্বে আগ্রহী ০৭-০৫-২০২৫ খ্রিৎ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটকায় দরপত্র প্রস্তাবকারীদের সম্মুখে খোলা হবে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনে ছাড়াই যে কোন</p>		
 বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD Rajshahi Zone, O & M Complex Nawapara, Sapura, Rajshahi. Telephone: 02-58800895 www.reb.rajshahidiv.gov.bd E-mail : serebraj@yahoo.com		
বাপুবিবো/জন (১৫০৪-১৯২) ২০২৪-২০২৫		
GD-940		

Eid releases keep theatres packed weeks after premiere

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Three weeks since their Eid release, Bangladeshi films continue to draw strong audience turnout, breaking the usual post-Eid lull. Among the six titles released this festive season, *Borbaad*, *Daagi*, *Jongli*, and *Chokkor 302* have sustained their performance, contributing to a boost in the local box office.

Leading the lineup is Shakib Khan's *Borbaad*, which continues to screen in the highest number of theatres both locally and abroad. The action-drama reportedly set a new benchmark in first-week ticket sales, surpassing the record previously held by *Priyotoma*. Veteran actor Shahiduzzaman Selim, who appears in the film, called the sustained attention "a sign of growth" for the industry.

Daagi, featuring Afran Nisho and



Tama Mirza in a critically praised lead performance, has also maintained strong momentum. Its success is attributed to its engaging script and audience connection. Tama expressed

confidence in the film's continued appeal, noting that cinema this Eid had "struck a chord" with viewers.

Jongli, starring Siam Ahmed, started with modest attendance but

has since gained traction. With an increase in screenings and steady audience growth, the film has become a sleeper hit. "That we're still getting this kind of love on day twenty is rare," said Siam, expressing gratitude for the support.

Meanwhile, *Chokkor 302*, directed by Saraf Ahmed Zibon and featuring Mosharraf Karim, is holding steady despite playing in fewer theatres. Zibon noted a rise in viewership and screenings in the third week, while the acclaimed actor praised audiences for their continued interest.

The strong performance of multiple local films weeks after release signals renewed faith in Bangladeshi cinema. With a variety of genres on offer this Eid—from action to psychological thrillers—audiences appear more willing than ever to embrace local storytelling.

Wrestlemania 41: John Cena beats Cody Rhodes to become 17x champion

In a WrestleMania main event for the ages, John Cena defeated Cody Rhodes to become a record-breaking 17-time world champion, winning the Undisputed WWE Championship. The match, held at Allegiant Stadium, was



a brutal showdown, but controversy overshadowed Cena's historic win.

As Rhodes recovered from being slammed into an exposed turnbuckle, rapper Travis Scott—aligned with Cena and The Rock since Elimination Chamber—distracted the referee. Cena seized the moment, delivering a low blow and striking Rhodes with the title belt before pinning him.

The crowd erupted in a mix of cheers and boos as Cena celebrated his historic win with Travis Scott. The controversial finish immediately sparked debate among fans and wrestling analysts, with many questioning the manner in which Cena achieved his record-breaking 17th world title.

ACP PRADYUMAN returns to 'CID'

Veteran actor Shivaji Satam, renowned for his portrayal of ACP Pradyuman in *CID*, has returned to the show following fan backlash over his character's apparent death. In a recent episode, ACP Pradyuman was shown falling victim to a bomb explosion during a mission involving antagonist Barboza, played by Tigmanshu Dhulia.

The sequence coincided with Parth Samthaan's entry as ACP



Ayushman, sparking criticism from fans who demanded Satam's return. Responding to the outcry, the makers brought Satam back.

Samthaan shared a behind-the-scenes video with Satam, calling it a thrilling experience, while Satam teased his comeback with the iconic line "Kuch toh gadbad hai?". Despite Sony TV posting a tribute graphic, Satam's return has reignited excitement among audiences.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Play: All Quiet on the Western Front

Adapted by Runa Kanchan and directed by Bakar Bakul, *All Quiet on the Western Front* brings Erich Maria Remarque's anti-war classic to the stage. This powerful production follows a group of idealistic young soldiers whose patriotic dreams are shattered by the brutal, dehumanising realities of World War I.

Date: Wednesday-Friday | April 23-25

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



Arnob kicks off US concert tour spanning eight cities



Singer-songwriter Shayan Chowdhury Arnob has set out on a concert tour across the United States as part of the *Bangla Folk Rock Fest*, performing alongside his band Arnob and Friends in eight cities. The tour began on Saturday (April 19) with a show in

Dallas.

Arnob is set to perform next in Minneapolis on May 3, followed by concerts in Seattle, Austin, Washington DC, New York, Columbia, and concluding in Los Angeles on May 25.

The tour is being managed by Freedom Entertainment Ltd.

NEWS

One killed

FROM PAGE 12

injured, Rakib Molla, 17, an SSC examinee from the same area, was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal, according to family sources.

Agaibjhara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Oliul Islam said Rab members in plainclothes were on an anti-drug operation in the area when they came under attack from some drug dealers. At that, Rab personnel opened fire, injuring the two.

The two were first taken to Gourandhi Upazila Health Complex, where Siam was declared dead upon arrival.

Rakib, who suffered wounds to his abdomen, was later shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where his condition was critical, his younger brother Raihan Molla said, citing doctors.

Akram Hossain, assistant surgeon at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, confirmed that Rakib was brought to the emergency unit with a critical injury.

"We haven't yet begun surgery. We cannot confirm if it's a bullet wound until we operate, but his condition is serious," he said around 11:00pm yesterday.

Rab 8 Deputy Commander Major Mahmudul Ahsan confirmed the anti-drug operation and the subsequent gunfire, and said the force came under attack during the raid.

"One suspect was killed and another injured during the gunfight. We are still conducting an operation in the area and cannot provide further details," he said.

Some migrants in Canada lose work status

REUTERS, Toronto

Migrants living in Canada are facing longer waits to renew paperwork that would allow them to keep working legally, as growing backlog and changing rules stymie efforts to maintain legal status, according to interviews and data obtained by Reuters.

Losing status means people who have paid taxes cannot work or access medical care and other services in a country that has long prided itself for its universal health care.

'Pluralism' in charter

FROM PAGE 12

However, during its meeting with the National Consensus Commission (NCC) yesterday, the party endorsed 147 out of 166 key recommendations proposed by five reform commissions formed for state reforms.

Khelafat Majlis disagreed with 15 recommendations and partially agreed with four, said the party's Secretary General Maulana Jalaluddin Ahmed after the meeting held at the LD Hall of the National Parliament.

According to Jalaluddin, the commission explained to the Khelafat Majlis leaders that "pluralism" refers to an ideology that recognises the country's diverse cultures and communities.

In response, the delegation said the term pluralism contradicts the concept of "oneness." Therefore, if cultural diversity is to be acknowledged, alternative terminology should be used.

The Majlis leader also expressed disagreement with the recommendation to divide the country into four provinces. He argued that Bangladesh's compact geography and effective communication network rendered such a move unnecessary.

He added that such a division would only increase administrative and economic burdens.

The party further opposed a recommendation to elect Union Parishad chairpersons by parishad members instead of through direct public elections.

This approach could pave the way for unethical practices and diminish public involvement, the party opined.

The meeting was chaired by Commission Vice President Professor Ali Riaz. Other commission members present included Badiul Alam Majumdar, Iftekharuzzaman, Safar Raj Hossain, and Monir Haidar, Special Assistant (Consensus) to the Chief Adviser.

Jalaluddin led a three-member delegation of Khelafat Majlis, which included Senior Naib-e-Ameer Siddiq, Rehana's daughter and UK MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq, Rehana's daughter Azmina Siddiq.

Later in the day, the NCC and the Jatiya Gonofront held a meeting at the same venue.

The Jatiya Gonofront was represented by a six-member

delegation led by the party's Central Committee Coordinator, Comrade Tipu Biswas.

An NCC member present at the meeting told The Daily Star that the party proposed the annulment of the 1972 Constitution, calling it "completely ineffective."

The party also proposed the formation of a new Constitutional Council to draft a fresh constitution.

The Jatiya Gonofront delegation included Litu Biswas, Debashish Poddar Bapi, Kamruzzaman Firoz, KM Delwar Hossain, and Taimur Khan Apu.

The NCC was formed under the leadership of the interim government's Chief Adviser, Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, to build a national consensus on reform issues.

The commission officially began its activities on February 15.

Based on proposals put forward by the Constitutional Reform Commission, Public Administration Reform Commission, Electoral System Reform Commission, Judiciary Reform Commission, and Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission, the NCC sent a spreadsheet containing 166 key recommendations to 39 political parties, requesting their specific opinions.

So far, 35 political parties have responded with their views.

To finalise the recommendations made by the reform commissions, the NCC initiated formal dialogues on March 20. It has already completed preliminary discussions with 15 political parties.

Meanwhile, the NCC is set to meet the BNP today for the third time to discuss reform proposals aimed at building national consensus.

NIDs of Hasina, 9 of her family

FROM PAGE 12

Saima Wazed, her sister Rehana Siddiq (Sheikh Rehana), Rehana's daughter and UK MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq, Rehana's daughter Azmina Siddiq were "locked".

Others affected by the decision are Maj Gen Tarique Ahmed Siddiq, security adviser to Hasina, his wife Shaheen Siddiq, and his daughter Bushra Siddiq.

Youth stabbed

FROM PAGE 12

doctors declared him dead around 9:30pm, the police said, adding that the body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Gazi Shamim, officer in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, told The Daily Star, "We suspect he was stabbed as a result of previous enmity."

When asked about the nature of the enmity, the OC said that Pappu had once helped to apprehend a local criminal. The attack might have been carried out in retaliation to that incident, the OC said.

Pappu's father Ekram Hossain told this correspondent, "I heard that my son was killed in a mugging incident."

He said Pappu worked for an online shop.

Ekram said Pappu had been at home all day and was supposed to leave for his night shift around 9:00pm. He stepped out after taking Tk 10 from Ekram in the evening, saying, "I'll be right back."

"Just 10 minutes later, I was informed that muggers had stabbed Pappu. We rushed to the scene and took him to Samorita Hospital. The doctors there referred him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital," he added.

Md Raju, a neighbour who brought Pappu to the hospital, told this newspaper that he and a few others, including Pappu, were chatting. At one point, Pappu said he needed to urinate and walked towards the other side of the road.

"A few minutes later, we heard Pappu shouting 'Muggers! Muggers!' When we ran towards him, we saw three to four people fleeing. Pappu was lying on the ground covered in blood," Raju said.

Md Faruk, in-charge (inspector) of the police camp at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said, "A youth named Pappu was brought to the hospital. After examination, doctors declared him dead. The body has been kept in the morgue for autopsy."

No case was filed as of filing this report around midnight. Police were checking the CCTV footage of BG Press.

Pappu was the only child of Ekram and Parveen Begum. Pappu had been studying electrical engineering at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon.

Bangladeshis worry

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladeshi nationals could be several thousands," said a meeting participant, seeking anonymity.

During the meetings, US embassy officials conveyed President Trump's commitment to strict enforcement of immigration laws and emphasised that cooperation from partner countries is critical to implementing these measures effectively, officials present there said.

They informed the home ministry that several Bangladeshis had exhausted all legal avenues regarding their residency status and were now subject to final removal orders. The US had, therefore, decided to arrange their orderly repatriation to Bangladesh.

The US side stressed two priorities — issuance of travel documents for Bangladeshis within 30 days of request and acceptance of returnees regardless of the mode of removal — be it commercial, charter, or military flights. They urged Bangladeshis to ensure a smooth and coordinated deportation process.

In response, Bangladesh reiterated its commitment to fulfilling international obligations and expressed readiness to accept its nationals through any mode of transfer.

A senior SB official said the government has been working closely with the US to ensure the Bangladeshi nationals are repatriated with dignity.

"This issue was strongly raised during meetings with US embassy officials," the official said, adding that due to diplomatic efforts and international concern, Bangladeshi deportees were not handcuffed during deportation, unlike nationals of some other countries.

The deportation process involves US authorities notifying the Bangladesh embassy in Washington upon identification of an undocumented individual.

The embassy then informs Dhaka, and the SB verifies the identity before accepting and registering the returnee at the airport.

"If any deportee needs legal assistance, the government will provide support," said an official involved in the repatriation process, adding that the government is considering engaging BRAC, a leading NGO, to support returnees.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform, said, "We regularly support

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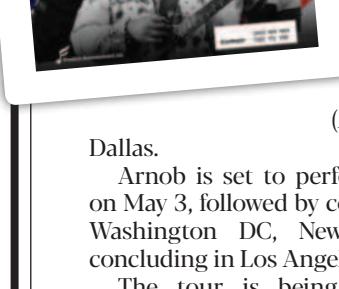
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INTERNATIONAL

US STATE DEPT Trump draft order calls for drastic restructure

CNBC ONLINE

The Trump administration could soon roll out sweeping changes to the US State Department, according to a draft executive order obtained by CNBC that lays out what it calls a "disciplined reorganization" of the nation's diplomatic service.

The 16-page draft order, which is not dated, would dramatically upend the department if it is enacted — shuttering American embassies across Southern Africa and eliminating bureaus that work on issues like democracy and human rights, as well as international organizations like the United Nations.



Israel carried out 'summary executions'
Says Gaza civil defence on medic killings

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency yesterday accused the Israeli military of carrying out "summary executions" in the killing of 15 rescue workers last month, rejecting the findings of an internal probe by the army.

The medics and other rescue workers were killed when responding to distress calls near Gaza's southern city of Rafah early on March 23, days into Israel's renewed offensive in the Hamas-run territory.

Among those killed were eight Red Crescent staff members, six from the Gaza civil defence rescue agency and one employee of UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, according to the UN humanitarian agency OCHA and Palestinian rescuers.



Israeli army excavators demolish two Palestinian buildings in Nablus north west of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, yesterday. The buildings fall in the so-called Area C designated by the 1995 Oslo Accords, occupied Palestinian territory which remains under full Israeli control.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia resumes air attacks on Ukraine

Ukraine's air force downs 42 attack drones; Trump hopes Moscow, Kyiv will make ceasefire deal this week

AFP, Kyiv

Russia yesterday launched a wave of aerial attacks at Ukraine in an abrupt end to a fragile 30-hour Easter truce between the two sides.

The renewed strikes, confirmed by both Moscow and Kyiv, cast doubt on Donald Trump's hopes for a broader ceasefire between the two sides, hours after the US President said he hoped a "deal" could be struck this week.

"With the end of the ceasefire, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continued to conduct the special military operation," the Russian army said in a statement, using its term for the military offensive.

Both sides had accused the other of thousands of instances of violating the supposed ceasefire, announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday.

Just hours after the truce ended at midnight local time (2100 GMT) Sunday, Ukrainian officials reported renewed drone and missile strikes on the Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions.



Sergiy Lysak, the governor of Dnipropetrovsk, said Russia "launched drones" at the eastern region. One home was damaged and a fire broke out at a food establishment, but no injuries have been reported, he said on Telegram.

Ukraine's air force said it downed 42 Russian attack drones in an overnight attack starting at 2:00 am yesterday. The surprise 30-hour ceasefire was declared by Putin on Saturday, who said it was motivated by "humanitarian reasons".

Putin's ceasefire declaration came after US President Donald Trump said Friday he would end Washington's efforts to halt the war unless the two sides moved towards an accord.

On Sunday he expressed hopes the two sides could strike an agreement in the coming days, though did not elaborate on what he had in mind.

"Hopefully Russia and Ukraine will make a deal this week," he said on his Truth Social platform.

Trump had earlier tabled a ceasefire proposal, which was accepted by Ukraine but rebuffed by Russia.

Indian troops kill eight Maoist rebels

AFP, New Delhi

Indian commandos shot dead eight Maoist rebels in eastern India yesterday, police said, as security forces ramp up efforts to crush the long-running conflict.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in the decades-long insurgency waged by the rebels, who say they are fighting for the rights of marginalised groups.

The latest gunfire broke out early yesterday in the forested areas of Bokaro district in the mineral-rich state of Jharkhand.

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A tragic reminder of student insecurities

Killers of Primeasia student must be brought to justice

We are shocked to learn of the killing of Jahidul Islam Parvez, a third-year student of Primeasia University, who was stabbed to death in broad daylight on Saturday. That a young life could be so brutally cut short over something as trivial as a "suggestive" exchange of laughter is both heartbreaking and alarming. According to media reports, Parvez and some friends were having snacks near the university in Banani when a quarrel broke out after some individuals questioned their alleged mocking of two female students. Although the situation seemed to have been resolved with the intervention of university officials, Parvez was fatally stabbed shortly afterwards. Police have since arrested three individuals, while eight were sued in a case filed by the victim's cousin.

Among the accused are two leaders of the Banani thana unit of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) platform, which prompted rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders—who claimed Parvez as one of their own—to accuse SAD of orchestrating the attack. The SAD, for its part, denied the allegation, accusing Chhatra Dal of exploiting the tragedy for political purposes. This war of words has been distracting, but it does add to the conversation surrounding political violence in the country. Just last month, at least 23 people were killed and 733 injured in over 97 incidents of political violence, according to the Human Rights Support Society. These figures are a sobering reminder of the uphill battle law enforcement faces in containing crimes in post-uprising Bangladesh.

What worries us most is the continued vulnerability of general students, even though the political lines on university campuses have been redrawn following the July uprising that ended the long dominance of Awami League's now-banned student wing. The fact that the three individuals arrested by police are only 19 years old also indicates young people's growing inclination towards violence. The activities of teen gangs, in particular, have been a source of concern in recent years, with many—including students—being lured by the promise of quick power and easy money. This is an alarming trend that demands urgent intervention.

At this stage, we don't know the exact identity or motive of Parvez's killers. But it is paramount that those responsible be brought to justice through a fair and transparent trial, both for the sake of his grieving family and the safety of general students. A university should be a place of learning and growth, not a battleground for gang activities, petty quarrels, or political vendettas. Government authorities, university administrations, political parties, and society at large have a collective responsibility to ensure that our students can study and grow without fearing for their lives.

Spare residents from road-digging hassles

Projects requiring road excavation must comply with rules

Dug-up roads in our cities are not just a temporary inconvenience as they often pose risks to pedestrians and commuters. Take Banani Road-8, for instance. It connects Banani Road-11 to the Mohakhali-Gulshan road, providing commuters a way to escape the busy, traffic-heavy New Airport Road. Since April 18, it has been dug up right down the middle for drainage work, leaving no room on either side of the road for any vehicles to pass except for daredevils on motorbikes. Even pedestrians are facing difficulty using the road, as the sides of the trenches are becoming muddy and slippery from frequent summer showers. With nearby slum children playing in the area, an accident is just waiting to happen.

For residents of Dhaka and Chattogram, such unsafe road conditions have almost become a part of daily life. In the port city, the situation is worse as open drains and canals along roadsides claim a life or two every year. Yet, the city corporations and other public authorities do not appear to be bothered by these horrific, untimely deaths. Not only do they not jump into action to make the roads safer, they continue to allow unsafe roadworks, often in violation of the 2019 Road Excavation Policy.

The policy specifically mentions "protection measures" and "trench plans," but we hardly ever see the use of barrier tapes, traffic cones, or other more modern protection measures to visually warn or restrict pedestrians from these hazardous conditions. In some areas, for example in Purba and Paschim Rajabazar, road digging has been going on for more than a year. According to one resident, there's always an alley or a street that is excavated in that neighbourhood. This happens because there's hardly any coordination between the various agencies that take permission from the city corporations to carry out projects involving road digging. The question is, do city corporations even consider the inconvenience to residents before permitting road excavation?

Inefficiencies, lack of an effective accountability mechanism, corruption, and bribery are often the reasons behind our cities' failure in governance. We hope that the recommendations made by the local government reform commission in this regard will help create a more accountable system where residents' comfort and safety are prioritised in all city plans and projects. City authorities must spare residents from the nuisance of dug-up roads.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Paris Agreement signed

On this day in 2016, more than 170 countries signed the Paris Agreement on climate change, a landmark treaty that sought to control and reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. It took effect in November 2016.

EDITORIAL

Policy choices for Bangladesh amid rising gas prices



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun
is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) recently announced a 33 percent increase in gas prices for new industrial and captive power consumers. The tariff for new industrial connections rose from Tk 30 to Tk 40 per cubic metre, while captive power users saw the rate increase from Tk 31.5 to Tk 42 per cubic metre. This hike is likely to affect energy-intensive sectors, such as textiles and RMG, ceramics, steel, fertiliser production, and power generation. Industries will encounter increased production costs, reduced competitiveness, and pressure on profit margins. This could potentially lead to reduced industrial output and have a negative impact on the overall economic health. For instance, the textile and RMG sector, which contributes to export earnings, relies extensively on natural gas. Higher gas costs will increase production costs, which will make Bangladeshi exports less competitive globally, particularly against regional competitors such as Vietnam and Cambodia, which also export apparel products.

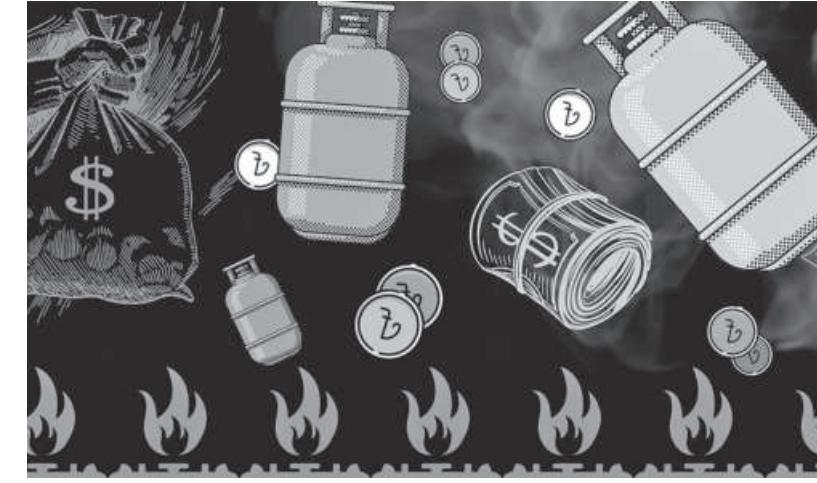
This increased operational cost will likely dampen domestic investment prospects. Smaller enterprises, already operating on thin margins, will face financial stress, which may lead to closures or downsizing of their businesses. This will cause job losses. Additionally, continuous hikes in utility costs might slow down economic growth.

From the perspective of attracting FDI, the gas price hike poses a significant challenge. Stable and predictable utility costs are crucial for attracting FDI. Frequent adjustments in energy prices due to fiscal pressures might portray Bangladesh as an unstable investment destination. This again can affect the competitiveness and attractiveness of the country to foreign investors. Since the cost of doing business significantly influences investment decisions, persistent uncertainty in energy pricing could potentially redirect investments to more stable economies.

The gas price hike aligns with the IMF's conditions for a \$4.7 billion loan, which emphasises reducing energy subsidies to improve Bangladesh's fiscal discipline. The country's substantial energy subsidies have placed considerable stress on its fiscal resources, contributing significantly to its budget deficit. The IMF's loan

conditions explicitly emphasise subsidy reductions to enhance fiscal discipline and ensure economic stability. Hence, the government's flexibility in maintaining the previous gas prices is limited. Continuing with the existing gas prices without adjustments could risk the financial support essential for macroeconomic stabilisation.

If Bangladesh opted not to increase gas prices, alternative mechanisms would be required to manage the burgeoning subsidy bill. These measures are short-term, medium-term, and long term in nature. One of the important options includes improving operational efficiencies in state-owned enterprises, minimising systemic wastage, and gradually phasing in targeted subsidies rather than implementing abrupt universal cuts. Additionally, adopting market-



FILE VISUAL: STAR

based pricing mechanisms, similar to those employed in many countries—both developed and developing—could help gradually rationalise subsidies without severely disrupting industrial production and the investment climate. Given that the overall inflation has been very high for about three years and non-food inflation is currently higher than food inflation, there should be targeted subsidies for the vulnerable population instead of blanket subsidies.

Though the IMF's stipulation against its loan to Bangladesh has acted as a catalyst for the gas price increase, the government needs to adopt various expenditure-reducing measures as part of broader structural reforms aimed at fiscal consolidation. Bangladesh's

foreign exchange reserve situation intensifies the need to be cautious in maintaining healthy reserves. As of March 2025, the country's forex reserves stood at \$25.51 billion, with net reserves at \$20.38 billion under the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual 6 (BPM6) methodology. With significant outstanding dues to international power and energy suppliers, payable in dollars, the government's decision was largely pragmatic. Maintaining subsidies without commensurate fiscal adjustments would further erode the forex reserves and weaken economic stability.

However, to bolster the forex reserves, Bangladesh should explore multiple avenues beyond immediate gas price hikes. Prioritising export diversification beyond RMG into sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, leather, agro-processing, and ICT can help generate stable, diversified export revenue. Remittance is another crucial component of the foreign currency inflows. This can also be enhanced by remittance facilitation and incentivisation, such as offering better banking channels and financial products for expatriates.

An important way to manage the gas crisis is the exploration and development of domestic gas fields,

private partnerships (PPPs), and attract international oil companies (IOCs) with attractive but fair terms. Successfully utilised PPP models and international collaborations can bolster domestic gas production and reduce import dependency.

In the short and medium terms, the government must adopt comprehensive policy measures beyond gas price adjustments. These measures include implementing energy efficiency initiatives, incentivising industries to adopt renewable energy solutions, and reducing systemic inefficiencies within the energy sector. For instance, upgrading outdated industrial equipment, improving insulation in factories, and promoting solar rooftop installations could significantly reduce the overall gas consumption.

Globally, there are examples where countries have successfully navigated similar challenges. For example, Vietnam effectively balanced energy subsidies with targeted investments in renewable energy. This has helped the country reduce its dependency on costly fuel imports. Indonesia has adopted a phased subsidy reduction complemented by substantial investments in renewable energy and domestic resource exploration, with the objective of stabilising its energy sector without drastically compromising industrial competitiveness.

For Bangladesh, the overall policy framework should emphasise enhancing energy accessibility, affordability, predictability, and sustainability through diversification and efficiency. The government should aggressively pursue renewable energy projects, particularly solar and wind, to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels. Concurrently, adopting a transparent and predictable pricing mechanism can assure investors and industries alike and help stabilise the economic environment.

Substantial reforms in energy governance, including reducing corruption, improving transparency, and fostering competitive energy markets, are vital. For several years, significant inefficiencies and corruption within state-owned enterprises have contributed to inflating costs and diminishing effectiveness. Overcoming this requires urgent administrative reforms to foster investor confidence and economic efficiency.

While the recent gas price hike represents a short-term economic challenge, it also presents an opportunity for Bangladesh to recalibrate its energy policies towards sustainability and stability. By implementing strategic reforms in energy efficiency, exploration, and governance, coupled with diversifying foreign exchange income sources, the country can enhance energy security, attract investments, and ensure sustainable economic growth.

Five doable climate action reforms



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HASEEB MD. IRFANULLAH

Climate change, an undoubtedly neutral topic in Bangladesh's politics, doesn't have any space in the ongoing reform debates. Nevertheless, given its existential nature, it will be a missed opportunity if we don't take the following five doable actions soon to reform our climate action.

First, we have several good climate change-relevant plans in the country, including the National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050) (NAP). However, we should prioritise only the NAP because it is very well-designed and the latest, and having too many investment plans is confusing. Besides, some Bangladeshi climate change experts think that adaptation should be our priority, not Loss and Damage (L&D). But, since adaptation measures have been failing to protect us from aggravated climate change impacts, taking L&D action is our next logical option. In the past 17 years (2007-2024), 17 big cyclones have hit Bangladesh. So, climate change-induced losses and damages are real for our country. The environment ministry, therefore, should adopt a national mechanism to figure out how the country should prepare itself, in terms of policy,

capacity building, knowledge, and finance, by responding to worsening losses and damages.

Second, we should redefine our climate action. Instead of small pilot projects, we should scale up our proven options. We must also ensure many co-benefits from one investment. When we grow resilient crops in vulnerable locations, for example, we shouldn't only think about how many people it will feed, but also if it will maintain the soil health, and ensure social equity. In another approach, we need to bring in multiple compatible solutions in one place to maximise the impact. When we manage floods, for instance, we shouldn't only rely on engineering (grey solutions) or focus only on planting trees on the upstream watershed (green solutions). We need to harness grey, green, even blue (water-based) solutions, as all kinds of solutions have strengths and can complement each other.

Third, during the last 10 fiscal years, climate-relevant budgets have been 7.26-10.09 percent of the 25 ministries' and divisions' total budget, and 0.7-0.8 percent of our national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the next fiscal year (2025-26), we want the

climate-relevant budget to include the ministries of culture, information, religion, and youth too, as all are crucial for climate action. The budget summary should not be based on the obsolete themes of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, 2009 (BCCSP). We need to bring in new themes. For example, adaptation money should be allocated under the "Locally Led Adaptation" theme, mitigation funds under "Green Growth" and "Just Transition", natural resource management activities under "Nature-based Solutions", and disaster risk management under the "L&D" theme. Knowledge and capacity building together must be cross-cutting themes, not separate ones. Further, the government should geographically (down to upazila level) allocate the climate budget based on vulnerability maps. Currently, we see serious anomalies in the geographical distribution of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCF) (e.g. Dhaka and Barishal divisions receive 38.26 percent of the total fund). We must correct this inconsistency.

The fourth proposed action is on Bangladesh Climate Change Trust's (BCC) governance. The seven sectoral ministries (e.g. local government, water, and agriculture) on the trustee board should be replaced, since these ministries are frequent recipients of the BCC. Instead, representatives of civil society, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and academia should be included. In the technical committee, the number of non-governmental technical experts should be increased.

The fifth proposed action is on the BCC's M&E system. The environment ministry's current focus on protecting rivers is commendable. But, we need it to be active in the climate change arena too—not only to present a healthy report in the next climate change Conference of the Parties (COP), but also for the sake of Bangladesh's resilience.

On December 31, 2024, the BCC uploaded the lists of a total of 944 projects: 254 ongoing, 623 completed, and 68 terminated. For transparency and accountability, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports of the ongoing projects and project completion reports of the terminated and completed projects should be made public. The environment ministry-led trustee board should also restructure the BCC's M&E system by giving responsibility to regional NGOs and academia to reduce operating costs, increase efficiency, and encourage inclusive governance.

Finally, Bangladesh launched the "Bangladesh Climate and Development Partnership" to scale up cross-sectoral implementation of climate action. In addition to a coordination board, four working groups are part of its structure, covering climate finance, policy reforms, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. Since mid-December 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been supporting the environment ministry to operationalise this platform. The ministry should harness this opportunity and work with the finance division to allocate operationalisation budget for 2025-26.

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ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Schools gain the tools and platforms needed to modernise curricula and pedagogy. Teachers receive the support and training to deliver effective, technology-enabled instruction. Policymakers access real-time insights that allow for agile, evidence-based governance.

Shahir Chowdhury on how ed-tech could transform Bangladesh

NEXT STEP DESK

Bangladesh is often hailed as an economic miracle, and with good reason. Over the past decade, the country sustained an average GDP growth of 6.4% annually between 2014 and 2023, surpassing regional giants like India, Vietnam, and the Philippines. With a GDP of \$455 billion and per capita income of \$2,600 as of 2024, Bangladesh is shifting from a narrative dominated by low-wage garments and remittances to a nation on the cusp of technological and demographic transformation.

At the heart of this transformation lies an existential crisis: Bangladesh's struggling education system. With 41 million students, 1.2 million teachers, and over 160,000 schools, Bangladesh has the scale—but not yet the systems—to ensure quality education. Shahir Chowdhury, Founder and CEO of Shikho, during his keynote at Startup Connect 2025, says the country is at a pivotal juncture. It must either modernise its approach to education or risk undermining the very growth engine that has powered its recent success. Below are key excerpts from his keynote speech.

The education fault lines
Bangladesh's education challenges fall into three interconnected categories: cost, access, and quality. Education remains prohibitively expensive, especially outside major cities, due to reliance on private tuition, disproportionately burdening low-income households.

Access remains uneven, exacerbated by rural-urban divides and economic migration. Many marginalised families struggle to maintain consistent schooling for their children.

Quality suffers due to undertrained teachers, inadequate infrastructure, and outdated learning materials. Teachers often lack professional development opportunities, while unreliable internet and electricity further undermine educational outcomes.

What ed-tech actually means for Bangladesh
ed-tech—education technology—is more than digitised classrooms; it's a comprehensive reimaging of teaching and learning at scale. ed-tech democratises education, making top-quality teachers, resources, and tools accessible regardless of geography or income.

For students, AI driven personalised learning adapts to individual strengths, providing real-time feedback and tailored content. Tools like exam preparation aids and doubt solvers enhance critical thinking and active engagement.

For teachers, digital tools for lesson planning, automated grading, and real-time analytics reduce administrative burdens, freeing time for instruction. Online training platforms enable regular professional development.

For institutions and policymakers, robust learning management systems (LMS) offer data-driven insights into attendance, performance, and engagement, enabling efficient resource allocation and policy evaluation.

AI as a co-pilot, not a replacement
AI drives much of ed-tech innovation, such as auto-generated lesson plans, personalised learning paths, and grading assistants offering detailed feedback. These tools augment educators rather than replace them, shifting the focus from rote memorisation to conceptual mastery. Ethical design ensures technology supplements rather than subverts learning.

Scale and momentum
ed-tech traction in Bangladesh is rapidly growing. Registrations on one platform rose from 90,000 in 2021 to 2.5 million in 2024. Although still a fraction of the total student population, this signals immense potential.

Comparatively, Bangladesh's ed-tech sector remains underfunded. India has attracted \$12 billion in ed-tech investments compared to Bangladesh's \$18 million—highlighting both the untapped opportunity and urgency for investment and policy support.

Despite limited capital, Bangladeshi ed-

tech firms have fundamentals attractive to investors: a large market, high gross margins, and products addressing essential educational needs. Chowdhury argues ed-tech could soon become the country's dominant consumer internet sector.

A \$16 billion opportunity
Bangladesh's education market totals \$16 billion, including \$8 billion in private education and \$2 billion in after-school tutoring—areas ed-tech can effectively address. Families already spend a substantial portion of income on education, making affordable digital alternatives crucial.

This intersection of demand and necessity positions education as a key economic driver. An educated workforce is better equipped for the digital economy, resilient to automation, and likely to foster local entrepreneurship.

The triangle of transformation
A tripartite alliance among ed-tech companies, educational institutions, and government policymakers, supported by venture investors is crucial. Schools can modernise curricula and pedagogy, teachers can deliver effective technology-enabled instruction, and policymakers gain real-time insights for agile governance. Investors find strong fundamentals, scalable solutions, and measurable impacts.

A revolution still unfinished
Yet, the ed-tech revolution faces significant hurdles: digital infrastructure challenges, equitable access to devices, and digital literacy issues among educators and students. Regulatory frameworks must support innovation while safeguarding equity and privacy. Most importantly, a national vision is required—one that sees education as foundational to Bangladesh's future growth.

The tools are ready, the need is evident, and the stakes could not be higher. Now, Bangladesh must align vision with execution to transform an educational crisis into its greatest opportunity.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

International Rescue Committee



Logistics and Supply Chain Officer

Deadline: April 29

Eligibility:

• Master's/Graduate degree in Business Administration/Logistics/Supply Chain/IT with prior experience with UN agencies or non-governmental organisations.

Minimum experience: 3 years

United International University (UIU)



Lecturer, Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)

Deadline: April 30

Eligibility:

• Bachelor/Master's degree in EEE. Candidates with a CGPA less than 3.5 on a scale of 4.0 or 1st Division/Class in any stage of education will not be considered.

Minimum experience: N/A

Prime Bank

Prime Bank PLC

Credit Analyst - Medium Segment, Credit Risk Management, MSME

Deadline: May 1

Eligibility:

• Graduation in any discipline from any UGC approved local or reputed foreign university, with MBA/MBM/MBS/M.com/ equivalent post-graduate degree preferred.

Minimum experience: 5 years

LankaBangla Finance PLC.

Assistant Officer/Officer, Litigation Management

Deadline: May 8

Eligibility:

• Bachelor of Law (LLB) and Master of Law (LLM), with prior experience in business areas of banks and law firms.

Minimum experience: 2 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



"Perseverance is failing 19 times and succeeding on the 20th."



JULIE ANDREWS

Vibe coding: what is it?

SAMIN SHAHAN RAHMAN

If you've been browsing tech news or developer forums lately, you might've come across a curious term: 'vibe coding'. At first glance, it sounds simple—maybe even a bit mysterious—but it's gaining traction among beginners and seasoned developers alike. But what is it, and why are so many developers embracing the vibe? Let's take a look.

What exactly is 'vibe coding'?

Vibe coding is a way to program using Artificial Intelligence (AI), specifically Large Language Models (LLMs). The term gained attention through Andrej Karpathy, co-founder of OpenAI, who described it as trusting the "vibes"—letting AI handle the coding details. He said it feels like: "It's not really coding—I just see stuff, say stuff, run stuff, and copy-paste stuff, and it mostly works."

This method involves using plain language to instruct the AI, heavily relying on AI to write code, and focusing less on exact coding rules and more on outcomes. A significant concern, noted by researchers like Simon Willison, is using AI-generated code without fully understanding it—distinct from using AI merely as typing assistance.

Vibe coding utilises various AI tools. Code editors with AI assistance, like GitHub Copilot, Cursor, or Replit Agent, act as coding partners, translating descriptions into working code. Additionally, general AI models like Claude or ChatGPT and new tools like Lovable or Softr are specifically designed for vibe coding.

Explaining the sudden buzz

Vibe coding is popular because it lowers barriers to software creation. Even those with little coding experience can now build basic applications, making software development more accessible.

It also accelerates progress for both beginners and experts. AI quickly generates standard code or complete app structures, allowing developers to focus on bigger design ideas and complex issues. Today's advanced AI makes "programming in plain English" realistic, letting creators prioritise product feel and functionality over coding specifics.

Finally, quickly seeing something work feels rewarding, especially for smaller or personal projects. That immediate satisfaction contributes significantly to vibe coding's appeal.

Security is another big risk. AI doesn't truly understand security needs; it just copies patterns. It might create code that works but has serious security holes, putting data or users at risk. Using such code without careful checks can lead to security disasters.

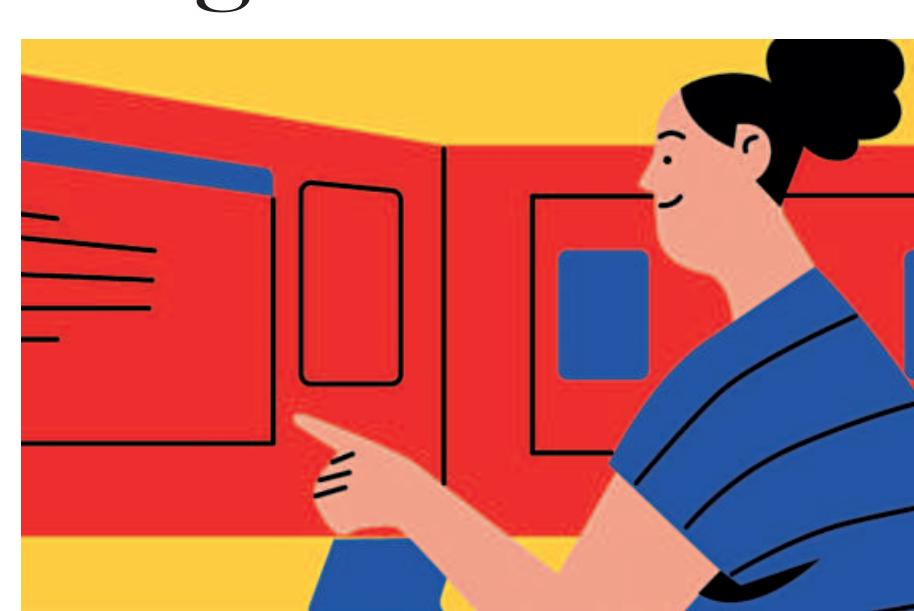


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

The drawbacks that come with it

However, vibe coding carries risks. Users might end up working with code they don't fully understand, resulting in superficially functional but fundamentally weak applications.

Fixing bugs becomes challenging without understanding the original logic. AI-generated code may also be disorganized, causing future difficulties or even requiring complete rewrites.

Security is another major risk. AI-generated code might include hidden vulnerabilities, as AI replicates patterns

without genuine security awareness, potentially causing serious issues if unchecked.

AI-generated code quality can vary significantly, making it unreliable without verification. Overdependence on AI may also limit learners' development of deeper coding and critical thinking skills. Without the struggle and practice essential for mastering logic, debugging, and design, their growth could be compromised.

Team collaboration might also suffer if the AI-generated code lacks clear structure or explanations for others to follow.

When to use vibe coding (and when not to)
So, is vibe coding revolutionary or risky? It's probably both. It's particularly useful for quickly building basic prototypes (MVPs) or testing ideas without significant time investments.

This rapid prototyping capability makes it ideal for experimenting with concepts. For personal or educational projects, it reduces barriers, allowing creators to focus on outcomes rather than complicated syntax rules.

It helps non-coders turn ideas into reality and enables experienced developers to automate routine tasks, explore new languages, and rapidly adopt new tools—provided they review and understand the AI-generated output.

However, for significant software projects requiring security, reliability, and maintainability, traditional coding practices remain essential. Understanding, planning, thorough testing, and security investments are non-negotiable. Relying solely on vibes won't suffice for critical projects.

Vibe coding marks a significant shift driven by rapid AI advancements. It likely won't replace traditional coding immediately, but it is reshaping software development and broadening access. It suggests a future where everyday language increasingly instructs computers.

The key is wisely matching these powerful tools to appropriate tasks, leveraging their speed and simplicity, while continuing to use thoughtful planning and tested techniques to build trustworthy software.

A suspension reduced and a cancerous culture

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

There are so many incidents happening in tandem around Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) that sometimes issues get swept under the rug without coming into notice.

There is an ongoing investigation into BCB's financial mishaps by Anti-Corruption Commission of the government while suggestions of match-fixing plague the ongoing Dhaka Premier League and the recently concluded Bangladesh Premier League. While investigation committees have been formed to look into these issues, the incident regarding reduction of Towhid Hridoy's two-match DPL suspension or the resignation of match referee Enamul Haque Moni, who was the convener of the technical committee that was supposed to deal with Hridoy's suspension, have not set the alarm bells ringing. But they should.

There has been no clear-cut answer forthcoming on how Mohammedan captain Hridoy was allowed to play after serving a one-match ban when the technical committee of DPL did not authorise the request, a job that should be solely their undertaking. This is happening because the murky club cricket culture is eating away at

The original bylaws of the DPL stated that there would be two-match suspension for 4-7 accumulated Demerit Points. However, the clause was changed overnight to one-match suspension for 4-7 accumulated demerit points following Hridoy's suspension.

Bangladesh cricket is still at play. The balance of power may have shifted from one to another but the same processes remain.

What happened is a travesty. CCDM had formed a technical committee comprising Moni, Selim Sahed and Abhi Abdullah Al Noman. Hridoy sent in the letter requesting reduction of suspension to the technical committee, a request which members of the technical committee did not want to entertain. Moni himself told The Daily Star that he resigned because of conflict of interest as he is a match referee and cannot hold the technical committee role since he would be passing judgement from two different places. But according to sources, Moni resigned following developments related to reduction of suspension.

In fact, a law change had been effected and the sanction table had been revised. Moni had earlier said he had nothing to do with Hridoy's suspension being reduced. What could have effected such a change in how sanctions are adjudicated in such a short space of time, especially when the convener of technical committee resigned?

Sources say that a certain club created enormous pressure on CCDM to allow Hridoy to play after just one-match suspension. The CCDM then embroiled the umpires' committee into this controversy as it was on behalf of the umpires' committee that an official had signed the memo of sanction table revision, which shows how demerit points will equate to match suspensions from now on. The technical committee did not issue that change and CCDM had to coerce the umpires' committee to validate the procedure despite leaving many holes in the fabric.

According to insiders, BCB directors Nazmul Abedeen Fahim and Ilekhbar Ahmed Mithu were reluctant to reduce the ban but the pressure created by the club had the last say.

When Mithu, the umpires' committee chairman, was asked by this newspaper how Hridoy's ban was reduced or how such sanction change can come into place, he refused to comment.

Hridoy's altercation with umpires resulting from what he believed were wrong decisions against his team shows signs of an already rotten culture. But the way the sentence was reduced adds further layers of lack of integrity to the mix.

One BCB director, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star: 'Jei lau shei kodui ache' (it is as it used to be before). That appears to be the prevailing culture of Bangladesh cricket.



Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz holds up the ball, gesturing his five-wicket haul against Zimbabwe on Day 2 of the first Test at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. The off-spinner picked the last four wickets to finish with figures of 5-52 as the visitors were skittled out for 273. In reply, the Tigers' second innings reached 57-1 at stumps, with opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Mominul Haque steady the ship with an unbroken 44-run stand. The hosts now trail by 25 runs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Miraz marks a milestone amid shifting expectations

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN FROM SYLHET

Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz knows all too well how much harder international cricket becomes with experience. The more matches one plays, the more the game evolves -- and the more opponents adapt.

Miraz burst onto the scene in 2016, debuting in a two-match home Test series against England. Aged just 19, he made an instant impact, grabbing 19 wickets and notching up three five-wicket hauls in his first four innings.

By 2018, the off-spinner had already taken seven five-fors in just 18 Tests, becoming the fastest Bangladeshi to reach 50

I think we have a great opportunity to win the game. We are still 20-30 runs ahead. Our bowlers will have a rest tonight (Monday); they will come back tomorrow fighting hard. You don't know what might happen. There's a lot of time left in this Test. We will give our best tomorrow. Zimbabwe batter Brian Bennett

Test wickets. He repeated similar feats while getting to 100 and 150 wickets. But his journey to 200 is proving tougher -- fellow spinner Taijul Islam reached the mark in 85



innings, whereas Miraz has already bowled in 90.

As time went on, the wickets didn't come as easily. Opposing teams started to study him more closely, identifying his weaknesses through video analysis. What was once routine -- taking five wickets in an innings -- proved to be increasingly rare.

Over the past six years, Miraz has managed the feat only four times in 32 matches. The latest came in Sylhet yesterday, where his 5-52 helped Bangladesh bundle out Zimbabwe for 273 in their first innings.

"When someone debuts in international cricket, people have no idea about him. But once he plays many matches in one or two years, people start to get to know about him," Miraz told reporters yesterday after the end of the second day's play.

"There is video footage from where people identify [player's] weaknesses... If you don't improve, it's difficult to survive here because world-class players play here."

"Zimbabwe are not giving us space to score runs easily, while we are also not taking wickets easily," opined the 27-year-old, whose previous five-for at home came in 2022, although his last one overall was in Rawalpindi against Pakistan last year.

In recent years, Miraz has also stepped up with the bat, evolving into a dependable lower order contributor. In 2024, he scored 614 runs in 10 Tests -- the highest for Bangladesh in red-ball cricket -- while also leading the wicket charts with 31 scalps.

With Shakib Al Hasan no longer a regular feature in the Test side, many see Miraz as the natural successor. And he's embracing dual responsibility.

"In the last two to three years, I focused on my batting and have done well. I think I must keep balancing both," he said, further recalling how he started out purely as a bowler and batted down at number eight for much of his career.

Despite trailing by 25 runs at stumps on day two, Miraz remains confident about Bangladesh's position in the Test.

"I still think the match is in our control. They may have got a lead of 82 runs, and we are now 25 runs behind. As we have just lost one wicket and we have good batters, if we can give them a good total, it will be a challenge for them on day four," he concluded.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

A couple of sensational strikes had considerable impact on the leaderboards of LaLiga and Serie A yesterday. Midfielder Fede Valverde, who now has six goals in LaLiga for Real Madrid, scored his first from inside the box, driving a right-footed volley deep into stoppage-time at home against Athletic Bilbao to give Los Blancos a narrow 1-0 win to keep the deficit to four points with league-leaders Barcelona. Meanwhile, Bologna winger Riccardo Orsolini produced a moment of magic as his stunning last-gasp goal from a bicycle kick gave Bologna a 1-0 home win against Inter, who lead the standings but are now level on points with second-placed Napoli.

What to WATCH

BTV

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe

1st Test, Day 3

Live from 10:00 am

T SPORTS

Federation Cup final

Bashundhara Kings vs

Abahani

Live from 2:45 pm

IPL

Lucknow vs Delhi

Live from 8:00 pm

SELECT HD1

Premier League

Man City vs

Aston Villa

Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)

Can Kings break final hoodoo against Abahani?

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bashundhara Kings and record 22-time champions Abahani will look to add another feather to their crowns when they square off in the Federation Cup final at the Rofique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh today.

Three-time champions Kings are keen to take the trophy to home to salvage their season, especially after having their hopes of retaining the league title all but extinguished.

Abahani, meanwhile, have maintained an all-win record coming into the final under the guidance of Maruf Haque and they will certainly look to add a record-extending 23rd Federation Cup title to their cabinet, having won the title two seasons ago.

Since the emergence of Bashundhara Kings as the most dominant power in top-tier football in 2018, the battle between these two sides has always been a mouth-watering one. Kings have won 12 of the 18 meetings between the two sides in domestic competitions.



Abahani, however, have won both encounters against Kings this season -- once in the Premier League and the other in the Federation Cup. The Sky Blues have also proved to be Kings' nemesis when it comes to tournament finals -- winning the 2018 Federation Cup final and the 2021 Independence Cup final.

Kings Romanian coach Valeriu Tita is confident this team can come on top against Abahani in the third time of asking.

"Tomorrow in my opinion, [it] will be a difficult match for both teams. I hope that this time the victory belongs to us, to save the season by winning the trophy," Tita said. "I want that my players to demonstrate that it was not by chance that we reached the final, and I am sure that they will give everything for this trophy."

Abahani coach Maruf, too, was optimistic, though, they will miss the services of suspended centre-back Asaduzzaman Babu.

"We are hopeful about becoming champions even though Kings, the defending champions, are a good side and it is not possible to beat them with prior announcement," Maruf said. "Still, I am optimistic because we beat them twice this season and the inclusion of two foreign players has strengthened our squad."

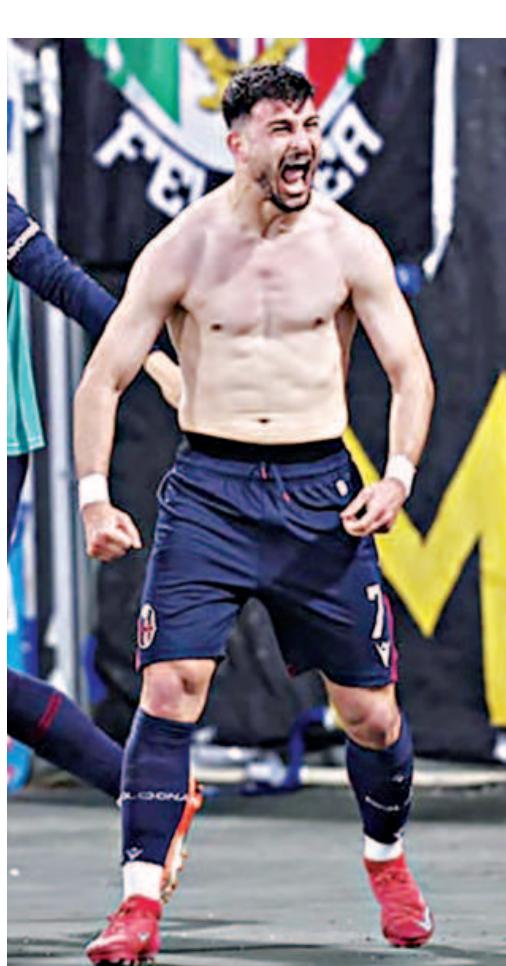
The match will kick off at 2:45 pm.

How Pope Francis used football to spread unity



Pope Francis, a lifelong football fan who passed away yesterday at the age of 88, viewed the beautiful game as more than sport -- a means to promote peace, unity, and social responsibility. From hosting interfaith matches to urging players to prioritise the collective over self-interest, the pontiff used football to reach hearts across faiths and frontiers.

Read full story on The Daily Star website



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NCP relieves its
jt member secy
from party duties
Report of corruption
allegations against him
cited for the move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party temporarily relieved its joint member secretary, Gazi Salauddin Tanvir, of all organisational responsibilities following allegations of involvement in taking a cut and interference in the appointment of deputy commissioners.

A notice issued by the party yesterday said, "In a report published by The Daily Inqilab on March 11, allegations were raised against you regarding illegal interference in the appointment of deputy commissioners

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

**'Pluralism' in
charter not
acceptable**

**Khelafat Majlis tells
consensus commission**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis has strongly opposed the proposal to include "pluralism" as a fundamental principle of the constitution.

The party said it supports restoring the constitutional provision that mentions "absolute trust and faith in the Almighty Allah."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Tanvir



An unauthorised brick kiln in Madaripur Sadar openly burning timber and releasing toxic smoke that is detrimental to human health and the environment. The majority of kilns that have sprung up in the district don't have official approval but continue to operate because regulations are not strictly enforced. This photo was taken recently in Panchkhola union. PHOTO: JAHID HASAN

'Don't strike deals with US at our expense'

Beijing warns nations, accuses Washington of abusing tariffs

REUTERS, Beijing

China yesterday accused Washington of abusing tariffs and warned countries against striking a broader economic deal with the United States at its expense, ratcheting up its rhetoric in a spiralling trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

Beijing will firmly oppose any party striking a deal at China's expense and "will take countermeasures in a resolute and reciprocal manner," its Commerce Ministry said.

The ministry was responding to a

Bloomberg report, citing sources familiar with the matter, that the Trump administration is preparing to pressure nations seeking tariff reductions or exemptions from the US to curb trade with China, including imposing monetary sanctions.

President Donald Trump paused the sweeping tariffs he announced on dozens of countries on April 2 except those on China, singling out the world's second largest economy for the biggest levies.

In a series of moves, Washington has raised

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Youth stabbed
to death in
Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals stabbed a 22-year-old man to death in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday.

Arman Hossain Pappu was stabbed around 7:30pm near the BG Press office in Tejgaon, said police.

He was rescued in a critical condition and taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

**One killed
in 'gunfight'
with Rab**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A man was killed and another seriously injured in an alleged gunfight during a Rapid Action Battalion's anti-drug drive in Barishal yesterday evening.

The incident occurred in Mollapara of Ratnapur union in Agailjhara upazila around 6:00pm, Rab said.

The dead, Siam Molla, 18, a college student, hailed from Baheer Hat in Uzirpur upazila. The

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

**NIDs of Hasina,
9 of her family
members 'locked'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Identity (NID) Registration Wing under the Election Commission has "locked" the NID cards of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and nine of her family members, effectively rendering the cards unusable for any official purpose.

A locked NID cannot be used for any services requiring identity verification, nor can its information be updated or corrected. They will not get any NID-related services, said EC officials.

The NIDs of the 10 were locked through an official letter on February 16, signed by ASM Humayun Kabir, director general of the National Identity Registration Wing at the EC.

The cards of Hasina's son and and former ICT affairs adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy, her daughter

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



**Golf Garden,
Army Golf Club
23 April 2025**

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