



DOLILE DRISHYAPOT

A celebration of Bangla calligraphy

TASMIAH RAHMAN

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According to the freelance researcher, even though the original purpose of these papers has long been served, they still have lots to say. "Every piece is a conversation between the past and the present, telling stories that might otherwise fade."

One of the fascinating aspects of this show is the revival of Bengali proverbs.

We all grew up hearing sayings like: "Lekhpora kore je gaari-ghora chore shoy" (He who studies rides cars and horses), "Bel pakle kaaker ki" (What matters to the crow if the wood apple is ripe), "Dhar kore haati kena" (Buying elephant with borrowed money), etc. For this show, Chowdhury drew inspiration from these sayings and attempted to render the essence of the phrases with acrylic on paper.

Artistic portrayals of gods and goddesses, sacred trees, and boats,

fierce Bengal Tigers, royal horses, and majestic elephants – vivid storytelling is at the core of Decorated Deeds. Visitors were spotted interpreting the meaning of the idioms while wondering which era the old documents belonged to!

"One of my favourite pieces is Paaperdhon shape khay" (Evil earning is eaten by snakes)," remarked Ajanta, a visitor at the gallery. "I think the lesson here is timeless," she added with a smile.

Common expressions we use in our day-to-day lives, such as "Laat Shaheb," "Bheja Biral," or "Koler Putul," came alive with Chowdhury's skilled brushstrokes. Reflecting on his inspiration behind bringing back these sayings, the artist stressed that these phrases and idioms speak to the core of human nature.

"Bengali language is rich with philosophy, metaphor, and lived



experience. Often wrapped in humour, satire, or poetic imagery, their truths remain startlingly suitable in today's fast-paced, digital world," he observed.

Prapti, another visitor, admired the creative resurrection of the century-old bureaucratic papers as one-of-a-kind canvases. "The stylish calligraphy and playful messages make this show stand out," she mentioned.

After almost three decades of practising as a calligraphy artist, Arham ul Huq Chowdhury's approach in Bangla calligraphy is a blend of classical form and experimental design, taking a cue from the Persian Islamic "tughra."

This exhibition is, in his words – a tribute to our collective memory and a reminder to value what we inherit. So, if you are in the mood for retro vibes and colourful wordplay, drop in anytime from 3:00pm to 9:00pm. The exhibition concludes on April 26.

Qatar will help rebuild Bangladesh

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investment support for building a new Bangladesh, including creating new opportunities and a prosperous future for the country's nearly 180 million people, notably its young population.

"We need your support to build the country of the dreams of our youth," Yunus said.

The Qatari prime minister also urged the Bangladeshi leader to send a technical team to Qatar to hold discussions on a wide range of cooperation.

The discussion also centred on the Rohingya crisis, with the chief adviser calling for all possible support "to make sure Rohingya people can return home with dignity."

Yunus also thanked the Qatari premier for helping organise a high-level dialogue on the Rohingya crisis on the sidelines of the Earthshot Summit.

The Qatari PM appreciated Bangladesh's role in hosting more than one million Rohingya refugees in the country.

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The two leaders also discussed the Gaza situation. Prof Yunus expressed his regret that much of the world is still silent over the plight of the Gazans.

The chief adviser also thanked Al Jazeera, which he visited yesterday, for covering the Gaza crisis despite enormous challenges.

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While delivering a speech at Qatar University, Yunus yesterday said the current generation is the most powerful in all of human history.

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus meets Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani at the latter's office in Doha, Qatar yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

In his speech, Yunus encouraged the young people to dream big, saying the youth of this generation can do anything faster than any other generation ever.

At the beginning of the programme, Prof Yunus was given an honorary award for his outstanding contributions to global humanity, reports BSS.

During an interaction with the Bangladeshi community members at a hotel, Yunus yesterday said the expatriates are helping Bangladesh stronger by overcoming the challenges and helping the economy to bounce back.

"You are extending big support to make our position stronger."

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Yunus is likely to fly to Vatican City today to attend Pope Francis' funeral on Saturday.

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figures such as a former deputy prime minister of the Maldives, a member of the Malaysian royal family, a former Malaysian minister, a Qatari royal family member, top bankers, and several wealthy non-resident Bangladeshis.

Addressing the investors, the chief adviser said that the interim government aims to transform Bangladesh into a manufacturing and economic hub, welcoming all forms of foreign investment.

"We want to be a top manufacturing country in the world," he stated, emphasising that his government is offering one of the most attractive investment climates in the region.

The investors expressed interest in exploring opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, waste management, energy, banking, and tourism, particularly in the resort district of Cox's Bazar.

On the same day, Yunus urged Qatari investors to invest in Bangladesh to take advantage of the immense potential that the country offers.

"Bangladesh is now back to business and back to business in a big way. We want your partnership," the chief adviser said in his speech in a programme titled "Bilateral Investment Opportunities Between Qatar and Bangladesh".

Yunus yesterday stated that the decision to relieve the VC and pro VC without a proper investigation was a defeat for justice.

In a statement, Prof Md Shahidul Islam, president of the Teachers' Association, and Prof Faruk Hossain, general secretary, expressed their concern over the developments.

"We had hoped for a politically neutral campus. But now we see that those who once advocated for such a campus have themselves fallen prey to dark political forces," the statement read.

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The Ministry of External Affairs also strongly advised Indian nationals to avoid travelling to Pakistan, and those Indian nationals currently in Pakistan are also advised to return to India at the earliest.

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Meanwhile, an all-party meeting with opposition parties yesterday adopted a resolution unequivocally condemning the "heinous and inhumane" attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam, said the meeting's convener, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

India also briefed envoys of the US, the UK, France, China, Russia, Germany and several other countries on the Pahalgam terror attack and its link to cross-border terrorism, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Apart from cotton, Bangladesh has also been working on ways to increase the import of liquefied natural gas, soybean oil, soy seeds and other goods from the US.

The US delegation acknowledged that the trade gap will not reduce overnight, and it will take more time. However, the US wants to see that Bangladesh has started working on it, and the progress is visible.

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5 CU students freed a week after abduction

UNB, Khagrachhari

Five students of Chittagong University (CU), who were abducted a week ago, have been released, according to a statement issued by the Pahari Chhatri Parishad (PCP), an organisation representing students of ethnic communities.

Although the five students from various ethnic communities were reportedly freed on Wednesday, the matter came to light yesterday after PCP issued a statement confirming their release.

The five students, who had gone missing from the Girifil area in Khagrachhari on April 16 while returning home after celebrating the Biju festival, are now staying at their respective village homes, said police.

"PCP has issued a statement confirming the safe return of their students. We've also contacted the students' families, and they too have confirmed that the abductees have returned home," Khagrachhari Superintendent of Police Arefin Jewel told UNB.

The five abducted students are Rishon Chakma, a student of international relations; Maitrimoy Chakma and Aldrin Tripura, both students of fine arts; Dibby Chakma of the theatre department; and Longi Mro from the zoology department.

All of them are first year students enrolled in the 2023-24 academic session at Chittagong University. They were abducted along with an auto-rickshaw driver who was later released.

Following the abduction, the PCP – aligned with the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) – accused the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) of being behind the incident.

However, Angya Marma, a district organiser of the UPDF, repeatedly denied the allegations, claiming their group had no involvement.

South Korea prosecutors indict ex-president over bribery

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korean prosecutors indicted former president Moon Jae-in for alleged bribery on Thursday, making him the latest former leader of the country to face legal troubles in a case linked to the appointment of his then son-in-law at a Thai airline.

Moon, 72, was indicted for bribery, while in the same case former lawmaker Lee Sang-jik was indicted for bribery and breach of trust, Jeonju District Prosecutors' Office said in a statement.

Prosecutors had been investigating whether Lee's appointment as the head of the SMEs and Startups Agency was in exchange for Moon's former son-in-law getting a job and receiving a salary plus living expenses at the Thai-based corporation that Lee controlled in 2018-2020, the statement said.

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The student movement began following a clash between two groups on campus on February 18. According to the protesters, members of a student body, along with outsiders, attacked students.

Although a case was filed, it lacked specific details, and no arrests have been made.

A counter-complaint filed by an

outsider named 22 students with specific information, including names, departments, and roll numbers. The protesters claim such information could only have been accessed through administrative support.

Following the incident, the university temporarily suspended 37 students.

In the aftermath, students raised a six-point demand, including the resignation of the VC, pro-VC, and the director of Student Welfare, and also called for a ban on student politics in the university.

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Lutfey Siddiqi, the chief adviser's special envoy for international affairs, led the Bangladesh delegation in the meeting. It also included Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman, National Board of Revenue Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan and Finance Secretary Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder.



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heritage, refreshing colours, and old-school aesthetics.

"Some of the papers are over 150 years old," commented Chowdhury, the calligraphy artist, sculptor, landscape and interior designer who also works with heritage and environmental issues. "Many of them date back to the East India Company era (early to mid-

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Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri apprised the diplomats about various aspects of the attack on innocent civilians.

Diplomats of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Norway, Italy, Indonesia and Malaysia were also part of the briefing.

Meanwhile, India's Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi is travelling to Srinagar today to carry out a comprehensive review of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. It is not immediately clear whether the army chief will travel to Pahalgam.

Apart from expelling Pakistani diplomats, India on Wednesday summoned Saad Ahmad Warrach, the charge d'affaires at the Pakistan embassy.

In New Delhi, dozens of protesters gathered outside the Pakistani embassy in the diplomatic enclave, shouting slogans and pushing against police barricades.

A film that starred Pakistani actor Fawad Khan in the lead with Bollywood actor Vaani Kapoor will now not be released in India, local media reported, citing federal information ministry sources.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were weak even before the latest measures were announced, as Pakistan had expelled India's envoy in New Delhi after India revoked the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir in 2019.

India has often accused Islamic Pakistan of involvement in the insurgency in Kashmir, but Islamabad says it only offers diplomatic and moral support to a demand for self-determination.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in Kashmir since the uprising began in 1989, but it has tapered off in recent years, and tourism has surged in the region.

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outsider named 22 students with specific information, including names, departments, and roll numbers. The protesters claim such information could only have been accessed through administrative support.

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is heavily tilted towards Bangladesh, which exports goods worth over \$8 billion to the US in a year. Its annual imports of American goods stand around \$2 billion.

A team in Bangladesh has been working on finding ways to reduce the trade gap, the Bangladesh delegation told the USTR officials in the meeting.

For instance, Bangladesh is the second-largest importer of US cotton after China. The trade gap will reduce if Bangladesh imports more cotton from the US.

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Disclose agreed reforms and announce polls: Khasru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The people of Bangladesh are ready to cast their votes and are eagerly awaiting a national election by December, said BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday.

"Let the people decide who supports democracy and who does not; who supports a democratic order and who doesn't. The people are not fools -- they're observing everything closely," he said.

He made these remarks after a meeting with leaders of the Left Democratic Alliance and the Bangladesh Jono Adhikar Party at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan.

Khasru said elections are essential for restoring democracy and forming a democratic government through the people's right to vote. He stressed that the reform issues, on which consensus has already been reached, should be made public without delay.



UAE envoy calls on army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation led by UAE Ambassador Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseef Alhmoudi paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General Waker Uz Zaman at the Army Headquarters yesterday.

Discussions were held on strengthening relationship between Bangladesh and UAE military, as well as enhancing technological and military cooperation between the forces of both countries, according to an army headquarters notification. The envoy also commended the professionalism of Bangladesh Army personnel currently engaged in aid to civil power operations within the country.



A mother shields her child from the scorching sun with a piece of cloth while waiting in a long queue at a TCB truck sale in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday. With market prices still out of reach for many, low-income families rely on such OMS sales to buy daily essentials at subsidised rates.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BCS exam backlog to be cleared within 18 months

Says PSC chairman on 4 pending exams

STAR REPORT

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has developed a plan to resolve the backlog of four pending BCS examinations within the next 12 to 18 months, said the commission's chairman Mobassher Monem yesterday.

"There is a clear roadmap to eliminate the BCS backlog. We expect to see visible progress within the next few months. We are not considering postponing any upcoming exams," he said during a press briefing at the PSC Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon.

"In a bid to make the civil service exams more accessible, the PSC has slashed the application fee from Tk 700 to Tk 200. This reduction is part of our broader reforms to ease the financial burden on candidates,"

Mobassher said.

He said they want to complete the entire process for a single BCS -- from preliminaries to recruitment -- in 12 months.

When asked whether a full BCS cycle can be completed within a year, Monem said, "If the overall situation remains stable, we are planning a roadmap to complete the 47th BCS in about a year or slightly more," reports BSS.

Security measures around question paper preparation have also been strengthened. "Previously, question setters would submit questions prepared outside. Now, they come to the PSC office and complete the question-setting process here, ensuring better security," he said.

Also, BCS candidates will now be allowed to submit their cadre preferences after passing the preliminary and written exams, said the PSC chairman.

He also said the viva voce score has been reduced from 200 to 100 marks starting from the 47th BCS to ensure a more balanced evaluation process.

Addressing concerns of harassment during police verification of candidates before recruitment, Mobassher said to prevent any

- Application fees reduced from Tk 700 to Tk 200
- Goal set to complete full BCS cycle within a year
- Strengthening security measures for question papers
- Viva voce marks reduced from 200 to 100

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'We must not let fascism return'

Says Prof Ali Riaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The result of institutional weaknesses and the failure to build a democratic state over the past 53 years are the reasons behind the establishment of a fascist regime in Bangladesh, said Prof Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the National Consensus Commission.

He made the remarks at the beginning of a discussion between the commission and the Amjanata Party, at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

Commission members Iftekharuzzaman, Badiul Alam Majumdar, Safar Raj Hossain, and Monir Haidar, special assistant to the chief adviser, were present at the discussion.

In his opening speech, Prof Riaz also said the aim of the commission is to develop an inclusive national charter through discussions with all stakeholders -- a charter that would serve as a roadmap for the future of Bangladesh.

He further noted that people across all levels of society have endured the oppression of fascism for the past 16 years and emphasised that such a period must never return.

He said the time has come to build a new Bangladesh and that

31 killed by mobs in 3 months

Says HRSS report on Jan-March, suggests strengthening rule of law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If urgent steps are not taken to strengthen the rule of law, democracy, and fundamental freedoms, the country's overall human rights situation may deteriorate further, the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) has warned.

In its quarterly report released yesterday, the rights body emphasised the need for inclusive dialogue with political parties, civil society, journalists, and citizens to improve governance and ensure constitutional rights through proper law enforcement.

At least 47 people were killed and 2,475 injured in 325 incidents of political violence across the country in the first three months of this year, according to the HRSS.

Most of the violent incidents were linked to struggles for supremacy, political vengeance, extortion, and attempts to control various establishments, the rights body said in its report for January-March, based on media reports and its own findings.

Of the total incidents, 190 were intra-party clashes between rival factions of the BNP, while six were within the Awami League and nine within the National Citizen Party (NCP).

In addition, 58 clashes occurred between BNP and AL, 16 between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, five between BNP and NCP, nine between AL and NCP, and three between AL and Jamaat. The remaining 29 incidents involved confrontations among other political parties.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Speak up against sexual harassment on public transport

Urge speakers; awareness campaign launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sexual harassment on public transport is not just a women's issue, but a serious societal concern that requires collective action, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They stressed that staying silent in the face of such behaviour only perpetuates the issue and urged bystanders to intervene and support victims.

The remarks were made during the launch of an awareness campaign titled "Hold the Bar, Not Her Space," aimed at making public transport safe and harassment-free for women.

The campaign was launched at the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) premises, jointly organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), DTCA, and UN Women Bangladesh, with support from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh.

Sheikh Moinuddin, special assistant to the chief adviser on road transport and bridges,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Zainul Abedin's wife Jahanara Abedin dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahanara Abedin, wife of renowned artist Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, passed away yesterday at the age of 94.

"My mother died at around 2:00pm at her residence in the capital. She has been suffering from old-age related complexities including dementia," Mainul Abedin, youngest son of Jahanara Abedin, told The Daily Star.

She left behind three sons, relatives, friends, and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Jahanara's body was kept at the BirDEM mortuary, Mainul said.

"My mother's janaza and burial are likely to be held on Sunday following my brother's and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

204 held between April 18-23: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army, in coordination with other law enforcement agencies, arrested 204 individuals during joint operations conducted across the country between April 18-23.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) issued a press release to inform the update yesterday.

The operations were carried out by units under different infantry divisions and independent brigades of the army in Dhaka and several other districts.

The arrestees include those accused in murder cases, illegal arms holders, listed criminals, smugglers, juvenile gang members, drug dealers and addicts, and members of illegal syndicates. They were handed over to local police stations for further legal procedures following preliminary interrogation, according to the release.

Illegal items including 16 firearms, 410 rounds of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Workers set up the stage as part of last-minute preparations for the 116th edition of the traditional Jabbarer Boli Khela (Jabbar's Wrestling Competition), scheduled to be held at Laldighi in Chattogram today. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Declare April 24 as National Workers' Day

Demand activists on 12th anniv of Rana Plaza collapse; seek compensation for victim families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Relatives of the deceased, survivors, and labour leaders gathered at the Rana Plaza site in Savar yesterday to mark the 12th anniversary of the tragedy and renew their calls for justice and compensation.

From the early hours of the morning, mourners placed flowers at a makeshift altar erected in front of the remains of the collapsed building, where 1,136 workers were killed and more than 2,000 injured when the 10-storey structure collapsed during working hours on April 24, 2013.

Survivors and their families say little has changed in the years since. Many have yet to receive adequate compensation or see justice delivered.

They called for the harshest punishment for those responsible, including building owner Sohel Rana, and for the fulfilment of compensation claims.



"My son was murdered. I've cried until my tears have run dry," she said. "We deserve justice. We demand the Tk 48 lakh compensation promised to us."

Despite years of inaction, labour leaders remain cautiously hopeful that the interim government will finally act on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BCS exam

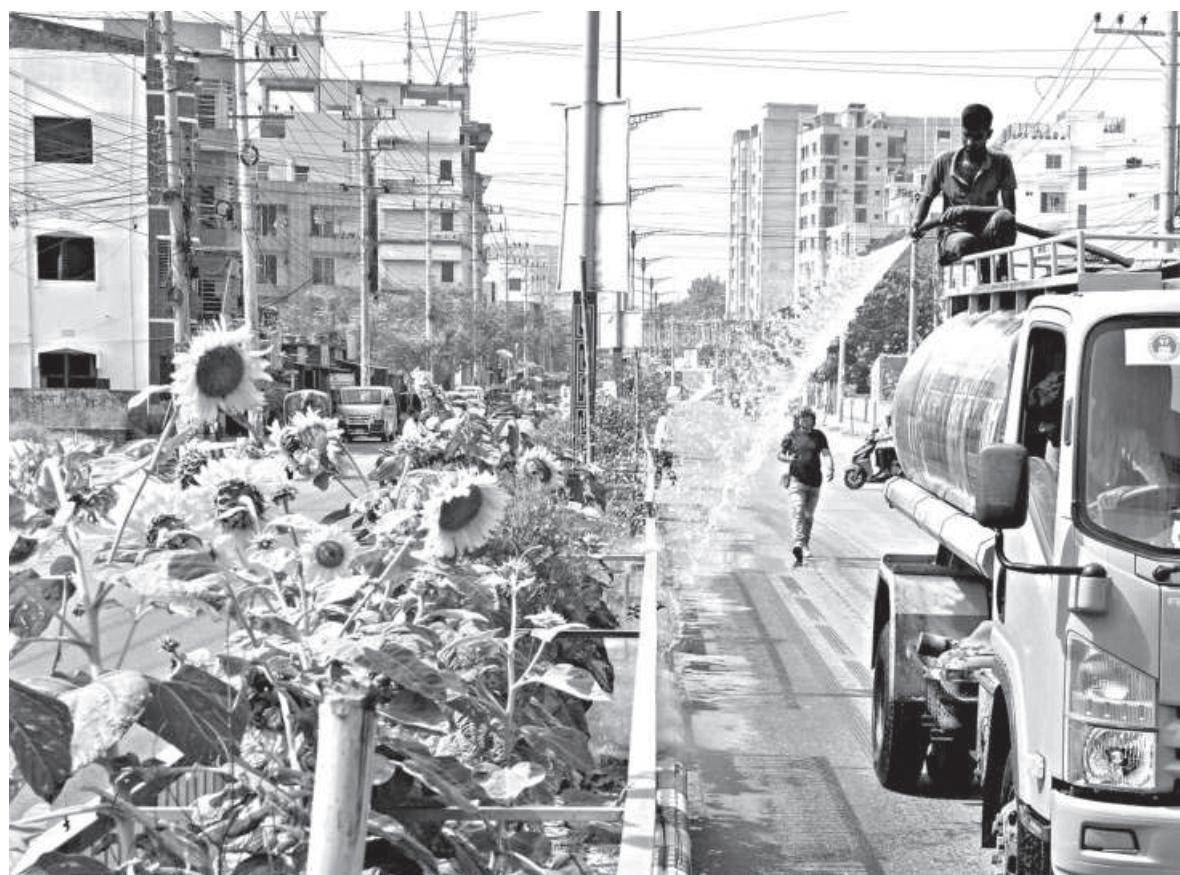
FROM PAGE 3
unnecessary harassment in the name of verification, the PSC will carry out basic background checks of candidates themselves.

"Later, if required, other agencies may conduct additional background checks. But candidates will not face undue trouble," he added.

He also announced changes to the current system of two examiners evaluating written scripts one after another. "We are modifying that method and introducing a new system to speed up processing results."

The PSC is also working to revise the 2023 recruitment policy, which will enable the commission to recommend more candidates for non-cadre posts, he added.

"To streamline all commission activities within a set timeframe, we've developed a 'master calendar.' This will help eliminate delays in the BCS [recruitment] process," he said.



A Rajshahi City Corporation worker waters flower plants on a road divider using a truck, as part of efforts to protect the greenery from the scorching heat. The city corporation is regularly watering plants along various roads to help them survive the ongoing hot weather. The photo was taken yesterday in the city's Terokhadia Bypass Pashchim Para area yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Declare April 24

FROM PAGE 3
their demands. "The Rana Plaza collapse was a premeditated crime," said Khairul Mamun Mintu, legal affairs secretary of the Bangladesh Garments and Sweater Workers Trade Union Centre.

"The previous regime has ignored our calls. Now, we are hopeful the interim authority will bring justice," he said.

Meanwhile, the National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday organised a commemorative programme at the Rana Plaza site in Savar.

The event began at 11:30am with a discussion attended by relatives of those killed, injured survivors, labour leaders, and activists.

Akhtar Hossain, member secretary of the party's central committee, along with other leaders and activists from various tiers of the organisation, were present.

The party said the event was organised to express solidarity with the victims and to reiterate its commitment to the rights and welfare of garment

workers. The NCP also demanded that April 24 be officially declared as National Workers' Day.

Meanwhile, AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, said the incumbent government endorses the demands of the Rana Plaza victims.

He made the comments after placing a wreath at the temporary memorial erected in front of the collapsed building.

He also announced that necessary measures will be taken to expedite the trial proceedings related to the Rana Plaza collapse.

Since 2013, labour rights

groups have been organising annual commemorations with demands including: the declaration of April as National Workers' Mourning Day; construction of a permanent memorial at the collapse site; rehabilitation of injured and affected workers; and lifetime-equivalent compensation for all survivors.

not just permitted -- but welcomed -- in public spaces, he said.

Gitanjali Singh, representative of UN Women Bangladesh, said, "This campaign is based on a simple truth: women and girls have the right to move freely, safely, and confidently -- anytime, anywhere. Whether on a metro, bus, or any transport, their space is their space."

Presiding over the event, Neelima Akhter, executive director of DTCB, said, "We have made every effort to make this campaign visible and effective so that the message of preventing violence against women reaches the public."

Training sessions for transport workers have already started to encourage better attitudes, she said. However, she noted that challenges remain, including a lack of necessary security infrastructure.

"We still lack tools like CCTV cameras. A proper system is needed to address the incidents of harassment swiftly. Bus stops also need better lighting, and public awareness must grow to bring real change," she also said.

Before the event, over 160 transport workers from Dhaka Chaka, Nagar Paribahan, BRTC, and Hanif Paribahan took part in training sessions held from March 16 to 20 under

the campaign.

The sessions aimed to build gender sensitivity and awareness among transport staff. Sheikh Moinuddin handed out certificates to those who completed the training.

Locals take

FROM PAGE 5
resident of Dubai.

This remote area has been deprived of any development in road communication for decades. The rural roads, being low-lying, are damaged every year due to rain and floods during monsoon, said Atiq Miah of Gabra village.

Sujat Ali of Dubail village said youths and elders from the villages worked together to cut soil and use it to fill up damaged parts of the one-kilometre stretch over the past two months.

"Unfortunately, the money we raised for the repair work has run out, so we are unable to continue repairing the rest of the road," Sujat said, urging authorities to provide support to complete the work.

Contacted, Roshan Karim, project implementation officer of Delduar upazila, said he was informed about the villagers' initiative.

"Necessary steps will be taken after inspecting the road," he added.

We must not let

FROM PAGE 3
ongoing dialogue between political parties and the NCC will act as a catalyst in nation-building process.

The Amjanata Party was represented by a 12-member delegation led by party president Miah Moshizuzzaman. The other members include General

Secretary Md Tarek Rahman, Organisational Secretary Foyal Ahmed, Executive Member Sadhana Mahal, and Tamanna Shikha.

So far, the commission has received feedback from 35 parties and completed its first round of discussions with 16 of them.

Speak up against sexual

FROM PAGE 3
inaugurated the event. He emphasised the need for collective responsibility in addressing harassment on public transport.

"Harassment often happens in front of others, but many choose to stay silent. This silence only lets the issue persist," he said.

He called on citizens to speak out and urged men to respect and uphold women's rights and dignity.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said the current government came to power with a promise to end all forms of discrimination, including gender inequality.

When women feel unsafe on public transport, it is a form of discrimination, as it limits their ability to travel freely and safely, she said.

She called for a zero-tolerance approach to harassment. "No woman -- regardless of her profession or clothing -- should be subjected to indecent behaviour, and such behaviour must be treated as a punishable offence."

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Nicolas Weeks, said the campaign is a call to action for everyone -- commuters, drivers, conductors, and policymakers.

It's about creating a culture where harassment is not tolerated and where women and girls feel

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Nicolas Weeks, said the campaign is a call to action for everyone -- commuters, drivers, conductors, and policymakers.

Before the event, over 160 transport workers from Dhaka Chaka, Nagar Paribahan, BRTC, and Hanif Paribahan took part in training sessions held from March 16 to 20 under

PRAYER
TIMING

APRIL 25
Faz Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-25 12-30 4-45 6-27 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-31 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

INDUSTRIAL PRIME LAND FOR SALE
10 Bigha Prime land beside Dhaka Tangail highway at Konabari with industrial compliance shed building, full floor tiles 50,000 sft. Gas, Water, Electricity, Substation & Generator etc.
Contact : 01675-564170, 01712-475333

এপার্টমেন্ট বিক্রয়
সুব্রত নজরভালি'তে ৮২০
বর্গফুট এপার্টমেন্ট বিক্রয় হচ্ছে।
যোগাযোগ করুন :
০১৭৮৬৩৮৭৭৯

প্লট বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা আনন্দ সাদেক রোড,
এক ব্লকে ৩ কাঠা, দক্ষিণ মুখী প্লট
বিক্রয় হচ্ছে। যোগাযোগ করুন :
০১৭৮৬৩৮৭৭৯

"Rabbir Ham Huma Kama
Rabba Yani Sagira"



Fawzia Samad
(1929 - 2011)

On Her
14th Death Anniversary

We Continue,

To remember her work as the Founder & Editor of *Minar* the first Bangla children's magazine published in 1949. Her courage in allowing her home at Dhanmondi to receive the first cache of arms in April 1971 and sanctuary to freedom fighters. Her setting up Free community schools "Kushumkoli" and such other humanitarian facilities she founded as the longest serving President of Dhaka Ladies Club and which still continue to serve the community.

A short silent prayer for her heavenly rest is requested.

-Family and well wishers

31 killed by mobs in 3 months

FROM PAGE 3

During the same period, at least 31 people were killed and 64 injured in 70 incidents of mob beatings.

At least 91 journalists were reportedly tortured and harassed in 67 incidents, while 24 were named as accused in 10 cases.

The report further noted that nine individuals were killed in incidents involving "gunfights," torture by law enforcement agencies, or while in custody.

Along the Bangladesh-India border, five Bangladeshis were shot dead by India's Border Security Force (BSF) during the same period. Ten others were injured, and 15 were arrested by BSF personnel.

of 10 idols. Two incidents involved land grabbing.

The HRSS recorded 86 incidents of violence against workers, resulting in the deaths of 45 people and injuries to at least 294 others. Over 12,500 people were arrested during the government's nationwide crackdown under "Operation Devil Hunt."

Calling on the government to act responsibly in safeguarding human rights and ensuring public safety, HRSS urged all conscious citizens, journalists, civil society members, and national and international rights organisations to raise their voices more strongly in defence of human rights.

Zainul

FROM PAGE 3
relative's arrival in Dhaka by Saturday," Mainul also said.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Naz Ahmed Khan expressed profound shock at her death.

In a message of condolence, the VC said Jahanara Abedin had a remarkable contribution to the success of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin.

Request for Quotation:
Blade/Rack Server

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 189 Branches, 74 Sub-branches, 329 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets. Currently the Bank is seeking for vendor(s) to provide Blade/Rack Server.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technical Offer Submission is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the bidding process can be found on the bank's website <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit the technical offer as per the mentioned bidding process.

BRAC BANK

বাংলাদেশ ব্রাক ব্যাংক

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD DIVISION, NOAKHALI
Phone: & Fax: 02334491026
Email: ee_noakhali@pwd.gov.bd

Dated : 22/04/2025

Corrigendum Notice (Amendment)-1ST and Final

It is hereby notified to all concern that the following amendment have been made to the invitation of work Establishment of 500 Bedded Hospital and Ancillary Building in Jashore, Cox's Bazar, Pabna & Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College (AMUMC) & Jononeta Nurul Hoque Adhunik Hospital, Noakhali (1st Revised). (Sub Head: Construction of Academic Building of Nursing College, Construction of Mosque at Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College (AMUMC) & Jononeta Nurul Hoque Adhunik Hospital, Noakhali). Tender ID: 1094730 vide Memo No 1010/35 dated : 27/03/2025 due to unavoidable circumstance and the amendments shall be as follows.

Tender Notice field name	As Mentioned in original Tender Notice	To be Replaces
Document last selling date & time	27.04.2025 15:00	04.05.2025 15:00
Opening Date & Time	28.04.2025 15:00	05.05.2025 15:00
Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	28.04.2025 13:00	05.05.2025 13:00
Closing Date & Time	28.04.2025 15:00	05.05.2025 15:00

Md. Kamrul Hassan
Executive Engineer
Noakhali P.W.D. Division.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

National Headquarters (NHQ)
684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka 1217.
PABX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 258, Direct: +88-02-8333430, web: www.brcs.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OF INSURANCE COVERAGE)

1. Invitation Reference, Tender ID No, and Date	Pro. (Log.) 132/2024, Tender ID:27/2024 date: 23/04/2025
2. Procuring Entity Name	Secretary General, BDRCS
3. Name of Requisition Department	Disaster Response Department
4. Procurement for	Group Life & Medical Insurance Coverage to ensure health support for employees of Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO), Cox's Bazar District, and Bhasan Char Operation, Hatiya, Noakhali District.
5. Invitation for	Group-A for MRRO and Group-B for BCO (Group Life & Medical Insurance Coverage)
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
7. Project Name	Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO) and Bhasan Char Operation (BCO)
8. Budget and Source of Funds	Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.brcs.org . Tender Schedule Download Link: https://brcs.org/tender/
9. Purchase of Tender document	Failure to include the bKash transaction reference number may result in the disqualification of your bid.
10. Tender Schedule available from website/link	27-04-2025
11. Tender Last Collection Date	07-05-2025
12. Tender Closing Date and Time	07-05-2025 at 03:00 PM
13. Tender Opening Date and Time	07-05-2025 at 03:15 PM
14. Address of Tender Submission & Opening	

JULY UPRISING
SP arrested in
murder case
suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Salehin Emon, superintendent of police (basic training-2) at Bangladesh Police Academy in Rajshahi's Sardah, who was arrested in a murder case linked to the July uprising, has been suspended.

The suspension order, signed by Senior Secretary Nasimul Ghani of the Public Security Division under the Ministry of Home Affairs, was issued on Wednesday.

According to the order, Tanvir was arrested on February 12, 2025, in a murder case filed with New Market Police Station in Dhaka on August 21, 2024.

Earlier on February 12, a team of detectives from Dhaka took SP Tanvir into their custody.

According to the case statement, Abdul Wadud, 45, a trader at Priyangan Shopping Centre, was killed during the anti-discrimination student movement on July 19 last year.

Abdur Rahman, a relative of the deceased, filed the case against 130 individuals, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and senior Awami League leaders such as Obaidul Quader, Anisul Huq, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Salman F. Rahman, and Amir Hossain Amu.

Tanvir is the 28th accused in the case.

Excavations fail to revive Mayur river

Encroachment, waste dumping continue unabated

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Mayur river, a major lifeline in Khulna that has long been plagued by encroachments and pollution, still remains on the brink of death despite two excavation projects to revive it over the past decade.

In 2014, the Khulna City Corporation undertook the first excavation project, spending Tk 5.78 crore to dredge 5.9-kilometre stretch of the river. A second initiative began in December 2023 with a Tk 7.59 crore allocation, which is nearing completion.

Yet, the 12-kilometre-long river still remains just a little more than a drain with pitch black water filled with silt and water hyacinths, as the excavation efforts fell short due to a lack of coordination, poor planning, and failure to enforce anti-encroachment laws.

The Mayur river, which flows through key areas of Khulna city including Alutola, Niral, Gallamary, Boyra, Dayana, Arongghata, and Beel Dakatia before joining the Rupsha river, served as a robust freshwater source and natural drainage system for the city, playing a vital role in reducing waterlogging, supporting biodiversity, and providing water for nearly one lakh residents.

Experts opined that without a coordinated effort from the



administration, environmentalists, and local communities, reviving Mayur river may remain an unattainable goal.

Visiting Trimohana area recently, the river was seen occupied by a makeshift bamboo dam, with sand being dumped at several points. Near Mahatab Uddin Road, a bamboo fencing was seen erected on the river.

Meanwhile, 26 drains within the KCC areas continue to discharge untreated waste water directly into the river, further exacerbating its woes.

Obidur Rahman, a resident of Rayer Mahal, said, "We cannot use the river's water for irrigation any more as it is too polluted." Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul,

divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "Without strict enforcement of law against encroachers, proper waste management, and continuous monitoring, Mayur may soon become a dead river."

Contacted, KCC chief engineer Moshizuzzaman Khan said the river's dredging work is almost complete.

He, however, said monitoring remains a significant challenge.

"We often get informed about attempts to construct structures within the river or instances of pollution from different sources, and we take action and carry out eviction drives as necessary. However, due to a manpower shortage, we are unable to monitor regularly, which remains a challenge," he added.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Telephone: 02587742145
Road Division, Nilphamari.
Email: rhdnil@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.7364.456.07.012.24-827

Date: 23-04-2025

e-Tender Notice: No. 44/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following public procurement:

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender Document last selling/ download Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
1.	1102232	Supplying of plant produced asphalt materials for routine maintenance of pavement surfaces under Road Division, Nilphamari during the FY 2024-2025.	07 May-2025 17:00	08 May-2025 11:00

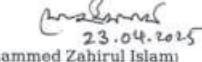
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branch up to particular date and time specified on the Tender Notice.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also can be obtained from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contact e-GP help desk contact numbers.

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.


23-04-2025
(Md. Arif Zahan)
Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Nilphamari.


23-04-2025
(Mohammed Zahirul Islam)
ID No.601992
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Nilphamari.

GD-979

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning officer
Upazila Health Complex
Rajoir, Madaripur.

Memo No. UHC/RAJOI/MADARI/APP/MSR/RE-TENDER/2024-2025/543

Date: 24-Apr-2025

e-Tender Notice (NCT)

e-Tender is in the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procuring of following goods.

Tender ID	Name of Tender	Package No	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Remarks
1097239	Procurement of MSR Linen Items for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Rajoir Upazila Health Complex, Madaripur	UHC/RAJOI/MADARI/APP/MSR/RE-TENDER/2024-2025/03	04-May-2025 15:00 PM	05-May-2025 11:00 AM	OTM

- This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- Detail about the Tender have shown in e-Tender notice and e-Tender document. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Dr. Mohammed Shamim Akter
UH&FPO
Upazila Health Complex
Rajoir, Madaripur.

GD-980

Woman killed in elephant attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A woman was killed in an attack by an elephant yesterday in Fasiakhali union under Lama upazila of Bandarban.

Jannat Ara Begum Jharna, 37, was from South Dhunia village.

The incident occurred around 11:00am in Chakkata Boaler Aga area when Jharna was on her way to deliver water and snacks to construction workers. As the elephant trampled her, other workers screamed and tried to deter the animal, but failed to save her.

"Filing of an unnatural death case is underway," said Lame Police Station OC Tofazzal Hossain.

Mostafizur Rahman, divisional forest officer in Lama, said, "If the victim's family applies, government will provide compensation through legal procedures."

12,000-acre forest land being reclaimed Says Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday said nearly 12,000 acres of forest land in Cox's Bazar, previously allocated to different agencies, are being reclaimed and returned to the Forest Department.

Rizwana said this at a press briefing after visiting Bakkhali riverbank in Cox's Bazar.

She informed that 700 acres of forest land in the district have already been recovered, while a person constructing buildings on 150 acres of forest land has been ordered to stop.

Also, 20 acres of land allocated for a football academy is being reclaimed, while the Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner has been requested to recover 51 acres of more land, she said.

"The process of reclaiming land previously allocated to BEZA on Sonadia Island is also underway," she added.

Woman killed as truck overturns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A woman was killed as a truck overturned on her roadside shanty in Bhuapur, Tangail yesterday. Ramechha, 55, was from Betua Aatani Para.

Family said she was asleep during the accident. Locals detained the truck driver and handed him over to police, said Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Bhuapur Police Station.

Office of the Director
Planning, Development & Works
Sylhet Agricultural University, Tilagor, Sylhet-3100

Tel: 02-996642193

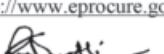
Date: 24/04/2025

e-GP Re-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.procure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works.

Name of Packages	Publication date & time	Tender ID	Downloading the e-Tender documents up to and closing date
Supply of Books for Central Library of Sylhet Agricultural University/2025 (Re-Tender)	27-04-2025 10:30 Hrs	T.Id: 1102908 Re-T. Id: 1076991	08-May-2025 11:00 Hrs 08-May-2025 12:00 Hrs

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.


24-04-25
Mohammed Rushon Ali

Additional Director
Planning, Development & Works
Sylhet Agricultural University, Tilagor, Sylhet-3100
Phone: 02-996642193

GD-987

DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE PURCHASE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NEW AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215

Web : www.dgdp.gov.bdE-Mail : info@dgdp.gov.bd

1ST TIME TENDER

1. Sealed tenders (Single Envelope System) in Local currency are invited from Bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of the following item for "Bangladesh Army".

Item Name & Qty	Tender Sale	Tender Opening Date	Tender Selling Price	Remarks
TenderNo-220.07.192.52.25 Date : 27 April 2025	27-04-2025	22-05-2025	25-05-2025 1,000.00 Taka	Curren- ce- Local

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (Non refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of tender opening in presence of tenderers (if present).

আই. এন. পি. আর/বিবিথ/১৪৯

Major
For Director General

Bangladesh Power Development Board
Office of the Senior System Analyst
Dhaka Computer Center
Wapda Building(4th fl.), Motijheel, Dhaka.
Phone no. 47113484

Ref No. 27.11.0000.716.77.25.598

Dates: 23.04.2025.

Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following work.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date	Tender Closing Date
1.	Tender ID: 1101902 Ref. No: 27.11.0000.716.77.25.597 Dt.: 23.04.2025	Works for Maintenance and IT Support Service of existing PC, Pinter UPS Scanner etc. at WAPDA Bldg, Biddut Bhaban, Design Bhaban and COOAC Office for 2(Two) year.	23.04.2025 Time: 12:00	12.05.2025

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১১০১ (১)/১৮/০৮/১৫

Signed
(Manik Chandra Ghosh)
Senior System Analyst
Dhaka Computer Center
BPDB, Dhaka.

'People held me and cried': Dighi on 'Jongli's' impact

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jongli, a breakout film this year, isn't just riding high tides at the box office—it's leaving audiences visibly shaken. Actress Prarthana Fardin Dighi, who plays the emotionally complex character Nurpur, shared how the film moved viewers to tears and sparked heartfelt conversations long after the credits rolled.

Released during Eid ul-Fitr, the M Raahim directorial **Jongli** featured Dighi with celebrated actors Siam Ahmed and Shobnom Bubly. The film—still drawing crowds weeks after release—is also poised to debut internationally later this month.

"It's been years since we've had so many well-received simultaneous Eid releases," Dighi told The Daily Star. "Most of the films are doing well, and that's something to celebrate as an actor and fan of cinema."

Among the season's successes, she pointed to **Chokkor 302**, a thriller that's kept audiences on edge, **Borbaad**, which has made its undeniable mark, and **Daagi**, which she has yet to see but noted has drawn crowds. However, the actress believes **Jongli** stands out for its character-driven narrative. "People are watching it. They're talking about it and they're moved."

Dighi has seen **Jongli** multiple times at the theatre.

"Every time I saw it, I felt like I was experiencing it for the first time," she said. "I witnessed tears in the eyes of the audience whenever I visited to gauge their reactions. Some even held me, expressing how deeply they were moved by Nurpur's journey."

During a screening at Lion Cinema Hall, she recalled being approached by audience members who told her, "Nurpur didn't do the right thing." She stated, "That comment stayed with me, not as criticism, but as proof that the film's emotional weight had struck home."

"Cinema rarely evokes that kind of visceral reaction anymore, but **Jongli** did," Dighi observed. "People I've never met have shown such empathy and connection to the story—it's overwhelming."

Dighi reserved high praise for her co-star Siam, calling him "an exceptional actor" who shows up for his team both in front of and behind the camera. "Siam's commitment to his craft is evident in every scene. He ensures everyone on set is comfortable, often checking if anyone has missed a meal."

Upon being inquired about what is next for her, Dighi remained tight-lipped but confirmed that she is discussing new projects. "Once everything is confirmed, I'll be excited to share the news."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Moushumi to perform at a cultural event in LA



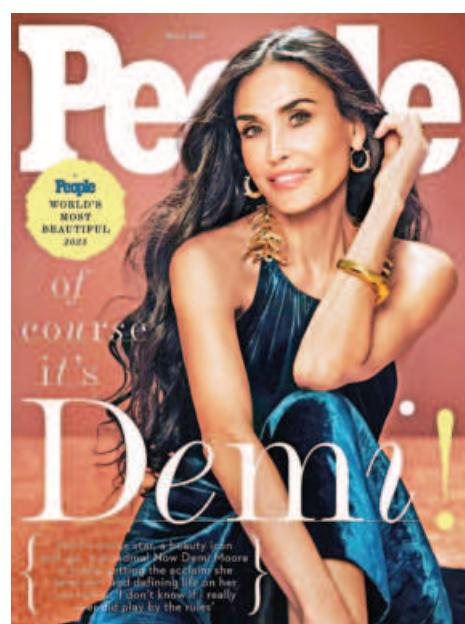
Actress Arifa Parvin Zaman Moushumi is set to perform at the upcoming **Bangladesh Day Parade and Festival** in Los Angeles, organised by BUFO LA to celebrate Bangladesh's 55th year of independence.

She will be joined by singers Selim Chowdhury and Dinat Jahan Munni, with Anisur Rahman Milon and Nova Firoze hosting the event.

In addition to singing, Moushumi will also take part in a dance performance on April 27.

Grateful for the opportunity, she expressed her appreciation to BUFO LA.

The festival, scheduled for April 26 and 27, has been organised annually by 29 Bangladeshi organisations since 2006 and is expected to draw hundreds of participants this year.



Demi Moore crowned People's Most Beautiful Woman at 62

People Magazine has named 62-year-old Hollywood actress Demi Moore as its Most Beautiful Woman of 2025, challenging conventional beauty standards tied to youth.

The announcement, made on April 23 alongside the magazine's May 5 digital cover, features Moore and an in-depth interview where she reflects on ageing and self-acceptance.

Known for her iconic roles in **Ghost**, **A Few Good Men**, **Indecent Proposal**, and **Striptease**, Moore shared her evolving relationship with her body, stating she now embraces a more intuitive and accepting outlook.

She returned to critical acclaim with **The Substance** after a significant hiatus, earning an Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

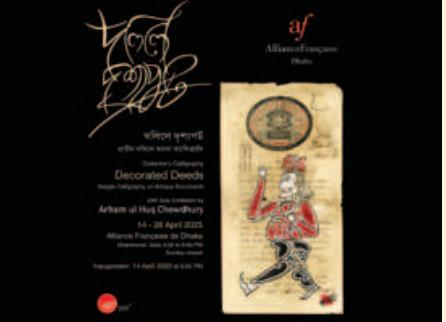
Decorated Deeds

Alliance Française de Dhaka, in association with ARTCON, presents **Decorated Deeds**—Bangla Calligraphy on Antique Documents, the 20th solo exhibition by Arham ul Huq Chowdhury. Showcasing exquisite calligraphic artistry preserved in historic manuscripts, the exhibition offers a rare glimpse into Bengal's rich visual and textual heritage.

Date: Friday-Saturday | April 25-26

Time: 3-9pm

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi



Rosé breaks barriers with non-Korean AMA nomination

The American Music Awards (AMAs) has announced its 2024 nominees, featuring stars like Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, and Post Malone.

Making history is Blackpink's Rosé, who becomes the first K-pop artiste nominated outside the genre's category, and the only female contender in the Favourite K-pop Artist category.

She's up for Collaboration of the Year for **APT**, her hit track with Bruno Mars. Other contenders include Kendrick Lamar and SZA, Taylor Swift and Post Malone, among others.

APT, inspired by a Korean drinking game, has spent 26 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100—a record for any female K-pop artiste.

NEWS

Meghna Alam denied bail

FROM PAGE 12

against her were found to be true.

Meghna was shown arrested in the case on April 17 following a petition filed by its investigation officer Md Akhtar Morshed, an inspector of the police's Detective Branch. Police filed the case against Meghna, her associate Dewan Samir and two others on April 15.

According to the case statement, Meghna and Samir, along with two to three unidentified others, are allegedly active members of an 'organised fraud ring'.

They reportedly used "attractive" women to lure foreign diplomats and representatives of foreign missions

EC to carry out its own reforms

FROM PAGE 12

Commission Ordinance 2025, which seeks to introduce criminal liability for election commissioners for failing to ensure fair elections. This provision would erode the commissioners' independence and expose them to political pressure.

Yesterday, CEC Nasir Uddin said Australia has expressed its willingness to assist the EC in the upcoming national polls.

He said, "They [Australia] enquired about our preparations for the next parliamentary election whether we are

satisfied with it. They also asked about reforms. We informed them about the reforms that are underway. They said that if we seek assistance, they are ready to support us. She [Australian high commissioner] assured us of all possible and necessary support.

"We have completed the work on the voter list. We've initiated the procurement process. We also told her about the initiative taken regarding the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies.

"We informed that the deadline for party registration has been extended

in Bangladesh, as well as local businessmen, into romantic and illicit relationships and then applied various tactics to extort money by threatening to tarnish their reputation, the case statement said.

Meghna was picked up from her residence in the city's Bashundhara Residential Area on April 9. A day later, another Dhaka court ordered Meghna to be kept in jail for 30 days under the Special Powers Act of 1974 following an application by the Detective Branch.

Amid criticism of the police for the process of her arrest, the High Court on April 13 issued a rule asking relevant government authorities to explain in two weeks why her arrest under the Special Powers Act should not be declared illegal.

by two months and that changes are being made to the Electoral Code of Conduct, as well as the observer policy. We briefed the Australian high commissioner on all essential election-related activities."

Speaking to journalists, High Commissioner Susan Ryle said, "I had a very productive meeting with the Election Commission. As Bangladesh is moving towards an open, free and fair election, Australia stands by Bangladesh."

"We continue to work with you as best we can to support your efforts."

Ensure transparency to regain public trust

these will follow the submission of the Health Sector Reform Commission's report.

However, he acknowledged that public perception contributes to the security threat facing doctors.

"The main issue is that you won't be able to be a good doctor unless you are a good human being. We are supposed to be held in the highest regard. If that is no longer the case, then we must practise self-criticism," he said, adding that doctors should work to earn greater public trust.

Prof Syed Atiquel Haque, a member of the reform commission, said the commission's report is expected to meet the demands raised during the discussion regarding healthcare reforms. He added that the report may be submitted within a week.

He added, "We need to be transparent on certain issues to challenge this perception. Transparency must be maintained in dealings with pharmaceutical companies, diagnostic laboratories, and hospitals. It can be our only form of immunity."

"It's true that our safety must be guaranteed by law. At the same time, we will feel more secure if we address the underlying issues that provoke distrust

and resentment among the public."

National Professor A K Azad Khan, also the head of the Health Sector Reform Commission, said the medical profession is unique.

"People used to show the highest regard for doctors some 40-50 years ago. The shift in their perception is responsible for the current situation. Many believe they incur additional costs due to doctors' affiliations with external organisations. We must address this perception."

He added, "We need to be transparent on certain issues to challenge this perception. Transparency must be maintained in dealings with pharmaceutical companies, diagnostic laboratories, and hospitals. It can be our only form of immunity."

Prof Mujibur Rahman Hawlader, vice-chairman of BMU, and Prof Nazmul Hossain, director general of the Directorate General of Medical Education, also spoke at the event.

People must get back

FROM PAGE 12

held in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, and Panchagarh yesterday.

Tarique said that in the struggle for restoring democracy, "Many leaders and activists have disappeared, been killed, or left permanently disabled over the past 15 years. Their sacrifices must not go in vain."

He said children were killed during the July-August uprising and that their deaths were for the establishment of democracy.

"In no country, are children killed unless there is war? But during the July-August movement, we saw around 100 children killed... These children had no fault. Why did they make such sacrifices? Solely for the establishment of democracy."

"There may be differences of opinion among us, and that's natural. Differences are part of democracy. We will sit together, discuss, and move forward...."

Tarique said BNP seeks to implement reforms with public support.

"We have said before that reform is an ongoing process. If something stops at a certain point, it cannot be

called reform. Reform is a continuous process. We will begin it. The current leaders will start it with the support and mandate of the people, and we will carry it forward."

On implementing the party's 31-point reform agenda, he said, "To secure votes in your favour, you must go to the people. To win, you must go to the people."

Highlighting the need for grassroots engagement, Tarique said leaders must "stay connected with the people to sustain leadership, politics, as well as to implement reform and state repair programmes".

"At any cost, we will stand for the people's interests. At any cost, we will stand by the people."

Speaking at the event virtually, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "Today, there are many challenges, especially regarding the transition to democracy. But one thing is true: almost everyone wants reform. And it has been proven that BNP is the party that from the very beginning, proposed reforms to bring change in Bangladesh."

Vladimir, STOP!

FROM PAGE 12

this week where he is expected to hold talks with Putin on a possible deal, his fourth since Trump returned to the White House in January.

Ukraine has been battered with aerial attacks throughout Russia's three-year invasion but deadly strikes on Kyiv, better protected by air defences than other cities, are less common.

The attacks threw more doubt on already fraught US efforts to push Russia and Ukraine to agree to a ceasefire, with Trump having lashed out at Zelensky this week for not being willing to accept Russian occupation of Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014.

"We do everything that our partners have proposed, only what contradicts our legislation and the Constitution we cannot do," Zelensky told reporters in South Africa in response to a question about Crimea.

Zelensky also questioned whether Kyiv's allies were themselves doing enough to force Putin to agree to a full and unconditional ceasefire.

"I don't see any strong pressure on Russia or any new sanctions packages against Russia's aggression," Zelensky said, highlighting that Trump had previously warned of repercussions

if Moscow did not agree to pause the fighting.

"The strikes must be stopped immediately and unconditionally," Zelensky said, calling yesterday morning's aerial assault "one of the most sophisticated, most brazen" of the entire war.

Loud blasts sounded over the Ukrainian capital at around 1:00am (2200 GMT) after air raid sirens rang out across Kyiv, AFP journalists on the ground said.

Russia fired at least 70 missiles and 145 drones at Ukraine between late Wednesday and early yesterday, the main target being Kyiv, the Ukrainian air force said.

Rescuers yesterday afternoon said 10 people were killed and 90 injured.

Russia said it had targeted Ukraine's defence industry, including plants that produced "rocket fuel and gunpowder".

Olena Davydruk, a 33-year-old lawyer in Kyiv, told AFP she saw windows breaking and doors "falling out of their hinges" during the barrage.

"People were being pulled out of the rubble. They said that there were dead people there too," she added.

In the Sviatoshinsky district in the west of Kyiv, an AFP journalist saw a body bag with one of the victims lain out on a strip of grass.

Pakistan FM postpones Dhaka trip

FROM PAGE 12

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The new dates for the visit will be finalised through mutual consultations," according to a message shared by the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

The development comes amid escalation of tension between India and Pakistan following a terrorist attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 26 tourists and injured at least 17 on April 22.

According to the diplomatic sources, Dar was scheduled to meet Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on April 28.

The two countries were also working on signing several memorandums of understanding.

Asif apologises

FROM PAGE 12

verified Facebook page around 11:30am yesterday, expressing regret over his father's actions and offering clarifications.

"Around 9:00pm last night [Wednesday], a journalist contacted me regarding a contractor's licence issued in my father's name. After speaking to my father, I confirmed that he had indeed obtained the licence at the district level [issued by the district executive engineer]. I shared this information with the journalist, who later published it," the post read.

Asif acknowledged that the issue had sparked public discussion and criticism, prompting him to offer an explanation.

He explained that his father is a schoolteacher and that a local contractor, seeking to facilitate work opportunities using his father's name, had advised him to obtain a licence. Acting on this advice, his father secured the licence.

"Any individual in the country is free to obtain a licence for business purposes. However, while I am responsible for the relevant ministry, my father's involvement in the contracting business clearly constitutes a conflict of interest. After explaining the matter, the licence has been cancelled today [yesterday] following my father's application," Asif wrote.

The adviser also clarified that the licence had not been used to apply for any work in the meantime.

What is Indus Waters Treaty?

REUTERS, New Delhi/Karachi

India said it would immediately suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan as part of measures to downgrade diplomatic ties with its neighbour after militants attacked tourists in Kashmir, killing 26 men. The treaty had survived two wars between the bitter rivals and withstood many twists and turns in diplomatic ties before New Delhi's decision on Wednesday.

WHAT IS THE TREATY?

The nuclear armed neighbours disagree over use of the water from rivers that flow downstream from India into the Indus river basin in Pakistan. The use of the water is governed by the Indus Waters Treaty, which was mediated by the World Bank and signed by the neighbours in September 1960. The agreement split the Indus and its tributaries between the two countries and regulated water sharing. India was granted the use of water from three eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas and Ravi while Pakistan was granted most of the three western rivers - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. There is no provision in the treaty for either country to unilaterally suspend or terminate the pact, which has clear dispute resolution systems.

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNs?

The nuclear armed neighbours have argued over and disputed several projects on the Indus and its tributaries in India for years.



Pakistan is heavily dependent on water from this river system for its hydropower and irrigation needs. Pakistan says India unfairly diverts water with the upstream construction of barrages and dams, a charge India denies.

India has accused Pakistan of dragging out the complaints process, and says the construction of its Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects is allowed under the treaty. It has also sought modification of the pact to get around such delays.

WHAT COULD CHANGE?

The suspension of the accord is not expected to have an immediate impact on the flow of water to Pakistan as India does not have enough storage capacity. But India's move could bring uncertainty for Pakistan's agricultural system. The suspension means India can stop sharing crucial information and data on the release of water from barrages/dams or on flooding, Indian officials said, adding that New Delhi will also not be obliged to release minimum amounts of water during the lean season.

PAKISTANIS REACTION

Pakistan warned that it would consider any attempt by India to stop the supply of water from the Indus River an "act of war" and responded with full force across the complete spectrum of national power".



Ukrainian rescuers carry the body of a victim as they operate at the site of a Russian missile attack in Kyiv yesterday. A "massive" Russian missile attack on Kyiv killed at least nine and wounded dozens.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel kills 55 more in Gaza

Israel army warns of 'larger' Gaza assault if hostages not freed

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza rescue teams and medics said Israeli air strikes killed at least 55 people yesterday, as the military threatened an even larger offensive if hostages were not freed soon.

Israel resumed its military assault in the Gaza Strip on March 18, after the collapse of a two-month ceasefire that had brought a temporary halt to fighting in the blockaded Palestinian territory.

Israel's army chief, visiting troops in Gaza on Thursday, threatened to expand the offensive in Gaza if hostages seized during Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel were not released.

"If we do not see progress in the return of the hostages in the near future, we will expand our activities to a larger and more significant operation," Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir said.

The warning came as the army issued fresh evacuation orders for northern areas of Gaza ahead of a planned attack.

Earlier in the day, six members of one family -- a couple and their four children -- were killed when an air strike levelled their home in northern Gaza City, the civil defence agency said in a statement.

Nidal al-Sarafiti, a relative, said the strike happened as the family was sleeping.

"What can I say? The destruction has spared no one," he told AFP.

Nine people were killed and several wounded in another strike on a former police station in the Jabalia area of



northern Gaza, according to a statement from the Indonesian hospital, where the casualties were taken.

Israel's military said it struck a Hamas "command and control centre" in the area but did not say whether it was the police station.

In another deadly attack, the bodies of 12 people were recovered after the Haji Ali family home, also in Jabalia, was struck, the civil defence said.

Another 28 people were killed in strikes across the territory, medics and the civil defence agency reported.

They came as the Israeli military ordered Palestinians living in the northern areas of Beit Hanoun and

Sheikh Zayed to evacuate ahead of an attack.

The United Nations has warned that Israel's expanding evacuation orders across Gaza are resulting in the "forcible transfer" of people into ever-shrinking areas.

Aid agencies estimate that the vast majority of Gaza's 2.4 million residents have been displaced at least once since the war began.

Since Israel resumed its military operations, at least 1,978 people have been killed in Gaza, raising the overall death toll to at least 51,355 since the war began, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

BPC drowning

FROM PAGE 1
 forced to keep vessels waiting and incur demurrage," it added.

Fuel import deals are signed based on demand notes from the PDB, BPC noted.

"If imports don't proceed as planned, this could damage bilateral relationships [between BPC and suppliers] and give suppliers grounds for legal action," BPC Chairman Md Amin Ul Ahsan said in the letter.

To ease the crisis, BPC requested that the PDB take at least 40,000 tonnes of furnace oil by the end of April and another 100,000 tonnes in May.

In an earlier communication, BPC also pointed out that delay fees of approximately \$4 million for 33 vessels between 2011 and 2015 remain unsettled with the PDB.

The PDB had initially projected a need for 12.39 lakh tonnes of furnace oil for 2025. It revised the annual demand to 35.51 lakh tonnes in March following communications with privately owned power producers.

Md Zahurul Islam, PDB member (Generation), said the issue arose because private power producers went back on their decision.

"When service charges were lowered, they [private plant owners] said they couldn't import fuel any more and would purchase from BPC. But many are still importing on their own," he said.

"We've asked BPC to delay some scheduled deliveries. Fuel oil is not perishable. It will be used eventually. We're talking to private producers to resolve the issue."

Currently, furnace oil-based plants generate around 3,000MW out of their 5,500MW capacity.

Total electricity generation across the country stands at approximately 16,000MW, with a shortage of around 200 250MW resulting in minor power cuts.

David Hasanat, president of Bangladesh Independent Power Producers' Association, pointed out quality concerns as another issue.

The furnace oil BPC imports contains higher levels of sulphur and carbon, which harm equipment and the environment," he said, adding that the calorific value of the oil imported through BPC was low.

He said private plants prefer direct imports since they can delay payment by four to five months by using letters of credit, whereas BPC requires immediate cash payment.

"This flexibility is crucial, as we rely on receiving payments from PDB before settling with our suppliers. If there were options to defer payments, purchase from BPC might have increased."

David said they would sit with the PDB to discuss all these issues next week.

Contacted, BPC Chairman Amin said he discussed the matter with PDB Chairman Rezaul Karim yesterday. Rezaul assured him that the imported furnace oil would be sold, but at a slow pace.

Amin said they need to maintain the schedule as it is difficult to cancel a consignment after order.

Asked about the allegation of low-quality furnace oil imported by the BPC, he said he heard such allegations for the first time.

"Our fuel quality is supposed to be the best," he said, adding that the BPC imports furnace oil on the specifications set after consultations with the PDB.

US slams anti-fossil fuel policies

AFP, London

An international summit on the future of energy security opened in London yesterday with stark opposition from Washington, which called policies to phase out fossil fuels "harmful and dangerous".

Profound differences emerged at the two day International Energy Agency (IEA) meeting over the role of renewables in satisfying the world's thirst for energy.

"Some want to regulate every form of energy besides the so-called renewables, completely out of existence... We oppose these harmful and dangerous policies. This is not energy security," Tommy Joyce, US Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, told the conference.

That contrasted to a more moderate message from IEA executive director Fatih Birol in opening remarks at the summit, co-hosted by the UK.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাচী প্রকোশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।

ফোনঃ ০২-৪৭৮৪৩২৫৮

 e-mail: eebar@rhd.gov.bd

তারিখঃ ২০/০৪/২০২৫ টাই।

"ফেরিয়াটের ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (১৮তম আহবান)"

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	০৬।	ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২০২০-২০২৪
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	০৭।	বরিশাল সড়ক বিভাগাধীন বরিশাল (বেরোপুর)-চুম্বক-বাটুফল সড়কের ৯ম কিলোমিটারে অবস্থিত নেমাকাল ফেরিয়াটের ট্রেল আবাসের জন্য ইজারা প্রদান।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মোকাবে	০৮।	টাই ১,০০,০০ এবং ইজারা টার্মিন।
০৪।	ইজারার কোটেশনের স্থিতিল মূল্য	০৯।	উচ্চত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা মূল্য টার্মিন প্রতি ১/১২ অর্ডার আকারে)।
০৫।	ইজারার কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও সময়	১০।	১৫/০৪/২০২৫ প্রিয়ের তারিখ কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ।
০৬।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন প্রদর্শন কৃত হবে	১১।	১৫/০৪/২০২৫ প্রিয়ের তারিখ কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ।
০৭।	ইজারার কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশনের প্রদর্শন করার প্রক্রিয়া	১২।	১৫/০৪/২০২৫ প্রিয়ের তারিখ কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ।
০৮।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন প্রদর্শন করার প্রক্রিয়া	১৩।	১৫/০৪/২০২৫ প্রিয়ের তারিখ কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ।
০৯।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন প্রদর্শন করার প্রক্রিয়া	১৪।	১৫/০৪/২০২৫ প্রিয়ের তারিখ কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন প্রদর্শন করার প্রক্রিয়া	১৫।	১৫/০৪/২০২৫ প্রিয়ের তারিখ কোটেশন প্রদর্শন শেষ।
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Rising economic risks demand urgent action

Warnings from the World Bank

A new World Bank report has rightly sounded the alarm about a potential rise in poverty and inequality in Bangladesh—warnings that policymakers can ill afford to ignore. According to the report, persistent inflation, job losses, and a slowing economy may further erode household welfare, intensifying our already pressing economic challenges.

The national poverty rate is projected to rise to 22.9 percent in 2025, up from 18.7 percent in 2022. Meanwhile, the share of people living in extreme poverty—defined as those earning less than \$2.15 a day—is expected to nearly double to 9.3 percent, pushing an additional three million people into this category. In the latter half of 2024 alone, nearly 4 percent of workers reportedly lost their jobs, while wages declined by 2 percent for low-skilled workers and by 0.5 percent for high-skilled workers. The labour market, in short, is showing clear signs of distress. Notably, the labour force participation rate has dropped from 60.9 percent to 59.2 percent, driven largely by a sharp decline in female participation, from 41.6 percent to 38.9 percent.

Exacerbating the crisis is the prolonged spell of high food inflation, a key driver of poverty that has continued to squeeze household budgets. Real wages have been in decline for over 40 months now, as nominal wage growth consistently lags behind soaring prices. The Gini index, a key measure of income inequality, is also projected to rise from 33.4 in 2022 to 36.1 in 2025, with experts pointing to the weak and informal nature of the labour market as a primary cause.

A lack of quality employment opportunities has left a vast segment of the population engaged in low-productivity, self-employed work, with limited earning potential. What makes this situation even more troubling is that GDP growth has been slowing in recent years—driven by falling investment, policy uncertainty, high borrowing costs, and political unrest—resulting in fewer jobs and lower confidence in the economy. In light of these trends, it is imperative that policymakers, political parties, and other stakeholders come together and take decisive steps to reduce uncertainty and improve the investment climate.

To this end, there is no alternative to undertaking necessary structural reforms urgently. This includes urgent banking and fiscal reforms aimed at restoring investor confidence and accelerating economic recovery. Frequent policy shifts and uncertainties that deter businesses from investing and expanding must also be addressed head on. The government, in consultation with political parties, must also provide clarity on the timing of the next elections and work towards a consensus that reassures both domestic and foreign investors that Bangladesh will not remain trapped in political uncertainty indefinitely.

Smooth take-off of third terminal vital

Address the problems identified by customs inspectors

Amid persistent economic struggles as well as efforts to remove barriers deterring businesses from investing and expanding in the country, there is no alternative to ensuring a smooth take-off of the much-anticipated third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Built at a cost of over Tk 21,300 crore, the terminal is being touted as a milestone for Bangladesh's aviation sector, with the planning adviser recently underscoring its potential to make the airport a regional hub. For this promise to materialise, we must ensure the project doesn't falter on operational readiness, particularly with regard to customs and cargo handling.

With over 99.5 percent of the construction work already completed, the terminal is technically close to the finish line. However, a recent letter from the Customs House Dhaka to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has raised concerns about a number of issues related to its infrastructure, security, and operational aspects, according to a report by this daily. For example, a key concern raised by the inspectors involves the customs hall, which they say is too narrow with a low ceiling and a capacity of only 300, despite an expected influx of 7,000 to 8,000 passengers at peak hours. This may result in heavy congestion, slow clearance, and poor ventilation. After the terminal's full-scale opening, expected in early 2026, it is estimated that the annual passenger handling capacity of the airport will rise to 2.4 crore from 80 lakh at present.

Customs officials have also flagged several issues related to cargo handling. Among them is the lack of designated warehousing for seized or high-value goods, which poses risks of theft, misuse, and smuggling. The placement of the duty-free shop immediately after immigration, without adequate surveillance or access control, also risks revenue leakage. Moreover, the lack of designated space for scanners, physical examination of baggage and consignments, and diversion routes for high-risk baggage may emerge as another big problem, especially given the expected doubling of cargo throughput once the terminal goes live. These and other such inadequacies could further contribute to security risks, unnecessary delays, and even tax evasion.

While acknowledging these shortcomings, the relevant authorities have said that it is not possible to alter the existing infrastructure now, so they are focusing on workarounds as alternative solutions. But the need for resolving the issues identified cannot be stressed enough either, especially for the sake of a safe, uninterrupted operation of the terminal. We, therefore, urge the authorities to seriously consider the recommendations of customs inspectors and find ways to implement them.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Hubble Space Telescope sent into orbit

On this day in 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope, a sophisticated optical observatory built in the United States under the supervision of NASA, was placed into operation by the crew of the space shuttle Discovery.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

The elephant in the room no one is talking about

Reform of political parties is of urgent need



THE THIRD VIEW

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MAHFUZ ANAM

Since Prof Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of the interim government, reforms have been very high on the national agenda. The whole country wants it. What is heartening is that even political parties, who are usually opposed to anything that does not originate from them, have worked closely with all the reform commissions and are now engaged in reaching a consensus.

However, one vital area has been left untouched in this discussion: reform of the political parties themselves. The nature, transparency, accountability, and inner democracy of political parties in Bangladesh determine the type of democracy and good governance they would be able to deliver. In fact, it greatly influences the society we end up with. The nature of the political parties who get elected determine to a large extent how the parliament, judiciary, and all its statutory bodies operate. They greatly influence the bureaucracy, almost all government institutions, the budget and its implementation, big business deals, etc. Very importantly, they control whatever oversight functions that are in the constitution.

There can be no denying the fact that one of the reasons behind the dismal state of democracy and governance in Bangladesh is directly related to the absence of internal democracy and public accountability in its political parties, especially of top party leadership.

and trying to understand better. History has opened doors for it that nobody expected so soon. In a free and fair election, BNP is most likely to emerge with the largest number of seats in parliament, not only for its wide acceptance but also for the massive rejection of its main rival, the Awami League. Hence, our focus today is on the party which is likely to significantly affect our future and on the person who is its second-in-command, Tarique Rahman.

Now is the most opportune moment for the BNP to emerge as a modern, democratic, innovative, and future-oriented party that fits in with the new aspirations of the people, especially the youth, and the needs of the 21st-century. The questions that rise in the public mind are: what sort of government will the BNP deliver? Are they fully aware of the aspirations of the people today, especially the youth? How much of democracy, accountability, fair play, and openness will this party present us with? Will it tolerate free media? The most asked question is: what sort of a leader will Tarique Rahman turn out to be? These questions are being raised not by the "enemies" of the BNP, but those who sincerely wish them well.

Students and their new leadership are absolutely right when they say that unless the constitution is amended, dictatorial tendencies will re-emerge. What we want to add is that amending the national constitution is eminently

Tarique Rahman must fully grasp the uniqueness of his opportunity and the complexity of his challenges. We request him to objectively see the existing party power concentration in his hands and create avenues for expression of alternative and even dissenting views within the party structure without any threat to the person or the group concerned. Arguments may be put forward that such a scope will create disciplinary issues. Yes, they may, but without it, the party will be a sterile institution devoid of creativity, vibrancy, and in time filled with sycophants.

From 1991, which marked the fall of Ershad and restoration of democracy, to 2024—a period of 33 years—we have had either the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) or the Awami League (AL) ruling the country, with two years of military-backed caretaker rule in 2007-2008. BNP ruled us for 10 years and a few months—one term in partnership with Jamaat—and AL ruled us for 21 years, the last 15 of which were uninterrupted, also with some partners who enjoyed ministerial positions but hardly any significant policy framing roles.

Today, BNP is the party that everyone is looking at, talking about,

party, which is highly centralised with all authorities concentrated in a single hand. As we have seen from experience—and BNP should, too—without intraparty democracy and accountability, it cannot deliver democracy and accountability in the governance process.

The reality is that the existing BNP party constitution makes the chairperson a repository of

Today, BNP is the party that everyone is looking at, talking about, and trying to understand better. History has opened doors for it that nobody expected so soon. In a free and fair election, BNP is most likely to emerge with the largest number of seats in parliament, not only for its wide acceptance but also for the massive rejection of its main rival, the Awami League.

unquestioned and unquestionable powers. Under Section 1, "Duties, Powers, and responsibilities of the Chair..." the document says, "As the chief officer of the party, the chairman shall control, supervise and coordinate all activities of the party and for that purpose shall have the authority over the National Council, National Standing Committee, National Executive Committee, Subject Committees and other Committees nominated by the chairman and shall do control, supervise and coordinate their functions." Section 4 says, "The Chairman may dissolve the National Executive Committee, the National Standing Committee... and other committees nominated by the chairman and reconstitute them..."

BNP's constitution gives all power to the chairperson, making him or her answerable to no one.

Seriously, can such a party run democratically? Do its values depict those of democracy? Can't there never be any dissent within? When such a party wins a majority in parliament, what will be the nature and functioning style of that government? It will totally be "top-down," and the top being only one person.

How will the parliament function when such a party commands majority? We know because we saw such a party in power, and we lived under its rule and suffered immensely. If there is no scope for a party activist ever to question a decision made by the party chief, and if the future of that person totally rests on the party boss, will anybody ever dare to dissent? Will such unchallenged powers not give rise to dictatorial mind set that will most likely find fruition in near future.

And if such a party wins majority in parliament and forms the government,

won't it be a one person government, a one person parliament, a one person everything? Again, we have seen it, lived under it, and suffered. Can the BNP ignore the widespread demand that we should eliminate all traces of such a possibility recurring? Is it wise for it to do so?

We commend Tarique Rahman and BNP for already showing some positive signs in this direction. I find his speeches sensible and mature. What he said on Wednesday about "seeking reforms and not revenge on his oppressors" is highly praiseworthy. He seems to have made the best use of his forced exile in the UK. I also express my appreciation for the use of language both by him and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. The humiliation and injustice inflicted on them by the Awami League and Sheikh Hasina personally could have easily triggered a very justifiable vilification of the latter. Both of them refrained from that and gave political discourse a new dignity and set an excellent precedent. Tarique Rahman's proposal of setting a two-term limit with further re-election prospect after a gap is better than what we have now. His openness to curtailment of PM's power and enhancement of that of the president is also welcome. The idea of an upper house is a refreshing change, but its membership should be proportionate, otherwise it will be a rubberstamp of the lower house preventing it from giving the government guidance.

However, all of the above changes will be mere cosmetic if the real power does not shift.

Here lies the strong logic for the posts of the PM, the party leader, and the leader of the House not being occupied by the same person. At least, the PM and the party leader must be separate. Running the party and running the government must be in separate hands. Such a system helps the growth of leadership, assists the PM to be exposed to other views, and alerts them to be sensitive to the party's thinking. Otherwise, it is a one person show that leads to massive misuse of power, which sometimes the over-empowered leader does not even know.

Tarique Rahman must fully grasp the uniqueness of his opportunity and the complexity of his challenges. We request him to objectively see the existing party power concentration in his hands and create avenues for expression of alternative and even dissenting views within the party structure without any threat to the person or the group concerned. Arguments may be put forward that such a scope will create disciplinary issues. Yes, they may, but without it, the party will be a sterile institution devoid of creativity, vibrancy, and in time filled with sycophants. We saw that happen to the Awami League leading to its detachment from the people. Sheikh Hasina not only destroyed government institutions, she also destroyed her party which had such a rich history and legacy.

BNP must learn from AL's mistakes. Tarique Rahman is making some timely decisions, and introducing intraparty democracy should be one of his goals.

A mirror needs no monument

The irony of India's lecture on minorities



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H. M. NAZMUL ALAM

It was one of those moments in subcontinental diplomacy where irony takes a drag from a *biri* and smirks across the table. When India slammed Bangladesh for expressing concern over the safety of Muslims in West Bengal following the Murshidabad riots, the news moved with the sound of a stainless steel pot being called black by a soot-covered kettle. Bangladesh's call for "full security" for minority Muslims in India was met with indignation from New Delhi. One might say India is in no position to dish out lectures on minority treatment, yet here we are.

The incident itself was a grim reminder of how quickly a secular society can be undone by identity politics. In Murshidabad, a district with a dense Muslim population, protests erupted over India's new Waqf legislation, a law passed by Lok Sabha and rubber stamped by Rajya Sabha earlier this month. Critics argue that the law erodes protections for Islamic charitable properties. The demonstrations, predictably labelled "violent," turned deadly. In a nation where dissent now rhymes with "anti-national," the crackdown was not long in coming. By April 12, three were dead, several injured, and Muslim-owned shops were set on fire overnight. Yet, it was Bangladesh's response that caused Delhi the most heartburn—not the deaths, not the discrimination.

What makes India's indignation especially rich is the continuing dehumanisation of its own Muslim citizens in recent years. Since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014, India has witnessed a frightening acceleration in communal rhetoric and policy. A report by the Washington-based India Hate Lab showed a 74 percent spike in hate speech incidents in 2024 compared to the previous

year, with a staggering 98.5 percent of them targeting Muslims. The majority of these hate-filled events unfolded in BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. In May alone, during the heated general election campaign, 269 hate speech incidents were recorded.

Despite what the Indian government may claim, this isn't the work of fringe elements or rogue sadhus. These provocations frequently come from the very top. In fact, top leaders of the current ruling party have been named among the most frequent purveyors of hate rhetoric. The BJP, through its political machinery, organised over 340 hate speech-related events in 2024 alone—a 580 percent increase from 2023. The speeches included calls for economic boycotts of Muslim businesses, threats of demolishing mosques, and warnings that Muslims must "prove their loyalty" to India or face consequences.

India's moral posturing becomes all the more risible when juxtaposed with data from Bangladesh. Nobody claims Bangladesh is a utopia for minorities—far from it. Attacks on Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist communities have occurred and must be condemned without hesitation. Between 2013 and 2021, Ain O Salish Kendra recorded 3,710 attacks on Hindus alone under Sheikh Hasina's rule. Yet, to say minorities are persecuted as a matter of state policy—as some Indian commentators suggest—is patently false.

Since the interim government came to power on August 8, 2024, there has been an unprecedented push to address minority grievances. In just the first six months, Bangladesh filed 88 cases linked to minority attacks and made 70 arrests. In a country where political instability is a feature, not a

bug, this represents a notable institutional shift.

Contrast this with the legal paralysis that follows attacks on Muslims in India. In Uttar Pradesh, three Muslim men were beaten to death in November 2024 for opposing an archaeological survey at the Shahi Jama Masjid, accused of being built over a Hindu temple. There were no meaningful convictions. Indian media outlets, ever alert

introduced as a criterion for citizenship, and Muslims were pointedly excluded. Or the National Register of Citizens (NRC) implemented in Assam, which left nearly 20 lakh people stateless, many of them Bangla-speaking Muslims. It's telling that "Bangladeshi" has become a slur in Indian political vernacular, thrown about by ministers and media alike.

The situation has become so toxic that even

the consulate was attacked. The Indian government did not urge restraint.

One wonders: is justice still blind, or does it now squint through saffron-tinted glasses?

The weaponisation of Bangladesh's internal affairs has become a staple of Indian electoral politics, especially in states like Assam, West Bengal, and Jharkhand. The BJP routinely paints Bangladeshis as infiltrators—vote-stealing, job grabbing "aliens"—who must be expelled to preserve India's mythical purity. Ironically, this very narrative is now being turned on its head with the claim that Bangladeshi miscreants were behind the violence in Murshidabad. No evidence has been offered. No investigation concluded. Just the usual scapegoating, now export-grade.

Meanwhile, the relationship between the two neighbouring countries has frayed considerably since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. India has grown wary of the new political players in Dhaka, especially those student leaders who led the uprising and are perceived as less pliant than their predecessors. On the Bangladeshi street, the sentiment towards India has turned from indifferent to frosty.

Perhaps it's time for both countries to recalibrate their approach to minority rights—not through sanctimonious statements, but through joint action. A regional commission on communal harmony could be a starting point, composed of independent observers, human rights experts, and media watchdogs. It could publish transparent, verifiable data on communal incidents and recommend policy changes on both sides.

For the long haul, interfaith youth exchanges, joint cultural festivals, and collaborative journalism can serve as antidotes to the poison being peddled by populist media and politicians. If hate can travel across borders, perhaps so can empathy.

Until then, India would do well to hold the mirror a little longer before pointing fingers. Because when it comes to minority rights, Bangladesh may be limping, but India is crawling backwards with a blindfold and a torch.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

to cows and cricket, remained strangely silent.

Even the act of existing has become perilous for Indian Muslims. From 2010 to 2017, cow vigilante violence claimed the lives of 28 people, 24 of them Muslims. Another 124 were injured. The 2019 elections saw a spike, and the 2024 elections did not disappoint either. Nine more Muslims were lynched by mobs, accused of transporting beef or stealing cows. These incidents are not spontaneous combustion of communal angst; they are meticulously orchestrated theatre for electoral dividends.

Consider the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed in 2019. For the first time in India's legislative history, religion was

slums in Ghaziabad—populated by Indian Muslims—were vandalised in late 2024 by the Hindu Raksha Dal. Why? Because some residents "looked like Bangladeshis." The ghost of Partition is a permanent tenant in India's nationalist consciousness, haunting every mosque and madrasa.

And yet, when Bangladesh moves to arrest a monk—Chinmoy Das—for allegedly inciting violence and engaging in anti-state activities, Indian media erupts in collective outrage. Das's followers allegedly murdered a Muslim government lawyer in Chattogram. But what was the narrative in India? That Das had been "persecuted." Protests were staged outside Bangladeshi embassies. In Agartala,

Is economics a science?

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NAWSHAD AHMED

Economics is a study of meeting unlimited wants of human beings with limited resources. Lionel Robbins, a well-known economist, defined economics as the science which studies human behaviour as a relationship between given ends (unlimited wants) and scarce means (limited resources) that have alternative uses. Another prominent economist, Alfred Marshall believed that economics deals with individual and social actions for the attainment of material requisites of wellbeing.

Internationally acclaimed economists like Adam Smith, JS Mill and Milton Friedman influenced economic thinking through scientific enquiry and advocated for free markets, and using both theoretical reasoning and actual policy-making, they proved it to be the best model for human prosperity. While building theories, they assumed that consumers are rational actors working for maximising happiness and well-being. Mill's work was more modern in outlook. He advocated for addressing social issues and establishing women's rights since economic activities cannot alone establish a just society.

Whether economics is a science, a social science, a behavioural science or an art depends on the approach taken by economists to empirically analyse different economic phenomena and test models to recommend and draw conclusions based on their analysis. Paul A Samuelson, an influential economist believed that economics is not an exact science, but a combination of art and science. In fact, many scientific research have been conducted in areas such as consumer behaviour, financial market, performance of industries, international trade, exchange rate, employment, taxation, and economic growth and development. And these in depth economic analyses, research and studies help governments make informed and efficient policy decisions.

During the latter half of the 19th century, economic theories from 18th and 19th centuries were empirically tested using mathematical tools. Most of these theories used quantitative methods of analysis which have great power of predictability and thus have scientific validity. One of the main areas of study was determining price level through the interaction of demand and supply of

various commodities. It is a critical area of research since price governs the allocation of resources for goods and services production. Using elaborate mathematical models, economists predict future demand and suggest where producers should invest in the future. The validity of the prediction depends on availability of sound data, accurate information and reasonable assumptions. Paul Krugman feels that economics is indeed

Globally, economists mostly focus on helping more than a billion poor people lift themselves out of extreme poverty and boosting the incomes of the poorest 40 percent of the people in developing countries. To do that, the government needs to find inclusive economic growth strategies that help all segments of society to be part of the market mechanism.

characterised by scientific methods. Another prominent economist, Raj Chetty believes that economics in some way is a scientific field as many economists test theories using empirical research methods.

The use of correct methodology and quantitative techniques is very important for a discipline to be considered a science. In most areas of economics, such methodologies

and techniques have been applied for many decades, which makes economics a science. In fact, economists must possess a thorough understanding of mathematics, statistics and human behaviour to establish new economic theories or re-examine existing ones.

Both economists and non-economists attack ideological choices to classify economists either as free-market practitioners or as those who pursue state control mechanisms. Two influential economists, Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Krugman believe that the distinction between free market and state control is not so distinct. The difference is more complicated in the real world. Both these ideological thoughts are present in all the economies in the world. A comprehensive understanding of the functioning of an economy is essential for striking a right balance between the two ideological approaches in policy decisions, which makes economics more of an art rather than a science.

Strong economic growth in developing countries is believed to be crucial for poverty reduction. Globally, economists mostly focus on helping more than a billion poor people lift themselves out of extreme poverty and boosting the incomes of the poorest 40 percent of the people in developing countries. To do that, the government needs to find inclusive economic growth strategies that help all segments of society to be part of the market mechanism. Ninety percent of all jobs in developing countries are created by the private sector. If we are to help the poor and vulnerable, we need the private sector to flourish, by attracting private sector investment which creates jobs.

Whether economists try to prove it as part of their scientific endeavour or not, economic and social realities would dictate that policies in developing economies need to first ensure that growth is inclusive; second, nations include women, ethnically backward people, religious minorities, poor children and their families in social and economic policies; and third, invest in quality education and training, health and environmental protection. All these will pay off in a major way to improve people's lives, which will contribute directly and indirectly to economic growth with equity. However, economics is not self-fulfilling despite its numerous sound theories, which can be used for policymaking. This is because politicians ultimately implement the economic policies. If they do not see political gains in the policies, they may not always use economists' proposals.

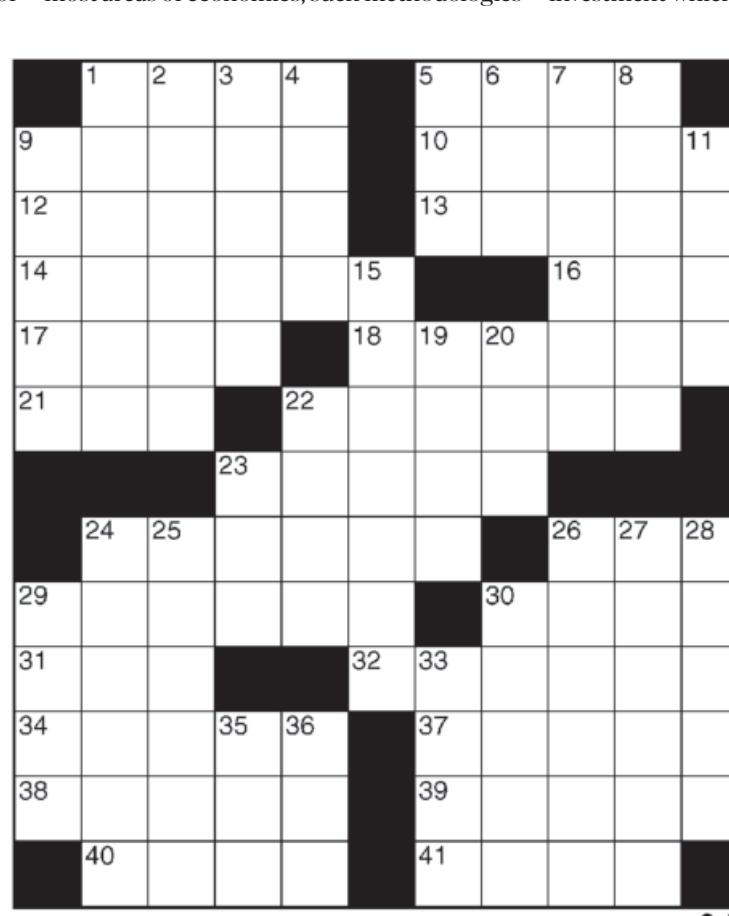
A wide range of topics are taught in economics departments in universities around the world including Bangladesh. These may range from consumer behaviour, inflation, and unemployment, to human capital development, statistical methods and mathematical modelling and research methodology. However, not all the universities in Bangladesh prepare students adequately with practical knowledge so that they can compete in the job market effectively. The students should be taught practical applications along with economic theories. For this, a good part of their teaching-learning should be arranged in collaboration with commercial banks, government departments, development partners, NGOs etc, so that the students can acquire practical knowledge.

CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	29	Coloring need	8	Out of bed
1 Drained of color	30	Surrounded by	9	Ready for bed
5 Mother of Castor and	31	Singer Phair	11	Ship pole
Pollux	32	Looking intently	15	Pasture activity
9 Used a stopwatch	34	Leaves out	19	Pub brews
10 Flies high	37	Yield slightly	20	Performed
12 Furious	38	Choir member	22	Painter Joan
13 Open, as a jacket	39	Longings	23	Tofu base
14 Tearing down	40	Gets older	24	Black Sea peninsula
16 "Patience — virtue"	41	Golf pegs	25	Taking it easy
17 School near Windsor	DOWN		26	Wee amount
18 Gilda of "SNL"	1	Buccaneer	27	Door parts
21 Bear's lair	2	Warrior woman	28	Borders
22 Libel	3	Admit	29	Artery problem
23 Measured	4	Genesis spot	30	Blue hue
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Frankenstein"	6	Long, long time	35	Sock part
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TUESDAY'S ANSWERS

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6-5

REFORM REVIEW

Reviewing the proposed reforms to the CIVIL PROCEDURAL LAW

Previously, the decree-holders were required to apply for the execution of the decree separately after getting the decree in their favour. However, by insertion of Rule 104 of Order XXI, decree-holders will no longer be required to bring a separate proceeding for decree execution. The mode of execution of the decree for the payment of money will see a paradigm shift with the new Rule 30A under Order XXI.

SHADAB BIN ASHRAF and NADIA ISLAM NODY

Widely perceived as a colonial relic, the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 (CPC) has been criticised and held liable for procedural impediments and excessive delays in the administration of justice. This piece aims to discuss the proposed changes to be brought to the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance 2025. First, under section 57 of this Code, the government was able to fix monthly subsistence allowance for the judgment-debtors on the basis of rank, race, and nationality. This provision has been repealed by the upcoming Amendment due to its discriminatory element.

Second, for modernising the modes of summons delivery, a significant change is introduced in Order V Rule 9 (3) that discusses the delivery or transmission of summons to the defendant in a civil litigation. Previously, the provision mentioned that on the application of the plaintiff, the Court may direct the summons to be served by means of transmission of documents through fax or email, in addition to the serving of a physical summons as per sub-rule 1. The proposed Ordinance adds other methods such as "Short Message Service, Voice Calls, Instant Messaging Services" as the methods for delivering or transmitting

summons. The new Ordinance also requires the insertion of phone number, national identity card number (NID), and email address (optional) of the plaintiff and defendant while filing a plaint for civil suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Code.

To make the law time-efficient, section 11 of the proposed Ordinance inserted a new proviso in the Order IX Rule 13. This rule previously allowed the defendant to apply for setting aside an ex parte decree against him for non-appearance on the fixed date in the court. However, the new proviso of the Ordinance requires not to set aside an ex parte decree more than once at the instance of the same defendant. Furthermore, section 12 of the proposed Ordinance brings changes to Order XVII of the Code, which deals with the adjournment of the hearing of a suit. Previously, under Order XVII Rule 1(3), the Court had the power to grant a maximum of 6 adjournments in a suit at the instance of either party before a peremptory hearing. The new Amendment reduced the power by only allowing the court to grant a maximum of four adjournments. Moreover, to reduce procedural hurdles and the sufferings of the parties to the suit, parties are no longer required to be produced in the examination-

in-chief as part of oral submission. Parties will produce their pleadings by

submitting a statement of their pleadings by affidavit, along with the documents upon which they rely. This provision will be inserted in the Code by Rule 4A in Order XVIII.

Next, previously, the decree-holders were required to apply for the execution of the decree separately after getting the decree in their favour. However, by insertion of Rule 104 of Order XXI, decree-holders will no longer be required to bring a separate proceeding for decree execution. The mode of execution of the decree for the payment of money will see a paradigm shift with the new Rule 30A under Order XXI.

Lastly, some minor changes were introduced to Order XLI of the Code. In Rule 21 of the Order, a proviso was added as "Provided that no appeal shall be re-heard more than once under this rule." In the marginal note of Rule 24 of the same Order, the term "may" is substituted by "shall".

Indeed, our century-old colonial-era CPC required reforms for a long time. With time, it will become clearer how effective the changes are and what further changes are required.

The writers are lecturer in law, Bangladesh Army International University of Science and Technology.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Proposed CPC reforms and other countries

TAHSINA ZAMAN

One of the most admirable features of the proposed amendments lies in the procedural efficiency. Replacing the traditional in-person oral testimony of plaintiffs and defendants with affidavit-based written statements, followed by cross-examination, is not merely a technical but a strategic shift. This model could drastically reduce courtroom hours, cut litigation delays, and relieve judges from prolonged hearings. For litigants who wait for years, even decades, this efficiency is a beacon of hope.

From a global perspective, this method is not unprecedented. Countries such as India, and several states of the United States have long employed affidavits in civil proceedings, particularly in pre-trial motions and evidentiary hearings. In India, the Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Act of 2002 also introduced affidavit-based evidence in place of oral testimony to expedite trials under Order XVIII Rule 4. Studies from Indian trial courts

witness submissions reduced the average trial length, especially in urban jurisdictions. Similarly, in the UK, written witness statements are standard practice in civil courts under the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR 1998). These reforms contributed to the UK civil courts clearing backlog relatively faster within five years of implementation.

While the amendment replaces oral examination-in-chief with affidavits, it still retains in-person cross-examination in court. This means judges will have the opportunity to observe the parties' behaviour, demeanour, tone, and facial expressions—critical elements that often influence the outcome of trials. Thus, by striking a balance between the efficiency of written statements and the nuanced observations of human expressions, the amendment ensures that the complexities of human nature in a dispute are not reduced to mere paper submissions.

Similarly, the inclusion of digital tools such as online case resolution, summons via phone call, SMS or WhatsApp, and the removal of separate execution suits reflects a forward-looking approach. In countries such as Estonia, where over 95% of government and judicial services are digital, the average case disposal time is amongst the fastest in Europe. Digital communication not only saves time but democratises access to justice, especially for citizens in remote or underserved areas.

In conclusion, the amendment to the CPC represents a bold and timely stride toward resolving the chronic backlog that has long paralysed Bangladesh's civil justice system. If implemented with foresight, supported by digital infrastructure, and balanced with human sensitivity, this reform could become a landmark.

The writer is a law graduate from Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).

REFORM ANALYSIS

Critical analysis of 'digital summons'

Summons served through SMS, voice calls, or IMS— all suffer from a lack of transparency. For example, in the case of SMS, the sender does not get a 'read receipts' to know if the summons has even been received by the defendant. Summons if served through automated voice calls or IMS will suffer from the same defect as the mode of communication is one-way.

Summons if served through automated voice calls or IMS will suffer from the same defect as the mode of communication is one-way.

KHALID KHAN

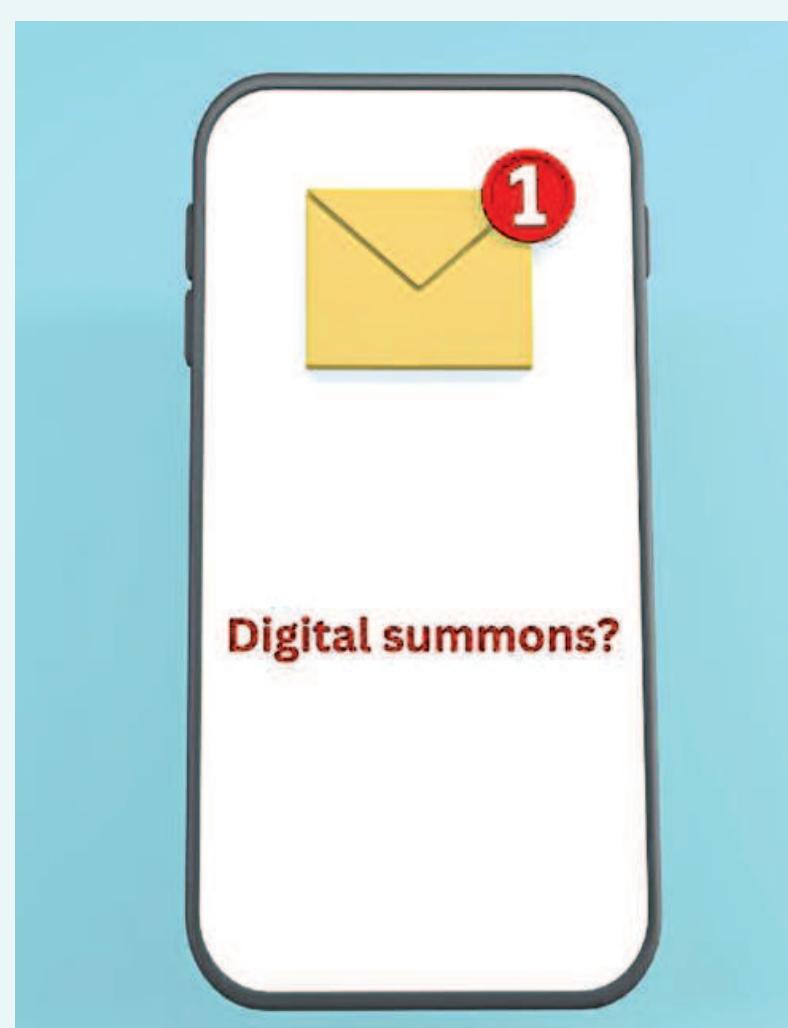
An amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 (CPC) has recently been approved in principle to digitise the judiciary and rectify procedural defects. Of all the changes, the issuance of summons via short message services, voice calls, Instant Messaging Services (IMS) is perhaps the most significant change.

It needs to be noted that the issuance of summons through digital means of communication was, to some extent, already included in the Code by the 2012 amendment. Order V Rule 9, sub-rule 3 allowed the Court, on the application of the plaintiff, to direct summons to be served by means of transmission of documents through 'fax message' or 'email' by the plaintiff at his/her own cost. Thus, the present amendment only adds some other convenient means of communication to the older ones.

However, the proposed amendment does not make SMS, voice calls, or IMS a substitute for the physical service of summons, rather, makes those means supplementary to the physical means. Some are criticising the Amendment for not completely replacing the older system with the digital system. However, in my opinion, the traditional system cannot be totally replaced. It may seem, at first glance, logical to completely replace the physical system with the digital ones, since we are living in the digital age and most people have, at least, access to digital devices. However, digital service of summons, although more convenient and efficient, comes with certain fatal defects vitiating the due process of law.

In case of physical service of summons, the serving officer attains the signature of the person to whom the summons has been delivered or tendered to as an acknowledgement of receipt of the summons (Order V Rule 16). The serving officer also endorses the time when and the manner in which the summons was served, and the name and address of the person identifying the person served and witnessing the delivery or tender of the summons (Order V Rule 18). This works as a confirmation that the summons has been duly served and curbs the probability of fraud or suppression of summons.

On the contrary, summons served through SMS, voice calls, or IMS— all suffer from a lack of transparency. For example, in the case of SMS, the sender does not get a 'read receipts' to know if the summons has even been received by the defendant. Summons if served through automated voice calls or IMS will suffer from the same defect as the mode of communication is one-way. Unlike the physical service of summons, the recipient cannot sign the summons to acknowledge receipt. There is no person who identifies and witnesses the delivery of summons in case of digital service, keeping the gate open for abuse of the process. We need to also remember that SMS, voice calls, or IMS, if successfully sent, only confirm that the summons has reached the device it is intended to reach. But it does not confirm that the defendant has been duly served with the summons. Because the person before the device may not be the same as the defendant, and it is the defendant alone (or his agent), not the device, upon whom the law mandates



that the summons be served. Hence, it keeps uncertainty if the 'right' defendant or his agent has received it. This shows why it is still important to have the traditional means of sending summons in addition to the new system.

However, there is a fair criticism to this provision that I would like to pose and it is relating to lack of

authentication of the summons when it is served via SMS and voice call. The older amendment (2012), by allowing summons to be served through fax or email 'by transmission of documents', provided better means to ensure that the notice is authentically issued and served by the Court. It is because Order V Rule 10 categorically states that summons shall be served with a copy signed by the Judge or such officer as he/she appoints in this behalf and sealed with the seal of the Court. When the document itself, containing the sign and seal of the Court, is transferred through fax or email, it assures the defendant of the document's authenticity, which is important to prevent abuse of the process.

But the draft amendment is supposed to substitute the phrase 'transmission of documents through' with 'Short Message Services, Voice Calls, Instant Messaging Services', which is likely to adversely affect the authentication provided by law. None of the newly added services mentioned in the amendment, except for IMS, allow for transmission of the document itself. It will also not be obligatory to send the document via fax or email according to the substituted words of the new amendment. We need to remember that the concept of serving summons is part of the principles of natural justice. Hence, if the service of summons is defective, it will prejudicially affect the opposite party's right to appear before the court, defend themselves, and may vitiate the whole proceeding.

The writer is intern at Law & Our Rights, The Daily Star.



Selectors 'hoping' Bijoy card works this time

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Anamul Haque Bijoy's name resurfacing in the national squad often sparks mixed reactions. Since his Test debut back in 2013, the opener has appeared in just five Test matches over a span of 12 years, managing an average of only 10. It's no surprise, then, that each return raises more eyebrows than optimism.

The reaction may seem odd given Bijoy's enviable domestic record, yet his repeated chances across formats often feel like squandered opportunities or mismatches with the team plans.

His most recent outing in national colours came against Sri Lanka in Chattogram last year. Prior to that, he had earned a spot in the ODI side following a prolific Dhaka Premier League (DPL) season, but could not cement his place. After being dropped following India's 2022 tour of Bangladesh, he briefly returned for a dead-rubber clash in Asia Cup 2023 – then vanished from the radar again.

His Test career has been even more fragmented. His last four innings – scores of 9, 0, 23, and 4 against the West Indies played between 2014 to 2022 – did little to help his case. So why bring

him back now?

This year's DPL certainly has the answer. Bijoy has piled up nearly 900 runs, scoring back-to-back hundreds to reignite selectors' interest. With Bangladesh's top-order woes persisting, the door creaked open – and Bijoy walked through it once more.

He had also toured Pakistan with the A team during the senior side's successful Test campaign last year. The idea, according to selectors, was to groom players who might be needed as backups.

"The process that anyone needs to be under in the national side, Bijoy was within that process," chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu told The Daily Star.

Last National Cricket League (NCL), Bijoy scored 700 runs with six fifties and a ton, averaging over 50. Selectors believe it is a "new beginning" for the 32-year-old opener.

"It's something like the last window – if he gets a chance now, he may be able to widen that window of opportunity. We also needed to protect our number three, four and five, and his ball selection or leaving deliveries – he has that skill."

The circumstances in which Bijoy has been pushed in and out of the national

fold have been largely reactionary – bordering on impulsive. Previously, strong red-ball performances in domestic cricket earned him call-ups for white-ball series. Now, in a twist of irony, it's his white-ball form that has handed him a Test recall.

"Bijoy had not done badly in the NCL but the thing where we lack, especially in temperament, he is in good shape – despite DPL being a different format.

"We felt that, whether white-ball or red-ball [format], when someone has occupied the crease for the longest, he is the most deserving candidate."

It is as if the selectors have kept the 'Bijoy card' tucked away as a convenient stop-gap solution – a move driven more by need than by belief, and with little patience shown for the right-hander.

"It's true, when he got small windows of opportunity, he has not been able to become a strong contender [for the national side], but we are hoping for the best," Lipu concluded.

While his return may look like a one-off decision, there are whispers that Bijoy could be included in the upcoming A team tour – a sign that the selectors are willing to give this chapter a few more pages.

SAFF C'ship pushed to 2026

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are set to miss out on a few international matches this year following the postponement of the next SAFF Championship to 2026.

The South Asian Football Federation's secretariat announced the decision yesterday, citing feedback from member associations and SportFive – the tournament's rights holder – that more time and preparation were required to ensure the competition's 15th edition could be held smoothly in Sri Lanka.

The regional event, originally scheduled to take place in Colombo from 22 June to 5 July, involves seven nations: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh could have played two to three group-stage matches, and potentially two more in the semifinals and final. In the previous edition held in Bengaluru in 2023, they reached the last-four stage. Currently, the charges of Javier Cabrera are competing in the ongoing AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers. They have already played one match against India and are scheduled to play four more – against Singapore, Hong Kong, and India – through to the end of December.

Of the four FIFA international windows available in 2025, Bangladesh will be active in three. However, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is now considering whether to utilise the September window to compensate for the missed SAFF fixtures.

This could also serve as preparation for the October window, during which Bangladesh will face Hong Kong twice in the Asian Games Qualifiers.

SHORT CORNER



Nepal women's kabaddi team handed a 21-17 defeat to the visiting Bangladesh side in Kathmandu yesterday, wrapping up the five-match series 3-1 with a game in hand.

PHOTO: BKF

Hridoy to miss next DPL match as 'previous rules reinstated'

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) cricket operations chairman and newly appointed convener of the CCDM technical committee, Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, confirmed yesterday that Mohammedan Sporting Club captain Towhid Hridoy will be suspended for his team's upcoming Dhaka Premier League (DPL) match against Gazi Group on April 26. Speaking on the matter, Fahim acknowledged the mishandling, saying, "I think we went outside of the process."

18000-plus tickets allocated for Hamza's first home appearance

As many as 18,300 tickets will be available for fans as excitement builds for Bangladesh's AFC Asian Cup Qualifier against Singapore on June 10 – a match that could see Sheffied United midfielder Hamza Choudhury make his first home appearance in national colours at the newly renovated National Stadium.

**Read full stories on The Daily Star website.

Century-chasing Mushy in a battle of his own

BISHWAJIT ROY

Stalwart Mushfiqur Rahim is staring at a rare feat – he is en route to becoming the first Bangladeshi with 100 Tests under his belt.

For a team that have played 151 Tests, Mushfiqur earning 95 Test caps speaks volumes of the veteran's testament and longevity, especially considering that the next in line in this regard is Shakib Al Hasan, who has featured in 71 Tests.

At a time when Bangladesh were supposed to rely on Mushfiqur's experience to guide the side, the batter himself is struggling to prove his worth in the middle order. It even casts doubt over the 37-year-old's aim of reaching the exceptional feat.

Bar any drastic change, Mushfiqur, the only Bangladeshi with three double tons in the format, will most probably reach the desired three figures.

The fear?

By the time Mushfiqur reaches 100 Tests, will the stalwart end up seeing questions over his inclusion in the team pile up even more than it already has, especially after his dull outing in the recently concluded first Test against Zimbabwe in Sylhet?

Bangladesh's three-wicket defeat against Zimbabwe at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday not only defied expectations but also exposed lingering weaknesses in the team's batting setup.

Chief among these was the overwhelming performance of the batting unit – a recurring problem that

once again proved costly. While several players underperformed, it is the prolonged dip in form of veteran Mushfiqur [who has 6015 Test runs at an average of 37.36] that has become the most pressing concern.

Despite Zimbabwe chasing down a modest target, Bangladesh failed to capitalise on key moments, largely due to a brittle middle order and lack of partnerships. Mushfiqur's scores – 4 and 4 – were emblematic of a broader trend.

Over his last seven international appearances across formats, he has managed only 13 runs, a statistic that clearly portrays his

during training. Of course, his batting is important. I am not thinking about his milestone or achievements from the past, I don't think he is either. I hope, with one match remaining, he will make a comeback. I am not giving up hope. He has been in poor form in the past and made comebacks."

While captain Shanto acknowledged Mushfiqur's value in leadership and preparation – citing his role in planning and mentoring – the reality remains that contributions off the field cannot compensate for consistent failure with the bat, particularly in a

current struggle to adapt to the demands of top level cricket.

Mushfiqur, who retired from T20Is and ODIs earlier, was expected to anchor the Test batting lineup and offer stability. However, since his 191 against Pakistan in Rawalpindi last August, he has failed to cross 40 in 12 Test innings – a stretch that puts significant pressure on both his individual place and the team's overall batting strategy.

Despite the numbers, Mushfiqur found a supporter in captain Najmul Hossain Shanto. "He is an experienced cricketer," Shanto said during post-match briefing.

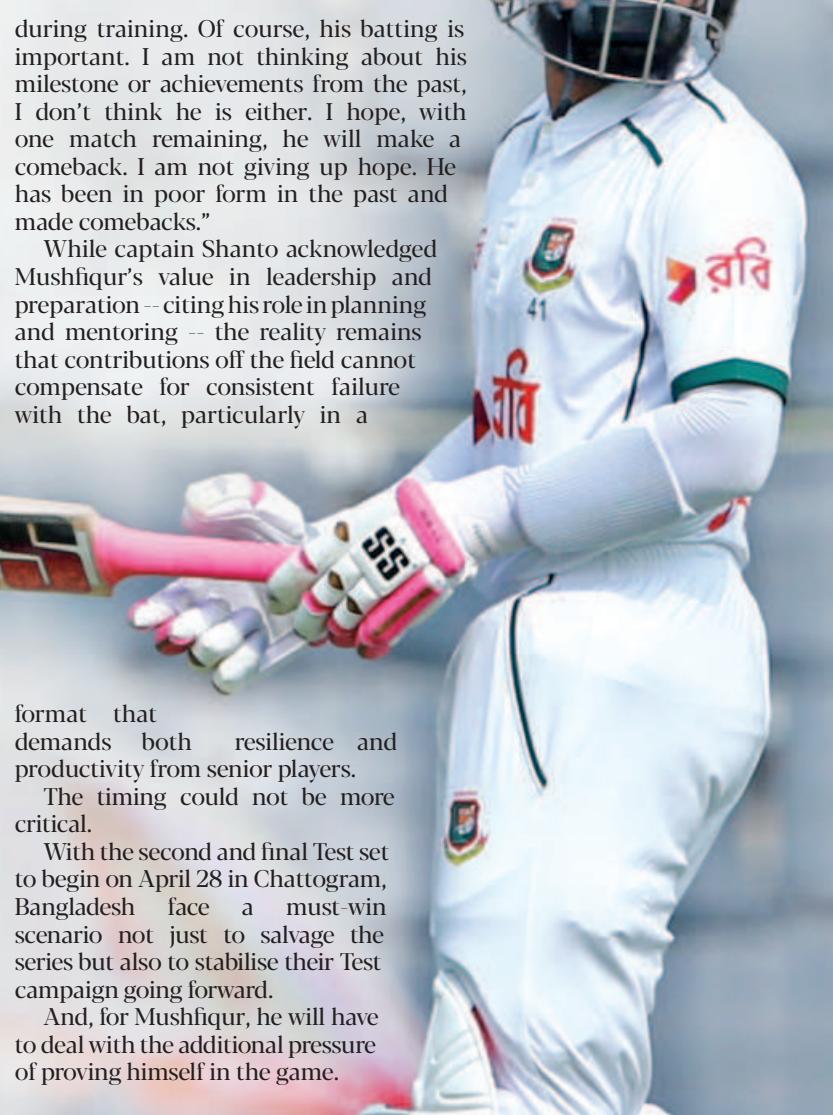
"He helps the batters. He talks a lot

format that demands both resilience and productivity from senior players.

The timing could not be more critical.

With the second and final Test set to begin on April 28 in Chattogram, Bangladesh face a must-win scenario not just to salvage the series but also to stabilise their Test campaign going forward.

And, for Mushfiqur, he will have to deal with the additional pressure of proving himself in the game.



Liverpool on brink of title after Arsenal held

AGENCIES

Liverpool are on the brink of winning the Premier League title after Arsenal were held to a 2-2 draw by Crystal Palace on Wednesday.

Arne Slot's side were watching in anticipation of an Arsenal defeat that would have secured Liverpool's record-equalling 20th English title.

They didn't get their wish to start the party just yet, but Liverpool look certain to lift the trophy for the first time since 2020 after Jean-Philippe Mateta's late equaliser for Palace at the Emirates Stadium.

The draw left second-placed Arsenal on 67 points with four games remaining, meaning they can only match the 79 of Liverpool who still have five games to play.

Had Arsenal lost, Liverpool would have won the title on Wednesday but they can now seal it with one point against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield on Sunday.

Jakub Kiwior put the Gunners ahead early on. It was another success for Arsenal's set-piece coach Nicolas Jover as they scored from a well-worked dead ball routine for a Premier League

leading 16th time this season.

Martin Odegaard whipped a free-kick into the Palace area and Kiwior was left completely unmarked to power his header past Dean Henderson from 12 yards.

But Eberechi Eze equalised for Palace.

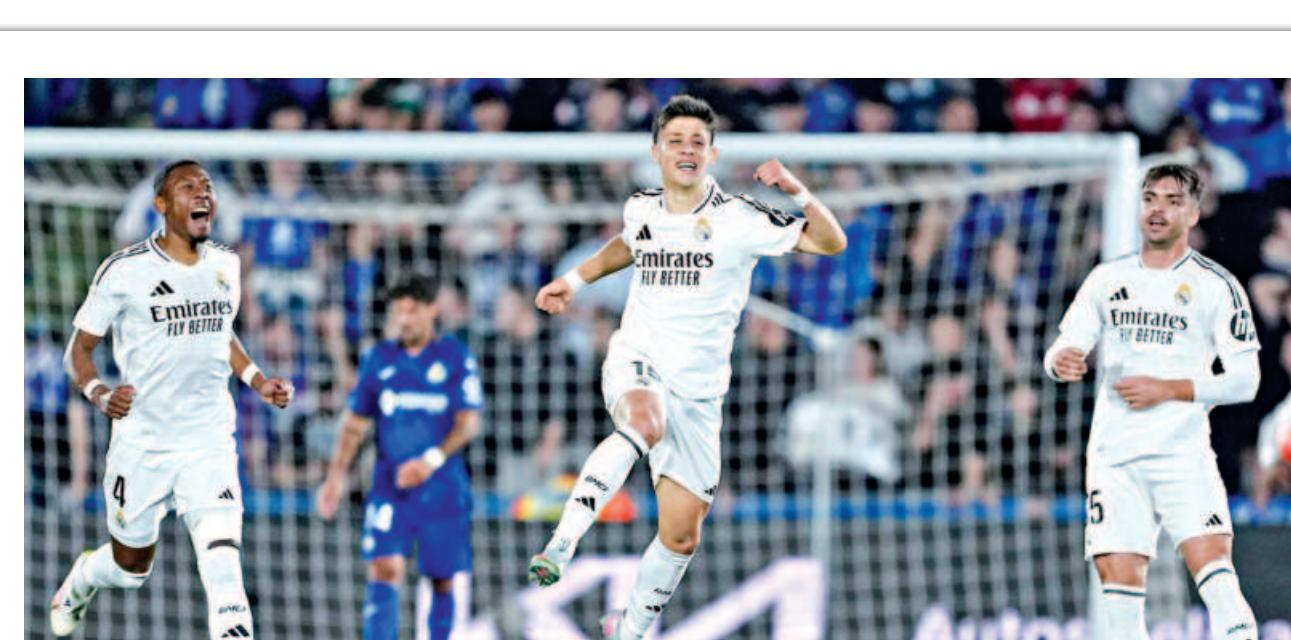
Leandro Trossard restored Arsenal's advantage before half-time, only for Mateta to come off the bench and bag a sublime leveller with seven minutes left.

Arsenal had delayed Liverpool's celebrations by routing Ipswich 4-0 on Sunday when a defeat for the Gunners and a Reds win over Leicester would have ended the title race.

Mikel Arteta's team again kept Liverpool waiting a few days longer, but their real focus was already on Tuesday's Champions League clash with PSG.

Arteta had insisted he would not rest his stars against Palace with a view to protecting them for the PSG showdown.

But he opted to leave Bukayo Saka on the bench after the England winger was left limping by a foul from Ipswich's Leif Davis last weekend, with Mikel Merino and Ben White not fit to feature.



Real Madrid's Arda Turan celebrates scoring their only goal with teammates David Alaba and Raul Asencio in a nervy 1-0 LaLiga win at Getafe on Wednesday. Turan's strike from outside the box was enough for Real to keep their title hopes alive as they remain second in the table with 72 points in 33 matches, four points behind leaders Barcelona with five matches remaining. However, Real, who are already out of the Champions League, suffered setbacks following the game as midfielder Eduardo Camavinga was ruled out for the rest of the season due to a groin injury he suffered in yesterday's game. The injury is a big blow to the Madrid side ahead of the Copa del Rey final against Barcelona on Saturday, with Kylian Mbappe, Ferland Mendy, and David Alaba also injury doubts.

PHOTO: REAL MADRID

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EC will carry out its own reforms: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said reforms that are urgent before the next election and within the Election Commission's jurisdiction will be implemented by the EC itself.

He said this while talking to reporters following a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle at the EC.

"Some reforms, which are beyond the Election Commission's control and involve political issues, will be addressed through the National Consensus Commission."

The CEC added that the meeting discussed preparations for the 13th national election and to what extent the EC will be able to implement the recommendations of the Electoral Reform Commission.

On March 17, the EC objected to 10 key reform proposals, including those on the separate authority



Farmhands remove defective grains from a pile of harvested Boro paddy using the traditional winnowing method -- tossing the grains into the wind. With the looming threat of rain, farmers are accelerating harvest and post-harvest activities to protect their yields. The photo was taken in West Bilpabla area in Khulna recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



"Some reforms, which are beyond the Election Commission's control and involve political issues, will be addressed through the National Consensus Commission."

CEC AMM Nasir Uddin

for delimitation of constituencies, the timing of local government polls and the national election, and probes against election commissioners.

In a letter to Prof Ali Riaz, co-chairman of National Consensus Commission, the EC raised the objection to the Electoral Reform Commission's proposal on authorising a parliamentary committee to investigate failures of election commissioners.

Additionally, the EC opposed the proposed Election

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Pakistan FM postpones Dhaka trip

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has postponed his scheduled visit to Bangladesh on April 27-28.

"Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan is unable to undertake the visit to Bangladesh on 27-28 April 2025," said

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

AFP, Kyiv

Donald Trump yesterday called on Vladimir Putin to halt attacks on Ukraine, in a rare rebuke of the Russian leader after Moscow fired a barrage of missiles and drones at Kyiv, killing at least 10 in the deadliest attack on the capital in months.

The direct appeal to Putin came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged his allies to put Russia under more pressure to halt its invasion.



The Ukrainian leader cut short a trip to South Africa to deal with the aftermath of the deadly strikes, the latest in a wave of large-scale Russian aerial attacks that have killed dozens of civilians.

"I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV," Trump said on social media.

"Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP!" he said. "Let's get the Peace Deal DONE!"

Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff is due in Russia

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Vladimir, STOP!

Trump tells Putin after a 'massive' Russian missile attack on Kyiv kills at least 10, injures more than 90

People must get back their voting rights
Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has urged party leaders and activists to restore people's voting rights at any cost, saying that the sacrifices made over the past 15 years must not be allowed to go in vain.

"Voting rights must be established in Bangladesh. Through the establishment of democracy and voting rights, we must ensure the economic freedom of the people," said Tarique.

He made the remarks while virtually addressing training workshops for party activists on its 31-point proposals for state reform,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Asif apologises for his father's contractor's licence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, adviser to the LGRD and sports ministries, has issued a public apology after it was revealed that his father had obtained a contractor's licence.

He made the apology on his



SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

PHANTOM OF THE SEA ... A leopard eel, also known as honeycomb moray or "chitah bagh machi" in Bangladesh, was recently spotted off Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal -- a rare sighting, as little is known about their presence here. With their black-and-white patterned bodies, these eels glide through coral reefs like living art. Despite their sharp teeth and fierce look, they're shy hunters, hiding in crevices and coming out at night to catch fish and crustaceans. Their constant jaw movement, often mistaken as aggression, is simply how they breathe. Growing up to 10 feet long, they're popular among divers but best admired from a distance. In the reef's quiet corners, the leopard eel is a beautiful reminder of the wild beneath the waves.

Ensure transparency to regain public trust

Experts tell doctors about engagements with pharmas, diagnostic centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors must ensure transparency in their engagements with pharmaceutical companies and diagnostic centres to regain public trust and restore the image of the profession, senior physicians and officials said yesterday.

They stressed that beyond legal safeguards, genuine public confidence is essential for doctors' safety, and that the healthcare system must remain free from politicisation for the greater good.

The remarks were made during a discussion held to mark Doctors' Week at Bangladesh Medical University (BMU), organised by 11 doctors' associations.

BMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Shahinul Alam said that politicisation remains a major challenge within the country's healthcare system, warning that the sector will continue to lag behind unless politics is kept at bay.

He added that doctors must align their own demands with those of the public so that citizens will advocate on their behalf, noting that physicians are often unfairly blamed for systemic failures.

"We won't be able to show our faces to society unless we strengthen

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Meghna Alam denied bail in extortion case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court rejected the bail petition of model and Miss Bangladesh Foundation Chairperson Meghna Alam in an extortion case yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Masuma Rahman turned down the plea, filed by Barrister Sadman Sakib on behalf of Meghna, upon hearing arguments from both sides.

In the petition, lawyer Sadman sought bail on the grounds that no specific allegation was brought against Meghna.

She was implicated in the case filed with Dhamondi Police Station for "harassment", argued her lawyer, adding that as a woman, she should be granted bail.

The prosecution opposed the petition, saying she should not be granted bail because the charges

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



যে আকাশে নিয়ে ছাতা-জনতাৰ গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ হয়েছে তাৰ গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ঘটনাহৰ চেতুৱাৰ বন্দৰৰ সব কাৰ্যকৰণে। সেৱাৰ কাৰ্যকৰণে আসেছে গতি। ভেঙে দেওয়া হয়েছে বন্দৰৰ ধীৰে গতে ওঠা সব সিভিকেট। কিন্তু এসেছে শৃঙ্খলা, নিশ্চিত হয়েছে বছতা ও জৰাবদিহিতা। অংশীভূতদেৱে অংশমাহণে বৈম্য সলিয়ে বন্দৰৰ হয়ে উঠেছে সভিকাৰেৰ জনবাকিৰ প্রতিষ্ঠান।

মাতাবাৰড়ি গভীৰ সমুদ্ৰবন্দৰ নিৰ্মাণে চুকি হয়েছে চলতি মাসে।

বে টাইনালোৱে তিপিপি সৰকাৰি অনুমোদন পেয়েছে এবং বিশ্ব বালকেৰ সাথে অন্তৰ্ভুক্তি সম্পূৰ্ণ হয়েছে। সহজেই কুল হৰে প্রকল্পৰ মাঠপৰ্যায়ৰ কাজ।

বন্দৰৰ ভূবিয়াৎ সম্পত্তি ও কাৰ্যকৰিতা অব্যাহত রাখতে জাইকাৰ সহযোগিতা পোর্ট স্ট্রাটেজি প্ৰযোজনৰ কাৰ্যকৰণ হয়েছে।

তদোগ নেওয়া হয়েছে পেট সিলেক্ট ইণ্ডিজ, ই-গেমেট, ওয়ান স্টপ সার্ভিস চলু ও টারিক পুনৰ্বিন্দিৱনে। চলু হয়েছে ভিলিটান মেট পাস সিলেক্ট।

অভ্যন্তৰীণে আকাশাকে ধীৰণ কৰে ইচ্ছা ও ন্যায়তাৰ ভিতৰে চুক্তি হয়েছে।

বন্দৰৰক আকাশাকে ধীৰণ কৰে ইচ্ছা ও ন্যায়তাৰ ভিতৰে চুক্তি হয়েছে।

অভ্যন্তৰীণে আকাশাকে ধীৰণ কৰে ইচ্ছা ও ন্যায়তাৰ ভিতৰে চুক্তি হয়েছে।

অভ্যন্তৰীণে আকাশাকে ধীৰণ কৰে ইচ্ছা ও ন্যায়তাৰ ভিতৰে চুক্তি হয়েছে।

অভ্যন্তৰীণে আকাশাকে ধীৰণ কৰে ইচ্ছা ও ন্যায়তাৰ ভিতৰে চুক্তি হয়েছে।

অভ্যন্তৰীণে আকাশাকে ধীৰণ কৰে ইচ্ছা ও ন্যায়তাৰ ভিতৰে চুক্তি হয়েছে।

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বন্দৰ

দিবস

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শুভ্ৰেণ্টু

অংজনন্দন

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