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Step up diplomacy as US tariff clock ticks away

At a roundtable organised by *Star*, exporters and an economist urge a swift rethink of trade strategy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must intensify trade diplomacy to protect garment exports from steep US tariffs as the clock runs down on a three-month reprieve, business leaders warned yesterday.

The call came at a roundtable discussion titled "Impact of US Tariffs on Bangladesh's Garment Industry: Challenges and Opportunities", organised by The Daily Star in Dhaka.

Currently, Bangladesh is the third-largest garment exporter to the US after China and Vietnam, commanding 9.3 percent of the \$90 billion American apparel market annually. In 2024, Bangladesh shipped \$7.34 billion worth of garment products to the US, marking a 35.95 percent year-on-year growth.

However, the country's foothold in its largest export market is now under severe threat, as President Donald Trump's administration imposes a 37 percent reciprocal tariff on top of the existing 16 percent duties. The broader implication is starker still: Bangladesh's global standing as the second-largest garment exporter after China is at risk.

"From the Korean side, there is growing concern regarding the future stability of Bangladesh's garment exports to the US," said Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation. Sung warned that Vietnam was "very close" to overtaking Bangladesh and stressed the need for immediate, proactive measures.

Around 15 percent of Bangladesh's total exports, roughly \$8 billion, go to the US. Reducing overreliance on a single market through diversification must be part of the strategy, he said.

Sung further pointed out that labour rights had become a prime agenda item under the Trump administration, calling for Bangladesh to define and address US demands methodically. He urged the mobilisation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- ② Form a committee with govt and private sector representatives
- ② Appoint experienced US-based lobbyists
- ② Avoid premature commitments in trade negotiations
- ② Increase imports of cotton, LNG from US
- ② Expand exports to Asian markets



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Battery-run auto rickshaws, which are banned on flyovers for safety reasons, ply on a section of the Moghbazar-Mouchak Flyover, showing complete disregard for traffic rules. The photo was taken yesterday.

AID PASSAGE TO RAKHINE 'Govt can't decide unilaterally'

Political parties worried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and several other parties have voiced concern over reported developments regarding a UN-backed humanitarian corridor into Myanmar's war-torn Rakhine State, calling it a potential threat to national sovereignty and regional security.

The BNP has expressed strong resentment over no visible steps from the government to engage the political parties in discussions over the issue.

Leftist and Islamist parties and platforms also opposed the move to establish a corridor, questioning the West's interests in the Rohingya refugee issue. Such a corridor may become a threat to national security, they warned.

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Govt willing
if support to
Rakhine is
UN backed
Says Khalilur

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh would be willing to provide logistic support should there be a UN-led humanitarian support to the state of Rakhine, Khalilur Rahman, the government's adviser on Rohingya issues, told AFP.

"We believe that the UN-supported humanitarian aid would help stabilise Rakhine and create conditions for the return of the refugees."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

RESPONSE TO J&K TERROR ATTACK India gives forces 'operational freedom'

Modi meets top security brass; Pak FM fears 'imminent incursion'; UN calls for calm

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the country's military "operational freedom" to respond to a deadly attack in Kashmir last week, a senior government source told AFP yesterday, after New Delhi blamed it on arch-rival Pakistan.

A week after the deadliest attack on civilians in the contested region in years, Modi yesterday held a closed-door meeting with army and security chiefs, during which he told the armed forces that they had the "complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets and timing of our response to the terror attack", said the government source, who was not authorised to speak to the media.

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Yunus tells police

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the police to ensure that they are not used by anyone during the next national polls as the interim government is committed to holding a free, fair, and peaceful election.

"Remember, if a person is elected through irregularities, it is not possible to establish justice by that person. Therefore, don't be used by anyone. Dedicate yourselves to the elections as a vow to establish truth and justice," he said at a function marking Police Week 2025.

Referring to his several speeches to the nation, the chief adviser said he already said

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SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



আন্তর্জাতিক শব্দসচেতনতা দিবস ২০২৫

আর লয় শব্দসূৰ্য, তাই সুস্থ জীবন



শব্দসূৰ্য নিয়ন্ত্রণে সমন্বিত ও অংশীদারিত্বমূলক প্রকল্প
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়

শব্দসূৰ্য (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) বিধিমালা-২০০৬ অনুসারে শব্দসূৰ্য একটি দড়নীয় অপরাধ



Dhaka's Signal Economy

Unveiling trade at traffic stoplights

JANNATUL BUSHRA

Often, on my way to the office from Dhanmondi to Mohakhali, I pass through at least three or four major traffic signals -- the stubborn standstill at Dhanmondi 27, the long, impatient pause at Khamarbari, and the inevitable gridlock at Farmgate. However, it does not end there. The legendary bottleneck at Bijoy Sarani awaits, followed by the guarded patience required at Jahangir Gate. And if luck chooses to mock me, as it often does, the Mohakhali Railgate signal delivers the final blow.

So yes, wedged between the relentless chorus of horns and the glow stick rave of brake lights, I have cultivated an oddly fascinating pastime -- calculating the city's "invisible" GDP -- the minutes we waste subtracted from the minutes gained by the signal vendors who spring into action the moment the signal bleeds red!

Within those few minutes, or sometimes hours, of a red light or VIP signal, you can buy roses, sunglasses, tea towels, phone chargers, balloons, peanuts, cold water, "original" Ray-Bans, and occasionally, moral guilt.

Welcome to what I call the Signal Economy!

Here, while most of us lose precious time, a few cleverly turn those lost minutes into opportunity and profit. I am sure all of us have encountered



them. Some, to me, are true lifesavers -- selling cold water or juice on a sweltering summer day, they appear like angels out of nowhere. And then, of course, there are others -- those who feel more like a nuisance, testing the limits of our already diminishing patience.

"It's my office," says Manik with a grin on his face while balancing a mountain of tissue packets in his hands near Dhanmondi 27. The teenager adds, "The longer the signal, the better the business."

In Dhaka, the signal is not a stop. It is a stage. And the performers are these sellers -- of all ages! This is a setup that I am sure no marketing team could ever dream of. The products are seasonal, tactical, and as adaptive as Dhaka's

weather. During summer, they sell sunglasses and water bottles. During the monsoon, umbrellas and plastic shoe covers emerge like magic!

And sometimes, no matter the season, if you are packed inside a sweaty, overburdened bus, brace yourself. Sooner or later, a vendor will weave through the crowd, waving a tiny miracle -- a 10-taka tablet that claims to cure everything from migraines to heartbreaks, putting even the best doctors to shame!

If you listen long enough, you will be half-convinced that it might fix your headaches, your heartbreaks, and maybe -- just maybe -- your stubborn bachelorhood too.

"We sell what the eyes want," says Liton, a man offering "designer" mobile

covers near Farmgate. "If your face says you are tired, I will show you a stress ball. If you look romantic... a flower for you" he winks. Clearly, a man who has mastered microeconomics in its rawest form.

There's a certain choreography to it too -- a glide between cars, a delicate tap on the window, a quick smile, a flash of the product, and a retreat if the driver scowls. This is salesmanship under pressure, with a moving, impatient audience and a ticking clock.

Then, of course, Dhaka being Dhaka, the gig economy is not always "legal" nor "organised". But it is efficient. Sellers need patience, agility, and a sharp sense of who might roll down a window and who will look away. Authorities sometimes crack down, clearing intersections, but like every underground market, the sellers return -- new faces, new tricks, same survival story.

At a certain level, it's hard not to admire the sheer hustle. No one taught these entrepreneurs about pricing, supply chains, or customer retention. Yet, here they are, running a parallel economy under the nose of an impatient city, turning every red light into a flash sale.

So, the next time you are stuck at a traffic stoplight, maybe, just maybe, buy a packet of tissues or a flower. It's not charity. It's the small price of admission into Dhaka's liveliest street theatre.

Step up diplomacy as US tariff clock ticks away

FROM PAGE 1
of organisations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank to advocate on Bangladesh's behalf.

Speed to market should be another priority. "Timely deliveries and high end, high quality production are crucial," Sung said. He also called for a permanent trade negotiation team based in the US. "On and off discussions will not yield lasting results," he said.

Bangladesh must position itself diligently, Sung added, as the US administration actively pursues trade agreements with Korea, Australia, Japan, India and the UK.

To address US trade imbalance concerns, Sung proposed increasing imports from the US by at least \$1 billion annually over the next three years. He stressed the need for a detailed and quantifiable plan rather than empty promises.

Sung also emphasised the importance of working closely with the US Embassy in Dhaka. "The embassy can play a pivotal role in advocating for Bangladesh," he said.

AK Azad, chairman and managing director of Ha-Meem Group, described the situation as "very critical."

"After the imposition of tariffs, customers are asking us to share the burden. Some customers are being illogical, asking us to absorb a portion of the tariffs, which is unethical," said Azad, whose company exports \$800 million worth of goods annually, 90 percent of it to the US.

While the US government has suspended the new tariffs for three months, Azad said buyers are demanding discounts for at least one season. He called for the immediate appointment of lobbyists and the formation of a high-level committee, headed by a government

adviser, with private sector representatives.

Reflecting on past cooperation during the export quota phase out, Azad criticised the current government for failing to consult exporters properly. Citing talks with US officials, he said Bangladesh must propose specific measures to reduce the trade gap.

Chowdhury (Parvez), chairman of Evince Group, said the government's approach remained half-hearted. "Some officials still doubt the need for lobbyists," he said.

He said Bangladesh was trying to import more US goods such as raw cotton, LNG, soybeans, and medical instruments, but warned that "this will take time."

NEGOTIATION MUST BE STRATEGIC

Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), warned that "doing nothing is not an option."

Engagement with the US administration is important, but Bangladesh must be cautious, he said, because many experts believe the tariffs are unsustainable and might eventually be reversed.

Bangladesh must find its bargaining chips, Razzaque said, as larger economies like India have stronger leverage.

Although Bangladesh exports about \$8 billion worth of goods to the US, only 40-50 percent of that value is actually created domestically, after accounting for imported inputs like fabrics and accessories.

This means, Razzaque said, the net value added exports are closer to \$3.6 billion. At the same time, Bangladesh imports around \$2.6 billion worth of goods from the US, such as cotton, LNG and agricultural products. As a result, Bangladesh's

true trade surplus with the US is only about \$1 billion -- much smaller than the headline figures suggest, he said.

Negotiations must begin without making premature commitments, he advised. Otherwise, Bangladesh could be disadvantaged if the US policy shifts later.

Razzaque also pointed to opportunities if US imports shrink. "Chinese container traffic to the US is down 45 percent, and ship arrivals at US ports are down 33 percent," he said. "Shelves will soon start emptying."

He recommended maintaining export incentives even beyond LDC graduation under WTO flexibilities and suggested reviewing some supplementary duties to signal openness.

Md Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions Ltd, said that with just two months remaining before a final US announcement on tariffs, large structural adjustments such as a full FTA negotiation were unrealistic.

"Even starting discussions might take more than two months," he said. Realistic goals should include full engagement with the US administration and signalling willingness, without making definitive commitments.

Hoque believes the tariffs are unsustainable and that Bangladesh is not the main target of the US measures. After Trump temporarily reduced tariffs, he became more confident that a reversal is possible, Hoque said.

NEED FOR NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, chairman of the Labour Reform Commission, argued that organisations like the ILO or the World Bank cannot speak on Bangladesh's behalf. He proposed the creation

'Govt can't decide unilaterally'

FROM PAGE 1
The BNP standing committee met at its chairperson's Gulshan office on Monday night. Party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman presided over the meeting virtually from London.

At the meeting, it was decided that all standing committee members would make specific recommendations on the issue, detailing their observations.

Each member has been tasked with thoroughly analysing the political, diplomatic, and security implications of the matter to ensure a comprehensive response, said meeting sources.

After gathering the documents, the BNP plans to hold a press conference to present the position to the public. It also decided to consult its allies on this issue.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain on Sunday said that Dhaka agrees in principle with the UN proposal for a humanitarian corridor to Rakhine, but certain conditions must be met for its implementation.

BNP Secretary General

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday slammed the interim government for making such a move without consulting the political parties.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said that the government has not held any discussions with the United Nations or any other entity regarding the creation of a "so-called humanitarian corridor" through Bangladesh to Myanmar's Rakhine State.

BNP Standing Committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku said, "The foreign affairs adviser spoke on a matter that is directly linked to the country's sovereignty. After his statement, various political parties expressed their positions. But suddenly, the press secretary claimed that no such discussion had taken place."

"It appears as though the government is playing a childlike game. A country cannot be governed in this manner."

In a statement issued yesterday, the Communist Party of Bangladesh said the "so-called humanitarian gesture" could have serious consequences.

"An interim government has no authority to make such a policy decision," reads the statement from CPB President Mohammad Shah Alam and General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince.

It said the move violated the constitution and could jeopardise the country's independence.

The CPB warned that allowing the corridor would leave Bangladesh's borders exposed.

"The Myanmar junta could exploit the corridor under various pretexts, creating new threats to our security," the statement added.

The CPB also questioned the motivation of Western countries, suggesting their sudden interest in the Rohingya issue was "part of a broader imperialist conspiracy."

"The UN and its allies could have opted for alternatives like Sittwe Port or other coastal routes into Myanmar instead of involving Bangladesh," it said.

Bangladeshi Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Bazlur Rashid Firoz condemned the government's "unilateral

decision-making" on such a sensitive national issue.

In a statement, he described the corridor as "aligned with the US agenda in the region", warning that it would compromise Bangladesh's sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Islami Andolan Bangladesh's Joint Secretary General Muhammed Rezaul Karim said the government must build a national consensus before taking such a decision.

"This is not merely a humanitarian matter, it is a national security issue," he said, adding, "Such decisions are inappropriate without broad understanding and agreement between all political quarters."

He f a z a t e - I s l a m Bangladesh's Joint Secretary General Mamunul Haque strongly opposed the move.

"Imperialist powers are trying to implement their agenda by using Bangladesh. As a patriotic force, Hefazat-e-Islam does not support this in any way," he said at a press conference yesterday.

He also warned that such decisions could drag Bangladesh into unwanted geopolitical entanglements.

Facebook page that Rakhine is facing an acute humanitarian situation, and that Bangladesh has a stellar record in helping countries in times of distress, as exemplified by our aid to Myanmar following a recent devastating earthquake.

"Moreover, we are concerned that persistence of suffering may lead to further inflows of people from Rakhine into Bangladesh, which we cannot afford.

"We also believe that the UN-supported humanitarian aid would help stabilise Rakhine and create conditions for the return of the refugees to Myanmar."

He said that given the present conditions, the only viable route for delivery of aid to Rakhine is through Bangladesh.

Louise Barber, from the UN office in Bangladesh, said the proposal required the approval of the authorities in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

"Any humanitarian support, or supplies across the border from Bangladesh to Myanmar, will first need to be agreed between the two governments," Barber said.

Meanwhile, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said the government has not discussed the so-called "humanitarian corridor" with the UN or any other entity, but it would be willing to provide logistics support to the transportation of aid to Rakhine state through Bangladesh as a means of creating conditions for Rohingya repatriation to Rakhine state.

He admitted it would, however, require the "authorisation and the cooperation of the parties to the conflict".

Citing the UNDP, Shafiqul Alam yesterday wrote on his verified

Facebook page that Rakhine is UN backed

should there be an UN-led humanitarian support to the state of Rakhine, Bangladesh would be willing to provide logistics support," he said in a Facebook post yesterday.

After a visit to Bangladesh in mid-March, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told media in Dhaka that he discussed with Bangladesh authorities the possibilities of channelling humanitarian aid inside Myanmar via Bangladesh as a means of creating conditions for Rohingya repatriation to Rakhine state.

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SC stays HC bail of 15 pro-AL lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court orders that granted bail to 15 pro-Awami League lawyers in a case filed over the assault and attempted murder of fellow lawyers during the anti-discrimination student movement.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, passed the order following 15 separate petitions filed by the state seeking a stay on the HC orders of bail.

The apex court chamber judge also sent the state's petitions to its full bench for their detailed hearings on May 5.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Unilever Bangladesh, in partnership with Chattogram City Corporation and YPSA, celebrated a milestone of its Plastic Waste Management Initiative at an event at Radisson Blu Hotel, Chattogram Bay View yesterday. City Mayor Dr Shahadat Hossain, Unilever Bangladesh Limited Supply Chain Director Ruhul Quddus, its Legal Director and Company Secretary SOM Rashedul Quayum, Director of Corporate Affairs, Partnerships and Communications Shamima Akhter, and YPSA Director of Social Development Department Nasim Banu were, among others, present on the occasion.

PHOTO: COURTESY

EXPATRIATE VOTING METHOD EC seeks party suggestions by May 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has asked political parties to submit their recommendations by May 15 on a proposed hybrid voting system for expatriate Bangladeshis, combining postal ballots, online voting, and proxy voting.

At a seminar organised by the EC on this issue, leaders of several political parties said more in-depth discussions are needed before finalising any method.

The event, held at the EC office in Agargaon, was attended by representatives from over 20 political parties, university teachers, and media professionals.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin said, "One size doesn't fit all," stressing that any final decision must consider the country's socio-economic and political context, along with the general level of education.

He assured that stakeholder input would be considered and emphasised the importance of political leaders' support, without which, he said, the initiative would be futile.

BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan noted that no voting system is perfect and called for a system that is accessible, efficient, and widely accepted.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Presidium Member Kazi Sajid Zahir Chandan pointed out that expatriates make up about 10 percent of voters. He said the EC must earn political parties' trust and consult with them before making a decision.

Nagarik Oikya Organising Secretary Shakib Anwar suggested the EC hold more interactive sessions with



SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

A hospital without doctors

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The Kuakata 20-bed Hospital exists only in name, as it currently has no doctors, severely disrupting healthcare services for both residents and tourists.

Although the hospital is supposed to have six doctors, including four junior consultants, a residential medical officer, and a medical officer, all the posts are vacant.

The last serving doctor left the facility on April 17 to attend a two-month-long course, leaving the hospital without medical staff since then.

According to hospital sources, out of 17

areas, as well as visiting tourists, of necessary healthcare.

"Since the hospital was inaugurated, it has never had full staffing. As a result, we have long been deprived of proper medical services," said Ashraf Ali, a resident of the hospital's adjoining area.

Ruman Imitiaz Tushar, president of Kuakata Press Club, said, "Considering Kuakata's importance as a tourism hub, it is essential to appoint sufficient doctors and fully operationalise the hospital immediately."

Though the hospital was formally inaugurated on February 25, 2012, it has never operated with its full



approved staff positions, 12 remain vacant. The facility currently has five senior staff nurses; and one each of ward staff, lab attendant, ward assistant, office assistant, cook, and cleaner on paper. However, the ward staff has been temporarily transferred to the Kalapara Upazila Health Complex, and the lab attendant is serving at the Patuakhali Civil Surgeon's office, further crippling operations.

As a result, the hospital has been non-functional, depriving hundreds of thousands of residents in Mahipur, Latachapli, and Kuakata municipality

workforce. Often, it ran with just one or two doctors, rendering healthcare services ineffective, he said.

Contacted, Dr JH Khan Lelin, health and family planning officer of Kalapara upazila, said they had already requested higher authorities to post doctors to Kuakata and other healthcare facilities under his jurisdiction.

"Meanwhile, we have deployed a sub-assistant medical officer to keep emergency and outpatient services at the Kuakata hospital somewhat functional," he added.

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'Consensus possible by June if NCC shows wisdom'

Says Biplobi Workers Party at a dialogue with the commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political consensus can be achieved by June if the National Consensus Commission (NCC) demonstrates wisdom and foresight, said Saiful Haque, general secretary of Biplobi Workers Party, yesterday.

He made the remarks during a dialogue with the commission held at the LD Hall at the Jatiya Sangsad Complex.

A 10-member delegation from his party, led by Saiful, took part in the discussion.

"Since political parties are committed to the public sphere and have made promises to the people, an understanding among them could be reached by June if the consensus commission demonstrates wisdom and foresight. This would lead to consensus on the question of minimum national unity," he said.

He also said, "We do not want to go back to a system that turns a party into an autocracy and its leadership into a fascist regime."

"The mandate of this uprising is to move beyond that era and begin a democratic journey that will ensure the people's voting rights and democratic freedoms," he added.

Referring to the July uprising and what he termed a 16-year struggle against fascism, Saiful added, "People have been waiting for a real election. If reforms and elections are addressed together, Bangladesh will move forward."

He also called for a constitution that guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of political, religious, social, or ideological beliefs.

"Every citizen's constitutional and civil rights must be guaranteed by the state," he said.

The party leader also urged the creation of a system of governance rooted in accountability.

"No individual or party should feel entitled to wield



SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Confiscate Saima Wazed's Gulshan flat Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to confiscate a flat in Dhaka's Gulshan owned by Saima Wazed Putul, daughter of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in connection with corruption allegations brought against her.

The court also approved a request to appoint a receiver to oversee the flat.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order following an application filed by ACC Deputy Director Md Monirul Islam, who is leading the inquiry, said Md Aktarul Islam, public relations officer of the ACC.

ACC Public Prosecutor Md Rezaul Islam moved the application on behalf of the anti-graft body.

On April 27, the same court ordered authorities to initiate steps to secure an Interpol arrest warrant against Putul in connection with alleged irregularities in Purbachal New Town.

ACC Assistant Director Afnan Jannat Keya submitted the charge sheet on March 25, listing all 18 accused as fugitives and seeking arrest warrants against them.

MOHAMMAD SHARIFUL ISLAM, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Chamber: House No.10, Road No.6, Sector-12, Urtara, Dhaka.

Court Chamber: Hall Room No. 1, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01711-173369

STATUTORY NOTICE

Date: 28.04.2025

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 647 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 228 read with Section 229 of the Companies Act, 1994. AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Amity Sweaters Ltd. a Private Limited Company Limited by shares having its registered office at 209, Chhaydana, Hajir Pukur, Gazipur represented by its Managing Director, Sukumara Chowdhury.Transferee-Petitioner.
2. Amit Footwear Ltd. a Private Limited Company Limited by shares having its registered office at 209, Chhaydana, Hajir Pukur, Gazipur represented by its Managing Director Sukumara Chowdhury.Transferor-Petitioner.

VERSUS

Registrar, Joint Stock Companies & Firms, TCB Bhaban, (6 Floor) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.Respondent.

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 228 read with Section 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioners for amalgamation of the company between "Amity Sweaters Ltd. & Amit Footwear Limited", Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 24.04.2025 and fixed for compliance within 3 (three) months from date. Any person interested in the said application may appear before Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

(Mohammad Shariful Islam)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Hall Room No. 1, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01711-173369

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths
Local Government Division
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
Transport pool Building (8th Floor), Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No. 46.04.0000.000.101.36.001.17.695

Date: 29/04/2025

Re-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No. Reference No. Description Tender/Proposed Date and Time Tender/Proposed Closing & Opening Date and Time

1103312 Re-Ten-46.04.0000.000.102.07.0902.25.15 Procurement of 68 TB Storage for Server (Capacity Upgrade of Existing Storage System)

30 April 2025 3:00 PM 14 May 2025 3:00 PM

These are 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 system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time.

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

20/04/2025
Md. Akhtar Jamil
Assistant Registrar General
(Administration & Finance)
Bishan Doshan, Dhaka-1000
Telephone: 02-41052263
Email: arg.admin@orgbdr.gov.bd

GD-1032

WE ARE HIRING

Delta Life Insurance Company Limited, one of the leading life insurance Companies in Bangladesh, providing life insurance services by a team of highly-motivated and skilled professionals, invites applications from the deserving candidates for the position of Management Trainee Officer (MTO) for Company's different offices in the Divisional and District level:



Since 1986

Delta Life Insurance Company Limited, one of the leading life insurance Companies in Bangladesh, providing life insurance services by a team of highly-motivated and skilled professionals, invites applications from the deserving candidates for the position of Executive Officer (EO) for Company's different offices in the Divisional and District level:

Educational qualifications:

- Master's degree in Business discipline/ Economics/ English/ Mathematics/ Statistics/ IT from any Public or renowned Private University.
- Minimum CGPA 2.50 out of 4.00 or equivalent in Graduation and Post-Graduation level.
- Minimum CGPA 3.00 out of 5.00 or equivalent in SSC & HSC level.

Other Requirements:

- Age not exceeding 33 years as on May 01, 2025.
- Strong written and oral communication skills in English and Bangla are essential.
- Proficiency in MS Word, Excel and Power point is essential and using of software would be desirable.

Salary and Benefits:

- Probation period: 12 (Twelve) months.
- Monthly Consolidated salary will be Tk. 30,000

Polytechnic students shut down campuses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of polytechnic institutes across the country yesterday announced that all campuses would remain shut until a proper roadmap for implementing their six-point demand is formulated.

"Administrative and academic buildings will be locked, and all campus activities will remain suspended," said Mashfiq Islam Dewan, a leader of Karigori Chhatra Andolon (Technical Students' Movement), while speaking at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute. Afterwards, students locked the campus entrances around 11:30am.

Shutdown programmes were also enforced at institutes in Sirajganj, Chapainawabganj, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Lakshmipur, Rajshahi, Chattogram, and other districts under the same platform.

Protesters said the move came in response to the slow progress of the committee formed by the Technical and Madrasah Education Division. The committee has only held one meeting so far, with no significant updates on the roadmap's preparation.

"We are not seeing any tangible progress. The committee is not working with the urgency the situation requires," said Mashfiq.

He warned that the shutdown would continue until the authorities officially publish a detailed roadmap outlining the implementation timeline of their six point charter.

Earlier, on April 22, the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Using horse carts, agricultural produce is transported to markets in Fulchhari upazila from Fulchhari Ghat in Gaibandha. This ghat on the Jamuna serves as the main gateway for crops from around 32 chars (islands) to reach the mainland. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RH RUHAN

INT'L DAY TO END CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Country failing to protect children from violence

Experts call for cultural shift, stricter enforcement of laws

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

A 16-year-old madrasa student in Jhenaidah was hospitalised last month after being beaten by an assistant teacher -- reportedly for eating two slices of leftover orange after iftar, with the madrasa superintendent's permission.

Unaware of the approval, the teacher allegedly beat the boy so severely that seven sticks were broken during the assault.

Despite longstanding legal prohibitions, the presence of corporal punishment remains a major barrier to ending violence against children, say

To truly protect children, Bangladesh must enact a comprehensive law banning corporal punishment in all settings, including the home. Many parents are unaware that parenting itself is something that can and should be learned.

Laila Khondkar
Convener of Shishurai Shob

experts.

Today, as Bangladesh joins the global observance of the International Day to End Corporal Punishment of Children -- celebrated on April 30 every year -- child rights advocates are renewing calls for stricter enforcement of laws, greater public awareness, and a shift in cultural attitudes.

As a signatory to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Bangladesh has committed to ending all forms of violence against children by 2030 under Target 16.2.

Although the High Court Division of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Students of the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute locked the doors of its administrative and academic buildings yesterday to press home their six-point demand. PHOTO: STAR

Migrants stranded as 'Ami Probashi' app goes offline

MD ABBAS

Abdul (not his real name) paid for his Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) clearance through the Ami Probashi app, completed all the necessary steps online, and was ready to board his flight to Saudi Arabia.

But when the app abruptly became inactive following the government's decision not to renew its contract, his dreams were grounded--literally.

"The ticket was bought, and bags were packed," he said.

"Then, just because the app was blocked and no one had any answers, I had to stay behind. I don't even know if I'll get another visa."

He is one of more than 2,100 migrant workers left in limbo after the Ami Probashi app--once widely used to apply for BMET clearance--ceased functioning on April 19 when its agreement expired.

Over 20 workers have already missed their flights, while at least 50 are on the verge of losing their visas.

"My visa will expire in a few days. I completed everything through the Ami Probashi app and was just waiting for clearance. Now I don't know what will happen," said another affected worker.

Launched in May 2021, Ami Probashi was a privately developed

app that partnered with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare to digitise services including BMET registration, emigration clearance, and Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) bookings.

Though optional, the app became immensely popular--particularly among

Though optional, the app became immensely popular as a transparent and agent-free method to complete formalities. Over four million people used the platform, often bypassing middlemen and associated costs.

tech-savvy migrants--as a transparent and agent-free method to complete formalities. More than four million people used the platform, often bypassing middlemen and associated costs.

Now, with operations suspended, thousands are struggling. Over 10,000 workers trying to book daily PDO sessions cannot secure slots. Another 5,000 are

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

'People won't spare us if we follow AL's path' Fakhrul tells BNP activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday warned party leaders and activists against engaging in misdeeds, saying the people of the country will not spare BNP either if it follows the path of the deposited Awami League.

"Our leaders and activists must not behave like those of the Awami League. If you commit injustice, people will neither accept nor love you," he said while speaking at a public outreach programme in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The BNP leader also urged senior leaders of all district units to remain vigilant about their fellow activists and take action against any wrongdoing.

"Take stern action or hand them over to the police if any BNP leader or activist is found involved in misdeeds. Stop indulging in wrongdoing.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Not forming edn reform commission a 'national failure' Says Centre for Policy Dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's failure to form an education reform commission, despite setting up 11 other reform bodies, is a form of national failure, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), yesterday.

Debapriya, who also serves as the convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, made the remarks at a media briefing titled "Technical and Vocational Education in Bangladesh: Current Situation and Reform Thinking," held at the CPD office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

"The most sensitive question is why the government did not set up an education reform commission," he said.

"Education is not just a technical matter. It includes values, worldviews, and perspectives on humanity, the world, and the nation. It also carries historical awareness. These issues have become especially

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

UNVEILING 20 RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS IN DHAKA



bti Summer Sales Carnival includes

- 2 Panel Discussions & 1 Awareness Session
- Special Offers on Selected Homes
- Home accessory discounts by 'home n decor'
- Ready-to-move-in Apartments
- Instant Interior Design Consultancy
- Land Development Ideas
- Meeting Home Loan Partners & Industry Experts
- Property Selling Platform

3 MAY 2025 | SATURDAY | 10AM - 08PM
bti landmark, 16 Gulshan Avenue



16604

+8801313-401405



Govt may take a tough decision

FROM PAGE 16

government does not want to implement, he said, citing the liberalisation of the exchange rate as the bone of contention.

"We fought with them, we argued with them. We gave them examples and told them we won't tread that path. There is macroeconomic stability in Bangladesh now and the situation is much better than in December, and they also agreed with this."

He said the price of dollar hit Rs 280 in Pakistan and LKR 400 in Sri Lanka after they launched the market-based floating system.

"We told the IMF if we open the market now, the dollar exchange rate would hit that level. So, we deferred."

The foreign exchange market and foreign reserves level are both stable without the IMF tranches, he said.

The exchange rate is hovering around the Tk 120-122 mark under a crawling peg mechanism introduced on the IMF's prescription.

Under the mechanism,

the exchange rate fluctuates within a certain range.

"They told us to remove the band under the crawling peg," Salehuddin said.

If the band is removed, he fears the dollar would appreciate unsustainably.

"So we asked for a \$1 billion stabilisation fund if we removed the band, and they agreed for a \$500 million fund. Still, we are considering."

At another event, National Board of Revenue Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan said the IMF board would take a decision on whether to approve the two tranches for Bangladesh on May 5.

"We are optimistic that a positive outcome will be reached."

If the taka is allowed to float freely, there would be "peaks and troughs" of the exchange rate and the volatility would send a wrong signal to investors, the adviser said.

He believes non-disbursement of the two IMF

2 journalists sacked

FROM PAGE 16

instalments would affect the chances of getting budget support from the WB and other multilateral lenders, but it would not affect getting loans from them for projects.

"We don't want to take loans with hard conditions. Pakistan took \$7 billion and Argentina took \$20 billion. We don't want to increase our debt burden. If we take \$3 billion and for that, we have to make the exchange rate flexible, we would need around \$5 billion to repay that amount," Salehuddin added.

Media in a statement last night said, "We call on the authorities to ensure the journalists' safety and protect them from potential offline harm, and urge the respective media outlets to stand by their journalists, ensure their protection, and refrain from punishing them for fulfilling their professional duties."

A senior newsroom member at Deepro TV, requesting anonymity, told this newspaper the journalist was sacked due to the incident at the previous day's press conference.

Md Fazle Rabby, a special correspondent of ATN Bangla Ltd, was also terminated yesterday on grounds of "unprofessional conduct during reporting".

The words spoken yesterday could hurt anyone who witnessed July... For a mother who lost her child just eight months ago, for someone wounded by a killer's bullet, for a brother or sister who narrowly escaped death -- those comments struck like shrapnel."

Speaking to The Daily Star, Fazle Rabby said he was neither asked for an explanation nor served with a show-cause notice prior to his dismissal.

"I wasn't questioned, and the office didn't discuss it with me. After clips from the press conference went viral on social media, there was considerable backlash, with groups threatening to march to the television station. As a result, I was mentally prepared for this outcome."

He claimed he was dismissed for "doing journalism".

Channel i's senior reporter Rafiqul Bashar was also suspended. The channel's online platform posted a notice on social media saying, "Channel i has suspended and commenced an internal investigation against the journalist accused of not exhibiting professionalism during the question-and-answer session of the cultural adviser's press conference."

Bashar told this correspondent he had not been given a reason for his suspension. "I was told by the office that my job is gone, but no reason was provided. I don't think I said anything at the press conference that went against the spirit of the July movement."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Journalists in International

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The channel's parent company, Kazi Media Ltd, also served a termination letter to senior journalist Md Mizanur Rahman, stating he was dismissed with immediate effect.

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Meanwhile, Bangladesh Journalists in International

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola road, Chattogram-4100

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/ Energy and Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
5	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram
6	Invitation for	Tender for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System, Bangladesh".
7	Invitation Ref No	BPC SPM O&M 01/2025
8	Date	30-04-2025

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds	BPC own fund
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11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not applicable
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	Not Applicable
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Not Applicable
14	Tender Package No.	BPC SPM O&M 01/2025

15	Tender Package Name	Tender for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System, Bangladesh".
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16	Date	30-04-2025
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17	Tender Last Selling Date (must be the date prior to the day of Tender Closing Date)	18-06-2025
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18	Date	19-06-2025
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19	Time	12:00 PM
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20	Name & Address of the office(s)	
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- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
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- Downloading Tender Document (This is optional. If permitted by the Procuring Entity; mention the web address where the electronic version of TD will be available. Specify the detail procedures for payment of the cost of TD by the Tenderers.)	The Tender Document (PW7A, Annexure 1, Annexure 2) will be sold as both hard copy & electronic copy subject to signing by the prospective bidder a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with BPC. Annexure 3 (Drawings & Specifications) shall be available only in an Electronic Data Room. The link and the password to the Electronic Data Room will be provided to the prospective bidder once the Tender Document is purchased.
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- Receiving Tender Document	Office of General Manager (Planning & Development) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
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- Opening Tender Document	Board Room Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh
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21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Place	Date	Time
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		Board Room	25-05-2025	11:00 AM
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INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum number of years of general experience in Operation and Maintenance shall be: 7 (Seven) years. (years counting backward from the date of publication of Invitation for Tender in the newspaper). The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor of at least 1 (One) contract of O&M Services and Marine Services (as described in Annex 2) successfully completed within the last 7 (Seven) years (years counting backward from the date of publication of Invitation for Tender in the newspaper) each with a value of at least USD 35 (Thirty-Five) million. The required average annual turnover shall be minimum USD 25 (Twenty-Five) million over the last 3 (Three) years. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of repute or scheduled bank in Bangladesh. Maximum number of partners in the Joint Venture shall be 2 (Two). Other required eligibility criteria and conditions are stated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.
23	Brief Description of Works	Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation – "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System complete with all its Auxiliaries and Ancillaries in both On-shore and Off-shore parts as defined and detailed in Annex 2".
24	Brief Description of Physical Services	
25	Price of Tender Document	BDT 35,000 (BDT Thirty-Five thousand only) Will be given by Pay Order/Cash in favor of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. The original money receipt of purchasing tender document must be submitted with the technical offer.

26	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
<

Israel 'live-streamed Gaza genocide'

Amnesty says 'states watched on as if powerless'

AFP, Paris

Amnesty International yesterday accused Israel of committing a "live-streamed genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza by forcibly displacing most of the population and deliberately creating a humanitarian catastrophe.

In its annual report, Amnesty charged that Israel had acted with "specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza, thus committing genocide".



multigenerational families, destroying homes, livelihoods, hospitals and schools," she added.

Amnesty's report said the Israeli campaign had left most of the Palestinians of Gaza "displaced, homeless, hungry, at risk of life threatening diseases and unable to access medical care, power or clean water".

Amnesty said that throughout 2024 it had "documented multiple war crimes by Israel".

It said Israel's actions forcibly displaced 1.9 million Palestinians, around 90 percent of Gaza's population, and "deliberately engineered an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe".

Even as protesters hit the streets in Western capitals, "the world's governments individually and multilaterally failed repeatedly to take meaningful action to end the atrocities and were slow even in calling for a ceasefire".

Meanwhile, Amnesty also sounded alarm over Israeli actions in the occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank, and repeated an accusation that Israel was employing a system of "apartheid".

"Since 7 October 2023, when Hamas perpetrated horrific crimes against Israeli citizens and others and captured more than 250 hostages, the world has been made an audience to a live-streamed genocide," Amnesty's secretary general Agnes Callamard said in the introduction to the report.

"States watched on as if powerless, as Israel killed thousands upon thousands of Palestinians, wiping out entire

multigenerational families, destroying homes, livelihoods, hospitals and schools," she added.

Amnesty's report said the Israeli campaign had left most of the Palestinians of Gaza "displaced, homeless, hungry, at risk of life threatening diseases and unable to access medical care, power or clean water".

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Zelensky slams Putin's truce call

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has branded a three-day truce announced by his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin as an "attempt at manipulation".

"Now there's a new attempt at manipulation: for some reason, everyone has to wait until May 8," Zelensky said in his daily address.

Putin on Monday ordered the ceasefire on May 8-10, which coincides with Moscow's World War II commemorations, drawing ire from Kyiv, which demanded Moscow pause hostilities immediately.

Ukraine said that it wanted an immediate truce with Russia for "at least 30 days".

"If Russia truly wants peace, it must cease fire immediately. Why wait until May 8th?" Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga wrote on X.

The Kremlin yesterday said that Ukraine had not responded to many offers by Russia President Vladimir Putin to start direct peace negotiations, and that it was unclear whether it would join a three-day ceasefire he has announced for next month.

100 DAYS OF TRUMP 2.0 President's 'fun' fails to uplift American spirit

AFP, Washington

After 100 days of political chaos and economic shock that have sent his approval ratings tumbling, Donald Trump hopes to regain the unqualified adulation of his supporters Tuesday at one of his bread-and-butter events: a public rally.

To mark the symbolic milestone in his second term, the Republican US president is visiting the site of one of his last campaign events, in Michigan, a battleground state that swung his way in November's election.

"The first time, I had two things to do -- run the country and survive; I had all these crooked guys," he said in an interview with The Atlantic magazine, referring to advisors and cabinet members whom he considered incompetent or disloyal lieutenants in his first term.

"And the second time, I run the country and the world," he crowed, adding "I'm having a lot of fun."

Many of the former real estate tycoon's voters remain behind Trump.

"He knows what he's doing," Karen Miner, a 57-year-old wine store owner in Reno, Nevada, told AFP.

"So far, I'm very satisfied with the job he's doing," said Frank Tuoti, a 72-year-old retired machinist from New Hampshire.

But he concedes that the tariff instability has made him "a little concerned about the economy."

Now surrounded exclusively by loyalists, Trump since January 20 has unleashed in terms of tariffs, foreign policy -- and political revenge.



In the grand entrance hallway of the White House, he has moved a portrait of Barack Obama, America's first Black president, to make way for a painting of himself surviving an assassination attempt.

And in the Oval Office, pushing the limits of presidential power, the Republican has already signed over 140 executive orders.

In the process, he has called birthright citizenship into question, attacked universities and law firms, rolled back environmental policies, entrusted his mega-billionaire ally Elon Musk with dismantling large parts of the federal bureaucracy, and launched a protectionist trade offensive against much of the world -- before partially retracting it.

Many of his executive orders have been blocked by judges, with whom the executive branch has engaged in an unprecedented bout of arm wrestling.

Trump, whose political career was built on deepening divisions, cannot claim the high approval ratings that generally accompany

the first 100 days of a US president. Opinion polls have been unanimous in noting a particularly sharp slide in his approval ratings, fueled by concern about tariffs and his attacks on the institutional order. According to a poll published Sunday by the Washington Post and ABC News, only 39 percent of Americans approve of how Trump is conducting his presidency.

With the exception of Bill Clinton and now Trump, US presidents dating back to Ronald Reagan have had an approval rating topping 50 percent after their first 100 days in office, according to the Pew Research Center.

Trump called the polls "Fake News" in a Truth Social post on Monday. "We are doing GREAT, better than ever before".

At least 64 percent of respondents said Trump is "going too far" in his efforts to expand presidential powers.

It is impossible to know how long Trump, who at 78 is the oldest US president ever elected, will maintain his frenetic pace.

India gives forces 'operational freedom'

FROM PAGE 1

The development came after Pakistan's defence minister said a military incursion by neighbouring India was imminent.

"We have reinforced our forces because it is something which is imminent now. So in that situation, some strategic decisions have to be taken, so those decisions have been

taken," Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Reuters in an interview at his office in Islamabad on Monday.

Yesterday, New Delhi released video images of a stern-faced Modi meeting with army chiefs, as well as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Sources said a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security and Political and Economic Affairs will be held, possibly today.

After the terror attack, Modi vowed to pursue the terrorists behind the attack and their patrons to the "ends of the earth" and inflict the harshest punishment on them.

Relations between the nuclear armed neighbours have plummeted after India accused Pakistan of backing an attack in Indian-administered Kashmir on April 22 in which 26 men were killed.

Islamabad has denied any role and called for a neutral investigation. Both countries have since exchanged gunfire in Kashmir, diplomatic barbs, expelled citizens and ordered the border shut.

Yesterday, the Indian army said that both sides exchanged fire for a fifth straight night along the Line of Control (LoC), a heavily fortified zone of high-altitude Himalayan outposts.

There was no immediate confirmation from Pakistan on the exchange of fire, but state broadcaster Radio Pakistan reported that the

military had shot down an Indian "quadcopter", calling it a violation of its airspace.

The unmanned Indian aircraft had attempted to conduct surveillance along the LoC in the Manawar Sector of the Bhamber area, the Radio Pakistan report said.

It did not say when the incident happened. There was no comment from New Delhi.

Analysts say they fear bellicose statements will escalate into possible military action.

During his interview with Reuters, Asif said India's rhetoric was ramping up and that Pakistan's military had briefed the government on the possibility of an Indian attack. He did not go into further details on his reasons for thinking an incursion was imminent.

He said, although Pakistan was on high alert, it would only use its nuclear weapons if "there is a direct threat to our existence".

Meanwhile, Aqeel Malik, Pakistan's minister of state for law and justice, said Islamabad urged the UN chief to "counsel India" to exercise restraint, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

During the call, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged the UN chief to "counsel India" to exercise restraint, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Iran has already offered to mediate, and Saudi Arabia has said Riyadh was trying to "prevent an escalation".



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney gestures during an event at the Liberal Party election night headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada yesterday. Carney completed a comeback victory for the governing Liberals in Monday's election, positioning himself for a global role as a champion of multilateralism against US President Donald Trump's more protectionist policies.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Restaurant fire in China kills 22

AFP, Beijing

A restaurant fire in northeastern China killed 22 people and injured three yesterday, Beijing's state media said, with footage posted online showing fierce flames engulfing the building.

The blaze erupted at lunchtime in Liaoyang City, about 580 kilometres northeast of the capital Beijing, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

"The incident has resulted in 22 deaths and three injuries," it added.

President Xi Jinping said that the blaze had caused "significant casualties" and that the lessons from it were "profoundly serious", CCTV said.

Xi called for "every effort to treat the injured, properly handle the aftermath for the deceased and provide support to their families, swiftly determine the cause of the fire, and pursue accountability in accordance with the law," the report added.

Footage shared online and verified by AFP showed the inferno engulfing the two-storey restaurant and smoke billowing skyward.

Deadly fires are relatively common in China due to lax building codes and an often slipshod approach to workplace safety.

The country has seen a spate of such deadly incidents in recent months.

This month, 20 people died in a fire at a nursing home in northern China's Hebei province.

'Diplomacy, not confrontation' Says BRICS amid tensions

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazil, which chairs the 11-nation BRICS grouping that also includes Russia and China, called for closer cooperation as the world deals with conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and trade wars under US President Donald Trump.

"We advocate diplomacy instead of confrontation, and cooperation instead of unilateralism," Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira told the BRICS foreign ministers in Rio.

"The conflict in Ukraine continues to have a severe humanitarian impact, highlighting the urgent need for a diplomatic solution," he added.

Ministers from the bloc -- which also includes Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates -- met to hone their agenda ahead of a leaders' summit on July 6 and 7.



Vieira on Monday also called for a "complete withdrawal" of Israeli forces from Gaza.

"The resumption of Israeli bombings and the continuous obstruction of humanitarian aid are unacceptable," he said.

The ministers were expected to issue a final joint statement yesterday in which they will call for respect for multilateralism and international market rules.

BRICS has expanded significantly since its 2009 inception as a group of four powers -- Brazil, Russia, India and China -- seeking an alternative platform to Western-led international organisations such as the G7.

It now makes up nearly half of the world's population, 39 percent of global GDP and weighs in on issues from Ukraine to Gaza to global trade.

A BRICS challenge to the hegemony of the dollar was expected to feature high on the agenda being prepared for July.

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 30th April (Wednesday), 2025 for Corporate Booking.

From 1st May (Thursday), 2025 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01969-910100



Bangladesh Open University
Board Bazar, Gazipur-1705, Bangladesh
Website: www.bou.ac.bd

Reference: BOU/PPD/10(4)/20/19
Dated: 29.04.2025

e-Tender Notice-24/2024-2025

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

Sl. No	Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	Price of Tender document	Publication date & Time	Last Selling Time
01	1104544	PPD/24/2024-2025	Printing Binding & Supplying 05 kinds of Text books for BOU MBA (Bengali) program 1st semester.	Tk. 1,000.00	05-May-2025; 12:00	19-May-2025; 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches.

Further, Information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Stop the trend of filing malicious cases

Authorities must protect citizens from this legal assault

We are concerned about the trend of filing dubious cases against individuals with alleged ties to the Awami League, which persists even nearly nine months after the August 5, 2024 political changeover. Journalists have been frequent targets of this legal assault. According to a report, at least 137 journalists have been implicated in 32 criminal cases filed in Dhaka, Chattogram, Bogura, and Rajshahi over the July-August events—the latest of them registered at the Mirpur police station on April 20, accusing Sheikh Hasina and 407 others, including 24 journalists, of involvement in the killing of BNP activist Mahfuz Alam Shrabani. In addition to murder and attempted murder, journalists have also been charged with unlawful assembly, rioting, abduction, vandalism, extortion, assault, and even genocide and crimes against humanity.

According to a Supreme Court lawyer, even in places where no student movement took place or no one died, journalists have been falsely implicated. Referring to the case of a journalist couple who were sued for murder, he noted that while journalists may have committed other offences for which they could be booked, a murder charge “sounds vague.” The argument that those who aided, committed or enabled July atrocities and those who extended moral support to the regime—through talk shows or speeches, for example—belong in the same bracket is not only legally tenuous; it also opens the door to abuse and invites question marks over any outcome of the ongoing trials. The implication of media personality Iresh Zaker in the Shrabani murder case, alongside journalists, doctors, businesspeople, and lawyers, further illustrates that anyone is fair game in such a climate.

The Shrabani case exemplifies how the right to file cases is being abused. Three individuals named as witnesses in the case have said they were unaware of being listed. The case statement lists eight in total, including the plaintiff, and provides the phone numbers of four. This newspaper spoke to all four; three of them denied any knowledge of their inclusion. The manner in which the whole case came into being—about nine months after the uprising, at the behest of “an administrative office in Paltan,” using false witnesses, and implicating hundreds merely for their “support” of Hasina—reeks of both personal vendetta and a broader campaign against those even loosely associated with the previous regime. Unfortunately, the current process for filing cases does not require police officers to verify claims at the outset, allowing anyone to lodge dubious complaints. This is why the government’s instruction to police not to harass or arrest anyone wrongly implicated offers little hope or protection.

For journalists, this trend marks a new chapter in a country where they already routinely face threats, harassment, and intimidation. But it must be countered for the sake of everyone. It is crucial to address the underlying loopholes in the case filing process—by strengthening initial verification mechanisms and, if necessary, disallowing mass accusations—and to ensure accountability for any misuse of legal provisions. The government alone cannot address this problem. Political parties, too, must come forward to stop this alarming trend.

Save migrants from forced war role

News of young men trafficked to Russia to serve as soldiers raises alarm

Bangladeshi migrants continue to be exploited in many ways. But the revelation that a number of aspiring migrants from Bangladesh have been trafficked to Russia and forced to fight in the war against Ukraine is quite shocking. According to media reports, some travel agencies are luring young men with the promise of high-paying jobs in Russian factories and restaurants. However, instead of the promised jobs, they are then forced to join the Russian military as “contract fighters” and sent to the frontlines with little or no training.

According to a report in this daily, the Human Trafficking Cell of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) recently busted one such travel agency, which allegedly trafficked around 20 Bangladeshi to Russia over the past two years. Among them, at least three have been killed in the war and another has been critically injured. Some remain missing, with their families having lost all contact since they were sent to the battlefield.

With the Russia-Ukraine war dragging into its fourth year, it is believed that Russia, despite being the world’s second-largest military power, is struggling to recruit enough soldiers locally. As a result, it has increasingly turned to the Global South—including India, Nepal, Cuba, and Sri Lanka—for recruits, according to international media reports. Central Asian migrants already in Russia have also reportedly faced coercion or intimidation into joining the war. Recent reports from the Bangladeshi media confirm that our citizens, too, are now falling victim to traffickers who are essentially selling foot soldiers to the Russian military.

One key reason why traffickers have found a market in Bangladesh is the widespread poverty and unemployment among young men. One can only imagine the level of desperation it takes for someone to be enticed by offers of factory work in a country known for its brutal winters and volatile situation. The aspiring migrants reportedly paid between Tk 9 to Tk 12 lakh each for the promised jobs. That they would take such risks reflects a lack of faith in the opportunities available at home, pushing them into the arms of human traffickers.

We urge the authorities to raise awareness—especially in rural areas—about the dangers of war trafficking, and also to create more viable economic opportunities for youth in the country. Law enforcement drives against trafficking networks must be strengthened. Furthermore, the government must use its diplomatic channels to obtain the list of Bangladeshi nationals recruited by the Russian military, and initiate efforts to bring them back safely.

EDITORIAL

The promises and pressures of Bangladesh's pharma industry



MAMUN RASHID
Mamun Rashid, an economic analyst, is chairman at Financial Excellence Ltd and founding managing partner of PwC Bangladesh. He has played a pivotal role in establishing pharmaceutical and healthcare facilities in Bangladesh's private sector over the last 35 years.

The pharmaceutical sector in Bangladesh, now valued at more than \$3.5 billion (as of 2023), stands as one of the most compelling narratives of progress in the country's economic landscape. From meeting 98 percent of domestic medicine needs to reaching over 150 countries with exports, this industry has evolved into a cornerstone of both national health and economic resilience. Our pharmaceutical companies are not only providing affordable healthcare across the country, but they are also gradually earning recognition on the global stage. As we approach the country's graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in November 2026, there is a growing need for the industry to adapt to new global norms and challenges.

This transformation has not happened overnight. Decades ago, Bangladesh was heavily reliant on imported medicines. Today, it produces nearly all essential drugs domestically, including life-saving ones such as antibiotics, insulin, and cancer treatments. With population exceeding 170 million, the demand for accessible and cost-effective healthcare continues to grow. The local pharmaceutical sector has stepped up in response, resulting in improved health outcomes and a strengthened national supply chain. Alongside this domestic impact, the country has extended its pharmaceutical reach to international markets. In FY2023-24, pharmaceutical exports were valued at \$205.48 million, registering a 17.14 percent growth. Bangladeshi medicines reached regions in Africa, Southeast Asia, and even entered regulated markets like the United States and Europe. A key contributor to this success has been the industry's commitment to upgrading its technological capabilities and investing in more advanced manufacturing practices, including the production of biosimilars and complex generics.

Underlying this growth has been a strategic use of policy flexibility under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement. Bangladesh currently benefits from a waiver that allows the production of generic versions of patented drugs without the need for costly licensing. This policy has provided a significant competitive edge in global markets. However, this advantage will come to

an end after November 2026. Once the waiver expires, companies will be required to obtain a licence to produce patented medications. This shift is likely to increase production costs, potentially affecting the affordability of life-saving drugs. At the same time, global pharmaceutical giants may reclaim market space that Bangladeshi firms have started to occupy.

The expiration of the TRIPS waiver is just one aspect of a broader set of challenges that the industry will need to address. One of the most pressing issues is the overwhelming dependency on imported raw materials, specifically active pharmaceutical ingredients

manufacturing, especially in fields like biologics and hormone-based treatments, requires specialised training and a strong foundation in both research and engineering. Although progress has been made, there is still a long road ahead in terms of workforce development. Infrastructure development has not kept pace either. Projects like the long-awaited API Industrial Park have faced repeated delays, often tied to policy inconsistencies and administrative bottlenecks. As Bangladesh graduates from the LDC status, it is also set to lose various trade privileges, including duty-free access to several export markets. This shift may erode the cost competitiveness that has so far helped our pharmaceutical products find a foothold abroad.

Still, despite these hurdles, there is reason to be optimistic. While highly regulated markets have always attracted the most attention, there are numerous unregulated and semi-regulated markets in regions like Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia that

Government incentives, policy support, and funding for research facilities, when combined with private sector efficiency and ambition, can create a powerful engine for long-term growth. As part of this preparation, the government can also explore negotiating an extension to the TRIPS transition period to allow more time for adaptation. Building frameworks for patent access, including participation in global patent pools or voluntary licensing agreements, can help maintain the affordability and availability of newer medicines. Additionally, streamlining regulatory approval processes, simplifying land acquisition, and providing tax incentives for research activities would send a strong signal to investors and innovators alike.

There is no doubt that Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry has shown remarkable potential. But in order to sustain this momentum, we will need forward-looking policies, strong coordination across stakeholders, and a willingness to confront the industry's structural weaknesses. This is a moment



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

(API). More than 95 percent of these are sourced from countries like India and China, which makes the entire production chain vulnerable to disruptions and external price fluctuations. Beyond sourcing materials, the path to entering highly regulated export markets is filled with obstacles. Certifications for compliance with international standards can be expensive and time-consuming, often delayed further by bureaucratic inefficiencies at home. Building new manufacturing facilities or upgrading existing ones also tends to move slowly under the current administrative frameworks.

Another critical concern lies in the gap between the industry's technical demands and the available talent pool. Modern pharmaceutical

offer immediate opportunities. These areas typically have fewer entry barriers and a strong demand for affordable, quality medicines. Accelerating the establishment of the API Industrial Park and supporting local production capabilities can significantly reduce dependency on imported raw materials, making the industry more resilient and cost-effective in the long run. With global demographics shifting and an ageing population driving the need for drugs targeting chronic illnesses and cancer, Bangladesh has a timely opportunity to develop its expertise in biosimilars and niche therapeutic areas through targeted investment in research and development.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors will be key in unlocking the next phase of innovation.

to align regulatory architecture, engineering talent, research capabilities, internal compliance, and business strategy for the greater good.

From being heavily dependent on imports to becoming a growing exporter of essential medicines, Bangladesh's pharmaceutical story is one of resilience and reinvention. As the country enters a more competitive and complex global trade environment, the industry must prepare to meet new expectations. With strategic investments, collaborative thinking, and confidence in our own capabilities, there is every reason to believe that Bangladesh can continue to grow as a global provider of affordable, high-quality medicine. On the other hand, the industry needs more proactive hand-holding and policy support from the government.

INTERNATIONAL NOISE AWARENESS DAY

Laws exist, but silence does not

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MD. YEASIR ARAFAT and FAHMIDA

Noise pollution in Bangladesh has escalated to alarming levels, posing significant threats to public health and the environment. The increasing prevalence of loud music at social events, excessive honking in traffic, relentless mechanical noise from construction sites, and industrial operations have made high decibel sounds a regular aspect of urban life. The problem is particularly acute in cities such as Dhaka, Chattogram, and Rajshahi, where noise levels far exceed safe limits.

According to a 2022 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report, Dhaka ranked as the world's noisiest city with average noise levels of 119 decibels, followed by Rajshahi at 103 decibels. These figures far surpass the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended limits—55 decibels for residential areas and 70 decibels for commercial spaces during the day. WHO's 2018 guidelines reduced the safe limit to 53 decibels, mirrored by the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act and the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules. Main noise sources include chaotic traffic, hydraulic horns,

outdated engines, construction work, and loudspeakers at public events. Airports and railway stations further amplify this constant high-decibel environment.

The WHO estimates that over five percent of the global population suffers from noise-related issues. The safe noise is now considered to be 55 decibels. Levels above 65 decibels may cause heart problems; over 90 can lead to ulcers, hearing loss, and nervous disorders. At 120 decibels, noise can cause pain and permanent hearing damage. Prolonged exposure contributes to stress, anxiety, sleep disorders, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Children are particularly vulnerable. Noise impairs their concentration and development. Older adults exposed to noise may experience cognitive decline, worsening conditions like dementia. Noise pollution also harms wildlife. Animals rely on sound for survival; excess noise forces them to change habitats and disrupts breeding.

In aquatic environments, industrial and ship noise interferes with marine life like dolphins and whales that use echolocation for navigation and hunting.

Bangladesh introduced the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules, 2006, to address this crisis. These rules categorise five zones: silent, residential, mixed, commercial, and industrial. According to the law, authorities are required to mark these areas with signs or signals. Each zone has specific noise limits for day and night. Silent zones include hospitals, schools, offices, and the surrounding 100 metres

where the limit is 50 decibels during the day and 40 at night, and horn use is strictly prohibited. For residential zones, the day limit is 55 decibels and 45 at night. The rules allow exceptions for social, cultural, and political events such as weddings, concerts, fairs, and sports, provided permission is sought in advance. Such events can exceed limits for five hours a day, up to 10 pm. Violating these limits is a punishable offence.

Despite these detailed regulations, enforcement is weak, and violations are rampant. Government and law enforcement activities and programmes by faith-based groups are exempt from these rules, allowing sirens, horns, and loudspeakers to operate unchecked, often disturbing daily life. During the 2025 New Year celebrations, over 1,000 noise-related complaints were made to the emergency helpline 999, yet only a few prompted action, highlighting the gap between regulation and implementation. Penalties include up to one month in jail and/or a Tk 5,000 fine, with repeat offenders facing up to six months' imprisonment and/or a Tk 10,000 fine. However, these penalties are too lenient to deter transport operators and event organisers. Additionally, residential power generators, a significant noise source, remain unregulated.

Public awareness is also a major hurdle. Most people are unaware of the rules, permitted noise limits, complaint processes, and permission procedures. The law is rarely discussed, and no large-scale public campaigns exist. As a result, the law is ineffective not

only due to lax enforcement but also because of public ignorance. Awareness campaigns, media involvement, and education programmes are crucial. When people understand the risks and legal boundaries, they are more likely to report violations and support action. Additionally, stricter enforcement is essential. Authorities must increase penalties, implement real-time noise monitoring, and regulate horn use and loudspeakers more strictly. Other countries strictly control honking and penalise loud residential music—Bangladesh must follow suit. Technology can also help. Installing noise barriers, encouraging quieter vehicles, and maintaining silent zones around schools and hospitals are important. Urban planning should include noise-reducing designs, such as better road layouts and soundproof buildings. Public celebrations should promote quieter practices, and fireworks and event sound systems must be strictly regulated.

Noise pollution is a growing crisis in Bangladesh, severely affecting public health, wildlife, and quality of life. Although laws exist, weak enforcement and a lack of awareness allow violations to continue unchecked. The problem is not solely the public's fault—government negligence and lack of transparency also play a role. Solving this issue demands collective effort from government, law enforcement, planners, and the public. Strengthened laws, increased awareness, technological interventions, and better planning are the keys to creating a quieter, healthier Bangladesh for all.

Why are young men becoming so violent?



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

The senseless killing of Jahidul Islam Parvez, a 24-year-old student of Primeasia University, over a trivial matter encapsulates a frightening trend in our society: violence is seen as the only means of resolution to a conflict. What is scarier is the appeal of violence and brutality among young people, especially young men.

The three main suspects of the murder, who have been arrested after identification through CCTV footage, and the others also in the case are in their 20s. It all happened when Parvez and his friends were chatting and having snacks at a tea stall near the university campus.

According to media reports, two female students of another private university were also there and they felt insulted because they thought Parvez and his friends were laughing at them. The young women seemed to have complained to their friends, as soon after, a group of young men, possibly students, came and

they launched their attack on Parvez and his friend Tarikul using sharp weapons. Parvez was stabbed in the chest and died of his wounds, while his friend was critically injured.

Thus, a young life was cut short just because he might have been laughing at two female students. Parvez's assailants were so hungry for blood that they didn't even care that they were committing murder in public, that they would have to bear the consequences of their brutal act. How can they be so cruel and callous about the loss of a life over such a trivial matter?

The violent attacks and deaths of teenagers by "kisher gangs" (teenage gangs) over the last few years are a symptom of a society that is losing its moral compass and has failed its youth. There is a staggering lack of empathy, respect, and compassion in our society, which has seeped into many of our young people. The regular news of college students violently clashing with each other

weapons and making loud noises with their motorbikes, left residents and visitors petrified. CCTV footage of violent crimes taking place that flood social media often show that many of the perpetrators are young men, in their teens or twenties.

So what is happening to our youth? Well, to be honest, given the environment in which they grow up,

iefdoms at universities, with the Awami League ruling uncontested for 15 plus years, its student wing Chhatra League had a free rein to be as violent as they wanted—and get away with it. In 2019, BUET student Abrar Fahad was cruelly beaten to death by Chhatra League members. They were his fellow students of the university that is considered

Every now and then, fights between two gangs result in severe injuries or deaths.

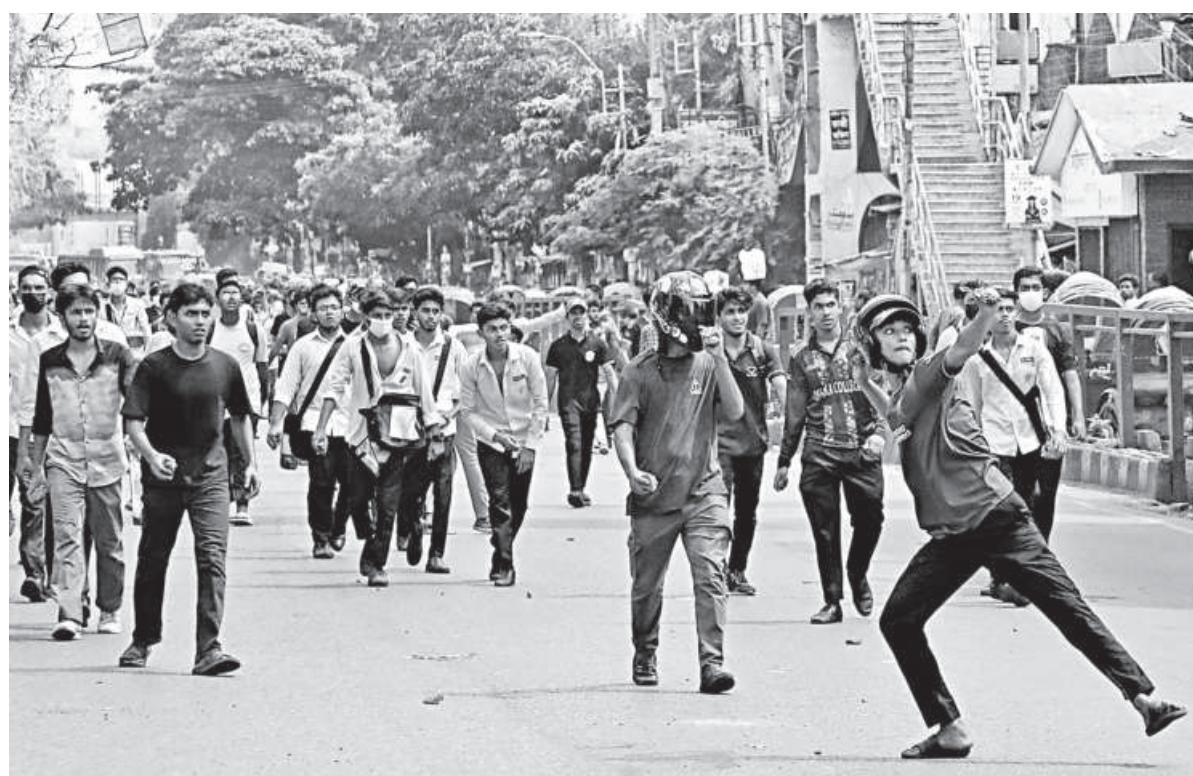
While young criminals are routinely arrested and sent to jail, this social affliction is on the rise.

Educational institutions are also to blame for not instilling the values needed for students to grow up into empathetic beings. Financial

advantages of having a young population (almost 25 percent of the total population is in the 15-29 age group, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics) we often choose to ignore the fact that a huge proportion of our young people are deprived of basic prerequisites of a wholesome life. This includes access to quality education, skills training, health, nutritious food, and decent jobs. Many don't get the guidance and love that are essential for children to grow up with good values. School curriculums are uninspiring, classrooms are overcrowded, and teachers don't have the time to give personal attention to each student. There are not enough playgrounds or recreational facilities for young people. Entertainment has become confined to mobile devices with internet connection, exposing them to violent content and pornography that serve to glamorise sexual violence.

The truth is, our governments and society have grossly overlooked the nation's most valuable asset: its young people. They have been seen merely as cheap labour that will keep the wheels of the economy running, that will bring in huge remittances. But little has been done at the policy or ground levels regarding development of youth that will be impactful.

The July uprising showed the strength and power of young people when they united and led the way to uprooting tyranny. Their courage and sacrifice moved people to join them in their fight for justice. Now is the time for society to harness this strength and spirit. The interim government and political parties must prioritise young people and plan how to empower them with quality education, skills training, and opportunities to earn, as well as make them feel part of nation-building. But most of all, society as a whole must teach young people to be empathetic, peace-loving human beings. It is the only way our nation can survive.



The regular news of college students violently clashing with each other and sometimes harming bystanders is evidence of our youth's growing inclination towards aggression.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

it's not shocking that many of our youth are prone to violent acts.

Politics has had a huge contribution in instilling this thirst for violence. Growing up watching the *Boro Bhais* (Big Brothers) of political parties getting "respect" through the fear they invoke among others with their brutality, many boys especially equate power with being how violent one can be. Though, typically, student wings of major political parties have used violence to establish their

to be one of the most prestigious institutions in the country.

According to a *Prothom Alo* report from last year, in 2024, there were about 237 "teenage" gangs in the country, with most of them being in Dhaka. Here, the term "teenage" can include young men in their early 20s. More than a thousand young men comprise these gangs and are involved in all kinds of crimes: mugging, extortion, drug trade, land grabbing, sexual harassment, rape, and murder.

hardship of the family, lack of communication between children and their parents, and physical abuse (by a parent or someone they know in their community) are other reasons why boys and young men are prone to violence. A misogynistic culture that punishes the female for being raped or sexually harassed and often provides impunity to the male perpetrators serve to encourage young men to commit these crimes.

While we talk a lot about the

confronted Parvez. Three teachers of the university intervened and resolved the issue. But the young men were not satisfied and later when Parvez and his friends were standing in front of the university,

and sometimes harming bystanders is evidence of this strange affinity towards brutality. Recently on the streets of Cumilla city, the rowdy demonstration of nearly a hundred young people, many wielding sharp

Bangladesh must explore sending skilled nurses abroad

Dr Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder is teacher and researcher at the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) in South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University (NSU).

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MOHAMMAD JALAL UDDIN SIKDER, SELIM REZA and K. M. NOOR E ZANNAT NADI

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, while speaking at an event back in February this year, emphasised two issues that are hindering Bangladesh's progress: the widespread use of forged documents by migrant workers, and the lack of certified nurses despite demand from around the world. He called for a serious re-evaluation of our current strategy and ascribed both issues to systemic faults, excessive bureaucracy, and opposition to reform.

It is important to have a comprehensive understanding of the global need for nurses and midwives before we make any observations or policy recommendations regarding the nursing profession in Bangladesh. Approximately 2.9 crore nurses and 22 lakh midwives are now providing healthcare worldwide. By 2030, there might be a shortage of roughly 45 lakh nurses and 3.1 lakh midwives because of the growing number of ageing population, expanding healthcare demands, and population growth.

To meet this growing demand, many countries have already started looking for international nurses to recruit. For instance, the United States will require more than 12 lakh nurses by 2030, while Germany will require more than 500,000. Additionally, as 24 percent of the UK's National Health Service (NHS) nurses received their training abroad, these countries are hiring more foreign-trained nurses and expediting credentialing procedures to meet their nursing shortages.

The Philippines and India are the two countries that contribute the most to the nursing workforce worldwide. About 640,000 Indian nurses work overseas, with a sizable portion of them based in the Gulf countries. As the largest represented non-UK nationality in the NHS, Indian professionals make up 10.1 percent of all full-time equivalent nurses and health visitors in the UK. Meanwhile, 28,258 Filipino nursing graduates took the US licensure exam in 2024, and 54 percent of the first-

time test-takers passed the test while 36 percent of repeat takers succeeded. The Philippine economy benefits greatly from the remittances sent home by Filipinos employed abroad, particularly nurses, which amount to about \$8 billion a year.

education, and because of the scarcity of seats, many deserving candidates are turned away every year. The absence of globally recognised BSc and MSc programmes is one of the sector's main structural problems. As a result, many Bangladeshi nurses are unable to get employment overseas, even though they possess practical skills. Outdated courses that don't satisfy global competency standards exacerbate the issue.

This crisis is not just about seat limitations; it is also about deep-rooted professional interests, power-hungry mindsets, and the gatekeeping tendencies of policymakers.

decision-making, and hospital leadership, which may potentially break down the traditional power structure in hospitals.

The Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC) exacerbates this structural crisis. The role of this body should be to ensure the quality of education and expand its scope. But in reality, it has restricted the entire sector to government control by not allowing private universities to offer nursing programmes. Private medical colleges are running MBBS programmes under public universities. Similar arrangements could have been made in nursing education.



Few public universities in Bangladesh provide advanced nursing education.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Prof Yunus, in his speech, also emphasised that Bangladesh has the potential to produce globally qualified nurses, yet despite interest from countries like the UK and Japan, systemic obstacles prevent us from meeting this rising global demand.

There are few public universities in Bangladesh that provide advanced nursing

education. The biggest obstacle to nursing education comes from within the medical community and administration. The vested interests that have historically controlled the health education sector fear that if nurses gain professional skills and confidence through an MSc or PhD degree, they would start participating in patient management,

Prof Yunus drew our attention to another deep crisis: the use of fake certificates to avail work opportunities abroad. It is important to stop such corruption. But at the same time, we need to think about the deeper structural issues that encourage workers to commit such crimes.

This problem is not only a domestic failure

The absence of globally recognised BSc and MSc programmes is one of the sector's main structural problems. As a result, many Bangladeshi nurses are unable to get employment overseas, even though they possess practical skills. Outdated courses that do not satisfy global competency standards exacerbate the issue.

for Bangladesh. The international labour market is also riddled with inequalities, lack of accountability, and a lack of institutional recognition. When we send workers abroad, our agreements with those countries often lack clear terms. As a result, opportunists harass our workers under various pretexts.

In developed countries, there is a recognised system called "apprenticeship" or "on-the-job training," where workers are given a formal certificate based on their work experience. But this facility is largely absent for workers in Bangladesh. As a result, when a worker with informal work experience applies for a new job, they are considered "unskilled." This rejection puts them in a situation where they feel the need to produce and present fake certificates. If foreign employers and agreements made with them provided other ways for Bangladeshi workers to prove their skills, the workers wouldn't feel pressured to use fake certificates to get ahead. The lack of such a system contributes significantly to the problem.

Corruption is not only internal; international structure also adds to the problem and helps facilitate the corrupt practices. Why do we not consider these issues seriously while signing contracts to send workers abroad?

It is imperative to take immediate action to address the issues the chief adviser highlighted. If we can produce skilled nurses suitable for the global market through necessary interventions and adequate recognition of work skills, along with other structural reforms, there is immense potential for us in the foreign labour market. We should not lag in utilising these potentials.

Polytechnic students Not forming edn reform

FROM PAGE 5
students had suspended their protests after the education ministry announced the formation of the committee. However, they withdrew the suspension the following day, expressing dissatisfaction with the committee's inactivity.

As part of their ongoing movement, students staged protest rallies on Sunday and Monday across the country. They also submitted a memorandum to the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), reiterating their demands.

The six-point charter includes demands such as abolishing the 30 percent promotion quota for craft instructors,

standardising the diploma-in-engineering curriculum to four years, ensuring reserved quotas in technical Grade-10 posts, and other reforms aimed at improving the quality of technical education.

Campus activities at many institutes across the country remained suspended as students locked the entrances to administrative and academic buildings, with banners and placards reiterating their six demands.

Meanwhile, education ministry officials told this newspaper that discussions were ongoing, but drafting a comprehensive roadmap would require time and further consultation with various stakeholders.

To address this, Debapriya said CPD had proposed forming a high-level reform committee to the education adviser in March, aiming to overhaul the technical education sector and align it with market demands.

"However, no such body has been formed yet," he added.

He said a skilled technical workforce could drive employment in Bangladesh. However, a disproportionate focus on general education, inadequate planning, and weak monitoring have hindered the potential of technical and vocational

education. Referring to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he said ensuring wider and fairer access to quality technical education by 2030 is a key target. However, Bangladesh is falling behind.

"If education commissions had been formed and functioned properly, the state of technical education would be much better today," he said.

He added that countries like South Korea, Japan, and India have transformed their economies through strong technical and vocational education systems — something Bangladesh has yet to replicate.

Debapriya said despite the number of technical graduates each year, many are not ready for the job market due to outdated training equipment and curriculum mismatches.

As a result, many local graduates remain unemployed while foreign workers secure jobs in

Bangladesh, he added.

He also called for changing the negative perception of technical education, where technical graduates are often undervalued compared to those with general degrees like BBA.

Speaking at the event, CPD's distinguished fellow Prof Mustafizur Rahman said Bangladesh's socio-economic progress depends on a greater focus on applied and technical education.

Highlighting the need for skilled workers and mid-level professionals before the country's LDC graduation, he stressed the importance of strengthening public-private partnerships and aligning vocational training with actual job market needs.

"To progress in the 21st century, Bangladesh must address these challenges urgently and systematically," he said.

Other CPD officials also attended the event.

EC seeks party suggestions

FROM PAGE 4
political parties after collecting their recommendations.

Meanwhile, the National Citizen Party (NCP) has expressed doubts about the proxy voting system, and Jamaat-e-Islami said this method carries a risk of possible fraud. The AB Party also called it risky.

However, despite concerns, leaders from BNP, Jamaat, CPB, and NCP said they would submit their recommendations within the deadline.

EC PREFERS PROXY SYSTEM

While the EC discussed

three voting methods, symbol than the one assigned by the actual voter.

Khaled Saifullah, joint convener of NCP, noted that in some regions, expatriates make up more than 10 percent of the electorate, so this can become a major issue.

However, despite concerns, leaders from BNP, Jamaat, CPB, and NCP said they would submit their recommendations within the deadline.

officials indicated a preference for proxy voting for expatriate Bangladeshis.

They explained that online voting would require extensive and time-consuming trials, while the postal ballot system has proven ineffective, as expatriates have shown little interest in using it during past elections.

At the event, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahaman Masud presented a draft amendment to include the proxy voting method in the Representation of the People's Order 1972.

SC stays HC bail

FROM PAGE 4
The accused pro-AL lawyers cannot get released from jail following the orders, said Additional Attorney General Md Abdul Jabbar Bhuiyan and defence lawyer Md Azhar Ullah Bhuiyan.

The HC granted the bail to the accused lawyers considering that there were no specific allegations

against them, said Advocate Azhar Ullah Bhuiyan.

The case was filed against 144 pro-AL lawyers over allegations of attacking members of the Dhaka Bar Association, vandalising lawyers' chambers, and attempted murder.

Subsequently, 115 lawyers secured eight weeks' anticipatory bail from the HC in the case.

People won't

FROM PAGE 5
Otherwise, like Awami League, BNP too will be thrown out by the people," he said.

Consensus

FROM PAGE 4
power. We want to ensure transparency, accountability, and legal and constitutional guarantees for those in power to face the public."

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the consensus commission, also addressed the dialogue, saying Bangladesh now has a historic opportunity to rebuild the state collectively.

Migrants stranded

FROM PAGE 5
once access themselves for free.

Tarique Ekramul Haque, managing director and founder of Ami Probashi, said the app was always focused on empowering migrants.

"To help them, we are ready to cooperate with the government and any stakeholders in the sector," he said.

"Though not mandatory, our submission system offered a vital alternative — allowing migrants to apply for training and clearance from their mobile phones."

He added, "We have full faith that the government is doing its best to resolve the issue and assist the affected migrants."

The crisis comes at a time when overseas job markets are shrinking.

"Most labour markets are actually closed," said a former joint secretary general of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, seeking anonymity.

"Saudi Arabia is practically our only active labour market. If we create obstacles there, labour migration will drop sharply," he added.

A new requirement mandating embassy verification even for single workers — previously only required for bulk demand letters of 25 or more — has further slowed the process.

Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of WARBE Development Foundation, said the government should immediately reinstate the Ami Probashi app to prevent further disruption.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh
Rahat Tower (4th Floor)
14 Link Road, West Banglamotor
Dhaka-1000.
www.pcb.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

Date: 29.04.2025

Ref: PCB/2025-561

01	Ministry/Division	:	Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare								
02	Agency	:	Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh								
03	Procuring Entity Name	:	Secretary, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh								
04	Procuring Entity Code	:	Not Applicable								
05	Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka								
06	Invitation for Goods	:	"Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Photocopier, Brand Desktop PC, Printer, Office equipment and Related Accessories for Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh"								
07	Invitation Ref Number	:	PCB/Tender/Com/2025-01								
08	Date	:	Date: 29-04-2025								
09	Key Information	:									
10	Procurement Method	:	Open Tendering Method (OTM)								
FUNDING INFORMATION											
10	Budget and Source of Funds	:	Own Funds								
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	:	Not Applicable								
PARTICULAR INFORMATION											
12	Project/Programme Code	:	Not Applicable								
13	Project/Programme Name	:	Not Applicable								
14	Tender Package No	:	GD 03								
15	Tender Package Name	:	"Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Photocopier, Brand Desktop PC, Printer, Office equipment and Related Accessories for Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh"								
16	Tender Publication Date	:	30/04/2025								
17	Tender Last Selling Date	:	Date: 15/05/2025 Time: 10:00 AM								
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	:	Date: 15/05/2025 Time: 02:00 PM								
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	:	Date: 15/05/2025 Time: 03:00 PM								
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	:									
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	:	Admin Section, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh, Rahat Tower (4th Floor), 14 Link Road, West Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000.								
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	:	Not Applicable								
	Receiving Tender Document	:	Admin Section, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh, Rahat Tower (4th Floor), 14 Link Road, West Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000.								
	Opening Tender Document	:	Conference Room, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh, Rahat Tower (5th Floor), 14 Link Road West Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000.								
21	Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	:	N/A								
	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	:	N/A								
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER											
22	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	:	<p>i) General Experience: The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 5 (Five) years.</p> <p>ii) Specific Experience: The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Electronic Goods/Equipment of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 3 (Three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 15,00,000.00 (Fifteen Lac Taka Only).</p> <p>iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e., working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 19,00,000.00 (Nineteen Lac Taka Only).</p>								
23	Brief Description of Goods	:	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Photocopier, Brand Desktop PC, Printer, Office equipment and Related Accessories for Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh.								
24	Brief Description of Related Services	:	Not Applicable								
25	Lot Identification of Lot	:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Price of Tender Document (TK)</th> <th>Tender Security Amount</th> <th>Completion Time in Weeks/Months</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dhaka</td> <td>1500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred Only).</td> <td>70,000.00 (Seventy Thousand Taka Only).</td> <td>1 Month.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Price of Tender Document (TK)	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks/Months	Dhaka	1500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred Only).	70,000.00 (Seventy Thousand Taka Only).	1 Month.
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1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Photocopier, Brand Desktop PC, Printer, Office equipment and Related Accessories for Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh, Rahat Tower (5th Floor), 14 Link Road, West Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000.										
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS											
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	:	Muhammad Mahbubul Haq, on behalf of Finance Committee, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh.								
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	:	Secretary, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh								
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	:	Office room of the Secretary, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh, Rahat Tower (4th Floor), 14 Link Road, West Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000.								
29	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	:	Phone: +88-02-41061319, 41061320 Fax: +88-02-9676600 e-mail: info@pcb.gov.bd								
30			The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders								

১০/০৪/২৫
১০/০৪/২৫
১০/০৪/২৫
১০/০৪/২৫

মোবাইল প্রাইভেট

মোবাইল

Form an independent police commission

FROM PAGE 16
Also at the meeting, Constable Samia Shorna from Dhaka district demanded a compensatory allowance equal to one month's basic salary.

In response, Chief Adviser Yunus assured the attendees that the issues raised would be further discussed.

Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said Police Week aims to connect policymakers with frontline officers to modernise the force and boost their morale. Acknowledging past tensions with the public, particularly during the student protests, he said steps had been taken to rebuild trust.

Since the interim government assumed office in August 2024, restoring law and order has been a priority, he noted.

Coordinated efforts have re-established command and lifted the morale."

The IGP thanked the chief adviser for initiatives, including lifting the cap on risk allowances, halting non-essential procurement, and facilitating motorcycle loans for officers.

"We aim to be a humane, transparent, and accountable force, committed to justice and human rights," he said.

Meanwhile, 62 officers

were awarded the Bangladesh Police Medal and President Police Medal for outstanding service.

WORKSHOP ON POLLS PREPAREDNESS

Senior officials also held a workshop with field-level officers at the Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday, focusing on restoring public trust, improving the force's image, and maintaining law and order amid evolving national challenges.

Md Kamrul Ahsan, deputy inspector general of the PHQ, led the session, assigning field officers with six key tasks.

These included restoring a stable work environment, enforcing the law, countering propaganda and subversive activities, removing poor leadership influences, and rebuilding public confidence.

Officers were directed to act strictly by the law and resist all forms of pressure ahead of the national election. They were also instructed to combat misinformation and share accurate information with the public.

"Many leave their families behind but later request to reunite with them, disrupting the training process," a meeting source quoted the principal as saying.

Zillur added that most trainees later seek transfers to Dhaka.

He also raised concerns about physical standards, particularly height. "Although minimum height is required, it's often overlooked during medical

interim and political governments; intra party conflict; mob violence, and protests.

Other threats discussed were inmate escapes, terrorist bailouts, growing extremism in the southwest, and the Rohingya and Arakan crises destabilising the borders.

'RECRUIT UNMARRIED ASPS'

On the first day of Police Week 2025, high-ranking officers also met Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and placed several demands, including the recruitment of unmarried assistant superintendents of police.

Barrister Zillur Rahman, principal of the Police Academy, noted that around 70 percent of probationary ASPs are married, which creates challenges during training.

"Many leave their families behind but later request to reunite with them, disrupting the training process," a meeting source quoted the principal as saying.

Zillur added that most trainees later seek transfers to Dhaka.

He also raised concerns about physical standards, particularly height. "Although minimum height is required, it's often overlooked during medical

exams."

He recommended ensuring recruits meet height and weight standards and prioritising unmarried candidates.

Officials also proposed a special allowance for training academy staff and improved services at divisional police hospitals.

Addressing the high officials, the home adviser said, "You only focus on your own matters. That's not right. First, address how lower-level officials are living and performing. Fix those issues first."

He emphasised genuine concern for lower-ranking officers, especially regarding housing, duty schedules, workload, and overall well-being.

"Sincere attention should also be paid to their food and nutrition," Jahangir added.

He said the government is considering allowing junior officers to be posted within their home districts and, where possible, posting police spouses in the same district as well.

In this context, it becomes evident that such cases are being filed with the intent to harass, which could have far-reaching consequences," it said, while urging utmost caution in accepting such cases.

The HRFB demanded withdrawal of cases, including the one filed against Zaker along with other professionals, non-

Rights bodies worried

FROM PAGE 16
ensure trial of the actual perpetrators.

"It is essential to ensure justice in the killing of Sharban, and at the same time, necessary and appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that those responsible don't go unpunished. Besides, the government is being urged to take effective steps to prevent anyone from being harassed through cases lodged with malicious intent," HRFB said.

Implicating a large number of people in the cases will hinder both the investigation and the judicial process and delay the investigation reports, it added.

In this context, it becomes evident that such cases are being filed with the intent to harass, which could have far-reaching consequences," it said, while urging utmost caution in accepting such cases.

The HRFB demanded withdrawal of cases, including the one filed against Zaker along with other professionals, non-

political individuals, and ordinary people, following proper investigations.

It is also essential to conduct proper probes to identify those involved directly or indirectly in each killing, how they were involved, and under whose instructions these acts were

done. Echoing similar concerns, BLAST said politically motivated cases and mass arrests are undermining justice and called for urgent reforms to ensure fair investigations based on credible evidence. It also urged swift justice for genocides and gross human rights violations during the July-August uprising.

Referring to the murder case of Sharban where 408 individuals, including Zaker and several journalists, were accused, the rights body criticised the filing of such a first information report without credible evidence or specific links to the incident.

The rights body also warned that similar practices were seen during previous governments, where accountability was lacking, and called for an urgent reform of such procedures.

17 actors sued

FROM PAGE 16
told The Daily Star yesterday, "We received a copy of the court's order today [yesterday]. Action is being taken accordingly."

Meanwhile, actor Siddiquur Rahman Siddique was assaulted yesterday afternoon on the capital's Bailey Road by a group of youths who alleged he had ties to the Awami League. The group later handed him over to police.

Siddique, who was in custody at Ramna Police Station, was seen with torn clothes and bruises in a video that went viral on social media. A voice in the video can be heard calling him "a supporter of the fascist regime".

In another video, an attacker was heard saying, "We are Habibullah Bahar [unit of] Chhatra Dal [the student wing of BNP]".

Siddique had earlier collected a nomination form from the AL to contest the Dhaka 17 by-election in 2023, following the death of actor Farooque, but did not receive the party's nomination.

Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Siddique was handed over to Gulshan Police Station, where a case had previously been filed against him. He was shown arrested in that case.

Trump threats help Liberals win

FROM PAGE 16
a wide lead in the polls that evaporated after Trump slapped tariffs on Canada and threatened to annex the country. Canadians are shunning U.S. goods and trips in response.

While Carney remains prime minister, his Liberals appeared to win only a minority of seats in the House of Commons, making the government more fragile and dependent on smaller parties to stay in power.

Australia holds an election on May 3, and the major parties have closely watched the polling surge towards Carney, Australian political strategists said. As in Canada, voter concern over the global fallout from Trump's policies has tilted support toward the center-left Labor Party.

Former Canadian diplomat Colin Robertson, who knew Carney when he worked at the Finance Ministry, said Carney is Canada's best-equipped prime minister since the 1960s, given his experience leading the Bank of England and Bank of Canada.

"He goes in extremely well prepared, with a superb Rolodex, and people will take his call and look to him because their challenges are economic right now," he said.

Carney will likely start by expanding Canadian trade with Europe, Australia and Asian democracies such as Japan, Robertson said, blunting some of the economic damage from newly imposed U.S. tariffs on cars, steel and aluminum.

Fortifying Canada's economy is expected to be Carney's immediate priority, including by advancing infrastructure projects to make Canada less dependent on the United States, which buys 90% of Canada's oil exports.

Leading the smallest G7 nation, Carney will then need to muster his global coalition "without waving a giant red flag in front of Donald Trump," said Roland Paris, a former adviser to ex-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and now professor of international affairs at University of Ottawa.

"It will be a difficult tightrope or balancing act for him," Paris said. "He and Canada have an interest in coordinating with other like-minded countries, but without necessarily setting up Canada as the organizer of an opposition. Why turn Canada into that kind of target?"

Paris said Carney's calm demeanor and financial experience may elicit a more constructive response from Trump than the president directed at Trudeau, whom he belittled as "governor."

Robertson, a senior adviser at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute think tank, expects Carney to try to work collaboratively with Trump, possibly as early as the June G7 Leaders' Summit in Alberta, where he predicted Carney may arrange a trade meeting with Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

PUBALI BANK PLC.



PUBALI BANK PLC.

REGISTERED OFFICE

26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

INFORMATION SENSITIVE TO SHARE PRICE

Recommendation for Cash Dividend & Stock Dividend for the year 2024

This is to notify for all concerned that the Board of Directors of **Pubali Bank PLC.** in its **1468th Board Meeting** held on **Tuesday, 29 April 2025** considered and approved the **Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024** and recommended for payment of Cash Dividend & issuance of Stock Dividend for the year ended 31 December 2024 to the Shareholders at 4.00 PM as given below:

- a) **Cash Dividend @ 12.50% (Twelve and Half Percent)**
- b) **Stock Dividend @ 12.50% (Twelve and Half Percent)**

1. The Board also disclosed the following information from the Audited Financial Statements for the Year 2024, comparing them to those of the previous year 2023:

Particulars	2024		2023	
	Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated
i) Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Taka)	6.59	6.74	*5.89	*6.01
ii) Net Asset Value (NAV) (Taka in Crore)	5,232.46	5,330.25	4,460.55	4,540.70
iii) NAV Per Share (Taka)	45.23	46.08	*38.56	*39.25
iv) Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)** (Taka)	61.00	61.01	*3.91	*3.06

* Restated

**NOCFPS indicates a positive trend during the year ended 2024 Tk. 61.00 (cons. Tk. 61.01) compared to same period of last year Tk. 3.91 (cons. Tk. 3.06), with notable growth. This significant improvement demonstrates bank's focus on high-yield lending, diversification of fees and commission income, cost optimization and digital transformation. Deposit collection from customers and increase in other liabilities result higher free cash flows which affecting NOCFPS positively during the year 2024.

Reasons for recommendation of stock dividend:

- a. Stock Dividend has been recommended to strengthen the capital base of the Bank in order to support projected business growth and to improve certain regulatory ratios.
- b. Stock Dividend is recommended out of profit; and
- c. Stock Dividend is not recommended from capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of profit earned prior to incorporation of the Bank or through reducing paid-up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earnings become negative or a debit balance.

2. The Board also decided to hold the 42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Pubali Bank PLC. using digital platform as per following schedule:

Day & Date	:	Wednesday, 18 June 2025.
Time	:	11.00 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time).
Record Date	:	Thursday, 22 May 2025.

By order of the Board of Directors

sd/-

Md. Anisur Rahman
General Manager &
Company Secretary

NOTES:

- The Shareholders whose names would appear in the Register of Members of the Company (Pubali Bank PLC.) and/or in the Depository Register on the Record Date (Thursday, 22 May 2025), will be entitled to receive the Dividends and to join the Annual General Meeting.
- The Shareholders under BO accounts are requested to update the particulars of their Bank Account (Bank & Branch Name, Account Number, Branch Routing Number), Name, Signature and Mailing Address including mobile/land phone number, E-mail address etc. through Depository Participant (DP) before the 'Record Date' i.e. 22 May 2025. The folio shareholders are also requested to update their Mobile No. through Share Department of Registered Office of the Bank before 'Record Date' i.e. 22 May 2025.
- The Members under BO Accounts are requested to update e-TIN in their BO Accounts through their respective Depository Participant (DP) and members under folio accounts are requested to submit e-TIN certificate to Share Department of Registered Office of the Bank before the 'Record Date'. If anyone fails to update e-TIN in his/her BO/Folio Accounts before the 'Record Date', disbursement of any cash dividend will be made (other than a company) after deduction of Advance Income Tax (AIT) @15% (fifteen percent) instead of 10% (ten percent) as per Income Tax Act, 2023.
- Merchant Banks and Depository Participants (DPs) are requested to provide the Company a statement with details (Shareholder Name, BO ID, Client-wise shareholding position and applicable tax rate) of their margin loan holders who held shares of the Company as on 'Record Date' along with the Bank Account name & number, routing number etc. of the Merchant Banks & DPs within 04 June 2025 including name of the contact person otherwise dividend to be credited to the bank account of the respective shareholders.

These are online Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.14.26

Date: 29/04/2025

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1100731	Procurement of I&C Spares for GT,ST			

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Ministry of Public Administration Government Employee Management System (GEMS) Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka				
Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Individual Consultant (National)				
Ministry/Division		Ministry of Public Administration		
Agency		Ministry of Public Administration		
Procuring entity name		Program Director, Government Employee Management System (GEMS)		
Procuring entity code		Not used at present		
Procuring entity district		Dhaka		
Expression of Interest for Selection of		Individual Consultant (National) (Time-Based)		
EOI Ref No. and date		05.00.0000.248.07.003.24.185 Date 29/04/2025		
KEY INFORMATION				
Procurement sub-method		Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
Budget and source of funds		GoB		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
Program name		Government Employee Management System (GEMS)		
Scheme name		-		
EOI closing date and time		Applicants are advised to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in completed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and proven documents with a cover letter. Request for Application Form with detailed Terms of References (ToR) are available in the MoPA website. Application shall be submitted to the program office on or before 3:00pm 15/05/2025 in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of [Name of the position]". Contact address with email and mobile number of the applicant should be written on the left side of the envelope.		
Information for applicant				
Consultant (IT)				
Title of service	No. of Service	Man month	Minimum qualification	Minimum general experience
Senior Consultant (Front-end) MoPA/GEMS-SR-013	1	12	Masters in Computer Science/Computer Science and Engineering/Electrical and Electronics Engineering/Information and Communication Technology	Minimum 6 years' experience in IT with 3 years of solid experience in React framework; Strong proficiency on react core principles and workflows (such as Flux or Redux); JavaScript ES6+, Type Script, DOM manipulation, and the JavaScript object model, Data structure libraries, HTML, CSS framework like (Bootstrap/Tailwind); Familiarity with modern front-end build pipelines and tools; Must have strong knowledge of modern authentication/authorization mechanisms and As per ToR .
Consultant (Testing) MoPA/GEMS-SR-015	1	12	Graduation in Computer Science/Computer Science and Engineering/Electrical and Electronics Engineering/Information and Communication Technology	Minimum 5 years' experience in IT; Minimum 1 year experience in software testing; ISTQB Certification will be added Value and As per ToR
Consultant (Software / Apps Developer) MoPA/GEMS-SR-016	1	12	Graduation in Computer Science/Computer Science and Engineering/Electrical and Electronics Engineering/Information and Communication Technology / Software Engineering, preferably in post-graduation or higher degree in the related subjects.	Minimum 7 years' experience in software development; Preferably in Human Resource Management Software; Capable to develop software in any language as per organizational needed and As per ToR
Junior Consultant (Software / Apps Developer) MoPA/GEMS-SR-017	1	12	Graduation in Computer Science/Computer Science and Engineering/Electrical and Electronics Engineering/Information and Communication Technology.	Minimum 3 years' experience in software development, preferably in government office; Capable to develop software in any language as per organizational needed and As per ToR
Junior Consultant (Front-end) MoPA/GEMS-SR-018	1	12	Graduation in Computer Science/Computer Science and Engineering/Electrical and Electronics Engineering/Information and Communication Technology	Minimum 3 years' experience in Software Development with 2 years of solid experience in React framework; Minimum 1 year experience in working with Government Software Systems; 2 years of solid experience in Micro Frontend technology; Experience in socket programming is preferable. and As per ToR
Junior IT consultant (Support Engineer) MoPA/GEMS-SR-019	1	12	Graduation in Computer Science/Computer Science and Engineering/Electrical and Electronics Engineering/Information and Communication Technology.	Minimum 2 years' experience in providing user software support; Minimum 1 year experience in software development and As per ToR
Consultant (Functional)				
Junior Consultant (Accounts) MoPA/GEMS-SR-022	1	12	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 15 years' experience in financial management and accounting system; Minimum 10 years' experience Government official audit and accounts system; Develop and keep all financial documents at State Office; Maintain account records, cheque books, Cash books and As per ToR
Junior Consultant (Training) MoPA/GEMS-SR-023	1	12	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 4 years working experience as office Executive or Junior Consultant; Minimum 2 years working experience with Knowledge and understanding about Government office management system and organization of training; Provide logistics support in arranging training/workshops/seminar/meeting and As per ToR
Junior Consultant (Administration) MoPA/GEMS-SR-024	1	12	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 3 Years' experience as Gov't office Administrative affairs & Gov't Procurement process; Minimum 2 years' working experience with knowledge and understanding about Government office management system; Provide day to day administration and general services to all the administration of the office and As per ToR
Other details (if applicable)		A copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR), Request for Application (RFA) and necessary forms may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during 9.00 to 16.00 hours till 14/05/2025 and in website of Ministry of Public Administration.		
Association with foreign firms is		Not applicable		
EOI Detail Information				
Phasing of services		Location		Start date
Single: Time-Based		Dhaka		June 2025
				12 months (renewable)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
Name of official inviting EOI		Md. Raihan Akhtar		
Designation of official inviting EOI		Joint Secretary (PACC) & Program Director, Government Employee Management System (GEMS)		
Address of official inviting EOI		Ministry of Public Administration, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 (Public Administration Computer Centre (PACC), Room No. 105/Kha, Building-3)		
Contact details of official inviting EOI		Cell: 01723113306, Phone: 02-55100512, Email: gems@mopa.gov.bd		
Detail information available in the website		www.mopa.gov.bd		
The procuring entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs				

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Lalmonirhat. +Tel: 0591-61770, FAX: 0591-61770 email: eerhdial@yahoo.com , eelal@rhd.gov.bd					
e-Tender Notice					
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will accept in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).					
e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer(PE), RHD, Road Division, Lalmonirhat for: Supplying of Sand, Stone Chips, 1st Class Brick fire wood, Paint & Thinner at RHD Stackyard Lalmonirhat under Road Division, Lalmonirhat during the year 2024-2025.					
Sl no	Tender ID no	Tender ref. no	Tender last selling	Tender closing date	Tender opening date
1.	1104561	eGP-40-/EE/LRD/2024-2025	13-May-2025 17:00	14-May-2025 13:00	14-May-2025 13:00

GD-1019
Reference No.718
Date: 29-04-2025
(Md. Abdul Momen)
ID No. 100448
Executive Engineer(C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat.

জেলা পরিষদ, কার্যালয় সিরাজগঞ্জ					
www.zpsirajganj.gov.bd					
তারিখ: ১৮.০৪.২০২৫ খ্রি					
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি: ০১/২০২৪-২০২৫					
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Tender ID NO 1102753, 1102752, 1102751, 1102750, 1102749, 1102748, 1102747, 1102746, 1102745, 1102744, 1102743, 1102742, 1102741, 1102740, 1102739, 1102738, 1102737, 1102736, 1102735, 1102734					
This is an online Tender, Where only- 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					
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches according to e-GP tender Notice of these tender up 13.00 PM on 14/05/2025					
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk. (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).					
GD-1020 Kazi Md Abdul Baten Assistant Engineer Zila parishad,Sirajgonj Tel: 0751-62421					

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Bon Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. www.wildlife.dhakadiv.gov.bd					
Memo No-22.01.0000.106.42.001.25.1434 Date: 29.04.2025					
e-Tender Notice					
E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the works below.					
SL No	Tender ID	Work/Tender Description	Publication Date & Time	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1.	1095255	Repair & maintenance works of Residential Quarters at Safari Park, Gazipur	30-Apr-2025 09:00	14-May-2025 17:00	15-May-2025 11:00
2.	1095256	Construction work of Box culvert at Bhawal National Park, Gazipur.	30-Apr-2025 09:00	14-May-2025 17:00	15-May-2025 11:30
3.	1095257	Repair work of Culvert at Bhawal National Park, Gazipur.	30-Apr-2025 09:00	14-May-2025 17:00	15-May-2025 12:00
The interested person/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.					
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd , Cell phone: 01916-522803).					
GD-1031 (Sharmin Akter) ID: 13206 Divisional Forest Officer Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Dhaka-1212					

Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur						
Phone : 06822-52156, Fax : 06822-51904, Webmail: http://www.kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd e-mail: mayor@kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd , mayor_kaliakair@yahoo.com , xen_kaliakair@yahoo.com , xen@kaliakairpourashava.gov.bd						
Memo No-KKP/Engg/ADP/2025-353(1-2) Date- 27.04.2025						
e-Tender Notice						
e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following Procurement-						
Sl No	Tender ID No	Package No	Description of the Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1097294	KKP/ADP/REV/2025/W-06	Maintenance Work of Kaliakair Pourahbon, Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur	12-May-2025; 17:00 PM	13-May-2025; 15:00 PM	13-May-2025; 15:00 PM
2	1097430	KKP/ADP/Own Found/2025/W-07	Maintenance of Street Light & Vehicls, Supply of Stationary Gods & Improvement of Religious & Social Institution Under Kaliakair Pourashava, Gazipur	12-May-2025; 17:00 PM	13-May-2025; 15:00 PM	13-May-2025; 15:00 PM

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

GD-1021 Engr. Haripada Roy Executive Engineer KaliakairPourashava						
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'Juggling teaching and acting isn't easy': CHANDNI ON HER COMEBACK



My fans still encourage me to return to acting more regularly, but my commitments as a dance teacher at an English-medium school limit my time.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Actress Mehbooba Mahnoor Chandni, known for her acclaimed performances in films like *Dukhai*, *Lalsalu*, and *Joyjatra*, is returning to the small screen after a long break. The National Film Award-winning actress enjoyed massive success through television dramas while working. She recently completed shooting for the drama *Tumi Ami O Se*, directed by Azizul Hakim and written by his wife, Zeenat Hakim.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Chandni shared that the compelling story of the drama alongside her respect for Azizul and Zeenat Hakim motivated her comeback. "They are wonderful people, and highly organised when it comes to their profession. When they offered me the script, I immediately agreed," she said.

In this upcoming project, Chandni has been paired opposite her longtime friend, actor Shajal Noor. Reflecting on their reunion, she added, "We share a wonderful bond, so working together again was enjoyable."

When asked if she misses her busy shooting schedule from her heydays, Chandni admitted, "Of course I miss it! We were like one big family, and the audience's love meant everything." She added, "My fans still encourage me to return to

acting more regularly, but my commitments as a dance teacher at an English-medium school limit my time."

"I haven't quit acting, but I need good scripts to return," she explained. "I prefer projects that offer meaningful storytelling, regardless of whether they're for TV or OTT platforms."

Chandni, who began her career as a dancer, has been actively teaching dancing for several years. "I find teaching to be incredibly rewarding. It brings me great joy to see my students express respect and admiration for my background in the industry," she stated.

Despite her current focus on teaching, Chandni expressed her desire to continue dancing throughout her life, describing it as her true passion.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



Xefer surprises fans with new song 'Teer'

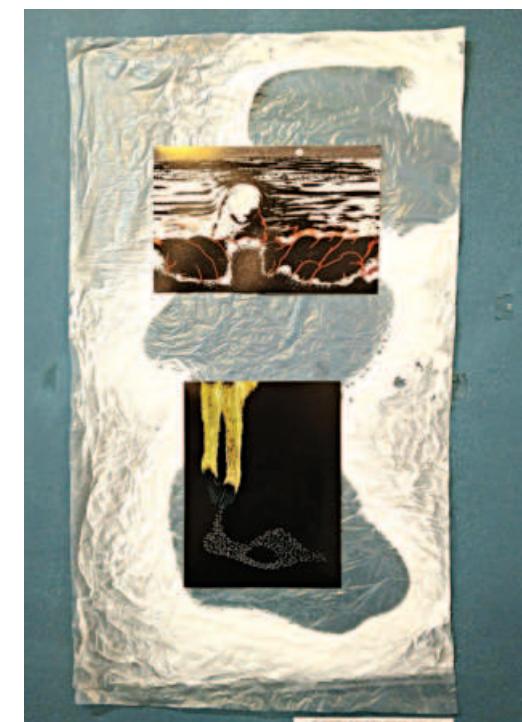
Yesterday, Xefer Rahman unveiled her brand-new track *Teer* on her YouTube channel. In addition to lending her voice, Xefer also composed the melody and co-wrote the lyrics alongside lyricist Adib Kabir.

Teer, presenting Xefer in a fresh new look, bold performance and impassioned vocals sparked intrigue from her fans worldwide. The video and lyrics, glamorised with earthy tones, explores the theme of confronting and overcoming fear.

Adib Kabir was also responsible for the music arrangement. The music video's concept and creative direction were curated by Xefer herself, while Partho Sheikh directed the visuals under the Daekho Studios' banner.

ART EXHIBITION

'Miniscope 2' returns to prove less is more



PHOTOS: AISHWARYA RAIHAN

AISHWARYA RAIHAN

Dwip Gallery in Lalmaia opened its doors to the second exhibition of its kind, *Miniscope 2*, on April 26. Flaunting creative gateways for diverse artists from both Bangladesh and India, it is currently hosting miniature and endearing artworks.

Notably, during autumn last year, the Dwip gallery authorities issued a call for visual art submissions to both professional and non-professional artists, and the response was overwhelming. Eventually, 56 artists from Bangladesh and West Bengal were selected, and a collection of 116 artworks from them now adorn the gallery walls.

From ink work to acrylic, sculptures to photography, and watercolour to etching, Dwip is showcasing an array of imaginative artworks by said selected artists. The best aspect about *Miniscope 2* is that the artists were able to skillfully portray their thought process into a smaller volume specified by the gallery, which paved the way for a larger collection of art pieces to be accommodated within the gallery walls.

Upon entering the first room, Sumana Akter's *Punojonno* series caught my eye. The humanoid trees in white on green backdrops made me gaze at them curiously. Some minimalistic artworks in black and white,



including Farzana Ahmed Urmi's *We Are Needed* series, gives weight to the legendary architect Mies Van der Rohe's quote, "Less is more". A Asan created dry pastel paintings, *Read the Dark*, with unique animal forms, which rather intrigued me.

The narrow corridor bore Anindita Datta Banti's stunning and vibrant *Flower Composition* series, a set of acrylic paintings. Salma Zakia Bristy's mixed media abstract

paintings look unique with real, antique jewelry attached to them. They somehow reminded me of Bangla novels written during British rule. A set of black backdrops held golden coloured metal work by Rezaul Karim Rezon, conveying the essence of the ancient craftwork of this sub-continent. Shibananda Adhikary Biplob's *Images of Innocence 11* has an endearing white baby bird, which gave me a serotonin boost.

In the innermost room, on the dusk blue wall hung Ashang Mong's *Endless Poetry*, reminding me scenes from seas and forests. Showrab Gosh's *Intangible Sentiment* is a tiny yet powerfully thought-provoking piece, with delicate lines, strokes, and a bright red-orange background. Khurshid Jahan's *Echoes of the Earth* in mixed media is a series that transported me to the world of fairy forests.

In short, the variety of artworks and their mediums, not to mention the proficiency of the artists, left me mesmerised. *Miniscope 2* is proof that small art pieces are just as capable of filling our souls as large scale artwork is. Through this exhibition, Dwip has created a wonderful platform for rising artists while also creating networking opportunities for younger art enthusiasts.

Miniscope 2 will be run at Dwip Gallery till May 6.

Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia joins Cannes jury

Acclaimed Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia is set to return to the Cannes Film Festival this year — this time as a member of the main competition jury.

She has joined a distinguished panel led by French actor Juliette Binoche, alongside Halle Berry, Alba Rohrwacher, Leïla Slimani, Dieudo Hamadi, Hong Sangsoo, Carlos Reygadas, and Jeremy Strong.

Kapadia, a Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) alumna, previously won Cannes' L'Œil d'or in 2021 for *A Night of Knowing Nothing* and the 2024 Grand Prix for her debut fiction feature *All We Imagine as Light*.

She joins a rare group of Indians to serve on the Cannes jury, following Mrinal Sen, Mira Nair, Shekhar Kapur, and others.



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Rare opening stand undone by late collapse

SPORTS REPORTER

Courtesy of Shadman Islam's second Test century, Bangladesh yesterday found themselves in a promising position on day two of the second and final Test against Zimbabwe. However, a flurry of wickets in the final session has cast doubt on their chances of securing a significant first-innings lead in Chattogram.

The Tigers closed the day on 291 for seven, leading by only 64 runs, having lost their grip on a match they once looked to be dominating.

Resuming the day's proceedings, after Taijul Islam wrapped up Zimbabwe's first innings by taking his sixth wicket off the very first ball of the day, the home side looked to mean business.

The new opening pair of Shadman and Anamul Haque Bijoy composed a much-needed 118-run opening stand — Bangladesh's first century opening stand in 16 Tests following Najmul Shanto and Zahir Hasan's 124-run partnership against India in Chattogram over two years ago.

Anamul eventually departed for 39, but Shadman found another able partner



PHOTO: BCB

in Mominul Haque. The duo added 76 runs for the second wicket without much trouble, further strengthening the hosts' position.

Shadman went on to reach his century, off 142 balls as he dispatched Richard Ngwira delivery with a classy cover drive for a boundary. His innings served as

as well, giving Bangladesh their first Test hundred from an opener in 28 months.

However, a lapse in concentration at the stroke of tea saw both batters depart in quick succession — first Mominul for 33, then Shadman on the very next ball after reaching career high 120 runs.

The sudden double blow brought captain Shanto and a vastly experienced Mushfiqur Rahim to the crease, and while

they managed to regroup, the momentum shift was also a sign of things to come.

Mushfiqur and Shanto stitched together a 65-run stand for the fourth wicket, frustrating the visitors and reviving hopes of a commanding lead. But the final session proved costly. What seemed a solid foundation quickly crumbled as Bangladesh lost four wickets for just 20 runs.

Shanto's dismissal triggered the slide, gifting a simple catch to mid-wicket off debutant leg-spinner Vincent Masekese, who soon grabbed his maiden Test wicket. Masekese struck again to remove Jaffer Ali, while Mushfiqur, looking steady on 40, was run out trying to sneak a needless single. Masekese capped off the session by removing Nayem Hasan, leaving the visitors firmly back in the game.

Reflecting on the day, Shadman admitted the collapse hurt their momentum, saying, "we were in a good position but suddenly we witnessed a collapse," while remaining hopeful with Mehedi Hasan Miraz at the crease and that "a good partnership" is still possible to regain control.

Inter brace for daunting Barca trip

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan head into the Champions League semifinals at risk of finishing the season empty-handed after a late-season slump killed their treble hopes and has left them wondering where the next win will come from.

Wednesday's daunting clash at Barcelona could hardly have come at a worse time for Inter who, since reaching the last four, have lost three games on the bounce without scoring a goal.

Those three defeats handed Napoli a three-point lead at the top of Serie A with four matches remaining and left Inter out of the Italian Cup after a dismal 3-0 derby defeat at the hands of AC Milan last week.

Simone Inzaghi's team look tired and bereft of ideas up front in Sunday's 1-0 home loss to Roma.

Barca are on a high after beating Real Madrid to win the Copa del Rey on Saturday as their old enemies had a petulant meltdown in a face of a third straight Clasico defeat. Unlike Inter, the Catalans are still in contention for a treble as they also lead LaLiga by four points.

"We're not scared, the best thing is to be in April and still have something to play for," said wing-back Carlos Augusto on Sunday.

"We have a chance to achieve something extraordinary and we're not afraid. This team has already won a lot and is always focused."

Inzaghi will be hoping striker Marcus Thuram will be available as his replacements have done nothing alongside Lautaro Martinez who has looked exhausted and frustrated.

Barcelona are unbeaten in their six home games against Inter in the Champions League.

Since the turn of the year, Barca have only lost once in 28 games (22 wins, five draws excluding extra-time), with that defeat coming in the second leg of their quarter-final against Dortmund.

Inzaghi will oversee his 50th Champions League match, becoming the seventh Italian coach to reach this milestone; the most for any nation (currently level with Spain). He already has 26 wins — the most by an Italian manager through his 50 matches in the competition.

Raphinha's total of 51 goal involvements in all competitions

this season (30 goals, 21 assists) is only bettered by Mohamed Salah of Liverpool (33 goals, 23 assists) across Europe's big five leagues, while Yamal has 34 goal involvements (14 goals, 20 assists).

Inter have only spent 10 minutes and 54 seconds in a losing position in the Champions League in 2024-25, the shortest total time of any team.



Bashundhara remain Kings of Fed Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings broke their final curse against Abahani with a 5-3 win in penalty shootout in the final of the Federation Cup at the Mymensingh District Stadium yesterday.

Even though Kings have a positive win record against Abahani, they had lost both finals against the Sky Blues — in the 2018 Federation Cup and the 2022 Independence Cup. Yesterday's win against the 12-time champions means Kings now have their second silverware of the season following the triumph in the season-opening Challenge Cup.

Goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon played a key role in the shootout following a 1-1 draw in regulation and extra time, thwarting Abahani's second shot from Nigerian forward Emeka Ogbugh.

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani completed a three-peat of the Dhaka Premier League with a commanding six-wicket victory over rivals Mohammedan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

However, for the team that have now won the title six times since the tournament gained List A status from the 2013-14 edition and 24 times overall, this triumph came against a number of challenges.

A majority of the country's top cricketers had been featuring for Abahani, contributing to their firm grasp on the title in recent years. Even in the previous season, Abahani had national stars Liton Das, Taskin Ahmed, Afif Hossain,

Champions: Abahani Limited (24 times)

Highest run-getter: Anamul Bijoy of Gazi Group — 874 runs

Highest wicket-taker: Mosaddek Hossain & Rakibul Hasan of Abahani — 30 wickets

Player of the tournament: Mosaddek Hossain (487 runs and 30 wickets)

Mohammad Naim, Tanzim Sakib, and Shoriful Islam in their ranks.

With the DPL being played under a reduced budget, Abahani, which also went through a number of changes following a change in the country's political landscape, lost a number of the high-profile players, with a few even joining Mohammedan this season.

A few players stayed, such as Mosaddek Hossain and national team skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto. Mosaddek ended up as the joint top-wicket taker, alongside teammate Rakibul Hasan, with 30 wickets. In a match-winning performance, the all-rounder bagged

two wickets in the final to help restrict Mohammedan to 240 for seven before smashing an unbeaten 65-ball 78 to see Abahani cruise over the line.

"This is special, as many things have changed. There were many challenges in front of us, and becoming champions is a huge thing. Our first target was to avoid relegation, and when we started winning, our expectation increased," Mosaddek, who amassed 487 runs this tournament, said after lifting the trophy.

While teams like Mohammedan were struggling with injuries and players leaving for national duty, a young Abahani side managed things better.

It was not just players who had to adjust. Abahani head coach Hannan Sarkar, who took over a side in DPL for the first time, said his players had a fire within themselves that led to the outcome.

"Cricketers came here with some discontent. I won't name them, but some players were contracted with other clubs. But at the last moment, those teams rejected them. So there was some fire within them. As circumstances forced them to play for Abahani under reduced payments, they wanted to prove themselves,"

Ancelotti set to take over Brazil

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed to take over the Brazilian national team, several Spanish media outlets reported Monday.

The veteran Italian has one more year on his contract with the Spanish giants, but after quarterfinal Champions League elimination by Arsenal and Copa del Rey defeat by Barca, he is poised to depart the Santiago Bernabeu.

Ancelotti has not hidden that a potential exit was on the cards and said his future was "a topic for the next weeks" after defeat by Barca on Saturday.

Spanish media reports Ancelotti would take over ahead of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June, leaving Madrid before the Club World Cup starts in the United States this summer.

Brazil sacked Dorival Junior after a 4-1 thrashing by Argentina in March and are fourth in the South American qualifying table for the tournament in the US, Mexico, and Canada.

Ancelotti led Real Madrid to a Champions League and LaLiga double last season, with Brazil stars Vinicius Junior and Rodrgo Goes vital parts of the team, and is one of the most successful coaches in the club's history.

Suryavanshi hailed as India's next superstar

AGENCIES

Vaibhav Suryavanshi etched his name in history, becoming Indian cricket's newest sensation after a breathtaking century in just 35 balls during Rajasthan Royals' emphatic win over Gujarat Titans in Jaipur on Monday. At 14, the left-handed opener shattered records, becoming the youngest to score a T20 hundred.

Nicknamed "Boss Baby," Suryavanshi's fearless hitting drew instant comparisons with West Indies legend Chris Gayle. His debut had already hinted at greatness, smashing his first ball for six against seasoned pacer Shardul Thakur. But Monday night in Jaipur, he truly arrived, dismantling India's best bowlers — Siraj, Sharma, and Sundar — with 11 towering sixes and seven sizzling boundaries.

The cricketing world erupted. Sachin Tendulkar praised his "fearless approach" and "bat speed," while Suryakumar Yadav called it "absolute carnage." Coach Rahul Dravid, despite a broken leg, rose from his wheelchair to celebrate the landmark six that sealed Suryavanshi's century off Rashid Khan. India's 1983 World Cup winning batsman Kris Srikkanth said: "Indian cricket's next superstar is here."

No lack of fire in Abahani's 24th DPL triumph



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Hannan said.

Abahani's 22-year-old opener, Parvez Hossain Emon, became the second-highest run-getter with 798 runs, while the 20-year-old Jishan Alam, who smashed a fifty yesterday, managed 400 runs with an attacking flair. Also, experienced campaigner Mohammad Mitun was an assured presence in the middle order, finishing with an unbeaten 79-ball 66 in the final.

"There were some young players who wanted to prove themselves and play for the HP squad or the Bangladesh A team. Ultimately, apart from winning the title with Abahani, they were also trying to establish themselves. So there were players with more hunger," Hannan added.

More than the performances on the field, the tournament, however, came under the spotlight more for the wrong reasons — with Mohammedan skipper Towhid Hridoy's suspension saga that dragged on for days the main highlight.

It was perhaps inevitable that such a tournament also ended with chaos — this time due to Mohammedan veteran Mahmudullah Riyad, who hopped onto the stands to confront a fan who had reportedly criticised the team.



PHOTO: BFF



Govt may take a tough decision on IMF loan

Says Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will decide whether to continue with the International Monetary Fund's \$4.7 billion loan programme if the fourth and fifth tranches are not released, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

"We will take a tough decision," he told journalists after a meeting of the advisory committee on government purchase yesterday.

Disbursement of the two instalments remains uncertain after the government and the IMF failed to reach a consensus on the reform measures under the programme.

Salehuddin held several meetings with the IMF on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, DC, over the release of the two instalments. The meetings ended without any agreement.

There are conditions for the IMF loan that the



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus awarded police personnel during an event on the occasion of Police Week at Razarbagh Police Lines in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

JULY UPRISING Rights bodies worried over false cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights organisations yesterday expressed concern over implicating innocent persons in cases filed over the July uprising, saying that such actions, driven by malicious intent or harassment, amount to a violation of human rights.

In separate statements, Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a platform of several rights bodies, and Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) demanded law enforcers drop the names of innocent persons, including actor Iresh Zaker, from the case filed recently over the killing of a person named Mahfuz Alam Shrabani during last year's mass uprising.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) demanded that law enforcers stop harassing individuals through politically motivated and indiscriminately filed cases, and instead

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Form an independent police commission

Top cops tell chief adviser it's necessary to ensure impartiality in law enforcement

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police officials have called for the formation of an independent commission to ensure the force operates impartially and free from political influence.

They raised the demand during a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the Bangladesh Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday, following the inauguration of Police Week-2025.

Two officers placed demands on behalf of the force at the closed door meeting, according to a senior officer who was present.

Mohammad Al Asad, assistant superintendent of police at Police

Acknowledging past tensions with the public, particularly during the student protests, IGP Baharul Islam said steps had been taken to rebuild trust.

Headquarters (PHQ), said political pressure often compels officers to act in favour of parties, citing examples under the previous regime.

"As such, the Police Reform Commission has proposed forming an independent Police Commission. While the [reform] commission is working on the proposal, it said further discussion is necessary."

Asad also noted that the National Consensus Commission had yet to address the matter.

"To ensure police operate independently and without interference, an independent commission is essential."

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Asiatic 3sixty denies graft, monopoly allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asiatic 3sixty issued a statement yesterday denying a series of allegations made against the agency group, including the supply of fake gold medals, CRI connection, corruption in organising events for the 50th anniversary of independence and Mujib Borsho, involvement in organising Joy Bangla concerts, and monopolising the advertising market.

The statement, signed by group chairman Sara Zaker, said that none of the allegations and "extravagant claims" applied to Asiatic 3sixty, and that a "vested quarter"

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

17 actors sued for 'attempt to murder'

Another actor assaulted, handed over to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen actors were sued yesterday in a case filed over the July uprising, while another actor was handed over to police after being assaulted by a group of youths.

The accused include Nusrat Faria, Apu Biswas, Nipun Akter, Ashna Habib Bhabna, Zayed Khan, Suborna Mustafa, Rokeya Prachy, Sohana Saba, Meher Afroz Shaon, Jyotika Jyoti, Symon Sadik and Azizul Hakim.

Filed in March with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, the case accuses the actors, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and 265 others of attempted murder.

The complainant, one Enamul Haque, claimed he was injured during student protests in Bhatara last year. After recording his statement, the court directed the officer in-charge of Bhatara Police Station to register the complaint as a First Information Report.

Sujan Haque, inspector (investigation) of the station,

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People walk through a narrow stretch of road in Ashkona, in front of the Hajj camp, as construction work has squeezed it from both sides. The road has remained closed for vehicles since construction work for an underpass for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport began in August last year. The photo was taken yesterday.

Trump threats help Liberals win Canada polls

PM Carney aims for global leadership role against Trump as congratulations pour in

REUTERS, Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney completed a comeback victory for the governing Liberals in Monday's election, positioning himself for a global role as a champion of multilateralism against US President Donald Trump's more protectionist policies.

The first person to lead two G7 central banks has the experience to earn immediate international credibility, experts say. Carney's tough words for Trump during the campaign have been closely watched in other parts of the world.



"Canada is ready to take a leadership role in building a coalition of like-minded countries who share our values," Carney said on April 3 in Ottawa. "We believe in international cooperation. We believe in the free and open exchange of goods, services and ideas. And if the United States no longer wants to lead, Canada will."

Carney's Liberals beat the Conservatives, led by Pierre Poilievre, whose slogan "Canada First" and sometimes acerbic style evoked comparisons with Trump that may have cost him the election. The Conservatives for months had held

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