



I think he does.

Donald Trump
US president, on his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin's intention for peace in Ukraine

YOUR RIGHT
TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 1, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 103

BAISHAKH 18, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILQAD 2, 1446 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS CAMPUS: TK 15.00



US backs Israel's ban on UNRWA Gaza aid op

P6



Undermining the CAG's constitutional independence
P12



'Labour reforms must ensure a dignified life for workers'
P13



Reserves reach \$22b after seven months

B1

22 sectors still pay wages below poverty line

At least 18 have not revised pay since as far back as 1983

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

At least 22 sectors in Bangladesh continue to pay their workers much less than what is necessary to meet basic human needs.

Anyone earning less than Tk 7,869 a month, according to the Labour Reform Commission's recent report, is officially living below the poverty line by international standards. Labour leaders said this means those workers cannot afford even the bare necessities.

"We used an internationally recognised method to calculate this threshold," said Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, head of the commission, adding, "It's based on the World Bank's \$2.15 per day benchmark, adjusted using the 2017 Purchasing Power Parity."

Purchasing Power Parity is an economic metric that compares the price of a standard basket of goods across countries, helping determine the relative value of different currencies and what people can realistically afford.

The Bangladesh Minimum Wages Board, the statutory body operating under the Labour Law, 2006, is responsible for setting private sector wages. It reviews and recommends wage rates for 47 sectors. Of these, the Labour Reform Commission has reviewed 39 -- and found that over half had minimum wages below the poverty line.

5 SECTORS WITH LOWEST MINIMUM WAGE

SECTOR	MINIMUM WAGE	YEAR ANNOUNCED
Type foundry	Tk 521	1983
Petrol pump	Tk 791	1987
Unskilled workers in privately owned industrial establishments	Tk 3,000	2012
Hotels and restaurants	Tk 3,710	2017
Iron foundry and engineering workshops	Tk 4,210	2010

"Proper education for their children and access to healthcare have become distant dreams for many workers -- even though they toil hard to keep the wheels of the economy running," said Sultan Uddin, who also serves as executive director of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies. "Eventually, their productivity declines, and that affects the industries they work in."

The 22 sectors where the officially declared minimum wage is below Tk 7,869 include type foundries (Tk 521), petrol pumps (Tk 791), privately owned industrial establishments (Tk 3,000), hotel and restaurant (Tk 3,710), iron foundries and engineering workshops (Tk 4,240), ayurvedic factories (Tk 4,350), match industry (Tk 4,560), jute press and belling (Tk 4,850), tailoring factories (Tk 4,850), cotton textiles (Tk 5,710), and bakery, biscuit and confectionery (Tk 5,940).

(A foundry is a place where things are made by melting or shaping

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of May Day. Therefore, the newspaper will not come out tomorrow. We will serve our readers 24/7 through our website. Stay tuned to our web coverage in English and Bangla.

Dhaka in touch with Naypyidaw, Arakan Army

Says Khalilur

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh is in contact with the Myanmar junta government in Naypyidaw and Arakan Army in Rakhine state on the issue of stability, humanitarian aid, and Rohingya repatriation, National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman said yesterday.

"As the UN wants to provide humanitarian aid, we would like to support that. This can help stabilise the Rakhine state and create conditions for Rohingya repatriation," he told The Daily Star.

He said Dhaka is directly engaged with Naypyidaw, and via the UN with the Arakan Army, a non-state actor which controls about 80 percent of the Rakhine state that borders Bangladesh.

Khalilur said the humanitarian channel that

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A Keraniganj dockyard worker has his face shielded but hands and body exposed while working yesterday. The lack of safety gear for such labourers remains a perennial issue. International Workers' Day is being observed today.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BASHUNDHARA CHAIR, FAMILY Freeze 70 bank accounts, shares in 22 companies

Dhaka court orders authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the relevant authorities to freeze 70 bank accounts of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam and seven of his family members, including his son and Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir, in

Sonia Ferdoushi Sobhan; Anvir's wife Sabrina Sobhan; and Safwan's wife Yeasha Sobhan, according to the ACC filings.

The court also ordered to freeze more than 75.46 crore shares in 22 companies whose market value stands at over Tk 1458.75 crore, as per the ACC application.

The shares are held in the name of the Bashundhara Group chairman, his

They laundered money from Bangladesh by illegally transferring, converting, and layering funds to acquire assets in Slovakia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Switzerland, the British Virgin Islands, the UK, the UAE, Singapore, and Cyprus. -- According to ACC

connection with corruption allegations. According to an application by the Anti-Corruption Commission placed before the court, Shah Alam and his seven family members had deposited Tk 2,075.40 crore and \$1,92,034 in these accounts, where the current balance is Tk 19.81 crore and \$10,538.

The other family members whose bank accounts were ordered to be frozen are Shah Alam's sons Sadat Sobhan, Shafiq Sobhan and Safwan Sobhan; Sadat's wife

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

wife Afroza Begum as well as four sons and three daughters-in-laws mentioned above.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following an application by ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid Ur-Roman, who is heading the inquiry, said Aktarul Islam, the public relations officer of the ACC.

The ACC application said, "Shah Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BRICS blasts 'resurgence of protectionism' in Trump era

Calls for a 'complete withdrawal' of Israeli forces from Gaza

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

China, Brazil and other members of the BRICS grouping have slammed the "resurgence of trade protectionism" at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro dominated by US President Donald Trump's tariffs blitz.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov were among the top diplomats of the 11-country grouping attending two days of talks on issues ranging from Trump's trade war to the push for peace in Ukraine.

Mauro Vieira, the foreign minister of Brazil, which holds the rotating BRICS presidency, said the bloc underscored its "firm rejection" of protectionism, without explicitly referring to Trump.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has hit dozens of countries with a blanket 10 percent tariff, but China faces levies of up to 145 percent on many products.

Beijing has responded with duties of 125 percent on US goods.

BRICS, which was founded by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009 and now also includes Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, has become a major counterweight to Western-led groups such as the G7.

It now makes up nearly half of the world's population, and 39 percent of global GDP.

The meeting in Rio came at a critical moment for the world economy after the International Monetary Fund slashed growth forecasts over the impact of Trump's sweeping levies on imports.

The ministers did not issue a joint statement.

Brazil instead settled for a declaration summarising the discussions.

Vieira said there was "absolute consensus" on the subject of "trade



Foreign ministers and senior diplomats from BRICS countries pose for a family photo during the second day of the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

conflicts and tariffs."

Some BRICS members have avoided Trump's trade fury.

Brazilian exports to the United States are subject to 10 percent tariffs, a fraction of those imposed on China.

And while Latin America's biggest economy has been hit by Trump's tariffs on steel imports -- Brazil is the second-biggest supplier of steel to the US -- President Luiz Inacio Lula's government has declined to retaliate and sought to negotiate with Washington instead.

Brazil has however made no secret of its frustration with European Union regulations on some of its agricultural exports, imposed over Amazon deforestation.

Vieira hit out Tuesday at the use of "non-tariff" trade barriers, deployed

under "environmental pretexts."

The group trod more carefully on the issue of non-dollar transactions among BRICS members.

At a summit last year in Russia, BRICS leaders discussed boosting such transactions, eliciting a swift rebuke from Trump who threatened them with 100 percent tariffs if they undercut the US currency.

Brazil said the ministers this week had "underlined the importance of greater use of local currencies."

"Multilateralism" and "cooperation" were the watchwords of the meeting, which also discussed the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

The BRICS ministers called for a "complete withdrawal" of Israeli forces from Gaza, terming Israel's more than

50-day aid blockade of the territory "unacceptable."

They had less to say about the war in Ukraine, which is at a critical juncture, with Washington threatening to end its efforts to broker peace in the absence of a breakthrough.

As in the past, Russia's BRICS partners stopped short of condemning Moscow's invasion of its neighbour, while calling for a "lasting peace deal."

The growing global polarisation is of particular concern to Brazil as it prepares to host the annual, often fractious UN climate conference in November in the Amazon.

On Tuesday, Brazil warned that the international "fragmentation" was jeopardising global "climate action ambitions."

22 sectors still pay wages below poverty line

FROM PAGE 1

materials like metal or printing type.)

On the other hand, the industries that are paying above the poverty line include pharmaceuticals (Tk 8,050), private jute mills and the plastic industry (Tk 8,000), printing press (Tk 8,150), glass and silicate (Tk 8,500), aluminium and enamel (Tk 8,700), security services (Tk 9,140), fishing industry (Tk 10,520), privately-owned road transport (Tk 10,100), re-rolling mills (Tk 10,650), homeopathic factories (Tk 11,500), garments (Tk 12,500), tanneries (Tk 12,800), and saw mills (Tk 17,900).

Meanwhile, according to the law, these minimum wages are to be revised every five years. But labour leaders say the board has failed to update the wages in at least 18 sectors, with some left untouched for as long as 42 years.

The last revision for type foundry workers was in 1983, while petrol pump workers haven't had an update since 1987. Ayurvedic factory wages were last set in 2009. Iron foundry, oil mill, and vegetable product workers' wages were last fixed in 2010, salt crushing workers in 2011, unskilled adult and adolescent labourers in 2012, match industry workers in 2013, jute press workers in 2014, and hotel and restaurant workers in 2016.

Anwar Hossain, general secretary of the Bangladesh Hotel, Restaurant, Sweetmeal Federation, highlighted the struggles faced by workers, saying that they work 12 to 13 hours a day but receive only a meager wage.

"The money we earn barely allows us to survive and return to work

the next day. How can we possibly support a family on just Tk 3,000 or 4,000? Covering our children's education and healthcare expenses is extremely difficult."

Demanding a fair minimum wage, Hossain insisted it be set between Tk 25,000 and 30,000. "With any amount lower than that, we simply won't be able to get by, especially as the cost of essential goods continues to rise."

The Labour Reform Commission submitted its report to Chief Adviser Prof Yunus on April 21. It recommended the introduction of a national minimum wage -- one that would apply to all workers, regardless of sector or job type.

The proposal aims to create a single wage floor for both formal and informal sectors, for government and private jobs, foreign organisations, and even self-employed individuals. The commission also proposed that both national and sectoral wages be revised every three years, taking into account inflation and living costs.

The report added that sector-specific and professional minimum wages must never be lower than the national minimum wage, and should instead be equal or higher.

Economist and former Jahangirnagar University Professor Anu Muhammad said wages below the poverty line is "simply irrational".

"When setting minimum wages, it's crucial to ensure that no worker's income falls below the poverty line."

He emphasised that wage decisions should be based on what is necessary for a worker to support a family of

at least four and meet their basic monthly needs.

"The minimum wage should be at least Tk 20,000," Prof Anu said.

He added that the effects of low pay on workers are significant. "It impacts them personally and their families. If their reproduction is affected, it creates health risks. The women who work so hard and do not get adequate nutrition may have weaker future generations. When workers' productivity decreases, national productivity also declines, leading to a national loss."

Sources in the minimum wage board and labour ministry said that work is currently underway to revise wages for workers in several sectors, including pharmaceuticals, ship breaking, paint and chemical, bakery and confectionery, battery, and automobile. The board has also issued a draft gazette for minimum wages in the poultry and tea packaging sectors.

Razekuzzaman Ratan, president of Samajtantrik Sramik Front, noted that stakeholders are typically invited to provide feedback on the draft gazettes. However, he added, "Some sectors still fail to implement the wages officially declared by the board."

Contacted, Labour and Employment Adviser Brig Gen (Retd) Sakhawat Hussain said a committee has been formed to review the commission's recommendations. "We will take the necessary steps after the committee reviews the [labour reform commission's] report."

Yunus stresses readiness in a world

FROM PAGE 1

prepared," he said, adding that the economy is in a weak state and Bangladesh has not yet been able to develop into a country with a strong economy.

Due to the waywardness of the previous government, the chief adviser said whatever was there has also been looted.

The chief adviser was addressing the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) personnel after observing the exercise at the BAF Base Bir Uttam AK Khandaker.

"Like many, I'm also a person against war. We don't wish to see war in the world. War preparations often lead to war. Therefore, there is a serious objection to war preparations," he said.

The chief adviser, however, said they live in such a world where the threat of war is constantly surrounding them. "It becomes impossible to remain unprepared [in such a situation]."

Referring to media reports, Yunus also talked about the current situation between India and Pakistan.

Highlighting the situation in the world, he said that not getting prepared is suicidal. "And if you have to prepare, there is no room for half preparedness. This is such a situation where victory is

the only option. Defeat cannot be an option here. So, we must try to take our preparations to the highest level."

Impressed by the air force exercise, Yunus said they see these in movies. "We don't get much opportunity to see these in reality. Today, I saw these in reality because of you."

Watching the exercise, he said this increases their courage. "Not only the courage to fight, but our children can prepare so well and help face difficult problems."

Like previous years, Bangladesh Air Force's annual exercise "Akash Bijoy-2025" commenced on April 23.

As part of this exercise, several important segments were incorporated into a Final Integrated Exercise (LIVE), which was successfully showcased yesterday at Bangladesh Air Force Base Bir Uttam AK Khandaker, Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantonment, according to ISPR.

Yunus graced the event as the chief guest and observed the exercise. Following the event, he took part in an interactive session with air force members.

Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan expressed his deep gratitude to the chief adviser for his presence, which significantly boosted morale

and inspired the force members.

As a token of thankfulness, Yunus was presented a crest on behalf of Bangladesh Air Force.

Advisers, the chiefs of army and navy, civil and military high officials and other distinguished guests attended the event.

"Akash Bijoy-2025" serves as a significant demonstration of air force's operational readiness, high proficiency, and inter-service jointness.

Under the directives of Air Headquarters, all bases and units of air force are actively participating in the exercise deploying various types of fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, radars, and other air defence elements along with associated units.

Selected representatives from the army, navy, BGB, police, fire service, and BNCC also took part in the exercise.

Air force remains ever-ready, highly committed, and dedicated to safeguarding the nation's total airspace, and sovereignty, said the ISPR.

Exercise "Akash Bijoy-2025" upholds this spirit and reflects the unwavering professionalism and dedication of all air force members, it said.

Dhaka in touch with Naypyidaw, Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 1

is being discussed is only meant to provide support to the UN in delivering humanitarian aid to the state under UN supervision.

"The discussion is ongoing. We will definitely make it public to the nation at the right time."

Khalilur, also chief adviser's high representative on Rohingya and other priority issues, said the UN will be holding a high-level conference on Rohingyas in New York in September. "We are working for the solution to the Rohingya crisis..."

The comments came when several political parties expressed concerns over the issue of humanitarian channel being discussed with the UN, citing potential implications for national security and sovereignty after Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain's statement.

"We have information that they acquired foreign passports and invested significant amounts in multiple companies or business ventures in Slovakia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Switzerland, the British Virgin Islands, the United Kingdom, and Singapore, and deposited money in Habib Bank Ltd in the United Arab Emirates, conducted large financial transactions with Eurobank in Cyprus, and purchased house properties in Cyprus. These assets were acquired outside Bangladesh without the approval of the government of Bangladesh through illegal means."

The ACC filings also alleged that "despite being Bangladeshi citizens, they invested large amounts of money to obtain foreign passports and citizenship".

The application states, "According to the Bangladesh laws, prior approval from Bangladesh Bank is required to transfer capital from Bangladesh to foreign countries. In this case, it has been learned that the persons facing the allegations did not obtain prior approval from

Touhid told the media on Sunday that Bangladesh agrees in principle to the UN proposal of a humanitarian passage for the provision of humanitarian aid to the Rakhine state under the UN supervision, but with certain conditions.

Meanwhile, this correspondent yesterday reached out to the office of UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh.

A spokesperson of the UN office said any humanitarian support or supplies across the border from Bangladesh to Myanmar will first need to be agreed between the two governments.

"The UN has a legal obligation to obtain permission from the governments concerned to deliver cross-border assistance. Without this, the UN's direct involvement is limited," the spokesperson said.

The ACC further submitted, "They laundered money from Bangladesh by illegally transferring, converting, and layering funds to acquire assets in Slovakia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Switzerland, the British Virgin Islands, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Cyprus."

"In addition, they opened accounts in various foreign banks under personal and business names and conducted illegal financial transactions through these accounts. Furthermore, investigations have revealed that they also have acquired huge properties within Bangladesh using illegally obtained funds."

According to the ACC, Shah Alam and his family members have been attempting to transfer money and shares elsewhere. "If they do it, inquiry into the allegations brought against them might be hampered. So, an order is needed to prevent them from doing so."

The Daily Star contacted MM Jasim Uddin, chief operating officer of Bashundhara Group's brand and

India may strike within 24 to 36 hrs'

FROM PAGE 1

Muslim-majority Kashmir, a region of around 15 million people, is divided between Pakistan and India but claimed in full by both nations.

About 1.5 million people live near the ceasefire line on the Pakistani side of the border, where residents were preparing for violence by preparing simple, mud-walled underground bunkers reinforced with concrete if they can afford it.

India yesterday shut its airspace to Pakistani airlines, the government said, days after its nuclear armed neighbour banned Indian airlines from flying over its territory.

The ban on Pakistani aircraft will be from April 30 to May 23, according to a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Indian government.

India's military yesterday said it had repeatedly traded gunfire with Pakistani troops for a sixth straight night across the Line of Control (LoC), a heavily fortified zone of high altitude Himalayan outposts that represents the de facto Kashmir border.

A Pakistan security source said troops responded to "unprovoked firing" overnight, while another security source told AFP that two drones were shot down on Tuesday near the LoC "after violating our airspace".

According to media reports, India yesterday warned Pakistan against the unprovoked firing along the LoC.

The message was given during a call between the Directors General of Military Operations of the countries.

Sources said the two sides are

mandated to speak once a week over the hotline that connects the two DGMOS in New Delhi and Rawalpindi. "It was a routine call," in which the matter of firing was raised, media reports in India and Pakistan said.

Since the Pahalgam attack, both

countries have downgraded diplomatic ties, expelled citizens and ordered the border shut. India also suspended the Indus Waters Treaty.

The bellicose statements have prompted worries of a spiral into military action, with calls for restraint from several nations.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio this evening, his office said in a statement yesterday.

Fake videos flood YouTube channels in Bangladesh

Says Dismislab report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi YouTube space is flooded with "cheapfake" talk shows and single-host videos that mislead viewers with disinformation, according to a research report released by Dismislab yesterday.

A cheapfake refers to manipulated media -- videos, images, or audio -- altered using basic and widely accessible editing tools.

Dismislab reviewed 288 videos and found that all used the same tactic -- slicing real interviews out of context to manufacture moments that never happened. Most are stitched-together clips from YouTube, TV shows, Facebook Lives, and stolen audio recordings.

Each video averaged around 12,000 views.

In total, the videos featured 58 political figures,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

'491 workers killed in last 3 years'

HRSS calls for urgent labour reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Bangladesh observes International Workers' Day today under the slogan "Shramik-Malik Ek Hobe, Gorbo E Desh Notun Kore" (Workers and employers united to rebuild the nation), the latest data from the Human Rights Support Society highlighted persistent issues of abuse, unsafe working conditions, and systemic neglect within the country's labour force.

Between January 2022 and December 2024, at least 491 workers lost their lives due to violence or abuse, while another

Enforce laws against harassment, discrimination

Eradicate child labour

Expand access to edn, social safety nets

Ensure healthcare for all labour sectors

Provide legal protection for informal sector workers

Strengthen labour courts

1,334 were injured -- 61 of them by gunfire, according to a press statement from HRSS.

In the same period, 429 workplace deaths were recorded, attributed to hazardous environments and the lack of basic safety equipment, revealed the report.

The trend has persisted into 2025. In just the first three months of the year, 86 incidents of labour abuse resulted in 45 deaths and 294 injuries, it found.

In March alone, 75 workers were injured in clashes with police during demonstrations by garment

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

No polls before AL's trial, reforms Demand NCP, IAB, Ganosamhati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) chief Syed Mohammad Rezaul Karim yesterday said they want the trial of the Awami League before considering the national elections.

He made the remark after a meeting with the National Citizen Party delegation, led by NCP chief Nahid Islam.

Rezaul said, "We hope the fascists who have siphoned off hundreds of crores of taka will be tried first, and then we will think of the national election. The necessary reforms should be done before that."

He said those echoing the AL's views and persistently calling for elections will lead to the same outcome as the past 53 years if they come to power.

Nahid discussed NCP's three main agendas: trial, reforms, and elections. He said, "We have many similarities with IAB, and some differences. They shared their thoughts, and we shared ours. They agreed on the basic reforms. We also demanded the trial of Awami League as

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



কাউন্সিল মিমেন্ট
হাসি বুলিয়ান

নির্মাণ
নিরাপত্তা

নির্মাণ কর্মীদের জন্য সচেতনতা কর্মশালা, বিনামূল্যে
সুরক্ষা সামগ্রী ও দুর্ঘটনায় নগদ অর্থ সহায়তা দেয়া হচ্ছে

যাত্রা গড়েন স্বপ্নের ঘর, আদের সুবক্ষা থাকুক সবার উপর





THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

Renata PLC Interim condensed statement of financial position As at 31 March		31 March 2025	30 June 2024
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	36,488,947	34,728,100	
Intangible assets	123,887	132,819	
Investments in associates and subsidiaries	1,020,000	1,030,000	
Contract assets	1,726,363	1,530,466	
Advances, deposits and prepayments	380,409	295,642	
Employee benefits	156,634	215,640	
Total non-current assets	39,866,230	37,902,677	
Current assets			
Inventories	14,664,352	13,809,059	
Trade and other receivables	3,878,097	3,993,192	
Advances, deposits and prepayments	1,197,338	1,134,488	
Investments	1,569	1,739	
Current tax assets	120,400		
Cash and cash equivalents	503,001	653,775	
Total current assets	20,285,277	19,165,249	
Total assets	89,431,412	56,257,926	
Equity and liabilities			
Shareholders' equity			
Other reserves	1,146,965	1,146,965	
Other comprehensive income	219,338	219,338	
Retained earnings	32,631,264	33,669,090	
Total equity	34,320,619	33,669,092	
Non-current liabilities			
Loans and borrowings	6,755,374	6,423,968	
Trade and other payables	916,029	815,303	
Accruals and provisions	1,684,052	1,091,796	
Contract liabilities	1,253,254	23,246	
Current tax liabilities	27,962	70,732	
Total equity and liabilities	59,431,412	56,257,926	
Net asset value (NAV) per share (BDT)		293.22	

Interim condensed statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the nine-month period ended 31 March 2025		01 July to 31 March	01 July to 31 March
Revenue	BDT (000)	BDT (000)	BDT (000)
Cost of sales	31,328,578	27,814,649	20,647,513
Administrative expenses	(1,74,484,000)	(15,484,487)	(6,000,777)
Selling, marketing and distribution expenses	(8,336,106)	(7,080,089)	(2,898,773)
Operating profit	3,338,153	4,209,924	1,165,819
Other income	11,225	11,589	9,036
Net finance costs	(2,202,145)	(2,337,101)	(718,891)
Contribution to workers' profit participation			
Profit before tax	10,997,281	3,178,215	684,658
Tax expenses	(41,5,643)	(592,634)	(128,443)
Net profit after tax for the period	1,681,917	2,585,581	556,215
Other comprehensive income			
Fair value adjustment in investment in shares, net of tax	-	(4,819)	(4,950)
Total comprehensive income for the period	1,681,917	2,580,762	556,215
Earnings per share (BDT)	14.66	22.54	4.88
Basic earnings per share (BDT)			6.33

Interim condensed statement of changes in equity For the nine-month period ended 31 March 2025		01 July to 31 March	01 July to 31 March
Share Capital	BDT (000)	BDT (000)	BDT (000)
Reserves	30,309,168	31,184,303	31,184,303
Other reserves	3,605,764	3,182,524	3,182,524
Retained earnings	(47,733,524)	(47,262,323)	(26,505,347)
Total equity	1,146,965	1,146,965	1,146,965
Non-current assets	3,338,153	4,209,924	1,165,819
Current assets	(1,253,254)	(7,080,089)	(2,898,773)
Total assets	1,146,965	1,146,965	1,146,965
Non-current liabilities	3,338,153	4,209,924	1,165,819
Current liabilities	(1,253,254)	(7,080,089)	(2,898,773)
Total equity and liabilities	1,146,965	1,146,965	1,146,965

Interim condensed statement of cash flows For the nine-month period ended 31 March 2025		01 July to 31 March	01 July to 31 March
Cash flows from operating activities			
Collection from customers and other income	30,309,168	31,184,303	31,184,303
Payment of VAT	(3,605,764)	(3,182,524)	(3,182,524)
Payment to suppliers, employees and others	(1,253,254)	(7,080,089)	(2,898,773)
Net cash generated by operating activities	1,681,917	2,585,581	556,215
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	(3,021,607)	(3,252,721)	(9,036)
Investments in contract assets	(206,992)	(206,992)	(206,992)
Sale proceeds of property, plant and equipment	81,887	(23,704)	34
Net cash used in investing activities	1,146,965	9,036	556,215
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loans and borrowings (net)	1,253,254	(7,080,089)	(2,898,773)
Net cash (outflow) of financing activities	1,681,917	2,585,581	556,215
Total cash flows from investing activities	1,681,917	2,585,581	556,215
Total comprehensive income for the period	1,681,917	2,585,581	556,215
Earnings per share (BDT)	15.95	22.54	5.12
Basic earnings per share (BDT)			6.38

Renata PLC Consolidated interim condensed statement of financial position As at 31 March 2025		01 July to 31 March	01 July to 31 March
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	36,488,947	34,728,100	
Intangible assets	123,887	132,819	
Investments in associates and subsidiaries	1,726,363	1,530,466	
Contract assets	380,409	295,642	
Advances, deposits and prepayments	156,634	215,640	
Total non-current assets	38,876,210	36,902,667	
Current assets			
Inventories	14,664,352	13,809,059	
Trade and other receivables	3,945,978	4,099,097	
Advances, deposits and prepayments	1,197,793	1,134,884	
Investments	1,569	74,739	
Cash and cash equivalents	102,941	97,062	
Total current assets	1,026,021	976,062	
Total assets	89,431,412	56,257,926	
Equity and liabilities			
Shareholders' equity			
Other reserves	1,146,965	219,338	
Other comprehensive income	417,412	415,575	
Retained earnings	32,211,264	32,117,627	
Total equity	34,320,999	33,669,508	
Non-current liabilities			
Loans and borrowings	6,755,374	6,423,968	
Trade and other payables	916,029	815,303	
Accruals and provisions	1,684,052	1,091,796	
Contract liabilities	1,253,254	23,246	
Current tax liabilities	27,962	105,259	
Total equity and liabilities	59,431,412	56,257,926	
Net asset value (NAV) per share (BDT)		293.22	

Consolidated interim condensed statement of changes in equity For the nine-month period ended 31 March 2025		01 July to 31 March	01 July to 31 March
Share Capital	BDT (000)	BDT (000)	BDT (000)
Reserves	30,309,168	31,184,303	31,184,303
Other reserves	3,605,764	3,182,524	3,182,524
Retained earnings	(47,733,524)	(47,262,323)	(26,505,347)
Total equity	1,146,965	1,146,965	1,146,965
Non-current assets	3,338,153	4,209,924	1,165,819
Current assets	(1,253,254)	(7,080,089)	(2,898,773)
Total assets	1,146,965	1,146,965	1,146,965
Non-current liabilities	3,338,153	4,209,924	1,165,819
Current liabilities	(1,253,254)		

India to ask
caste status in
next census

AFP, New Delhi

India will conduct its first official caste census since independence, the government announced yesterday, a move likely to have far-reaching consequences for its politics and contentious affirmative action policies.

Caste remains a crucial determinant of one's station in life in India, with higher castes the beneficiaries of ingrained cultural privileges and lower castes suffering entrenched discrimination – and a rigid divide between both.

The decision to include detailed caste data as part of the next census – originally due in 2021 but yet to take place – was approved by a government meeting headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Cabinet Committee of Political Affairs has decided today that caste enumeration should be included in the forthcoming census," said government spokesman Ashwini Vaishnav.

"This demonstrates that a government is committed to the values and interests of a society and country."

No date has been set for the next census.

HEARING AT WORLD COURT
US backs Israel's ban on
UNRWA Gaza aid ops

AFP, The Hague

A US official yesterday told the International Court of Justice there were "serious concerns" about the impartiality of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

ICJ judges are holding a week of hearings to help them formulate an advisory opinion on Israel's obligations towards UN agencies delivering aid to Palestinians in Gaza.

"There are serious concerns about UNRWA's impartiality, including information that Hamas has used UNRWA facilities and that UNRWA staff participated in the October 7th terrorist attack against Israel," said Josh Simmons from the State Department legal team.

Around 40 nations and organisations such as the League of Arab States are taking part in the hearings.

Israel is not participating at the ICJ but has dismissed the hearings as "part of the systematic persecution and delegitimisation" of the country.

The status of UNRWA is central to the hearings.

Israel has banned it from operating on Israeli soil, after accusing some of its staff of taking part in Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack.



A series of investigations, including one led by France's former foreign minister Catherine Colonna, found some "neutrality-related issues" at UNRWA but stressed Israel had not provided evidence for its headline allegation.

Simmons, however, said Israel had "ample grounds" to question UNRWA's impartiality.

"Given these concerns, it is clear that Israel has no obligation to permit UNRWA specifically to provide humanitarian assistance. UNRWA is not the only option for providing humanitarian assistance in Gaza," he added.

UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said on Tuesday that more than 50 of its staff in Gaza were abused and

used as human shields while in Israeli military detention.

Israel strictly controls all inflows of international aid vital for the 2.4 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. It halted aid deliveries to Gaza on March 2, days before the collapse of a ceasefire that had significantly reduced hostilities after 15 months of war.

In December, the UN's General Assembly asked the ICJ for an advisory opinion "on a priority basis and with the utmost urgency". It will however likely to take several months for judges to form their opinion but the international medical aid organisation Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warned time was running out.

Hotel fire kills
15 in Kolkata

AFP, Kolkata

A fierce fire ripped through a hotel in the Indian city of Kolkata, killing at least 15 people, police said yesterday, with some clambering out of windows and onto the rooftop to escape.

Several people were rescued from rooms and the roof of the budget hotel, Kolkata police chief Manoj Verma told AFP after the fire broke out on Tuesday evening.

"The hotel turned into a gas chamber and it appears that many people suffocated to death," said Verma, adding an investigation had been launched to determine the cause of the blaze.

The Rituraj Hotel, which had 88 guests when the fire broke out, is located in a congested business district of central Kolkata.

About a dozen people were burned and were undergoing treatment.

A hotel worker told AFP that the fire broke out on the first floor of the six-storey building, where a bar was being built and where construction.

Building fires are common in India due to a lack of firefighting equipment and a routine disregard for safety regulations.

Putin wants peace,
but in no rush for a
deal: Kremlin

REUTERS, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin is open to peace in Ukraine and intense work is going on with the United States, but the conflict is so complicated that the rapid progress that Washington wants is difficult to achieve, the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

US President Donald Trump, who says he wants to be remembered as a peacemaker, has repeatedly said he wants to end the "bloodbath" of the more than three-year war in Ukraine.

But Washington has been signalling that it is frustrated by the failure of Moscow and Kyiv to reach terms to end the deadliest land war in Europe since World War Two.

"The (Russian) president remains open to political and diplomatic methods of resolving this conflict," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

He noted that Putin had expressed a willingness for direct talks with Ukraine, but that there had been no answer yet from Kyiv.

Russia's aims had to be achieved either way, he added, saying Moscow's preference was to achieve those aims peacefully.

"We understand that Washington is willing to achieve a quick success in this process," Peskov said in English. But news agency TASS quoted Peskov as saying that the root causes of the Ukraine war were too complex to be resolved in one day.



অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোপেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ

ঢাকা ক্যাম্পাস : পুরাতন বিমান বন্দর, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

ওয়েবসাইট : www.aaub.edu.bd, ই-মেইল : estb@aaub.edu.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং৪ এএইউবি/রেজিস্ট্রার-১৫৬/২০২৫/১০

তারিখ : ২৭ এপ্রিল ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের ২০১৯ সনের ০৫ নং আইন দ্বারা প্রতিষ্ঠিত অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোপেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ (এএইউবি) এর জন্য নিয়োগবিত্ত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শিক্ষকঃ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম, প্রতি ও বেতন ক্ষেত্র	পদের সংখ্যা ও ধরণ	বয়সসীমা	প্রযোজনীয় যোগ্যতা
১।	প্রভাষক (অ্যারোপেস ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং) (প্রতি-৯) ২২,০০০-৫০,০৬০/-	০২ (পুরু) টি স্থায়ী পদ	শিখিলযোগ্য	১। কোন স্থীরূপ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যারোপেস/অ্যারোনটিক্যাল/মেকানিক্যাল/মেকাট্রিনিং/স্পেস সিস্টেম্স) সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগে ০৪ বৎসর মেয়াদী মাত্রক (সম্মান) ও মাতকোত্তর ডিপ্রি থাকিতে হবে। ২। মাতক পরীক্ষায় সিজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে সিজিপিএ নূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকিতে হবে।
২।	প্রভাষক (অ্যাভিয়েশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং) (প্রতি-৯) ২২,০০০-৫০,০৬০/-	০৩ (তিনি) টি স্থায়ী পদ	শিখিলযোগ্য	১। কোন স্থীরূপ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যাভিয়েশন/ইলেক্ট্রোনিক্স অ্যান্ড কম্পিউটার/ইলেক্ট্রোনিক্স/কম্পিউটিক্যাল/ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স /কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স /স্যাটেলাইট কম্পিউটিক্যাল/ইনফ্রারেশন আন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি) সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগে ০৪ বৎসর মেয়াদী মাত্রক (সম্মান) ও মাতকোত্তর ডিপ্রি থাকিতে হবে। ২। মাতক পরীক্ষায় সিজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে সিজিপিএ নূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকিতে হবে।

কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীঃ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম, প্রতি ও বেতন ক্ষেত্র	পদের সংখ্যা ও ধরণ	বয়সসীমা	প্রযোজনীয় যোগ্যতা
১।	সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রতি-৭) ২১,০০০-৬০,৪১০/-	০১ (এক) টি স্থায়ী পদ	৩০ বৎসর	ক। কোন স্থীরূপ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যাভিয়েশন/পদার্থবিদ্যা/সায়ানিনিয়াডিস/সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে) কাজে ৯ম বা তৃতীয় শ্রেণী ও বৃহত্তর প্রযোজনীয় যোগ্যতা থাকিতে হবে। খ। কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্থায়ীত্বাস্তিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে শিক্ষা অথবা প্রশাসন সংক্রান্ত কাজে ৯ম বা তৃতীয় শ্রেণী ও বৃহত্তর প্রযোজনীয় যোগ্যতা থাকিতে হবে। গ। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞ সামরিক বাহিনীর (অবধি) কর্মকর্তাগণ আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন এবং তাহাদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিখিলযোগ্য।
২।	মেডিক্যাল অফিসার (প্রতি-৯) ২২,০০০-৫০,০৬০/-	০১ (এক) টি স্থায়ী পদ	৩০ বৎসর	ক। কোন স্থীরূপ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/পদার্থবিদ্যা/সায়ানিনিয়াডিস/সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ডিপ্রি থাকিতে হবে। উচ্চতর ডিপ্রি/প্রশিক্ষণ/কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থী অগ্রাধিকারযোগ্য। শিক্ষার কোনো স্তরেই ০৩ শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সম্মান প্রেত গ্রহণযোগ্য হিসেবে না; খ। কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্থায়ীত্বাস্তিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞাতসম্পন্ন প্রার্থী অগ্রাধিকারযোগ্য। গ। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞ সামরিক বাহিনীর (অবধি) কর্মকর্তাগণ আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন এবং তাহাদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিখিলযোগ্য।
৩।	ল্যাব টেকনিশিয়ান (প্রতি-১১) ১১,৫০০-৩০,২৩০/-	০১ (এক) টি স্থায়ী পদ	৩০ বৎসর	ক। কোন স্থীরূপ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/পদার্থবিদ্যা/সায়ানিনিয়াডিস/সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ডিপ্রি থাকিতে হবে। ডিপ্রি কাজে অভিজ্ঞাতসম্পন্ন প্রার্থী অগ্রাধিকারযোগ্য। শিক্ষার কোনো স্তরেই ০৩ শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সম্মান প্রেত গ্রহণযোগ্য হিসেবে না; খ। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞ সামরিক বাহিনীর (অবধি) কর্মকর্তাগণ আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন এবং তাহাদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিখিলযোগ্য।
৪।	অফিস সহকারী কাম ডাটা প্রসেসর (প্রতি-১৩) ১১,০০০-২৬,৫৯০/-	০১ (এক) টি স্থায়ী পদ	৩০ বৎসর	ক। কোন স্থীরূপ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/পদার্থবিদ্যা/সায়ানিনিয়াডিস/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজনীয় যোগ্যতা থাকিতে হবে। খ। কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্থায়ীত্বাস্তিত

'We've done everything'

Trump celebrates 100 days in office with campaign-style rally

AFP, Warren

Donald Trump promised Tuesday that he is just getting started as he marked the radical and vengeful beginning of a presidency that has shaken the world and destabilized the United States.

Basking in the adulation of cheering supporters in Michigan, the 78-year-old touted the "most successful first 100 days of any administration in the history of our country," even as polls show Americans becoming disenchanted with the economic and political tumult.

Trump said he missed the campaign trail, and launched with visible relish into a speech that often sounded more like that of a candidate than a head of state.

Joe Biden is "sleepy," the media is "fake," judges who oppose him are "communist," Democratic opponents are "radical left," and friendly countries have "abused us more so than foe on trade," Trump said, listing targets of his ire.

The president promised to conclude deals on trade, but provided little in the way of details.

And -- to chants of "USA! USA!" -- he showed a video of migrants in handcuffs and shackles being taken from a plane, transported by bus and filmed on their knees as their heads were shaved, illustrating his controversial deportation policy.

Trump has shaken up the United

States like few presidents before him. His billionaire backer Elon Musk has led dramatic cutbacks of the federal workforce, and the president himself has reshaped relations with the world by unveiling sweeping tariffs, berating allies and eliminating much foreign aid.

After a 2017-2021 term in which some aides sought to rein him in, Trump has surrounded himself this time with unabashed loyalists -- and told reporters he was on track to accomplish all of his second-term goals.

"I think either we've done everything, or it's in the process of being done," Trump said before heading to his rally.

The rival Democratic Party has seized on economic anxieties although it has also struggled in polling.

"Trump is to blame for the fact that life is more expensive, it's harder to retire, and a 'Trump recession' is at our doorstep,"

the Democratic National Committee said, calling the 100 days a "colossal failure."

Even with Congress narrowly in Republican hands, Trump has tested the limits of presidential power by signing more than 140 executive orders, many of which have faced court scrutiny.

He has sought to end birthright citizenship -- which is guaranteed by the US Constitution -- and Musk has summarily axed billions of dollars appropriated by Congress.



A Ukrainian rescuer works to extinguish a fire at the site of a drone attack in Kharkiv late yesterday. Russian strikes on the Ukrainian cities of Dnipro and Kharkiv overnight left at least one person dead and more than a dozen wounded, authorities said.

PHOTO: AFP

INDO-PAK TENSIONS

'Margin for error razor-thin'

Analysts say rivals eying 'escalation dominance', but any misstep may trigger a war

AGENCIES

Tensions between India and Pakistan, both nuclear armed, have escalated since last week following a deadly terrorist attack in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Amid war of words from both sides, analysts fear that though both the rivals are not an all-out war, any misstep might trigger a spiralling conflict between the neighbours.

Yesterday, Pakistan claimed India intends to launch military action within "the next 24-36 hours on the pretext of baseless and concocted allegations of involvement in the Pahalgam incident."

On April 22, gunmen killed 26 people in Indian-administered Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan region that has long strained relations between the two neighbours.

India identified three attackers, including two Pakistani nationals. Pakistan has denied involvement and called for a neutral investigation.

Since the attack, both nations have taken retaliatory measures: India has downgraded diplomatic ties, expelled Pakistani nationals and suspended the critical Indus Waters Treaty, and Pakistan has closed its airspace to Indian airlines.

On Tuesday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the military "operational freedom" to respond, according to a senior government source. Modi also declared India had a "national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism," the source told Agence France-Presse.

The day before, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Reuters that a military incursion by India was imminent and that Pakistan had made "strategic decisions" in response.

He added that Pakistan was on high alert and would only consider using nuclear weapons if

there is a direct threat to our existence."

The crisis has also united political rivals in both countries.

In Pakistan, where political parties have recently criticised the military, the looming threat has galvanised public and political support for the armed forces.

In India, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, usually a vocal critic of Modi, stated that the opposition stood united in condemning the attack.

"Whatever steps the government wishes to take, we will fully support them," Gandhi said.

Modi faces intense domestic pressure to

NEWS ANALYSIS

respond as "criticism of the Indian government's perceived failure to protect civilians was also widespread," said Praveen Donthi, an analyst at the International Crisis Group.

Analysts suggest any conflict would focus on achieving "escalation dominance" -- demonstrating superior force to shape future relations.

"India is not looking to escalate this crisis," said Yogesh Gupta, a former Indian ambassador, in the South China Morning Post.

"We only want to re-establish deterrence against Pakistan's terror strikes, as we did after Balakot," he added, referring to India's 2019 airstrike on a militant camp in northern Pakistan run by Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Gupta noted that Pakistan's current army chief, Asim Munir, is "far more hostile" than his predecessor, Qamar Bajwa, who had sought de-escalation after the 2019 strike. Thus, "this deterrence will need to be established at a much higher level," Gupta said.

Asfandyar Mir, a Washington-based South

Asia security analyst, agreed that India and Pakistan are "moving toward a hot conflict, likely to be more intense than the 2019 crisis."

"The mood in India is one of vengeance, and Indian leadership appears committed to imposing an enormous cost on Pakistan," Mir said, while noting that Islamabad is "equally prepared to counter any Indian action and respond forcefully and swiftly."

"The situation [in 2019] was eventually defused, thanks in part to diplomatic pressure from Washington," said Donthi.

It's unclear how this crisis might unfold without such external intervention, said Christine Fair, a professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Analysts warn that international mediation may be less likely this time than during previous flare-ups.

"The US is preoccupied with Ukraine, Gaza, and the Iran deal, possibly opening space for Beijing to insert itself," said Colin Clarke of the Soufan Center in New York.

However, "given China's close relationship with Pakistan, it is unlikely India would trust it as a neutral mediator."

"The US has been clear: Pakistan is on its own, and the US will not pressure India to hold back," Fair said.

Military analyst Boyko Nikolov said the crisis is "less about strategic victory and more about maintaining credible deterrence while managing domestic narratives."

Both sides are signalling "they can absorb a punch and strike back harder," but the real danger, he added, is a misstep -- such as a poorly calibrated strike or a terrorist attack attributed to the wrong actor -- that could "spiral beyond control."

"For now, both nations are posturing, but the margin for error is razor-thin," said Nikolov, editor-in-chief of BulgarianMilitary.com.

Next Iran-US nuclear talks on Saturday in Rome

AFP, Tehran

Iran and the United States will hold a fourth round of talks on the Islamic republic's nuclear programme in Rome on Saturday, Iran's foreign minister said.

The longtime adversaries have held three rounds of talks aiming for a deal on the programme, which the West believes is intended to develop nuclear weapons -- an allegation Tehran denies.

The talks, which began on April 12 and are mediated by Oman, are the highest-level contact in years between the two sides.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iranian officials would also meet on Friday with representatives from Britain, France and Germany -- all parties to the 2015 nuclear deal.

After France threatened that the European trio could reimpose sanctions, Iran's UN mission said that "threats and economic blackmail" were "entirely unacceptable".

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Bank Asia

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia PLC. in its 552nd meeting held today, the 30 April 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Board Room of the Bank at Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, has approved the audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended on 31 December 2024, and took the following decisions:

i	Proposed Dividend for the Year Ended 31 December 2024	10% Cash Dividend and 10% Stock Dividend
ii	26 th Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Date : 17 June (Tuesday) 2025 Time : 11:00 a.m. Venue : Through Digital Platform (link will be communicated in due course)
iii	Record date	26 May (Monday) 2025
	Particulars	Solo Consolidated
iv	Net Asset Value (NAV) (Million Taka)	2024 (Taka) 31,842.29 2023 (Taka) 29,519.53 2024 (Taka) 31,807.89 2023 (Taka) 29,402.74
v	NAV per Share	27.31 25.32 27.28 25.22
vi	*Earnings per Share (EPS)	2.06 1.72 2.14 1.79
vii	**Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	50.32 (5.80) 50.46 (5.69)

*Higher operating profit led to higher net profit after tax resulted in increase in Earnings per Share (EPS) compared to last year.

**Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) increased mainly due to cash inflow by way of increase in Deposit.

Disclosure for recommendation of Stock Dividend:

- Stock Dividend have been recommended to strengthen the capital base of the bank to support business growth,
- Stock Dividend have been declared out of the current year's profit, and
- Stock Dividend are not declared from the capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of the profit earned prior to incorporation of the company or through reducing paid up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earning becomes negative or debit balance.

The Shareholders whose names will appear in the Share Register of the Company on the Record Date will be entitled to attend and vote at the 26th AGM and to the dividend declared in the same.

Dated: Dhaka
30 April 2025

Bank Asia PLC., Corporate Office
Bank Asia Tower
32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড Bangladesh Power Development Board

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Publication date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1103964	GR-39	27.11.277.48.03.006.2025.304; Date: 27/04/2025	Procurement of Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) & Hydrochloric Acid (HCl) for Barapukuria 2x125 MW Thermal Power Plant, BPDB, Parbotipur, Dinajpur.	29/04/2025 (19:00)	14/05/2025 (12:00)	15/05/2025 (11:00)	15/05/2025 (11:00)

These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no official/ 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 branches.

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

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১১৩২(২)/৩০/০৮/২৫

30.04.2025
Md. Abdur Razzaque

ID No. 7-0038
Chief Chemist

Barapukuria 2x125MW Thermal Power Plant
BPDB, Parbotipur, Dinajpur

GD-1054



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

On this joyous occasion, marking the graduation ceremony of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Executive MBA programs, as well as the awardees of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree. Today represents a significant milestone in your journey, one defined by perseverance and determination.

Your achievements are especially commendable, having emerged from a transformative chapter in Bangladesh's history - the July Mass Uprising of 2024. I would like to honor and remember those who have sacrificed during this crucial time in our nation's journey. As you, the graduates, step into the professional world, armed with the knowledge and expertise honed at IBA, you are poised to make meaningful contributions to society and industry. I have no doubt in your potential, as you come from a generation of youth who hold so much courage.

The University of Dhaka has always held IBA in the highest regard for leading with a purpose. It produces professionals who drive organizational growth, foster innovation, and uphold ethical excellence. The institute's commitment to sustainability, demonstrated through collaborative research initiatives such as plastic recycling and growth management projects, further emphasizes its dedication to the environment. With a legacy built on resilience and drive, IBA is driven by ambition. IBA continues to inspire generations to lead with integrity and purpose - not just in the private field, but also in government sectors. Graduates from IBA are playing key roles in policymaking decisions of our nation, which is truly a remarkable achievement. The University of Dhaka is proud to have graduates like you who are driven towards these causes and will uphold our university at the national and global stage.

As you celebrate this remarkable accomplishment, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the unwavering support that has guided you along this journey. Your success is not just a testament to your hard work and perseverance, but also to the encouragement, sacrifices, and belief of those who stood by you. Your family and friends have been your pillars of strength, offering endless support and motivation in moments of doubt. The dedicated faculty and staff of IBA have played an invaluable role in shaping your knowledge, refining your skills, and instilling in you the values that define true leadership. Their mentorship, guidance, and commitment to your growth have been instrumental in helping you reach this milestone. As you step into the next chapter of your life, carry forward their teachings and gratitude in your heart, knowing that your journey has been enriched by the people who believed in your potential.

Bangladesh is at a crucial juncture, with transformative opportunities on the horizon. As IBA graduates, you carry the responsibility of representing our nation on the global stage, driving progress, and embodying the values instilled by this esteemed institution.

Once again, my deepest felicitations to you all. May your endeavors bring pride to your alma mater, the University of Dhaka, and may you continue to inspire and lead.

Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD
Vice Chancellor
University of Dhaka



MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATION SPEAKER

To the class of 2024,

I feel immensely happy and highly honored in offering my congratulations to you on this joyous occasion. And most heartily I congratulate you on your achievements.

As graduates, you are at the threshold of a new world more or less unknown to you. There will be challenges to meet as well as opportunities to make use of. The challenges will be many, but with the teaching, training, and wisdom you have acquired during your creative stay at the Institute of Business Administration of the University of Dhaka, you will, we are sure, find yourself well equipped to face the challenges. To add to your acquisition, there will be the perennial flow of good wishes from your dear ones as well as from the university itself, supporting you in your onward journey.

When, about a hundred years ago, this university was founded, it did not have Commerce as an independent discipline. Commerce was an adjunct to the Department of Politics and Economics. With progress in the economic field, Commerce did not take long to become a full-fledged faculty. Commerce Faculty, which is now called the Faculty of Business Studies, has today as many as nine departments within it. Then there is the Institute of Business Administration which we have seen grow continuously over the years and has by now become one of the most prestigious institutions of this university.

At one of the first convocations of Dhaka University the Chancellor, not without an ironic twist of humor, commented that whomever he asked about the aim of life, the answer was the same: service. By service they meant government employment and not service to the people at large. It is gratifying to note that the IBA graduates have the propensity to serve the public. They will be helpful to them to entrepreneurs jointly and if possible, collectively. There is plenty of scope in fields like industry, agriculture, fishery and forestry. These areas of our economy need, indeed are waiting for, initiatives from enterprising young men and women like you. One of the basic weaknesses of our economic growth has been its failure to generate employment. This deficiency has to be amended, and it can be done if enterprising individuals come forward. Surely, it is more honorable to be a creator than a seeker. We are aware that it is not lack of wealth, but the draining of it, by the colonial rulers that has made our country poor. Our foreign enemies are not to blame, but the rulers in our country have been. We are aware that what the colonialists, including those belonging to Pakistan, have done in the past. Trained and patriotic as you are, it would be your unavoidable duty to try to prevent this from continuing. Aggressive nationalism may turn harmful, but the patriotism that stands up against the perpetration of the harm done by plunderers and exploiters is certainly a human quality well worth cultivating.

It is customary to liken educational institutions to a mother. We are all indebted to the institutions that nurtured us. Compared to material debts, this intellectual debt is honorable; and, at the same time, it is beyond redemption. But we can add to the glory of our alma mater by our work and achievements. And this, I am sure, all of you will strive for wherever you be and whatever may be your engagement.

I join all of us here, and also those who are not physically present but have always been with you and will continue to be so, in congratulating you once again and wishing you a very happy and creative journey in the new world you are entering.

My thanks to the Institute of Business Administration for giving me this opportunity to share my words with you.

Professor A. F. Serajul Islam Chowdhury, PhD
Professor Emeritus
Department of English
University of Dhaka

CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES CLASS OF 2024

Battle of Minds 2023

HSBC-IBA Business Case Competition 2023

BizMaestros 2023

Marico Over The Wall 2023

Sellsation 2023

CreaDive 2023

Hult Prize, University of Dhaka 2023

Robi Nextperience 2023

Banglalink Innovators 7.0

Orange Corners Ideation Challenge 2023

Agribiz 2023

Brandeister 2022

Dabur Sanitize presents Negocio 1.0

IBA JU DC Fundraiser 2020

Bizporium 21

Marketiniac 2.0

RUBC CaseCation 2021

Brand Aid 2021

Beyond the Metrics 2023

Global Young Changemaker Essay Contest by UNDP 2021

Brink 3.0

Idea Hunters 1.0

Oxford Online IV 2020

Berger Presents Corporiddlerz 2021

Obhizatrik Youth Fest 2022

Geoquest 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION)

On the eve of a new journey that is about to unfold, it is my pleasure to congratulate the graduating students of the BBA, MBA and Executive MBA programs and the degree awardees of the DBA program. As you, the graduates, step into the professional world, armed with the knowledge and expertise honed at IBA, you are poised to make meaningful contributions to society and industry. I have no doubt in your potential, as you come from a generation of youth who hold so much courage.

Indeed, IBA's commitment to leadership continues through meaningful industry-academia interfaces. The establishment of IBA-Mubarak Ali Case Centre (IBA MACC) is one example of IBA carrying out its mission of nurturing inspiring tales of leadership from local industries to global audiences. All such efforts, at the end of the day, are designed to prepare students for a globalized workplace and equip them with the skills to inspire, lead, and to craft the next generation of business success stories.

As you start a new journey, remember that leadership is not about success alone; it involves creating value for others. Let humanity, integrity, and the spirit of service shape your journey. Strive to motivate and serve your fellow companions and contribute towards a larger cause.

Once again, I congratulate you for reaching a well-deserved milestone in your life. The future is in your hands - approach it with determination, confidence and honesty.

Professor Sayema Haque Bidisha, PhD
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration)
University of Dhaka



MESSAGE FROM THE PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students of the BBA, MBA, and Executive MBA programs, and to the degree awardees of the DBA program, on this occasion of the IBA Graduation Ceremony 2024. This is a moment as much to celebrate the fruits of your hard work and dedication as it is to reflect on the immense potential you hold as you step into a world that awaits your contributions.

As you graduate, you are stepping into a world that is undergoing profound change. The challenges of our time - climate change, widening wealth and income disparity, volatile political environment, and technological disruption to name a few - demand leaders to form themselves. The ability to think critically and originally, to think beyond traditional silos, and to conceptualize a world beyond the immediate and the individual interests will be crucial for transitioning into a more inclusive and prosperous world.

You, as youth of this nation, are uniquely positioned to rise to these challenges now more than ever. Because it is not just Bangladesh in many ways embodies our very own versions of these global challenges. The country remains at the forefront of several economic, environmental, and geopolitical complexities that only future visionary leaders may solve with their competence and compassion. Moving forward, I hope you will embrace the power of collective action. Your energy, creativity, and shared vision are the driving forces that can shape a better future for Bangladesh and the world.

IBA has always been a pioneer in fostering academic excellence and leadership. Its initiatives reflect its commitment to preparing students for a globalized and interconnected world. These efforts are not just about equipping you with skills; they are about instilling in you the mindset to lead with integrity, inspire others, and create lasting impact. Therefore, I hope that your time at IBA was more than an academic journey. I like to believe that it has been a transformative experience for each of you in thinking critically, acting decisively, and being guided with vision. The education you have received here is not confined to textbooks or classrooms. It is rooted in every real business challenges. And it demonstrates the power of collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to the greater good. These are the tools that will empower you to navigate the complexities of the modern world and to contribute meaningfully to society.

I congratulate you on this meaningful achievement. As you progress through life, dream big, act bold, and remain steadfast in your commitment to making a difference. The future is yours to design, and I have every confidence that you will do so with wisdom, courage, and compassion.

Professor Mamun Ahmed, PhD
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic)
University of Dhaka

IBA PROGRAMS

Academic Programs

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Executive MBA (EMBA)

Post Graduate Diploma in Garment Business (PGD-GB)

Management Development Program (MDP)

Research Programs

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

DIRECTOR'S HONOR LIST

BBA PROGRAM

ANINDITA SAHA

CGPA: 3.85

Recipient of S.A. Huq Memorial Gold Medal

ASIF RAIHAN FAHIM

CGPA: 3.77

Recipient of S.A. Huq Memorial Gold Medal

NAFISA KABIR RHYIN

CGPA: 3.77

Recipient of Hazera Khanam Gold Medal

ARIAN MEHJABIN

CGPA: 3.76

Recipient of Hazera Khanam Gold Medal

MBA PROGRAM

ZEBA FARZANA

CGPA: 3.91

Recipient of IBA Gold Medal

AHMAD ASIF SAMI

CGPA: 3.88

Recipient of IBA Gold Medal

EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM

KAZI SHAMSUN NAHAR TANNY

CGPA: 3.94

Recipient of IBA Gold Medal

PERTHA PROTIM DUTTA

CGPA: 3.78

Recipient of IBA Gold Medal

RAJIB KUMAR SAHA

CGPA: 3.81

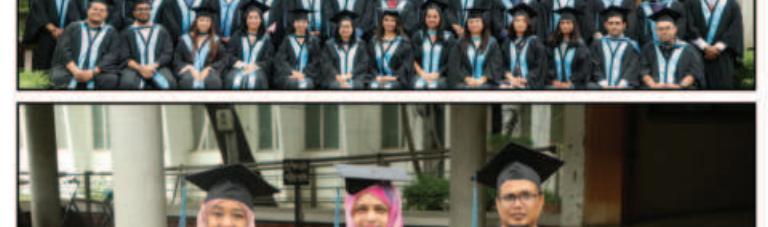
Recipient of IBA Gold Medal

MEHEDI ISLAM ANEEK

CGPA: 3.78

Recipient of IBA Gold Medal

Professor Shakil Huda
Director (Acting)
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka



Actors Equity's president condemns lawsuits and attacks on artistes

Azad Abul Kalam, president of Actors Equity, has expressed grave concern over the recent lawsuits and attacks against artistes.

Following the filing of an attempted murder case implicating 17 actors, including Suborna Mustafa, Apu Biswas, and Nusraat Faria, and the mob assault of actor Siddique, Kalam urged the interim government to act swiftly.

The actor condemned the baseless

accusations, highlighting their damaging impact on artistes' reputations and the social fabric. Stressing the need for social resistance against such practices, he warned that unchecked mob violence could escalate further.

He emphasised that no individual should be criminalised without proof, calling for strict consequences against those filing false cases to preserve societal unity and justice.



Pritom Hasan and Xefer come together for romantic web-film



Singing sensations Pritom Hasan and Xefer Rahman, who have been making their presence felt on OTT platforms through their acting, are set to pair up for the first time in an upcoming romantic web film titled *Tumi Ami Shudhu*. The project is being directed by noted filmmaker Shihab Shaheen, and is expected to premiere soon on an OTT platform.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shihab Shaheen confirmed the news, saying, "We're scheduled to begin shooting within the next few days. This project was finalised nearly a year and a half ago. Initially, I had planned to launch

Xefer as an actress through this film, but in the meantime, she made her on-screen debut with another project. Now, we're finally moving ahead to complete it."

Without revealing too much, the director shared that the story is a beautiful love story. "I believe audiences will appreciate this fresh new pairing," he added.

Pritom was last seen in the web film *Guempori*, while Xefer more recently appeared in Shihab Shaheen's *Allen Swapna Season 2*. Meanwhile, Shaheen himself has been earning acclaim both at home and abroad for his Eid release *Daagi*.

Bangladeshi film 'Not a Fiction' wins top prize at Prague fest

Bangladeshi one-shot film *Not a Fiction*, directed by Shah Newaz Khan Cju, has won Best Super Short Film at the Prague Film Festival 2025.

Selected from 3,266 submissions across 95 countries, it was the only entry from South Asia. A hard-hitting portrayal of extrajudicial killings in Bangladesh over two decades, the film impressed a jury led by Cannes-recognised filmmakers.

Made with a budget of under 100 euros, it outshone a European competitor costing nearly 50,000 euros. Cju, currently based in Berlin, accepted the award in Prague, calling it a proud moment. *Not a Fiction* will be released online within the next month.

Co-producers Sadia Khalid Reeti and Laili Begum, and a strong cast and crew, brought the powerful story to life.



Jenna Ortega eyes directorial debut with long-nurtured script

Actress Jenna Ortega is gearing up for her directorial debut, revealing plans to bring a personal script to life—one she's been developing since the early days of her acting career.

In an interview with V Magazine, the *Wednesday* star shared, "I've known I was going to make this film for almost 10 years." While she has already executive-produced projects like *Death of a Unicorn* and the upcoming season of *Wednesday*, Ortega says her ultimate ambition is to direct.

She is also producing and starring in the thriller *Hurry Up Tomorrow*, viewing her acting career as a "stepping stone" toward her goal of directing.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Paal: Moving through Memories, Myths, and Motion'

Under the artistic direction of Bishwajit Goswami, *Paal: Moving through Memories, Myths, and Motion* presents three large sails symbolising land, water, and air.

Created with artists and communities along the Buriganga, the exhibition weaves natural materials, folk poetry, and traditional craft into a powerful metaphor of collective memory and movement.

Date: Today-Friday | May 1-2

Time: 2pm-7pm

Venue: Brihatta Art Foundation, Hazaribagh



NEWS

Chinmoy Das granted bail

FROM PAGE 16
before the HC saying that their client is innocent as there is no specific allegation against him.

The police are yet to submit any report in the case against Chinmoy, who is ill. Bhattacharjee said, adding that there was no element of offence brought against him in the first information report.

Meanwhile, Haque vehemently opposed the bail petition as Chinmoy, born Chandan Kumar Dhar, can interfere in the investigation proceedings if released from jail.

There is also a possibility of Chinmoy

fleeing, if released, as he was absconding before arrest, he said.

Additional Attorney General Md Abdul Jabbar Bhuiyan and Deputy Attorney General Farid also appeared for the state during the hearing.

On October 31 last year, Firoz Khan, former general secretary of Chattogram's Mohora ward BNP, filed the case with Kotwali Police Station

accusing Chinmoy and 18 others of disrespecting the national flag during a rally six days earlier in the port city's New Market area.

On November 26 last year, a

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

On

Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why the accused should not be granted bail in the case.

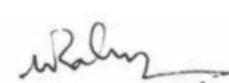
On

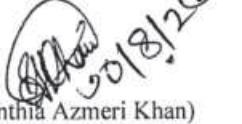
Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail, rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

When Chinmoy was produced before a court that day, a clash ensued between his followers with the police and lawyers and Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed in the melee.

On January 12, Bhattacharjee submitted the bail petition on behalf of Chinmoy before the HC.

The HC bench on February 4 issued the rule asking the state to explain in two

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh																																							
 <p>Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Engineering Section, Head Office Rangamati</p>																																							
Memo No. 29.31.0000.000.011.07.0684.24-288.																																							
Date: 29-04-2025																																							
e-Tender Notice (Limited Tendering Method)																																							
This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have through e-GP Portal:																																							
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tender ID & Package No.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Publication date & closing date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1097766 & CHTDB/21000900/24-25/RHD-01/01</td> <td>Supply and Installation of Fruit Dryer under the project of Supply of Machinery (Fruit Dryer-08) for making Dry Fruits in Rangamati Hill District.</td> <td>29-Apr-2025 09:00:00 15-May-2025 12:00:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1097742 & CHTDB/221000900/24-25/RHD-02/01</td> <td>Installation of Deep tubewell (a) Hajipara under Rajashahi Upazila (b) Munshibil under Rajashahi Upazila (c) Murali Para under Kapta Upazila (d) Devtachhara Para under Kapta Upazila (e) Khamar Para under Rangamati Sadar Upazila under the project of Providing safe drinking water in Rangamati Hill District.</td> <td>29-Apr-2025 09:00:00 15-May-2025 12:00:00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Tender ID & Package No.	Description	Publication date & closing date	1097766 & CHTDB/21000900/24-25/RHD-01/01	Supply and Installation of Fruit Dryer under the project of Supply of Machinery (Fruit Dryer-08) for making Dry Fruits in Rangamati Hill District.	29-Apr-2025 09:00:00 15-May-2025 12:00:00	1097742 & CHTDB/221000900/24-25/RHD-02/01	Installation of Deep tubewell (a) Hajipara under Rajashahi Upazila (b) Munshibil under Rajashahi Upazila (c) Murali Para under Kapta Upazila (d) Devtachhara Para under Kapta Upazila (e) Khamar Para under Rangamati Sadar Upazila under the project of Providing safe drinking water in Rangamati Hill District.	29-Apr-2025 09:00:00 15-May-2025 12:00:00																										
Tender ID & Package No.	Description	Publication date & closing date																																					
1097766 & CHTDB/21000900/24-25/RHD-01/01	Supply and Installation of Fruit Dryer under the project of Supply of Machinery (Fruit Dryer-08) for making Dry Fruits in Rangamati Hill District.	29-Apr-2025 09:00:00 15-May-2025 12:00:00																																					
1097742 & CHTDB/221000900/24-25/RHD-02/01	Installation of Deep tubewell (a) Hajipara under Rajashahi Upazila (b) Munshibil under Rajashahi Upazila (c) Murali Para under Kapta Upazila (d) Devtachhara Para under Kapta Upazila (e) Khamar Para under Rangamati Sadar Upazila under the project of Providing safe drinking water in Rangamati Hill District.	29-Apr-2025 09:00:00 15-May-2025 12:00:00																																					
The interested firms/persons 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 Portal (http://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@eprocure.gov.bd).																																							
SD/- Tushit Chakma Executive Engineer Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Rangamati																																							
GD-1040																																							
Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)  Information And Communication Technology Division (ICTD) Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Youth Tower (Level 3, 4 & 5), 822/2, Rokeya Sarani, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh, Phone: +880241001721, E-mail:pd.edge@bcc.gov.bd, Website: www.bcc.gov.bd																																							
Number: 56.01.0000.046.004.07.0076.25.3 Date: 30 Apr 2025																																							
e-Tender Notice Subject: Notice 30-04-2025 03:34																																							
This is to notify all concerned that the following e-tenders have been published through e-GP portal.																																							
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tender ID & Package No.</th> <th>Name of the package</th> <th>Online Notice Publication Date and Time:</th> <th>Online Tender last selling Date and Time:</th> <th>Online Tender Closing Date and Time:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1103539 & EDGE-G7B1</td> <td>Supply and Installation of Computational Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)</td> <td>30-Apr-2025 20:00</td> <td>28-May-2025 17:00</td> <td>29-May-2025 14:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1103514 & EDGE-G7B2</td> <td>Supply and Installation of IoT and Electronics Lab Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)</td> <td>30-Apr-2025 20:00</td> <td>28-May-2025 16:30</td> <td>29-May-2025 14:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1103541 & EDGE-G7B3</td> <td>Supply and Installation of Bio and Advanced Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)</td> <td>30-Apr-2025 20:00</td> <td>28-May-2025 17:00</td> <td>29-May-2025 15:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1103542 & EDGE-G13A1</td> <td>Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Computational Equipment for C4IR</td> <td>30-Apr-2025 20:00</td> <td>18-May-2025 17:00</td> <td>19-May-2025 14:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1103544 & EDGE-G13A2</td> <td>Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Robotics Equipment for C4IR</td> <td>30-Apr-2025 20:00</td> <td>28-May-2025 17:00</td> <td>29-May-2025 15:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1103546 & EDGE-G13A3</td> <td>Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IoT and Other Advanced Equipment for C4IR</td> <td>30-Apr-2025 20:00</td> <td>28-May-2025 17:00</td> <td>29-May-2025 15:30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Tender ID & Package No.	Name of the package	Online Notice Publication Date and Time:	Online Tender last selling Date and Time:	Online Tender Closing Date and Time:	1103539 & EDGE-G7B1	Supply and Installation of Computational Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 14:00	1103514 & EDGE-G7B2	Supply and Installation of IoT and Electronics Lab Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 16:30	29-May-2025 14:30	1103541 & EDGE-G7B3	Supply and Installation of Bio and Advanced Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 15:00	1103542 & EDGE-G13A1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Computational Equipment for C4IR	30-Apr-2025 20:00	18-May-2025 17:00	19-May-2025 14:00	1103544 & EDGE-G13A2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Robotics Equipment for C4IR	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 15:30	1103546 & EDGE-G13A3	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IoT and Other Advanced Equipment for C4IR	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 15:30
Tender ID & Package No.	Name of the package	Online Notice Publication Date and Time:	Online Tender last selling Date and Time:	Online Tender Closing Date and Time:																																			
1103539 & EDGE-G7B1	Supply and Installation of Computational Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 14:00																																			
1103514 & EDGE-G7B2	Supply and Installation of IoT and Electronics Lab Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 16:30	29-May-2025 14:30																																			
1103541 & EDGE-G7B3	Supply and Installation of Bio and Advanced Equipment for 10 Research and Innovation Center (RICs)	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 15:00																																			
1103542 & EDGE-G13A1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Computational Equipment for C4IR	30-Apr-2025 20:00	18-May-2025 17:00	19-May-2025 14:00																																			
1103544 & EDGE-G13A2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Robotics Equipment for C4IR	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 15:30																																			
1103546 & EDGE-G13A3	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IoT and Other Advanced Equipment for C4IR	30-Apr-2025 20:00	28-May-2025 17:00	29-May-2025 15:30																																			
Interested Persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.																																							
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.																																							
The fees for selling/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 , 16575).																																							
 30-04-2025 Mohammad Mohidur Rahman Khan Deputy Project Manager (Current duty)																																							
GD-1048																																							

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
 <p>Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Health Services Division, Directorate General of Health Services Central Medical Stores Depot, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 www.cmsd.gov.bd</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Corrigendum-1 IFT: CMSD/CR-2420/ICT/2024-25/Prog-D-4/11, Dated: 25/03/2025 Procurement of "Radiology Equipment" Lot-1: Combined Digital Radiography (1000 mA X-Ray) with Remote Fluoroscopy-01 No. and Lot-2: Premier End 4D Color Doppler Ultrasonography with 5 (five) Transducers & Biopsy devices-01 No. The relevant portion of the Tender documents under abovementioned IFT No. is hereby amended as per observation raised by the prospective tenderers. Please read as under:																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Reference</th> <th>Existing Entries</th> <th>Amended Entries</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>TD's Section 2. Tender Data Sheet (TDS): ITT 36.1, ITT 42.2 & IFT Row No. 9, 10 & 11.</td> <td>12/05/2025 (During Office hours)</td> <td>25/05/2025 (During Office hours)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tender last selling date</td> <td>1:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025</td> <td>1:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tender submission date & time</td> <td>11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025</td> <td>11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tender opening date & time</td> <td>11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025</td> <td>11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Reference	Existing Entries	Amended Entries	TD's Section 2. Tender Data Sheet (TDS): ITT 36.1, ITT 42.2 & IFT Row No. 9, 10 & 11.	12/05/2025 (During Office hours)	25/05/2025 (During Office hours)	Tender last selling date	1:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025	1:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025	Tender submission date & time	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025	Tender opening date & time	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Reference	Existing Entries	Amended Entries																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
TD's Section 2. Tender Data Sheet (TDS): ITT 36.1, ITT 42.2 & IFT Row No. 9, 10 & 11.	12/05/2025 (During Office hours)	25/05/2025 (During Office hours)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Tender last selling date	1:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025	1:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Tender submission date & time	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Tender opening date & time	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 13/05/2025	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 26/05/2025																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
 Dr. Shah Md. Helal Uddin Director (Additional Secretary) Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) Directorate General of Health Services Health Services Division Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Telephone: +8802222244087 E-mail: cmsd@cmsd.gov.bd																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD), Tangail Road Division, ফোন: ০৯২১-৬৪০৪৩ E-mail : eetan@rhd.gov.bd																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Memo No:35.01.9395.474.07.001.25-1934 Date: 30-04-2025.																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
e-Tender Notice This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following Package.																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tender ID No.</th> <th>Name of works/Package description</th> <th>Tender Method</th> <th>Last Selling & Closing date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1105535</td> <td>Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) work with necessary repair of profile correction at Ch. 8th km, 9th km, 10th km & 11th km of Mirzapur (Pakulla)-Delduar-Elasin (Z-4007) Road under Tangail Road Division During the Year 2024-2025.</td> <td>OTM</td> <td>14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1105545</td> <td>Installation of Traffic Sign with post ,Fitting & Fixing of Reflecting Sticker on different Sign Board & Guide post at Ch.25+000 km to 69+000 km of Joydebpur-Tangail-Jamalpur (N-4) Road of Mirzapur Road Sub-Division & Tangail Road Sub-Division, under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.</td> <td>OTM</td> <td>14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1105565</td> <td>Seal Coat work at Ch. 00+906 km to 2+206 km of Korotia-Bangra Road (N-407) under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.</td> <td>OTM</td> <td>14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1105573</td> <td>Topography Survey of Madhupur (Kakrajd)-Garobazar-Sagardighi- Sakhipur (Z-4014) Road under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.</td> <td>OTM</td> <td>14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Tender ID No.	Name of works/Package description	Tender Method	Last Selling & Closing date	1105535	Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) work with necessary repair of profile correction at Ch. 8th km, 9th km, 10th km & 11th km of Mirzapur (Pakulla)-Delduar-Elasin (Z-4007) Road under Tangail Road Division During the Year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.00	1105545	Installation of Traffic Sign with post ,Fitting & Fixing of Reflecting Sticker on different Sign Board & Guide post at Ch.25+000 km to 69+000 km of Joydebpur-Tangail-Jamalpur (N-4) Road of Mirzapur Road Sub-Division & Tangail Road Sub-Division, under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.05	1105565	Seal Coat work at Ch. 00+906 km to 2+206 km of Korotia-Bangra Road (N-407) under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.15	1105573	Topography Survey of Madhupur (Kakrajd)-Garobazar-Sagardighi- Sakhipur (Z-4014) Road under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.15																																																																																																																																																																																																				
Tender ID No.	Name of works/Package description	Tender Method	Last Selling & Closing date																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
1105535	Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBST) work with necessary repair of profile correction at Ch. 8th km, 9th km, 10th km & 11th km of Mirzapur (Pakulla)-Delduar-Elasin (Z-4007) Road under Tangail Road Division During the Year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
1105545	Installation of Traffic Sign with post ,Fitting & Fixing of Reflecting Sticker on different Sign Board & Guide post at Ch.25+000 km to 69+000 km of Joydebpur-Tangail-Jamalpur (N-4) Road of Mirzapur Road Sub-Division & Tangail Road Sub-Division, under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.05																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
1105565	Seal Coat work at Ch. 00+906 km to 2+206 km of Korotia-Bangra Road (N-407) under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.15																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
1105573	Topography Survey of Madhupur (Kakrajd)-Garobazar-Sagardighi- Sakhipur (Z-4014) Road under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-05-2025 at 17.00 & 15-05-2025 at 12.15																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01715-777778, 017625528-31)																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
 (Dr Shintia Azmeri Khan) ID No- 602214 Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division Tangail.																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
GD-1055																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
 GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ANSAR & VDP HEADQUARTERS KHILGAON, DHAKA. Invitation for Re-Tenders (International)																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>Ministry/Division</th> <th colspan="3">Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Security Division</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2</th> <th>Agency</th> <th colspan="3">Bangladesh Ansar & Village Defence Party</th> </tr> <tr> <th>3</th> <th>Purchaser Name</th> <th colspan="3">Director (Admin-Q) on behalf of Director General Bangladesh Ansar & VDP.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>4</th> <th>Purchaser Code</th> <th colspan="3">Not used at present</th> </tr> <tr> <th>5</th> <th>Purchaser District</th> <th colspan="3">Dhaka</th> </tr> <tr> <th>6</th> <th>Invitation for</th> <th colspan="3">Goods (Shotgun Cartridge)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>7</th> <th>Invitation Ref No</th> <th colspan="3">No-44.03.0000.017.07.229.2025-844</th> </tr> <tr> <th>8</th> <th>Date</th> <th colspan="3">30/04/2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="5">KEY INFORMATION</th> </tr> <tr> <th>9</th> <th>Procurement Method</th> <th colspan="3">ICT (One Stage & Two Envelope Tendering), Open Method (International Tender)</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="5">FUNDING INFORMATION</th> </tr> <tr> <th>10</th> <th>Budget and Source of Funds</th> <th>Revenue Budget</th> <th colspan="2">Government</th> </tr> <tr> <th>11</th> <th>Development Partners (if applicable)</th> <th colspan="3">N/A</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="5">PARTICULAR INFORMATION</th> </tr> <tr> <th>12</th> <th>Project/Programme Code (if applicable)</th> <th colspan="3">N/A</th> </tr> <tr> <th>13</th> <th>Project/Programme Name (if applicable)</th> <th colspan="3">N/A</th> </tr> <tr> <th>14</th> <th>Tender Package No.</th> <th>Arms-01 (A)</th> <th colspan="2">Procurement of Shotgun Cartridge.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>15</th> <th>Tender Package Name</th> <th colspan="3"></th> </tr> <tr> <th>16</th> <th>Tender Publication Date</th> <td>01-05-2025</td> <th colspan="2">Date</th> </tr> <tr> <th>17</th> <th>Tender Last Selling Date</th> <td>28-05-2025</td> <th colspan="2">Time</th> </tr> <tr> <th>18</th> <th>Tender Closing Date and Time</th> <td>29-05-2025</td> <td colspan="2">11:30 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <th>19</th> <th>Tender Opening Date and Time</th> <td>29-05-2025</td> <td colspan="2">11:35 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <th>20</th> <th>Name & Address of the office(s)</th> <td colspan="3">Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>a</td> <td>Selling Tender Document (Principal)</td> <td colspan="3">Ansar & VDP HQ, Khilgaon, Dhaka (Provision Branch)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b</td> <td>Selling Tender Document (Others)</td> <td colspan="3">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5">c NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d</td> <td>Receiving Tender Document</td> <td colspan="3">Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e</td> <td>Opening Tender Document</td> <td colspan="3">Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)</td> </tr> <tr> <th>21</th> <th>Place/ Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)</th> <th>Place Name/Address</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>DPC Store, Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka.</td> <td>13-05-2025</td> <td>11:00 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="5">INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</th> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>Eligibility of Tenderer</td> <td colspan="3">Open to eligible tenderers from all countries, except specified in the Standard Tender Document (STD)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>Brief Description of Goods or Works</td> <td colspan="3">Procurement of Shotgun Cartridge.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>Brief Description of Related Services</td> <td colspan="3">Supply and transportation of Serial 26.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>Price of Tender Document (Tk)</td> <td colspan="3">3000/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot No</td> <td>Identification of Lot</td> <td>Location</td> <td>Tender Security Amount (USD) or equal foreign currency.</td> <td>Completion Time in Weeks/ Months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>Arms-01</td> <td>A. 12 Bore Shotgun Cartridge (Rubber 5 lac & Lead 4 lac), 9 Lac Pcs.</td> <td>Ansar & VDP Headquarters Khilgaon, Dhaka.</td> <td>\$ 16,500.00</td> <td>120 Days</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5">Purchaser DETAILS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>Name of Official Inviting Tender</td> <td colspan="3">Md. Ashraful Islam, BVM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>Designation of Official Inviting Tender</td> <td colspan="3">Director (Admin-Q)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>Address of Official Inviting Tender</td> <td colspan="3">Ansar & VDP HQs, Khilgaon, Dhaka.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>Contact details of Official Inviting Tender</td> <td colspan="3">Tel. 47214926 Fax - 47214959 dir_q@ansarvdp.gov.bd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td colspan="4">The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings</td> </tr> </thead></table>					1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Security Division			2	Agency	Bangladesh Ansar & Village Defence Party			3	Purchaser Name	Director (Admin-Q) on behalf of Director General Bangladesh Ansar & VDP.			4	Purchaser Code	Not used at present			5	Purchaser District	Dhaka			6	Invitation for	Goods (Shotgun Cartridge)			7	Invitation Ref No	No-44.03.0000.017.07.229.2025-844			8	Date	30/04/2025			KEY INFORMATION					9	Procurement Method	ICT (One Stage & Two Envelope Tendering), Open Method (International Tender)			FUNDING INFORMATION					10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget	Government		11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A			PARTICULAR INFORMATION					12	Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A			13	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A			14	Tender Package No.	Arms-01 (A)	Procurement of Shotgun Cartridge.		15	Tender Package Name				16	Tender Publication Date	01-05-2025	Date		17	Tender Last Selling Date	28-05-2025	Time		18	Tender Closing Date and Time	29-05-2025	11:30 AM		19	Tender Opening Date and Time	29-05-2025	11:35 AM		20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)			a	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Ansar & VDP HQ, Khilgaon, Dhaka (Provision Branch)			b	Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A			c NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS					d	Receiving Tender Document	Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)			e	Opening Tender Document	Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)			21	Place/ Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Place Name/Address	Date	Time			DPC Store, Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka.	13-05-2025	11:00 AM	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Open to eligible tenderers from all countries, except specified in the Standard Tender Document (STD)			23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Procurement of Shotgun Cartridge.			24	Brief Description of Related Services	Supply and transportation of Serial 26.			25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	3000/-			Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (USD) or equal foreign currency.	Completion Time in Weeks/ Months	26	Arms-01	A. 12 Bore Shotgun Cartridge (Rubber 5 lac & Lead 4 lac), 9 Lac Pcs.	Ansar & VDP Headquarters Khilgaon, Dhaka.	\$ 16,500.00	120 Days	Purchaser DETAILS					27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Ashraful Islam, BVM			28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (Admin-Q)			29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Ansar & VDP HQs, Khilgaon, Dhaka.			30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. 47214926 Fax - 47214959 dir_q@ansarvdp.gov.bd			31	The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Security Division																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
2	Agency	Bangladesh Ansar & Village Defence Party																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
3	Purchaser Name	Director (Admin-Q) on behalf of Director General Bangladesh Ansar & VDP.																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
4	Purchaser Code	Not used at present																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
5	Purchaser District	Dhaka																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
6	Invitation for	Goods (Shotgun Cartridge)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
7	Invitation Ref No	No-44.03.0000.017.07.229.2025-844																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
8	Date	30/04/2025																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
KEY INFORMATION																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
9	Procurement Method	ICT (One Stage & Two Envelope Tendering), Open Method (International Tender)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
FUNDING INFORMATION																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget	Government																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
PARTICULAR INFORMATION																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
12	Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
13	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
14	Tender Package No.	Arms-01 (A)	Procurement of Shotgun Cartridge.																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
15	Tender Package Name																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
16	Tender Publication Date	01-05-2025	Date																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
17	Tender Last Selling Date	28-05-2025	Time																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	29-05-2025	11:30 AM																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	29-05-2025	11:35 AM																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
a	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Ansar & VDP HQ, Khilgaon, Dhaka (Provision Branch)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
b	Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
c NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
d	Receiving Tender Document	Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
e	Opening Tender Document	Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka (DPC Store)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
21	Place/ Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Place Name/Address	Date	Time																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
		DPC Store, Ansar & VDP Headquarters, Khilgaon, Dhaka.	13-05-2025	11:00 AM																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Open to eligible tenderers from all countries, except specified in the Standard Tender Document (STD)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Procurement of Shotgun Cartridge.																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Supply and transportation of Serial 26.																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	3000/-																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (USD) or equal foreign currency.	Completion Time in Weeks/ Months																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
26	Arms-01	A. 12 Bore Shotgun Cartridge (Rubber 5 lac & Lead 4 lac), 9 Lac Pcs.	Ansar & VDP Headquarters Khilgaon, Dhaka.	\$ 16,500.00	120 Days																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
Purchaser DETAILS																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Ashraful Islam, BVM																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (Admin-Q)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Ansar & VDP HQs, Khilgaon, Dhaka.																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. 47214926 Fax - 47214959 dir_q@ansarvdp.gov.bd																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
31	The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
 Md. Ashraful Islam, BVM Director (Admin-Q)																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
GD-1049																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
 জনবাকরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ অটোমেশন ব্যবহার মাধ্যম প্রযোজন																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয় ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপনা ইউনিট ভূমি ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৮ www.lmap.minland.gov.bd																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
নম্বর: ৩১,০০,০০০০,০৯২,০২,০০৫,২৪- ৫৮৯																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
তারিখ: ১৭ বৈশাখ ১৪৩২ ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ</th> <th>ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>২</td> <td>ক্রমাংকারীর নাম</td> <td>ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৩</td> <td>যে দরপত্রের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি আহ্বান</td> <td>উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পক্ষতে প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা/ফার্ম নিয়োগ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৪</td> <td>বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্তর নং ও তারিখ</td> <td>৩১,০০,০০০০,০৯২,০২,০০৫,২৪- ৫৮৯ তারিখ - ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৫</td> <td>ক্রম পক্ষতি</td> <td>উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পক্ষতি (জাতীয়)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৬</td> <td>বাজেট ও অর্ধায়ন উৎস</td> <td>জিওবি</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৭</td> <td>প্রকল্প/ কর্মসূচির নাম ও কোড</td> <td>ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প (২৪৩২০১০)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৮</td> <td>দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ</td> <td>প্র্যাকেজ নং- এন-এসডি ১.০: প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা/ফার্ম নিয়োগ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>৯</td> <td>দরপ</td></tr></tbody></table>					1	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়	২	ক্রমাংকারীর নাম	ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প	৩	যে দরপত্রের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি আহ্বান	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পক্ষতে প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা/ফার্ম নিয়োগ	৪	বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্তর নং ও তারিখ	৩১,০০,০০০০,০৯২,০২,০০৫,২৪- ৫৮৯ তারিখ - ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫	৫	ক্রম পক্ষতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পক্ষতি (জাতীয়)	৬	বাজেট ও অর্ধায়ন উৎস	জিওবি	৭	প্রকল্প/ কর্মসূচির নাম ও কোড	ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প (২৪৩২০১০)	৮	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	প্র্যাকেজ নং- এন-এসডি ১.০: প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা/ফার্ম নিয়োগ	৯	দরপ																																																																																																																																																																																														
1	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
২	ক্রমাংকারীর নাম	ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৩	যে দরপত্রের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি আহ্বান	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পক্ষতে প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা/ফার্ম নিয়োগ																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৪	বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্তর নং ও তারিখ	৩১,০০,০০০০,০৯২,০২,০০৫,২৪- ৫৮৯ তারিখ - ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৫	ক্রম পক্ষতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পক্ষতি (জাতীয়)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৬	বাজেট ও অর্ধায়ন উৎস	জিওবি																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৭	প্রকল্প/ কর্মসূচির নাম ও কোড	ভূমি ব্যবস্থাপনা অটোমেশন প্রকল্প (২৪৩২০১০)																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৮	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	প্র্যাকেজ নং- এন-এসডি ১.০: প্রকল্পের কার্যক্রম প্রচারের লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা/ফার্ম নিয়োগ																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
৯	দরপ																																																																																																																																																																																																																											

Include private sector in tariff talks

Step up diplomatic efforts, domestic productivity to counter US tariff impacts

We share experts' and businesspeople's concerns about the urgent need for measures not just to counter the likely impact of the Donald Trump administration's tariffs but also to ensure that our economic engine runs at a better pace in a changing market reality. A little over two months remain before the 37 percent additional tariff on all Bangladeshi goods exported to the US takes effect. Unless reversed or delayed again by Trump, Bangladeshi garments—our main export to the US—will become more expensive in American markets. In fact, one exporter at a recent roundtable has said they are already receiving pressure for discounts from buyers to absorb the tariff burden.

While the government has taken some steps in this regard—including offering duty-free benefits to more US imports and sending a delegation to negotiate with the US trade office—several experts and exporters have stressed the need for broader and more strategic actions. This daily, too, has previously emphasised the need to diversify our export markets and reduce our overreliance on a single sector, while improving productivity and addressing internal inefficiencies. Even within the RMG sector, there is a need to move towards high-end products and further explore regional markets. Strengthening our "Look East" policy by considering markets like China and Korea could also serve as an alternative strategy.

We must also intensify diplomatic efforts, including by appointing experienced US-based lobbyists. While past governments often used lobbyists primarily for promotional purposes, the interim government must consider appointing a lobbyist group with expertise in trade and business as well as connections with the Trump administration. Moreover, any delegation negotiating trade and tariff issues must include private sector leaders and economists with sound trade knowledge—not just government officials or diplomats.

On the domestic front, we should focus on reducing production costs, but not by slashing wages. Exporters have rightly pointed out the burden of high gas and electricity prices as well as the lack of uninterrupted supply. Proper energy and power policy interventions are needed to address this crisis. Removing logistical bottlenecks and improving cargo-handling efficiency at sea and airports will also help exporters ensure timely deliveries, giving them a competitive edge.

However, policy recommendations such as increasing imports from the US, devaluing currency, or offering more subsidies and incentives to RMG exporters should be pursued only if they serve the broader economy. Instead of taking ad hoc measures driven by narrow interests, the government should consider forming a committee composed of both public and private sector representatives to formulate cohesive strategies. No commitments should be made at international forums without consulting such a committee. Ultimately, we must not enter into disadvantageous deals just to avoid short-term losses.

Change overdue to address student woes

Continued turmoil highlights the need of an education reform commission

We agree with the Centre for Policy Dialogue's (CPD) observation that the government's failure to form an education reform commission has been a significant misstep—one that is proving costlier amid persistent turmoil in many colleges and universities, driven largely by student grievances. The latest unrest involves polytechnic students, who have been protesting for months and are now enforcing a "complete shutdown" of their institutions until a roadmap for implementing their six-point demand is formulated. Earlier, it was the turn of KUET, which has remained closed since a violent clash broke out on February 18, leading to huge academic disruptions, student suspensions, dormitory break-ins, and even face-offs between students and teachers over the former's demand for the VC's removal, which has been subsequently met. This pattern has been repeated on many other campuses since the July uprising.

While it is true that the continued turmoil over student grievances has a lot to do with their newfound power of mobilisation, shrinking the space for negotiation and compromise, a reform commission could have given all involved a sense of direction away from reactive policies. It could have helped address many of the systemic issues plaguing our educational institutions, providing a new, modern vision for the sector. The question is, why hasn't the interim government formed it even after being in power for nearly nine months? At a media briefing on Tuesday, the CPD's Debapriya Bhattacharya claimed to have proposed forming a high-level reform committee to the education adviser in March. This newspaper, too, has published a number of commentaries advocating for such a commission. But for reasons unknown to us, the government decided against it, even though it set up 11 other commissions.

The CPD's proposal was more in line with the demands of polytechnic students as it envisioned a reform committee to overhaul the technical education sector and align it better with market needs. Despite the sector's potential for leveraging our economic transformation, poor planning and monitoring as well as a lingering bias towards general education have meant that Bangladesh is lagging behind its SDG target of ensuring wider and fairer access to quality technical education by 2030. Thus, we are also failing our technical graduates as many of them remain unprepared for the job market, thanks to outdated training, curriculum mismatches, etc.

We, therefore, urge the government to take immediate steps to form an education reform commission, or separate, subject-specific committees, especially focused on higher education. Given the turbulence our educational landscape has witnessed and the course correction it requires amid changing realities globally, the authorities must go for significant reforms instead of always acting under pressure, which may cause further damage in the long term.

EDITORIAL

DRAFT PUBLIC AUDIT ORDINANCE, 2025

Undermining the CAG's constitutional independence



Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury
is former comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh.

MOHAMMAD MUSLIM CHOWDHURY

Following the historic mass uprising of 2024 and the subsequent establishment of the interim government, the people of Bangladesh found renewed optimism in the promise of restoring constitutionalism, transparency, and institutional integrity. Years of systemic erosion had left foundational state institutions, particularly those tasked with oversight and accountability, in a state of near collapse. The interim administration was widely expected to

during his term of office, be varied to his disadvantages." As per Article 129(2), the CAG cannot be removed from their office except in the manner a judge of the Supreme Court may be removed, insulating the office from arbitrary dismissal by the executive.

India's constitution creates the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG India) under Article 148(1), removable only in the same way as a Supreme Court judge. The Indian

Ordinance, which empowers the CAG to audit tax receipts, must be given full effect. Strikingly, the court warned that if audit findings could not lead to any action, "auditing itself becomes unnecessary." This decision of the Appellate Division is binding as the "law of the land" as per Article III, and disregarding the same without cogent reasons through a highly compelling, rational, and constitutionally sound explanation is in clear violation of articles III and 128(4). This judgment by the apex court underscores why an unfettered CAG is vital: any interference that hampers follow-up on audit findings would render the institution toothless.

Lastly, to truly give effect to the operational independence of the auditor general, as envisaged under Article 128(4) of the constitution, it is essential that greater administrative



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

reverse this decline by strengthening the very institutions that uphold democratic governance.

Against this backdrop, the approval of the Public Audit Ordinance, 2025 earlier this month has come as a jarring setback. By introducing executive interference into the constitutional domain of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the

Supreme Court recently observed in *Centre for Public Interest Litigation vs Union of India, WP(C) No 194/2025*, "India's constitutional structure gives the CAG both security of tenure and a guaranteed consultative role, resulting in what the court called an 'inbuilt' independence." Even though India's constitution doesn't expressly declare the same which is expressly contained

By introducing executive interference into the constitutional domain of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the ordinance threatens to undermine the very independence that Article 128 of the constitution so clearly protects. At a time when the nation is striving to rebuild trust in state mechanisms, this move not only risks politicising the audit office but also sends a troubling signal about the interim government's commitment to genuine reform. At a time when the people of the country are looking to the interim government to rebuild the corroded institutions and restore their autonomy and independence, such lawmaking is deeply disappointing.

ordinance threatens to undermine the very independence that Article 128 of the constitution so clearly protects. At a time when the nation is striving to rebuild trust in state mechanisms, this move not only risks politicising the audit office but also sends a troubling signal about the interim government's commitment to genuine reform. At a time when the people of the country are looking to the interim government to rebuild the corroded institutions and restore their autonomy and independence, such lawmaking is deeply disappointing.

The CAG's authority in Bangladesh is rooted in the country's constitution. Articles 127-129 establish the CAG's office; Article 128(4) expressly enshrines the CAG's functional independence by saying that the auditor general "shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority" in performing audit duties. This clause is no mere formality; in his authoritative work *Constitutional Law of Bangladesh*, Mahmudul Islam underscores the CAG's constitutional independence, "The nature of the job demands independence of the office and integrity of the holder of office... In order to maintain his independence and immunity from interference of the executive, art. 147(2) provides that his remuneration, privileges and other terms and conditions of service cannot,

in Article 128(4) of the Constitution of Bangladesh, in this case, Justice Surya Kant noted that because the CAG "can be removed only through a removal motion in Parliament... the provisions have ensured CAG's independence."

These constitutional safeguards ensure that the audit office can operate free from executive interference. It was held in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Ors vs Union of India (UOI) (16.10.2015 - SC)* that "even though the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, was exclusively vested with the executive, there had never been an adverse murmur with reference to his being influenced by the executive. The inference sought to be drawn was, that the manner of 'appointment' is irrelevant, to the question of independence. Independence of an authority emerged from the protection of the conditions of the incumbent's service, after the appointment had been made," which includes rulemaking power. Despite the fact that India's constitution lacks a clear provision like Article 128(4) of Bangladesh's constitution, CAG's independence in its operation is upheld by the Indian Supreme Court. Supreme Court Justice P.S. Narasimha recently lauded India's constitution framers for creating strong "Fourth Branch" institutions—including the

get prior government approval before entering into a contract or agreement with foreign or regional entities. Such contracts or agreements by the CAG are essential for efficient and effective discharge of his auditorial duties. This section effectively subjects the CAG's activities to executive control, and is thereby contrary to Article 128(4). The requirement for approval from the government in this case would tantamount to the insertion of the constitutionally prohibited "direction and control."

Third, by not including provisions for auditing revenue assessment and collection under Section 6, the draft ordinance completely disregarded the decision by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in *Bangladesh and Ors vs Radiant Pharmaceuticals Ltd.* In a 2022 ruling following a writ petition filed by Radiant Pharmaceuticals, the Supreme Court held that "wherever income and expenditure of public

Section 17 of the draft ordinance would oblige the CAG to get prior government approval before entering into a contract or agreement with foreign or regional entities. Such contracts or agreements by the CAG are essential for efficient and effective discharge of his auditorial duties. This section effectively subjects the CAG's activities to executive control, and is thereby contrary to Article 128(4). The requirement for approval from the government in this case would tantamount to the insertion of the constitutionally prohibited "direction and control."

money are involved, the Comptroller and Auditor General... has the authority to audit" and report on its propriety. The court explicitly found that the audit department's power to inspect revenue accounts derives from Article 128. It reaffirmed that Section 163(3)(g) of the Income Tax

authority be vested in the CAG office. However, rather than strengthening this independence, Section 16(3) and 16(4) of the draft ordinance curtail it, further undermining the constitutional autonomy of the CAG.

Independence is not a theoretical luxury for the CAG; it is the very foundation of effective public auditing. By constitutional design, the CAG's reports go directly to the president and thence to parliament, bypassing ministers. This unique channel exists so that elected officials cannot alter or suppress audit findings. The Supreme Court of India has remarked that the constitution "provides for unbridled power to the executive to appoint [the CAG] but then protects the office by requiring removal through parliament, ensuring independence. Diluting this autonomy risks undermining accountability. As the Supreme Court of Bangladesh cautioned, if no action can flow from audit irregularities, then "auditing itself becomes unnecessary."

In other words, a compromised CAG allows mismanagement and corruption to escape scrutiny. Civil society analysts echo this view: the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) observed that weakening the CAG's powers could open the door to tax evasion and corruption. The constitutional safeguards of Supreme Court-style tenure and statutory rulemaking for the CAG exist precisely to prevent such outcomes.

In sum, the draft ordinance's contested sections stray far beyond any modicum of reasonable oversight and stray into outright control. They effectively erase the line drawn by Article 128(4), inviting the executive into the CAG's domain. Such a move appears clearly unconstitutional. If put to judicial review, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh would likely find that forcing executive permission for rulemaking and entering into contracts or agreements infringes the CAG's constitutionally protected independence. These provisions are antithetical to the founding vision of the framers of the constitution, who established the institution as an impartial watchdog. It is pertinent that these unconstitutional sections, namely sections 6, 16(3), 16(4), 17, and 19, be modified to fit into the scheme of the constitution before it is too late. May good sense prevail.

MAY DAY

'Labour reforms must ensure a dignified life for workers'

Writer-researcher Altaf Parvez discusses the recommendations made by the Labour Reform Commission to improve the state of workers in the country, in a conversation with Monorom Polok of The Daily Star.

The political shift that Bangladesh experienced in 2024 saw huge sacrifices from workers, among others. It's been almost nine months since the uprising. How would you assess this period from the workers' perspective?

Among the martyrs of the July uprising, over a hundred were directly from the working class. Hundreds of the injured also came from working class families. Though the movement began over issues like quota reform, which mainly concerned the educated middle class, the massive participation of workers stemmed from two main reasons. First, the movement's slogans and commitments against inequality resonated with them. Second, in the two years leading up to 2024, workers faced severe threats to their income and livelihoods.

During Sheikh Hasina's tenure, workers were vulnerable in two significant ways. Whenever they demanded a wage increase, the industrial police were deployed against them. Additionally, the uncontrolled rise of commodity prices meant that their real income was decreasing. Typically, workers' annual wage increases are around five to six percent, but inflation rose at around 10 percent. This made life unbearable for them. They believed that if the government were ousted, their wages would increase, and they would be free from market syndicates.

The problem is, over the past eight or nine months, none of this has really happened. Bangladesh has set wages in 42 sectors over the years. This government needed to update them, but that hasn't been done yet. Moreover, syndicates still effectively control the commodity market. Beyond that, the government has not made any significant reforms in labour laws or improvements in the workers' living standards.

How should this issue be tackled in the new Bangladesh?

Workers should be given the opportunity to lead a dignified life, where they receive fair compensation for their labour in a competitive market. With that income, they should be able to live decently, ensuring food, clothing, education, and healthcare.

They must be provided with a safe working environment. If they suffer harm, they should receive compensation. They should have the opportunity to express their opinion on professional matters. They must have the right to form associations and select representatives to voice their concerns.

In other words, their lives should be legally

protected and fall under the fundamental rights granted by the constitution. They should not be treated as domesticated animals; they should be recognised as equal human beings.

Recently, the Labour Reform Commission submitted its final report to the interim government with various recommendations, which include evaluating and revising workers' wages every three years, compensating workers if wages aren't paid on time, establishing an emergency fund for export-oriented industries, easing conditions for trade union formation, setting six months of maternity leave for female workers, and establishing a permanent labour commission. What are your thoughts on these proposals?

I have read the summary of the Labour Reform Commission's report. This May Day is the first to be observed under the government formed after the uprising. In that spirit, I believe that five to ten of the commission's recommendations should and can be implemented on a priority basis. The government often says that political consensus is needed for reforms. But if you look at the recommendations made by the commission, some of them are such that no political party would likely oppose them. For instance, providing appointment letters to workers—there's no reason to object to that.

By reforming labour laws, we need to grant legal recognition to various types of informal workers, including domestic workers, agricultural labourers, and gig workers. There is currently no updated database of workers. That work can start immediately.

In sectors where wages were set a long time ago, they should be updated promptly. Justice for major incidents of worker tragedies, like in the Rana Plaza disaster, should be expedited. In the upcoming national budget, the allocations for the two labour-related ministries can be increased to introduce new programmes. I don't see any reason for political parties to oppose these matters. Some reforms may require national level consensus. Those discussions should also begin promptly.

Among these proposals, which reforms do you believe need to be implemented urgently?

For example, the Labour Reform Commission has stated that those who hire workers should be considered "employers," not "owners."

Labour laws should be enforced for all such employers.

In some sectors, wages are inhumanely low. Wage boards need to convene quickly to address that. The institution responsible for overseeing workers' rights and factory conditions needs increased manpower, skills, and legal authority right away.

The number of labour courts should be significantly increased, and those presiding over them must be present and deliver judgments within stipulated times.

The government can immediately announce a national minimum wage

which government comes to power, poverty alleviation should be a top priority. To lift people out of poverty, we need to ensure they earn considerably more than \$2 a day.

We cannot maintain an industrial situation where daily wages are lower than that. That contradicts the government's poverty alleviation policies. Moreover, those industries are profitable. Why should such low wages persist then? Look at the tea industry—it's been operating like this for long.

In the ready-made garment (RMG) industry, annual wage increases are in single digits, while inflation is in double digits. Yet, the RMG industry is growing. So, by allowing wage increases to lag behind inflation, what are we gaining? That workers in this sector get stuck in the grips of poverty? This goes against the declared policies of the political parties and the government.

You mentioned informal economy. Many workers in our workforce are still labourers. Those labourers need to be brought under labour laws as well.

Today, employers don't provide identity cards to domestic workers. This needs to be addressed. There must be some policies regarding them, and everyone should adhere to them. We cannot leave hundreds of thousands of domestic workers in a primitive state. Today, thousands of motorised rickshaws are operating in the country. We cannot avoid the tasks of licensing and training these drivers. The idea of shutting them down isn't realistic either. There are also millions of agricultural labourers in the country. During the months of Kartik and Agrahayan, they don't have work. For them, it is essential to introduce a "wage-for-work programme" during that time.

The Labour Reform Commission has addressed the issue of Dalits. A significant segment of the Dalit population are sanitation workers. They have been in Dhaka for several hundred years. Yet, they are all landless. They need to be rehabilitated on government land around Dhaka, and that is achievable. However, the question remains: will the government implement these? I believe that without political and social pressure, many of the reform recommendations may remain unrealised. Who will exert that pressure? Workers are unorganised. Their presence in political parties is also weak. So, for now, I cannot be overly optimistic.

Alongside labour reforms, justice for workers' deaths and injuries is also a

fundamental demand. We have seen prolonged legal processes in cases like Rana Plaza, Tazreen Fashion, and Hashem Foods disasters.

It's a national shame and failure that even the Rana Plaza incident has not seen justice yet. The Rana Plaza tragedy proves that the lives of workers don't hold enough significance to our politicians or administration.

We are not ashamed of celebrating economic growth built on the corpses of workers. I prefer to call this not judicial delay, but neglect and indifference.

The Rana Plaza chapter has made it clear that tragedies endured by Bangladesh's working class do not evoke the same sense of responsibility in this country or its political circles as, say, other tragedies do.

But the unfortunate part is that after the mass uprising in July-August, we heard about the politics of "responsibility and empathy." There was a promise that ours would be an egalitarian "second republic." But where is that?

The Labour Reform Commission has addressed the matter of workers' dignity, proposing that they should not be addressed disrespectfully, as tui or tumi. But such changes cannot just be institutionally mandated; they require social transformation as well. How can that be achieved?

You are right; the contempt or rather disrespect for workers is a part of the social structure here. While our economy is capitalist, a vile feudal culture still exists in our social life. Society has not learnt to see labourers and workers with respect. However, the cause of this is related to both the state and politics. There has been no reform in our state and politics. Politics is still controlled by a few families. Industrial and economic institutions are also run in a feudal manner, without regard for laws and regulations. To end this, we need comprehensive and democratic reforms. The mass uprising demanded just that. Starting with a quota movement, about 1,400 people were killed in just a few weeks. Such a precedent is rare in the world. Our politics, our administration, our state are ill. Workers are the primary victims here, but others are also not safe. Even our educated people, wherever they work, are often treated like livestock, devoid of human dignity and sovereignty. We need to change this. Ensuring workers' rights and dignity must be seen as equally important.



Altaf Parvez

standard. Many countries have this; we need it urgently as well. The government should adjust the minimum wage every three years based on market rates. To facilitate workers' right to form associations, the conditions for establishing trade unions should be relaxed.

How feasible is it to implement these proposed reforms? And what changes might they bring, especially considering that about 85-90 percent of the country's total labour force is employed in the informal economy?

Most of the Labour Reform Commission's recommendations are implementable and necessary in the national interest. Let me explain with an example. Regardless of

How agro-processing can secure Bangladesh's export resilience



K.M. Arshad
is an undergraduate student of Department of Economics at University of Dhaka.

K.M. ARSHAD



Agro-processing is a low-risk, viable export driver.

With Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) sector facing growing threats in the form of uncertain global demand, protectionist US tariffs and other issues, the nation focuses on agro-processing as a potential export alternative. As over 40 percent of jobs and 11.02 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) come from agriculture, analysts argue that agro-processing can build upon Bangladesh's agrarian strength, involving less investment outlay and reducing post-harvest losses by improving the shelf life. The switch holds the possibility of diversifying exports, reducing economic vulnerability, and reaching a growing global processed food market that is set to grow to \$4.1 trillion by 2027.

Bangladesh's \$36 billion RMG industry (Bangladesh Bank data for FY 2023-24), providing the major chunk of export revenues, faces historic hurdles. Its biggest market, the US, which imported \$7.34 billion worth of garments in 2024, has imposed additional tariffs on Bangladeshi, as it did to many other countries of the world. This move is expected to negatively impact Bangladesh's RMG exports. Meanwhile, increasing production costs and competition from countries such as Ethiopia, producing low-cost basic garments, are denting Bangladesh's cost

medium-scale apparel factory. It also involves less complex technology that suits local entrepreneurs in rural settings.

Bangladesh produces over 40 million metric tonnes of vegetables and fruit every year, yet 30 percent of it gets lost after harvesting due to inadequate processing and storage, as per FAO 2021 statistics.

halal-certified products.

National Agricultural Policy 2018 prioritised agro-processing by providing tax incentives, low-cost credit, and export incentives. It also aims to increase agro-processing's GDP share to five percent from two percent by 2025. The Export Promotion Bureau 2023 allocated \$15 million for establishing 50 village processing clusters equipped with packaging and cold storage facilities.

However, challenges remain. Only 12 percent of agro-processors are certified to meet international safety standards like International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), which limits access to high value markets. A 2023 World Bank report cites a lack of cold chain infrastructure, with only 15 percent of perishables being transported under refrigeration. Finance remains an issue for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), with banks extending less than five percent of agriculture loans.

Upgrading of technologies, enhancing workers' skills, and streamlining export certification would make Bangladesh globally competitive. Technical skills may be acquired by cooperating with corporations and public private partnerships would amplify processing zones. Whereas RMG endured turbulence, agro-processing is a low-risk, viable export driver. Value addition to agrarian products can keep Bangladesh's wastage to a bare minimum, empower the locals and earn a spot in the value chain of the world. Through consistent policies and strategic investment, the industry can follow RMG's success template and ensure economic prosperity for future generations.

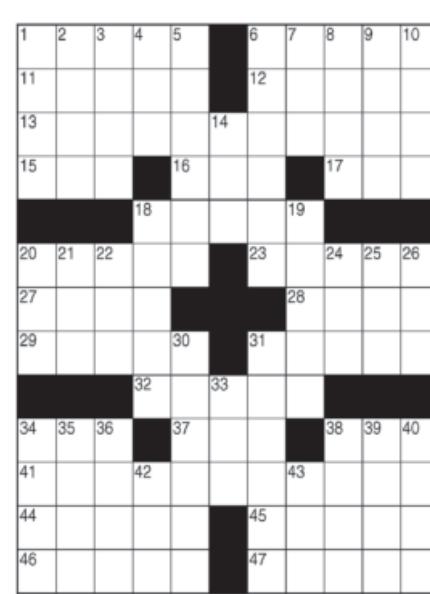
Excessive or perishable fruits may be converted by agro-processing to shelf-stable products that reduce wastage and increase farm income.

Bangladesh's agro-processed exports—\$1.2 billion in 2022-23—are already rising. Value-added foods like frozen fish, spices, and potato flakes are exported to 52 nations, including the Middle East, the EU, and Japan. Over 4,500 Bangladeshi products, including processed ones, enjoy duty-free market access in the EU under the Generalised System of Preferences. In 2022, the Middle East imported \$2.5 billion worth of processed foods, highlighting significant opportunities for suppliers of

CROSSWORD

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	41	Batters	who	18	Letter after psi
1 San Diego player	42	suffered from	the	19	Moon of Saturn
6 Steer clear of	shift			20	Derby or boater
11 Match in value	44	Worried		21	Copying
12 Pago Pago setting	45	Foe		22	Harry's friend
13 Elevator features	46	Map lines		24	Old horse
15 Used a chair	47	Ouzo flavor		25	Bullring cry
16 Valuable rock	17	View		26	Spectrum end
17 View	18	Little hooter		30	Marina boats
18 Little hooter	19	Injures		31	Raised platforms
20 Injures	21	Unimportant		33	Batter's stat
23 Unimportant	22	Lotion additive		34	Prepare for a fight
27 Lotion additive	23	Account		35	Lot buy
28 Account	24	Piquant		36	Entreaty
29 Piquant	25	Was furious		38	Writer Primo
31 Was furious	26	Baseball's Judge		39	Historic times
32 Baseball's Judge	27	Maple fluid		40	Cruise stop
34 Maple fluid	28	Survivor network		42	Young fellow
37 Survivor network	29	Oahu souvenir		43	Badge material
38 Oahu souvenir	30				



FRIDAY'S ANSWERS



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.

LITERARY CURTAINS

'All Quiet on the Western Front': Reverberating despair and dread through a theatrical production

Certain conversations and dialogues have remained with me and I'm sure they had a similar effect on everyone in attendance. For example, when a soldier dies, he is just a cadaver to be left to rot and not something to risk one's life for in the hopes of giving it a proper burial; friendship "doesn't matter" during a "bloody war".

NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

All Quiet on the Western Front (Little, Brown and Company, 1929), a semi-autobiographical novel authored by a German World War I veteran, Erich Maria Remarque, is one of the greatest anti-war works of literature—one that was published nearly a century back and still holds relevance today. The 2022 film adaption on Netflix, directed by Edward Berger, is nothing short of a cinematic masterpiece, and so visceral and marrow-chilling is its realistic portrayal of the horrors of trench warfare that it kept me glued to the screen all throughout. To that end, I didn't miss the chance to watch a Bangla dramatic adaptation at the National Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy last weekend. Having watched seasoned director Bakar Bakul's three other plays in the past, I knew it would be an experience I wouldn't want to miss.

I'm not certain what made Bakul choose such a text (adapted for the stage by Runa Kanchan) for theatrical production, given how difficult it may be to present scenes from the frontlines and the German trenches on to the confines of stage, but the set design, lighting, sound effects, costumes, and props created an immersive and realistic experience for the audience. Visual representation such as dilapidated trench walls that were barely shielding the unprepared, untrained, underaged child soldiers, auditory elements such as artillery fire and bombardments, and atmospheric effects such as the use of smoke were thoughtfully utilised. Moreover, the juxtaposition of dim, cool lighting to evoke the destitute condition of the soldiers and harsher, dramatic lighting to convey danger and threat left a beautifully disturbing impact. And lastly, the most magical stage prop was the drop of a larger-than-life pendulum at the center of the stage, one that swayed to and fro—covering the entire length of the stage's backdrop—reminding both the characters and the audience that the war was almost over, and at the same time, bringing about a feeling of dreaded suspense.



PHOTOS: SHADAB SHAHROKH HAI

As far as the plot goes, Bakul did justice to the original, portraying how war propaganda drove teenage boys to get enlisted at a time when men were scarce. "Dulce et decorum est, pro patria mori"—"it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country"—a quote from the Roman poet Horace, was taught to the German school boys, and they didn't know any better. After all, it's not like the reality of war was publicised and information wasn't at their fingertips as it is today. The enchantment of becoming men in uniforms drove naïve boys to assume that the war was more like a rite of passage or a show of machismo—one that they would surely win and come back from as glorious victors/heroes, worthy of the attention of young women. Little did they know that they'd have to bury

everything that made them human, i.e., their conscience, will power, and humaneness, and become more like programmed robots or puppets—mere pawns that were to blindly carry out orders in an abominable hellhole that they couldn't have fathomed even in their worst nightmares. The losses of both bodily autonomy as well as boyish innocence were heavily highlighted in multiple scenes. And so, instead of becoming the strong men they aspired to be, the characters became tormented souls, not knowing if the next minute will be their last, and in one instance, walking right into a death trap, as a result of being driven mad by the overwhelming distress of it all.

Certain conversations and dialogues have remained with me and I'm sure they had a similar effect on everyone in

attendance. For example, when a soldier dies, he is just a cadaver to be left to rot and not something to risk one's life for in the hopes of giving it a proper burial; friendship "doesn't matter" during a "bloody war". Empathy for a comrade soon disappears when a soldier loses a leg and has no use for the good pair of boots his mother had given him; his boots become the subject of selfish interest, while his painful cries fall on deaf ears. In another scene, the soldiers don't even know what started the war and the reason itself—that one nation had insulted another—is so ridiculous that they laugh an eerie laugh, which left me unnerved. War is an instrument to bring fame to politicians and "war is just a fucking business" for the weapons industry. When Paul, the protagonist, knives a Frenchman, he

is engulfed in remorse. He wonders if a different uniform is all it takes to make another man his enemy. He says, quite emphatically, "War is nothing but murder"—a universal truth that can be applied to the wars and genocides we come across in the news every day. Interestingly, audience members were given a "Daily Bullet-In" (a play with words), designed to look like a newspaper, which has headlines and pictures of the murderous wars Paul refers to.

As for any constructive criticism I may have to offer, in scenes involving actors who were supposed to speak in French, they spoke mostly gibberish. The actresses playing the role of French girls in particular couldn't even mimic French intonation or accent. That being said, the fact that there was a gutsily-choreographed, heated love scene between German soldiers and French girls that bordered on soft porn sent home the message that human cravings to be touched, felt, and loved cannot be withheld by differences in race or language barriers. And finally, at the end, when Paul is fatally shot ironically at the moment when armistice is declared, his metamorphosis into a supposed dancing Monarch butterfly added a nice choreographic touch, but the Casper-the-friendly-ghost-like costume seemed a little off. Perhaps a white shroud was what the director had in mind?

The amount of physical and mental energy the actors had to exert into putting up such a stellar two hour-long performance is truly commendable. The actor who played the role of the German General in particular, despite being a flat, side-character, was possibly my favorite, because he managed to instill a strong sense of hatred towards his character, given that he was the indefatigable puppet-master and the sole reason why ceasefire was not declared earlier.

Noora Shamsi Bahar is a senior lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages, North South University, and a published researcher and translator.

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

A primeval, timeless phantasm

Review of 'Ghoramasudke Niye Rupnogorer Lokjoner Jotpakano Golpogujober Biboron' (Mowla Brothers, 2005) by Mashiul Alam

NAFIS SHAHRIAR

How does one write about history? Certainly, there is the straight-forward, head-on approach, where a historical period is confronted directly by populating it with historical/fictional characters and portraying the times through their eyes. I'm not one to disparage this tactic. *Crutch Er Colonel* (Mowla Brothers, 2009) is a good example, and it certainly gives one a peek into the turbulent times post-71, a much-needed peek that puts a lot of our inheritance into perspective. *The Magic Mountain* (Secker and Warburg, 1927) is one of my favorite novels, and through its mixture of allegory and trenchant socio-ideological critique—beyond giving us an understanding of the ailments of Europe that led to the first world war—it also touches on universal themes such as love, societal progress, and time.

But when it gets right down to it, what differentiates one historical period from another? For context, what are the primary differences between 1971 and something recent such as 2024? The specific circumstances can be different, but it has always appeared to me that the primary agents of history are the same, and it is through focusing on these agents that we can gain a deeper understanding—something that hopefully will let us stop the cycle of time from repeating. Mashiul Alam

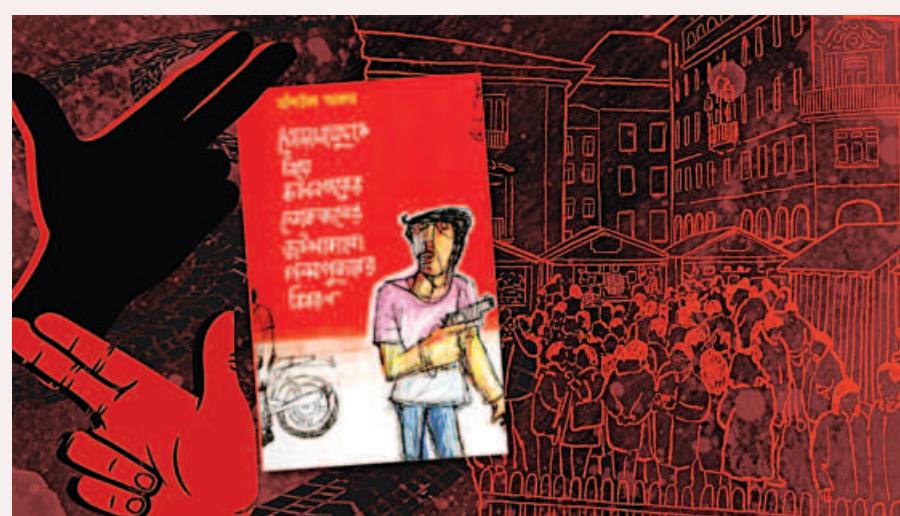


ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

seems to agree, and in his *Ghoramasudke Niye Rupnogorer Lokjoner Jotpakano Golpogujober Biboron*—he takes a macro-level perspective to examine the history of Bangladesh—a period primarily spanning the rule of Ayub Khan, 1971, Sheikh Mujib, Ziaur Rahman, Ershad, and the successors of Mujib and Zia, finally stopping in the final years of BNP's rule in the early 2000s when the fear of crossfires were at an all-time high; when the fear of criminals seemed unassailable. In doing so, Alam has focused on a number of agents when it comes to

the history of Bangladesh; particularly, how the people in power have always used the people of this country as sheep, and how this power has always been ineluctably linked to violence.

From the title of this book, it should be clear that the novel focuses on the titular Ghora Masud—a government-sponsored criminal who has been a sort of a boogeyman for the people of Rupnogor from time immemorial. The title also suggests that the novel will focus on how the people of Rupnogor talk about Ghora

Masud, but a few chapters in and it becomes clear that the people of Rupnogor talk about things besides Ghora Masud as well—conversing about the charisma of Mujib and then jumping onto how he celebrated his birthday with an insanely huge cake when the nation suffered from a famine, conversing about the bravery of the local freedom fighters and about how they took money to facilitate the release of a Rajakar, conversing about how criminals in the town used to maintain a certain decorum before they got backing from the government, etc. Through such colorful, multifaceted discussion, the people of Rupnogor are certainly portrayed as a diverse, complex bunch—with their admiration for criminality on one page and their appeals to religion in the other—and the book can certainly be read as vivisection of a small community in the face of greater social and political changes, the community acting as stand-in for myriads of communities like this throughout Bangladesh.

So, how does one write about history? What Alam does particularly well is not affording greater importance to one historical period over another. By taking a macro-level perspective and a large dataset, he is able to examine a huge swathe of history all at once—identifying the motifs and repetitions to strike at the primary agents. What he stumbles on is something that should be apparent to anyone who

casts a somewhat objective, unbiased glance towards the past: no matter which side wins, the fate of the people scarcely ever changes. It doesn't matter if it's Pakistan or Bangladesh that's calling the shots, it doesn't matter if it's Awami League or BNP or the decades of military dictatorship we've slept through: the structures and the mechanisms through which power is yielded and exercised in Bangladesh never change; on the contrary, whoever comes into power becomes wholly integrated into this infernal process.

There is scarcely a sense of continuity in the novel; the structure eliminates any sense of temporality, showcasing the people of Rupnogor living in a nebulous, muddled sphere that is void of memory. Their memory is circular, continually self-effacing and incomplete—touching on one of the most important and pitiful facets of history: regular people living through history like zombies. Sure, some are aware of the greater forces at work; some are even able to profit from the chaos. But for most people, history is like the tide of a downstream river; it takes up all their energies just to keep their head above water. Beyond that, most don't even make an attempt.

This review has been abridged. Read the full article on *The Daily Star* and *Star Books and Literature's* websites.

Nafis Shahriar is currently working in the Ed-Tech space.

Familiar methods bring face-saving win for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Reapplying tried and tested methods in Chattogram after the defeat in Sylhet worked wonders for Bangladesh as they made easy work off Zimbabwe in the second Test, rolling them over by an innings and 106 runs inside three days and levelled the two-match series 1-1 yesterday.

In the first Test at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, which Zimbabwe won by three wickets, spin and pace had almost an equal say in the proceedings, as the fast bowlers took 18 wickets while spinners claimed 19 across four innings.

In Sylhet, Bangladesh had hoped that its three-pronged pace attack would rattle the opposition, however, it was the Zimbabwean pace trio led by the impressive Blessing Muzarabani that outshone the local quicks and outfoxed the host batters.

In Chattogram, however, spin ruled over pace and with their superior spin attack, the hosts ran circles around the tourists.

Bangladesh bundled out Zimbabwe twice in three days, and out of the 20 wickets they took, only one fell to a fast bowler, the debutant Tanzim Sakib in the first innings.

The three Bangladeshi spinners claimed 17 wickets – Taijul Islam taking nine wickets which included a five-wicket haul in the first innings, Mehedi Hasan Miraz took five in the second innings and Nayeem Hasan snapped up three – while the remaining two wickets were run-outs.

Like Bangladesh, Zimbabwe also bulked up their spin bowling for the match, dropping medium pacer Victor Nyauchi and handing a debut to leg spinner Vincent Masekese.

Although Masekese claimed five wickets on debut, he couldn't stop Bangladesh from posting an imposing 444 in their first and only batting innings in the match.

Pacer Muzarabani, who was player of the match in the Sylhet Test with nine wickets in total which included a 6-72 in the second innings, didn't look half as threatening at the Bir Sreshtho Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in Chattogram, toiling for 26 overs for just one wicket.

Meanwhile, the other pacer Richard Naraya went wicketless in his 14 overs.

The conditions took the sting out of Zimbabwe's pace attack, which aided Bangladesh to form a century opening stand after 33 innings with Shadman Islam and the returning Anamul Haque making 118 runs together.

Anamul's comeback knock ended on 39 but Shadman took full toll of the situation and notched up his second Test ton.

The middle order failed to cash in on the excellent foundation but Miraz's century and crucial contributions from Taijul (20) and Tanzim (41) more than made up for it. Spinners taking wickets in bulk and lower order contributions, both were missing in the first Test for Bangladesh. Both these factors returned in Chattogram and the Tigers also returned to winning ways.



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz had a point to prove in the second Test against Zimbabwe, and he did just that on Day 3 of the Chattogram Test yesterday.

Miraz succumbed twice to short deliveries from pacer Blessing Muzarabani in the first Test in Sylhet, a game which Bangladesh lost by three wickets. Those dismissals were clearly on Miraz's mind as the right-handed batter probably knew very well that Muzarabani and Zimbabwe would do something similar at the Bir Sreshtho Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in the port city as well.

This time, Miraz was prepared. He relished his batting and had both patience and solidity to frustrate Zimbabwe. And when he had managed to get himself set at the crease, Miraz did not hesitate to show domination, hitting Muzarabani's short delivery for a six to move to the 90s.

"I said before that I have scored runs against bouncers. At the same time, sometimes mistakes happen, and big-name players make them too. Since he [Muzarabani] came to bowl at that period, I took it as a challenge and my target was to hit a six and that's what I did," Miraz said after his all-round performance helped Bangladesh seal a commanding innings and a 106-run victory over the visitors to level the two-match series 1-1.

After scoring a 162 ball 104 to help

Bangladesh ended their six-match losing streak in home Tests with the win over Zimbabwe in Chattogram. This streak began with a four-wicket defeat to New Zealand in December 2023 in Mirpur. After that, they lost two Tests each against Pakistan and South Africa last year and also the first Test of the Zimbabwe series in Sylhet.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz has become the third Bangladeshi to claim a five-wicket haul and score a century in the same Test. Earlier, Shakib Al Hasan did

it twice, first against Pakistan in 2011 and then against Zimbabwe in 2014. Sohag Gazi did it against New Zealand in 2013.

Bangladesh have eclipsed Zimbabwe in head-to-head count in Tests with the win. This was the 20th Test between the two sides, the Tigers have won nine of them to Zimbabwe's eight. The remaining three Tests have ended in draws.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz completed the double of 2000 runs and 200 wickets in Tests. He reached the milestone in 53 Tests, the sixth fastest to do so, behind Ian Botham (42), Imran Khan (50), Kapil Dev (50), Ravichandran Ashwin (51), and Ravindra Jadeja (53). He is also the second Bangladeshi to do complete the feat after Shakib Al Hasan (54).

MIRAZ takes on the challenge and pulls it off

BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe 1st innings: 227 all out in 90.1 overs (Williams 67, Welch 54; Taijul 6-60) and 2nd innings: 111 all out in 46.2 overs (Curran 46; Miraz 5-32, Taijul 3-42)

Bangladesh: 444 all out in 129.2 overs (Shadman 120, Miraz 104; Masekese 5-115)

Result: Bangladesh won by an innings and 106 runs.

Player of the match: Mehedi Hasan Miraz

Player of the series: Mehedi Hasan Miraz

Bangladesh post 444 in their first innings and take a 217-run lead, Miraz shone with the ball as well. He led the charge with the ball, bagging a fifer in the second innings to help the Tigers bundle Zimbabwe out for 111 in 46.2 overs to wrap up the game with two days to spare.

"Yes, definitely. It feels good," Miraz did not sugarcoat his feelings when asked if he enjoyed the best day of his career.

For Miraz, this game seemed to have been a platform to rectify his past mistakes.

"I scored a hundred and got three [four] wickets against the West Indies [in 2021]. I missed out on a fifer by a small margin, and we lost that match

at this venue. I remembered that game. Now, we won this game, so it feels good," Miraz added.

Bangladesh were in a spot of bother, having lost seven wickets on Day 2. But Miraz held his own with only tailenders for company, producing partnerships of 67 and 96 with Taijul Islam and Tanzim Hasan Sakib to score just his second Test ton.

He became just the third player from Bangladesh to get five wickets and hit a ton in the same Test, matching the feats of Sohag Gazi and Shakib Al Hasan, who attained the feat twice.

Miraz also attained the feat of becoming the fifth-fastest to 2000 Test runs and 200 wickets. His Test batting may not have garnered as much praise as his bowling, and while he is often being compared to Shakib, the all-rounder felt that his batting has improved out of necessity.

"The thing is that Shakib bhai has achieved a lot, and this question [comparison with Shakib] is asked a lot. Shakib bhai played his role, and when I started my career, I started as a bowler. With hard work, I was able to bring my batting up to a certain position. I improved my batting since I understood that it would help the team," he said.

Miraz, however, was not altogether enjoying a purple patch with the ball since the Test in Rawalpindi last year. Three fifers in this series alone significantly established his effort to contribute equally with bat and ball.

Now, with Shakib and a few other seniors out of the scene, the important thing for Miraz would be to deliver on the challenge of "taking more responsibility" in the coming days, especially after he reiterated the same thing once again yesterday.

Locals key to Fed Cup success'

After leading Bashundhara Kings to Federation Cup title defence as captain, central defender – even becoming the joint top scorer – Tapu Barman was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. The 30-year-old had also claimed best-player honours in the season-opening Challenge Cup final. In an interview with **The Daily Star's** Anisur Rahman, Tapu reflected on his personal form, Kings' turbulent season, and the state of domestic and national football. Excerpts from the interview are given below:

The Daily Star (DS): Despite a rocky season after the Challenge Cup win, how did Kings manage to retain the Federation Cup?

Tapu Barman (TB): We lost all three matches in the AFC Challenge League... but we gained good experience in Bhutan. We made a good start in the domestic season by winning the Challenge Cup. We also had a flying start in the league but could not maintain the momentum... So, it has been a challenging season for Kings, but we proved that we are still the best by lifting two trophies.

DS: How did the signing of foreign players mid-season help Kings following the withdrawal of the FIFA transfer ban?

TB: Those who were signed in the mid-term window are not of the same level as Brazilian Miguel Ferreira... Without the effort of the local players, it was not possible to win the Federation Cup.

DS: What caused Kings' inconsistent performance in the Bangladesh Premier League?

TB: The league is a long race, and you have to show consistency in every match... Now, our target is to finish second in the league.



DS: Did the departure of coach Oscar Bruzon affect the team's performance?

TB: We had foreign players like Robson, Dorielton and others during Oscar's tenure, unlike this time. In my opinion, Valerio Tita is also a good coach.

DS: Did the withdrawals of Sheikh Jamal DC and Sheikh Russel KC reduce the league's competitiveness?

TB: Of course, the competitiveness has been reduced while a lot of players had to suffer financially. It has also been a big setback for the country's football.

DS: Did you accept a pay cut after the political changeover on August 5?

TB: We still stick to the contracts we had before August 5. Despite the crisis moments from the start of the season, the club management tried their best to provide the facilities.

DS: With the domestic season ending soon and the national team's Asian Cup qualifiers ahead in June, what are your thoughts?

TB: There was huge uncertainty over the start of the domestic season, but in the end, it has been a big prize for the footballers because the season is still going on.

The arrival of Hamza Choudhury lit up Bangladesh football and it is a positive wave for the country's football. Securing all three points against Singapore is very important for us if we want to qualify for the next round. I believe we can do it because we grew in confidence after Hamza joined the squad.

DS: How do you view the potential inclusion of expatriate players like Shamit Shome and Cuba Mitchell in the national team?

TB: I think the national team is the highest place to play, and the best players will represent the nation. It is good news that they are interested in representing Bangladesh. The inclusion of them will strengthen the squad further, and the local players will also learn more by playing alongside them.

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

IPL
Rajasthan vs Mumbai
Live from 8:00 pm
NAGORIK TV
PSL
Multan vs Karachi

Live from 4:30 pm
Lahore vs Quetta
Live from 9:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 1
Europa League
Tottenham vs Bodo Glimt

Live from 1:00 am
(Friday)
SONY SPORTS 2
Athletic Bilbao vs
Man Utd
Live from 1:00 am
(Friday)

SHORT CORNER

Brazil deal off as Ancelotti refuses Madrid exit terms

Carlo Ancelotti will not be taking charge of Brazil, according to multiple reports. The Real Madrid manager had reportedly agreed to take over the Selecao in June and even travelled to London on Tuesday for what was expected to be the final meeting to sign the contract with the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF). While Ancelotti had agreed to start before the Club World Cup, Real Madrid – with whom he is contracted until 2026 – refused to release him unless he forfeited the €11m (£9.4m) still owed to him. Hence, Ancelotti backed out of the deal.

Asian Games to retain cricket event in Japan next year

Mixed martial arts will make its Asian Games debut next year in Nagoya, Japan, while cricket will remain on the programme after its controversial return at Hangzhou, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said. Cricket was approved for the 2026 programme in a win for organisers after India sent a men's team to Hangzhou.

*Read full stories on The Daily Star's website

Bilbao will give 'soul' to beat Man United

AFP, Bilbao

Athletic Bilbao winger Nico Williams said his team will give their "soul" to beat Manchester United on Thursday and reach the Europa League final.

The Spain international and his teammates are dreaming of playing in the showpiece at their own San Mames stadium on May 21.

The winger said the team has been following his brother and teammate Inaki Williams' advice during their Europa League run this season.

"From the start, we have been keeping a low profile – my brother said it last year, 'keep it low-key,'" said Nico Williams.

"I understand the excitement of the fans, but we need to be 100 percent focused on the game and on our job."

"We will give our souls to reach that final at San Mames."

Athletic host Ruben Amorim's United at San Mames on Thursday in the semifinal first leg, before the return at Old Trafford next week.

Nico Williams said it was hard not to get excited about the clash with the Premier League heavyweights, despite the Red Devils' poor domestic form this season.

"United is a great team with great players, such as Bruno Fernandes," continued Nico Williams.

"There is a lot of excitement in the dressing room, as well as throughout the city and among the entire Athletic family."

Athletic have never won a European trophy but have twice lost a Europa League final, including in 2012 when they beat United along the way.

Athletic coach Ernesto Valverde warned his players that no matter what they accomplish on Thursday, it will only be half-time in the tie.

"Whatever happens, the tie will be decided in the second leg. It is an important match for the season and also in the club's history," he said.



Dembele shines as PSG swap glamour for graft

PSG produced a performance with coach Luis Enrique's stamp all over it on Tuesday as an Ousmane Dembele goal helped them eke out a slender 1-0 advantage over Arsenal to take back home for the second leg of their Champions League semifinal. The French club have never won the Champions League despite massive spending down the years on the likes of Kylian Mbappe and South American duo Lionel Messi and Neymar. With those having all moved on, the current PSG team, while still possessing many outstanding individuals such as Ousmane Dembele and Desire Doke, can roll their sleeves up and graft. Dembele scored a superb team goal in the fourth minute, but after that, it was PSG's resilience and calmness under Arsenal pressure that stood out.

DS: This is the first time that PSG beat Arsenal in European competition, having failed to do so in their five previous attempts.

DS: This is also Arsenal's first defeat in 18 home European matches.

DS: Ousmane Dembele's opening goal for PSG (03:15) was the earliest Arsenal have conceded in the knockout stages of the competition.

GG "It's only half-time, we take positives," Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya insists they can still reach the Champions League final.

Law being drafted to ensure Rab accountability

Rab DG tells Police Week seminar

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A draft of the Rab Law 2024 is being prepared to ensure accountability within the force, AKM Shahidur Rahman, director general of the Rapid Action Battalion told a meeting yesterday.

Two and a half months ago, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its fact-finding report on the July uprising, recommended disbanding the force, citing serious human rights violations and abuses.

"If this law remains in effect, no one will be able to use force for personal gain," he said in a presentation during a closed-door seminar as part of the ongoing Police Week, according to sources.

The Rab has long been accused of violating human rights. In 2021, the US imposed sanctions on the Rab and six former top officials of the agency over reports of gross human rights violations.

Two and a half months ago, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its fact-finding report on the July uprising,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Chinmoy Das granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari yesterday got bail from the High Court after 156 days in jail in a sedition case filed in connection with disrespecting the Bangladesh national flag.



However, Justice Md Rezaul Haque, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division, stayed the bail moments later following a petition moved by additional attorneys general Mohammad Arshadur Rouf and Aneek R Haque on behalf of the state.

Later, the apex court chamber judge withdrew the stay order on a suo moto (voluntary move), Chinmoy's lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee told The Daily Star.

The SC chamber judge may hold a hearing on Sunday on the state's petition challenging the HC verdict on bail in presence of the lawyers from both sides, Deputy Attorney General Farid Uddin Khan told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice Md Atoar Rahman and Justice Md Ali Reza granted the bail after a hearing on a rule that earlier asked the state to explain why he should not be granted bail.

Senior lawyers ZI Khan Panna, Prabir Ranjon Halder and Bhattacharjee placed arguments

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BANGLADESH'S RESPONSE TO TRUMP TARIFFS US will get work plan by next week

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh will send the work plan to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) within the next week to reduce the trade gap as part of the efforts to bring down Trump's reciprocal tariff, currently on pause until July 9.

The government is preparing the work plan by incorporating the feedback from stakeholders, said Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman, who took part in the first round of negotiations with the USTR last week in Washington DC.

The USTR has given Dhaka more than a month to send the work plan, which cannot be longer than five pages. But the government will send it within the next five to seven days so that the next round of negotiations can be started as soon as possible, he said.

"We will not promise anything outside the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules." For instance, if any duty is reduced, it will also be reduced for all other countries under the WTO's most-favoured-nation (MFN) clause.

Bangladesh should rationalise its tariffs regardless as part of the preparations for graduation from the least developed country bracket in November 2026, Mahbubur said.

The government will build a warehouse such that more US cotton can be imported. Currently,

DHAKA'S WORK PLAN

- Warehouse to facilitate more US cotton imports
- LNG import deals
- Labour law reforms
- Protection of IP rights
- Free trade agreement

Bangladesh imports most of its cotton from neighbouring countries and Africa for shorter distances and lead time than the US.

Moreover, Bangladesh will sign contracts with the US for importing LNG from the US. Currently, Bangladesh imports LNG from the Middle East at higher prices, Mahbubur said.

In the work plan, Bangladesh will also inform on the status of labour law reforms and the progress made in areas of protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

Bangladesh will also push for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the US.

After sending the work plan to the USTR, Bangladesh will send the draft proposal for FTA negotiation to the US, the commerce secretary added.

If consensus on tariff reduction cannot be reached through negotiations, Bangladesh will seek an extension of the 90-day pause, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed while addressing a group of businesspersons at the pre-budget consultative meeting.

However, Bangladesh will not anger the US; rather, the government will enhance engagement with the Trump government.

"Engagement is the best way forward in negotiations," he said, adding that the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Firing, suing of journos worrying Says Ain o Salish Kendra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) has expressed concern over the recent dismissal of three TV journalists, the naming of at least 137 journalists as accused in connection with July uprising cases, and the filing of attempted murder cases against cultural activists.

In a statement signed by its Senior Coordinator Abu Ahmed Faizul Kabir, ASK cited media reports indicating that the three TV journalists were removed from their jobs after a press conference at the office of the cultural affairs adviser turned confrontational.

It said journalists had posed questions about the name change of Mongol Shobhajatra, its UNESCO recognition, the use of a mask resembling the face of a former prime minister, and the number of casualties in the July-August uprising.

Following the press briefing, a Facebook page called for action against the journalists and threatened a "march to Deepot TV, Channel i, ATN Bangla" if no action was taken within 24 hours. The three were subsequently dismissed.

On the broader issue of legal harassment, ASK said at least 137 journalists have been accused in 32 criminal cases across Dhaka, Chattogram, Bogura, and Rajshahi, with some even facing charges under the Explosive Substances Act.

Referring to a committee formed in October 2024 to monitor harassment cases against journalists, ASK said, "Even after its formation, new cases against journalists continue to appear, while the status of earlier cases

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Mourners attend the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. More than 52,000 people have died in the tiny Palestinian territory since Israel began its offensive on October 7, 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

All-round Miraz leads Tigers to innings victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh produced a dominant display to beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 106 runs in the second Test of the two-match series in Chattogram yesterday.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz was the star of the show, shining with an all-round display, as the Tigers cruised to a decisive victory within three days in Chattogram to level the series 1-1 after losing the first Test in Sylhet.

Miraz notched up his second ton in the format on Day 3 -- a 104 -- and forged partnerships worth 63 and 96, respectively, with Tajul Islam (20) and Tanzim Sakib (41) as Bangladesh added 153 more to their overnight total of 291-7 to post a formidable 444 after bundling out the visitors for 227. Opener Shadman Islam had scored his

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Bangladesh players celebrate taking a wicket on the way to sealing a commanding innings and 106-run victory over Zimbabwe on Day 3 of their second Test at the Bir Shreshtho Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. Thanks to a century and a fifer from all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Bangladesh managed to get a 217-run lead before bundling out Zimbabwe for 111 in 46.2 overs to level the two-match series 1-1.

PHOTO: BCB

'Abolish Women's Affairs Reform Commission' Demand Islamist parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islamist parties under the banner of Jatiya Olama Mashayekh Aemma Parishad yesterday demanded immediate abolition of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission.

They also rejected the recommendations of the commission and called for a new commission comprising "pious, educated, and socially conscious women who truly represent the country's female population".

Expressing concern, they said the government had taken comprehensive reform initiatives to cleanse the remnants of past autocratic rule, a step supported by the public, and some commissions, like the Constitution Reform Commission, reflected commendable intentions.

However, speakers said the recommendations made by the Women's Affairs Reform Commission are contrary to, what they say, the nation's beliefs, values, and traditions, and have directly hurt religious sentiments.

The speakers claimed that many of the commission's recommendations are inspired by Western ideologies and contradict Bangladesh's social realities and the true needs and struggles of the country's women.

Addressing the event held at the Diploma Engineers'

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

TV channels hurting due to Asiatic bank account freeze

Say station owners, seek govt intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) yesterday said they are suffering financially due to the freezing of the bank accounts of Asiatic Group and sought government intervention for a speedy resolution in this regard.

"Recently, all the television channels of the country are suffering financially due to the suspension of institutional bank accounts of Asiatic Group and sought government intervention in today's emergency meeting of the Executive Council of the ATCO," said a statement signed by its President Anjan Choudhury.

The Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has recently directed all banks and non-bank financial institutions to freeze the accounts of Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd, a leading advertising agency in the country.

Court orders confiscation of Joy, Putul, Rehana's assets Residential building, a flat, 117 katha of land to be seized

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to confiscate a residential building, a flat, and 117 katha of land owned by Sheikh Rehana, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Saima Wazed Putul, Rehana's children Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby and Azmina Siddiqi, in connection with corruption allegations brought against them.

Both the building and the flat in question are owned by Putul. They are located in the capital's Baridhara and Gulshan, respectively. The building has a market value of Tk 4.98 crore. Meanwhile, located in Gopalganj and Khulna, the 117 katha of land owned by Rehana, Joy, Bobby, and Azmina are currently worth Tk 1.23 crore.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1