



Dhaka's love for deliveries

RBR

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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অ্যাকাউন্ট
ঢুলুনপাই ব্যাংক (PI Banking) –
একটি পুরালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্মী' পুরালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

Protect rights
of journos in
BangladeshUrge Media
Freedom CoalitionDIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Journalists and media professionals must be able to work safely and without fear of censorship, intimidation, or violence, said Media Freedom Coalition in Bangladesh yesterday.

It reaffirmed unwavering commitment to the principles of media freedom, freedom of expression, and access to information.

The high commissions and embassies of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK in Bangladesh jointly issued the statement marking World Press Freedom Day yesterday.

It said a free, independent, and diverse media is essential for the protection of human rights, the strengthening of democratic societies, and the promotion of accountability. "We stand in solidarity with journalists who contribute to informed, resilient, and inclusive societies," it said.

The MFC is a partnership of countries working together to advocate for media freedom.



Traffic jams on Mirpur Road in the Kalyanpur area have become a daily occurrence, with nearly half of the road cordoned off for underground electric line work. The road has been in this disarray for almost two weeks, exacerbating public suffering.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Abrar tortured to death on suspected Shibir link'

Says High Court in full verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



On March 16 this year, the HC upheld a trial court verdict sentencing 20 Buet students to death and five others to life imprisonment over the 2019 killing of Abrar Fahad.

Army chief leaves for Qatar on official visit

BSS, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Waker Uz Zaman left Dhaka for Qatar yesterday on an official visit.

During the visit, the army chief will pay courtesy calls on senior military and civilian officials of Qatar and exchange views on bilateral cooperation in military affairs, said an ISPR release.

The army chief is expected to return to Bangladesh on May 5 upon completion of the visit.

Canada's Indo-Pacific trade rep in town

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Canada's Indo-Pacific Trade Representative Paul Thoppil arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening on a four-day visit.

He is scheduled to meet with key members of the government, other stakeholders, and leaders from the private sector, according to a statement of the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka.

Thoppil will also highlight Canada's engagement in the region, notably through its Indo-Pacific Strategy, and identify ways to expand trade and investment between Canada and Bangladesh.

The High Court, in the full text of its verdict, yesterday observed that Abrar Fahad, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was killed based on allegations that he might be involved with Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The court also said such a claim cannot justify the inhumane torture inflicted upon him.

The observation came in the 131-page full text of the verdict delivered by the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain.

The release of the full text paves the way for the convicts to challenge the verdict by appealing to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The court further observed that those who were present during the incident but did not actively participate in beating Abrar still shared responsibility for the murder due to their failure to intervene.

On March 16 this year, the HC upheld a trial court verdict

sentencing 20 Buet students to death and five others to life imprisonment over the 2019 killing of Abrar Fahad.

Abrar, a second-year student, was beaten to death on October 6, 2019 inside Room 2011 of Sher-e-Bangla Hall by leaders and activists of the Buet unit of Chhatra League, now a banned organisation on campus.

They seized Abrar's phone, examined his social media

accounts, and found a Facebook post critical of a government agreement with India. They then assaulted him with cricket stumps and skipping ropes. Despite repeated pleas for water, Abrar was denied any, and the beating continued until he fell unconscious. When it became clear he had died, his body was moved to the stairwell.

The incident triggered nationwide protests and outrage, prompting Buet to impose a ban on all forms of student politics.

The following day, Abrar's father filed a murder case with Chawkbazar Police Station. A Dhaka court sentenced the accused on December 8, 2021. The HC verdict came after accepting the trial court's death reference and rejecting the appeals filed by the convicts.

Advocate Azizur Rahman Dulu, who represented convicts Morshed Amartya Islam and Meftahul Islam Zion, said they would now move appeals before the SC.

Once an appeal is filed,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Political consensus key to reforms

Says Ali Riaz

UNB, Dhaka

Political parties and alliances will show flexibility and compromise in the interest of national reform and the establishment of a truly democratic system in Bangladesh, hoped Professor Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the National Consensus Commission, yesterday.

"All political parties and alliances are expected to make some compromises for the sake of the nation, state reforms, and democratic governance. We have all come together in this effort," he said during a dialogue with the Jatiyatabadi Somonoma Jote at Jatiya Sangsad.

The discussion was attended by commission members Iftekharuzzaman, Badiul Alam Majumdar, Safar Raj Hossain, and Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Monir Haider.

"We must come together -- not to agree on everything -- but to build consensus on key issues necessary for reforming the state and re-establishing democracy," Ali Riaz added.

A 13-member delegation from the Jatiyatabadi Somonoma Jote, led by its coordinator Advocate Dr Sohruzzaman Farhad, took part in the discussion.

The commission began a series of dialogues on March 20 with various political parties, aiming to develop a unified approach to state reforms.



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SHARIFUL ISLAM

On November 3, 1971, while the nation was fighting for independence, another battle took place at the Gupthakali canal in Chattogram. A nearby fire station was informed that a fire had broken out on an oil tanker carrying 1,000 tonnes of kerosene and 30 tonnes of gasoline.

Firefighter Nurul Alam and his team rushed to the scene and worked tirelessly to put out

the fire. Sadly, the ship exploded. Nurul died, and 18 of his fellow firefighters were injured.

He did not receive a war medal, but to his colleagues, he

was a hero -- one who fought a different kind of battle, where fire, not bullets, took lives.

The Fire Service and Civil Defence of Bangladesh has a long history of bravery. Since independence, 47 members have died while on duty. Their stories speak of courage, kindness, and selfless service. The worst incident occurred on June 4, 2022, at the BM

Container Depot in Sitakunda, Chattogram, where explosions killed 13 firefighters.

The most recent loss was Sohanur Zaman Nayan from Mithapukur in Rangpur. Nayan was the only son of a farmer. On December 26, 2024, a fire broke out in Building 7 of the secretariat. While running with a hose to fight the fire, he was hit by a truck. The flames did not

reach him, but danger came in another form. Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital could not save him.

Like many countries, Bangladesh will observe International Firefighters' Day today. It is a day to honour the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters worldwide. The day was established in 1999 after five firefighters died in a wildfire in Linton, Australia. Since then, it has become a global event to appreciate firefighters' work.

This Sunday, the Fire Service and Civil Defence will recognise 40 field-level firefighters, divers, and officials from all six divisions for their outstanding performances. Special prayers will also be offered for those who lost their lives or are still recovering from injuries.

A fire service official said current compensation for injury

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

The unsung protectors

47 firefighters died in the line of duty since independence; officials seek better gear, insurance



INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY
May 4th

the fire. Sadly, the ship exploded. Nurul died, and 18 of his fellow firefighters were injured.

He did not receive a war medal, but to his colleagues, he

'Aid corridor may drag Bangladesh into conflict' Warns BNP leader Hafiz

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh could be drawn into a conflict without the consent of its citizens, following the interim government's decision to open a "humanitarian corridor" for Myanmar's war-torn Rakhine State, said senior BNP leader Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of the Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers Association at the National Sports Council auditorium in Dhaka, Hafiz said the current administration's move could have serious implications for national sovereignty and security, reports UNB.

"Are we about to become involved in a war without public consent? People are deeply anxious. So are we," Hafiz said.

Hafiz also expressed serious doubts about the timeline for the next general election, accusing the interim government of intentionally delaying the process.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Govt to reinstate scholarship in primary level
Says Prof Bidhan Ranjan

BSS, Dhaka

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Professor Dr Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder yesterday said the government was thinking of reintroducing scholarship in the primary level.

He said this while exchanging views with headteachers of primary schools at the DC office.

He said the interim government has been working to improve the quality of education which had suffered a setback due to the pandemic and introduction of new curriculum.

JU bans outsiders on campus ahead of JUCSU polls

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) administration has imposed a ban on outsiders on the campus, effective from yesterday.

The decision was taken to ensure security on the campus ahead of the long-awaited Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (JUCSU) and Residential Hall Union elections, said a press release signed by Mohammad Mahiuddin, acting director of JU's Public Relations Office.

This restriction will remain in place until further notice.

"All stakeholders of the university are requested to carry their respective identity cards while on campus," said the press release.

JUCSU polls is scheduled to be held on July 31.

Senior lawyer
MI Farooqui
no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Senior lawyer MI Farooqui passed away in Dhaka last night. He was 86.

He had been suffering from lung cancer.

He is survived by his wife, one son, and two daughters.

Barrister Farooqui was an accomplished lawyer and authored three law books: Law of Abandoned Property, Citizenship and Nationalities in Bangladesh, and Interpreting Vested Property Law in Bangladesh-A Comprehensive Review, said a source close to him while talking to The Daily Star.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on the Supreme Court premises after Zohr prayers today, said SC spokesperson Muajjem Hussain.

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-45	4-45	6-31	8-00
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-00	6-35	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Padma erosion threatens embankment

Locals fear major damage if preventive measures delayed

JAHID HASAN, Shariatpur

New erosion has been reported in the Padma Bridge project area, putting the main protection embankment at Naowdoba in Shariatpur's Jajira end at risk.

The nearly two-kilometre-long embankment was constructed at a cost of Tk 110 crore.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board, the formation of sandbars and the increase in riverbed depth near the embankment have triggered the erosion.

In November last year, approximately 100 metres of the protection embankment at the Naowdoba zero point on the Jajira side collapsed into the river. However, BWDB could not initiate repair work immediately. After four months, on April 24 this year, they began repair work involving the placement of sand-filled geo-bags and CC blocks at a cost of around Tk 2.87 crore.

When asked why repair work was not started promptly despite knowing about the erosion, the BWDB Executive Engineer of Shariatpur Tarek Hasan could not provide any answer.

"About 12 to 13 years ago, the Bridge Division constructed this embankment to protect the Padma Bridge project area. After the collapse of a 100-metre section at Naowdoba Zero Point, a joint survey was conducted by BWDB and the Bangladesh Bridge Authority," he said.

He said the survey revealed that in about one-kilometre stretch, the riverbed near the embankment has deepened, and soil erosion is taking place from the bottom. In the remaining one-kilometre stretch, the river has moved very close to the embankment, causing continuous soil erosion. As a result, the entire embankment is now classified as vulnerable.

He said a Development Project Proposal



(DPP) has been prepared and submitted to the relevant ministry for strengthening the embankment.

If the embankment is not reinforced, several critical infrastructures within 500 metres of the Padma Bridge's Jajira end and four surrounding villages could come under severe threat from the erosion," he added.

An on-site visit revealed that due to the strong currents of the Padma river, soil from the river training structures adjacent to the embankment is collapsing into the river. Rows of geo-bags placed for embankment protection have come loose and are falling into the water. Similar erosion was spotted in at least 5-6 different locations.

Meanwhile, fear has gripped local residents living near the embankment.

Shubho Tara, 45, wife of Rashid Talukder from Achim Uddin Madbor's Kandi, said, "I've lost so many bighas of land that I can't even remember. At night, when the winds howl, I can't sleep; my heart races in fear, thinking the river might take away whatever little we have left."

When asked whether repair work could start before the monsoon, BWDB Sub-Assistant Engineer Suman Kumar Bonik said, "A project proposal to prevent erosion has been sent to the ministry. We are hopeful that it will be approved soon. Once approved, we can begin the work."

"However, it will not be possible to complete the entire project within this monsoon season. We will try our best to complete the work before the next monsoon," he added.

He said a Development Project Proposal



Boats lie idle at Kumira Ghat in Sitakunda due to the ongoing fishing ban. Fishing in the Bay of Bengal has been prohibited from April 15 to June 11 to ensure the proper breeding, production, and conservation of marine fish resources. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

DSCC deploys 500 workers for mosquito control

STAR REPORT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has carried out a special mosquito control and cleanliness drive, deploying a team of 500 mosquito control and sanitation workers.

The initiative was conducted in Khilgaon and North Shahjahanpur yesterday in the presence of Administrator Md Shahjahan Mia.

Officials from the Waste Management Division, the Directorate General of Health Services, and local residents actively participated in the drive, which aimed to improve sanitation and curb mosquito-borne diseases ahead of the monsoon season.

According to DSCC spokesperson Zobaer Hossain, the operation began at 6:00am and covered North Shahjahanpur, its surrounding wetlands, and adjacent areas.

Teams sprayed mosquito repellents and cleared waste to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, particularly dengue-spreading Aedes mosquito.

"With the monsoon approaching, we have launched a two-tier campaign against dengue. The first involves our regular mosquito control and sanitation activities," Shahjahan said at a press briefing.

The second tier includes intensive special drives and public engagement campaigns, including awareness rallies across all 10 DSCC zones," he added.

He said similar operations had already been carried out in Jatrabari and Dhamondi.



Man dies after falling ill inside septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A man died and another fell ill after they climbed down into a septic tank to clean it in Lalmonirhat Sadar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Maruf Hossain, 22, of Balapara village in Sadar upazila.

Abdur Rahim, 30, who fell ill during the incident, was admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

The incident occurred at the house of Zahurul Islam at Nijpara village around 10:00am, said Mohammad Nurnabi, officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

According to police and locals, Maruf and Abdur went to clean the septic tank at Zahurul's house in the morning. Maruf first climbed down the tank and fell ill due to accumulated toxic gas. When Abdur entered inside the tank to help Maruf, he too felt sick but he managed to climb out.

Maruf, however, could not make it out and died inside the tank, said police.

Upon receiving the information, police and fire service personnel went to the spot and recovered Maruf's body.

DNCC to work with key agencies to ease traffic

STAR REPORT

Four government bodies will coordinate efforts to ease severe traffic congestion in the northern part of the capital, said Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Mohammad Azaz during a field visit yesterday.

Speaking at the site of a proposed traffic corridor, stretching from the second U-turn of the 300-ft road to United International University in Aftabnagar and extending to Rampura, Azaz said DNCC will work closely with Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Rajibul Hossain, 22, of Balapara village in Sadar upazila.

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"If these three corridors can be opened, traffic pressure on the Pragati Sarani area will be significantly reduced," he said.

"This will also bring relief to surrounding neighbourhoods currently suffering from chronic gridlock," he added.

The DNCC administrator pointed out that ongoing metro rail construction along Pragati Sarani has further aggravated the traffic situation, leading to immense public suffering.

As an interim measure, DNCC has instructed relevant departments to prepare diversion roads and service lanes to improve traffic flow.



Child injured in gas cylinder blast dies

UNB, Dhaka

A child who sustained severe burn injuries in a gas cylinder explosion in Narayanganj died at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased, Ayan, was one year's old.

Dr Shawon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon at the institute, said Ayan succumbed to his injuries at around 7:30am.

The child was among four persons who sustained injuries in a fire that broke out following a gas cylinder explosion at Manju Textile Mill in Kazi Para area of Rupganj upazila on Thursday.

Buet MME dept hosts reception programme

CITY DESK

The Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering (MME) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) hosted a reception programme titled "Bioscope" on April 29, said a press release.

The event was organised by the students of MME '22 for their juniors of MME '23.

This reception was a tradition in Buet MME, where each batch formally welcomed their immediate juniors. Prof HM Mamun Al Rashed, head of the MME department, attended as the chief guest.

Maruf Mohsin, executive director of Rahim Group and vice president of the Bangladesh Steel Mills Association, was present as the special guest.

The event was sponsored by Rahim Group's Sonargaon Steel Limited.

TO-LET

FULL FURNISHED APARTMENT

2928 SFT. (WITH COMMON AREA), 2 NOS. PARKING, 8TH FLOOR. "TWIN RIDGE" HOUSE-29, ROAD-36, GULSHAN-2, DHAKA-1212. MOBILE: 01719-789310

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নরসিংহনগু

তারিখ-05/05/2025 খ্রি।

প্রাপ্তি পারিষিক প্রক্রিয়া করিষ্যাতে আইন-২০০৮ এবং বিধিমালা-২০০৮ (সর্বোচ্চ সংশোধনসহ) মোতাবেক ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরে মুসলিমী জেলা পুলিশের নিম্নরূপ উন্নত পূর্ণ পুরুষ সীলিংয়েরকৃত মুদ্রণ পথে কার্যের নাম উন্নয়ন পথে

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞাপি নং ১৫/১০/২০২৫-২০২৫ অর্থ বছর

১। মুক্তির বিভাগ	১। পুরুষ মুসলিম সীলিংয়ের কর্তৃতা বিভাগ
২। সময়	২। পুরুষ মুসলিম সীলিংয়ের কর্তৃতা
৩। মুক্তির সম্পাদনকর্তৃতা প্রধান	৩। মুক্তির সম্পাদনকর্তৃতা প্রধান
৪। মুক্তির সম্পাদনকর্তৃতা জেলা	৪। মুক্তির সম্পাদনকর্তৃতা প্রধান
৫। কার্যক্রম প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা	৫। কার্যক্রম প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা
৬। কার্যক্রম প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা কর্তৃতা	৬। কার্যক্রম প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা
৭। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	৭। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
৮। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	৮। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
৯। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	৯। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১০। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১০। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১১। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১১। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১২। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১২। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১৩। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১৩। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১৪। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১৪। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১৫। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১৫। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান
১৬। মুক্তির প্রতিষ্ঠিত কর্তৃতা প্রধান	১৬। মুক্তির প



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese celebrates with his partner Jodie Haydon (R), son Nathan Albanese and Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong (L) after winning the general election at the Labor Party election night event in Sydney yesterday. Donald Trump's stinging trade tariffs may have helped Australia's left-leaning prime minister snatch the resounding election victory, analysts say.

US approves \$3.5b missile sale to Saudis

AFP, Washington

The United States on Friday approved a \$3.5 billion sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia, ahead of a visit to the kingdom by President Donald Trump.

The State Department said it notified Congress of the deal that will include Saudi Arabia's purchase of 1,000 medium-range air-to-air missiles.

The AIM-120 missiles, whose principal contractor is RTX Corp, in Arizona, are a mainstay of a number of militaries around the world.

The missiles are guided by active radar after fired by pilots.

Trump will visit Saudi Arabia followed by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on May 13 to 16 on the first foreign trip of his second term -- other than a brief trip to Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis.

The decision came amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East -- in Gaza, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria.

Since Israel launched its offensive in Gaza, it has killed more than 52,000 people, mostly children and women. It has also destroyed the tiny territory.

Trump has boasted of securing major commercial deals from oil rich Saudi Arabia, which has also been a key go-between for the US diplomacy on Russia and Ukraine.

Kremlin fumes as Kyiv says it cannot guarantee safety of foreign leaders who are attending Russia's WWII event

AGENCIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky dismissed a three-day truce ordered by Russian leader Vladimir Putin as theatrics but said Kyiv was ready for a full ceasefire.

Russia has so far rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire pushed by Kyiv and Washington, which is trying to broker an end to the three year Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"This is more of a theatrical performance on his part. Because in two or three days, it is impossible to develop a plan for the next steps to end the war," Zelensky said.

Zelensky was speaking on Friday to a small group of journalists including AFP, in remarks embargoed until yesterday.

Zelensky said Ukraine would not be "playing games to create a pleasant atmosphere to allow for Putin's exit from isolation on 9 May," when some foreign leaders are due in Moscow for Russian World War II commemorations.

Ukraine has hit Moscow several times during the invasion, as well as targets across Russia.

Leaders of around 20 countries, including China's Xi Jinping, have accepted invitations to join this year's celebration, according to the Kremlin.

Zelensky said some countries



had approached Kyiv, warning they were travelling to Russia and had requested safety.

"Our position is very simple towards all countries that have travelled or are travelling to Russia on May 9 -- we cannot take responsibility for what is happening on the territory of the Russian Federation," he answered.

"They are ensuring your safety," Zelensky said, adding that Russia "may take various steps on its part, such as arson, explosions, and so on and then blame us."

Russian officials have promised grand celebrations for the occasion, during which Putin will

seek to rally support for his troops fighting in Ukraine.

In reply, the Kremlin yesterday said it wanted a definitive response from Ukraine to Putin's offer of a three-day ceasefire next week, criticising the reaction so far as ambiguous and historically wrong.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said his comments amounted to a threat, while Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said nobody could guarantee that the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv would survive to see May 10 if Ukraine attacked Moscow during the May 9 celebrations.

India temple stampede kills 6; 80 injured

AFP, New Delhi

Six people were crushed to death at a Hindu temple in India's coastal state of Goa, officials said yesterday, after thousands gathered for a popular fire-walking ritual.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said in a statement that he was "deeply saddened by the tragic stampede" at Lairai Devi temple in the village of Shringao in the early hours of Saturday morning.

"Six people died even before they could be brought to the hospital," Sawant told reporters.

He visited the hospital and said that "all possible support" would be given to the families of those killed or injured.

Vishwajit Rane, Goa state health minister said "approximately 80" people were injured.

"Five are critical and on ventilator support," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office expressed "condolences to those who lost their loved ones".

The Lairai Zatra is a key Hindu celebration in Goa and is marked by a fire-walking ceremony.

Deadly stampedes are notoriously common in Indian religious festivals.

Earlier this year, at least 30 people were killed in an early morning crush at the Kumbh Mela, a Hindu mega-festival in the northern city of Prayagraj.

Iran 'has every right' to enrich uranium: FM

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday defended its "right" to enrich uranium despite growing Western concern that Tehran may be seeking nuclear weapons, and as talks with the United States were delayed.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X that "Iran has every right to possess the full nuclear fuel cycle," citing Tehran's long-standing membership of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"There are several NPT members which enrich uranium while wholly rejecting nuclear weapons," Araghchi said.

Under the NPT, signatory states are obliged to declare their nuclear stockpiles and place them under the supervision of the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The United States and other Western countries have long accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons -- a claim Tehran denies.

Iran and the United States have engaged in nuclear talks since April 12, their highest-level contact since Washington withdrew from a landmark deal with Tehran in 2018.

A fourth round of talks initially scheduled for yesterday has been postponed, mediator Oman said earlier this week, citing "logistical reasons".

In a Thursday interview with Fox News, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on Iran to "walk away" from enrichment.

Iran currently enriches uranium to 60 percent purity -- far above the 3.67 percent limit set in the 2015 deal with the United States and other world powers, but below the 90 percent needed for weapons-grade material.

S'pore votes with new PM seeking strong mandate

AFP, Singapore

Singaporeans yesterday cast their votes in an election where Prime Minister Lawrence Wong faces his first major test against a rejuvenated opposition in uncertain economic times for the trade-centred nation.

Wong's ruling People's Action Party (PAP), which has steered the island to prosperity while using an iron hand to suppress dissent, is expected to easily retain a clear majority in parliament.

Wong, wearing all white -- the PAP's colour -- arrived at a voting centre around noon, accompanied by his wife. After casting his ballot, he left without speaking to reporters.

Popular after leading Singapore's Covid task force, Wong took over last year from his predecessor Lee Hsien Loong, the son of founding premier Lee Kuan Yew who ruled the island state after its bitter break-up with Malaysia in 1965.

Wong has repeatedly said he needed a strong mandate to navigate heavily trade-reliant Singapore through economic uncertainty in light of tariffs levied by US President Donald Trump. He has warned Singapore would be hit hard if Trump went ahead with the tariffs he announced and then paused for most countries, except China.

Political analyst Nydia Ngiow said the PAP had long been seen as Singapore's steady hand in crises, but that the recent tariff turmoil may not be a big factor for voters yet.

The overwhelming PAP majority in Singapore's unicameral legislature is such a norm in the wealthy island's political landscape that the opposition and its supporters will consider a few more seats gained as a significant victory, observers said.

Trump posts spoof picture dressed as pope

AFP, Washington



Pope Francis, Trump said: "I'd like to be pope, that would be my number one choice."

Trump went on to say that he did not have a preference but said there was a cardinal in New York who was "very good."

He appeared to be referring to the archbishop of New York, Timothy Dolan, a theological conservative and fiercely opposed to

abortion.

Trump attended the funeral service of Pope Francis last week.

About 20 percent of Americans declare themselves Catholic, and exit polls indicated in November that they voted around 60% in favor of Trump.

Cardinals will gather on May 7 in a conclave in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope.

Asked who he would like to succeed



Cosplay fans walk on a field of nemophila flowers at Hitachi Seaside Park in Hitachinaka, Ibaraki prefecture, during the "golden week" holiday yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Stop retaliatory cases against journalists

Govt must take action against this injustice

A report in this paper on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day paints a worrisome picture. So far, 266 journalists face criminal cases, such as murder, attempt to murder, or assault. The bulk of these cases are related to the Awami League (AL) government's brutal clampdown on the student-led July-August uprising. The indiscriminate filing of criminal cases against journalists, along with other people perceived to be supporters of the AL, is a serious blow to press freedom and a violation of people's constitutional rights.

Many of the journalists are being lumped together with those who were directly responsible for ordering the shooting of protesters or being involved in the murders during the July-August uprising, which indicates that these cases have been filed due to personal and political vendettas. According to a report by this daily, only about 50 of the journalists prosecuted were politically aligned with the AL or benefitted from the regime. The majority were victims of retaliatory cases.

Many of the cases are against journalists working in districts other than Dhaka. In Brahmanbaria, for instance, retaliatory cases were filed against 16 journalists centring on crimes committed during the July-August movement and the protests during India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh in March 2021. A murder case has been filed against 14 journalists on allegations of electrocuting a boy to death. One journalist has been accused of intentionally connecting live wires to the bamboo and electric poles on the streets where the protests took place, leading to the student's death. The same journalist had previously been arrested during the AL regime under the Digital Security Act for his reporting on the 2018 national election and had to fight the case for two years.

These examples show the arbitrariness of these cases and the fact that the police readily accepted them regardless of how flimsy the premises were. The law adviser has said that the government cannot prevent anyone from filing a case, though the government has previously said that it will take legal action against individuals filing false cases and harassing people with lawsuits. No action was taken in this regard. The ground reality is that these cases continue against journalists and others. The government must show that it is serious about taking action against those individuals filing cases that are false and retaliatory. This is nothing but harassing journalists and creating an atmosphere of intimidation and fear.

Some journalists did play a partisan role and even went to the extent of tacitly supporting the AL regime's crackdown on protesters. Their roles should be clearly identified. But can they be held as liable for murder in the same way as those who were directly involved? Moreover, if justice is to be delivered, it is imperative that the cases against those who are in jail, some of them for many months, are disposed of through due process and without any kind of external influence. So far nothing has been done about these cases and those journalists are rotting in jail.

According to this year's Press Freedom Index, Bangladesh has moved up 16 notches and is ahead of India and Pakistan. Being 149th (from 165) in the world rankings does indicate progress but it is not something to write home about, especially when journalists continue to be haunted by retaliatory criminal cases.

Take urgent steps to curb dengue threat

Avoiding a major outbreak will require timely govt interventions

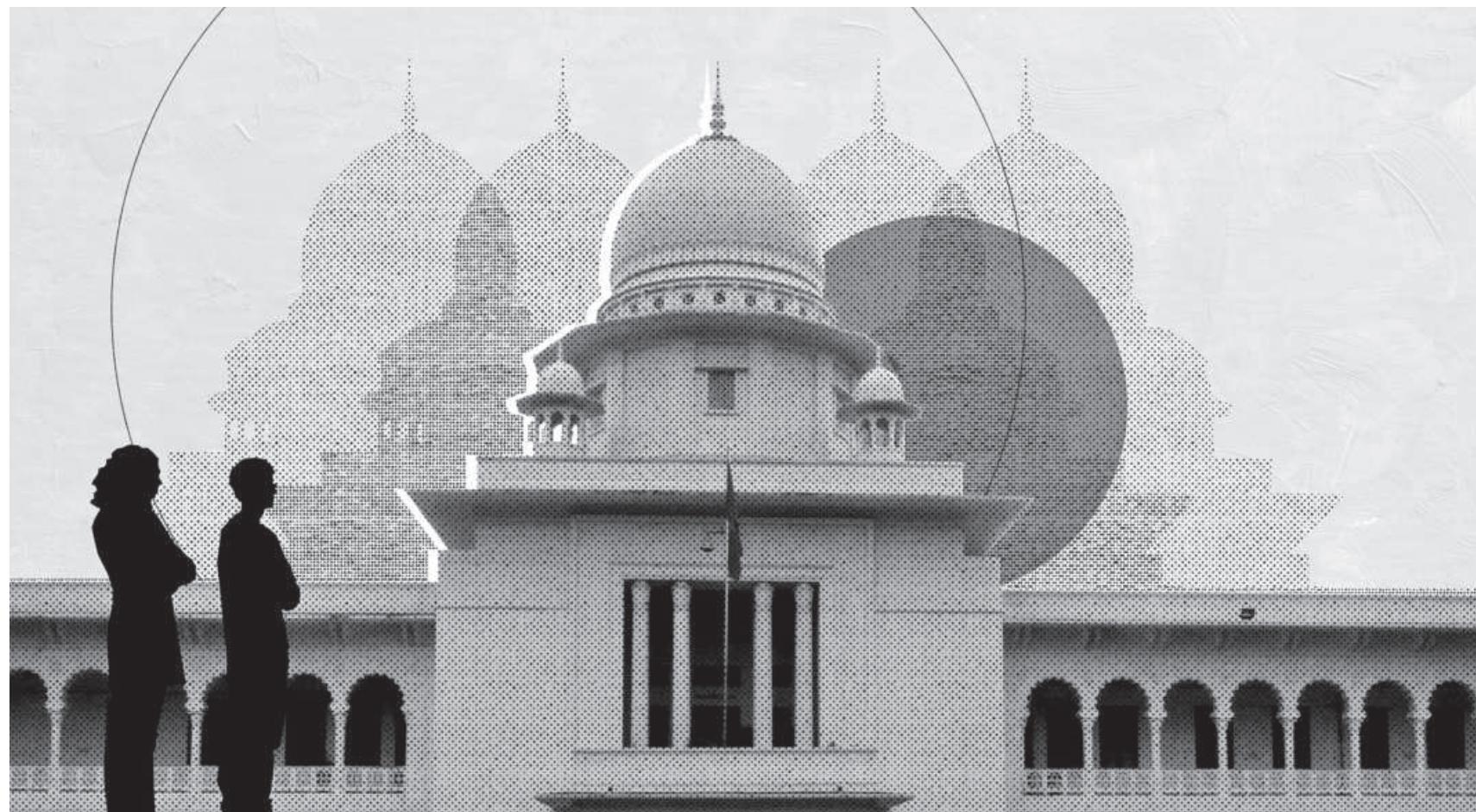
We are concerned about the rising dengue cases across the country as the monsoon begins to set in. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 20 people have died from dengue so far this year (as of Friday morning), while 2,586 others have been hospitalised. The situation may further deteriorate in the coming months, with persistent rainfall and thunderstorms forecast by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department. Reportedly, there has already been a sharp rise in the Breteau Index (BI), a measure of Aedes mosquito density, across the country. The BI value was over 10 in April, compared to less than 10 on average last year. Experts have warned that if this trend continues, the BI could exceed 20 in June, which is alarming. Thus, the government needs to take early measures to prevent another deadly outbreak this year.

Reportedly, the government's dengue control measures were largely inadequate last year due to a lack of leadership and manpower in local government bodies following the fall of the Awami League government in August. But since we now have administrators in both DNCC and DSAC, as well as other cities and municipalities, we hope they will take organised measures before it is too late. Moreover, since dengue has already spread across the country, with cases outside Dhaka steadily rising, special focus needs to be given to other districts. Experts have suggested forming dedicated mosquito control units nationwide and establishing a specialised department comprising entomologists and epidemiologists to effectively address the heightened dengue risk this year. The government, therefore, should consider their suggestions and develop a year-long dengue control plan involving local communities. Additionally, the DGHS must conduct its regular dengue surveys to identify hotspots. At the same time, our hospitals and healthcare facilities—particularly those outside Dhaka—must be adequately prepared to treat the increasing number of dengue patients.

Since preventive measures are key to avoiding a major outbreak this year, the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives must urgently issue directives to its departments to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes. Managing breeding grounds and controlling larvae should be our primary focus now. To this end, the authorities must immediately launch cleanliness drives across the country while also conducting regular fogging. They should establish a mechanism to inspect various construction sites, which are potential breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes. Moreover, regular awareness campaigns must be conducted to inform citizens about the dengue threat. Timely interventions are essential to prevent a situation similar to 2023, when 1,705 people lost their lives to this preventable disease.

EDITORIAL

Does the Eighth Amendment judgment prevent HC decentralisation?



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL



Dr Sharif Bhuiyan
senior advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, served as a member of the Constitution Reform Commission. His latest book is *Revolutionary Constitutionalism* (UPL, 2025).

SHARIF BHUIYAN

There is very strong public support for decentralising the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. As part of its work, the Constitution Reform Commission (CRC), through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, conducted a nationwide public opinion survey on constitutional reform, gathering responses through direct interviews with nearly 46,000 citizens. The results show that over 88 percent of the respondents support the establishment of a High Court in each administrative division (CRC Report, Part 2).

Recommendations of the CRC and the JRC

In view of public opinion, it is not surprising that both the CRC and the Judiciary Reform Commission (JRC) recommended decentralisation of the High Court, though their recommendations varied slightly. The CRC proposed establishing permanent seats of the High Court in all divisions, while the JRC recommended setting up permanent benches in each division. Both commissions also provided justifications for their recommendations.

Implementation of either of the recommendations—permanent seats or permanent benches—would require an amendment to Article 100 of the constitution. Article 100 provides as follows: "The permanent seat of the Supreme Court shall be in the capital, but sessions of the High Court Division may be held at such other place or places as the Chief Justice may, with the approval of the President, from time to time appoint."

Thus, under the existing constitutional provisions, only "sessions" of the High Court can be held outside Dhaka; neither permanent seats nor permanent benches can be established outside the capital.

Both reform commissions considered the existing provision regarding "sessions" in Article 100 inadequate for the decentralisation of the High Court for various reasons. Firstly, this provision has failed to result in any decentralisation over the past 50 years. Secondly, and more importantly, it lacks the capacity to ensure effective decentralisation. Thirdly, sessions held at the discretion of the chief justice, which are neither constitutionally mandatory nor permanent, cannot effectively facilitate the dispensation of judicial functions outside the capital. As a result, both commissions favoured a permanently decentralised High Court, either through permanent seats or permanent benches.

The Eighth Amendment Case

There were earlier attempts to permanently decentralise the High Court. Between 1982 and 1986, several permanent benches (initially four, and later three more) were established outside the capital through martial law proclamations. In 1988, Article 100 was amended by the Eighth Amendment to the constitution, creating six permanent benches in Barishal, Chattogram, Cumilla, Jashore,

Rangpur, and Sylhet.

The constitutionality of the Eighth Amendment—specifically its provisions regarding the decentralisation of the High Court—was challenged in the famous Eighth Amendment Case. In a groundbreaking judgment delivered on September 2, 1989, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh declared the amended Article 100, which established six permanent High Court benches outside Dhaka, to be unconstitutional.

The Eighth Amendment Case is remarkable for various reasons. In this case, the Bangladesh Supreme Court adopted and applied the constitutional law doctrine of basic structure for the first time. According to this doctrine, the constitution contains certain fundamental features that cannot be altered or destroyed through amendments. This case was argued by counsel and decided by judges who remain among the most distinguished in the history of the Supreme Court.

The case was pursued by the bar and decided by the court in the face of a military dictator whose sole purpose in decentralising the High Court was to weaken both the bar and the bench. The Eighth Amendment judgment marked a turning point in both the constitutional and political history of the country. It consolidated and catalysed a resistance that eventually led to the fall of the military regime in 1990.

Given that in the Eighth Amendment Case the Appellate Division declared the creation of permanent benches of the High Court unconstitutional, the question that arises is whether this case poses a bar to implementing the recommendations of the CRC or the JRC. This question can be approached in three ways, and in each case, the answer is an emphatic "no."

The first approach is to identify the reasons why the Eighth Amendment was declared unconstitutional and to avoid those features in any future amendment. The second approach, which may be more compelling, is to rely on the constitutional rules of interpretation that allow a departure from earlier interpretations in subsequent cases. The third approach is to have recourse to the constituent power to adopt the necessary constitutional amendment for the decentralisation of the High Court.

Avoiding the flaws of the Eighth Amendment

In the Eighth Amendment Case, the Appellate Division held that the amendment stripped the High Court of the plenary judicial power of the Republic vested in it, thereby seriously undermining—if not altogether destroying—a basic structural pillar of the constitution: the judiciary. By creating seven separate courts with exclusive territorial jurisdiction, the amendment fragmented the "oneness" of the High Court.

A future amendment to Article 100 could remedy these flaws by

granting all permanent seats plenary jurisdiction, free from territorial limitations. The allocation of cases among these seats could then be managed through regulations framed by the Supreme Court itself. While all seats would retain full jurisdiction, the distribution of matters could be guided by considerations such as the location of the parties, the subject matter of the dispute or the origin of the cause of action, and the nature of the dispute. Additionally, individual seats could be granted discretionary authority to transfer cases if another seat is better suited to hear them. The chief justice could also have the discretion to transfer cases from one seat to another. With proper regulations, effective management, and technological support, it is entirely feasible to ensure an efficient and orderly distribution of cases among the permanent seats across the eight divisions.

These are not issues that would need to be addressed for the first time. Judicial systems around the world routinely deal with questions of territorial and subject-matter jurisdiction. While our High Court is currently free from such constraints, decentralisation will inevitably give rise to these issues. However, as with any other court, they can be effectively managed through appropriate procedures and regulations.

Departing from the Eighth Amendment Case

Even if a future change to Article 100 is designed to avoid legal issues related to plenary or territorial jurisdiction of the High Court, it might still face challenges for violating the broader finding of the Eighth Amendment Case, namely, that having multiple seats or benches of the High Court is unconstitutional. Therefore, the second approach mentioned above—departing from earlier interpretations in subsequent cases—is both more crucial and more compelling.

The rules for interpreting a constitution are markedly different from those applicable to other written instruments, including ordinary legislation. The conventional fetters of legal interpretation do not apply to a constitution, allowing the court greater flexibility to depart from its earlier interpretations.

A constitution is designed to endure, but its continued relevance depends on its ability to adapt to the evolving needs of society. It must be interpreted in light of the changing conditions and challenges of each era. A rigid approach cannot adequately address new developments. Therefore, the constitution should be seen as a living instrument—one that grows, adapts, and remains responsive to political, economic, and social change. Each generation has the right to shape the legal order under which it lives, and no constitutional provision, including Article 100, can remain unamendable forever. Since the framers could not anticipate every future circumstance, constitutional interpretation must provide not only stability but also ensure the flexibility to evolve. These principles are well recognised in constitutional jurisprudence across many countries, including Bangladesh (S. Bhuiyan, *Revolutionary Constitutionalism* (UPL, 2025), pp 14-20).

The decisions of the US Supreme Court on segregation and abortion are well-known examples of departures from earlier interpretations in

subsequent cases. In *Plessy v Ferguson* (1896), the Court upheld racial segregation, a decision that was later overturned in *Brown v Board of Education* (1954), when it unanimously ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Similarly, in *Roe v Wade* (1973), the Court recognised a constitutional right to abortion. However, in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022), the court overturned *Roe*, ruling that the constitution does not confer a right to abortion.

Since 1989, when the Eighth Amendment Case was decided, Bangladesh has undergone significant transformations in its demographics, economic activities, litigation patterns, and most notably, the volume of legal disputes and cases. These changes are critical to consider when assessing the constitutionality of any new attempts to decentralise the High Court.

Between 1989 and today, the population has grown from approximately 100 million to over 170 million. During the same period, the country's GDP has increased from \$28 billion (roughly \$7.5 billion at the current exchange rate) to \$415 billion. The number of pending court cases has surged from a few hundred thousand to more than 4.5 million. These substantial shifts make it imperative to reconsider the 1989 decision in the Eighth Amendment Case, as the context has drastically evolved.

Moreover, treating a specific constitutional interpretation as eternally binding results in what could be described as a form of "necrocracy"—a situation where decisions made by past authorities disproportionately shape the present. While the majority of judges who ruled the decentralisation of the High Court unconstitutional in 1989 may have made the best decision given the context of their time, allowing that ruling to indefinitely bind future generations can have serious adverse effects on public governance.

Having recourse to constituent power

Another available safeguard against a future decentralisation of the High Court being declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court lies in invoking constituent power to enact the necessary constitutional amendment.

The basic structure doctrine is grounded in the idea that legislative power under the constitution is limited. Legislative power is derivative—it is granted by the constitution and must operate within its framework. In contrast, constituent power refers to the authority to create or fundamentally alter a constitution. This power resides with the people themselves.

Under Article 142 of our constitution, parliament holds the power to amend the constitution. However, this is a derivative power and therefore subordinate to the constitution. As such, it cannot be used to alter the basic structure, which constitutes the inviolable core of the constitution.

A decentralisation of the High Court, enacted through a constitutional amendment approved directly by the people in a referendum, would constitute an exercise of constituent power. As this power exists outside the limits of the basic structure doctrine, such an amendment would not be subject to invalidation by the Supreme Court on the ground of unconstitutionality.

Next budget should prioritise poverty elimination



AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Dr Abdullah Shibli
is an economist and currently employed at a nonprofit financial intermediary in the USA. He previously worked for the World Bank and Harvard University.

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

A report recently released by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) affirmed that there had been a sharp increase in poverty rates across multiple districts between 2022 and 2024, "with food insecurity reaching alarming levels." The World Bank finds similar poverty rate trends, which may continue this year with the expected slowdown in the FY25 GDP growth rate. The recent political changes, economic disruption, and high inflation have hit the poorer people hard.

Advocates for the poor can only hope that the upcoming national budget, now being prepared by the interim government (IG), will address the economic well-being of the poor and offer additional support for the social safety net programmes. After the last budget in June 2024, a widely circulated news item quoted a resident of Dhaka expressing his dismay after the then finance minister announced the policy measures in the now-dissolved parliament. "This is a strange country. It keeps siding with the rich and dishonest people, leaving its poor alone in extraordinary crisis," said Nahid Miah, head of a lower-middle-income household and a father of three.

The various commissions and task forces formed by the IG have identified areas of concern that need reforms and suggested policy measures that demand immediate attention. Some of the high-priority budget line items relate to the creaky social safety net, employment creation in rural areas, health services for low-income households, and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups.

There are various indications that some segments of lower-income households have, in recent months, experienced destitution, indigence, and food insecurity. Multiple factors have contributed to such hardships.

The head of the IG, Prof Yunus, has been a lifelong champion of the poor, and is well aware of the "harir khobor" or family balance sheet of the masses in rural and urban areas. Unfortunately, one of his visions, the total eradication of poverty by 2030, is still not within our reach. Nonetheless, his tenure as the head of the government can be expected to re-energise the "poverty elimination" movement in the country and around the globe.

To reduce poverty in Bangladesh, the



Bangladesh has fallen behind in implementing programmes undertaken for the SDG initiative.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

IG should focus on sustainable economic growth, skills development for the youth, and strengthening social safety nets. The 2025-26 budget has to make provisions to remind ministries to prioritise "corruption free" investment in infrastructure, improving the business environment for SMEs, and promoting inclusive growth through education and health programmes.

Government spending on social safety net programmes, infrastructure, and human capital development can directly and indirectly improve the living standards and economic opportunities of individuals and families struggling with poverty.

Bangladesh has fallen behind in

The previous executive director of Yunus Centre has been appointed as the principal coordinator of SDG affairs in the Chief Adviser's Office to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs. Since inclusive and equitable distribution of opportunities must be a guiding principle for our leaders, the SDG team must be fully integrated into the budgetary process.

The US government, which provided financial and material support for many of our anti-poverty programmes, has scaled back its contribution. Hence, other sources, including the government and other G7 countries, need to step up to fill the gap. USAID had in the past played a significant

policymaking. Takahiro Utsumi, head of research at the World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh, said they have partnered with European statistics experts and the BIDS to refine small-area poverty estimation. "Our estimates, based on the 2022 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, need updates due to economic downturns and shocks affecting households," he said. He added that, "Understanding recent poverty trends is crucial for effective policymaking."

In the same vein, one needs to add robust management information systems to streamline National Social Security Strategy expenses and strengthen the National Household Database.

An earlier study found that Bangladesh's social security programmes have high exclusion errors (i.e. leaving out deserving beneficiaries), inclusion errors (including non-deserving beneficiaries), and leakages from the system. Many poor people living in remote areas are "unaware of social protection schemes or cannot access them due to lack of motivation of officials to go to remote sites and create awareness."

Strengthening the social support network in Bangladesh is crucial and should be a priority in the budget. Bangladesh's social protection system, which includes programmes like cash transfers, food support, and maternity allowances, should be expanded and improved to better address the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

The new budget must review items on the following checklist for its social programmes: job creation, skills development, enhanced transparency and accountability, reduced corruption, reduced risks from natural disasters and climate change, disaster resilience, and improved agricultural productivity.

A 19 country econometric study found that there is "no clear evidence that higher government spending has played a significant role in reducing income poverty in low- and middle-income countries," according to a paper published in *World Development*. What this means is that we must strive to do better.

The recent op-ed titled, "The Evolution of Poverty Research in Bangladesh," on these pages offered an interesting review of the evolution of academic research on poverty. I enjoyed reading the historical narrative of the involvement of some institutions, particularly BIDS, in solicitations of funding and government attention in this critical area. I'd like to mention the pioneering work done by Shapoor Adnan of Dhaka University in the early 1970s by his village studies group when we were his students in the economics department. We followed up on that work at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) during 1980-83. Our study, jointly conducted by IFPRI and BIDS and funded by the WFP, provided insights into the role of rural infrastructure by using the randomised control trials methodology. Of the total of 16 randomly selected villages, half were from areas with limited infrastructure (roads, electricity, and telecommunication services). Our team leaders were Raisuddin Ahmed of IFPRI and Abdul Gafur, Mahabub Hossain, and Abu Abdullah of BIDS.

The contribution of Prof Anisur Rahman, who was a strong advocate for people's self-development and Participatory Action Research, must also be recognised. He was instrumental in introducing and promoting PAR in Bangladesh through Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB).

Climate change is taking a toll on tea production



Mintu Deshwara
is a journalist at The Daily Star.

MINTU DESHWARA

The tea industry of Bangladesh is facing an unprecedented crisis that threatens the country's economic health and the livelihoods of many. A prolonged heatwave and severe drought, which began at the end of Chaitra (the last month of the Bangla calendar), are wreaking havoc on tea gardens, particularly in Moulvibazar and surrounding districts. The situation is so dire that industry insiders are warning that the sector may fail to meet its 2025 production target of 103 million kilogrammes of tea. In fact, production has consistently fallen short of expectations in recent years. The primary culprit is a combination of extreme weather conditions, poor management practices, and insufficient infrastructure. If immediate action is not taken, this vital sector, which provides jobs for thousands of workers, could be irreparably damaged.

The scale of the problem is evident in the current weather patterns. According to Md Anisur Rahman, in charge of the Sreemangal Meteorological Observatory, typical rainfall during this period should range from 15 to 20mm. However, last year, Sreemangal, considered the tea capital of the country, saw 48mm of rain, while this year, only 4mm of rain has been recorded—a sharp decline that has exacerbated the ongoing drought. The considerably lower rainfall has left the tea estates parched. As a result, they are unable to sustain their crops.

For the tea industry, the timing of the drought could not be worse. January production figures, according to Bangladesh Tea Board Statistical Bulletin, 2025, have already shown a massive shortfall: only

309,000 kg of tea were produced, far below expectations for the month. Tea gardens are entering the critical plucking season, but with no new buds sprouting and existing bushes dying due to the heat, workers are finding it nearly impossible to harvest the leaves required for production. The combined effects of insufficient rainfall and extreme heat are taking a toll on the plants, with around 40 percent of newly planted saplings withering and 10 percent of mature tea bushes suffering significant damage.

The tea industry is inherently vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather, but what makes the current crisis particularly alarming is the degree of damage being done. Heatwaves push temperatures far above the tolerable range for tea bushes, which can withstand temperatures up to 29 degrees Celsius without permanent harm. The lack of shade trees, a critical component in protecting tea bushes from the heat, is compounding the problem.

Tea plants require shade to survive in hot climates, as it allows them to maintain a cooler microclimate underneath the canopy. According to experts, each acre of tea garden should have between 300 and 350 shade trees, yet many gardens no longer maintain these numbers. As a result, without sufficient shade, the plants are at risk of overheating, decreasing the yield and quality of the tea. The lack of shade is a direct consequence of poor management practices, as garden owners have neglected to invest in shade tree planting, choosing instead to focus on maximising the land for tea production.

The situation is further compounded by the scarcity of water. Tea gardens, especially those in more remote regions, rely heavily on natural water sources or small irrigation systems to maintain their crops. However, with water sources running dry, many tea estates are struggling to keep their plantations hydrated. Estate workers, who are already facing increased pressure to maintain the gardens, are now forced to make do with

a socioeconomic one, as many families in tea-growing regions are at risk of losing their jobs or experiencing reduced wages.

Moreover, the tea industry contributes significantly to the country's export earnings. Any disruption in production has far-reaching consequences, both in terms of revenue and the reputation of Bangladeshi tea in global markets. If the current trend continues, Bangladesh may struggle to



Climate change is exacerbating the severity of weather patterns, and the tea industry must adapt to this new reality.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

limited water, which further hampers the growth of the tea bushes.

The tea industry is a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy, employing hundreds of thousands of workers, many of whom live in tea estates and depend on the harvests for their livelihoods. As the tea gardens struggle to produce, these workers face severe uncertainty about their income. The crisis is not just an environmental issue but

maintain its position as a key player in the global tea trade, and the long-term effects could be devastating for the economy.

While the current drought and heatwaves are unusual, they are not isolated events. Climate change is exacerbating the severity of weather patterns, and the tea industry must adapt to this new reality. Experts have pointed out the need for both short-term solutions to manage the current crisis and

long-term strategies to make the tea gardens more resilient to future climate challenges.

The Bangladesh Tea Board, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Tea Research Institute, must immediately focus on enhancing water management systems across tea estates. Water reservoirs should be built, and more efficient irrigation techniques should be adopted to ensure that every garden has a steady supply of water, even in times of drought. Additionally, efforts must be made to restore shade trees across all tea estates. Not only will these trees help protect the plants from heat stress, but they also contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem in tea-growing regions.

Planting climate-resilient tea varieties should also be prioritised. Several tea varieties are better suited to hotter and drier conditions. These should be incorporated into tea estates to help mitigate the damage caused by rising temperatures. Furthermore, estate managers should receive better training in sustainable agricultural practices, including the maintenance of shade trees, improved irrigation systems, and pest control measures that do not rely on chemicals, which can further harm the environment.

The tea workers themselves must also be given more support. Many of them work under harsh conditions, often with limited resources and low wages. In times of crisis, these workers must be given proper compensation and provided with the necessary tools and training to manage the tea gardens effectively.

Bangladesh's tea industry is facing a crossroads. Without immediate action, the sector may suffer long-term damage that will have repercussions for the economy, the environment, and the livelihoods of the workers who depend on it. The government, industry leaders, and estate managers must collaborate urgently to implement sustainable practices, improve infrastructure, and provide support to the workers who are at the heart of the industry. If the right steps are taken now, the tea gardens of Bangladesh can survive this crisis and emerge stronger, better equipped to withstand the challenges posed by a changing climate.

'Mastul' nominated for Humanitarian Film at Imagine India Film Fest

Mastul has earned a nomination for Best Humanitarian Film at the upcoming Imagine India International Film Festival, scheduled to take place in Madrid, Spain this September.

The 24th edition of the festival will run from September 1 to 16, where the Mohammad Nuruzzaman film will compete in the 'Life Award' category.

The announcement has also been confirmed through a news release on the official Imagine India website.

Following its premiere in Moscow, the film has attracted considerable attention from various quarters. Riding that wave of interest, **Mastul** is now preparing for its screening at Imagine India 2025.

The director has received an official invitation to attend the festival and expressed his hope to travel to Spain in September, pending final arrangements.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AFD

A DELIGHTFUL CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION in the heart of Dhaka

MAISHA TASNIM SRESHTHA

The exhibition **Ikrimikri: A World of Picture Books** opened on May 2 at La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka, inviting visitors into a whimsical realm where children's book illustrations come to life. Organised by the children's publishing collective **Ikrimikri**, the show runs until May 7 and celebrates the power of visual storytelling rooted in Bangladeshi culture.

The gallery has been transformed into an immersive space, with speech bubbles, storybook trails, and artworks displayed at child-friendly heights. The exhibition features original illustrations from popular **Ikrimikri** titles such as **Ranabi Kak O Kaththokra**, **Zirodhoni**, and **Sada Boker Tinti Chhana**. A standout feature is a section showcasing artwork by children themselves, affirming the idea that young readers can also be storytellers and artists.

Founded in 2016 by Mahbubul Haque, **Ikrimikri** focuses on culturally resonant picture books in Bangla, often inspired by indigenous myths and local traditions. "We want children to grow up seeing their own world reflected in stories," said Haque.

The exhibition also includes puppet shows, theatrical adaptations, storytelling sessions, and hands-on workshops in illustration, bookmaking, and calligraphy.

At its core, the event promotes the joy of reading and the importance of accessible, relatable children's literature in



Bangladesh. The week-long exhibition not only brings picture books to life but also invites children and families to actively engage with stories through a variety of interactive sessions.

The schedule also features workshops such as **From Words to Images** by Sabyasachi Mistry, a typography session led by Dewan Atikur Rahman, and a book-making workshop for Grades 5-10, facilitated by Shamim Ahmed.

Young writers will present their own stories in a special reading session on May 4, while the exhibition will conclude on May 7 with a theatrical performance of **Fangsang** by child actors from BotTola.

Aamir Khan in talks for Indo-China film

Actor-filmmaker Aamir Khan, arguably the most popular Indian star in China, has seen massive success there with **Dangal** and **Secret Superstar**, both of which broke box office records for Indian films.

Speaking at the WAVES Summit last Friday, he discussed the potential for a joint Indo-Chinese film production as the next step in cultural collaboration.

Aamir revealed that he has been in talks with his Chinese counterparts for years about such a project, calling it a "win-win" creatively, emotionally, and commercially.

"With stars from both countries, an Indo-Chinese film could appeal to nearly half the world's population," he remarked.

Showbiz stars gear up for 'Celebrity Champions Trophy'

After a two-year break, Bangladesh's showbiz stars are returning to the field with the **Celebrity Champions Trophy** (CCT), a rebranded version of the former **Celebrity Cricket League** (CCL).

Kicking off on May 5, this year's tournament features a new T20 format and open air venues, replacing the previous indoor 6-over matches. Four teams—Gladiators, Kings, Warriors, and Spartans—will compete in seven matches, including the final, broadcast live on T Sports.

The lineup includes actors Siam Ahmed, Sariful Razz, Irfan Sajid, Tawsif Mahbub, Ziaul Roshan, Joy Chowdhury, Sanju John; actresses Mehazabien Chowdhury, Deepa Khandakar, Tasnia Farin, Kuya Payel, Sallha Khanam Nadia, Sayra Akter, Bonni Hasan; and singers Arfin Rumey and Zakiya Sultana Kornia, among others.

The trophy was officially unveiled on May 1, marking the tournament's much-anticipated return.



NEWS

Inconclusive DNA test

FROM PAGE 12

were murdered between 3:00am and 5:00am on February 11, 2012, while sleeping in their bedroom with their 5-year-old son. Sagar was attacked first, followed by Runi. Despite sustaining fatal injuries, both remained alive for some time after the assault.

Investigators recovered a kitchen knife and a cleaver from the crime scene, believed to have been used in the attack. The report noted there were no signs of forced entry and no one else was present in the home before the murders.

Md Mostafa Kamal, additional inspector general of police and head of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), who leads the task force, yesterday told The Daily Star they submitted the report as the HC asked for an update on the investigation.

"We informed the court and sought more time. The report we submitted

Polls should be in Feb

FROM PAGE 12

"For the sake of fairness and objectivity, certain reforms must be made."

Jamaat is submitting a set of recommendations on this to the relevant commissions.

"We urge all parties that politics is not for personal gain. Politics is for the country and the people. The more we cooperate, the more the nation will benefit and the more free and beautiful the upcoming election will be."

Criminals must be brought to visible justice, he said.

"We have already said that -- this is what the nation wants to see. We understand that it is not possible to bring everyone to justice within this short time."

However, some trials must be conducted so that public confidence is built.

"Those who are the main culprits must be brought to justice and visible trials must be presented to the nation. We observe a weakness in the government -- we want to see more speed in delivering justice. We want to see the government more active in this matter."

If they are brought to justice, then in the upcoming election "black money and muscle power" will not be able to exert influence.

was not a final or conclusive one. Nothing can be said with certainty until the investigation is complete," he added.

On September 30 last year, the HC directed the home ministry to form a task force of senior law enforcement officials and transfer the probe from Rab to this team. The initial six-month deadline expired on March 31.

So far, 12 people, including seven journalists, have been questioned in connection with the case. The next hearing is set for October 22.

Reacting to the update, Runi's brother, Nowsher Alam Roman, said, "The task force still has no concrete evidence. We are still in the dark."

Sagar was the news editor at Maarsanga TV, and Runi was a senior reporter at ATN Bangla. The murders occurred in their rented apartment in West Rajabazar. Roman filed the case the next day at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, naming no suspects.

Riding anti-Trump wave

FROM PAGE 12

projected Labor would win 80 of 150 seats in the House of Representatives, increasing its majority, with 90% of polling places counted.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) projected 85 seats for Labor, 41 for the Liberal and National coalition, with nine for independents and another 15 too close to call.

Dutton—whose Liberals had been leading in opinion polls as recently as February until he became dogged with comparisons to Trump—said he had phoned Albanese to congratulate him.

Israel to expand

FROM PAGE 12

Yunis refugee camp killed at least 11 people including three babies up to a year old.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal reported 11 killed "after the bombardment of the Al-Bayram family home in the Khan Yunis camp" in southern Gaza at around 3:00am (0000 GMT).

On Friday, the civil defence agency said Israeli strikes killed at least 42 people across the war-ravaged territory, which has been under a total Israeli blockade since March 2.

This man's blood

FROM PAGE 12

antibodies that can neutralise the poison. If it's a small amount of venom, the body can react before it's overwhelmed. And if the body can recognise the venom, it can react more quickly and handle larger exposures.

It's very early research—the antivenom was only tested in mice, and researchers are still years away from human trials. And while their experimental treatment shows promise against the group of snakes that include mambas and cobras, it's not effective against vipers, which include snakes like rattlers.

"Despite the promise, there is much work to do," said Nicholas Casewell, a snakebite researcher at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, in an email.

Friede is now employed by Centivax, which is trying to develop the treatment, and he's excited that his 18-year odyssey could one day save lives from snakebite. But his message to those inspired to follow in his footsteps is quite simple: "Don't do it," he said.

"And no one will dare to show such audacity again."

But if there is no justice, the fear will remain.

"To make this election meaningful and ensure 100 percent reflection of public opinion, we want to see a quality parliament in our country. For that, the election must be free from the influence of muscle power and black money."

The election must be held based on proportional representation, he said, adding that 62 countries around the world follow this system.

Most of them are known as developed countries and have benefited from it, he said, adding that the system was not abandoned by the countries that adopted it.

"We have seen the traditional electoral system. Under it, those nominated as lawmakers in parliament include people who cannot even read what is written -- how will they draft laws for the people of Bangladesh? What qualifications do they have to carry out legal reforms? That is why we have said that the system should be proportional."

The percentage of votes received will determine the number of seats.

"In this way, no one will dare to label a party as big or small."

BNP plans a grand welcome on Tuesday

FROM PAGE 12

has been in London since 2008, when she travelled there with her husband, Tarique, and their daughter, Zaima Rahman.

Khaleda will also be accompanied by her personal physician Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, Adviser Enamul Haque Chowdhury, and Assistant Private Secretary Masudur Rahman.

Meanwhile, two key members of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's medical board—Prof Shahabuddin Talukder, a cardiologist, and ICU consultant Dr Zafar—reached London yesterday to accompany her back to Bangladesh.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP's Gulshan office yesterday, Fakhrul said Khaleda's health condition has improved significantly during her time abroad.

"Being in a familial environment and under advanced medical care, she is doing much better by the grace of Allah. That's why she has decided to return to the country."

"The fascist Hasina regime falsely imprisoned her under fabricated charges and caused her serious physical

harm. But now, the entire nation is emotionally charged and ready to welcome her home. Patriotic citizens from across the country are preparing for her return."

Fakhrul said the BNP has made necessary preparations to ensure order and discipline on her way to her residence from the airport.

Fakhrul urged party members to receive her in a peaceful and disciplined manner to avoid causing traffic congestion.

He also called upon the general public to use the elevated expressway on the day of her return to avoid traffic.

At a joint meeting held last night, BNP leaders issued strict instructions to maintain order. Activists have been told not to block roads or cause any disruption along the route from the airport to Gulshan.

During her last departure on January 7, crowding had delayed her arrival at the airport by an hour and 47 minutes.

As Tuesday is a working day, traffic is

already expected to be heavy. Any large

gathering may lead to major gridlocks, and the party has therefore urged activists to strictly follow instructions.

According to BNP sources, law enforcers have been requested to ensure security at both Khaleda's Gulshan residence and Zubaida Rahman's ancestral home, Mahbub Bhaban, in Dharmundi.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police will provide security detail and escort for Khaleda from the airport to her residence.

Retired Major General Fazle Elahi Akbar and Brig Gen (retd) AKM Shamsul Islam Shams are coordinating with law enforcement to ensure both security and a smooth reception for the former prime minister.

On January 8, Khaleda was flown to London on a special air ambulance sent by the Emir of Qatar for advanced treatment.

The 79-year-old former prime minister was admitted to the London Clinic, where she underwent 17 days of treatment.

Since January 25, she has been under continued care at Tarique's residence.

Govt has no tools to stop cases

FROM PAGE 12

several hundred people. There is no remedy in the entire judicial system or the police system that can be used to stop that case.

"The criminal justice system is completely broken and we're not an ideal country. Our legal system is very weak. Those with money get precedence in the courts. All 4,000 public prosecutors are appointed by political parties. We've not been able to create an independent prosecution."

Alam mentioned a case where a rights activist was charged with murder by members of a certain party. "These people are trying to cash in on the situation and get the interim government into trouble."

He added that the most the government can do is ensure that no journalist is harassed or arrested.

The press secretary further said that when mobs threaten media organisations, the government can only protect those threatened but cannot intervene.

"Do mobs not have the right to protest?" said Alam.

"What can we do if people go to

media organisations with lists of names of journalists who had acted as aides to fascist forces? Can we ask them not to name names? If any journalist had called July protesters 'criminals', then the public have the right to name them."

He added that the interim government protected major media organisations when protesters turned unruly while demonstrating in front of their buildings.

"Give a list of all those who were victims of mob attacks and we will act on it," Alam demanded.

"Within the government, we have a principal agreement that we will not influence anyone's hiring or firing [in the media]. A lot of BNP journalists came and asked me to recommend them for jobs. I never did. We did not have a hand in any of the job losses that have taken place in the media sector so far."

About whatever is happening in the industry right now, the press secretary said this was the result of the media not upholding its duty during the Awami League regime.

"All of this is happening because of the failure of journalism. We made

mistakes. How will you ignore the journalism that happened during the Hasina regime?... We are thinking of going to the UN to review the failures of the media."

He also said it is not fair to compare the media repression under the previous regime with the challenges journalists are facing now.

"People are conflating the repression of the media in the Hasina regime with what is happening now. It can't be compared. Why are we ignoring the previous malpractices in journalism and focusing on the new issues?"

The consensus commission will discuss the necessary media reforms with the political parties, Alam said.

"I think it was a mistake to revoke the accreditation cards of journalists," he said, adding that to rectify the matter, they have formed a committee that has made a guideline on eligibility for press accreditation.

NEWS

Abrar tortured

FROM PAGE 3
execution of the death sentence will remain suspended until the appeal is resolved.

THE CONVICTS

Those sentenced to death are Mehedi Hasan Russel, Mehedi Hasan Robin, Anik Sarkar Apu, Moniruzzaman Monir, Meftahul Islam Zion, Ifti Mosharraf Shokal, Mustaba Rafid, Mujahidur Rahman Mujahid, Muntasir Al Jemy, Ehtashamul Rabbi Tanim, Khandaker Tabakkul Islam Tanvir, ASM Nazmus Sadat, Majedur Rahman alias Majed, Hossain Mohammad Toha, Shamim Billah, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, SM Mahmud Setu, Shamsul Arefin Rafat, Muhammad Morshed-Uz-Zaman Mondol, and Morshed Amartya Islam.

Muhtasim Fuad, Ishtiaq Ahmed Munna, Amit Saha, Akash Hossain, and Moaz Abu Hurayra were sentenced to life in prison.

Among the convicts, Mustaba, Jishan and Tanim have been absconding while Muntasir Al Jemy, sentenced to death, escaped from Kashimpur Central Jail on August 6, a day after the fall of the Awami League regime. Abrar's family did not know that he had escaped until February 24 of this year.



Babui (Baya Weaver) birds building nests in a palm tree in the Darusha area of Rajshahi yesterday. These skilled little birds craft their homes using natural materials like mud, clay, and fibers -- much like true artists of nature.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

The unsung protectors

FROM PAGE 3
or death is inadequate. There is also no insurance for death or loss of limbs, and the FSCD lacks personal protective equipment such as fire suits and breathing apparatus.

Brig Gen Muhammad Jahed Kamal, the new

director general of fire service, said he has sent a proposal to the ministry to increase the risk allowance to 30 percent of the basic salary.

Supporting the demand for insurance coverage, he said he will conduct a feasibility study and

send a proposal to the government for insurance coverage for all fire service members.

He also said he has a plan to ensure all staffers receive proper fire suits and equipment.

Currently, the fire service has 14,570 members.

Aid corridor may drag Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3
He said BNP, along with other democratic forces, had struggled for 17 years to restore democratic norms and ensure a fair election.

"But we don't see any sign of such an election," he said.

"They [government] don't say it, but their gestures, their remarks, and what their advisers say make it clear they will not allow the country's democracy to fully flourish again."

Criticising the indecision and lack of transparency within the interim government, Hafiz recounted a meeting held on February 10 between BNP leaders and Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.

"At that meeting, Dr Yunus assured us that elections would be held by December this year. But later, that commitment was withdrawn. Now they are saying polls will be held by June next year," Hafiz said.

"Shakib is now in danger

because he did not accept the advice," Hafiz said. "Had he listened and stayed away from this dummy election, he could have walked the streets of Dhaka with honour. Now, even returning home might be difficult for him."

Former cricketer Tamim Iqbal, who recently retired from international cricket, was also present at the event. Hafiz advised him to stay clear of politics and focus on the sporting legacy he has built.

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Social Welfare			
2.	Agency	Department of Social Services			
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Establishment of Gazipur Diabetic Hospital			
4.	Invitation for	Procurement of Goods			
5.	Invitation Ref No and Date	41.01.3300.000.14.015.21.267 Date: 30.04.2025			
6.	Procurement Method	OTM (National)			
7.	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (GOB)			
8.	Project Code	224325900			
9.	Tender Publication Date	01/05/2025			
10.	Tender Last Selling Date	15/05/2025			
11.	Tender Submission Date & Time	18/05/2025; 12:00 PM			
12.	Tender Opening Date & Time	18/05/2025; 12:30 PM			
13.	Name & Address of the office(S)	Office of the Deputy Director District Social Services Office Sashan Mor, Gazipur			
14.	Selling Tender Document	Office of the Deputy Director District Social Services Office Sashan Mor, Gazipur			
15.	Receiving Tender Document	1. Office of the Project Director District Social Services Office Sashan Mor, Gazipur 2. Office of the Deputy Commissioner Vawal Conference Room, Gazipur.			
16.	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Project Director District Social Services Office Sashan Mor, Gazipur.			
17.	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	1. Upto date Trade License. 2. Current Income Tax Certificate 3. Upto Date VAT Registration Certificate. 4. Bank Statement. 5. Details have been shown in Tender Document.			
18.	Brief Description of Goods and related Services				
19.	Identification of Package	Description of Package	Tender Document price	Tender Security Amount (BDT)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
20.	GD-01	Office Equipment	1000.00	75,000.00	04 Weeks
21.	GD-03	Medical Equipment	1000.00	5,00,000.00	04 Weeks
22.	Procuring Entity Details				
23.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	S. M Anwurul Karim			
24.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director			
25.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Establishment of Gazipur Diabetic Hospital, Gazipur			
26.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No. 880224423787 e-mail: dd.gazipur@dss.gov.bd			
27.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				

6/1/2025

Project Director

Establishment of Gazipur Diabetic Hospital

NESARABAD IN PIROJPUR

Decaying bridges pose daily peril

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

At least six iron bridges along the 31-kilometre Sharshina-Swarupkathi-Kawkhali-Noikathi road in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila are in a vulnerable condition.

For over a decade, hundreds of people and vehicles have had to cross the bridges at grave risk, but no steps have yet been taken to replace them.

As a result, drivers and pedestrians are compelled to use the bridges in Shehangal, Laxmankathi, Napitkhali, Paschim Kamarkathi, Uttar Kamarkathi and Dakshin Swarupkathi villages amid the constant risk of accidents.

Of these, the longest bridge, located in Napitkhali village, is the most vulnerable.



to avoid any disastrous event," said truck driver Saiful Hasan.

Rafikul Islam, a resident of Shehangal village, said the bridges are more than 30 years old.

"Every day, a large number of vehicles including buses, goods-laden trucks, pick-up vans, battery-run auto rickshaws and other motor vehicles, as well as pedestrians, move along the road and are forced to use the bridges at risk," he added.

Contacted, Tanvir Ahmed, executive engineer of the Roads and Highways Department in Pirojpur, said they are aware of the issue.

The tender process for constructing an 80-metre bridge in Napitkhali village has been completed and the project is now at the evaluation stage, he informed.

"We are also taking steps to construct bridges at other points to replace the old ones," Tanvir added.

Chittagong University of Science and Technology

Address: প্রাথমিক নং: এ-২(৬) /০২/২০২৫/৮৯৯১/সাধারণ

তারিখ: ২৯-০৪-২০২৫

চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন অনুষদ/বিভাগ/দপ্তরের নিম্নরূপ শৃঙ্খলামূলক ভাষ্যতে প্ররোচনে নিম্নলিখিত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরবার্ষত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম	অনুষদ/বিভাগ/দপ্তর	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন ফেল
১	টেলিফোন অপারেটর	প্রকৌশল দপ্তর	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,১১,০০০-২৬,৫৮০/-
২	বাস ড্রাইভার	পরিবহন দপ্তর	০২ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৭০০-২০,৮৯০/-
৩	ড্রাইভার	পরিবহন দপ্তর	০৩ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
৪	সহকারী স্টোর কিপার	টিকিবন্দ কেন্দ্র	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
৫	গ্রাম্যাগ সহকারী প্রেড-২	গ্রাম্যাগ দপ্তর	০২ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
৬	মেশিনিয়ান প্রেড-২	চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রেস	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
৭	কম্পিউটার মন্ত্রণালয়-কাম-অফিস সহকারী	বিভাজন অনুষদ	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
৮	ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন অপারেটর	সমাজ বিভাজন অনুষদ	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
৯	নিয়মান সহকারী	যোগাযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগ	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-
১০	সুপারভাইজার	বিভাজন অনুষদ শিক্ষক লাইজেন্স	০১ টি (হাঁয়ী)	৮,৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/-

পদসমূহের জন্য প্রযোজনীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও আবেদনের শর্তাদি:

অধিক-১ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে এবং টেলিফোন এক্সেলের কাজে ০৩(তিনি) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-২ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবশ্যিক MS Word (with Bijoy) এবং MS Excel কোর্সসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৩ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবশ্যিক MS Word (with Bijoy) এবং MS Excel কোর্সসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৪ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবশ্যিক MS Word (with Bijoy) এবং MS Excel কোর্সসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৫ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবশ্যিক MS Word (with Bijoy) এবং MS Excel কোর্সসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৬ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। কোনো সরকারি/আধা সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে কোর্সসহ প্রিস্টিং ও বিভিন্ন টাইপের অটোমেটিক এবং সিলিন্ডার মেশিন চালানোর জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৭ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবশ্যিক MS Word (with Bijoy) এবং MS Excel কোর্সসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৮ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পাশ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে আবশ্যিক MS Word (with Bijoy) এবং MS Excel কোর্সসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার জন্য থাকতে হবে।

অধিক-৯ নং পদের জন্য প্রার্থীক এইচ.এস.স

New guideline to prevent adolescent pregnancies and improve girls' health

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released a new guideline aimed at preventing adolescent pregnancy and its related health complications.

The guideline urges action to end child marriage, extend girls' schooling, and improve access to sexual and reproductive health services—all critical factors for reducing early pregnancies.

"Early pregnancies can have serious physical and psychological consequences for girls and young women," said Dr Pascale Allotey, Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research at WHO. "Tackling this issue means creating conditions where girls and young women can thrive—by ensuring they stay in school, are protected from violence, and can access sexual and reproductive health services."

More than 21 million adolescent girls become pregnant each year in low- and middle-income countries, about half of whom are unintended. Early pregnancy impacts girls' education and employment prospects and brings serious health risks, including infections, preterm births, and unsafe abortions.

Reasons for early pregnancy include gender inequities, poverty, and lack of access to services. There is a strong link to child marriage: in low- and middle-income countries, 9 in 10 adolescent births happen among married girls.

The guideline recommends strengthening girls' education and employment prospects. Completing secondary schooling could reduce child marriages by two thirds. It also urges laws to prohibit marriage under the age of 18.

Finally, it calls for high-quality, adolescent-responsive health services and comprehensive sexuality education to reduce early pregnancies and improve adolescents' knowledge about their bodies and reproductive health.

Source: World Health Organisation



Together against malaria: A global call to reinvest, reimagine, and reignite the fight

STAR HEALTH DESK

On World Malaria Day, 25 April 2025, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is urging renewed efforts at all levels—from global leaders to local communities—to speed up progress towards malaria elimination.

Since 2000, strong global collaboration has saved nearly 13 million lives and prevented more than 2 billion malaria cases. WHO has so far certified 45 countries and 1 territory as malaria-free, and many countries with low malaria burdens continue moving steadily toward elimination. Of the remaining 83 malaria-endemic countries, 25 reported fewer than 10 cases in 2023.

However, these hard-won gains are fragile. "The history of malaria teaches us a harsh lesson: when we divert our attention, the disease resurges, taking its greatest toll on the most vulnerable," said WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "But the same history also shows us what's possible: with strong political commitment, sustained investment, multisectoral action and community engagement, malaria can be defeated."

New tools, new progress: Years of investment in the development and deployment of new tools and malaria vaccines are paying off.

On World Malaria Day, Mali joins 19 other African countries in introducing malaria vaccines—a major step in protecting young children from one of Africa's deadliest diseases. The large scale rollout of malaria vaccines is expected to save tens of thousands of young lives each year.

Meanwhile, a new generation of insecticide-treated nets is helping lower disease burden. According to the latest World Malaria Report, these nets—which are more effective than standard pyrethroid-only nets—made up nearly 80% of all nets delivered in sub-Saharan Africa in 2023, up from 59% the previous year.

Progress under threat: Despite these advances, malaria remains a major health challenge, killing nearly 600,000 people in 2023 alone. The African Region shoulders about 95% of the global malaria burden each year.

Progress is being hampered by fragile health systems, growing drug and insecticide resistance, and lack of access to essential malaria services for many at-risk groups. Climate change, conflict, poverty, and population displacement are worsening these challenges.

WHO has also warned that funding cuts expected in 2025 could further derail progress. Of the 64 WHO country offices in malaria-endemic countries surveyed recently, over half reported moderate or severe disruptions to malaria services.

Reinvest, reimagine, reignite: Under the 2025 theme, "Malaria Ends with Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite", the WHO calls for stronger political and financial commitments to protect the hard-won progress against malaria.

To reinvest, WHO urges malaria-endemic countries to boost domestic funding, especially in primary health care, to ensure all at-risk groups can access malaria prevention, detection, and treatment services. Successful replenishments of the Global Fund and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, are also vital to financing malaria efforts and achieving the WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030 targets.

A reimagined response is needed, involving innovative tools, new drugs, better service delivery methods, improved diagnostics, and advanced vector control strategies.

More countries are making malaria elimination a national priority. In March 2024, African ministers of health from 11 high-burden countries signed the Yaoundé Declaration, pledging to strengthen health systems, step up domestic resources, promote multisectoral action, and establish robust accountability mechanisms.

"This is the kind of leadership the world must rally behind," said Dr Daniel Ngamije, Director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme.

Reigniting commitment at all levels—from communities and health workers to governments, researchers, innovators, and donors—is critical to defeating malaria for good.

Source: World Health Organisation

Retinopathy of prematurity: an alarming threat for the premature newborns



DR ABDULLAH EL AMAAN &
DR KHAINOOR ZAHAN

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is an eye disease in some premature infants born before 31 weeks (a full-term pregnancy is about 37 to 42 weeks). It is a problem of the retina. The retina is a part of the eye that receives light and sends signals to the brain so we can see.

Blood vessels in the eyes normally finish developing a few weeks before birth. An infant who is born premature (especially before 32 weeks) and has a low birth weight (especially 1,500 grams) may get exposure to many different insults, like medicine, oxygen and various forms of breathing supports, blood transfusion, bright lights, temperature changes, etc. These insults may cause unwanted blood vessels to grow on the baby's retina, which can cause serious visual problems later.

Shortly after birth, all premature babies should be checked for ROP.

An ophthalmologist can examine the infant's eyes. However, ROP might not be visible until several weeks after birth. So, premature babies at risk for ROP are usually checked by an ophthalmologist at 4 to 6 weeks after birth and again thereafter. Timely detection and treatment can help prevent permanent vision loss. Other infants who are thought to be high risk by the newborn specialist might also be screened with eye exams.

It is very important to have eye exams after discharge from the hospital if ROP screening may not be done before discharge. The timing of these exams is very important because delays in examination will delay treatment. Delay of treatment can increase the risk of vision loss from ROP since we are not able to tell whether the baby's ROP has got worse just by looking at him or her. Also, even with successful treatment of ROP, prematurity may lead to other vision problems.

Previously, night blindness from

deficiency of vitamin A was the leading cause of blindness in our country. But with the extensive distribution of supplementary vitamin A, the problem has been resolved. Nowadays, ROP is the leading cause of blindness among the children in our country.

Bangladesh is one of the countries where premature birth is alarmingly high (16.2%), and among them, almost 30% suffer from some sort of visual impairment afterwards. The timing of diagnosis and the start of treatment is paramountly important in this issue. Here, the sooner the treatment can be started, the better the prognosis would be.

Thus, mass awareness and adequate screening of ROP among the premature newborns is essential.

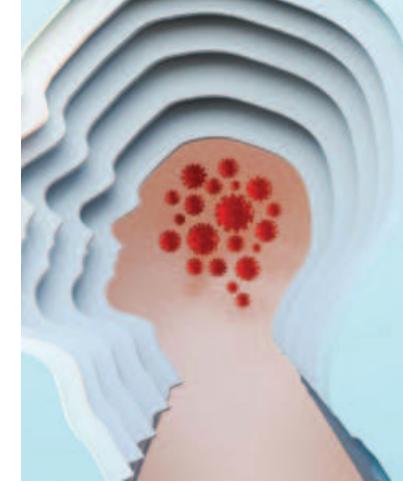
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Viral infections and dementia: what you can do to protect your brain

Emerging research suggests that infections from viruses like herpes (e.g., shingles) and SARS-CoV-2 may increase the risk of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. These viruses can trigger inflammation in the brain, which may lead to memory problems and other cognitive issues over time.

The herpesviruses, including those that cause cold sores and shingles, can activate certain genes in brain cells, disrupting their normal function. SARS-CoV-2, even after mild infections, has been linked to higher levels of proteins that are associated with Alzheimer's, such as β -amyloid. This suggests that the virus might contribute to neuroinflammation, which damages brain cells.



Get vaccinated: Vaccines, like the shingles and COVID-19 vaccines, may lower the risk of dementia by preventing viral infections.

Stay mentally and physically active: Regular exercise and brain activities like puzzles can help keep your brain sharp.

Manage your health: Keep up with regular check-ups to catch any potential issues early, especially if you experience memory problems.

Support your immune system: A healthy diet, enough sleep, and stress management are important for overall health and brain protection.

While the link between viral infections and dementia is still being studied, vaccination and a healthy lifestyle remain key ways to protect your brain as you age.

Sources: Alzheimer's & Dementia, Nature Medicine, Nature Neuroscience

Safeguarding transfusions: recognising and reducing TA-GVHD risks

Imagine this scenario: you need an urgent blood transfusion, and your brother is present. Thinking it's safest, you use his blood without consulting a qualified haematologist. Within days, you develop a purplish skin rash, fever, and nausea. A visit to the doctor reveals a devastating diagnosis: Transfusion-associated Graft-versus-Host Disease (TA-GVHD)—a rare but often fatal condition with a mortality rate of 87–100% (NCBI).

Taking blood from a first-degree relative increases the risk of TA-GVHD due to partial human leukocyte antigen (HLA) matching. This similarity allows donor T lymphocytes to recognise the recipient's body as foreign and attack vital tissues. To prevent this, it's advised to take irradiated blood from non-relatives—easily available at blood banks.

Although rare, TA-GVHD is almost always fatal once it occurs. There's no effective treatment except for a stem cell transplant, which is rarely feasible in time. Symptoms typically develop 2 to 30 days after transfusion and include skin rash, jaundice, fever, nausea, fatigue, diarrhoea, liver

abnormalities, and pancytopenia—the hallmark sign.

This condition occurs when donor T cells mount an immune attack on the recipient, damaging the skin, liver, gastrointestinal tract, and bone marrow. Immunocompromised individuals are especially vulnerable, as their weakened immunity cannot counter the attack. Blood components that may carry T lymphocytes—whole blood, PRBCs, platelets, or fresh plasma—can all potentially cause TA-GVHD.

To simplify: your body has a security system. When you receive donor blood, it may bring in its own "security guards"—the donor's immune cells. If these new cells see your body as a threat, they launch a fatal internal attack instead of helping.

Death from TA-GVHD usually occurs 1 to 3 weeks after symptoms begin, due to overwhelming infections. Because of the lack of effective treatment, prevention is essential. Here are key preventive measures:

Irradiation: Gamma irradiation of blood components is the primary method to inactivate donor T-lymphocytes and prevent

TA-GVHD.

Avoid blood from close relatives: Blood from siblings or cousins should be strictly avoided due to increased HLA similarity, which raises TA-GVHD risk.

Use standardised blood banks: Choose facilities that follow strict guidelines for screening and processing blood products.

Special precautions for immunocompromised patients: These individuals face greater risk and require irradiated, carefully screened blood.

Leukoreduction: While not sufficient alone, reducing white blood cell content in blood products lowers the risk. Pathogen reduction technologies can also help.

Avoid consanguineous marriage: Reducing genetic similarity within families can lower the risk of HLA matching complications in transfusions.

TA-GVHD may be rare, but its impact is devastating. Misleading depictions in media, such as those seen in Bangladeshi films, can foster dangerous misconceptions during emergencies. Awareness and proper transfusion practices are crucial.

Further research is ongoing to identify viable treatments. Until then, recognising the risks and taking preventive steps remain the best defence.

The article is compiled by Jannatun Nayma. E-mail: keyamashina1985@gmail.com

Quit vaping for good: The 3-step formula that works

If you are trying to quit vaping, there is new hope—and it is more effective than anything we have seen before. A recent clinical trial published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* reveals that using three tools together can boost your chances of quitting by up to tenfold.

The study tested a medication called varenicline (commonly sold as Chantix), already used to help people stop smoking. But this is the first time it has been tested specifically for young people trying to quit nicotine vaping—and the results are impressive.

Participants aged 16 to 25 were split into three groups. The most successful

group combined varenicline, weekly Zoom counselling, and a text-based support app developed by the Truth Initiative. More than half were vape-free at 12 weeks, and 28% remained so after six months—even after stopping the medication.

By comparison, only 7% of those

using the app alone stayed off nicotine long-term.

Why does this matter? Because quitting vaping is especially tough for young people. Not only is the addiction strong, but many hide their habit from parents and hesitate to seek help. And once addicted, teens are at greater risk of developing future substance abuse issues.

The takeaway? Medication plus behavioural support and digital tools is the gold standard. If you are ready to quit, talk to a healthcare provider. Do not go it alone. With the right strategy, quitting is not just possible—it is powerful.

MIDLIFE A time to reflect, refresh, and grow

Midlife can feel overwhelming sometimes, but it is also a great chance to focus on yourself and make life even better. Here are some simple tips to help:

Take care of yourself first: It is not selfish to slow down and ask yourself what you really need right now.

Notice life changes: Whether it is kids moving out or a new role at work, take a moment to acknowledge what is different. It helps you adjust with more ease.

Learn something new: Try a new hobby, take an online class, or pick up a skill you have always been curious about. It can bring fresh excitement to your days.

Reconnect with people: Send a quick message to an old friend or make plans with family. Small connections can make a big difference.

Keep moving: Exercise does not have to be boring. Join a dance class, try hiking, or find a fun group activity to stay fit and happy.

Start small healthy habits: Simple changes like drinking more water, adding



fruit to your breakfast, or walking daily can boost both your body and mood.

Spend time outdoors: Fresh air and sunshine can lift your spirits. Even a short walk in the park helps.

Work on a passion project: Whether it is writing, painting, or gardening, doing something you love can bring you joy and new energy.

Talk to a therapist if needed: A little support can help you make sense of your thoughts and plan your next steps.

Midlife is a crisis—it is a chance to refresh your life in wonderful ways.

Zawad eyes 'something big' in next World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-19 opener Zawad Abrar set his sights on next year's World Cup after smashing a brilliant 113 off 115 balls in the fourth Youth ODI against Sri Lanka at the Colombo Cricket Club ground yesterday.

His ton powered Bangladesh to their highest ever total on foreign soil—336 for 8—before the bowlers bundled out the hosts for 190, sealing a massive 146-run win.

"It feels really good to score two hundreds in three matches," said Zawad. "We have a balanced side, and if we play to our potential, we can achieve something big in the World Cup."

The total was Bangladesh's second highest in YODI history, just behind their 340-7 against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in 2019.

With the win, Bangladesh lead the six-match series 3-1.

Rabada reveals failing drug test after leaving IPL

REUTERS

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada, who returned home from the Indian Premier League (IPL) last month, admitted failing a drug test and apologised for his actions yesterday.

Rabada, second in the world test bowling rankings, said he was serving a "provisional suspension" but gave no other details.

The 29-year-old left the Gujarat Titans a month ago with the IPL franchise saying at the time that he had to deal with an important personal matter. He played the first two matches in this season, taking two wickets before flying back to Johannesburg.

"As has been reported, I recently returned to South Africa from participating in the IPL for personal reasons," Rabada said in a statement.

"This was due to my returning an adverse analytical finding for the use of a recreational drug."

"I am deeply sorry to all those that have let down. I will never take the privilege of playing cricket for granted. This privilege is much larger than me."

"Moving forward, this moment will not define me. I will keep doing what I have always done... playing with passion and devotion to my craft," said Rabada, who is now back in India.

No formal suspension has been announced by either the IPL or the International Cricket Council.



Bangladesh Under-19s
opener Zawad Abrar follows through on a powerful lofted drive en route to his second century, leading his side to a dominant 146-run win over Sri Lanka in the fourth Youth ODI at the Colombo Cricket Club Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Tamim's misplaced plea and a broken system

ASHFAQ UL ALAM

At the launching event of the newly-formed platform Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers Association (BDDSOA) yesterday in Dhaka, former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal made a request to the councillors who will cast their votes in the next Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) election.

"I request all of you to only elect those people who have basic cricketing knowledge and have a dream to take Bangladesh cricket to a certain place," Tamim said at the event held at the National Sports Council Auditorium in the capital.

The two qualities Tamim wanted to see in a BCB board director — rudimentary understanding of the game, and a dream to elevate the country's cricket — seem reasonable enough. And for a few decades, the BCB has had plenty of directors who have fulfilled the first condition but failed the latter.

Over the years and even now, many former cricketers have been part of BCB board of directors, which includes Tamim's uncle Akrum Khan, a former national team captain and currently the chairman of three standing committees.

The current president of the board, Faruque Ahmed, is also a former Bangladesh skipper



and is the first former cricketer to ascend to this post.

These cricketer-turned-board officials know the intricacies of the game and in theory should be able to use their insights as former cricketers and sketch out plans to take Bangladesh cricket to the next level.

But unfortunately, that hasn't been the case.

Even with a former cricketer at the helm, the board has thus far remained more focused on off-field issues and the inner struggle for power has seemingly pushed cricket to the background.

The current board officials seemingly don't have the "dream" that Tamim spoke about, and because of that, cricket in Bangladesh is stagnating.

The importance of board officials having the "dream" can be traced in Bangladesh cricket's most defining triumph till now, winning the

1997 ICC Trophy.

After learning that the tournament Malaysia will be played on astro-turfs, something the Bangladesh cricketers had no experience of, the board decided it would import and install it on the ground. But in those days, the BCB did not have the finances to pull it off.

At that time, Raisuddin Ahmed, a key organiser in the nascent days of Bangladesh cricket who breathed his last in 2021, was vice-president of the board. As a top official at Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Raisuddin used his influence to help the board fly in astro-turfs from the UK, free of cost.

The cricketers played two seasons of the Dhaka League on the astro-turf, an experience that gave them an edge at the ICC Trophy, and the rest is history.

The BCB is seemingly missing such long-term thinking even with vast resources at hand and former cricketers working in the board.

Now, if the councillors heed to Tamim's request, set aside personal gains and elect visionaries that want to take the game forward, the BCB, in theory, should change for the better. But unfortunately, things are not that simple.

Tamim made this plea at a platform of district and divisional level organisers, and according to the current BCB constitution, only 10 of the 25 directors would get elected from them.

Meanwhile, 12 directors will be from Dhaka-based clubs and 76 of the 171 voting councillors will also be from the capital, ensuring the monopoly of the said clubs over the country's cricket.

The Faruque-led board had moved to amend this constitution and bring parity, but those attempts got paused indefinitely in January, in the face of protests from the said clubs. Unless the current constitution is amended, the regional cricket organisers can't really bring any notable change in the country's cricket.

So, before urging the regional organisers, Tamim could meet with representatives from the Dhaka clubs, convince them to withdraw their opposition to constitution amendment and help bring meaningful change in the board.

Liton poised for UAE T20I return after recovery

SPORTS REPORTER

Wicketkeeper-batter Liton Das is expected to return to the field through the upcoming two-match T20I series against the UAE as he has made decent recovery with his finger injury.

National team physio Bayyedul Islam Khan confirmed the development to The Daily Star on Saturday, adding that the cricketer is expected to undergo a fitness test next week.

"He underwent an X-ray today. He is in a better condition," informed Bayyedul.

"We had a plan to make him return to the field after one month. As three weeks have already gone, we will now try to start functional work for the progress of his fitness. We will then take a fitness test between May 10-12," he said, adding that he is hopeful Liton will be able to feature in the forthcoming fixture.

"The progress is really good. I'm hopeful that he will be able to catch up."

Liton suffered a finger injury during a practice session with Karachi Kings earlier last month and had to return home without competing in the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL).

In a social media post, Liton said that scans revealed a hairline fracture and recovery will take at least two weeks.

Bangladesh will leave for the UAE on May 14 to play a T20 series against the hosts before they head to Pakistan to play a five-match T20I series between May 25 and June 3. The selectors are expected to name the same team for both series, while Liton is the frontrunner to take up the captaincy, subject to his fitness clearance.

Fakirerpul earn three massive points

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Men's Fakirerpul Club earned three massive points in their bid to avoid relegation after handing bottom-placed Chittagong Abahani a 3-2 defeat in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Shahid Barkat Stadium in Gazipur on Saturday.

Iorian forward Ben Ibrahim Quattara scored a brace as the traditional outfit came back from a goal down to beat the port city side and move to 13 points from 13 matches, 10 clear of Chittagong Abahani and six ahead of Dhaka Wanderers Club, who are second from bottom.

The bottom two sides will go down to Bangladesh Championship League at the end of the season.

Shuvo Raj Bongshi had given the port city side a 33rd-minute lead, but Quattara scored in the next minute before giving his side the lead in the 75th minute. Sayed Hossain Sayem further increased Fakirerpul's lead in stoppage time before Faysal Ahmed reduced the margin for Chittagong Abahani right before the final whistle.

Meanwhile, fourth-placed Rahmatganj MFS and fifth-placed Brothers Union played out a goalless draw in Munshiganj. The draw saw Rahmatganj move to 20 points, followed by Brothers on 19.

Archery coach Frederick targets ranking improvement

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh archery team's head coach Frederick Martin has said he doesn't want to look back, instead he wants to look ahead with the players that they have, to build a good foundation for the future.

Bangladesh has seen an exodus of top archers over the last couple of years, most of them blaming the poor financial future in the sport as well as poor treatment from the federation.

Following the departure of Olympians Ruman Sana and Diya Siddique — both top recurve archers — recurve archer Hakim Ahmed Rubel went to America in search of bread and butter last year. This has created a lack of talent at the top of the sport, which was once regarded as the most promising discipline in the country.

Reflecting on the situation at a press briefing organised to announce the departure of a five-player team for World Cup Archery (Stage 2) in Shanghai, Frederick said: "Of course we have to face the drop-outs. I'm not looking back. I have to look forward. I cannot change the situation. We work with that."



Informing that the country's top compound archer Mohammad Ashikuzzaman is also walking away from the sport due to his job's demands, Frederick said he wants to groom new talents.

"Of course they (the new ones) are very young and may be they are not stable. But we have to work with that and see how we can make our organisation stronger, etc, etc, and boost our pipeline in future to achieve what we want," said Frederick, who has been in charge of the national team for the last seven years.

The five players who will leave for Shanghai today are: Abdur Rahman Alif, Sagon Islam and Ramkrishna Saha in recurve division alongside

Himu Bachhar and Bonna Akter in compound division.

Replying to a query regarding only five players taking part, Frederick said they want to send players who have quality and can compete for medals. He, however, said that the realistic target from this competition, which runs from May 6 to 11, will be to see players move into quarterfinals.

"We want to climb the world ranking. But if you ask more specifics, for me it would be very good if we move into the quarterfinals. Quarterfinals is a good position under top 10 and it opens door for the podium," the German coach added.



Members of Young Pterippus Club, Third Division Qualifying Cricket League champions, celebrate their victory over runners-up Dilkusha Sporting Club in a friendly match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Both teams had earlier confirmed their qualification for next season's Third Division Cricket League from a 60-team qualifying tournament. The qualifying league has been revived by the current committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board following a seven-year hiatus.

PHOTO: BCB

