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16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



Trump says he wants a fair trade deal with China
P5



A homegrown approach to reforming political parties
P6



Can a new law balance cyber safety and free expression?
P7



Barca, Inter set for Milan showdown
P11

Make primary healthcare free for everyone

Health reform commission suggests sweeping overhaul, submits report to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Health Sector Reform Commission has recommended that the government make primary healthcare its constitutional obligation and provide it free of cost to ensure universal access.

It also called for the formation of an independent and permanent Bangladesh Health Commission to formulate essential policies and strategies and to oversee the health sector.

The 12-member commission, led by National Professor AK Azad Khan, submitted its report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guesthouse Jamuna yesterday.

The proposed reforms, the commission said, would take around two years to implement and should be carried out by a powerful inter-ministerial committee.

The submission comes at a time when the health sector faces major challenges, including inadequate funding, a shortage of health workers, high out-of-pocket expenses, unequal access to services, and weak governance.

“The problems in the health sector are long-standing. If we can resolve these issues through this [the commission’s report], it will be a groundbreaking move.”

PROF MUHAMMAD YUNUS



PROPOSALS

- Allocate 15% of national budget to health sector
- Establish separate Bangladesh Health Service
- Establish Bangladesh Health Commission
- Supply essential drugs at primary level for free
- Update essential drugs list every two years

- Prescribe generic names of 25% medicines immediately; of all medicines within 5 years
- Launch unique health ID and smart health card for every citizen
- Establish National Institute of Women Health

These issues, health experts say, deprive many people of quality treatment and compel many others to seek medical care abroad.

Upon receiving the report, Prof Yunus instructed the relevant authorities to act on the immediately actionable recommendations, stating that they could play a crucial role in resolving the problems in the health sector, reports BSS.

“The problems in the health sector are long-standing. If we can resolve these issues through this [the commission’s report], it will be a groundbreaking move.”

Noting the shortage of doctors as a major concern, he added that even where doctors are posted, they are sometimes unavailable when needed. “This problem should be resolved permanently.”

Stressing the need for decentralisation, Yunus said, “Without it, the-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman bids his mother Khaleda Zia farewell as she departs for home from Heathrow Airport in London yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP MEDIA CELL

Khaleda Zia on her way back home

Dhaka police issues directives for traffic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The special air ambulance carrying BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia left London last night and is scheduled to reach Dhaka this morning.

Ahead of her arrival, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday issued a 10-point directive to ensure security and smooth traffic flow.

People have been urged to remain on the sidewalks instead of the main roads from Gulshan, Banani to the airport, and party leaders will ensure that those welcoming her stay off the streets.

Police have requested that well-wishers refrain from carrying bags, sticks, or similar items, and that welcoming individuals are also barred from

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

FY26 BUDGET Debt servicing costs, food subsidies to rise

IMF, ADB to back allocation for banking reforms

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The next budget may be slightly smaller than the current fiscal year’s, but non-development spending is expected to rise by over 5 percent due to higher debt servicing costs, food subsidies, and a special allocation for bank reforms.

The size of the next budget would reach Tk 7,90,000 crore – Tk 7,000 crore less than the budget for the ongoing fiscal year, according to a draft prepared at a fiscal coordination council meeting last month.

This is in contrast to the trend of raising the budget size every year during the previous governments’ tenures, as the interim administration has adopted a fiscal tightening policy.

The non-development budget is expected to be set at Tk 5,60,000 crore, up by Tk 28,000 crore from the current fiscal year’s allocation.

Finance ministry officials said the government is aiming to strengthen the banking sector with a special allocation to meet the capital shortfall of state-owned

banks. Some selective private banks would also get allocations on some conditions.

The funds may be disbursed as loans under the International Monetary Fund’s guidelines, rather than budget-allocated capital given by the previous government.

IMF providing technical assistance for banking sector allocation

ADB may give \$500m

The IMF is giving technical support in this regard, and a team has already started working, finance ministry officials said. Besides, the government has received a green signal from the Asian Development Bank for \$400-500 million in loans for banking sector reforms.

Latest Bangladesh Bank data shows state-owned banks face a

capital shortfall of Tk 65,267 crore, with all except Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Development Bank falling below required levels.

Shariah-based banks also face a capital shortfall of Tk 58,780 crore, with eight out of 10 Islamic banks affected, excluding only Shahjalal Islami Bank and Exim Bank. A few of the conventional banks are also facing capital shortfalls.

Bangladesh Bank and the finance ministry have launched rigorous reform initiatives in the country’s banking sector, with one package for providing capital support.

Finance ministry officials said the government’s overall budget policy is to reduce expenditure, avoiding additional allocations for subsidies, salaries, and allowances.

However, some sectors will see unavoidable increases. High inflation is expected to push food subsidy costs up by around Tk 2,500 crore from the current fiscal year’s Tk 7,250 crore. Additionally, the overall allocation for social safety net programmes may rise by Tk 10,000 crore.

Due to the devaluation of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Dhaka-IMF talks drag on

Exchange rate remains unsettled; discussion set to resume today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has yet to reach a consensus with the International Monetary Fund on adopting a market-based exchange rate – the only remaining condition for releasing the fourth and fifth instalments of the \$4.7 billion loan.

The two sides held a virtual meeting yesterday to resolve the issue, but Bangladesh maintained that fully liberalising the rate could trigger a sudden spike in the dollar’s price, The Daily Star has learnt.

A high official at the finance ministry said there was no notable progress.

Another source said officials would resume discussions with the IMF today.

Since December, Bangladesh has held several rounds of talks with the IMF in Dhaka and Washington over the pending tranches.

Disagreements over exchange rate flexibility and efforts to raise the revenue-to-GDP ratio had delayed the fourth instalment.

Finance ministry officials said a consensus was reached on National Board of Revenue issues during the Washington talks, leaving the exchange rate as the sole sticking point.



Vendors selling daily essentials have set up shop right on the rail lines at the Joydebpur level crossing area in Gazipur. These floating shops move out of the way just before a train comes and return to their position as soon as it leaves. A slip-up in this everyday exercise can be fatal. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

WOMEN AFFAIRS REFORM

VERBAL ABUSE 6 women serve legal notice on Hefazat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six women – three cultural activists and three leaders of the National Citizen Party – yesterday served a legal notice on Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh, accusing the group of verbally abusing women in public during its recent rally.

The rally was held on May 3 at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka to press home Hefazat’s demands, which included the dissolution of the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission.

Filed through Advocate Palash, the notice was signed by three cultural figures – Umme Rayhana, Umme Farhana and Camellia Sharmin Chura – and NCP leaders Syeda

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

67 rights groups condemn backlash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee (Committee for Social Resistance), a platform of 67 women’s rights, human rights, and development organisations, has condemned the derogatory comments about women and acts of aggression surrounding the recommendations of Women’s Affairs Reform Commission.

Ten of the 11 reform commissions have submitted their reports; only that of the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission has been met with such backlash.

In a statement on Sunday, the committee expressed grave concern over a rally, organised by Hefazat-e-Islam on May 3, where demands were made to dissolve the women’s reform commission and reject its reform proposals.

The platform referred to a recent incident near the Raju Bhashkorjo at Dhaka University during the rally, describing the acts committed there as

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Be open to constructive dialogue

NCP urges all stakeholders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party yesterday strongly condemned the “demeaning and disrespectful” remarks towards women made at rallies opposing the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission’s recommendations.

“The NCP deeply values the freedom of women, their freedom of expression and social struggle, and is firmly committed to upholding their dignity and rights,” the newly formed party said in a press release.

However, it said some recommendations made by the commission have placed the state at odds with the country’s social and religious values.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



WHERE THE SPIRIT MEETS THE BONE

A multisensory exhibition to soothe your soul

TASMIAH RAHMAN

A multisensory exhibition, titled "Where the Spirit Meets the Bone", is currently on display at Satori Academy of Arts in the capital's Banani. This striking exhibit attempts to explore the many layers of human emotions – from personal wounds to global issues, intimate loss and grief of rediscovering inner self – through an interplay of sensory cues like touch, sound, or scent.

The showcase is taking place in two parts, with the first chapter commencing on April 25. The event has been organised by LUX and Art South Asia Projects.

The event's curator, Kehkasha Sabah, highlighted how the artists and organisers put together an innovative show where traditional elements have been blended with technology to evoke unexpressed human emotions.

"Hosted at the Satori Foundation, a meditation centre known for its tranquil environment, the exhibition aligns deeply with mindfulness and resilience," reflected Sabah. In her words, the serene setting allows audiences to escape from the chaos of city life and engage fully with the artworks – offering a space to simply sit down and observe.

The event opened with a live performance by Sharad Das, captivating the audience with his handmade musical instruments crafted from the severed trees near his home, which were once homes to thousands of birds – now all extinct.



"The performance is inspired by the confrontation between human lust and the very nature he is born into," observed Das. His sculptural series, titled "The Hand that Kills, The Hand that Mourns", resonates the sentiment. "We erase the nature and then weep its loss. It is on us to let it heal," Das explained.

Following the performance, Sabah led the visitors for a curatorial walk. Inside the house, the audience was immediately charmed by various art installations created by Afrah Shafiq, Naem Mohaiemen, Reetu Sattar,



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sounak Das, and Yasmin Jahan Nupur, among many others. The artworks ranged from interactive video games, soundscapes, video projections, film and mixed media installations.

A sensational work from the show was "Je Dak Kothao Pouche Na" (Calls that Reach Nowhere) by artist and filmmaker Reetu Sattar. The work featured 6-channel videos, with sounds featuring clapping hands, (turi) ulu chants, rhythmic thumping of feet, etc – each of the tunes coming together as a haunting chant.

"These tunes represent 'shiktkar',

the wailing of 'the other'. The 'besura' [distune] or 'betala' [no rhythm] and the anonymity of the performers resist the politics of erasure, emerging as a unified voice of resistance," suggests the artist.

According to her, this work explores the psyche of marginalised communities whose voices are barely ever heard.

Visitors seemed to be moved by the immersive show. "For me, 'The Last Breath Spoken' was a showstopper," contemplated Fahmida Alam, a fine arts student who was in attendance. "The scent, sounds and the atmosphere were truly soothing," she added.

Sabah, an independent curator, writer, and researcher, remarked that the exhibition emphasises sensory and temporal dimensions, and they are marked by fracture and survival. The show focused on producing narratives of empathy, as she further adds, "Each piece is kinaesthetic and meditative, and they speak of healing and care."

Installations like "Lowlands" by Susan Philipsz, "Don't Look at the Finger" by Hetain Patel, and "The Bride Who Could Not Stop Crying" by Afrah Shafiq, deeply connected with the audience with the creative use of digital media, creating a new dialogue in the contemporary art scene.

The second chapter of the event is set to commence on May 9. The show is taking place in collaboration with the British Council, and is open daily from 11:00am to 8:00pm.

Debt servicing costs

FROM PAGE 1
taka, both interest payments and principal repayments are set to rise.

In the current fiscal year, Tk 1,13,500 crore was allocated for interest payments and debt servicing. Officials say the upcoming budget will add another Tk 20,000 crore solely for interest payments.

Taka devaluation will also raise the cost of repaying foreign loan principals. At the time of this fiscal year's budget in June, the exchange rate was Tk 110 per dollar; it now stands at Tk 120.

According to the Economic Relations Division, debt servicing

on foreign loans rose by 24 percent in dollar terms during the first nine months of the fiscal year, and by 37 percent in taka terms.

Additionally, the government plans to allocate Tk 800 crore to support families of those killed and injured during the 2024 uprising, under the Directorate of July Mass Uprising.

Meanwhile, the development budget is likely to be reduced by Tk 35,000 crore and set at Tk 2,30,000 crore, a proposal expected to be presented at the upcoming National Economic Council meeting within a couple of days.

Israel cabinet

FROM PAGE 12

collapse of a US-backed ceasefire that had halted fighting for two months. It has since imposed a total blockade of aid into the enclave, reports Reuters.

Elkin said that rather than launching raids in specific areas and then leaving them as the military had done so far, the Israeli forces will now hold the territories they seize, until Hamas is defeated or agrees to disarm and leave Gaza. Hamas has ruled out such calls.

The Israeli official said that the newly approved offensive plan would move Gaza's civilian population southward and keep humanitarian aid from falling into Hamas hands, though the blockade will not be lifted yet.

The United Nations rejected what it said was a new plan for aid to be distributed in what it

described as Israeli hubs.

Yesterday, Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, said on X that Israel was demanding that the UN and non-governmental organisations shut down their aid distribution system in Gaza.

Hamas said yesterday the new Israeli framework for aid delivery in Gaza amounted to "political blackmail" and blamed Israel for the war-ravaged territory's "humanitarian catastrophe".

"We reject the use of aid as a tool of political blackmail and support the UN's stance against any arrangements that violate humanitarian principles," Hamas said in a statement, adding Israel's "continued obstruction of aid entry" since March 2 made it "fully responsible" for the "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza.

Make primary healthcare free

FROM PAGE 1
problems cannot be solved. It must be ensured that doctors remain in their designated stations."

Following the fall of the Awami League government in the wake of a student-led uprising in August last year, the interim government formed more than a dozen reform commissions across various sectors.

The Health Sector Reform Commission, formed in November, was tasked with making recommendations to ensure health services are more people-oriented, accessible, and universal.

Members of the commission include Prof Mohammad Zakir Hossain, chairman of Community Clinic Health Assistance Trust; Prof Liaquat Ali, chairman of Pothikrit Foundation; Prof Sayeba Akhter, chairman of Bangladesh Medical Research Council; Prof Naila Zaman Khan, a paediatric neurologist; MM Reza, former health secretary; Prof M Muzaherul Huq, former regional adviser of World Health Organization for South-East Asia Region; Azharul Islam Khan, consultant of icddr; Prof Syed Md Akram Hussain, senior consultant of Square Cancer Centre of Square Hospital; Prof Syed Atiqul Haq, chief consultant of Green Life Center for Rheumatic Care and Research; Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman, a scientist at icddr; and Umayer Afif, a student of Dhaka Medical College.

Besides holding 51 regular meetings and 32 consultation meetings with stakeholders in Dhaka and other regions, it also visited hospitals over the past five and a half months to prepare the report. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey to assist the commission.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS
After submitting the report yesterday, Prof AK Azad Khan and his team briefed reporters at the Foreign Service Academy.

"No matter how much we say 'health is my right', it currently has no legal mandate... Primary Health Care [PHC] will be a constitutional obligation for the government," said Prof AK Azad.

Accordingly, the commission recommended amending the constitution to enshrine PHC as a basic right.

The commission also said the structure of PHC must be strengthened by integrating union-level health and family planning centres and transforming them into primary healthcare centres.

In urban areas, such centres should be established under ward-level management. To this end, support from other relevant government and non-government sectors must be mobilised.

The commission further recommended establishing an autonomous Bangladesh Health Service by restructuring the current health cadre to promote professionalism, skills, and accountability – modelled on the judicial service.

It also suggested forming a dedicated Public Service Commission to recruit healthcare professionals.

Any kind of attempt to influence doctors by pharmaceutical companies giving gifts or samples of medicines is prohibited, commission said.

It recommend that pharmaceutical companies inform doctors about their products through mail or post office, and that representatives should not be allowed to meet doctors directly for regular product promotion.

A separate secretariat led by a principal secretary, who would be a doctor, should be established to manage three divisions: clinical services, public health, and medical education.

To decentralise the system, the commission proposed establishing 11 regional health authorities at the divisional level.

It also recommended bringing several government agencies, including the Directorate General of Family Planning and the Health Economics Unit, under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At present, two cadres – health and family planning – operate under the health ministry.

The commission proposed dissolving the family planning cadre, which includes both general and technical roles.

It called for merging the general cadre with the administration cadre, and the technical cadre with the health cadre, adding that

field-level workers would come under the DGHS. It proposed forming an independent and autonomous Bangladesh Health Commission to implement a "Health in All Policies" approach. The commission, comprising 17 wings, would ensure a transparent, accountable, and effective health system.

The commission recommended forming a high-level search committee for appointments to key positions, including the chief and deputy chiefs of the health service; director generals of various directorates; vice chancellors, pro-vice chancellors and treasurers of medical universities; and principals of medical colleges.

The commission recommended allocating 15 percent of the national budget or five percent of the country's gross annual income to the health sector. It also called for the enactment of a special law to guarantee sufficient and sustained funding.

One percent of the national budget, it said, should be allocated for medical research.

Additionally, it called for exempting medicines for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and certain antibiotics from taxes to lower their prices.

It also recommended establishing a network of pharmacies to distribute essential medicines either free of charge or at subsidised rates, while also updating the list of essential drugs every two years.

It suggested that doctors initially prescribe 25 percent of medicines using their generic names, with the goal of prescribing all medicines generically within five years.

The commission further recommended enacting at least 11 new laws and amending several existing ones to facilitate the reforms.

Additionally, it recommended establishing a National Institute of Women's Health to ensure appropriate treatment and care for women.

It proposed the creation of a structured referral system and, where necessary, mandatory referrals to ensure patients receive timely and appropriate care. This, the commission said, would help reduce

overcrowding at tertiary-level health facilities.

The commission advised that health facilities run by government, autonomous, or semi-government bodies be kept free from politicisation. It further recommended that no individual directly involved in politics should hold executive positions in such institutions.

It also proposed introducing a non-practising allowance for full-time medical teachers, as well as special allowances and residential facilities for doctors serving in remote areas.

It recommended that all medical colleges and universities undergo regular evaluation in accordance with standards set by the World Federation for Medical Education. Additionally, it suggested reorganising educational institutions and restructuring seat capacities, even proposing the closure of substandard institutions if necessary.

To improve access and ease the burden on medical colleges and national institutes, the commission recommended establishing secondary- and tertiary-level hospitals in phases at the district level. It also proposed setting up regional referral hospitals at the divisional level.

The commission urged the development of a digital platform to handle complaints from service seekers and the formation of a medical police force to prevent violence at hospitals and clinics.

It also suggested introducing a unique health identity card and a smart health card for every citizen, enabling better health tracking and record management.

A separate pay structure should be devised for intern doctors, postgraduate medical students, non-government doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers, the report added.

To reduce the number of patients seeking treatment abroad and to conserve foreign currency, the commission emphasised the need to establish centres of excellence for organ transplants, heart and kidney diseases, fertility treatments, and diagnostics, particularly through public-private partnerships.

FROM PAGE 1
"appalling, disgraceful, and shocking to the entire female community".

It mentioned that while 11 reform commissions have been formed by this interim government, and 10 have already submitted their reports without any resistance, only the Women's Affairs Reform Commission's report has been met with such "violent and regressive backlash" from certain quarters.

"The misogynistic and undemocratic campaigns are not only unconstitutional but also pose a direct threat to gender equality and human rights," said Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, speaking on behalf of the platform.

The Samajik Protirodh Committee also criticised

67 rights groups condemn backlash

the government's silence and inaction in the face of what it termed "grave injustices and barbarism" against half of the country's population.

It urged the government to take immediate and effective steps to build a gender-equal, secular, democratic, and humane state.

The statement concluded with a call for all democratic and progressive forces in the country to unite in resisting anti-women, fundamentalist activities and upholding the principles of equality and justice.

The statement was made by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Steps Towards Development, BRAC, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, Women for Women, CARE Bangladesh, Karmojibi Nari, National

Workers Alliance, Concern Worldwide, IED, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Nijera Kori, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Dhaka YWCA, Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation, Oxfam GB, ActionAid Bangladesh, The Hunger Project Bangladesh, Aawaj Foundation, PRIP Trust, ADD Bangladesh, World Vision, Campaign for Popular Education, Nagorik Uddoyog, National Council of Disabled Women, SARI, BAWSE, Fortnightly Anannya, ACD Rajshahi, Brotee, Nari Maitree, WAVE Foundation, Equity and Justice Working Group, Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (Women Journalists' Center), Nari Uddoyog Kendra (Women's Initiative Center), National Women Workers Alliance, Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Bangladesh Trade

Union Centre, National Women's Alliance, Shakti Foundation, BPW Club, Udichi Shilpigosthi, Acid Survivors Foundation, Nari Mukti Sangsad, Seba Nari o Shishu Kallyan Kendra, DRRRA, Amrai Pari, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Soroptimist International Club, BILS, ADAB, FPAB (Family Planning Association of Bangladesh), YWCA of Bangladesh, Dalit Women Forum, Deepoto: A Foundation for Development, Aparajeyo Bangladesh, BLAST (Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust), Turning Point Center for Men and Masculinities Studies, Save the Children, Abhijan, Indigenous Women Network, Disabled Welfare Society, Nari Oikya (Women's Unity), Pallima Mahila Parishad, Pragrason.

July uprising, said it does not believe the members of the commission represent women from all segments of society and the body failed to be all-inclusive.

"Some of the commission's proposals have raised concerns among various religious and social communities. It is the responsibility of the state

to formulate policies that respect the religious, social, and cultural integrity of all communities, and to uphold the beliefs and values of all citizens."

The party also pointed out that the Women's Affairs Reform Commission was not under the purview of the National Consensus Commission, unlike six other

reform commissions. "As a result, political parties were not given the opportunity to engage in prior discussions or contribute their views. The recommendations have sparked widespread debate and disagreements in the country's political landscape," the statement said.

Be open to constructive

6 women serve legal notice on

FROM PAGE 1
"Within seven days of receiving this legal notice, you [Hefazat-e-Islam] are requested to provide a written explanation as to why a case under the Digital Security Act should not be filed against you. Otherwise, legal action will be taken against you for the inhumane and offensive remarks made regarding women and against the honourable members of the commission," it read.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, signatories Umme Farhana and Syeda Nilima Dola said that if Hefazat makes a public statement acknowledging its mistake, offers an apology, and pledges to ensure no further derogatory remarks are made against women, the legal notice may be withdrawn.

The signatories to the notice asked Hefazat-e-Islam to provide an explanation as to why a case should not be filed against them for the public verbal abuse of women.

FROM PAGE 12
Italy wants

FROM PAGE 12
renew" and "relaunch" its bilateral cooperation with Dhaka.

"The reason I am here is to share with you that many Bangladeshi migrants rely on illegal means to reach Italy, which is dangerous. We want the ones who follow the legal framework."

The minister said that the uncontrolled arrival of migrants by sea is "very problematic" for the European nation and sought Bangladesh's cooperation to eliminate "illegal migration and organised crime."

"We are here to propose a new way of cooperation policy."

In response, Prof Yunus said that Bangladesh is eager to work with Italy to stop illegal migration and human trafficking.

"Bangladeshis living in Italy are very grateful to the host country and appreciative of the way they are treated in Italy."

Italy wants

Italy wants

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Recruit more Bangladeshi workers for mega projects

Asif Nazrul urges Saudi Arabia

BSS, Dhaka

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul has called upon Saudi Arabia to recruit more skilled manpower from Bangladesh to implement mega projects such as arrangements of World Expo 2030 and FIFA World Cup 2034.

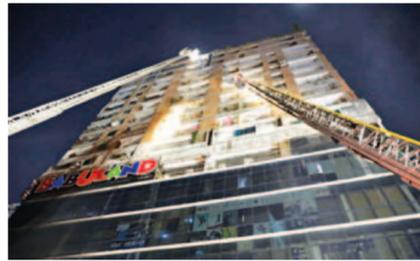
"Recruit more skilled Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia to implement the mega projects," he said.

He made the appeal in a bilateral meeting with Dr Abdullah Nasser Abuthnain, vice minister of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Firefighters rescue people trapped in a shopping mall on Bailey Road after a fire broke out at the Capital Siraj Centre around 6:47pm yesterday. Eight fire engines went to the spot and doused the blaze at 8:38pm. A total of 18 people, including 2 children and 9 women, were rescued. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



EC to stay away from political controversies

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said the Election Commission will refrain from any activity that may lead to political controversy.

"The EC will not engage in any political controversies. All decisions are made collectively by the commission – no individual acts alone," he said during a views-exchange meeting with election officials from the Mymensingh region at the Mymensingh City Corporation auditorium.

He reaffirmed the commission's commitment to holding the upcoming national election in a free, fair and neutral manner, adding, "There will be no scope for casting votes at night this time."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Kalabagan OC, two SIs suspended over vandalism, extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The officer-in-charge and two sub-inspectors of Kalabagan Police Station have been suspended for allegedly breaking into a residence at night, threatening false charges, vandalising property, and demanding Tk one crore in extortion while posing as Detective Branch officials.

The officials are OC Moktar Hossain and SIs Belal and Mannan, said police.

The incident took place around 1:30am on April 29 at the home of Abdul Wadud, an exotic bird breeder and owner of a mini zoo, on Sonargaon Road in the capital's Hatirpool area, Tariq Latif, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's New Market Zone, told The Daily Star.

"Following a complaint by Wadud, a member of Bangabandhu Parishad, DMP headquarters formed a probe committee. Initially, the OC and the two SIs were withdrawn and attached to the Ramna Division. Later, all three were suspended," he said.

Further action will follow based on the investigation's findings, he said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Wadud said the police officers came with a group of political activists who demanded extortion and threatened to implicate him in fabricated cases.

He urged the authorities to conduct a fair and impartial investigation.

'Journalism must be freed of bad apples'

Info adviser says govt to probe media licences issued under AL regime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam yesterday said the government will investigate all media organisations that received licences during the Awami League regime.

"Media outlets were set up to promote narratives supporting extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and torture in the last 15 years," said Alam.

He made the remarks at an event titled "Killings and Torture of Journalists During the Fascist Regime", organised by the Bangladesh Journalists Welfare Trust at the Department of Films and Publications auditorium.

"We will investigate when and how such outlets got licences and how the media stood against the people and contributed to producing yellow journalism," he said.

"If you want good quality journalism that maintains

professionalism, you must separate the bad apples from the good," Alam added.

He went on to say, "I

of acknowledging the people's uprising, they call it a 'regime change'... This is the Indian narrative."

If such practices continue, it won't be the government but the people and victims' families who will confront them, he added.

Alam also said popular outlets will receive more government benefits based on their circulation.

He stressed that the government does not want journalists to write in its favour.

Alam said the information ministry has gotten information on 266 journalists who have been prosecuted in recent times.

He said the ministry will assess whether the cases were filed to harass journalists. "If they find proof of harassment, the cases will be scrapped," he added.

Family members of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



The ministry will assess whether the cases were filed to harass journalists. If they find proof of harassment, the cases will be scrapped.

MAHFUJ ALAM

am astonished that a few newspapers do not use the phrase 'July mass uprising', choosing the term 'July movement' instead. Instead

of acknowledging the people's uprising, they call it a 'regime change'... This is the Indian narrative."

If such practices continue, it won't be the government but the people and victims' families who will confront them, he added.

Alam also said popular outlets will receive more government benefits based on their circulation.

He stressed that the government does not want journalists to write in its favour.

Alam said the information ministry has gotten information on 266 journalists who have been prosecuted in recent times.

He said the ministry will assess whether the cases were filed to harass journalists. "If they find proof of harassment, the cases will be scrapped," he added.

Family members of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Transparency, citizen-first approach key to civil service reform

Speakers tell workshop

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's civil service must undergo bold and strategic reforms to remain relevant in an increasingly complex and fast-changing world, speakers said at a high-level consultation workshop yesterday.

Transparency, accountability, and a citizen-first approach have emerged as key principles for

Now is a unique window for reform. With multiple reform commissions in place, including one on public administration, we can build a professional, citizen-first civil service.

M Siraz Uddin Miah

Principal secretary to the chief adviser

building a modern, responsive, and future-ready civil service, they also said.

Jointly organised by UNDP Bangladesh and the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) under the Chief Adviser's Office, with support from the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Woman dies as scarf gets caught in wheel

UNB, Dhaka

A 23-year-old woman died after her scarf got entangled in the wheel of a battery-run autorickshaw at Aftabnagar in the capital yesterday.

The deceased is Azrat Sadiya, wife of Toukir Ahmed of Kishoreganj.

The accident occurred around 11:30am at the Aftabnagar intersection while she was on her way to the Aftabnagar passport office from her Boubazar residence.

Witnesses said her scarf got stuck in the vehicle's wheel, causing it to tighten around her neck.

She was rushed to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared her dead at 12:30pm.

ATTACK ON HASNAT

54 held, attempt to murder case filed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur



A case has been filed over the attack on Hasnat Abdullah, chief coordinator (South) of NCP, in Gazipur's Chandana intersection on Sunday.

Bason Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shaheen Khan told The Daily Star that a complainant named Khandaker Al Amin filed an attempt to murder case with the police station yesterday against 43 named accused and more than a hundred unidentified accused.

Meanwhile, Gazipur Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Rabiul Hasan said a drive was launched by several police teams to identify and arrest the culprits immediately after the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Govt to build 'July Memorial' at Osmani Udyan

HELEMUL ALAM

The government is set to construct a July Memorial Monument at Osmani Udyan in Dhaka to commemorate the July uprising.

According to a Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) official, the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) adviser visited Osmani Udyan on November 19 last year and expressed the government's intent to build the memorial.

DSCC will implement the project, which will be fully funded by the government.

As per the approved design, the centrepiece of the memorial will be a 90-foot-high bronze pillar, featuring engraved names of the July martyrs, built on a



Proposed design for the 'July Memorial'.

circular platform. Surrounding the base will be semi-circular sculptures depicting key moments from the British era, 1952 Language Movement, 1971 Liberation War, and the 2024 uprising.

At the park's entrance, there will be a gate shaped like numbers

"24", symbolising last year's event. The site will also feature pedestrian walkways, an epitaph listing the martyrs' names, and extensive landscaping.

Dr Md Zillur Rahman, chief executive officer of DSCC, said, "There are many monuments in various parks across Dhaka, but Osmani Udyan has none. That's why we chose this location."

He said due to its proximity to the secretariat, city corporation, and other key institutions, Osmani Udyan is an ideal spot to draw public attention to the memorial.

A DSCC official confirmed that the monument's design has been finalised, and a tender has been issued, scheduled to be opened on May 18.

"We'll need about two weeks to complete the evaluation, and construction will start shortly afterward," he said.

The project is expected to be completed within six months, from June to December, though efforts will be made to finish it earlier, he added.

Meanwhile, the broader modernisation of Osmani Udyan, originally set for completion in 2018, has faced repeated delays. The project stalled for nearly two years after

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Policy overhaul needed to protect farmers, farmland, environment

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is likely to pass the Agricultural Land Protection Act within the next two months, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Water Resources ministries.

She made the remarks while speaking at the "Agriculture, Food Security and Biodiversity Conference 2025", organised by Bonik Barta at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Rizwana said the law would include measures to protect farmers and regulate the use of farmland. "Despite years of discussion, no effective action has been taken," she said, adding that the agriculture ministry is now working on drafting a clear policy for farmer protection.

"The state must protect people, the environment, and agriculture. But often, development comes at the cost of the environment. We need to change this mindset. Private actors must also

contribute," she said.

She stressed the importance of food safety, saying food quality is as important as quantity. "Most of our land yields two to three crops annually. We must not import

Our biggest asset is fertile land. But if we destroy soil fertility and micro-organisms, where will we farm? In the sky? We must recognise our limits – limited land and a dense population. Planning must reflect this reality to protect our land and water.

Prof Anu Muhammad
Eminent Economist

rejected technologies or put profits above farmers' well-being."

Rizwana also said 150 acres of eucalyptus trees in the Madhupur Sal forest would be replaced with native Sal

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

All five victims of Gazipur gas cylinder blast die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

All five people, who suffered critical burns in a gas cylinder explosion in Mughalkhal in Gazipur's Joydebpur area on April 27, have died.

The last survivor, 10-year-old Tanjila, passed away on Sunday night while undergoing treatment at National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, Md Shahin Khan, officer-in-charge of Basan Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On the same day, Parveen Akhter, 35, who suffered 32 percent burns, died at the hospital, the OC added.

The other victims – Sima Akhter, 30, her one-year-old son Ayan, and Tanjila's mother, Taslima Begum, 30, -- died on different dates.

Sima, who had sustained 90 percent burns, died on April 28. On the next day, Taslima Begum, who was five months pregnant and suffered 95 percent burns, also passed away. One-year-old Ayan succumbed to his injuries on May 3.

The incident unfolded around 7:00pm on April 27 when a gas cylinder exploded at their home. Firefighters and locals rescued the five burn victims and admitted them to the burn institute around 10:15pm.



A man pedals a van carrying tiffin boxes through Dhanmondi in the capital, heading to deliver lunch to shop workers on Elephant Road. For many low-wage earners, such catering services offer one of the few affordable meal options, typically costing Tk 60-70. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Kuet teachers continue strike for 2nd day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

No academic activities were held at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) yesterday as teachers continued their strike for the second day to press home their demands.

Earlier, the university reopened on Sunday after a 74-day closure.

Kuet Teachers' Association yesterday held a press briefing where they presented four demands, including proper investigation into the incidents of February 18 and 19 and subsequent harassment of teachers, strict action against those responsible for creating unrest and disrupting the university's academic environment, and stringent punishment against those engaged in cyberbullying, spreading rumors, or making defamatory remarks against faculty members.

They also expressed solidarity with the five-point demands raised by students and urged their immediate implementation, and condemned what they termed a biased behaviour by the education adviser and UGC representatives.

The association announced that they will not return to classrooms and normal academic activities at the university cannot continue unless their demands are met within the next seven working days.

ROHINGYA, HOST COMMUNITY BRAC, EU launch Tk 62cr project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC and the European Union have signed an agreement to launch a new project worth 4.5 million Euro (Tk 62 crore) to strengthen integrated humanitarian support in Cox's Bazar.

EU Ambassador Michael Miller and BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh signed the agreement at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka yesterday, which marks the beginning of the project "Humanitarian-Development Coexistence Nexus to Address the Rohingya Crisis in Cox's Bazar."

The project is grounded in the principles of cost-effectiveness, efficiency, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), coexistence, and community empowerment, according to a statement.

The initiative is expected to benefit more than 125,000 Rohingya individuals and nearly 2,500 members of the host community, with a strong focus on the inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

CHILMARI-ROUMARI ROUTE Locals suffer as ferry service halted for 132 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Ferry services on the Chilmari-Roumari route of the Brahmaputra River in Kurigram have been suspended for 132 days due to a navigability crisis, causing immense suffering to locals.

The services were suspended on December 23 last year. The service was inaugurated on September 20, 2023. According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, the suspension was due to a drop in water levels in certain stretches of the river, making ferry movement impossible.

Two ferries were operating on the route, each with a capacity to carry over 300 tonnes, including 600 passengers, 10 goods-laden trucks, and at least 50 light vehicles such as motorcycles.

Chilmari River Port Manager Profulla Chouhan said preparations had been made to resume the ferry service on Saturday after a rise

in the Brahmaputra's water level due to rain. However, the level dropped again on Sunday.

He said the river needs a depth of 7-8 feet for ferry movement, but an 800-metre stretch at two points on the 30-kilometre route lacks adequate depth.

A letter has been sent to BIWTA's Dredging Department requesting urgent dredging, he added.

Mujibur Rahman, 55, a passenger from Roumari, said, "We benefited from the opening of the ferry service, but we are facing extreme hardship as it remains suspended."

Samir Pal, executive engineer of the Kurigram BIWTA Dredging Department, said the Brahmaputra is heavily silt-laden, with large amounts of sediment coming from upstream.

"The problem section of the channel will be marked from Tuesday. We will try to normalise ferry service by dredging this section within the next one week," he said.



65 rare turtles hatched in Sundarban's Karamjal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A total of 65 hatchlings of critically endangered Batagur Baska turtle species were born at the Karamjal Wildlife Breeding Centre under East Sundarbans Forest Division early yesterday.

The baby turtles were immediately placed in a protected rearing pen within the facility after being collected from a specially prepared incubator.

"Three Batagur Baska turtles laid a total of 82 eggs on February 15. The eggs were

incubated on a sandy riverbank site under constant supervision. The remaining eggs failed to hatch," said Azad Kabir, in-charge of the breeding centre.

"The hatchlings are now being cared for in our turtle rearing pen. Once matured, they will be released into the Sundarbans," he added.

The Batagur Baska, also known as the northern river terrapin, is one of the world's most endangered turtle species. It is one of the 26 turtle species native to this region.





SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

World Food Programme
বিশ্ব খাদ্য কর্মসূচী

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION FROM INTERESTED MILLS FOR PROVISION OF LENTIL MILLING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites applications from interested companies for enlistment as its vendor for the provision of Lentil Milling and Transportation services inside Bangladesh.

Conditions for entry into the process and the documents required to be submitted are given below:

Pre-Qualification for Entry:

- Companies must submit valid ownership documents, especially trade licenses, with proof of eligibility to mill lentils/pulses as their primary business.
- Must have a miller license and a Food grain license from the respective Authority.
- A minimum of 2 years of operational experience is required for this business.
- Applications from the same address, telephone, and fax numbers for multiple business entities will not be accepted.
- Companies must have their email addresses, and knowledge of using email is essential.
- The presence of skilled and experienced personnel, especially in the field of milling, Lentils' quality control is mandatory.
- Audit reports for the past two years are required for limited companies.
- Companies must have their own warehouse or storage facility for food preservation with a minimum capacity of 300-400MT.
- Companies must refrain from employing child labour.
- Companies that are members of the "Association of Milling of Lentils" will be given priority.

Documents to be Submitted:

- Company Profile
- A relevant and complete questionnaire for Lentils and transportation services can be found at this link: <https://cutt.ly/YrjY6T6>
- Proof of experience in providing similar services (such as contract papers, purchase orders, or recommendation letters from different organizations).
- Copy of Trade License.
- Validation certificate for Milling industries association, if available.
- Tax Identification Number (TIN) or certificate.
- Bank solvency certificate with account number or copy of bank statements for the past two years.
- In the field of Milling Lentils and transportation, a copy of approval for work from existing clients in the past year.
- VAT registration and approval certificate/ Income Tax Certificate (if applicable).
- If a company is established on leased or rented land, a copy of the lease agreement or rental agreement with the owner of the relevant land must be submitted.

Those who are interested in registering with WFP are requested to submit the completed/filled-in and signed WFP's Questionnaire (original) along with copies of the above-listed documents in a sealed envelope marked "Expression of Interest for Enlistment as Milling Lentils and Transportation Services" or email at ban.logistics@wfp.org by 20 May 2025 (04:30 pm) to the following address:

Head of Supply Chain
World Food Programme, UN Office-House-01, Level-08
Road 86/88, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

For any further information please contact the Logistics Unit, World Food Programme, through email ban.logistics@wfp.org

Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

ACC sues Papon, ex-Beximco director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ACC has filed three separate cases against Nazmul Hassan Papon, former youth and sports minister and president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, his wife Roksana Hasan, and former Beximco Pharmaceuticals director and executive director Ismail Haider Mollick.

They have been made accused of illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 35.77 crore, ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain told media yesterday at the commission's headquarters in Segunbagicha.

Papon has been named as an accused in all three cases.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO: 635 OF 2025

Osman Gani **VERSUS** --- *Petitioner*
Bangladesh Digital Printing & Packaging Ltd. and another --- *Respondents*

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that we on behalf of Osman Gani the chairman of Bangladesh Digital Printing & Packaging Limited, as petitioner filed an application under section 81(2), 183, 85,83 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting in the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division on 24th April, 2025; AND Upon hearing the learned Advocate for the petitioner, the Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application and issue notices upon the Respondents. Any person interested in taking part in this matter may do so either personally or by appointing an Advocate. A copy of the application may be obtained from our office.

Mr. Md. Ismail Hossain Bar-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
IKS & Associates : SCBA Building Room No 5038 (H.S.S.B)
Cell: 01721-465738.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO: 636 OF 2025

Mohammed Sajjad Hossain Mozammel **VERSUS** --- *Petitioner*
Pharmacon Limited and another --- *Respondents*

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that we on behalf of Mohammed Sajjad Hossain Mozammel the Managing Director of Pharmacon Limited, as petitioner filed an application under section 81, 183,83, 85 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting in the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division on 24th April, 2025; AND Upon hearing the learned Advocate for the petitioner, the Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application and issue notices upon the Respondents. Any person interested in taking part in this matter may do so either personally or by appointing an Advocate. A copy of the application may be obtained from our office.

Mr. Md. Ismail Hossain Bar-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
IKS & Associates : SCBA Building Room No 5038 (H.S.S.B)
Cell: 01721-465738.

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)



International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka is inviting interested & Bonafide catering service providers to submit proposals for a long-term agreement under LAWC cluster for 2 years.

The ITB documents along with detail specification and all annexes can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)** at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/265842>

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Thursday, May 29, 2025**, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL

(An Enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)

122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

☎ : 41060501-24, Fax: 41060476

Website: www.birdembd.org or www.dab-bd.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Procurement of Physical Service through Outsourcing

1.	Ministry Division/Somity	BANGLADESH DIABETIC SOMITY
2.	Agency	BIRDEM General Hospital
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Director Hospital, Dhaka-1000.
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
5.	Invitation for	Procurement of Non-Consulting Services through Outsourcing (233 Nos.)
6.	Invitation Ref No	BIRDEM/PURCHASE/OTM/ NON-CONSULTING/2025/ 03
7.	Date	DATED: 5 May/2025
Key Information		
8.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
Funding Information		
9.	Budget and Source of Fund	Own Source of BIRDEM
Particular Information		
10.	Project / Programmed Code	Not Applicable.
11.	Project	Not Applicable.
12.	Tender Package No	Not Applicable.
13.	Tender Package Name	Manpower Outsourcing
14.	Tender Publication Date	6 May 2025
15.	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	27 May 2025 (Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM)
16.	Tender Closing Date & Time	29 May 2025 (Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM)
17.	Tender Opening Date & Time	29 May 2025 (Time: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM)
Name and Address of the Office		
18.	Selling Tender Document	Procurement Section, Room: 230, 1 st floor of OPD Building, BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
	Receiving Tender Document	Procurement Section, Room: 230, 1 st floor of OPD Building, BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
	Pre-Tender Meeting	Not Applicable.
Information of Tenderer		
19.	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per Tender Document.
20.	Brief Description of Goods or Works and Related Services	Selection of outsourcing manpower supply firm for BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
21.	The Duration of this Work	2 (two) Years
22.	Any other Information	See Tender Document
23.	Price of Tender Document	Tk 5000.00 (Five Thousand) Taka Only in each (Non-Refundable)
24.	Tender Security	Tk 15,00,000/- (Fifteen Lac) Taka (Refundable)
Procuring Entity Details		
25.	Name and Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director Hospital
26.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
27.	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	☎ : 41060501-24, Ex.: 2299, Fax: 41060476
28.	The Procuring Entity Reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Tender without assigning any reason.	


Brig Gen Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin Ahameed (Retd.)
Director (Hospital Administration)
BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump pushes for fair trade deal with China

REUTERS, Aboard Air Force One

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said the US was meeting with many countries, including China, on trade deals, and his main priority with China was to secure a fair trade deal.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he had no plans to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, but US officials were speaking with Chinese officials about a variety of different things.

Asked if any trade agreements would be announced this week, Trump said that could "very well be" but gave no details.

He suggested that he did not expect to reach an agreement with some countries, but could instead be "setting a certain tariff" for those trading partners in the next two to three weeks.

It was not immediately clear if he was referring to the reciprocal tariffs announced on April 2, which are due to kick in on July 8 after a 90-day pause.

Trump repeated his claim that China had been "ripping us for many years" on global trade.



Activists and members of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, a Kashmiri refugee organisation, shout slogans beside burning tires during an anti-India protest in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Risks multiply in any potential Indo-Pak conflict

Say experts as both nations upgraded their military capabilities since the neighbours clashed in 2019

REUTERS, Islamabad/New Delhi

India and Pakistan have significantly upgraded their military capabilities since the nuclear-armed neighbours clashed in 2019, posing increased risks of escalation even in a limited conflict, former military officers and experts say.

Pakistan says India plans a military incursion after New Delhi blamed Islamabad for a deadly attack on domestic tourists in Indian Kashmir last month. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to punish the backers of the attack "beyond their imagination".

Pakistan has denied involvement in the attack but has warned it will hit back if it is targeted.

In 2019, India carried out air strikes inside Pakistan after the bombing of an Indian military convoy in Kashmir and said it destroyed "terrorist camps". Pakistani jets conducted a retaliatory air strike and shot down an Indian aircraft during actions spread over two days.

The neighbours have fought



three wars - in 1948, 1965 and 1971 - and clashed countless times since gaining independence, mostly over the Kashmir region which both claim. Both acquired nuclear weapons in the 1990s and Kashmir is considered one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world.

Military experts say neither side will consider nuclear weapons unless pushed to the wall, but even a limited conflict would carry high risks of escalation.

They say such a conflict is likely to involve aircraft, missiles or

drones, where India and Pakistan are considered closely matched, although India's far greater resources would come into play over a longer period.

"Decision makers in both states now have a higher risk appetite for conflict initiation and escalation than prior to 2019," said Frank O'Donnell, a non-resident fellow at the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center, a think-tank in Washington, as they had managed then to clash without nuclear weapons being used.

"But without a clear mutual sense of the precise actions, that could trigger inadvertent escalation," he added.

Both sides have acquired new military hardware since 2019, opening up new conventional strike options.

"Each side will think they are in a better position than last time," said Muhammad Faisal, a South Asia security researcher based at the University of Technology, Sydney. "It is only when we see actual combat that we will find out."

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 12

terrorist and their backer" who carried out the attack at Pahalgam last month, and will "pursue them to the ends of the Earth."

Pakistan's government has denied any involvement in the shooting and vowed that "any act of aggression will be met with a decisive response".

Indian police said they are seeking at least two Pakistani citizens they say are among the alleged gunmen who killed 26 tourists in Pahalgam.

International pressure has been piled on both New Delhi and Islamabad, which have fought several wars over the disputed Kashmir region.

US Vice President JD Vance has called on India to respond to the attack in a way "that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict".

Vance also urged Pakistan to "make sure that the terrorists sometimes operating in their territory are hunted down and dealt with".

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was set to hold closed consultations yesterday to discuss the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. The Greek Presidency had scheduled the meeting for yesterday afternoon after a request for "closed consultations" from Islamabad.

Hefazat seeks withdrawal of all 322 cases against it

FROM PAGE 12

all cases, only 16 have so far been withdrawn in Dhaka.

"These cases include charges of terrorism, sabotage, obstruction of government work, and murder," he noted.

"This is deeply regrettable. We are stakeholders in the anti-fascism movement. In this struggle, 84 of our brothers sacrificed their lives. A massacre was carried out against us at Shapla Chattar, yet the government has taken no meaningful steps to address our grievances.

"The cases must be withdrawn through mutual understanding. If not, and if public anger erupts, it could lead to disastrous consequences for both the country and the government."

Twelve years back, on May 5, 2013, the incident led to widespread clashes across the capital and in several districts, including Narayanganj, Bagerhat, and Brahmanbaria.

Five days after the incident, the then government, in a press

note on May 10, said that a total of 11 people, including three pedestrians and a policeman, were killed on the day at different stages of clashes.

The human rights organisation Odhikar reported that 61 Hefazat members were killed in the law enforcement operation at Shapla Chattar.

Following the 2013 incident, the ousted Awami League-led government filed 83 cases in Dhaka and seven other districts. Police have so far submitted charge sheets in 21 of those cases and final probe reports in two.

Investigations into most of the remaining 60 cases are still ongoing.

In the 2021 unrest, violence spread beyond the capital to districts including Brahmanbaria, Hathazari in Chattogram, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, and Kishoreganj.

A total of 221 cases were filed in connection with those clashes.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Public

Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi said, "There are around 60 cases against Hefazat in Dhaka. The group applied for the withdrawal of these cases. So far, we have given opinions in 45 cases and sent them to the district administration."

Since the Shapla Chattar incident, more than a thousand Hefazat leaders and activists had been arrested, according to its leaders.

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, the jailed Hefazat members were released on bail.

Meanwhile, on August 18 last year, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 33 others were accused of "mass killing" in a case filed over the Shapla Chattar incident.

Two days later, on August 20, a complaint was filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal over the same incident, accusing Hasina and 23 others of committing crimes against humanity and genocide.

Bangladeshi man killed

FROM PAGE 12

A follow-up meeting was scheduled for last night or this morning. However, it was not held till the filing of the report at around 9:00pm, he added.

According to the BGB official, BSF reportedly fired at the two near the border at night. Sakib collapsed after getting shot, and locals first took him to Cumilla, where doctors referred him to Dhaka for treatment. However, he died on the way.

The injured Indian national, identified as Sujon Barman, 35, from Tripura's Agartala, was receiving treatment at a hospital in Dhaka last night. BGB officials went to the hospital and detained him. Sujon was receiving treatment under their custody, said Lt Col Ziaur.

He was detained on charges of trespassing and handed over to Hatirjheel Police Station by the BGB, Ziaur said.

Quoting Bayek Union Parishad Chairman Mohammad Billal Hossain, Kasba Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Samiul Islam said Sakib and Sujon had gone to the border late at night to smuggle a motorcycle into Bangladesh.

BSF personnel patrolling the area reportedly opened fire on them during the attempt, he said.

Sakib's body has been handed over to his family, OC Abdul Kader said.



"We call on researchers worldwide to unite and join us... If you love freedom, come and help us stay free."

French President EMMANUEL MACRON says as Trump battles universities



Institute of Health Economics
University of Dhaka
Executive Master in Health Economics (EMHE)

IHE

Admission Notice

Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka, invites application from national and foreign candidates in the prescribed form for admission into EMHE program for the session 2025-2026.

Program Features

- Total 48 credits (12 courses).
- 4 semesters with total duration of 18 months.
- Total seats: 40
- Class schedule: Friday (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.).
- Classes will commence on 4th July 2025

Eligibility Criteria

- At least a Bachelor degree from any recognized institution with minimum CGPA of 2.5 out of 4.
- Preference will be given to the Academicians/ Researchers/ Executives/ Officers working in Government, Autonomous bodies and NGOs with professional experiences preferably 3 years.
- Candidate on service must apply through appropriate channel.
- Candidates should not have 3rd class in any public examinations.
- National candidates must attend a Written Test on Functional English, Analytical Ability, and Viva Voce.
- International candidates must provide proof of English proficiency (minimum score 6.0 in IELTS/80 in TOEFL).

Core Courses

- Health Economics
- Health Policy and Planning
- Biostatistics and Epidemiology
- Economic Evaluation of Health Care
- Health Project Design and Project Paper
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Advanced Health Economics
- Economics of Health, Nutrition and Population
- Economics of Uncertainty and Health Insurance
- Research Methodology & Dissertation
- Hospital Management

Admission and Fees:

- Application form is available both in online (https://ihe.du.ac.bd/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/EMHE-form-2025-2026_NEW.pdf) and offline from the office of the Institute from March 1, 2025.
- Last date of submission of application form is 30th June, 2025.
- Written exam will be held on Friday, 4th July, 2025 From 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Viva Voce will be held on the same day from 1:30 p.m.
- The application fee is BDT 1,500 to be paid at the time of application form submission

For detail information please visit IHE Website: <https://du.ac.bd/programDetails/IHE/449>

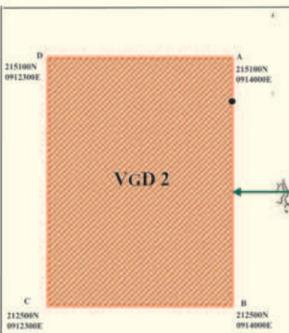
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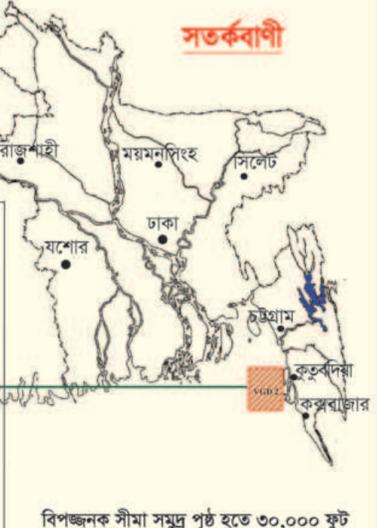
GD-1074



কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD-2 এ বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর যুদ্ধ বিমান কর্তৃক তাজা গোলা বর্ষণের জন্য সতর্কবাণী



ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জের নকশা



সতর্কবাণী

বিপজ্জনক সীমা সমুদ্র পৃষ্ঠ হতে ৩০,০০০ ফুট

বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর বিভিন্ন প্রকার যুদ্ধ বিমান কর্তৃক আগামী ০৭ হতে ১০ মে ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ সকাল ০৮০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD 2 (২১°৫১'০০" উঃ ০৯১°৪০'০০" পূঃ, ২১°২৫'০০" উঃ ০৯১°৪০'০০" পূঃ ২১°২৫'০০" উঃ ০৯১°২৩'০০" পূঃ এবং ২১°৫১'০০" উঃ ০৯১°২৩' ০০" পূঃ) আকাশসীমায় তাজা গোলা বর্ষণ প্রশিক্ষণ মহড়া পরিচালনা করবে। তাজা গোলা বর্ষণ চলাকালীন সময় বিমান, জাহাজ, ছোট ছোট নৌযান ও কুতুবদিয়া দ্বীপ সংলগ্ন জনসাধারণকে উপরোল্লিখিত এলাকা পরিহার করে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রেখে চলাচলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

আই এস পি আর/৪৫

এটিএস পরিদপ্তর
বিমান বাহিনী সদরদপ্তর
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

GD-1081

Ensuring women's rights needs reforms

Discussion is the answer to move forward

We are shocked by the abusive and abhorrent language used at the Hefazat-e-Islam rally by some groups as they outright rejected the recommendations made by the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, calling for its immediate abolition. At a time when the people of the country aspire to build a discrimination-free society, such rhetoric—insulting women—is not only condemnable but also contrary to the values and respect for women in Islam. The demand for the abolition of the commission is also unreasonable and disturbing. Some groups might have reservations about certain aspects of the reform proposals that, as they claim, contradict Islamic values and laws. But to reject all the recommendations without any dialogue—and using such unsavoury language—is reprehensible.

Is it possible for a nation to progress by depriving half of its population of their rights? Women's participation in the workplace has made huge contributions to the economy. Our garment industry—which is keeping our economy afloat—is almost entirely dependent on the female workforce. Women have played an instrumental role in major political movements, the most recent being the July-August student-led mass uprising. Their contribution in defeating fascism must be acknowledged and fully honoured.

The Women's Affairs Reform Commission was established by the interim government as part of its initiative to promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women in society. It has, therefore, put forward several crucial recommendations to empower women and ensure their rights, address the various forms of abuse women face, and suggested multiple protection mechanisms. Apart from the recommendations that generated outrage among some circles, the commission also made many other vital proposals. It has called on the government to adopt and implement the International Labour Organization's Conventions C189 and C190, which aim to safeguard the rights of domestic workers and ensure protection against workplace violence and harassment.

The commission also highlighted the need to strengthen or amend several laws to better support victims of violence, including the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, 2010 and the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. It proposed introducing a new law on sexual harassment, based on the 2009 High Court guidelines. It also recommended ensuring six months' paid maternity leave, two weeks' paid paternity leave, and childcare facilities in all sectors. Can there be any doubt that all these recommendations are crucial if women are to contribute meaningfully to social and national progress?

We, therefore, urge the like-minded parties and groups who held the rally on May 3 to examine the proposals realistically and engage in discussions or debates about the recommendations they find problematic. They should also learn from the experiences of other Islamic nations on how they have navigated similar struggles and upheld women's rights. As the commission's recommendations will be presented to political parties through the National Consensus Commission, there will be scope for further debate—which they should utilise to express their views. However, they must remember that the rights to equality, non-discrimination, and protection from violence and abuse cannot be matters of contention, as these rights are guaranteed to every human being.

Keep a close eye on banks' health

Rising capital shortfall not a good sign

The struggles in the banking sector, stemming from a weakened capital base after years of unchecked irregularities during the Awami League's tenure, continue to attract attention. According to data from Bangladesh Bank, the capital-to-risk weighted asset ratio (CRAR)—which measures a bank's capital relative to its risk-weighted assets—fell to just 3.08 percent across the sector at the end of 2024. This is significantly below the 10 percent minimum required under the Basel III framework, down from 6.86 percent recorded three months earlier and 10.64 percent recorded in June 2023.

While some banks continue to maintain healthy capital buffers, there is a stark divide within the industry with a number of banks facing alarming shortfalls. For example, at the end of December, state-run banks recorded a CRAR of negative 8.42 percent, Islamic banks stood at negative 4.95 percent, and specialised banks at negative 41.02 percent. In contrast, private commercial banks posted a CRAR of 10.98 percent, while foreign banks reported a robust 42.09 percent.

According to industry insiders, these capital shortfalls could jeopardise the stability of the entire financial sector. Moreover, investors and depositors are likely to lose confidence in the affected banks. As a result, the credit ratings of these institutions could be downgraded, making it more difficult and costly for them to raise funds and improve their financial positions.

It is also worth noting that several banks failed to finalise their annual financial statements by the April 30 deadline. Bangladesh Bank has applied to the finance ministry for a one-month extension on behalf of these banks. In the past, banks were granted various regulatory forbearances, including deferrals on provisioning requirements during the finalisation of annual statements. However, this time the banking regulator has not provided any such relief. Furthermore, in March this year, the central bank tightened the dividend policy for banks, barring those that availed of deferral facilities to meet provisioning requirements from paying dividends from 2024 onwards.

The ongoing instability in the sector is a direct legacy of the Awami League government's negligence and the corruption it allowed within the sector. This includes permitting banks to defer provisioning requirements, implementing a lax dividend policy, and other regulatory shortcomings. Therefore, although delayed, it is encouraging to see that the central bank has taken measures that, though painful, were long overdue. In the past, we have seen how weak and problematic banks have used such regulatory forbearance to hide capital shortfalls. Rather than continuing to provide the same facility that failed to improve the banks' health and worsened banking discipline, the central bank would be better off exploring other measures to improve overall stability in the sector.

A gradual, homegrown approach to reforming political parties



Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir is professor in the Department of Development Studies at the University of Dhaka.

RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

The political parties in Bangladesh are trapped in a cycle of family dominance, top-down decision-making, and favour-based politics. This system stifles democracy and holds back economic progress. Unlike mature democracies, we cannot suddenly copy their models or erase decades of entrenched practices, but the spirit of our 1971 Liberation War, the 1990 pro-democracy movement, and the July 2024 uprising show our people's unyielding demand for change.

Reforms must suit Bangladesh's reality. They need to be practical, step-by-step, and grounded in our political culture. History and global examples offer useful lessons—not perfect blueprints, but roadmaps we can adapt.

The illusion of instant transformation

Some envision Bangladesh rapidly replacing its current system with fully institutionalised, merit-based parties. However, this overlooks the formidable barriers we face: entrenched patronage networks, weak accountability mechanisms, and powerful vested interests that benefit from maintaining the status quo.

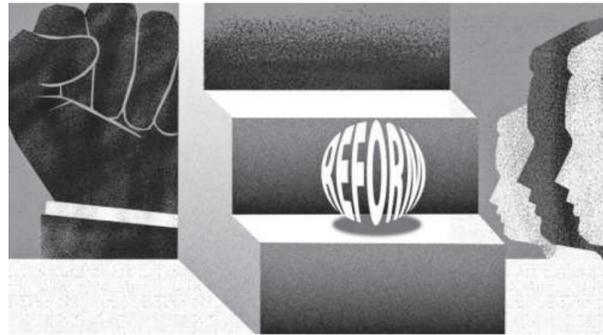
The experience of the United States is instructive. Their party system required a century to establish its basic structure and another century to implement significant internal reforms. Even today, their democracy continues to grapple with the corrupting influence of money in politics. This serves as both a cautionary tale and a reminder that meaningful change takes time.

Rushing for radical changes without first building necessary institutions risks instability, not progress. Instead, the focus should be on incremental reforms that gradually shift incentives towards inclusive and transparent governance, as seen in Indonesia and Mexico, where parties successfully navigated similar transitions.

Steps towards accountability

A humble beginning could be with checks within the existing party structures, rather than attempting full-blown intra-party democracy immediately. After Indonesia's Suharto fell in 1998, his former ruling party, Golkar—once synonymous with cronyism—began requiring internal elections and term limits for regional leaders. While dynasties retained influence, these cracks in the system allowed competent newcomers to rise.

Britain's Conservative Party



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

transformed from an 1800s aristocratic club to a modern organisation through decades of gradual steps: local branches (1830s), formal membership (1860s), and eventually open leadership contests.

For Bangladesh, term limits for mid-level leaders (e.g. district unit presidents) and expanded electoral colleges for top posts could begin loosening dynastic control, one careful step at a time.

Following the money

Sudden crackdowns on party financing might disrupt politics before alternatives exist. Brazil took a smarter path in the 1990s: it paired public campaign funds with rules requiring disclosure of large

donations. Pakistan's 2017 Election Act, despite uneven enforcement, at least set clear rules for donation limits and candidate spending.

The US took a full 70 years to develop its campaign finance regulations: beginning with the 1907 Tillman Act banning corporate donations, followed by the 1925 Federal Corrupt Practices Act mandating disclosures, and culminating in the more comprehensive 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act. Yet, even today, money remains a distorting factor in American politics, a sobering reminder that no system is perfect.

Bangladesh might consider starting with mandatory disclosure of donations exceeding Tk 10 lakh, followed by the introduction of independent financial audits, and eventually moving towards a system of partial public funding for parties that demonstrate compliance, mirroring Germany's successful post-war approach to reducing political corruption.

candidates for central approval, with more open methods tested first in municipal elections—mirroring the UK Labour Party's 20th-century evolution.

From personalities to policies

Today's politics revolves around leaders, not ideas. South Korea changed this in the 2000s by requiring parties to publish detailed, cost policy plans reviewed by experts. Suddenly, voters expected substance, not just handouts.

The US's journey from 19th century backroom deals to today's detailed platforms took generations. China, under its one-party system, lets local members vote on some leadership roles. Here, parties could submit manifestoes to independent analysts, with media partners broadcasting the findings—following Sweden's model of public policy report cards.

Big constitutional changes may spark resistance, but small moves can empower opposition voices.

Britain formalised opposition rights over 150 years: first recognising the "Leader of the Opposition" title in the early 19th century, adding a salary in 1937, and finally codifying opposition rights in parliamentary procedures.

After Malaysia's 2018 reforms, opposition leaders gained committee seats, improving oversight without upending the system. Nepal's constitution (Article 91) guarantees opposition roles—a South Asian example we could tweak.

The power of patience

Reforming Bangladesh's parties would not happen in one election cycle. But global experience proves that steady, smart steps work. We can begin with achievable goals: term limits for mid-level leaders, transparent party financing, more inclusive candidate selection, policy-based competition, and basic opposition rights.

The real hurdle is not knowing what to do—it's maintaining pressure for change. Civil society, media, and citizens must keep demanding progress.

For our political leaders, reform is not just idealism—it's survival. Systems that resist evolution eventually collapse. Bangladesh's parties can choose gradual change today or risk upheaval tomorrow. The Bangladesh spirit reminds us: transformation is possible when the people lead.

Post-LDC strategies to empower our private sector



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SELIM RAIHAN

The domestic private sector is the pillar of Bangladesh's economic growth, job generation, and export competitiveness. While the country is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026 and targets to be an upper-middle-income country in the future, the development of private sector capabilities is a prerequisite for securing sustainable economic growth. Structural problems like inadequate infrastructure, inadequate access to finance, and a shortage of skills are hindering domestic business development. To enhance private sector capacity, Bangladesh must take certain policy actions in three areas.

First, we must improve access to finance and the investment climate. Private businesses in Bangladesh, particularly the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), are severely hindered by restricted access to finance through high interest rates, collateral requirements, and bureaucratic barriers. Financial system reform, investment, and a pro-business environment must prevail.

Broadening the credit facilities of specialised institutions and state banks is the priority. Building stronger credit guarantee schemes will reduce risk for lenders, allowing SMEs to borrow without unreasonable collateral. Creating alternative channels, such as venture capital and crowdfunding, will also facilitate funding for startups and high-growth firms.

Simplification of regulatory clearance, tax payment, and business registration is required to remove

bureaucratic bottlenecks and enhance the ease of doing business. Domestic and foreign direct investment can be promoted by strengthening the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). Efficient dispute resolution and contract enforcement mechanisms will enhance investor confidence.

Developing robust capital markets and attaining financial inclusion are central to long-term growth. Developing a deeper bond market and access to new financial products will support long-term investment. Making stock market listings easier will increase equity financing access. Developing more digital financial services and fintech solutions will ease credit access and online payment for SMEs. Addressing these financial and regulatory challenges is crucial to supporting a robust private sector to deliver sustainable economic growth following LDC graduation.

Second, we need to find ways to enhance industrial productivity and technology adoption. Bangladesh's private sector, which relies strongly on low-cost labour and traditional manufacturing, is not highly competitive in high-value global markets. It is necessary to upgrade, innovate, and digitise industries to build a future-ready sector that is robust. This needs to be done by transitioning to more contemporary and technology-led methods to enhance productivity and competitiveness.

Enhancing local supply chains and industrial clusters through the

utilisation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial parks will foster integration into international chains, stimulating economic growth and sustainability. The growth of backwards linkages in key sectors like textiles and electronics will reduce dependence on imports and enhance self-sufficiency. Local production of raw materials will be encouraged to improve local value addition and price competitiveness.

Encouraging technological upgrading and digitalisation through tax rebates and subsidies for automation and digital infrastructure is essential. Establishing technology adoption funds will allow SMEs to embrace Industry 4.0 technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT). Expanding government-supported technology incubators will foster innovation and digital entrepreneurship.

Industry innovation needs public-private collaboration. Academia-business Research and Development collaboration will propel innovation in high-value industries. Product development and technology transfer grants will foster frontier development. Sector-specific technology hubs will expose local businesses to emerging technologies, making them competitive globally. Focus on supply chains, technological upgradation, and collaboration can lead to a powerful, future-ready private sector.

Third, we should focus on developing human capital and entrepreneurial capacity. A flexible and well-trained workforce is central to Bangladesh's private sector growth, where a wide skills gap hinders development. Technical education, vocational training, and entrepreneurial upskilling must improve to equip businesses with the necessary skills and drive innovation.

Economic development will be encouraged by redirecting vocational training and education through more Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes that are industry need-responsive.

Practical skills will be enhanced through the creation of apprenticeship schemes with the help of private firms. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy will equip the workforce for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Fostering entrepreneurship through startup incubation centres that offer mentorship and funding will fuel business innovation. Granting more tax relief and scholarships for startups in high-priority sectors like fintech and renewable energy will attract sustainable development. Women-only lending and training will generate inclusive growth and empower women entrepreneurs.

Strengthening labour market policies that address job creation, workers' rights, and adaptability in employment will address unemployment. Encouraging public-private discussion will ensure policies that account for evolving business and worker needs. Facilitating cross-border labour mobility arrangements will make professional skills workable across the world, creating expertise and driving economic growth. Addressing these domains will cultivate a dynamic, skilled workforce, accelerating private sector growth.

The development of Bangladesh's private sector following graduation from the LDC status hinges on resolving critically constraining factors strategically. Through improving finance access and the investment climate, industrial productivity by adopting technology, and building human capital and entrepreneurship capacity, Bangladesh can unlock its private sector's full potential. Focused policy interventions in the three interlinked areas are critical to building a robust, competitive, and forward-looking private sector and ultimately realising sustainable economic growth as well as upper-middle-income country status.

Can a new law balance cybersecurity and free expression?



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PRIYA AHSAN CHOWDHURY

The critical question of cyber safety is at the forefront with governments globally striving to protect citizens online while preserving freedom of expression. Bangladesh too is on the cusp of a transformation that hinges on robust reforms of cyber safety laws.

The Cyber Security Act 2023 (CSA), mirroring the now-repealed Digital Security Act 2018 (DSA), continues the legacy of vaguely defined offences that restrict free speech and impose severe penalties, including up to 14 years of imprisonment and hefty fines. Such provisions, reminiscent of the earlier repealed section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 (ICTA), have been criticised for stifling dissent, with accusations of misuse by authorities to target journalists, academics, and others. Although section 57 of the ICTA and several DSA provisions have been challenged in the Supreme Court, many cases under these laws continue.

In a significant move, the law ministry announced an initiative to withdraw speech-related cases filed until August 2024 under the ICTA, DSA, and CSA. This was followed by a stakeholders' meeting to discuss CSA reform proposals. By early October 2024, the government decided to repeal the CSA. As a result, a significant number of draft versions of the Cyber Shurokha Ordinance (CSO) have been produced even after the approval of an initial draft by the advisory council in December 2024, reflecting deliberations among rights activists, legal experts, and other citizens. These drafts penalise various offences similar to earlier iterations but notably reduce the number of speech offences while introducing penalties for new harmful content. However, some definitions and procedures remain concerning, as discussed further below.

Cyber violence

The proposed CSO penalises "sexual harassment," "revenge porn," and "child sexual abuse material" on cyberspace. This will potentially have a positive impact on women and girls, who experience such forms of cyber

violence. However, these terms are not defined, creating a scope for subjective interpretation and inconsistent application of the proposed ordinance.

Similarly, the proposal's aim to criminalise sharing videos that are deemed "obscene," is rooted in subjective moral standards adopted from the colonial-era Penal Code. As the meaning of "obscene" varies widely among people, it risks limiting freedom of expression, complicating enforcement, and causing inconsistent application. It may also lead to self-censorship among creators and artists. Besides, obscenity laws are often misused, including those under the Pornography Control Act 2012. These laws particularly affect women, often leading to moral policing.

The draft CSO shifts focus from protecting religious sentiments to penalising speech deemed hateful or provocative towards religions or their followers. However, its vague language may lead to misuse and subjective interpretation, threatening free expression and public discourse, crucial for societal progress. This conflicts with Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which limits speech of religious hatred among others only when inciting discrimination, hostility, or violence.

While defamation has been removed from the proposals, the offence of criminal defamation considered a disproportionate response to protecting reputation, persists under the Penal Code. It applies equally to offline and online platforms and makes the change in the CSO largely ineffective. International bodies recommend decriminalisation of defamation, as echoed in the Media Reforms Commissions' March 2025 report to ensure free expression.

The draft also aims to curb frivolous lawsuits by limiting case filings to aggrieved individuals, their representatives, or law enforcers. However, this may fail in situations such as alleged religious provocations, where many can claim grievances. In contrast, when victims of online sexual harassment and their

representatives choose to avoid reporting due to the lack of victim and witness protection, perpetrators may escape accountability if case filing is restricted to these parties.

Procedural issues

The draft grants extensive powers to the director general of the Cyber Protection Agency, resembling those held by agencies under the CSA and DSA. They may demand the blocking of data through the

criteria still risk misuse. Investigations can still last up to 105 days, with extensions approved by Cyber Tribunals on vague "reasonable grounds." Severe penalties, including up to 10 years in prison and Tk 1 crore fine, without sentencing guidelines, risk inconsistent application. Collectively, these measures threaten freedom of expression, privacy, and due process rights, potentially leading to pre-trial harassment.

while upholding fundamental freedoms, such as the right to expression outlined in the ICCPR (Articles 19 and 20), offences must be clearly defined. Any restrictions on speech must be legitimate and proportionate. Warrantless arrests should be restricted to instances of direct threats to the body, with clear investigation protocols ensuring due process. Fair sentencing guidelines, including non-punitive options like community



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) or the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division based on vague criteria including undermining "solidarity" and "religious sentiments." The vagueness of criteria, the overlapping roles between the BTRC and the ICT Division, and the latter's power to demand data blocking, present significant risks for surveillance and threats to free expression.

The proposed CSO also permit police to search, seize, and arrest without warrants on broad grounds, such as mere suspicion of hacking or cyber-attacks on Critical Information Infrastructure. Though narrower than the CSA, DSA, or ICTA, these undefined

Furthermore, the Cyber Shurokha Agency, with government appointed directors will act as directed by the government resembling the agencies under the CSA and DSA. This raises concerns about government influence over their activities including blocking content. Meanwhile, the proposed National Cyber Shurokha Council, led by the prime minister or chief adviser, will steer the agency in applying the draft ordinance and tackling cybersecurity threats. The council, mainly composed of government and security officials, risks power misuse and surveillance issues, echoing concerns from earlier councils under the CSA and DSA.

To protect individuals from online harm

service or fines for minor offences, should be introduced. Also, digital forensic labs and an independent regulatory body, free from government influence must be established. An independent body to manage content blocking is necessary, aligning categories with permissible restrictions under the ICCPR and ensuring procedural safeguards, such as court-authorised blocks, to protect freedom of expression.

The question is: will the government roll out a cyber framework to herald a new era of restricted dialogue, or will it evolve to strike a balanced chord between protecting online discourse and safeguarding free expression? The conversation continues.

As I seek justice for my father, I want a government that practises the reforms it preaches



Shuprova Tasneem
is a writer and journalist.

SHUPROVA TASNEEM

Mamun Mia was in his garments shop, quietly working away with his shutters half-open, until a stray bullet pierced his chest. Liza Akhter, a 19-year-old domestic worker, perhaps thought her position on the balcony of a 14th floor flat would allow her to safely watch the chaos unfolding on the ground below—until indiscriminate firing ended her life. Siam was shot through the head on his way back home from what turned out to be his last ever shift at the bhaater hotel where he worked. He was only 17 years old.

They were only a few of the victims of the brutal and coordinated, state-sponsored violence that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) estimates killed up to 1,400 people during the July-August mass uprising. In almost nine months since these innocent people were killed, there has been no progress in bringing their killers to justice. No investigation reports have been submitted by the police, and no charges have been framed against their suspected killers. While cases have been filed, the poorly lodged FIRs contain a list of 50-200 accused, with no specific allegations against anyone. There are clear signs that they have been hastily compiled and contain conflicting information: in one of them, newspaper clippings submitted as "evidence" imply the killing didn't even happen in the specified city, let alone the thana, while another contains a death certificate from an entirely different part of the country.

I know all this because my 78-year-old father, cultural activist and former Awami League MP Asaduzzaman Noor, is one of the names in the long lists of accused in these cases. On September 15, 2024, he was picked up from his home at around midnight, and for over seven months now, he has been imprisoned without charge, with no legal explanation on how he can be held responsible for these crimes—committed during the uprising, when he held neither executive nor leadership positions in the government. A common refrain insinuated

by the corridors of power has been to bear this quietly, lest things become worse.

Over this period, I have watched my father become weaker and more frail by the day, be hospitalised with debilitating pain, and still be obstructed from getting bail. I have stood in court as opposition lawyers openly called for "Baker Bhai"—one of the iconic characters he played—to be hanged for Awami League's crimes, the presumption of innocence until proven otherwise completely absent from the proceedings. I have been berated for daring to suggest that anyone affiliated with the Awami League could ever be entitled to such a thing as due process.

I am not so blinded by the injustice of my father's incarceration that I cannot fathom the anger towards the former regime, especially from the students who saw so many of their compatriots killed, and from opposition groups who saw their leaders imprisoned for years on end using the same biased judiciary and repressive practices. Nor am I asking for sympathy, which the atrocities committed by the Awami League have made difficult for anyone to feel towards the party's members. What I do struggle to understand, however, is how a government full of human rights practitioners and champions—led by a victim of judicial harassment and vocal proponent of due process at home and abroad—who are so bent on reforms can continue to be indifferent to such a flawed and ineffective criminal justice system. Should my father be imprisoned indefinitely?

Is this also not a failure of justice for the victims of the uprising? Does having the victims' cases stuck in the deliberate purgatory of the judicial system, bouncing back and forth between courts, months going by without any movement, contribute in any way towards holding their real killers accountable? How do their families feel about their loved ones being used as pawns in what is being revealed as a blatant game of political retribution?

These vague, mass arrest cases have, by this

point, seen potentially hundreds of people imprisoned without charge by the current government. While the majority of the senior members of the former regime have managed to escape—the details of how that happened and who conspired to allow it have yet to come to light—it seems that anyone even remotely affiliated with or accused of being affiliated with the Awami League is fair game.

In January 2025, Human Rights Watch published a detailed report on the atrocities committed by security forces during the mass uprising, as well as wider human rights abuses committed during the Awami League's rule. There is no way to deny that this truly happened. But what went relatively unnoticed in our media, much less by our interim government, was the concerns it raised about persisting abuses under the interim government, including arbitrary

I am not so blinded by the injustice of my father's incarceration that I cannot fathom the anger towards the former regime, especially from the students who saw so many of their compatriots killed, and from opposition groups who saw their leaders imprisoned for years on end using the same biased judiciary and repressive practices. Nor am I asking for sympathy, which the atrocities committed by the Awami League have made difficult for anyone to feel towards the party's members. What I do struggle to understand, however, is how a government full of human rights practitioners and champions who are so bent on reforms can continue to be indifferent to such a flawed and ineffective criminal justice system.

arrests and failure of due process when dealing with the thousands of murder cases that have been lodged since August 5, 2024. Local media have occasionally reported on a number of irregularities in the filing of such cases, including plaintiffs signing reports without knowing who was being accused, identical cases where only the victims' details were changed, and false cases being used for extortion and furthering personal vendettas.

This weaponisation of murder cases means that my family lives in constant fear of retribution. Are we allowed to speak up about the failure of justice we see happening in front of our eyes or will we face more cases and repercussions from the government? From the very beginning, there has been a concerted

online campaign spreading disinformation about my father and the company he was part of, aimed at fuelling a social media witch-hunt. Recently, this culminated in the inclusion of the company's directors in a single murder case where 408 individuals were accused. Iresh Zaker, who supported and participated in the student-led movement, was named alongside Sheikh Hasina, whose government conducted the slaughter last summer.

While the law adviser's acknowledgment that murder cases are being used as tools of harassment, and claim that the legal system will be prepared to combat this, is reassuring, I cannot help but wonder if this extends to every citizen of this country, or just the perfect victims. When my father was first picked up by the police, the chief adviser's press secretary gave a breakdown of his supposed guilt that was thin on evidence and heavy on populist

Police's Detective Branch, Harun-or-Rashid, to find out the whereabouts of the student coordinators who had been abducted by the police—spoke out about how my father defended her right to participate in protests to people far more powerful than him. She clarified that while that did not absolve him from criticism for his politics, his involvement in politics does not exclude him from accessing justice in a fair court of law either.

In the same vein, I will not try to convince anyone that my father went into politics with the genuine belief that it was better to create incremental change and serve your constituents from within a broken system than to expound criticisms that fall on deaf ears from the outside. I am not here to explain that, when a country takes a vicious turn towards the unbridled authoritarianism we were subjected to, there is very little that MPs from peripheral districts can do to reverse that trend, and even less they can do to extricate themselves from the situation without creating significant dangers for themselves and their families. These may very well be considered unacceptable excuses that are disingenuous, naive or lacking in moral courage.

But what I will not stop asking for, over and over again, regardless of whatever repercussions may follow, is justice. Real justice for each and every victim of the state-led killings during the Awami League regime, for Mamun, Liza, Siam and all others massacred during the uprising, and justice, equally real and meaningful, for my father, who has the right to be presumed innocent until proven otherwise. He has a right to bail, to a fair and transparent investigation, and for his dignity and fundamental rights to be protected.

Asaduzzaman Noor has now spent more than 220 days as a political prisoner. I am well aware that this has happened countless times to political opponents during the Awami League regime. I am equally aware and repulsed by the many political opponents who were victims of enforced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial killing. I am grateful for the silver lining of this dark cloud—that at least I know where he is, that I haven't had to endure the agony of the families of the disappeared. But I am reminded of a big difference in the case of my father. When things like this happened on the Awami League's watch, we were living in an autocracy. This time around, we are not. Are we?

This article was first published by Netra News on May 2, 2025.

rhetoric, before my father was even arrested on a crime, let alone given the opportunity of a fair hearing. When such a senior member of the government shows no concerns about judicial bias and conflict of interest—using a platform that he admits is partly official and which he frequently uses to speak for and of the chief adviser, promulgating government talking points—I cannot help but wonder whether we can really expect due process and accountability from this government.

When my father was first arrested, his daughter-in-law, the University of Dhaka teacher Kajalie Islam—who consistently stood by her students during the uprising as part of the University Teachers' Network, even going to the infamous chief of Dhaka Metropolitan

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Ref. 57.03.0000.020.20.069.24-25

Date: 30.07.2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods mentioned below:

e-Tender ID No	Description of goods	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1107220	Repair & Maintenance of Other Mechanics and Equipment	19/05/2025, 17:00	20/05/2025, 16:00
1106929	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare parts for EEE dept. and Others Dep.	19/05/2025, 17:00	20/05/2025, 15:30
1106702	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare parts for CSE dept. and Others Dep.	19/05/2025, 17:00	20/05/2025, 15:00
1106693	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare parts for CE dept. and Others Dep.	19/05/2025, 17:00	20/05/2025, 14:30
1106686	Repair & Maintenance of Other Buildings & Structure	18/05/2025, 17:00	19/05/2025, 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

(Prof. Engr. Md. Mizanur Rahman)
Principal (Addl. Charge)

GD-1077



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়

পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় বিভাগ

পল্লী দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন ফাউন্ডেশন (পিডিবিএফ)

পিডিবিএফ-এর কার্যক্রম সম্প্রসারণ প্রকল্প-২য় পর্যায়

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

বাড়ী নং-০৫, এডিনিউ ০৩, হাজী রোড, নূপনগর, মিরপুর-০২, ঢাকা-১২১৬

www.pdbf.gov.bd



PDBF

তারিখঃ ০৫/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।

e-Tender Notice (2024-25)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal for the following items. Interested tenderers are requested to visit (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) website for details.

Sl.	Tender ID	Description	Last Selling Date	Closing Date
01	1106810	Goods: Supply & Delivery of Computer Equipment (Desktop Computer, Laptop Computer, Printer, Scanner, Router and Anti-Virus, etc.) for Project Area.	05-May-2025 20:30:00	20-May-2025 17:00:00
02	1106821	Goods: Supply & Delivery of Office Equipment (Photocopier Machine, Video Conferencing TV Set, Air Conditioner & Ceiling Fan, etc.) for Project Area	05-May-2025 20:30:00	20-May-2025 17:20:00
03	1106828	Goods: Supply & Delivery of Office Furniture (Officers Table & Chair, Employee Table & Chair, Office Almrah, File Cabinet and Visiting Chair, etc.) for Project Area.	05-May-2025 20:30:00	27-May-2025 17:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal for further information and guideline please contact with e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Sharif Uddin Talukder)
Project Director
Extension of PDBF Activities - 2nd
Phase Project
pdbfextmphase2@gmail.com

GD-1076

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপতত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়

সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা)

পটুয়াখালী।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

*স্মারক সংখ্যা-৪১.০১.৭৮০০.০৩৮.০৭.০০৫.২৫-৮৫

তারিখঃ- ৩০ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	এজেন্সি	ঃ	সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা।
০৩	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসক, পটুয়াখালী।
০৪	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	ঃ	পটুয়াখালী জেলা।
০৫	যে কাজের দরপত্র	ঃ	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) পটুয়াখালীর ১৭৫ জন নিবাসীর জন্য ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের ক গ্রুপ-খাদ্য, খাদ্যাদ্যুদ্বিক, পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল, খ গ্রুপ- স্বাস্থ্য, শিক্ষা ও অন্যান্য, প্রসাদনী এবং ঙ গ্রুপ-বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
০৬	দরপত্র নম্বর তারিখ	ঃ	৪১.০১.৭৮০০.০৩৮.০৭.০০৫.২৫-৮৫ তারিখ- ৩০ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ খ্রিঃ
০৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	ঃ	০৬ মে, ২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।
০৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও টি এম)
০৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিল	ঃ	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি.ও.বি
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ	ক, খ, ঙ
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	ঃ	২০২৫-২০২৬ খ্রিঃ অর্থবছরে নিবাসীর জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যাদ্যুদ্বিক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল (ক গ্রুপ-খাদ্য ও খাদ্যাদ্যুদ্বিক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল) খ গ্রুপ-শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও অন্যান্য, ঙ গ্রুপ-বিবিধ মালামাল) সরবরাহ।
১২	দরপত্র (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় শুরু	ঃ	১মবার ০৭ মে, ২০২৫ ২য়বার ২৯ মে, ২০২৫ ৩য় বার অফিস চলাকালীন সময়
১৩	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	২৭ মে, ২০২৫ ১৮ জুন, ২০২৫ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়
১৪	দরপত্র (সিডিউল) দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৮ মে, ২০২৫ ১৯ জুন, ২০২৫ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫	দরপত্র (সিডিউল) খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৮ মে, ২০২৫ ১৯ জুন, ২০২৫ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৬	ক. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়। খ. দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিল গ. দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলা	ঃ	(১) জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী ও (২) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী। (১) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।
১৭	দরপত্র খোলা দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী। ১. বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। ২. সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেজারী চালানের মূল কপি, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হাল নাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সঞ্চালতার সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভাটি প্রদান (২০২৩-২০২৪ সালের) সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে।
	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (প্রাপ্ত ভিত্তিক) ট্রেজারী চালান এর মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-তে (অফেরৎযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।
১৮	গ্রুপ	সর্বোচ্চ বিবরণ	সিডিউল মূল্য
	ক	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যাদ্যুদ্বিক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	৫০০/-
	খ	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও অন্যান্য	৫০০/-
	ঙ	বিবিধ মালামাল	২০০/-
		সিডিউল মোতাবেক	সিডিউল মোতাবেক
		সিডিউল মোতাবেক	সিডিউল মোতাবেক

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম : জনাব আবু হাসনাত মোহাম্মাদ আরেফীন
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী : জেলা প্রশাসক, পটুয়াখালী।
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা : জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।
২১. দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয় যোগাযোগের নাথার : ০১৭১০১৫০২২৮, ০১৭৯৫৩১৫০২৮
২. শর্তাবলীঃ
ক) টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি বাবদ উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৫% অর্থ পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
খ) পিপিএ-২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত সহ) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রম সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
গ) গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।
ঘ) 'ঙ' গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।
ঙ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কার্য দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
চ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।
ছ) প্রথম বারে দরপত্র পুঁজিত হলে দ্বিতীয়বারের সময়সূচী কার্যক্রম হবে না।
জ) অসম্পূর্ণ ও ঘামামা বা দরপত্র বাতিল গণ্য হবে।

(আবু হাসনাত মোহাম্মাদ আরেফীন)
জেলা প্রশাসক
পটুয়াখালী।

GD-1078

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (EED)
SIRAJGANJ.
web site: www.eed.sirajganj.gov.bd
e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 37.07.8800.004.32.001.24-25.17

Date: 04.05.2025.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works.

Tender ID	Lot/Package Location (Name of Institution)	Document Last Selling Date & Time	Document Closing/Opening Date & Time
1105957	Repair & renovation works of new Honor's building (2nd floor) and old Honor's building(3rd floor) at Belkuchi Govt. College, Belkuchi, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105956	Repair & renovation works of Shahid Minar, Class Room and field at Bongomata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Ideal Govt. College, Tarash, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105955	Construction of main gate & boundary wall at Tarash Govt. Girls High School, Tarash, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105954	Construction of toilet block at Khas Kaulia K.R Model Pilot Govt. High School, Chouhali, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105953	Construction of main gate at Government Hazi Korop Ali Memorial College, Kamarkhand, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105952	Construction of main gate at Jamtoil Dhopakandi Govt. Bohumukhi High School, Kamarkhand, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105951	Construction of boundary wall at Government Bangabandhu Degree College, Kazipur, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105950	Completion of incomplete works of Suja Hostel at Kazipur Govt. Monsur Ali College, Kazipur, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105949	Repair & renovation works of Block-1 at Government Akbor Ali College, Ullapara, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00
1105948	Repair work of toilet Block-A 12 room building and overall repair & renovation work including patent stone at Ullapara Merchants Pilot Govt. High School, Ullapara, Sirajganj.(F.Y.23-24)	19-May-2025 16:00	20-May-2025 11:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents with the following Package from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to the Following Date & Time. The Provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR -2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be Followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dipok Kumar Mondol)
Executive Engineer
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department,
Sirajganj.
e-mail: ee_sir@eedmoe.gov.bd

GD-1075



BANGLADESH BANK
Common Services Department-2
(Mechanical Engineering Wing)
Head Office, Dhaka-1000.

Invitation for Tender (Goods & related works) through Web.

01	Procuring Entity	Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka- 1000.
02	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), National.
03	Invitation ref. No. & Date	CSD-2(MES): 14/1(BBTA FFS)/2025-132 Date: 04/05/2025
04	Source of Funds	Bangladesh Bank's own fund.
05	Name of the work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Fighting System at Bangladesh Bank Training Academy Building, Mirpur-2, Dhaka.
06	Web address for submission e-tender.	www.bb.org.bd www.etender.bb.org.bd
07	Tender Document Price	Tk 6,000.00 (Taka six thousand only)
08	Last Date and Time of selling tender document	18/05/2025 before 6.00 PM
09	Last date & time e-tenders through web	19/05/2025 on or before 2:00 PM.
10	Last Date & Time and Name & Address of the office for receiving Original tender security and other documents	19/05/2025 on or before 2: 15 PM Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7 th floor of 30 th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
11	Name & Address of the office Opening Tender.	Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7 th floor of 30 th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000 on 19/05/2025 at 2.30 PM. (intending tenders or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening).
12	Eligibility of the Tenderer	(a) Tenderer shall have at least 10(Ten) years of overall business experience in the supply and installation of mechanical machineries. (b) Tenderer shall have an Agency/ Distributorship certificate in current issue from the internationally reputed proposed Fire Pump Manufacturer. (c) Tenderer shall have specific experience for supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire Hydrant System in any Govt/ Semi-Govt/ Autonomous organization worth not less than Tk. 4.35 Crore, in a single contract in the last 05(five) years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 4.70 Crore only. In case of credit facilities, Bank shall ensure that the above mentioned credit limit will be given if the said work is awarded to the contractor. (e) Tenderer shall have to furnish the certificate in this respect from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent and shall meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in the tender documents without which the tender will not be considered.
13	Tender Security	BDT 17,00,000.00 (Taka seventeen lac only).
14	Work completion Time	06(Six) months from the date of Award of Contract.
15	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Sudhangshu Kumar Sarker, Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7 th floor, 30 th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
16	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 88-02-9530490, Fax: +88-029530321
17	Special Instructions	(i) The Tenderer shall submit the tender through Bangladesh Bank Website (e-Tendering) & shall have a valid e-mail address for participating in e-Tendering. (ii) Original PO/BD/BG as Tender Security has to be send to Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 within stipulated date and time of TDS. (iii) Scanned copy of the tender security shall be submitted with the tender through web. (iv) Tenderer shall submit all documentary evidence (attested or original), failing which the Tender may be considered as non-responsive. (v) Tenderer shall duly fill in the Form PG3-1 (Tender Submission Letter) and Form PG3-2 (Tenderer Information sheet) as per format given in Tender Document. (vi) PG3-1 form shall be completed and signed by the Authorized Signatory on the Letter-Head Pad and scanned copy of it shall be attached during submitting tender and original will have to send to Director (Engineering-E/M), CSD-2 at scheduled time as per TDS. (vii) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents shall result in rejection of the tender and may lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR 2008. (viii) All sorts of Security and Safety measures shall be carried out by the Contractor during execution of the work. (ix) Bangladesh Bank reserves all right to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.

স্মরণ নং ডিসিপি : ৪৮/২০২৫-১১৪২

তারিখ : ০৫/০৫/২০২৫

Sudhangshu Kumar Sarker
Director (Engineering-E/M)
Phone- 02-9530490

ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1082

Recruit more

FROM PAGE 3
of Saudi Arabia, on the sidelines of the 7th Global Occupational Safety and Health Conference (GOSH7) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

The adviser has also asked the authorities concerned to verify the employer's capacity and work opportunities in Saudi Arabia before issuing a work visa.

He stressed the need for signing an employment contract online before arriving in Saudi Arabia, developing special training courses for male and female workers on Saudi labour laws, labour culture and other urgent issues.

The adviser also reiterated his country's interest in inviting the authorities of Saudi Arabia to visit the Technical Training Centers (TTCs) in Bangladesh and, if necessary, reserving one or more training centres exclusively for training Saudi bound workers.

As per the decision of the latest Foreign Office Consultations, a high-powered taskforce has already been formed to solve the problem of illegal workers in Saudi Arabia and eliminate irregularities related to employee recruitment, he said.

He hoped that the said task force and working team will play an important role in solving the problems of Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia.

54 held

FROM PAGE 3
attack on NCP leader Hasnat Abdullah.

In the continuation of the drive, 54 people have been arrested so far in various places in Gazipur.

The identities of two of the detainees were revealed. They are Md Nizam Uddin and Masum Ahmed Dipu.

Unidentified attackers on three to four motorcycles tried to stop Hasnat's car near Ulka Cinema Hall on Sunday when he was returning to Dhaka after visiting Gazipur Agricultural University.

The attackers threw bricks and stones at the vehicle. The car then rushed to Boardbazar area near the Islamic University of Technology campus. Police later escorted Hasnat towards Dhaka.



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Md Tafique has long been a familiar figure on the busy Rajshahi-Naogaon highway near Soipara, helping school students cross the road safely from morning till afternoon every day. For his traffic duty, he receives a monthly allowance of Tk 5,000-6,000 from the local police station. The photo was taken yesterday.

Policy overhaul needed to protect farmers

FROM PAGE 3
trees later this month.

At the event, Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, called for stronger land policies and better agricultural planning.

Agriculture contributes 12 percent to GDP and employs 45 percent of the population, yet 70 percent of all court cases are land-related, she said.

She said most farmers grow crops for the market, not for themselves. "To achieve food sovereignty, we must rethink what and how we produce. Harmful crops like tobacco are degrading soil and harming farmers' health," she added.

"Agriculture, food, and public health are all connected. We must stop exploiting soil, water, and people. The future of agriculture depends on policies focused on sustainability," said Khushi Kabir.

Eminent economist Professor Anu Muhammad said the agricultural system is becoming more disconnected from farmers. "Farmers aren't getting fair prices, and their lives

are becoming more fragile. Meanwhile, our food is turning toxic -- fish, meat, fruit -- everything is contaminated," he said. "In reality, we're consuming poison."

He said agriculture is vital for Bangladesh's survival, but the media gives little coverage to crop pricing, river erosion, and extreme weather.

"At least 13 farmers have taken their lives in recent months due to price shocks and other agriculture-related problems. A cancer hospital study found that 70 percent of its patients are farmers. Toxic food is boosting GDP by making people sick and turning treatment into business," said Anu Muhammad.

"Our biggest asset is fertile land. But if we destroy soil fertility and micro-organisms, where will we farm? In the sky?" he asked. "We must recognise our limits -- limited land and a dense population. Planning must reflect this reality to protect our land and water," he said.

He urged policymakers to assess the real cost of

increased production and called for a national accounting of the damage to land, water, and people, alongside a roadmap for sustainable development.

Abdur Rab, vice-chancellor of International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), said, "If educated youth take up farming seriously, they can earn more without chasing jobs. But they need institutional support and proper training."

He said traditional farming is declining, with fewer rural youth entering the sector and a sharp drop in sharecropping and farm labour. "We must shift to larger-scale farming and shorten supply chains to make farming profitable," he said.

Multimode Group Chairman Abdul Awal Mintoo warned that shrinking farmland and a growing population threaten food security. "Despite talks of self-sufficiency, we still import rice, wheat, and maize. We need multi-cropping and policies that reflect

changing consumption trends."

Prof Tofazzal Islam of Gazipur Agricultural University said an overemphasis on yield is damaging soil health. "We must invest in restoring soil health and building climate-resilient agriculture," he said.

Govt to build

FROM PAGE 3
the original contractor, Builders Limited, had its contract terminated in 2022 over alleged breaches.

A new contractor was appointed in September 2023, and after missing five deadlines, the current deadline is set for June 2025. Around 98 percent of the work is now complete, according to DSCC officials.

The long delayed project includes the construction of boundary grills, entry gates on the north and south sides, walkways (including links from the Secretariat to Nagar Bhaban), a library, food court, drainage systems, large jetties at the lakes, an indoor games zone, and parking facilities.

Osmani Udyan, one of Dhaka's key green spaces, features numerous rare trees and plants, two small lakes, sand islands, sculptures, and an auditorium.

Journalism

FROM PAGE 3
journalists killed during the July uprising, along with journalists who faced repression under the AL regime, also shared their stories at the seminar.

Shafiq Rehman, founding editor of Jai Jai Din, urged the interim government to scrap politically motivated cases filed under the AL government, saying many victims of such cases still suffer mentally and financially due to ongoing legal proceedings.

Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman said, "The first case under the ICT Act (later DSA) was filed against me during the fascist regime of Hasina."

Fascism and a free media cannot coexist, he added.

Kamal Ahmed, chief of Media Reform Commission, stressed the need for financial autonomy in journalism.

"Media is not a business like others. It doesn't have to be as profitable as a bank. But media outlets must earn enough to sustain themselves. They should be self-sustaining and not reliant on government favours," he said.

EC to stay

FROM PAGE 3
of the Ministry of Local Government, not the Election Commission.

"We have no role in this matter," he said.

The meeting also discussed the ongoing voter list update and other preparations ahead of the next general election.

Transparency, citizen-first

FROM PAGE 3
Embassy of Switzerland, the workshop brought together senior officials from several ministries, development partners, and policy experts to assess capacity gaps in the civil service and shape a long-term reform strategy, a UNDP statement said.

Addressing the event as chief guest, M Siraz Uddin Miah, principal secretary to the chief adviser, said, "Now is a unique window for reform. With multiple reform commissions in place, including one on public administration, we can build a professional, citizen-first civil service. That requires capacity building that is meaningful, demand-driven, and grounded in democratic values."

Sonali Dayaratne, deputy resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, emphasised that future-proofing the civil service goes beyond improving efficiency.

"Today's capacity won't guarantee tomorrow's

capability," she said. "We must foster strategic foresight, digital fluency, and evidence-based policy innovation. To navigate an increasingly complex world, it is essential to strengthen collaboration, promote a culture of continuous learning, and align talent with long-term national priorities."

Saifullah Panna, secretary of the Chief Adviser's Office, echoed the importance of collaborative reform efforts, adding that the workshop's insights would inform strategies for institutional strengthening and better public service delivery.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Rizwan Khair, member of the Public Administration Reform Commission, called for a fundamental shift in civil servant training.

"Strategic thinking, results orientation, and integrity are just as essential as technical skills. We must invest in specialised training, embrace digital

transformation, and equip civil servants to thrive in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world," he said.

The workshop opened with welcome remarks from Dr Mohammad Abdul Latif, director general of the GIU, and concluded with closing reflections from Anwarul Haq, assistant resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh.

With participation from nearly 50 senior officials and experts, the workshop featured technical sessions to identify critical skills gaps and outline a sustainable, needs-based capacity development roadmap.



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-45	5-00	6-34	8-00
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-38	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়	
(সোধারণ শাখা)	
www.chandpur.gov.bd	
তারিখ: ২২ বৈশাখ, ১৪৩২	
০৫ মে, ২০২৫ খ্রি.	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
ক্রম	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
০১	সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা
০২	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, চাঁদপুর
০৩	সংগ্রাহকসহকারী জেলা
০৪	যে কাজের দরপত্র
০৫	২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত সরকারী শিশু পরিবার ও সরকারী বাক প্রবল প্রতিবন্ধী বিদ্যালয়, বাবুরহাট, চাঁদপুর এর নিবাসীয়ে জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুযায়িক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
০৬	নম্বর ০৫.৪২.১৩০০.০২৮.০৭.০০২.২৫.২৭৩, তারিখ ০৫/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.
০৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ
০৮	০৬/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.
০৯	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি
১০	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)
১১	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস
১২	বাজেট প্রকল্প, জিওবি
১৩	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা
১৪	৩ টি (প্রত্যেক প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য)
১৫	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম
১৬	২০২৫-২৬ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ৩টি আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য- ১। 'ক' গুণ খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক, (অপচন্দনীল ও পানশীল), ২। 'খ' গুণ শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য প্রসাদী ও অন্যান্য এবং ৩। 'গ' গুণ বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ
১৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের পুরুর তারিখ
১৮	০৬/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.
১৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ
২০	২৭/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি. অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
২১	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
২২	২৮/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি. (সকাল ৯.০০- দুপুর ১২.০০ পর্যন্ত)
২৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান
২৪	২৮/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি. তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ টায় দরদাতা বা জীর মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। স্থান: জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চাঁদপুর।
২৫	মূল দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান
২৬	কোয়ার্টারের নাম ও ঠিকানা
২৭	সংশ্লিষ্ট দুইটি প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, স্টেডিয়াম রোড, চাঁদপুর।
২৮	দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণের স্থান
২৯	জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয়, চাঁদপুর।
৩০	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা
৩১	(১) বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। (২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের টেন্ডারী চালানের মূল কপি, পূর্বে অনুমুদিত কাগজের অধিষ্ঠিতার সনদপত্র, হাল নাশাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ন্যায্যক সম্বলতার সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং জ্যাট প্রদান (২০২৪-২০২৫) সনদ এর অধিষ্ঠিতার হতে হবে।
৩২	দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য
৩৩	প্রত্যেক গুণের জন্য দরদাতাকে মোট উদ্ধৃত দরের ০৩% টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি মনি পে-অর্ডার বা ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে (মূল কপি) দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। 'ক', 'খ' এবং 'গ' প্রতিটি গুণের দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে অনলাইন টেন্ডারী চালান এর মাধ্যমে ১৪২২০২৮, কোড এ (অফিসের মাধ্যমে) জমা দিতে হবে।
৩৪	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম
৩৫	মোহাম্মদ মোহসীন উদ্দিন
৩৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী
৩৭	জেলা প্রশাসক, চাঁদপুর।
৩৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা
৩৯	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চাঁদপুর।
৪০	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর
৪১	০২৩০৪৪-৮৫৬১১
৪২	শর্তাবলী
৪৩	(ক) সি.পি.এ-২০০৬ এবং সি.পি.আর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত) এর প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি মধ্যস্থতাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে। (খ) গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যসেবা প্রদান করা হবে। (গ) 'গ' গুণের ক্ষেত্রে কাঠিগেদা সেবা / মালামাল সরবরাহ সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে। (ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ করণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা ব্যতিরেকে ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (ঙ) দরপত্র সমুহ নির্ধারিত তারিখ, সময়ে ও স্থানে দাখিল করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবেনা। (চ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলীতে বর্ণিত আছে।

TITAS GAS TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION PLC.	
(A Company of Petrobangla)	
"Titas Gas Bhaban" 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue	
Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.	
INVITATION FOR LOCAL TENDER FOR AMS (ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE) AND ENHANCEMENT OF TGTDPCL'S WEB BASED INTEGRATED SYSTEM HOSTED IN BCC CLOUD	
Date of Issuance of IFB: 05 May, 2025	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2. Agency	Petrobangla
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC.
4. TENDER Name	AMS (Annual Maintenance Service) And Enhancement of TGTDPCL's Web Based Integrated System hosted in BCC cloud
5. Invitation Ref. No. and date	ITInfrastructure/AMS/2025/01, dated: 28 April, 2025
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
7. Source of Fund	Company's own fund.
8. Amount of TENDER Security	Tk. 5,50,000/- (Taka Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only).
9. Price of TENDER Document	Tk. 5,000/- (Five thousand only) (non-refundable).
10. Time for Completion of Service	01 (One) year from the date of signing of Contract.
11. Date & Time of TENDER Selling	Document will be sold from 05 May, 2025 to 25 May, 2025 (10:00 AM to 03:30 PM) on every working day.
12. TENDER Closing Date and Time	26-05-2025 at 12:00 AM
13. TENDER Opening Date and Time	26-05-2025 at 2:00 PM
14. Name and Address of the Office(s) for:	
a) Selling of TENDER Document	TENDER Documents will be available from 05-05-2025 on payment of price (non-refundable) from following offices: * Cash & Bank Department, Titas Gas T & D PLC., 105 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215 * Accounts Department, Petrobangla, Petro Center, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215 * Accounts Department, BAPEX, BAPEX Bhaban, 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
b) Receiving of Bid	* Tender Box (1 st Floor), Titas Gas T & D PLC, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. * Purchase Department, Petrobangla, Petro Center, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. * Office of the Company Secretary, BAPEX, BAPEX Bhaban, 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. Interested Tenderer(s) may view the documents at the above office addresses during normal working hours. Interested Tenderer(s) may obtain further information from the offices of DGM, IT Infrastructure Department (5 th floor), Titas Gas T & D PLC., 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and may also visit the Installation sites before submission of Tender.
15. Name and Address of the Office for Opening Tenders	GM Room, ICT Division, (2 nd Floor), "Titas Gas Bhaban" Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC. 105 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
16. Place/Date/Time of Pre-TENDER Meeting	06-05-2025 at 11:00 AM, GM Room, ICT Division, Titas Gas T & D PLC., 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
17. Eligibility of Tenderer(s)	1) The Firm must be based in Bangladesh and have at least 10 years' experience in design, development, implementation, and maintenance of software, preferably in government/semi-government companies. Work experience with completion certificates must be attached as documentary proof. 2) The firm must have a valid Trade License of at least 10 (Ten) years. Consecutive 10 years' trade license must be submitted. 3) Must be registered with RJSC (Applicable for Joint Stock Company & Firm). Certificate of Incorporation. 4) The firms should have at least 03 (Three) software development experiences with a minimum contract value of 2 (Two) Crore each in ERP/Utility Billing/digitalizing government services within the last 5 (five) years. Completion certificates, including contact details of provided services, must be submitted for documentary evidence. 5) The firm must have at least one (01) contract for the support and maintenance of software in a government or semi-government organization, with a minimum value of 1.5 Crore within the last five years. Work Order/Contract Agreement/Completion certificates must be submitted for documentary evidence. 6) The firm should have experience in handling large-scale database management (Oracle), data management, integration management, API management, payment & telco integration management from any government and semi-government organization. 7) Should have a minimum of 50 (Fifty) full-time ICT personnel in the company payroll related to system analysis, design, development, integration, testing, QC, training, and implementation of web and mobile-based applications/software solutions. 8) The firm must have financial soundness & audited reports. The last 03 (three) years' average turnover shall be at least Tk. 35 (Thirty Five) Crore or above. An audit report by a registered audit firm must be submitted. 9) The bank solvency i.e., minimum amount of liquid asset/credit line of the firm shall be Tk. 2 (Two) Crore (Certificate or proof on available liquid asset or fund availability must be issued 03 (Three) months from the date of tender submission by the concerned authority). 10) Must have BASIS Membership (Updated). 11) Must have ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 27001:2022. 12) Must have active CMMI L-3 or above. 13) Must have VAT Registration, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, BCS membership, and other legal and compliance certificates. 14) Documents demonstrating the management and operational capacity of the firm (Brochures, Company Profile, and other documents describing company expertise, strength, and experience, core functions, products and services, similar assignments or project experience, availability of relevant Professional staff, and experience among the applicant's staff/resources to carry out this assignment). 15) Joint ventures are not allowed for this tender.
18. Brief Description of Maintenance/ Services	Details information are found in the Section-7 of Tender document.
19. a) Should the Submission date of Tenders happen to fall on holiday, Tenders shall be received and opened at the same time and place on the first Subsequent working day. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Deputy General Manager
IT Infrastructure Department

Will Tigresses be battle-ready for World Cup?

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Bangladesh women's team may have secured their ticket to this year's ICC Women's World Cup in India, but their qualification was anything but convincing.

Following a campaign culminating with a narrow escape, they now face the daunting task of preparing for the 50-over marquee event without any confirmed international series in the lead-up.

In Pakistan, Nigar Sultana Joty led from the front as the Tigresses began the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifiers on a high note, dispatching lower ranked teams Thailand, Scotland, and Ireland.

But the real test came against stronger opposition — and that's where the cracks appeared. Losses to West Indies and hosts Pakistan, both full-member nations, left Bangladesh's fate hanging by a thread.

In a twist of luck, a miscalculation by West Indies in their match against Thailand allowed Joty and Co to sneak into the main event by the slimmest of margins — a superior net run rate of just +0.01.

Despite the outcome, few in the camp were satisfied with the overall performance.

"We played well against associate nations but couldn't do well against regular playing nations. We are trying to find out why," women's chief selector Sazzad Ahmed Shipon told The Daily Star yesterday, echoing concerns about the team's ability to compete at the highest level.

"We are trying to improve in a few areas like fielding and batting. We are also aware that the result wasn't so good that we should be overwhelmed. To be honest, we didn't expect to qualify like this," he added.

A major concern heading into the World Cup is the batting department. While the bowling and fielding units have shown some promise, the inconsistency and fragility of the top and middle-order batters have been recurring issues.

Although the Tigresses broke their highest total twice in the Qualifiers, their performances against the hosts and West Indies left much to be desired. If this trend is not addressed promptly and continues against the big guns, it could prove costly in India.

Adding to the uncertainty is the lack of international fixtures before the World Cup. The ICC's Future Tour Programme (FTP) doesn't include any scheduled series for Bangladesh, prompting Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to scramble for opportunities.

Discussions are ongoing with Sri Lanka Cricket regarding a possible away series. A tri-series involving Pakistan and South Africa was initially considered but has since been shelved.

In the meantime, the Tigresses have embarked on a 29-day training camp featuring fitness and skill sessions across Mirpur, Cox's Bazar, and BKSP. Several national players are also participating in a series against South Africa's Emerging side, offering some valuable match practice.

The Emerging Asia Cup next month could also provide much-needed exposure for fringe players. "There are a total of six to seven players in the emerging team squad who have played for the national team," said women's national team manager S M Golam Faiyaz.

While BCB plans to install a full local coaching staff ahead of the tournament — with head coach Sarwar Imran set to be joined by the emerging team's coaching panel — the clock is ticking.

As things stand, Bangladesh's World Cup preparation remains precariously reliant on domestic training and internal matches, which may not be enough for a team who are yet to prove themselves against top-tier oppositions.



Soumya Sarkar, Mustafizur Rahman, and Tanzid Hasan Tamim share a light-hearted moment during training as the Tigers kick off their preparations for the upcoming T20I series against UAE and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BACK TO 10 Tigers in reverse gear in ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

After nearly two decades, Bangladesh have once again slipped to 10th place in the ICC ODI ranking, a regression that starkly underscores how far the Tigers have fallen behind in what was once considered their strongest format.

The ICC released its annual rankings update yesterday across all three formats. While Bangladesh's position remained unchanged at ninth in both Tests and T20Is, they dropped one spot to 10th in the 50-over format.

The Tigers suffered a four-point decline, bringing their total to 76 rating points. In contrast, West Indies gained five points and leapfrogged Bangladesh to claim the ninth spot with 83 points.

The last time Bangladesh ranked this low in ODIs was



defeats to India and New Zealand, while their match against Pakistan was washed out.

This slide in the rankings is not merely the result of a few recent losses; rather, it reflects a prolonged struggle in the ODI format, particularly since the 2023 ICC World Cup in India.

Since November 7, 2023—the day they began their World Cup campaign with a win over Afghanistan—Bangladesh have played 24 ODIs, winning only six, losing 17, and seeing one end in no result.

Their poor returns have extended across both ICC tournaments and bilateral series. Of their last six bilateral ODI series, they have managed to win only one, a 2-1 victory over Sri Lanka last year.

While the win-loss ratio paints a grim picture, what is arguably even more concerning is how consistently Bangladesh have appeared a step behind their opponents in adapting to the demands of the modern game.

This decline comes almost exactly eight years after Bangladesh achieved their highest-ever ODI ranking—sixth place—on May 25, 2017.

Hopes of breaking into the top five have since faded, and the road back to that level now seems longer than ever.

- Australia remain Test kings despite their lead narrowing slightly.
- India continue to rule both white-ball formats.
- Sri Lanka leapfrog to fourth in ODIs after strong home performances.
- England jump to second in Test rankings, overtaking South Africa and India.

in 2007—the same year they first rose to ninth—and they had remained above that position until now.

Opportunities to gain rating points this year have been limited, as Bangladesh have played only three ODIs so far, all during the ICC Champions Trophy held in Pakistan and the UAE.

However, the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side did themselves no favours with their performances, suffering

Bangladesh A crush NZ counterparts in Sylhet opener

STAR SPORTS REPORT

Bangladesh 'A' team outclassed their New Zealand counterparts in the first one-dayer of a three-match series, registering a dominating seven-wicket win at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The hosts' bowlers set up the win, with pacer Khaled Ahmed (Player of the Match) and spinner Tanvir Islam taking three wickets each, while Shoriful Islam and Ebadot Hossain bagged a brace apiece to bundle out the visitors for just 147 in 34.3 overs after opting to bat.

Five New Zealand batters fell for ducks, with only Rhys Mariu (42) and Dean Foxcroft (72) reaching double figures.

In reply, Mahidul Islam Ankon (42*), Anamul Haque Bijoy (38), and Nurul Hasan Sohan (20*) guided the home side to 149.3 in 27.2 overs. There were handy contributions from openers Mohammad Naim (18) and Parvez Hossain Emon (24) too.

The two teams will clash next at the same venue on Wednesday. The series, originally scheduled for last September, was postponed after New Zealand imposed a travel ban on its citizens visiting Bangladesh.

Winning run ends for Under-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 team suffered their second defeat in a six-match series against Sri Lanka yesterday, deferring their wait for a series victory.

The Young Tigers, who won the last three games after starting the tour on a losing note, lost by 27 runs in the fifth and penultimate fixture at the SSC Ground in Colombo.

The visitors had dismissed Sri Lanka Under-19s for 196 runs in 42.3 overs, with Samiun Bashir taking three wickets while Saad Islam Razin, Rizan Hossain and Farhan Shahriar took two wickets each.

Bangladesh got off to a poor reply with in-form Zawad Abrar (7), Kalam Siddiki (1) and Azizul Hakim (4) leaving cheaply. Although there were five 20-plus scores in the middle order, the visitors were eventually bowled out for 169 in 45 overs.

The sixth and final fixture will take place in Colombo on Thursday.

Tigers' SL tour fixtures revealed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will tour Sri Lanka for a multi-format tour featuring two Tests, three ODIs, and three T20Is between June and July 2025.

The Test series, starting on June 17, will kick off the new World Test Championship cycle for both sides.

The first Test will be played in Galle, with the second match scheduled to begin on June 25 Colombo.

This will be followed by three ODIs on July 2, 5 and 8.

The first two ODIs are set to be played in Colombo with the final fixture to be held at Pallekele. Finally, three T20Is are set to be played on July 10, 13, and 16 at Pallekele, Dambulla, and Colombo.

U-19s eye SAFF title with two expat forwards

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have set their sights on the title of the SAFF U-19 Championship with the inclusion of two expatriate forwards in the 23-member squad, which will fly for India this morning for the six-nation tournament, scheduled for May 9-18 in Arunachal Pradesh.

Bangladesh, who had emerged champions in last year's SAFFU-20 Championship, never got out of the group stage in SAFF U-19 Championship held in 2015 and 2023. However, this time the charges of Golam Rabbani Choton are determined to produce good results on the back of three weeks' preparation at the Shams Ul Huda Football Academy in Jashore and BKSP in Savar.

"We started the training with 31 players including three expatriates. Out of them, Abdul Kadir from Italy and Farzad Syed Aftab from USA have been included in the final squad while Elman Matin from England could not secure a

place due to his performance," Choton said at an official press conference at the BFF House, adding that Farzad's finishing is good while Kadir can hold the ball and also score despite being a left-winger.

"No doubt, the strength of the attacking line-up will be better this time but the local players are also good and they can deliver good performances," said Choton, who was handed a men's team's responsibility after 10 years.

Captain Nazmul Huda Faisal said: "They are not expatriate footballers, they are now Bangladeshi footballers and part of the team. The inclusion of Farzad and Kadir will strengthen us the way Hamza Choudhury's inclusion did for the senior team."

Bangladesh will start their campaign against Maldives on May 9 before playing against Bhutan on May 11. Top two teams from each of the two groups will advance to the semifinals of the six-nation tournament.

Barca, Inter set for Milan showdown

AGENCIES

After a breathtaking 3-3 draw in Barcelona, European giants Barcelona and Inter Milan head to the San Siro on Tuesday for a decisive Champions League semifinal second leg with a place in Wembley's final up for grabs.

The first leg delivered one of the most entertaining matches of the competition, with Inter's Marcus Thuram scoring the fastest goal in Champions League semifinal history after just 30 seconds.

Denzel Dumfries then added a brace from set pieces, but Barcelona's firepower — led by teenage prodigy Lamine Yamal and the red-hot Raphinha — ensured the tie remained level heading into the return.

Barcelona's attack has been the tournament's most prolific, scoring 40 goals, just five shy of their all-time record of 45 in 1999-00.

Raphinha, in particular, has redefined his European legacy with 12 goals and 8 assists in 13 appearances. Only Cristiano Ronaldo (2013-14) has more direct goal involvements in a single season. Meanwhile, Yamal, just 17, continues to defy belief, his first-leg strike making him the youngest semifinal scorer in competition history.



Inter aim for a third CL final (after 2010 and 2023), while Barcelona seek their sixth (1994, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2015).

Barça have just one win in six away UCL matches against Inter and only five wins in 24 games in Italy (21%)—their lowest success rate in any country.

This will be their 18th major European meeting, with only Bayern Munich vs Real Madrid

(28), Juventus vs Real Madrid (21) and Inter vs Real Madrid (19) played more often.

Lamine Yamal has scored five UCL goals this season—only Erling Haaland, Kylian Mbappe, and Raul have scored more as teenagers in a single campaign.

Raphinha's 20-goal involvement (12 goals, 8 assists) is one shy of Cristiano Ronaldo's 2013-14 record.



However, history is not on Barcelona's side. The Catalans have managed just one win in six away games at the San Siro and have only

five victories from 24 Champions League matches played in Italy—their lowest win percentage in any nation. Compounding that, Barça have lost

their last four away semifinal matches in the competition.

In 2010, the last time they met in the CL semifinals, Inter won the first leg 3-1 at San Siro before Barça claimed a narrow 1-0 win at home — not enough to prevent Jose Mourinho's men from progressing to the final, which they eventually won.

Inter, in contrast, are a fortress at home. Simone Inzaghi's men are unbeaten in their last 15 home Champions League games (12 wins), and they have triumphed in nine of their last 11 home semifinals in European competition. While their domestic form has wobbled lately, a gritty 1-0 win over Verona on Saturday snapped a five-match winless streak.

Having last reached the final in 2023 and won it in 2010, Inter will rely on their experience and defensive steel — they had conceded just five goals in the tournament before the first leg.

Inzaghi must find a way to contain Barcelona's wide threats, particularly Yamal and Raphinha, with the latter playing the best football of his career under Hansi Flick.

A Champions League classic awaits in Milan, where Inter chase redemption and Barça dream of reliving European glory.

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Hefazat seeks withdrawal of all 322 cases against it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefazat-e-Islam has demanded the immediate withdrawal of all cases filed against its leaders and activists over the past decade, warning of serious consequences if the government fails to respond.

According to Hefazat, a total of 322 cases were filed against the group, including 73 in Dhaka alone. Around 7,000 individuals were named as accused, while nearly 300,000 remain unnamed in these cases.

The cases stem mainly from two waves of unrest—first, the deadly crackdown on May 5, 2013, when Hefazat members gathered at Shapla Chattar in Dhaka's Motijheel, and second, the violence that broke out during protests around Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on March 26, 2021.

Hefazat Joint Secretary General Maulana Azizul Haque Islamabadi told The Daily Star yesterday that although applications had been submitted for the withdrawal of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



As far as the eye can see, countless neatly arranged sandbags line the bank of the Padma in Rajshahi city. The sandbags are to be dumped into the river as a means to protect the embankment and safeguard the city from potential flooding in the monsoon season. The photo was taken yesterday at the T dam area.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Waiver that stole justice

Family of Shapla Chattar victim silenced by intimidation for 12yrs

ZYMA ISLAM

"They made us sign a waiver stating that we would never file any case before they handed over my brother's body."

This is how Faria Soroni Vasha, a college student at the time, recalls her encounter with police when she went to the morgue to claim the body of her brother after he was killed at Shapla Chattar in the capital's Motijheel on this very day, 12 years ago.

During the Shapla Chattar massacre on May 5-6, 2013, law enforcers violently dispersed thousands of Hefazat-e-Islam protesters in Motijheel amid a media blackout.

Rights organisation Odhikar put the death toll at 61.

Vasha's brother, AKM Rehan Ahsan, was a student of computer science and engineering

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



EU for fair polls, has no say on timing: envoy

Says trial of rights violators should be fair, transparent

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The upcoming national election in Bangladesh should be free, fair and credible, said EU envoy to Bangladesh, adding that the bloc has no say on when the election should be held.

"We are not pressuring anyone to hold elections on a specific date," Michael Miller said during a discussion organised by the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He also said that the EU wants all perpetrators of human rights violations, before and during the July uprising, to be held accountable through a fair and transparent process.

Asked about the EU's position on election timing, given the differing opinions among political parties, Miller said it is up to the people of Bangladesh to decide.

Miller said the EU fully supports the ambitious reform agenda of the interim government, saying it will be "a very significant milestone" in Bangladesh's democratic transition.

"However, as the European Union, we do not have an opinion on the timeline," he said.

He, however, noted that carrying out the reforms would be time-consuming.

"We do think that there needs to be sufficient time to implement reforms under this interim government. So ... a bit of space needs to exist," he added.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Italy wants to hire more people from Bangladesh

Visiting minister tells chief adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Italy has expressed willingness to hire more people from Bangladesh and put measures in place to ensure their safe migration.

"We have a great Bangladeshi community in Italy. We are really satisfied with them. They are young and hard-working and have integrated into the Italian society perfectly. We need more of them," said visiting Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi.

The Italian minister called on the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday and discussed issues of mutual interest, including safe and legal migration of Bangladeshis, combating human trafficking, and trade and investment, according to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

Matteo told the chief adviser that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is expected to visit Bangladesh sometime

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Pakistan conducts 2nd missile test

India orders civil defence drills; UN chief urges countries to 'step back from the brink of war'

AGENCIES

Pakistan yesterday conducted a second missile test and India ordered civil defence drills in an escalating stand-off over contested Kashmir that the UN said has brought the two nations to the brink of war.

New Delhi blames Islamabad for backing an attack on tourists last month — the deadliest against civilians on the Indian-administered side of the Himalayan territory for years — sparking a series of heated threats and diplomatic tit-for-tat measures.

Pakistan rejects the accusations, and the two sides have exchanged nightly gunfire since April 24 along the de facto border in Kashmir, the militarised Line of Control, according to the Indian army.

UN chief Antonio Guterres yesterday said relations between Pakistan and India had reached a "boiling point", warning that "now is the time for maximum restraint and stepping back from the brink" of war.

The Pakistani military said it had tested a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 120 kilometres (75 miles), a launch "aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of troops".

The missile test comes as Iran's top diplomat

Abbas Araghchi was in Islamabad for talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif yesterday, ahead of a visit to India on Thursday.

Tehran has offered to mediate between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, and Araghchi will be the first senior foreign diplomat to visit both countries since the April 22 attack sent relations into a tailspin.

"We will spare no effort to help de-escalate the situation between the two countries," Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said.

Pakistan announced a previous test on Saturday of a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 kilometres — about the distance from the Pakistan border to New Delhi.

It has not said where either of the tests took place. Sharif, who cancelled a visit to Malaysia scheduled for Friday, said the launch

"clearly shows that Pakistan's defence is in strong hands".

Indian information ministry officials said that several civil defence "mock drills" would take place on Wednesday, preparing people to "protect themselves in the event of a hostile attack".

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India will "identify, track and punish every

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

- » UNSC holds 'closed consultations' on Indo-Pak tension
- » Putin conveys Russia's full support to India's fight against terrorism
- » China reaffirms support for Pakistan amid escalation with India

Chinmoy shown arrested in Saiful murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ex-ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari was shown arrested yesterday in a case filed over the murder of Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer who was hacked to death outside the Chattogram Court Building on November 26 last year.

Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate SM Alauddin issued the order following an application from the investigation officer, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (Prosecution) Mafiz Uddin.

The virtual hearing took place around 9:30am due to security concerns.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Advocate Raihanul Wazed Chowdhury said the petition was filed after Chinmoy's involvement in the murder was uncovered during the investigation.

The development came after the High Court granted bail to Chinmoy last Wednesday in a sedition case over the alleged desecration of the national flag during a rally in the port city's New Market area.

However, a chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the bail following a state petition, which was later withdrawn on a suo moto

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Israel cabinet okays plan for Gaza 'conquest'

AGENCIES

Israel's security cabinet approved the expansion of military operations in Gaza including the "conquest" of the Palestinian territory, an official said yesterday, after the army called up tens of thousands of reservists for the offensive.

A report by Israel's public broadcaster Kan, citing officials with knowledge of the details, said the new plan was gradual and would take months, with forces focusing first on one area of the battered enclave.

Such a timeline could leave the door open for a ceasefire and hostage release deal talks ahead of a visit by US President Donald Trump to the region next week, according to security cabinet minister Zeev Elkin.

"There is still a window of opportunity until President Trump concludes his visit to the Middle East, if Hamas understands we are serious," Elkin told Kan yesterday.

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said two Israeli air strikes killed at least 19 people in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory's north early yesterday, reports AFP.

"Our teams found 15 martyrs and 10 wounded, mostly children and women, after an Israeli strike on three apartments" northwest of Gaza City, said the agency's spokesman, Mahmud Bassal. Four other people were killed and four wounded in a strike on a house in Beit Lahiya, north of Gaza City, he told AFP.

Already in control of around a third of Gaza's territory, Israel resumed ground operations in March after the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Algae bloom has covered a segment of Hatirjheel lake near the Tejgaon area. Due to discharge of sewage and other pollutants the water now emits foul smell, making life difficult for residents living near the lake. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bangladeshi man killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A Bangladeshi man was killed and an Indian national injured after Border Security Force (BSF) shot them near the Madla border in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila on Sunday night.

The deceased, identified as Md Sakib, 25, was from a cluster village near Madla border under Bayek union of the upazila, said Kasba Police Station Officer in Charge Mohammad Abdul Kader.

The incident occurred around 11:45pm near the main border pillar 2045/17 S, when they were trying to smuggle a motorcycle from India, said police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and local administration officials.

Lt Col Md Ziur Rahman, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion 60, confirmed the incident and said a flag meeting was held with BSF officials in the morning.

However, Ziur did not provide any details of the decisions taken at the flag meeting.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5