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## We're in war-like situation: Yunus

At talks with parties, organisations, CA cites plots at home, abroad since AL ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

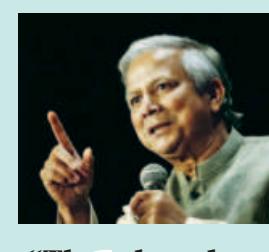
Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the country had been in a state of war since imposing the ban on the activities of the Awami League.

"A war-like situation emerged both inside and outside the country, preventing us from moving forward, causing everything to collapse, and pushing us back into subservience," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam quoted Prof Yunus as saying last night.

The CA said this at meetings with political parties yesterday, according to Shafiqul.

Prof Yunus met 20 leaders of different political parties and organisations in two separate sessions at state guest house Jamuna.

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"There have been relentless efforts to destabilise the situation. We must protect ourselves from this."

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus



Employees from various ministries and departments stage a demonstration inside the Secretariat for the second consecutive day yesterday, protesting the approval of the "Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance-2025".

PHOTO: STAR

## BUSINESS

NBR officials call off shutdown

Officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) called off their planned shutdown yesterday evening, following a government pledge to transform the board into a "specialised and autonomous agency" rather than dissolving it.

The officials, protesting under the banner of the "NBR Reform Unity Council", had earlier threatened a complete suspension of operations from today unless their four-point demand was met.

STORY ON B1

## JULY KILLINGS

Charges pressed against eight cops at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday took cognisance of charges against eight police officers for crimes against humanity, marking a significant step forward in the trial process over offences committed during last year's July uprising.

The tribunal accepted the charges just hours after prosecutors, for the first time, pressed formal charges against then Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman and his subordinates over the killings of six people in the capital's Chankharpul area on August 5 last year.

The accused face charges of conspiracy, incitement, abetment, and complicity in the murders that day, when tens of thousands of protesters marched in Dhaka, ultimately toppling the Sheikh Hasina-led administration and forcing her to flee to India. Four senior police officers face additional charges under the doctrine of command responsibility.

"The formal judicial proceedings concerning crimes against humanity committed in July-August last year have commenced today [yesterday] before the reconstituted tribunal," Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told reporters after proceedings ended for the day.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, fixed June 3 to resume the hearing. It also issued an arrest warrant against Habibur.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

### Ordinance out amid Secretariat protests

BAHARAM KHAN

The government last night issued an ordinance allowing dismissal of public servants for administrative disruptions within 14 days and without departmental proceedings.

The Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, was gazetted hours after employees protested the move at the Secretariat, four days after the advisory council approved its draft.

One employee leader told The Daily Star that they would discuss the next course of action today, while another said they would resume protests this morning.

The protesting employees said they were left in the lurch despite demonstrations inside the Secretariat for the second consecutive day yesterday, and even after meeting four advisers.

Yesterday's protests lasted from morning until 1:30pm. Officers and staffers started gathering in front of building No. 6 at the Secretariat's Badamtola at 9:30am. After around an hour, members of the Secretariat Officers and Employees Joint Council, brought out a procession and marched

through the Cabinet Division, the new building, and the clinic building, before stopping at building No. 11. After a brief stay there, the procession circled various areas of the Secretariat.

Protest leaders met with Housing Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, and Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin. However, no solution was found.

Home Adviser Jahangir told reporters at his ministry, "The Awami League government amended the Government Service Act in 2018 to manipulate the election. Now, the government feels it is necessary to amend the law again. However, if employees have any concerns, a decision will be made through discussions."

The ordinance, an amendment to the Public Service Act, 2018, revives provisions of the Government Servants (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1979, though in a slightly relaxed form.

Sources in the public administration ministry said the government introduced these amendments to streamline disciplinary action for civil servants, as the current seven or eight

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Polls must be held by December  
Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the national election must be held by December and hoped that the polls would be free and fair.

The head of the interim government is an individual who is admired at home and abroad, Tarique said, adding, "I hope the people will witness the freest and fairest national election in history under his leadership."

Citizens must raise their voices for their rights and the people are not at the mercy of the government, he said, addressing a discussion held by the National People's Party via a video link.

"The government is, of course, obligated to listen to the people and meet

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Internal democracy lies at the heart of NCP charter

Party may publish it this week; priority on decentralised governance

MASHFIQ MIZAN

The National Citizen Party is set to unveil its charter this week, prioritising democracy within the organisation and presenting a vision for a "New Bangladesh" built on youth-driven decentralised governance.

The party's preamble intertwines its philosophy with three defining chapters of the nation's history—1947, 1971, and 2024.



The year 1947 marked the beginning of our political self-assertion, 1971 was the culmination of our independence, and 2024 gave us the opportunity to build a new state system.

Draft charter of the NCP

"The year 1947 marked the beginning of our political self-assertion, 1971 was the culmination of our independence, and 2024 is our opportunity to build a new state system," reads the preamble of the 39-page draft charter.

These three historical events should be pieced together to shape a democratic, inclusive, and self-sustaining state, it adds.

The party seeks to introduce a three-term limit for its top leader, who will be elected through triennial councils.

Javed Rasin, head of the party's charter drafting committee, said, "We want to prioritise internal democracy. To that end, we have drafted the charter in a way that ensures all key leaders are elected and are held accountable."

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## DSCC MAYER Oath-taking likely this week

Say multiple LGRD ministry sources; Nagar Bhaban remains closed

DIPAN NANDY

Officials of the local government ministry are discussing when BNP leader Ishraque Hossain will be sworn in.

The officials on Saturday received a High Court order which cleared Ishraque's path to become the mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

The ministry has yet to set a date for the ceremony. But multiple sources at the ministry said the oath-taking may take place within this week, if all formalities are completed in time.

Meanwhile, Nagar Bhaban remained closed yesterday due to protests by Ishraque's supporters and

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Palestinians transport their belongings as they flee the northern Gaza Strip toward the south along the coastal al-Rashid road yesterday. Rescuers in Gaza said eight people were killed and dozens more wounded in Israeli air strikes across the Palestinian territory yesterday.

## Focus should be on key reforms only

Civil society members tell consensus commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society representatives in a dialogue with the National Consensus Commission yesterday urged the interim government to prioritise essential reforms, saying it was unlikely that consensus could be reached on all issues.

At the same time, they also emphasised that political support was crucial to ensure the continuation of all reform efforts undertaken during this period.

Meanwhile, speakers also urged the interim government to refrain from amending the constitution, arguing that such actions must be left to elected representatives to avoid future complications.

These recommendations came during a discussion between the consensus commission and members of civil society at the Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh in the capital.

Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, "At this point, only necessary and practical reforms should be carried out. Overstepping that boundary could worsen an already complex situation."

He stressed that the transition to democracy must remain the central goal. "One of the core aspirations behind the July uprising was the restoration of democracy. The reforms we pursue must reflect that goal."

He added, "We can't assume that every reform is possible right now. We must prioritise those that are feasible. And those reforms will be sustainable unless it is backed by political consensus."

On constitutional amendments, he said, "Only those elected through

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



MY DHAKA

# Shah Jahan's Dhaka campaign: A Mughal history footnote!

RIDWAN AKRAM

Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan is renowned for building the Taj Mahal, but few know that he also spent a week in Dhaka -- long before he ascended the throne.

At the time, Shah Jahan was still a prince -- called Prince Khurram -- embroiled in a power struggle with his father, Emperor Jahangir. The emperor's influential wife, Empress Nur Jahan, had begun to dominate the court and feared losing power if Shah Jahan became emperor. In April 1622, she married her daughter Ladli Begum to Jahangir's youngest son, Shahriyar, hoping to rule through him.

To sideline Shah Jahan, she convinced Jahangir to send him to Kandahar to confront Persian forces led by Shah Abbas. But the prince saw through this plan and refused to go -- effectively rebelling. He gathered forces in the Deccan, but after suffering defeat, he fled eastward toward Bengal, which, with its riverine geography, offered a natural stronghold for rebels. In mid-November 1623, he and his small army crossed into Orissa.

The Mughal court in Delhi immediately alerted Ibrahim Khan, the Subahdar (Governor) of Bengal, stationed in Dhaka. He was advised to monitor Orissa's Subahdar, Ahmad Beg Khan. But Ahmad Beg did nothing when Shah Jahan entered

Orissa. Soon after, the prince moved to Burdwan, captured the fort there, and sent shockwaves through Mughal administration.

Ibrahim Khan acted swiftly. He secured key outposts in Jessor, Tripura, Bhoila, Sylhet, Fuldburi, and Cachar. His personal aide Idris was entrusted with the safety of the Dhaka harem, backed by 500 cavalry and 1000 gunners. Realising the prince might march on Dhaka, Ibrahim Khan advanced to Akbarnagar (Rajmahal) to intercept him before he could reach the capital -- a standard medieval military tactic.

At the start of 1624, Shah Jahan tried diplomacy and invited Ibrahim Khan to switch allegiance. But the Subahdar, loyal to Emperor Jahangir, refused. A major battle became inevitable.

Unfortunately, Ibrahim Khan had deployed his experienced troops elsewhere and led the fight with inexperienced forces. He was killed in the battle -- struck down by an Afghan soldier unaware of his identity. Shah Jahan's forces triumphed.

Out of respect for the fallen Subahdar's abilities, the prince ensured Ibrahim Khan's head was not



PHOTO: COLLECTED



displayed publicly and allowed it to be buried with his body beside his son's grave.

With victory secured,

Shah Jahan rewarded his loyal commanders. Darab Khan, who had aided in the battle of Rajmahal, was appointed in charge of Dhaka with increased military strength.

Shah Jahan began his journey to Dhaka, entrusting the Rajmahal palace to Raja Bhim. After visiting

the shrine of Sheikh Nur Qutub Alam in Pandua and setting camp at Ghoraghata, he dispatched Khwaja Idrak ahead to calm any unrest in the capital. Six days after leaving Rajmahal, he camped in Shahjadpur, and arrived in Dhaka three days later, in May 1624.

Khwaja Idrak's efforts paid off -- there was no resistance. Ibrahim Khan's widow, preparing to flee with her possessions to Patna, was stopped by Shah Jahan's advance forces. Understanding the situation, local officials and Mughal officers came out in ranks to welcome the prince. Even the late Subahdar's widow greeted him respectfully.

Shah Jahan took residence in the Dhaka Fort -- the site we commonly refer to as Dhaka Central Jail. As Bengal's de facto ruler, he restored law and order in various regions, including Cooch Behar and Kamrup. But his primary goal was fundraising for his campaign to seize the throne in Delhi. Ibrahim Khan's nephew, Ahmad Beg, had already handed over property worth Tk 45 lakh and 500 elephants. By confiscating the late Subahdar's wealth, Shah Jahan acquired valuable goods, including silk, musabbar, weapons, and an additional Tk 40 lakh.

After a week in Dhaka, Shah Jahan left the city -- sending his commanders over land and himself departing by river.

## We're in war-like situation: Yunus

FROM PAGE 1

The talks follow reports that Prof Yunus on Thursday expressed frustrations over some recent developments and expressed his desire to step down. BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and National Citizen Party leaders met separately with Yunus on Saturday.

The CA observed that the 2024 mass uprising gave the country a great opportunity to turn around, Shafiqul said.

"Since the Awami League's activities were banned [on May 12], there have been relentless efforts to destabilise the situation. We must protect ourselves from this," Yunus said.

He urged everyone to be confident that he would not do anything that may harm the country.

"I feel confident as we all sat together. If I fail to hold a fair election, I will feel guilty."

Shafiqul said party leaders reaffirmed their support to the interim government, its reform initiatives, approach to the trials of July killings, and efforts to hold a national election.

The CA once again stated that he would hold the election between this December and June next year. The election will be held before June 30 and "everyone expressed their satisfaction" on the matter, Shafiqul said.

The political parties that met the CA demanded a clear roadmap to reforms, the election and trial for the July atrocities.

The leaders also said the interim government should hold trials of Awami League leaders' role in mass killings during the July uprising.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, former

president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the reform process should engage people and the interim government might not have enough time to implement the reform proposals.

"The election can take place after making the necessary reforms and the interim government can leave fundamental issues to the people. Unnecessary delays can further worsen the already unstable situation."

There are conspiracies at home and abroad to destroy the national unity seen during the July uprising.

Nagarik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna said "The chief adviser has said that due to Indian hegemony, the country is facing a major crisis. Therefore, he believes that the entire nation needs to be united."

"We will remain united leaving behind differences of opinion. The nation doesn't want Yunus to resign," Manna said after the meeting.

Saiful Haque, secretary of the Biplobi Workers Party, said, "This government's main mandate is to make reforms, hold the trials for the July killings and the election. The government should give clear-cut roadmaps for these tasks."

He pointed out that there was a lack of coordination among the advisers.

The decision to establish a humanitarian corridor [to provide aid to the people in Rakhine State] and hand over the operations of the Chattogram port to a foreign party should not be made by the interim government without discussions and consultations with political parties, he said.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, former

"Prof Yunus did not make any straight comment regarding the humanitarian corridor and Chattogram port," he said.

Mojibur Rahman Monju, chairman of Amar Bangladesh Party, also emphasised the need for roadmap for reforms, trials and elections.

There is no alternative to unity among the July uprising forces, Monju added.

Rashtrô Songskar Andolon Chief Coordinator Hasnat Quaiyim said the trial, reforms and elections should not be pitted against each other.

The election should be held without further delay, strictly following the announced roadmap, Hasnat said.

Ganosamhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki said the controversy surrounding the advisers is undesirable.

If the two advisers of the Students Against Discrimination have political plans for the future, then a question of their resignation arises.

A specific roadmap for the election will help the political parties prepare for that.

Islami Andolon Bangladesh Ameer Rezaul Karim said, "If necessary reforms are not implemented, the nation's hope for a fair election will be jeopardised."

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Ameer Munmun Haque urged the government to involve all political parties before making decisions on sensitive international matters.

Hefazat-e-Islam Secretary General Sajidur Rahman said that they informed CA that no law can be enacted contradicting the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

any activity that causes disobedience among other government employees, disrupts discipline, or obstructs the performance of duties, it will be considered misconduct.

The other types of misconduct listed in the ordinance include remaining absent from work collectively or individually without leave or any reasonable cause; refraining from performing duties; inciting or provoking others to abstain from work or refrain from discharging their duties; or obstructing any employee from being present at work or performing their duties.

Under the ordinance, employees found guilty of misconduct may be demoted, removed, or dismissed from service.

A show-cause notice must be issued within seven working days of initiating proceedings. If the accused fails to respond or is found guilty, a second notice must be served within another seven working days, asking the proposed punishment

mentioned in the notice should not be imposed.

If the accused again fails to respond or is found guilty, the stated punishment may be imposed.

The ordinance allows notices to be sent via email, in addition to existing methods.

Punished employees can appeal within 30 working days. The appellate authority may uphold, cancel, or amend the decision. A review petition may also be filed with the appropriate authority or the president within the same period.

Secretary Mokhles said, "The government wants to carry out its state responsibilities swiftly. This amendment aims to ensure quick action in cases where anyone obstructs the discharge of such responsibilities."

No provision to scrap the rule allowing forced retirement of an employee after 25 years in service was included in the ordinance despite the recommendation of a reform commission.

Thousands rally in Warsaw for Polish presidency rivals

AFP, Warsaw

Tens of thousands of people rallied in central Warsaw yesterday in rival demonstrations for the two candidates in Poland's presidential election on June 1.

Warsaw's pro-EU mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who is backed by Poland's centrist government, will square off against nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki.

As they marched, Nawrocki's supporters sang patriotic and religious songs and held up signs calling for an end to immigration.

"Change is coming. We will win!", Nawrocki told the crowd.

"I am Polish and so I am voting for a candidate who will guarantee our future and act as a counterbalance to the current government," said Piotr Slaby, a financial sector worker from the city of Przemysl in southeastern Poland.

Piotr Nowak, a technician from Warsaw, 41, said: "We have a cosmopolitan government. They want to introduce the euro and we will lose our sovereignty."

Organisers estimated there were around 200,000 people at the Nawrocki rally while Prime Minister Donald Tusk said 500,000 people had attended the pro-Trzaskowski rally.

But an analysis by the Onet media outlet estimated the size of the Nawrocki rally at 70,000 and the Trzaskowski one at up to 160,000.

"Since these recommendations have not yet been formally implemented, the provision has not been included in the ordinance at this stage," Mokhles said.

Nazrul Islam, general secretary of the Inter-Ministerial Employees Council, told The Daily Star last night, "The government has moved faster than we expected. So, we will discuss tomorrow [Monday] morning whether to proceed with our previously announced programmes."

Badiul Karim, convener of the Secretariat Employees United Council, told The Daily Star around 10:30pm, "Despite the ordinance, a staff rally will be held at 11:00am on Monday at the Secretariat."

Responding to a query, he said: "Though there was talk of blocking the Secretariat's entrance gates, we believe that should not be done. A peaceful gathering will be held in front of Building 6. However, if the government does not respond to our demands, a tougher movement will be declared."

**ALLEGATIONS OF AL MISRULE**

While presenting the charges, Tajul called the day historic. He outlined what he termed the Awami League's

legacy of repression -- from forming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Condemning repeated efforts to link two student advisers to the National Citizen party, Hasnat Abdullah, chief coordinator (south) of the NCP, yesterday said Mahfuj Alam and Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain represent the mass uprising, not of any political party.

"We have made it clear that the two advisers whose resignations are being discussed are not affiliated with any political party or the NCP. They are in the interim government as representatives of the people who led and supported the mass uprising," Hasnat said.

He made the statement while speaking to journalists at Biplob Udan in Chattogram city before joining a series of roadside rallies across different upazilas, organised by the NCP's Chattogram South unit.

He said, "Division means there will be differences in policy among political parties. During times of crisis, it is our national character to overcome these divisions and unite once again. So, from that perspective, while differences and disagreements continue, the collective effort to overcome the national crisis is also ongoing."

**East Timor could join Asean bloc by Oct: minister**

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

East Timor is a step closer to fulfilling its longstanding wish to join the Southeast Asian regional bloc and could become its 11th member state by October, Malaysia's foreign minister said yesterday.

Mohamad Hasan said on the sidelines ahead of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Kuala Lumpur that Dili "has made meaningful progress in implementing a roadmap" for it to join.

East Timor is one of the world's poorest countries and some concerns remain around whether it could participate meaningfully in Asean's development agenda.

However, the bloc's foreign ministers voiced "strong support for Timor-Leste's full membership in Asean, particularly in its efforts to fulfil the remaining criteria", Mohamad told a news conference, using the country's Portuguese name.

**Charges pressed against eight cops at ICT**

FROM PAGE 1

The other accused are Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, then DMP joint commissioner; Sha Alam Mohammad Akhtarul Islam, former additional deputy commissioner; Mohammad Imrul, former assistant commissioner of Ramna Zone of DMP; Arshad Hossain, former inspector (operation) at Shahbagh Police Station; and constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam.

Arshad, Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul are in jail, while the others remain absconding.

On April 20, the investigation agency of the ICT submitted its probe report against the eight policemen over the killings.

The victims named in the case are Shahriar Khan Anas, Sheikh Mahdi Hasan Junayed, Mohammad Yakub, Rakibul Hawlader, Ismailul Haque, and Manik Mia.

Tajul told the tribunal that the six young men had entered the capital as part of the March to Dhaka programme in support of the uprising.

He said they were shot dead at close range by police using Chinese rifles.

According to the chief prosecutor, 40 to 50 officers had been deployed in the Chankharpul area to stop protesters from advancing towards the Shaheed Minar in the morning. While many police personnel may have been involved, not all have been named in the charges.

"Only those identified in video footage as directly using Chinese rifles to carry out the killings have been named in the charges," Tajul told the court.

He added that superior officers, including Habibur, Sudip, and Imrul, who either directly ordered the killings, were present at the scene and issued commands, or facilitated the crimes, have also been brought to justice.

Tajul said prosecutors submitted various pieces of evidence, including a voice recording of Hasina allegedly directing forces to use lethal weapons on protesters. The ousted prime minister, however, was not named as an accused in this case, as a separate probe report had been filed against her. Formal charges will be pressed in that case, he said.

The prosecution submitted digital evidence including video and audio recordings, documentary material, reports from national and international bodies, as well as witness statements, victim testimonies, and bullet fragments recovered from the victims' bodies. A letter written by victim Anas to his mother before fleeing home to join the uprising was read out in court and accepted as evidence.

**HASINA'S CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS**

The tribunal has ordered that a summons be published in two widely circulated newspapers, instructing Hasina to appear before the court on June 3 or have her lawyer respond regarding the contempt of court allegations against her.

The allegation stems from a leaked phone conversation, allegedly between Hasina and Shakil Ahmed, former upazila chairman in Gaibandha. In the recording, Hasina is heard saying, "I've been given a licence to kill 227 people" -- a statement the tribunal considers contemptuous.

Meanwhile, the tribunal extended the deadline until June 24 for completing the investigation into the Ashulia case, where six bodies were burned.

## Ordinance out amid Secretariat protests

FROM PAGE 1

step process creates a broad scope for lobbying.

The protesters, however, argue that the amended law empowers the government to punish any staff member arbitrarily without giving an adequate chance for a defence. They also allege the ordinance will disproportionately affect



## Will Dhaka's cattle

FROM PAGE 3  
Dholai Khal -- tenders have been opened and the highest bidders selected, but no further action has been taken.

Tender boxes for two more markets -- Kadamtoli Truck Stand in Shyampur and the eastern open space of Kamalapur -- were scheduled to be opened on May 22 but remain pending due to the protests, causing uncertainty over whether these markets will be set up.

"Due to the closure of operations at Nagar Bhaban due to the protests, we haven't been able to complete the leasing process," said Hasiba Khan of DSCC's Estate Department. "Once the protest ends, we'll proceed as instructed by higher authorities."

DSCC Administrator Shahjahan Mia also acknowledged the ongoing administrative paralysis, "We haven't been able to provide any services for

several days. We can't even access our files. Due to the blockade, we can't finalise cattle market leases or issue work orders."

Meanwhile, DNCC has made partial progress, completing the tender process for two of its 11 markets -- Mostul (300 Feet) and Tejgaon.

Re-tender notices have been issued for six markets -- near Vatara-Sutivila canals, Uttara Diabari, Eastern Housing area, Mohammadpur Bosisila, near Vaturia Saheb Ali Madrasa, and Kalshi Balurmath.

New tender notices have also been published for the open spaces near Kachkura Bazar and Khilkhet.

A re-tender has also been issued for the Gantali market.

Contacted, DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azad said they aim to complete the tender process for all cattle markets by May 28.

## Nine killed in road accidents

FROM PAGE 3

treatment.

"Asif was riding recklessly. Suddenly, he lost control and hit a truck. He died on the spot," said Rakibul Islam Shuvo, who was riding pillion.

On information, police recovered the body from the spot and kept it at a hospital morgue for autopsy, said Jashore Kotwali Police Station OC Abul Hasanat.

In a separate incident at Bijoynagar intersection near Churamoni Bazar in Sadar upazila, two motorcycles collided head-on on Saturday afternoon, leaving three persons critically injured.

They were rushed to Jashore General Hospital where Fazlul Haque, a police constable, succumbed to his injuries at night. The two others -- Riyad Hossain and Mamun Hossain -- were referred to Khulna and Dhaka respectively for advanced treatment, said Dr Firoz Ahmed of the hospital's surgery department.

Riyad died later at night while being treated at Khulna Medical College Hospital, said his relative Tariqul Islam. Mamun was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for

were critically injured.

Also, in Faridpur area of Dewara union, an easy bike hit a sand pile and overturned, leaving a child named Tausif critically injured on Saturday.

He was rushed to Jashore General Hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival, said Dr Jobair Hossain of the hospital's emergency department.

Abul Hasanat, OC of Jashore Kotwali Police Station, confirmed both incidents.

In Jamalpur, a child died after being hit by an autorickshaw in Taltala area under Bakshiganj upazila at around 3:00pm yesterday.

The deceased, Rafi Mia, 5, was crossing the road when the speeding autorickshaw hit him and fled the scene.

Locals rushed him to the upazila health complex, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Ishfaq Ahmed, OC of Bakshiganj Highway Police Station, confirmed the incident.

In Netrokona, a couple was killed as their autorickshaw was hit by a speedy covered van on Saturday night. Two others

## Papia gets four years'

FROM PAGE 3

CID Inspector Md Moniruzzaman filed the case with Gulshan Police Station under the Money Laundering Control Act on March 21, 2020.

A team of Rab-1 arrested Papia, her husband and their two accomplices from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport when they were trying to leave the country on February 22, 2020.

In a raid, the elite force recovered seven passports, Tk 2,12,20, fake notes of Tk 25,600, USD 11,481, Sri Lankan rupee 420, Indian rupee 301 and two debit cards from their possessions.

On December 27 of 2021, Mohammad Ibrahim Hossain, also investigation officer of the case, submitted charge sheet against five people including Papia.

On August 21 of 2022,

the same court framed charges against the accused in the case.

## Travel ban

FROM PAGE 3

amassed a huge amount of money through illegal means, irregularities and corruption. The couple earned illegal wealth in different countries, including Canada, the UK and USA in their names and the names of their family members.

"The ACC came to know from a credible source that they were attempting to flee the country. If they flee, an inquiry into the allegations brought against them might be hampered. So, an order is needed to prevent them from doing them," said the application.

The judge also directed the ACC to send a copy of the order to the additional inspector general of police of the Special Branch, Malibagh in Dhaka, for the next course of action.

## Ivy placed

FROM PAGE 3

Kashimpur Central Women's Jail in Gazipur, was removed from her post on August 19 last year by the interim government, after the fall of the Awami League-led government.

Minarul Islam died from gunshot wounds during the student-led movement on July 20. On September 3, Ivy was a named accused in the murder case for the first time.

Ivy was arrested from her house in Narayanganj's Deobhog area on May 9.

Ivy has been accused in at least six cases filed over casualties during the July-August movement. Apart from the Minarul murder case, she has also been shown arrested in two other cases.

## PRAYER TIMING

MAY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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### STATUTORY NOTICE

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

COMPANY MATTER NO.: 781 of 2025

An application under Section-8(2) and Section-8(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 that was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above-named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Calander year 2023 and 2024 of SILICON REAL ESTATE (PVT) LTD.

Upon hearing of the application on 14.05.2025 Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been

pleased to admit said application and order the Hon'ble Justice directed to publish advertisement in a newspaper and submit the affidavit in compliance.

If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the under

Singhda Saha  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

SS Bhutan (Ground Floor), 70/D Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 01676029472

### Tender Notice

1. Name of organization: Artillery Centre and School, Halishahar Cantonment, Chatogram.  
2. Name of work: Procurement of Artillery Centre and School to ensure proper training purchases of 03 quad copters for UAV course and Regarding execution of various training expenses related items will be procured/manufactured. You are requested to submit tenders/quotations on sealed pads from legal Company/Contractors.  
3. Date of tender sale: 26 May 2025 (0900 hrs).  
4. The end date of tender submission: 04 Jun 2025 (0900 hrs).  
5. Date of opening the tender: 04 Jun 2025 (1400 hrs).

Commandant  
Artillery Centre and School  
Halishahar Cantonment  
Mob: 01769253649

AGL-1279

আই-এস-পিএলআর (সেনা) ৪১৪

GD-1279

## Price Sensitive Information

### ONE Bank

PLC

...We Make Things Happen

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of ONE Bank PLC in its 396<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on May 25, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. at its Board Room, Corporate Headquarters, HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215, has approved/decided/recommended the followings in respect of 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2024.

- Recommended Dividend : No Dividend for the year 2024.
- Date and Time of 26<sup>th</sup> AGM (Hybrid) : August 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
- Record Date for AGM : June 24, 2024

AGM Venue	Hybrid system in combination of physical presence at Lakeshore Grand, House No. 46, Road No. 41, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212 and virtually by using Digital Platform through the link <a href="https://obplc.bdvirtualagm.com">https://obplc.bdvirtualagm.com</a>
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• Solo

Particulars	Dec 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2023
Net Asset Value (NAV)	Tk. 23,454,178,496	Tk. 22,716,633,424
Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share *	Tk. 22.01	Tk. 21.31
Earning Per Share (EPS) *	Tk. 1.20	Tk. 1.08
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)*	Tk. 6.83	Tk. 0.66

• Consolidated

Particulars	Dec 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2023
Net Asset Value (NAV)	Tk. 23,911,192,292	Tk. 23,133,974,153
Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share *	Tk. 22.43	Tk. 21.71
Earning Per Share (EPS) *	Tk. 1.24	Tk. 1.09
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)*	Tk. 6.84	Tk. 0.67

\* NAV Per Share, EPS and NOCFPS for the year 2023 have been restated taking into account the increase in number of Ordinary Shares due to the issuance of Bonus Shares for the year ended December 31, 2023 as approved by the Shareholders in the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Bank held on July 25, 2024.

• Disclosure of Modified Opinion and Emphasis of Matters in the Independent Auditors' Report are as follows:

- As detailed in Note No. 7.13, the bank did not recognize a provision of BDT 1,797,45 crore against Loans and Advances as required by the BRPD Circulars, due to a deferment permitted by Bangladesh Bank through letter No. DOS (CAMS) 1157/41 (DIVIDEND)/2025-3106.
- The Bank operates a defined benefit gratuity scheme but has not conducted the required actuarial valuation as per paragraph 67 of IAS 19 – Employee Benefits. Instead, the provision is calculated on a year of services, which does not comply with the recognition and measurement requirements of IAS 19. As a result, the employee benefit obligation may be misstated, potentially affecting the reported profit and equity.

By order of the Board,



John Sarkar  
DMD & Company Secretary

Dhaka

May 25, 2025

## GARDEN HOUSE SELL

7.07 Bigha high land at Kapasia, Rajendrapur, Gazipur with a bungalow, cow shed and pond surrounded by variety of fruit trees with electricity and water supply facility.

Contact: 01755630999

Price : Tk.70,000,000 (Seven Crore) Negotiable.

### STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA, (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 833 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under section 8(1)(2) read with section 85 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND  
Mr. Shandong Hi-Speed Road & Bridge Bangladesh Co. Ltd. ----Petitioner.

VERSUS  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) and another.

-----Respondents.  
Notice is hereby given in the effect that an application under section 12 read with section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994, was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for alteration (addition of a new clause) of the object clause in the Memorandum of Association of the company namely "Shandong Hi-Speed Road & Bridge Bangladesh Co. Ltd" The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the application on 20.05.2025 and Hon'ble Court directed the petitioner to publish notices within 03 (Three) weeks and to submit affidavit in compliance with 28th June, 2025 from publishing the said notices. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

“Mohammad Jamil Khan, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 02 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: +88-01911809525.

## Travel ban on Nizam Hazari

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban on former lawmaker Nizam Uddin Hazari and nine others in connection with corruption allegations.

The nine others include Unique Eastern (Pvt) Limited managing director Mohd Noor Ali and its partner Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Khondaker Showkat Hossain, and BM Travels Limited chairman Shafiqul Islam.

The court passed the order after Anti-Corruption Commission Assistant Director Abul Kalam Azad filed an application in this regard, said ACC public relations officer Aktarul Islam.

In the application, the anti-graft watchdog said, "An inquiry is ongoing into the allegations against Nizam Uddin Hazari and other people for collecting money in excess of the government-fixed amount for manpower export to Malaysia's labour market and for laundering money abroad."

"According to reliable sources, they might flee abroad. For a fair inquiry, a ban is needed on their travel," said the ACC application.

## Two children drown in pond

BSS, Ctg

Two children drowned after falling into an abandoned pond in Madhyam Bhumirkhil village of Chatogram's Rangunia upazila on Saturday evening.

The deceased were identified as Anas, 7, son of Mohammad Ilyas, and his cousin Yasin Arif, 5, son of Md Forkan.

Local UP member Md Didarul Alam confirmed the incident.

He said the children went missing around 4:30pm. After searching for them, locals and family members found the bodies floating on the abandoned pond. They recovered the bodies around 8:45pm.

The children were declared dead at a local hospital.



The Salutikar boat market has become bustling with activities following the rise in water levels during the monsoon. Held every Saturday and Tuesday since the British era, the market is located at Salutikar Bazar in Gowainghat upazila, the meeting point of Sylhet Sadar, Companiganj, and Gowainghat upazilas. Sellers, mainly residents of Gowainghat, offer both new and old boats priced between Tk 4,000 and Tk 15,000. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## BARGUNA GENERAL HOSPITAL

# Acute manpower shortage disrupts services

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Even though 12 years have passed since the Barguna General Hospital was upgraded to a 250-bed facility in 2013, its services continued to be disrupted for years due to an acute shortage of manpower.

At present, at least 110 out of 233 sanctioned posts of the hospital remain vacant — including those of doctors, consultants, and nurses.

The hospital currently has only 16 doctors against 55 sanctioned posts, with nine of the 10 posts for senior consultants remaining vacant. As such, it fails to serve around 1.2 million people of Barguna adequately, prompting patients to seek treatment to hospitals in Barishal or Dhaka, often spending extra cost.

Hospital sources said only the anaesthesia department has a senior consultant in place, while key departments such as cardiology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, medicine, paediatrics, pathology, surgery, ENT,



and ophthalmology have no senior consultants at all. Among 12 posts for junior consultants, seven are vacant, including in surgery, cardiology, pathology, and radiology. Of the three sanctioned posts for resident surgeons, one is vacant. Moreover, 22 of the 29 posts for medical officers and equivalent positions are also vacant, so are 22 of the 101 posts of nurses.

Even vital administrative and support positions — including

chief assistant, accounts officer, storekeeper, computer operator, and mortuary staff — are also vacant, disrupting daily operations.

"It has been six days I'm admitted here. During this time, I saw a doctor only once. They just hand out tablets and refer serious patients to Barishal or Dhaka," said Nasir Uddin, a patient from Hazaribagh village under Barguna Sadar upazila.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Missing boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police recovered the body of a boy from a bush in Tongibari, Munshiganj yesterday, two days after he went missing.

The hands and feet of Hossain, 7, a second-grade student, were tied, and he was suffocated to death, said police.

Hossain had last been seen riding a bicycle with his neighbour Aryan alias Mahim, 20, who has been arrested.

During interrogation, Aryan confessed to the murder and dumping the body, said Tongibari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohidul Islam.

The victim was the son of Jewel Mia from Duliha village.

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 26, 2025

JAISHTHA 12, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

5

# Garbage piles up along highway

## Bhaluka municipality without landfill for 27 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Garbage has been dumped beside the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for years, creating a serious nuisance for commuters and locals.

In Bhaluka municipality of Mymensingh, waste has long been dumped in various open spaces without proper management, alleged residents. Despite repeated complaints, no effective steps have been taken yet, they said.

Thousands of vehicles of different modes from Mymensingh, Sherpur, Netrakona, Jamalpur and Kishoreganj travel through the highway every day, with passengers facing the unbearable stench and unsightly piles of garbage.

Established in 1998, Bhaluka municipality spans 24.68 square kilometres and is home to around 1,60,000 people. Yet, in 27 years, the municipality has failed to establish a designated dumping ground.

"There are no dustbins in the municipality, and garbage management is almost non-existent," said Md Shahab Uddin, a former councillor of the municipality. "Around six tonnes of garbage are generated daily, which is left in different areas."



He said the municipality employs only about 60 cleaning staff, which is far too few to manage the waste properly. Garbage is being dumped at multiple locations, including at least four spots alongside the highway.

During heavy rainfall, a significant portion of this waste is washed into local water bodies, further polluting the environment, alleged locals.

Sheikh Azmol Huda Madani, a local journalist, said the municipal authorities have been dumping waste in open places since its inception, ignoring the environmental and health consequences. "Nearly three decades have passed, but the municipality has utterly failed to ensure basic civic amenities," he said.

Dr Md Saiful Islam Khan, civil surgeon in Mymensingh, said, "Such dumping can severely affect the environment. Residents are at risk of various environment-related and waterborne diseases, including long-term respiratory problems, skin diseases, allergies, eye irritation, and diarrhoea."

Contacted, Hasan Abdullah Al Mahmud, upazila nirbahi officer of Bhaluka, said, "We have already selected one acre of land at Meghar Math, and work is underway to complete the dumping ground as early as possible."



Chittagong University of Engineering &amp; Technology

Chattogram-4349.

Memo No. CUET/PROC/REV/237/2024-25

Date: 25/05/2025

## e-Tender Notice

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package Name	Tender closing date	Tender notice publication date
1110533	G-45_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of MME, CUET.	17/06/2025 12:00Hr.	28/05/2025
1110550	G-46_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of DEM, CUET.	17/06/2025 12:15Hr.	
1110582	G-47_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of ETE, CUET.	17/06/2025 12:30Hr.	
1110588	G-48_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of CE, CUET.	17/06/2025 12:45 Hr.	
1115299	G-54_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for IICT, CUET.	17/06/2025 13:00 Hr.	
1115213	G-55_24-25	Procurement of Deep Freezer and Microwave Oven for VIP Guest House, CUET.	17/06/2025 13:15 Hr.	
1115933	G-57_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of EEE, CUET.	17/06/2025 13:30 Hr.	
1115951	G-58_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of ME, CUET.	17/06/2025 13:45 Hr.	
1116837	G-59_24-25	Procurement of Surveying Drone Equipment for Department of WRE, CUET.	17/06/2025 14:00 Hr.	
1117404	G-60_24-25	Procurement of Office Equipment for IQAC, CUET.	17/06/2025 14:15 Hr.	
1117435	G-61_24-25	Procurement of Office and Classroom Furniture for CUET.	17/06/2025 14:30 Hr.	
1117599	G-63_24-25	Procurement of Simulation Computer for Department of NE, CUET.	17/06/2025 14:45 Hr.	
1117602	G-64_24-25	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for Department of CSE, CUET.	17/06/2025 15:00 Hr.	
1119015	G-65_24-25	Procurement of AC and DC Circuit Kit for Department of MIE, CUET.	17/06/2025 15:15 Hr.	
1119021	G-66_24-25	Procurement of Air Conditioner and Smart TV for Office of the Registrar, CUET.	17/06/2025 15:30 Hr.	
1119026	G-67_24-25	Procurement of Desktop Computer & Solid State Drive (SSD) for Department of URP, CUET.	17/06/2025 15:45 Hr.	

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

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time (16-June-2025, 16:00 Hr.)

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

=Signed=

Registrar (Add. Charge)

Chittagong University of Engineering &amp; Technology

Chattogram-4349.



procedures, providing subsidies for dining facilities at residential halls, making necessary renovations of the Central Library, and ensuring full activation of the TSCC Complex.

At the press conference, Salahuddin also said although nearly ten months have passed since the July uprising, the administration has completely failed to meet the legitimate expectations of the students.

He said, "If the administration does not respond positively, we will launch awareness campaigns from June 21 to June 28. These will include outreach and leaflet distributions in every hall and department, as well as wall writings. Afterwards, from June 29, we will announce our final programme, the 'March for Rights', which will continue until the demands are met."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

**বাংলাদেশ পর্যটন কর্পোরেশন**  
বাণিজ্যিক বিভাগ  
পর্যটন ভবন, প্লট: ই-৫, সি/১, পর্যটন আগরাগাঁও  
শেরেবালা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১২০৭।

**পুনর্গং লিজ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ পর্যটন কর্পোরেশন (বাপক)-এর কর্তৃবাজার হোটেল শেবালা আওতাধীন গলফ মাঠের ১৬.৮২ (মোট ৩০.০৩২.০৩১.৫২.০০.২৬.২০১৪) একর বিদ্যুত জমি পর্যটন শিল্প সমিতি কর্তৃপক্ষ পরিচালনার জন্য লিজ প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে অগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে নির্মাণবৃত্তি শর্তে পুনর্গং দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

১ দরপত্রে অংশবন্ধনকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাটে রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর/সনদ, টিন সদাই ইত্যাদি থাকতে হবে।

২ (ক) বাপক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, পর্যটন ভবন, প্লট: ই-৫, সি/১, পর্যটন আগরাগাঁও, শেবালা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৭ ; (খ) হোটেল শেবালা, বাপক, কর্তৃবাজার এবং (গ) হোটেল সৈকত, স্টেশন রোড, বাপক, চট্টগ্রাম-এর হিসাব শাখা থেকে মেন মান ৫,০০,০০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা (অফিচিয়াল) পরিশোধ করে আগমণী ১৭.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সিউটেল ত্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্রে অংশবন্ধনকারীগুলির পারামুখ অন্যান্য স্বত্ত্বাধীন স্বত্ত্বাধীনী স্বত্ত্বাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে বৃক্ষিক করা যাবে।

৩ প্রাথমিকভাবে ০২ (এক) বছরের জন্য লিজ প্রদান করা হবে। ভাড়া বৃদ্ধির শর্তে উভয়পক্ষের সম্মতির ভিত্তিতে লিজের মূল্য বৃক্ষিক করা যাবে।

৪ দরপত্রাবে বার্ষিক লিজ মূল্য উভয়ের করতে হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে অনেকটা মানি হিসেবে উভয় মূল্যের ২৫% টাকা (সময়সূচী) ডিটি/পে-অর্ডার আকারে বাংলাদেশের মেকোন তফিলী ব্যাংক থেকে সংগ্রহ করে দরপত্রাবে বার্ষিক লিজ মূল্যের উভয় পক্ষে করতে হবে।

৫ দরপত্রাবে কর্তৃপক্ষ লিজ মূল্যে মুখ্যবন্ধন অবস্থায় সরাসরি (ক) বাপক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, পর্যটন ভবন, প্লট: ই-৫, সি/১

## Pakistan sees India as an existential threat

Says US Defence Intelligence Agency; report says India considers China its 'primary adversary'

NDTV ONLINE

Pakistan regards India as an "existential threat", but India considers China its "primary adversary," and Pakistan more of an "ancillary security problem", the US Defence Intelligence Agency has said in its worldwide threat assessment report for 2025.

The report forecasts that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's defence priorities will probably focus on demonstrating global leadership, countering China, and enhancing New Delhi's military power.

"India views China as its primary adversary and Pakistan more an ancillary security problem to be managed, despite cross-border attacks in mid-May by both India's and Pakistan's militaries," the report says.

The reference was to the India-Pakistan conflict earlier in this month after Indian airstrikes targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

"Following a late April terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi conducted missile strikes on terrorism-related infrastructure facilities in Pakistan. The missile strike provoked multiple rounds of missile, drone, and loitering munition attacks, and heavy artillery fire, by both militaries from 7 to 10 May. As of 10 May, both militaries had agreed to a full ceasefire," the report says.

India, it says, is prioritising bilateral defense partnerships in the Indian Ocean region to counter Chinese influence and boost its global leadership role.

It also referred to the India-China border dispute and said last year's disengagement "did not resolve the longstanding dispute about border demarcation but reduced some tension still lingering" from the 2020 clash.

On India-Russia ties, the US report said India will maintain its relationship with Russia through 2025 because it views its ties to Russia "as important for achieving its economic and defense objectives and sees value in the relationship as a means to offset deepening Russia-China relations".



Security personnel restrain demonstrators during a protest led by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a Meitei civil society organisation, near Raj Bhavan in Imphal, the capital of India's northeastern Manipur state, yesterday. The protest condemned the imposition of President's Rule on the state and demanded an apology from the governor after the name 'Manipur' on a bus was allegedly concealed by security forces.

PHOTO: AFP

## India's water move threatens millions

Pakistan tells UN meeting on protecting water

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan has warned the United Nations that India's unilateral decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) represents a dangerous escalation that violates international law and threatens the survival of more than 240 million people.

Speaking at a UN meeting on protecting water in armed conflict on Friday evening, Pakistan urged the world community to act before such actions triggered a humanitarian catastrophe or destabilised the region. "This is a grave violation of

international law, including human rights law, the treaty law and customary international law," said Ambassador Usman Jadoon, Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Arria Formula meeting convened by Slovenia.

"We strongly condemn India's unlawful announcement to hold the Treaty in abeyance and call upon India to strictly abide by its legal obligations and refrain from stopping, diverting or restricting rivers that are a lifeline for 240 million people of Pakistan. We will never accept any such moves," Ambassador Jadoon said.

## 14 people killed in Pak storms Over 100 hurt

AFP, Lahore

destructive windstorms that raged across central and northern Pakistan after an intense heatwave have killed at least 14 people and injured over 100 more, officials said yesterday.

Fierce winds, thunder and lightning swept across eastern Punjab and northwestern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provinces as well as the capital Islamabad on Saturday afternoon and evening, uprooting trees and downing electric poles.

## Polls must be held

FROM PAGE 1  
their rightful demands; there is no room for becoming sensitive, angry, or offended.

He said that no plan of the government would be effective as long as it kept political parties in the dark.

The interim government was established through the sacrifices of thousands of martyrs, he said. "But this government is certainly not accountable to the people."

This is why the people must know what the government is planning, he said.

"To ensure the national election, the BNP and others who protested together on the streets continue to fully support the interim government in undertaking the necessary reforms in the civil administration and law enforcement."

The BNP leader said that if people's political power is

ensured, it becomes difficult for the government to develop a fascist character.

"Whether it is a directly elected government, an interim government, or a caretaker government, if the government is not accountable to the people, it may unknowingly become authoritarian. This is why, despite threats, citizens must continue constructive criticism of the government."

Tarique said that the absence of a stable democratic government has led to stagnation in both domestic and foreign investments.

"An uncertain political and economic scenario is creating unrest among various groups of people almost every day. The people are taking to the streets daily with various demands, but at this moment, no one seems to be listening to their grievances."

## Oath-taking likely this week

FROM PAGE 1  
to follow some procedures for this. We held a meeting today [Sunday] in this regard.

Another ministry source said as part of the transition, current DSCC Administrator Shahjahan Mia has been assigned additional responsibilities as managing director of Dhaka Wasa. Once Ishraque takes oath, he will officially assume mayoral duties from Shahjahan Mia.

On February 1, 2020, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh was elected mayor in the DSCC elections. He assumed office on May 16, and the first corporation meeting was held on June 30.

According to section 6 of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009, the tenure of a corporation is five years from the date of its first meeting. Based on that, the five-year term of the corporation is set to end on June 29 this year.

This means that even if Ishraque takes the oath today, his maximum term as mayor would be just 34 days.

Speaking to this correspondent, Ishraque said he was not officially informed as of yesterday when he would be sworn in.

## Focus should be on

FROM PAGE 1  
a democratic process have the legitimate authority to amend it. If others attempt to bring major changes, it will create complications that will be difficult for the nation to overcome."

Senior journalist Basudeb Dhar, president of the Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad, said the representation of minority voices was missing in the reform commissions.

"Secularism was in place during the previous regime, but only on paper. We've seen attacks during Durga Puja every year except last year."

To that effect, he questioned the impact of inserting pluralism into the constitution's fundamental principles if practical protection was still lacking.

He also argued that reforms could be pursued without altering the current constitution, as it is "rooted in the spirit of the Liberation War".

Prof Gitiara Nasreen, member of the Media Reform Commission and Dhaka University teacher, criticised the government's silence following attacks on the Women's Reform Commission.

"A commission was formed by the interim government. That very commission is now being directly attacked, but there has been no clear statement from the government. In this situation, it is difficult to remain hopeful."

"There can be differences of opinion, but the Women's Affairs Reform Commission worked with equal dedication, took everyone's views into account, and submitted a report. Then suddenly, demands are made to abolish the commission. It raises the question: are we not even able to create a space for rational thinking?"

She also expressed regret over women being sidelined from major issues despite their vital role in the recent mass movement.

Among others present were former Justice MA Matin; former ambassador M Humayun Kabir; NSU Prof AKM Waresul Karim; BIGD researcher Mirza M Hassan; Ashrafun Nahar Misti, founder of the Women with Disabilities Development Foundation; and rights activist Sultana Raziya.

"Young women are now showing interest in entering politics like never before."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance  
Support to Sustainable Graduation Project  
Building#08, Planning Commission Complex  
Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No: 09.00.0000.228.11.001.24.201

Date: 25/05/2025

### Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Individual Consultants

General Information				
1. Ministry/ Division	Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance			
2. Agency	Development Effectiveness Wing, ERD			
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Project Director, Support to Sustainable Graduation Project			
4. Procuring Entity Code/ package	Project Advisor (SD-16/24-25) & National Project Manager (SD-13/24-25)			
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6. Expression of Interest for	Project Advisor & National Project Manager			
7. EOI Ref No.	09.00.0000.228.11.001.24.201			
8. Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/05/2025			
Key Information				
9. Procurement Sub-method	ICS (Time Based)			
Funding Information				
10. Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget			
11. Development Partners	DRGA-CF, Japan			
Particular Information				
12. Project/ Programme Code	223034000			
13. Project/ Programme Name	Support to Sustainable Graduation Project			
14. EOI Closing Date and Time	17/06/2025 up to 12.00 PM			
Information for Applicants				
15. Brief Description of the Assignment (Details in the TOR)	SD-16 Project Advisor: Overall supervision of the project which ensures the project is in the right track to accomplish its objectives, provide regular policy guidance to the project attaining its target. SD-13 National Project Manager: Ensure the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard quality and within the specified constraints of the time and cost.			
16. Qualification, Experience & Skill Required (Details in the TOR)	SD-16 Project Advisor: Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Economics, or Social Sciences. At least Fifteen (15) years of working experience at senior level of Government of Bangladesh. SD-13 National Project Manager: Master's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Economics, or Social Sciences. At least Fifteen (15) years of working experience in field of development project management, operation and implementation at national or international level, Experience on LDC graduation related issues at the national and global level, Five (05) years' experience in managing foreign funded project.			
17. Other Details	A copy of the terms of reference (TOR) and necessary forms of the assignment may be obtained from the address below during 09:00 to 17:00 hours or download from the ERD website at: <a href="http://www.erd.gov.bd">www.erd.gov.bd</a> . EOI shall be submitted on or before 17/06/2025 at 12:00 noon in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of (Name of the Post). Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications and experience & skills shall have to be submitted".			
18. Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)	Indicative Completion Date (Month/Year)	
	Single: Time Based	Dhaka	June, 2025	30 June 2027 or Project Period (renewed annually based on performance)
Procuring Entity Details				
19. Name & Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	A. H. M. Jahangir, Project Director (Additional Secretary)			
20. Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Building#08, Room# 11, Economic Relations Division, Planning Commission Complex, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka-1207			
21. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	Tel. No.: 222216710 e-mail: <a href="mailto:wingchief10@erd.gov.bd">wingchief10@erd.gov.bd</a>			
22. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all EOI's without showing reason whatsoever.				

He added that consensus has been achieved on some fundamental issues; however, on other key matters, differences remain due to ideological positions.

"It is not realistic to expect full agreement on every issue."

He said civil society's views would be incorporated into both the proposed national charter and the commission's final report.

"We've repeatedly stated that dialogue with political parties alone is not enough. There must also be a shared understanding among citizens."

Ilaria Dewan, former General Secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, called for constitutional recognition of the indigenous community and other marginalised groups.

The dialogue was also attended by consensus commission members Badiul Alam Majumdar, Safar Raj Hossain, Iftekharuzzaman, and Md Ayub Miah, along with Monir Haidar, special assistant to the chief adviser.

Among others present were former Justice MA Matin; former ambassador M Humayun Kabir; NSU Prof AKM Waresul Karim; BIGD researcher Mirza M Hassan; Ashrafun Nahar Misti, founder of the Women with Disabilities Development Foundation; and rights activist Sultana Raziya.

"Young women are now showing interest in entering politics like never before."

25-5-25  
(Md. Arifujaman)  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Bogura

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies shall be accepted.

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

GD-1272

25-5-25  
(A. H. M. Jahangir)  
Project Director (Additional Secretary)

GD-1267

## Syria to help locate missing Americans: US

AFP, Damascus

Syria's new authorities have agreed to help the United States locate and return Americans who went missing in the war-ravaged country, a US envoy said yesterday, in another sign of thawing bilateral ties.

The announcement came a day after the United States formally lifted sanctions on Syria, ending more than a decade of diplomatic freeze.

Relations have steadily improved since former president Bashar al-Assad was overthrown in an Islamist-led offensive in December. "The new Syrian government has agreed to assist the USA in locating and returning USA citizens or their remains," US special envoy for Syria Tom Barrack wrote on X, describing it as a "powerful step forward".

"The families of Austin Tice, Majd Kamalmaz, and Kayla Mueller must have closure," he added, referring to American citizens who had gone missing or been killed during Syria's devastating civil war that erupted in 2011.

Tice was working as a freelance journalist for Agence France Presse, The Washington Post, and other outlets.



Emergency workers work at the site where private houses were destroyed in a Russian rocket strike in Markhalivka, Kyiv region, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



## Opposition vows boycott as Venezuela holds new vote

AFP, Caracas

A trickle of Venezuelans lined up at the polls early yesterday to elect a new parliament and state governors in a vote that the main opposition party was boycotting in protest at last summer's disputed reelection of President Nicolas Maduro.

Some 21 million voters are eligible to cast their ballot for 285 members of the National Assembly and 24 governors.

But pollster Delphos projected a turnout of just 16 percent, mostly Maduro supporters, after the main opposition -- led by Maria Corina Machado, an engineer and former MP -- urged Venezuelans not to legitimize what they see as yet another sham election.

## POST-COUP MYANMAR Malaysia calls for truce extension

Pushes for long-awaited implementation of a five-point peace plan

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia yesterday called for the extension and expansion of a post-earthquake ceasefire in Myanmar, as it ramped up calls for the long-awaited implementation of a five-point peace plan.

The ruling military junta initially declared a truce in the many-sided civil war after a huge quake in late March killed nearly 3,800 and left tens of thousands homeless.

That agreement, which has been extended before, is due to expire at the end of May -- though conflict monitors say fighting and junta airstrikes have continued throughout.

At a meeting of regional foreign ministers yesterday, Malaysia's Mohamad Hasan "proposed the extension and expansion of ceasefires beyond the currently affected zones," a statement said.

"We call on the stakeholders in Myanmar to cease hostilities, and to extend and expand



the ceasefire, to facilitate the long and difficult path towards recovery, and ease the suffering of the people of Myanmar," Mohamad said in his opening remarks.

The United Nations and independent conflict monitors say the junta has continued its campaign of aerial bombardment despite the ceasefire.

Numerous anti-coup and ethnic armed groups have made their own pledges to pause hostilities.

However, some residents in eastern Myanmar said they have been displaced as anti-coup forces besieged junta-held towns.

More than 6,600 people have been killed since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, and millions displaced.

Malaysia currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the 10 country Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), with leaders due to meet at a summit in Kuala Lumpur today.

## WARSHIP LAUNCH North Korea detains three over accident

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has detained three people over an accident that occurred during the launch of a new warship this past week, state media reported early yesterday.

Pyongyang has said that "a serious accident occurred" at Wednesday's launch ceremony in the eastern port city of Chongjin for a newly built 5,000-ton naval destroyer, in which sections of the bottom of the vessel were crushed.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called the mishap a "criminal act caused by absolute carelessness".

Those detained are Kang Jong Chol, the chief engineer at the Chongjin shipyard; Han Kyong Hak, head of the hull construction workshop; and Kim Yong Hak, deputy manager for administrative affairs, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

## Fire cuts power to 45,000 in French Riviera Sabotage suspected

AFP, Nice

French Riviera authorities said yesterday they are boosting security around electricity grid sites after an overnight fire in a substation that cut power to 45,000 people, and a massive blackout during the Cannes film festival blamed on sabotage.

A blaze hit an electricity transformer in the western part of the city of Nice, knocking out power in the vicinity, the city's offices of the mayor and local prosecutors said.

"We strongly condemn the overnight attack against a Nice electricity transformer," deputy mayor Anthony Borre said on X, formerly Twitter.

On Saturday, a five-hour power cut disrupted the final day of the Cannes festival, knocking out traffic lights and ATMs and forcing organisers to use back-up generators. Local officials said a suspected arson attack on a substation and vandalism of an electricity pylon were the causes.

"I vigorously condemn these criminal acts hitting our country," Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi said on X after the transformer blaze affecting his city.

He added: "In the coming days we are reinforcing the (security camera) network around the city's strategic electric sites."

## STRANDED BY FLOODS Australia airdrops supplies to farmers

REUTERS, Ghinni Ghinni

Helicopters were yesterday airdropping animal feed to farmers in Australia stranded by floods that have killed five and isolated tens of thousands in the country's southeast.

Recovery was under way in the mid north coast region of New South Wales state after days of flooding cut off towns, swept away livestock and destroyed homes. At least 10,000 properties may have been damaged in the floods, which were sparked by days of incessant rain, authorities estimate.

The floodwaters "trashed" Dan Patch's house in rural Ghinni Ghinni near hard hit Taree, and some cattle on the property have gone without food for days, he said.

"It's the worst we've ever seen," Patch told Reuters. "It's the worst everybody's seen around this area."

About 32,000 residents of Australia's most populous state remained isolated due to floodwaters that were slowly starting to recede, the state's Emergency Services posted on the X platform.

"The New South Wales government is providing emergency fodder, veterinary care, management advice and aerial support for isolated stock," state Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty said in a statement.



### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Upazila Engineer Rajapur, Jhalokathi [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.4284.000.14.99.17.317- 855

Date: 24-05-2025

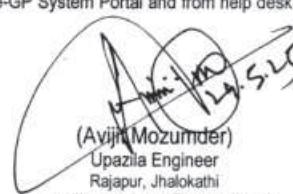
#### Invitation for Tender (Works)-OTM e-Tender Notice No -02/2024-2025/Maintenance

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Scheme	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)
01	1118772	Reconstruction of Garage and Extended Kitchen at UNO residence at Rajapur Upazila, Jhalokathi.	15-Jun-2025 14:30	15-Jun-2025 15:30

This is an online Tender, Where only e-Tender will be accepted on the National e-GP Portal and no off line/hard Copies will be accepted.

To Submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The Fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks, branches up mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

  
(Ayub Mozumder)  
Upazila Engineer  
Rajapur, Jhalokathi  
e-mail. ue.rajapur@lged.gov.bd

তারিখ: ২১/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.

স্মারক নং-২৬৯

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ  
কারখানা বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

মোবাইল: ০৩১-৭২৪৫৩০১

Email: [ewranga@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:ewranga@rhd.gov.bd)

### e-GP দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ: ২১/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.

এতদৰা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র বিভাগাধীন দরপত্র আইডি নং-1108992, 1108993, 1108994, 1108995, 1108996, 1108997, 1108998, 1108999, 1109000, 1109001, 1109002, 1109003, 1109004, 1109005, 1109006, 1109007, 1109008, 1109009, 1109010, 1109011, 1109012, 1109013, 1109014, 1109015, 1109016, 1109017, 1109018, 1109019, 1109020, 1109021, 1109022, 1109023, 1109024, 1109025 এবং 1109026 দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সমূহ গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের e-GP web portal এর মাধ্যমে আহবান করা হইয়াছে। e-GP web portal এ নিবন্ধিত যে কোন আঘাতী ব্যক্তি/ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিভাগিত জান্য [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) ওয়েব

সাইট ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

মোঃ আব্দুল কাদের  
উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ  
কারখানা বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

শুভ দাস  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (অং দাস), সওজ  
কারখানা বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-1277

### এসেন্সিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা  
চাকা- ১২০৮

#### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী / সরবরাহকারীর (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলনোহরকৃত থামে দরপত্র আহবান করার হুকুম।

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১	ইডিসিএল/ক্র/হাসীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/১৯৯ তারিখ ২৫/০৫/২০২৫ইঠ	Essence of Orange Sweet Ph. Gr. সিডিউল মোতাবেক	২০০ কেজি

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র শিল্পের মূল্য (ক্রেতেরযোগ্য)	দরপত্র এছের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খেলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	১৬/০৬/২০২৫ইঠ বেলা- ১২.০০ ঘটকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিল্পের ক্রান্তীযুক্ত দরপত্র দেওয়া হইবে। উদ্বেগ্য যে, যাদের ভাট্টা রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খেলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিল্প বিজয় করা হইবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র হান বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
প্রক্রিয়ামেট (চলতি দায়িত্ব)  
পক্ষেষ্ঠ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

## A major national crisis averted

Govt must provide more clarity regarding election, reform, and trial

We are relieved that the chief adviser has not followed through on his desire to resign. All major political parties have reaffirmed their support to the chief adviser and expressed that they do not want him to step down. Thankfully, a national crisis has been averted.

At the same time, we are wondering what else, other than the chief adviser's decision to resign being reversed, has been achieved. We are waiting, for instance, to hear the chief adviser and his cabinet's response regarding the issues of contention brought forward by the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and NCP. BNP has said it has placed its demands, and the chief adviser has listened. But the issues have not been resolved. The party reiterated its demand for a general election to be held by December this year and the resignation of two student representatives in the advisory council as well as the CA's national security adviser. Jamaat has demanded a timeline for the election and another for reforms and trials of Awami League leaders for their alleged role in mass killings during the July uprising. Meanwhile, the NCP has demanded reconstitution of the Election Commission, local government polls before the general election, and roadmaps to July killing trials, political reforms, and plans for parliamentary and constituent assembly polls. It also added another demand: that all national and local elections during the Sheikh Hasina regime be declared "invalid."

Thus, we are back to square one, with no visible consensus between the government and the political parties. Meanwhile, protests and lockdowns continue. Yesterday, employees of the Bangladesh Secretariat staged demonstrations inside the office premises protesting the government's initiative to amend the Government Service Act, 2018 by introducing stricter penalties. The Dhaka South Nagar Bhaban has again been padlocked by protesters who demand BNP leader Ishraque Hossain to be sworn in as the mayor following a court verdict. The NBR is in deep crisis with disgruntled employees continuing to protest, demanding the chairman's removal and the repeal of a new ordinance that splits the tax authority. Customs clearance and business operations have been hampered due to the protests. The result has been total chaos and disruption in regular public services and businesses, as well as paralysis of the city.

But, ultimately, the interim government and its chief are responsible for maintaining stability—both within the country and within the government. It must find ways to negotiate with all the political and non-political stakeholders and come to some points of convergence. The government has identified three main priorities: election, reform, and trial (of the accused in the July uprising killings). But in order to allay all uncertainties and curb the barrage of constant protests, the interim government must provide clarity regarding an election roadmap and the reforms it is undertaking.

## Address causes of child sexual abuse

Rape statistics reveal how vulnerable children are, despite legal measures

A recent report in this daily once again highlights how unsafe this country has become for children, particularly girls. Reports of rape cases compiled by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad during the first quarter of this year show that the majority of the victims are aged below 18 years. ASK documented 342 reported cases, with 87.56 percent of known-age victims being children. Alarmingly, 40 victims were aged between infancy and six—too young to even grasp the horror inflicted on them. However, that does not appear to discourage the perpetrators, some of whom even carry out this heinous act in gangs. ASK data shows children also made up the majority of gang rape victims. Of the 84 reported gang rapes between January and April, 32 victims' ages were known, and 20 of them were minors. What does it say about our society—that before one protest over child rape ends, another child falls victim?

Last year, an analysis published in this daily based on ASK data revealed that one rape occurred every nine hours in Bangladesh and the majority of victims are girls. For adolescent girls, the situation is even worse. The 2024 Violence Against Women Survey showed that adolescent girls, whether married or not, are the most vulnerable when it comes to both intimate partner violence and non-partner violence. These findings make one thing painfully clear: in Bangladesh, a girl's age, marital status, or social position offers no protection from abuse. In fact, child marriage only reinforces patriarchal—and in some cases, predatory—attitudes towards girls. Despite progress in education and growth in the economy, we have failed to challenge the misogynistic mindset still pervasive among some men among us. Unfortunately, attempts to introduce topics in schools that provide comprehensive mental, physical and reproductive health education along with teaching and encouraging appropriate behaviours to young people have been blocked.

We have tried to address the issue of sexual violence against women with laws, which alone cannot prevent these heinous crimes. It is time the government listened to the rights bodies and took steps to break the silence regarding cases of abuse, introduced school-based safety training, improved mental health and rehabilitation services. It also needs to facilitate community engagement involving parents, teachers, and local leaders, including the religious ones, increase monitoring of cybercrimes, and address the issue of offensive contents on social media. Ultimately, we must root out misogyny from society if we hope to make Bangladesh safe for girls. Until then, our children remain vulnerable.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Cyclone Remal makes landfall

On this day in 2024, Cyclone Remal made landfall on the coast of Bangladesh and India's West Bengal, leading to the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people from low-lying coastal areas. It claimed 18 lives and injured 2,503 people in Bangladesh, and heavily impacted fisheries, roads, and housing.

# EDITORIAL

## How to describe the Awami League accurately?



Kamal Ahmed  
is head of the Media Reform Commission in Bangladesh and an independent journalist. His X handle is @ahmedkal.

KAMAL AHMED

In an article titled "How Not to Describe the Awami League" published in this newspaper, British journalist David Bergman rightly underscores the importance of accuracy in labelling a political party—particularly when such labels carry potential legal consequences. Those familiar with Bergman's work over the years know that he has consistently taken on politically sensitive and controversial subjects, often at significant personal and professional costs. His courage and commitment to journalistic integrity deserve recognition.

Bergman is correct in asserting that "while serious criticisms of the Awami League are both valid and necessary, they must be proportionate and grounded in fact." His analysis focuses primarily on the legal validity and appropriateness of labelling the Awami League as "fascist" or "Nazi." He argues that comparing the party to the Nazi regime trivialises the scale of Nazi atrocities and misrepresents the complexities of Bangladeshi politics.

Indeed, any historical comparison between the Nazi Party and the Awami League would be an exaggeration. The scale of violence, genocidal policies, and totalitarianism under the Nazis is unmatched. However, describing the Awami League as a "fascist" party—based on its trajectory and actions within the context of Bangladesh's political history—is not a distortion. On the contrary, it is a term that demands serious consideration.

Let's examine what defines fascism. According to *Merriam-Webster*, fascism is:

"A populist political philosophy, movement, or regime (such as that of the Fascisti) that exalts nation and often race above the individual, that is associated with a centralised autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, and that is characterised by severe economic and social regimentation and by forcible suppression of opposition."

The *Cambridge Dictionary* defines it as:

"A political system based on a very powerful leader, state control, and being extremely proud of (the) country and race, and in which political opposition is not allowed."

With the exception of racial supremacy, the Awami League—especially under Sheikh Hasina's

leadership—demonstrates most of these traits. It is important to acknowledge that the Awami League of today is not the same party founded by Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The party that once led the struggle for independence has undergone several transformations—dissolving into BAKSAL in 1975 and re-emerging under

Pakistan. The idolisation of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—evident in the proliferation of his images, statues, and memorials—has fostered a cult of personality around the Sheikh family. The Awami League's grip on the state apparatus has allowed it to mobilise supporters and suppress opposition with unmatched efficiency.

The CFR also warns that, while classical fascism is historically tied to the interwar period, its characteristics can reappear in modern political contexts. Global democratic backsliding only increases the risk of such authoritarian tendencies resurfacing.

Bergman's cautious assertion that "elements of the Awami League's conduct may well resemble certain authoritarian traits of a fascist party" but that it is "inaccurate to describe it

as long ceased to function. These indicators are: rejecting democratic rules of the game; denying legitimacy to political opponents; encouraging violence; and curtailing civil liberties. All four apply to Bangladesh's current political landscape.

That said, Bergman's concerns about repression, including arbitrary arrests and politically motivated charges, are entirely valid. Justice demands that those responsible for violence—particularly against opposition members and student protesters—be held accountable. However, no one should be persecuted on fabricated or political expedient charges.

Bergman, like several commentators, seems to conflate a ban on the *activities* of the Awami League with a ban on the *party*



Describing the Awami League as a 'fascist' party is not a distortion. This photo was taken in Chattogram on July 31, 2024, at the peak of the mass movement against Sheikh Hasina and her government.

FILE PHOTO: RAJIB RAJAHAN

military rule. Since Sheikh Hasina assumed leadership in 1981, the party has been fundamentally reshaped—ideologically and structurally—into a vehicle for autocratic rule.

Recognising that fascism today is understood more broadly, the US-based think tank Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) identifies extreme nationalism, cult of personality, and mass mobilisation as hallmarks of fascist systems. Has the Awami League not exhibited these traits?

Consider how dissenters have been labelled anti-national, often branded as "Razakars" or agents of

as one" is problematic. This framing can inadvertently downplay the extent of Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian control. Party officials, including the general secretary, frequently have openly acknowledged that final decisions rest solely with the party chief. Even her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, once admitted that Sheikh Hasina appreciates being portrayed by Western media as an authoritarian leader.

Using the four key indicators of authoritarian behaviour identified by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt in *How Democracies Die*, one could argue that democracy in Bangladesh

itself. The official notification only restricts its activities including use of violence, which the interim government considers can influence the judicial process adversely—not the party's existence. It is akin to placing conditions on a defendant during trial to prevent interference. This distinction matters and must be preserved to avoid further confusion.

In sum, describing the Awami League in precise and historically informed terms is essential for ensuring that political discourse in Bangladesh remains honest and grounded in reality.

## The NHRC also requires reform



Rehab Mahamoor  
is regional researcher at Amnesty International.

REHAB MAHAMOOR

Bangladesh is at a pivotal moment in history. After one and a half decades in the tight grip of authoritarian practices, the country has now had more than nine months to begin forging a path towards a new future.

While addressing the multiple areas that are in desperate need of systemic reform, the interim government must not lose sight of the important legal and institutional reforms that can ensure an enduring respect for human rights. One such institution is the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which could, if reformed, be key to robust oversight, redress, and accountability for human rights violations.

The NHRC has historically had glaring shortcomings in fulfilling its function as an independent mechanism to promote and monitor compliance with international standards on human rights and the rule of law. These failings led the UN accreditation body Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to give the NHRC a "B" rating in April 2025, for the third consecutive time since its initial accreditation, meaning that it only partially complies with international standards.

The importance of the NHRC cannot

be emphasised enough. If, during the last decade, it had functioned according to international standards, with the capacity and willingness to hold inquiries with authorities in cases of enforced disappearances and to carry out unannounced visits to detention sites, victims of human rights violations could have had an avenue for redress. Instead, it remained inefficient. Its inability to intervene for the protection of human rights reached abysmal depths during last year's July uprising, when, on July 30, the then chairman of the organisation reacted to the massacre of protesters with a mere statement calling the situation "unfortunate and a violation of human rights."

The NHRC currently stands vacant, following the resignation en masse of its commissioners in November 2024, three months after the interim government came into power. However, simply appointing new commissioners would be insufficient to ensure that the institution functions independently and effectively. Instead, several amendments must be made to its founding legislation, the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009, to achieve this end.

International standards on human rights institutions, set out in the Paris

Principles, state that such institutions must be impartial and independent. However, the current politicised process of appointing NHRC members runs against these ideals. The process is led by a seven-member selection committee, with a majority of members from the ruling party: the speaker of the house, two ministers, the cabinet secretary, as well as a

**The importance of the NHRC cannot be emphasised enough. If, during the last decade, it had functioned according to international standards, with the capacity and willingness to hold inquiries with authorities in cases of enforced disappearances and to carry out unannounced visits to detention sites, victims of human rights violations could have had an avenue for redress. Instead, it remained inefficient.**

ruling party MP. The selection process must be participatory, inclusive and transparent. For example, a model like Sri Lanka's Constitutional Council, which has representatives from the legislature (both government and opposition) and civil society, would better ensure the respect of such principles.

The Paris Principles also require that national human rights institutions have a broad mandate and adequate powers. Such a scope would enable the NHRC to investigate

any human rights violations, collect evidence, work with civil society and government actors, and make their findings and recommendations public. Critically, the NHRC Act also stipulates that the commission's powers do not extend to matters relating to the conduct of public servants and public sector workers. These exemptions must be removed, and all public authorities, including the military, police, and intelligence agencies, must come within the NHRC's purview.

According to the Paris Principles, human rights institutions must have adequate resources to carry out their functions independently, free from external influence or the fear of financial retribution. The NHRC Act sets out that a human rights commission fund will be constituted to finance the institution. However, the fund can only be serviced by annual grants made by the government or grants made by local authorities. This provision puts the NHRC at the mercy of government funding, which may be revoked at any time. The state must be compelled by law to provide adequate funding to the commission, as part of a national budgetary allocation, to discharge its functions, with a guaranteed minimum sum that the NHRC can access without fear of revocation.

While these amendments are just the beginning in ensuring adequate oversight by the NHRC, they are indeed a matter of urgency if victims of human rights violations and abuses are to have an efficient, effective human rights mechanism to approach for redress in Bangladesh now and in the future.

# Who will pay for the NBR turmoil?



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MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh's top tax machinery that is responsible for more than 85 percent of the country's domestic revenue, almost ground to a halt over the last few days. It faced a near paralysis over the recent NBR bifurcation ordinance. Office activities were almost halted, with protests by its employees intensifying, with the fiscal clock ticking and the budget knocking on the door.

The protest erupted following the issuance of an ordinance on May 12 that legally disbanded the NBR and the Internal Resources Division (IRD), replacing them with two separate entities: Revenue Policy Division and Revenue Management Division. The disgruntled NBR employees had planned to go on a complete shutdown in all the revenue offices countrywide, including export-import assessment on sea, land and air routes, from today, but after receiving assurances from the government, they decided to put their work abstention programme on hold, according to a press release they issued last night.

Framed as a long overdue step in the modernisation of the country's tax system—driven in part by the IMF conditions—the move has run into fierce bureaucratic resistance. Two questions now loom large: i) who will pay for the NBR turmoil?; and ii) when will this deadlock end?

#### Revenue paralysis comes at a cost

The protest cast a shadow over the NBR's revenue goals. In the first 10 months of the 2024-25 fiscal year, the tax authority collected Tk 2.85 lakh crore, reflecting a low year-on-year growth of nearly three percent, according to provisional data. Despite lowering the revenue target for FY2025 by Tk 18,500 crore, the NBR still has to collect Tk 178,500 crore by the end of June this year to meet the Tk 463,500 crore target. If the protesters resume their work abstention, it



FILE PHOTO: MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

If the NBR crisis is allowed to continue, it risks further dysfunction within one of the country's most critical economic engines.

poses a clear risk to meeting that goal.

Moreover, the NBR is likely to miss its revenue target tied to the IMF's conditions, which require collecting nearly Tk 4.55 lakh crore by June this year and raising the tax-to-GDP ratio to 7.9 percent within that time frame.

Typically, the final two to three months of the fiscal year are critical for the NBR, during which it collects around Tk 40,000-50,000 crore per month. This momentum has been

as Bangladesh prepared for a challenging national budget.

So, it is not the protesting officers, nor the reform architects or top bureaucrats who would feel the impact of the NBR turmoil. In essence, the fiscal burden of this administrative standoff would fall squarely on the shoulders of the citizens, who already are burdened by inflation, with the consumer price index remaining above nine percent for the past 26 months. It would be the businesses who would be unable to

a sound principle: separate policy design from implementation. But the execution has been anything but inclusive. The NBR Reform Unity Council, the platform of NBR officers and employees, claims that the government bypassed the experienced revenue officers, opening the door for other government service cadres including admin cadres. Even the Revenue Reform Advisory Committee—tasked with the designing the restructuring—has publicly disavowed the final ordinance.

Protesters are calling not just for a rollback or repeal, but also the NBR chairman's removal and full disclosure of the advisory report. In their eyes, this is not reform. It's a hostile takeover of one of Bangladesh's most technical institutions.

Fortunately, the government has issued statements assuring that it would amend the ordinance, and NBR wouldn't be dissolved before the amendment is done, which will happen only after discussion with all the stakeholders. Following that, the protesters also issued a statement announcing that they were withdrawing their work abstention programme. However, they remain firm on their core demands, which include resignation of the chairman, and they said they would continue non-cooperation with the chairman.

#### So what's next?

There are no winners in a prolonged bureaucratic standoff. The protesters aren't opposing the separation itself as they want the NBR reformed, not dissolved. Their demand is to restructure it as an independent commission or division, led by officials from the revenue cadre.

With the national budget proposal set to be announced on June 2, both local and foreign investors have begun expressing concern over the unfolding situation. If this crisis is allowed to fester, it risks further dysfunction within one of the country's most critical economic engines. Investors will take note. Development partners will raise eyebrows. And taxpayers will grow more cynical—possibly further weakening an already fragile tax compliance.

A delegation of the protesters submitted a memorandum to the Chief Adviser's Office on Thursday to press their four-point demand, including repeal of the ordinance and removal of the NBR chairman. This crisis will only be resolved if both sides return to the table—and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus plays a critical role in resolving the turmoil through an open dialogue. Publishing the advisory committee's report and re-engaging stakeholders in genuine consultation could help dispel suspicion and rebuild trust.

Bangladesh cannot afford a broken tax system, especially now. The sooner this crisis is resolved, the less damage it will have on an already strained fiscal landscape.

## Our young citizens can transform our healthcare's future



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SYED ABDUL HAMID

In Bangladesh, seeking healthcare services is marked by profound challenges that stem from a complex interplay of demand- and supply-side barriers. On the demand side, pervasive low health literacy severely limits individuals' ability to make informed decisions about their well-being. Sociocultural norms, often deeply entrenched, discourage proactive engagement with healthcare systems. At the same time, misconceptions about medical care, such as equating medicine with treatment, or assuming that costly interventions guarantee superior outcomes, further complicate the issue. Affordability remains a significant hurdle as many families struggle to access even basic services. Additionally, the readiness of public health facilities is often inadequate, undermining trust and discouraging utilisation. On the supply side, the healthcare system is a fragmented, pluralistic mix of providers, ranging from trained allopathic practitioners to unregulated traditional healers. This diversity, coupled with weak regulatory oversight, results in inconsistent care quality and frequent instances of inappropriate treatment.

For decades, efforts to address these issues have centred on behaviour change communication (BCC) campaigns, which aim to educate communities and shift attitudes towards healthier practices. While

these initiatives have achieved some success in raising awareness, their impact is often fleeting. Top-down messaging struggles to resonate with our diverse population, failing to account for regional, cultural, or socioeconomic variations. Moreover, these campaigns rarely address deeper systemic issues, such as widespread mistrust in public health services or the absence of robust regulatory frameworks. As a result, the gains from such interventions tend to dissipate quickly, leaving communities vulnerable to the same barriers. To break this cycle, Bangladesh requires a transformative, community-driven solution, one that harnesses the potential of its youngest citizens to lead a paradigm shift in health literacy and behaviour.

Imagine a classroom in a rural Bangladeshi village where third-graders are not only learning foundational subjects like mathematics and language but also absorbing critical lessons about hygiene, the importance of vaccinations, and the value of clean water. Picture high school students stepping into leadership roles, organising health fairs to dispel myths about generic medicines or teaching their parents how to recognise early symptoms of common illnesses. This vision forms the core of an innovative proposal to train students from classes 3-12 as health ambassadors, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to drive meaningful change in their families, peer groups, and broader communities.

Students are uniquely positioned to act as catalysts for transformation. As trusted members of their households, especially in rural areas, school-going children have a remarkable ability to share knowledge in ways that resonate deeply, often bypassing the resistance that external campaigns encounter. A young girl explaining the importance of antenatal care to her mother might inspire timely visits to a clinic, improving maternal and child health outcomes. A teenage boy challenging myths about traditional healers in his village could shift community perceptions, encouraging reliance on qualified providers. Through their peer networks, students can amplify these messages, normalising behaviours such as seeking care from licensed practitioners or prioritising preventive measures like regular check-ups.

In communities where scepticism towards public health services runs high, students can serve as bridges, rebuilding trust by sharing evidence-based information about the benefits of government-run clinics and programmes.

The proposed approach is both practical and adaptable to the developmental stages of students. Children in classes 1-5 would focus on foundational health concepts, such as the importance of handwashing, safe drinking water, and balanced nutrition. These lessons would be integrated into their existing curriculum, making them accessible and engaging through interactive activities like storytelling or games. Older students, in classes 6-12, would tackle more complex topics, including maternal and child health, the management of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, and the dangers of

self-medication or reliance on informal providers. To deliver this education, schools would establish well-being clubs—student-led groups supported by trained teachers. These clubs would serve as platforms for peer learning, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among participants.

Beyond the classroom, students would engage in hands-on, community-oriented activities designed to translate knowledge into action. Peer health clubs would encourage students to share what they have learnt with friends, creating a ripple effect of awareness. Community outreach initiatives, such as health fairs or door-to-door campaigns, would allow students to directly engage with neighbours, promoting local health services and addressing common misconceptions.

This strategy offers a sustainable, cost-effective alternative to traditional campaigns. By leveraging existing school infrastructure, the programme minimises the need for additional resources while maximising reach. Teachers, already embedded in the education system, can be trained to deliver health lessons, ensuring consistency and scalability. Local health workers can complement these efforts by providing technical support, such as guest lectures or materials for student-led campaigns. The ripple effect of this approach is profound: a single child educating their family can spark generational change, while peer-to-peer sharing builds a network of informed advocates. Over time, these efforts can reshape community norms, fostering a culture of accountability where citizens demand quality care and providers are incentivised to deliver it.

Evidence from similar initiatives underscores the potential for success. In India, school-based health education programmes have significantly improved

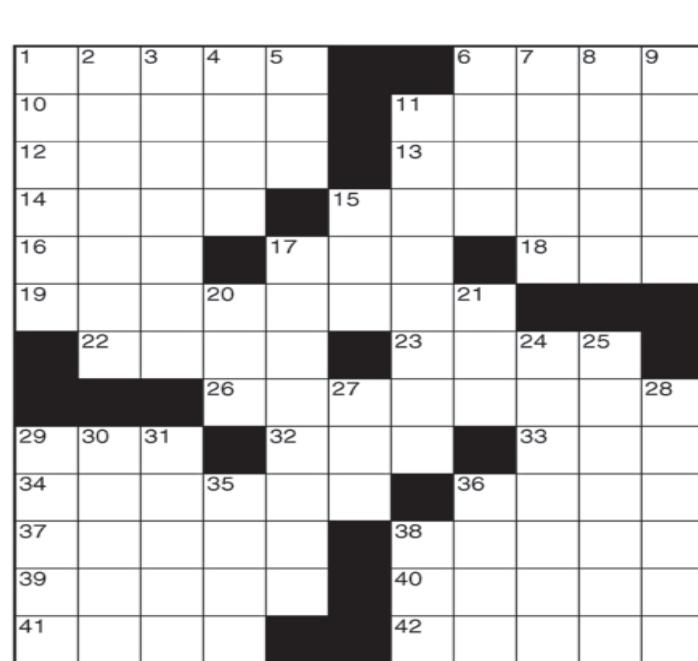
hygiene practices, leading to measurable reductions in waterborne diseases. In sub-Saharan Africa, youth-led campaigns have increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, driving higher rates of testing and treatment adherence. These examples demonstrate that young people, when equipped with the right tools, can effect meaningful change.

In Bangladesh, implementation would begin with the development of a tailored curriculum, designed in collaboration with health and education experts to align with national priorities. Teachers and students would undergo training to ensure effective delivery, while partnerships with local health offices would provide logistical support. Successful pilots could be scaled up through integration into national education policies, with backing from government agencies and development partners.

The challenges facing Bangladesh's healthcare system are formidable, but they are not insurmountable. By investing in students as health ambassadors, the country can cultivate a generation of informed, empowered leaders who redefine how communities engage with healthcare. This approach taps into the energy, creativity, and influence of young people, transforming them into agents of change. As students share knowledge, challenge misconceptions, and advocate for better care, they lay the foundation for a healthier, more equitable society. The voices of confident, knowledgeable young ambassadors could ignite a healthcare revolution, ensuring that every citizen has the tools to seek, demand, and access quality care. Through this innovative strategy, Bangladesh has the opportunity to not only address its immediate health challenges but also build a resilient, informed population capable of sustaining progress for generations to come.

ACROSS  
1 Cheese choice  
6 Sandbox toy  
10 Carved gem  
11 Shop tool  
12 Turn red, maybe  
13 Blood line  
14 Infamous czar  
15 "Golly!"  
16 Fellows  
17 "East of Eden" son  
18 Simple denials  
19 Lion or wolf, e.g.  
22 Spill over  
23 Neighbor  
26 IOU holder  
29 Fido's foot  
32 Auditor's org.  
33 Bunion spot  
34 Serengeti setting  
36 Plays the ponies  
37 Ring thing  
38 Code name  
39 Scout shelters  
40 Close, as a port  
41 Therefore

42 West Point student  
DOWN  
1 Be frugal  
2 Legal releases  
3 Form a jury  
4 Spotted  
5 Pop's boy  
6 Work the fields  
7 Braves legend  
8 Foreword  
9 Top roles  
11 Shuttle cargoes  
15 Yoga need  
17 Whims  
20 Clinic nickname  
21 Batting stat  
24 Said  
25 Foot, in slang  
27 Epoch's kin  
28 Bristle  
29 Cut partner  
30 Following  
31 Injustice  
35 Wild about  
36 Lauderdale neighbor  
38 Amp plug in



## FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

L	A	M	A	S		S	T	A	T	S
A	D	O	R	E		T	O	P	I	C
S	M	O	K	E	J	U	M	P	E	R
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# The pride of Noakhali AL AMIN'S METEORIC RISE TO CANNES

SHARMIN JOYA

Who could have ever imagined a boy making it to Cannes from the narrow, winding lanes in the outskirts of Noakhali? Certainly not Al Amin, not even in his wildest dreams. Nonetheless, that dream has become a reality. *Ali*, the short film directed by Adnan Al Rajeev, has received a Special Mention at the prestigious 78th Cannes Film Festival.

Since Saturday, *Ali* has been on everyone's radar—celebrated for making history in the Bangladeshi film industry. With his deeply moving portrayal of the titular character, Al Amin is still trying to take it all in.

"I never even thought I'd act," he confessed. "And now this opportunity of attending Cannes still feels like a dream."

The journey, he says, came out of nowhere—completely unplanned. Hailing from Bashirhat in Companiganj, Noakhali, Al Amin is a third-year BSS student at Govt Mujib College.

While returning to Paris by train from Cannes, Al Amin reflected on the extraordinary path that took him from the quiet corners of rural Bangladesh to the glitz and grandeur of one of the world's most revered film festivals.

For the role of Ali, director Adnan Al Rajeev had been searching for a certain kind of presence—an innocent face, someone with long hair and eyes expressive enough to speak volumes without uttering a single word. "They auditioned around 40 people for the part," Al Amin shared. "But they weren't looking for someone to perform. They wanted someone who could simply be Ali. And they saw that in me."

So, how did they even find him—a complete

newcomer with no media background?

"Well, I had auditioned for a few music reality shows," he explained. "I got some attention for singing in dual voices. I made it through the initial rounds but was eventually dropped because the others were far more polished. *Ali*'s team then somehow found me."

*Ali* is set in a coastal town, where singing is considered forbidden. A teenage boy, driven by his dreams, secretly enters a singing competition and longs to leave for the city. But beneath the surface lies a haunting mystery.

Although *Ali* marked his very first acting experience, Al Amin believes it won't be his last. "This film gave me a kind of courage I didn't know I had. I now truly believe I can build something with this."

He was initially nervous about not speaking English fluently. "But I soon realised that language isn't a barrier," he smiled. "At the screening, people from France, Germany, and Japan came up to me and said, 'Your story moved us.' That's one of the greatest rewards I'll ever receive."

When he returns home, Al Amin plans to begin work on a full-length feature film. "It'll be in our language, about our land and our people. I want the boys and girls from our villages to see themselves on screen—to hear their own stories."

At the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, the Short Film Palme d'Or was awarded to *I'm Glad You're Dead Now* by Tawfeek Barhom—who personally praised Al Amin for his performance. "I was overwhelmed when he came up to me and said he loved my work," he recalled while signing off. "It felt surreal."



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Jafar Panahi's revenge thriller clinches Cannes' top prize

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi made history on Saturday as his revenge thriller *It Was Just An Accident* claimed the Palme d'Or at the 78th Cannes Film Festival. He is now one of the few directors to have secured top awards at all three major European film festivals, having previously won the Golden Bear at Berlin for *Taxi* (2015) and the Golden Lion at Venice for *The Circle* (2000).

Panahi, 64, who faced a 15-year filmmaking ban in Iran and has endured multiple imprisonments, dedicated the award to the people of Iran and their fight for freedom.

*It Was Just An Accident* follows a garage owner who kidnaps a man resembling his past torturer, exploring revenge and trauma. It's only the second Iranian film to win the Palme d'Or after *Taste of Cherry* (1997).

Jury President Juliette Binoche praised the film's emotional depth and artistic courage, stating, "Art transforms darkness into forgiveness, hope, and new life."

Other major wins include Joachim Trier receiving the Grand Prix for *Sentimental Value*, while the Jury Prize was jointly awarded to Mascha Schilinski's *Sound of Falling* and Oliver Laxe's *Sirat*.

Kleber Mendonça Filho won Best Director for the Brazilian film *The Secret Agent*, which also earned Wagner Moura the Best Actor award. *Young Mothers* by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne took home Best Screenplay, while Nadia Melliti won Best Actress for *The Little Sister*. Bi Gan's *Resurrection* received the Special Prize.

The Caméra d'Or for Best First Film went to *The President's Cake* by Hassan Hadi, and Tawfeek Barhom's *I'm Glad You're Dead Now* won the Palme d'Or for Best Short Film, with Special Mention for Bangladeshi director Adnan Al Rajeev's *Ali*.

In an uncertain regard, Diego Céspedes's *The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo* won the top prize, with several other honours recognising bold storytelling across the board.



Yesterday, Bangla Academy celebrated Kazi Nazrul Islam's 126th birth anniversary with tributes, a seminar, and cultural performances. Nazrul Awards were conferred to researcher Anwarul Haque and singer Shabnam Mushtari for their contributions on the works of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. However, Shabnam Mushtari couldn't attend the ceremony due to poor health, so her daughter received the award on her behalf. Each received Tk 1 lakh, a crest, and an *uttoria* at the event titled *Chobbisher Gonobhyutthan*.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BANGLA ACADEMY

## A unique celebration of Nazrul's 'Thumris' at Chhayana



Marking the 126th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha hosted a special concert, *Thumri'r Jalsa*, at Chhayana

Auditorium last Saturday evening. Departing from conventional patriotic or devotional renditions, the programme spotlighted Nazrul's lesser-known contributions to the *thumri* genre, presenting his compositions alongside classical thumris rooted in foundational ragas.

Featuring both seasoned vocalists and emerging talents, the performance showcased Nazrul's artistic versatility and deep engagement with classical forms.

Organisers aimed to reaffirm the national poet's musical legacy—not only as a voice of resistance, but as a sophisticated composer.

# NEWS

## Internal democracy lies at the heart of NCP charter

FROM PAGE 1

The NCP is likely to publish the charter today, several leaders said.

The charter states that the people had to give their blood and again to establish democracy because the core principles of the Liberation War—democracy, equality, human dignity, and social justice—remained unfulfilled.

People laid down their lives in the 2024 mass uprising not just to oust a government, but to dismantle a "fascist system" built on corruption, enforced disappearances, and suppression of dissent.

## NCP'S GOALS, VISIONS

At the heart of the vision for "New Bangladesh" is a strong, participatory, and accountability-driven democracy where freedom of speech, voting rights, and the "freedom of organisation" are guaranteed for all, says the draft.

The party pledges to build a society eliminating all forms of economic and social discrimination and ensuring fundamental rights such as

access to education, healthcare, and employment for every citizen.

The NCP envisions an efficient, transparent, and citizen-oriented administrative system which is not corrupt and wasteful.

Another core goal is the establishment of the rule of law, justice, and human rights across the country. The state will rely on science, technology, and innovation.

The NCP stresses on equal opportunities for all, regardless of religion, colour, gender, or political belief.

The party will always be vocal on issues related to the nation's independence and sovereignty.

The NCP will eliminate economic and social discrimination by ensuring access to healthcare, education, and employment for all. Special attention will be given to farmers, workers, and marginalised communities, with initiatives aimed at safeguarding their rights and improving their socio-economic conditions.

The party will press for a complete

overhaul of the education sector to make the system innovation-driven and employment-oriented.

The NCP envisions a sustainable, export-oriented future economy powered by technology and agriculture.

## LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The NCP charter refers to the individual occupying the topmost position of the party as the leader or chief. The second-highest position is the deputy leader or deputy chief, followed by the organiser.

Should the NCP win national elections and form a government, the party's leader must resign as the party chief to ensure a clear separation between governance and party operations.

If 10 percent of the national council members submit a formal request for a probe against the party chief, the political council, the highest policy-making body of the party, would form an investigation committee.

The political council must deliver a decision within 15 working days.

The other senior officeholders will

be subject to the same level of scrutiny.

The political council will consist of 13 elected members, including the chief and deputy and six nominees from the top two leaders.

If the NCP forms the government, the prime minister will be added as an additional member of the political council.

To run for the political council, a candidate must be a general member of the party for at least five years and must secure backing from at least two percent of the national council delegates.

Aspirants for the positions of leader and deputy leader must be running mates and must be endorsed by at least five percent of national council members. If no panel secures 51 percent of the votes, a run-off will be held between the top two contenders.

All elected leadership positions will carry a three-year term, and a leader may not serve more than three terms.

The NCP will have a multi-layered

structure.

The executive body, just below the

political council, will handle the party's day-to-day affairs: formulating press strategies, campaign planning, and implementing political programmes.

The national council—also referred to as the party's general assembly—will comprise members from all levels of the organisation, from grassroots to the central leadership.

Five delegates from each upazila unit and 10 from each district unit will be elected to the council.

All key decisions of the party, such as budget approvals, audit report analyses, leadership elections and no-confidence motions, will be undertaken by the national council.

A simple majority is required for most decisions, but amendments to the party charter will require a two-thirds majority.

The council will convene at least once a year, with provisions for emergency meetings to be called by the leader or deputy leader.

The party also plans to establish several secretariats dedicated to key policy areas and specific demographics

such as a women's secretariat, legal secretariat, and labour secretariat—ensuring diverse representation and targeted mobilisation.

A three-tier regional structure will be maintained.

Although the members of the grassroots committees are being selected by the party founders now, there will be an election for top positions in the next council.

The NCP will also form an advisory panel, a parliamentary chamber, and a "shadow parliament", a concept relatively new in Bangladesh but common in Westminster-style democracies.

The shadow parliament will consist of 15 to 25 members who will mirror government ministers, scrutinise policies, and present alternative governance proposals in preparation for future elections.

At least three NCP leaders have said that no party council would be held before the next national election.

The party has yet to design its logo and flag.

## 172 more pushed in

FROM PAGE 16  
been living in the Indian state of Haryana.

About a week ago, they were detained by Indian authorities from various locations in Haryana and subsequently jailed in Berhampore, located in West Bengal's Murshidabad district.

They were later pushed across the border during the early hours yesterday, the OC said.

The police are in the process of taking the necessary legal steps in this regard.

In Sylhet and Moulvibazar, a total of 153 Bangladeshi citizens were detained by the BGB between Saturday night and yesterday morning after they were pushed into Bangladesh from India by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

The detainees include 49 men, 53 women, and 51 children of 27 families. Almost all of them are from Kurigram and have been working in India for years, confirmed Lt Col Mehedi Hasan, commanding officer of BGB 52 (Beanibazar) Battalion.

## 23 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

FROM PAGE 16  
Gaza operations in recent days in what it has described as a renewed push to destroy Hamas, reports AFP.

Gaza's civil defence agency said Saturday that an Israeli strike in the southern city of Khan Yunis killed nine children of a pair of married doctors, with the Israeli army saying it was reviewing the reports.

World Food Programme (WFP) warned that four-year-old Mohammed Yassine died from a lack of food as more than 70,000 children in Gaza face acute levels of malnutrition, reports Al Jazeera online.

"After Saturday's push in through the Kanaighat border, we increased our vigilance in the border. However, the BSF managed to push in 153 people through five points in the border between 2:00am to 8:30am," he said.

Of them, 32 people were detained along the border in Sylhet's Beanibazar upazila, while 121 others were held in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila.

The official said BGB patrol teams were vigilant, but some areas of the border are either hilly or marshlands, making it difficult to monitor.

"The BSF switched off the security lights they installed in their part of the border and pushed in these people. After we detained them, we confirmed their nationalities as Bangladeshi and, considering the humanitarian ground, detained and later handed them to the police," he said.

Lt Col Mehedi further said, "The detainees said that they were working at different brick fields or stone quarries in Gujarat for years, and Indian police detained them as illegal immigrants. They were gathered near

the Sylhet border on May 4. Since then, the BSF has been trying to push them in through different borders."

"Though BSF officially refuses involvement, we have called a company commander level meeting to protest such activities," he said.

On Saturday, 21 Bangladeshi were detained in Sylhet's Kanaighat border after being pushed in from India.

Earlier on May 14, some 16 Bangladeshis were similarly pushed back through the same border and later handed over to their relatives after police confirmed their identities.

According to BGB headquarters, 664 individuals were pushed in by India through borders in Khagrachhari, Kurigram, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Cumilla, Feni, and Jhenidah districts since May 7, along with 78 others pushed in through remote forest areas in the Sundarbans' Mandarbaria area.

This takes the total up to 742. [Our correspondents from Benapole and Sylhet contributed to this report.]

carried out several ambushes and attacks using bombs and anti-tank rockets against Israeli forces operating in several areas across Gaza.

Gaza's health ministry said Saturday that at least 3,747 people had been killed in the territory since a ceasefire collapsed on March 18, taking the war's overall toll to 53,901, mostly civilians.

On Friday the Israeli military said it had conducted more strikes in Gaza overnight, hitting 75 targets including weapons storage facilities and rocket launchers.

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During the foreign office consultation in Tokyo on May 15, Bangladesh sought Japan's support for more concessional loans, extension of

loan repayment period and budgetary support.

"Japan is very positive about providing overseas development assistance to Bangladesh. We are expecting more support in the days to come," Nazrul Islam, secretary (East) of the foreign affairs ministry, who led the Bangladesh side, told The Daily Star.

Japan is also likely to continue Bangladesh's duty-free, quota-free access following graduation from the least developed country bracket. It is also likely to extend market access to Bangladeshi fruits and vegetables.

Under the Bay of Bengal Initiatives (Big B), Japan would engage with Bangladesh more robustly for building high-quality infrastructure development projects and would encourage Japanese manufacturing plants and production houses to extend their production and industrial value chain to Bangladesh.

Under the new plan for Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Big B initiatives, Japan wants to see the sustainable development of the region.

"We would seek strong Japanese support for resolving the Rohingya crisis," said a foreign ministry official.

## Pry school teachers go

FROM PAGE 16  
end of a half day work abstention observed until yesterday.

Earlier, they observed a one-hour work abstention from May 5 to 15, two hours from May 16 to 20, and a half-day abstention from May 21 to 25.

Their demands include revising the recommendations made by a committee which was formed to improve the education sector to ensure that assistant teachers are placed in 11th grade at the entry level.

They are also demanding to resolve complications in availing higher grades after completing 10 and 16 years in service, and are demanding faster

promotions, including the promotion of assistant teachers to fill 100 percent of head teacher positions.

Earlier, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education had proposed placing assistant teachers in the 12th grade and head teachers in the 10th grade, based on the advisory committee's recommendations and a relevant court directive.

However, the protesting teachers have rejected this proposal, insisting that their entry level grade must be the 11th grade. They have warned that they will not return to classrooms unless the government responds positively to their demands.

## Russia launches

FROM PAGE 16  
reason enough for new sanctions against Russia."

It was the largest attack of the war in terms of weapons fired, although other strikes have killed more people.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said 12 people had been killed and 60 more wounded. Earlier death tolls given separately by regional authorities and rescuers had put the number of dead at 13.

"This was a combined, ruthless strike aimed at civilians. The enemy once again showed that its goal is fear and death," he wrote on Telegram.

The assault comes as Ukraine and Russia conducted the third and final day of a prisoner swap in which both sides exchanged a total of 1000 people each.

Ukraine and its European allies have sought to push Moscow into signing a 30-day ceasefire as a first step to negotiating an end to the three year war.

Their efforts suffered a blow earlier this week when Trump declined to place further sanctions on Moscow for not agreeing to an immediate pause in fighting, as Kyiv had wanted.

Ukraine's air force said Russia had launched 298 drones and 69 missiles in its overnight assault, although it said it was able to down 266 drones and 45 missiles.

Damage extended to a string of regional centres, including Ukraine's second largest city, Kharkiv, as well as Mykolaiv in the south and Ternopil in the west.

In Kyiv, Tymur Tkachenko, head of the city's military administration, said 11 people were injured in drone strikes. No deaths were reported in the capital, although four were killed in the region around the city, according to officials.

This was the second large aerial attack in two days. On Friday evening, Russia launched dozens of drones and ballistic missiles at Kyiv in waves that continued through the night.

## Govt to seek \$1b budget support

FROM PAGE 16  
On May 30, Yunus will hold a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

"We will discuss all areas of our relationship, but will focus on trade and investment, economic cooperation and Rohingya crisis," said another diplomatic source.

Trade between the two countries stands at \$4 billion, with negotiations ongoing for an Economic Partnership Agreement to be signed by the end of this year, said a foreign ministry official.

More than 350 Japanese companies are currently operating in Bangladesh, and more are willing to invest here, he said.

Since Bangladesh's independence, Japan has provided a total of \$24.72 billion -- almost evenly split between grants and loans.

Currently, Japan is funding more than 70 projects, including major ones like the third terminal of the Dhaka airport, Matarbari deep sea port and metro rail.

Under the new plan for Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Big B initiatives, Japan wants to see the sustainable development of the region.

"We would seek strong Japanese support for resolving the Rohingya crisis," said a foreign ministry official.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

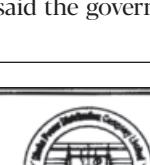
Manikganj Road Division, Manikganj.

Phone: 02-996610377

e-mail: [eeman@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eeman@rhd.gov.bd) / [eemanikganj@gmail.com](mailto:eemanikganj@gmail.com)

### Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridge/ Road Transport and Highway Division			
2	Agency	Roads and Highways Department			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Manikganj Road Division, Manikganj			
4	Procuring Entity Code	man001			
5	Procuring Entity District	Manikganj			
6	Invitation for	Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of The Modern Electronic / Computerized Online Real Time Multi-Station Weigh Monitoring System (SSWIM) Including Web Based Live Video & Data Monitoring System along with Collection of Penalties From Overload Vehicles At Weigh Scale Station at 41st Km of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia (N-5) National Highway (Bathuli) for 03 (Three) Years under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025.			
7	Invitation Ref No	35.01.5600.444.07.010.25-1795			
8	Date	25-05-2025			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB			
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	None			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	None			
13	Project Name (if applicable)	None			
14	Tender Package No.	01/Manual/PSN/Mkg.Rd/2024-2025			
15	Tender Package Name	Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of The Modern Electronic / Computerized Online Real Time Multi-Station Weigh Monitoring System (SSWIM) Including Web Based Live Video & Data Monitoring System along with Collection of Penalties From Overload Vehicles At Weigh Scale Station at 41st Km of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia (N-5) National Highway (Bathuli) for 03 (Three) Years under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025.			
16	Tender Publication Date	25-05-2025			
17	Tender Last Selling Date	07-07-2025 and 05.00 pm (BST)			
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	08-07-2025 and 12.00 pm (BST)			
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	08-07-2025 and 03:30 pm (BST)			
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Manikganj			
21	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Manikganj			
22	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	(i) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Administration & Establishment, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Dhaka			
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS					
23	- Receiving Tender Document	(i) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Alenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Manikganj. (iii) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj.			
24	- Opening Tender Document	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Alenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
25	Eligibility of Tenderer	As Per TDS			
26	Brief Description of Services	Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of The Modern Electronic / Computerized Online Real Time Multi-Station Weigh Monitoring System (SSWIM) Including Web Based Live Video & Data Monitoring System along with Collection of Penalties From Overload Vehicles At Weigh Scale Station at 41st Km of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia (N-5) National Highway (Bathuli) for 03 (Three) Years under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025.			
27	Price of Tender Document (BDT)	4000			
28	Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Months
29	01/Manual/P SN/Mkg.Rd/2024-2025	Operation & Maintenance with Collection of Penalties from Overload Vehicles	41st Km (Bathuli) of Dhaka (Mirpur) - Utholi- Paturia - Notakhola - Kashinathpur (N-5) National Highway	19 (Nineteen) Lakh	36 Months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
30	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shahriar Alam			
31	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, RHD			
32	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Manikganj Road Division, Manikganj.			
33	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 02-996610377, Email: <a href="mailto:eeman@rhd.gov.bd">eeman@rhd.gov.bd</a> / <a href="mailto:eemanikganj@gmail.com">eemanikganj@gmail.com</a>			
34	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the Tender at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. This notice will be available on RHD website <a href="http://www.rhd.gov.bd">www.rhd.gov.bd</a> and on BPPA website <a href="http://www.bppa.gov.bd">www.bppa.gov.bd</a> .				



### Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.

(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৩য় তলা), ১ আব্দুল গফির রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।

Web site : [www.dpdc.gov.bd](http://www.dpdc.gov.bd)

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the national e-GP portal for the following procurement of works/goods.

e-Tender ID	Name of Works	Closing & Opening Date & Time	Procuring Entity/ Contact Persons


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## বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

কর্মচারী পরিদপ্তর

ওয়াপদা তথ্য (৫ম তলা), মতিবিল, ঢাকা

[www.bpdb.gov.bd](http://www.bpdb.gov.bd)

নম্বরঃ ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬৩.০০১.২৪-৫২

তারিখঃ ১০ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৪

২৪ মে ২০২৫

### পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের অধীনে সরকারি আদেশ অনুযায়ী প্রচলিত বেতন ক্ষেত্র ও ভাতাদিতে রাজবিধাতৃত নিয়মবর্তিত পদসমূহে নিয়োগ ও প্যানেল প্রতিরিদী লক্ষ্যে নিয়োগ শর্তাবলীয়ে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নগরিকদের নিকট হতে Online এ <http://bpdb.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদন আহান করা যাচ্ছে। Online ব্যাজিত কোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম, বেতন ক্ষেত্র ও পদসংখ্যা	ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাপাত যোগ্যতা	মন্তব্য
১।	উপসহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল/মেকানিক্যাল/ ইলেক্ট্রনিক্যাল/পাওয়ার/সিভিল) টাকা: ১৬.৫০০-৩৮,৬৪০/- (১১তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ৮৪ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল/মেকানিক্যাল/ইলেক্ট্রনিক্যাল/পাওয়ার/ সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এ ডিপ্লোমা। এসএসসি/সমমান অধ্যা ডিপ্লোমা পরীক্ষার মেরুন একটিতে জিপিএ/সিজিপি এ ৩.০ থাকতে হবে। (খ) কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের বিপরীতে ইতিপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ১৪.০৮.২০২৪ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.২৩.০০১.২৪-২৩৪ মোতাবেক জারিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিপরীতে ইতিপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
২।	সহকারী নিরাপত্তা কর্মকর্তা/ আঞ্চলিক পোষেদা কর্মকর্তা টাকা: ১২.৫০০-৩০,২৩০/- (১১তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ২৫ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) নিরাপত্তা ও অনুসূচিত সংক্রান্ত কাজে ৫(পৰ্যন্ত) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞান হয় প্রেসির মাত্রক ডিপ্লোমা। কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়। (খ) মাইক্রোসফ্ট অফিস সফটওয়্যারের উপর কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ (ব্যবহারিক জ্ঞান) থাকতে হবে।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ১৫.০১.২০২৩ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৮৩.০০১.২৩-৮২ মোতাবেক জারিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিপরীতে ইতিপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
৩।	ফার্মাসিস্ট/মেডিক্যাল এ্যাপিস্টেট টাকা: ১২.৫০০-৩০,২৩০/- (১১তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ২৫ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) কোন স্থায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন ফার্মেসি/ ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-মেডিকেল ফ্যার্মাসিক্যাল/সমমান। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ৩(তিনি) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। (খ) কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ০৬.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০, ১৫.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২৬ এবং ১১.০৪.২০২০ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬০.০০১.২২-৮২ মোতাবেক জারিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিপরীতে ইতিপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
৪।	সিনিয়র স্টাফ নার্স টাকা: ১১.৫০০-২৭,৩০০/- (১১তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ০৪ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) কোন স্থায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন নার্সিং। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ৫(পৰ্যন্ত) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। (খ) কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ০৬.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০, এবং ১১.০৪.২০২০ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬০.০০১.২২-৮২ মোতাবেক জারিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিপরীতে ইতিপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
৫।	সহকারী হিসাবরক্ষক টাকা: ১১.৫০০-২৬,৫০০/- (১১তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ৩০ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) বাণিজ্যে রাজকীয় ডিপ্লোমা। কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ১৫.০১.২০২৩ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০
৬।	উচ্চমান হিসাব সহকারী টাকা: ১১.৫০০-২৬,৫০০/- (১১তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ৭৭ (চার্চি)টি	(খ) মাইক্রোসফ্ট অফিস সফটওয়্যারের উপর কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ (ব্যবহারিক জ্ঞান) থাকতে হবে।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ০৬.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০,১৫.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬০.০০১.২২-৮২
৭।	জুনিয়র স্টাফ নার্স টাকা: ৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/- (১০তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ১০ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) কোন স্থায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন নার্সিং। (খ) কোন পরীক্ষাতেই ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ০৬.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০,১৫.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬০.০০১.২২-৮২
৮।	ডেসার টাকা: ৮,৮০০-২১,৩১০/- (১৮তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ০৬ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ। উচ্চ পরীক্ষায় ২য় বিভাগ /শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/ সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়। (খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ৫(পৰ্যন্ত) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ০৬.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০, এবং ১১.০৪.২০২০ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬০.০০১.২২-৮২
৯।	বিডওয়াইফ টাকা: ৮,৮০০-২১,৩১০/- (১৮তম প্রেড), জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ ০৯ (চার্চি)টি	(ক) মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় পাশ। উচ্চ পরীক্ষায় ২য় বিভাগ /শ্রেণি/সমমানের জিপিএ/ সিজিপি এর নিয়ে নয়। (খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ৫(পৰ্যন্ত) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের ০৬.১১.২০১৮ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৫২.৪২৫.১৮.৮২০, এবং ১১.০৪.২০২০ তারিখের স্মারক নম্বর: ২৭.১১.০০০০.২১০.৬০.০০১.২২-৮২

#### বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ

(ক) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২.০৩.২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন মোতাবেক এসএসসি বা সমমান এবং এইচএসসি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ফেরেট্রো।

৫.০০ প্রেসেন্ট ক্ষেত্রে	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তারুণ্য	প্রথম বিভাগ
জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

(খ) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২.০৬.২০০৯ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন মোতাবেক অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ এর ফেরেট্রো।

১৪। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হাস/বৃক্ষ হতে পারে।

১৫। বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড কেনার কারণ দর্শনো ব্যাপক নয়।

১৬। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের

## 49TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Art and decolonisation, with  
**ZAINUL ABEDIN**

Fig 1: Feature on Zainul Abedin by Chittaprosad, People's War, January 1945

and continuing, perhaps, Abedin's very own legacy in post-Partition, independent India.

Abedin's return to Dhaka, the capital of the eastern wing of a newly formed Pakistan, sprawled on both sides of India, was forced – even as he himself hailed from this former East Bengal's Mymensingh district. As Abedin, along with his fellow artists from Calcutta – Safiuddin Amhad, Qamruzzaman, and Anwarul Hasan – chose to leave a polarised, genocidal milieu of a communal riot-torn Calcutta, he had to confront deep professional and personal insecurity. Rebuilding artistic foundations in the new capital of Pakistan's eastern wing, Dhaka, was challenging.

Abedin would go on to become a foundational figure – an artist, pedagogue and cultural bureaucrat – central to the formation of an artistic sphere in East Pakistan, active also in the federal centre in the west. It took imagination, labour, and persistent negotiations with the federal government in West Pakistan. And even as East Pakistani artists like Abedin visited and thrived in the west, the asymmetries in artistic infrastructure between the two wings remained. Partition had marked the stories of artistic modernism in the sub-continent in ways lived and felt, but often invisible to history writing.

Zainul Abedin's artistic practice – from his early years as a migrant art school student in colonial Calcutta in the 1930s to his stature as *Silpacharya* – the most

Tagore, and institutionalised by his followers. In the 1930s, the Bengal School was still following idealistic mythological subjects and had partly morphed into a dynamic yet still idealistic ruralist earthiness at Kala Bhavan, the art school of the experimental 'global' university of Visva-Bharati at rural Santiniketan, established in 1919 by Rabindranath Tagore. For Abedin and his fellow realist painters like Abani Sen or Gobardhan Ash, this idealism was inadequate to capture what contemporary society and landscape itself looked like. Against all odds, they would exhibit their works, and by the late-1930s critics were noticing. Reviewing their 1936 show, for instance, the critic Jaminikanta Sen had written that such works carried a new *satyabodh* – a "sensibility of truth" and a "new nationalism" that could visualise the nation via the harsh "truths of contemporary reality", marked by industrialisation, famished villagers, and their actual living conditions.

The famine pushed this realist sensibility to new extremes, as Abedin's art turned to a minimalist expressionism that transformed realism from the often-criticised sterility of academic naturalist "colonial" style art, to a dynamic yet challenging form of modernist realism that questioned the very foundation of artistic truth and beauty. Abedin's famished rural refugees in Calcutta's street corners, battling crows and dogs for morsels of food were more than an

he travelled across the world in the 1950s and 1960s, and held close as he fled an invading Pakistani army during the liberation war in 1971 that gave birth, through another genocide, to today's Bangladesh from East Pakistan. Realism was a cornerstone in Abedin's art practice, as a vision and even as a conservatism that he would hold on to, while he dedicated himself to shaping artistic taste and pedagogy as Principal of Dhaka's art institute, formed earlier, in 1948-49. Yet Abedin's realism carried many lines, as it shaped what the social – and via that, the political – could mean in art. From the 1930s itself, this sense of the social, for Abedin, was heavily mediated by rural lives – whether in his early forays into

1952-53, his style would change, though mildly and for a short span. He began experimenting in linear simplifications, breaking up the image, trying out semi-Cubistic figurines, while remaining committed to building art's foundations in a public culture. Throughout the 1950s, Abedin made conscious efforts to integrate art with the people – whether in projecting the image of the common man in art or promoting public access and participation in art-making. Over the 1960s, Abedin tied himself more to the collection and documentation of folk art, a substantial part of which formed the core of the Sonargaon museum in post-liberation Bangladesh. This was, at the same



Fig 2: "Zainul Abedin Paints Arab Liberation", The Express, 31 July 1970



Zainul Abedin sketching outdoors, c. 1950s

celebrated artist-pedagogue of post-liberation Bangladesh in the 1970s, carries these lived shadow-lines of 20th-century decolonisation in the sub-continent. Still more, and critically so, Abedin symbolises, along with his many other fellow artist pedagogues across the decolonising worlds in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, this artistic legacy of shaping how freedom itself could be visualised in young nations undergoing often-turbulent postcolonial transitions. This allegorical weight that Abedin has had to shoulder – in life as much as in the afterlives of his legacy – has often also been heavy. Can we return to this heavy iconicity of a 'national artist', to draw his lines and lineages differently?

As a young entrant into Calcutta's art worlds in the 1930s, Abedin, along with fellow students from the Government School of Art, sought to generate new space for artistic realism. The art school's syllabus as well as the city's art discourse had been dominated hitherto by the idyllic "Indian-style" wash paintings of the Bengal School, pioneered in the early 1900s by Abanindranath

painting rural labour in 1930s Dumka, or the rural displaced in the wartime famine, or increasingly in post-independence East Pakistan, the unchanging rhythms of a rural everyday, between struggle and resilience, labour and leisure.

There is in Abedin's practice, a dialogue between the rural and the social, and modernist form-making itself that would inform his pedagogy and legacy – and indeed, its allegorical weight for East Pakistan and Bangladesh that he carried as *Silpacharya*. This same dialogue also shapes Abedin's significance our understanding of how integrating (social) realism with modernism, and the figurative with the abstract, were critical cornerstones in the artistic imaginations of the decolonial transformations of the 1940s-80s. This has implications for pushing art historical thinking beyond the artificial oppositions between figurative and abstract art planted globally by an Americanised art discourse via the cultural politics of the Cold War.

Abedin himself was a postcolonial traveller in this global cultural Cold War. By the mid-1950s, he was a highly mobile artist travelling across the USA, Europe, the Middle East, Central and East Asia, the Soviet Union, on various fellowships like the Commonwealth, the Rockefeller grants, and on commissions from the Pakistani government. In September 1951, he made his first trip to London on a Commonwealth scholarship to study art pedagogy. Abedin studied at the Slade School and exhibited across London. In 1952, he attended the UNESCO conference held during the Venice Biennale, where ideas of cultural freedom, artistic exchange, new aesthetic standards of modern art and post-1945 cultural reconstruction were being discussed. In the 1960s, Abedin was invited by the Soviet Union where he was awarded a gold medal, and later by the Arab League to visit and sketch the Palestinian guerrillas and refugees. He was, in fact, a typical artist diplomat of the period of decolonisation and Cold War who would be serially invited by the United States and the Soviet Union, countries of the Eastern Bloc as well as Japan in a muted contest over the cultural imagination of the 'Third World'.

Abedin's journeys marked his artistic trajectory in the styles he experimented with, though his subjects remained the same – labour, struggle, and the rural everyday. For instance, after he returned from his first spell in the UK, Europe, and Turkey between 1952-53, his style would change, though mildly and for a short span. He began experimenting in linear simplifications, breaking up the image, trying out semi-Cubistic figurines, while remaining committed to building art's foundations in a public culture. Throughout the 1950s, Abedin made conscious efforts to integrate art with the people – whether in projecting the image of the common man in art or promoting public access and participation in art-making. Over the 1960s, Abedin tied himself more to the collection and documentation of folk art, a substantial part of which formed the core of the Sonargaon museum in post-liberation Bangladesh. This was, at the same

time, his self-fashioning as a patron and preserver of folk art, and also increasingly, his retreat into the identity of a pedagogue rather than that of a modernist artist.

1970 appears as a culmination of Abedin's artistic trajectory. In spring he made the scroll *Nabanna*, a celebration of the harvest festival where he created what can be seen as an allegory of the incipient nation – from the displacements of the 1940s, through growing rhythms of everydayness, to labour and leisure that have built the social fabric of his nation. In the summer of 1970, Abedin visited Palestinian refugee camps along the Jordan river as part of his tour across the Arab world (Figure 2). He wanted to head back, and organise another exhibition, the profits of which he intended to donate to the Palestinian cause. He was unable to return, and the works he left behind in Cairo were also lost. Returning to Dhaka in that summer, Abedin was to be overtaken by a growing political resistance at home, one that would lead to a genocidal liberation war, giving birth to Bangladesh. In November 1970 when the tidal wave in Monpura killed and ravaged millions, Abedin toured the destruction on a helicopter and returned with notes. Much later, he would paint *Monpura '70* – as his wife Jahanara Abedin noted – in one sitting, with rapid movements.

*Monpura '70* (Figure 3) is a harking back to the famine of 1943, as much as an encounter with the immensity of death, once again in the shadow of liberation struggle. So was *Nabanna* at the start of 1970. The Palestinian experience sits in the middle as a radical return to art's encounter with displacement, a battle itself perhaps, with the demand of artistic form in the shadow of dehumanisation. The dialectical tension between art's formal and socio-political pulls both shines and challenges how this aesthetics of 20th century decolonisation could be understood. Abedin the artist, his epic scrolls, his persisting returns to a rebel bull or rural fragments of labour and repose stand as possibilities – to read art as archives for understanding how the historical time of 20th century decolonisation was lived, imagined, remembered, and challenged, despite the ways our individual nation-states narrate fragmented pasts.

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Fig 3: Zainul Abedin and Kabir Chowdhury viewing Monpura '70 at the Exhibition of Contemporary Art of Bangladesh, Calcutta, November 1973, Amrita Bazar Patrika.

## 'Sabina's time has come to an end'

Nine rebels drafted for Jordan tour

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Peter Butler has virtually closed the door on the country's top-scorer and long-time captain Sabina Khatun by leaving her alongside four other SAFF winners in a 23-member team, declared for the upcoming Jordan tour, on Sunday.

When asked about the reason behind the exclusion of Sabina, who has scored 36 goals in 56 appearances for the country over a 15-year career, the Englishman said: "I think Sabina has run her race. If I'm being honest with you, if I'm being practical, I think her time's come to an end. I think you've got to move on."

The exclusion of Sabina as well as Sanjida Akhter, Masura Parvin and Krishna Rani Sarkar – all of them key members of both SAFF-winning teams, along with Matsushima Sumaya, who was part of the SAFF-winning team last year, comes in the wake of a long-standing rift between the coach and the senior players, which first came to light during the SAFF campaign in Nepal last year.

Since the boycott of Butler's training camp by 18 senior players on January 30 this year, nine have been called back to the camp recently – all of them earning their places for Jordan tour – alongside 11 members who were part of the team which played two friendly matches in UAE in February. Three new faces – goalkeeper Ferdousi Akter, midfielder Shanti Mardi and forward Umela Marma – were added.

Although there was no mention of the rift from the coach behind the exclusion of these senior players during a press



PHOTO: AI-GENERATED

### BANGLADESH SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Rupna Chakma, Meghla Rani, Ferdousi Akter,  
**Defenders:** Sheuli Azim, Shamsunnahar Sr, Afeida Khandaker (C), Joynab Bibi  
**Midfielders:** Monika Chakma, Maria Manda, Munki Akter, Shopna Rani, Kohati Kisku, Halima Akter, Shanti Mardi  
**Forwards:** Ritu Porna Chakma, Tohura Khatun, Shamsunnahar Jr, Mosammatt Sagorika, Shaheda Akter, Surobhi Akond, Mosammatt Sultana, Nobirun Khatun, Umela Marma

conference yesterday, he mentioned that form, fitness, game time, discipline, attitude, and above all an eye on giving exposure to young players, were the main considerations for his team selection.

Apart from the exclusion of the five senior players, the appointment of Aleida Khandaker as the captain was also an eyebrow-raiser. Although she did captain a young side to UAE, with senior players such as Monika Chakma, Ritu Porna Chakma and Maria Manda back in the squad, the coach had the option to choose from.

"I think she's a good leader. I think she's got character. I think she leads by example. She's not a massive talker," Butler explained. "Why shouldn't I have the right to choose my captain? Experienced or inexperienced, captains lead by example, not just from a vocal perspective but from practical perspective."

Mahfuz Akter Kiron, the women's wing chairman of BFF, was asked whether she had a talk with the coach regarding the exclusion of the senior players and why they were not given an opportunity to prove their form or fitness to the coach. She didn't provide a direct answer to these questions, instead said that she believed in professionalism and didn't see the point of her asking questions on team selection.

The Bangladesh team will fly for Amman this morning to play against 74th-ranked Jordan on May 31 and 94th-ranked Indonesia on June 3 as part of preparation for June-July's AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers.



PHOTO: AFP  
Retired Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal gestures during a ceremony honouring his career during the French Open on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris yesterday.

## Real Madrid bring Alonso home again

AGENCIES

Xabi Alonso has been appointed Real Madrid manager, the Spanish giants confirmed on Sunday, marking an emotional return to the Santiago Bernabeu.

The 43-year-old has signed a three-year contract until June 2028 and succeeds Carlo Ancelotti, who coached his final game on Saturday before departing to lead Brazil.

Ancelotti ended his second spell at Real without a major trophy this season. In response, the club acted swiftly to secure Alonso, who had recently announced his departure from Bayer Leverkusen after an extraordinary campaign.

Alonso took charge of Leverkusen in October 2022 and transformed the club's fortunes. This past season, he guided them to their first ever Bundesliga title along with the German Cup and led them to the Europa League final. Although under contract until 2026, Leverkusen agreed to release him early at his request.

Alonso will be officially presented as Real's new head coach on Monday and begin his duties on June 1. His first challenge will be the revamped 32-team Club World Cup in the USA, where Real will face Al Hilal, Pachuca and RB Salzburg in the group stage, starting from June 14.

This appointment brings Alonso back to familiar territory. A former Real Madrid midfielder, he joined the club from Liverpool in 2009 and made 236 appearances, winning La Liga, two Copa del Rey titles, and the club's 10th Champions League crown.

After retiring, Alonso began his coaching journey at Real Madrid's youth academy, before progressing to Real Sociedad B and then Leverkusen.

Now, he follows a path similar to Zinedine Zidane – another iconic midfield turned successful Real coach – as he aims to guide the club back to European and domestic glory.



Erling Haaland secured the points for the visitors from the penalty spot.

Chelsea ended Nottingham Forest's dreams of a first appearance in the Champions League since they were European champions back in 1980.

Levi Colwill tapped in Pedro Neto's cross for the Blues' goal in a 1-0 win at the City Ground to secure fourth place for Chelsea.

Meanwhile, Newcastle narrowly avoided throwing away their place in the top five after losing 1-0 at home to Everton.

However, the Magpies finished fifth after Aston Villa were controversially beaten 2-0 at Manchester United, who finished the campaign in 15th.

A place in the Europa League is Villa's consolation for finishing sixth.

## CITY, CHELSEA, NEWCASTLE secure Champions League spots

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City, Chelsea and Newcastle secured places in next season's Champions League as Liverpool lifted the Premier League trophy after a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace on a dramatic final day of the season yesterday.

A record-equalling 20th league title for Liverpool and relegation for Ipswich, Leicester and Southampton had long since been decided, leaving the focus of attention on the battle for European places.

Liverpool and Arsenal had already secured their place in the Champions League by finishing in the top two, while Tottenham will join them after winning the Europa League on Wednesday.

City ensured a disappointing season did not end in disastrous fashion by qualifying for Europe's top competition for the 15th consecutive season by beating Fulham 2-0 to finish third.

Ilkay Gundogan's overhead kick from close range put Pep Guardiola's men in front before

Erling Haaland secured the points for the visitors from the penalty spot.

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Paris St Germain cruised to a 3-0 French Cup final win over Stade de Reims, a week before their much-anticipated Champions League showdown with Inter Milan. Manager Luis Enrique hailed the performance as perfect preparation for the club's historic European quest. "We're ready. We want to make history," he said. With the trophy secured by halftime, PSG now shift focus to chasing their first-ever Champions League title on May 31, determined to end years of continental frustration.

PHOTO: PSG

### SHORT CORNER

#### BFF post draws double dose of fan frustration

Yesterday, Bangladesh Football Federation's Facebook post announcing the national women's team squad for the upcoming tri-nation series in Jordan was quickly overwhelmed by angry comments about the ongoing ticketing fiasco for the Bangladesh men's Asian Cup Qualifiers against Singapore on June 10 -- a highly anticipated fixture as England-based Hamza Choudhury is set to make his home debut.

#### World No.1 Sabalenka powers into Round 2

World number one Aryna Sabalenka cruised into the second round of the French Open on Sunday with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Russia's Kamilla Rakhimova. Sabalenka broke Rakhimova five times as she wrapped up victory in an hour to make a convincing start to her Roland Garros campaign.

#### 'No hurry': Dhoni calm on future as CSK finish with win

After beating Gujarat Titans by 83 runs on Sunday, Chennai Super Kings ended with four wins in 14 matches with debate raging once again over the future of their veteran M.S. Dhoni, who took over as leader midway after injury to regular captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. The 43-year-old Dhoni has been linked with retirement but chose to keep his cards close to his chest after the game.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.

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## Govt to seek \$1b budget support from Japan

**Yunus to visit Tokyo May 28-31**

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh will seek \$1 billion from Japan as budget support during Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' visit to Japan on May 28-31.

The two countries will also sign at least seven memoranda of understanding on energy, development and capacity building of special economic zone, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and investments. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

Bangladesh will also seek sectoral cooperation support in the areas of shipbuilding and infrastructure development including railways, energy and blue economy.

"We will seek budget support of \$1 billion. We are hopeful of getting it, but let's see," a diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday.

During the three-day tour, Yunus will attend the 30th Nikkei Forum in Tokyo. He is listed as one of the speakers in the two day event.

On the sidelines, he is likely to hold a number of meetings including Ji Liqun, president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

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## 23 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

**Say Gaza rescuers; four-year-old boy starves to death: WHO**

AGENCIES

Rescuers in Gaza said 23 people were killed and several more wounded in Israeli air strikes across the Palestinian territory yesterday.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said five people were killed in a strike on a home in Jabalia, in the north.

Two more people, including a pregnant woman, were killed in an attack targeting tents sheltering displaced people around Nuseirat in central Gaza, he added. A strike in the main southern city of Khan Yunis also killed one person, Bassal said.

The Israeli military has stepped up its

SEE PAGE II COL 1



Herders unload cattle in Rajshahi city's Alibadh area, having ferried them across the Padma river from nearby districts and remote char areas. With Eid-ul-Azha just weeks away, the rush to bring sacrificial animals to urban markets has begun. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## FY26 BUDGET Subsidy spending to hold steady

Most allocation to go to power, fertiliser, food sectors

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The budget for fiscal 2025-26 is likely to be smaller than the current year's outlay, but subsidy spending is expected to remain almost unchanged at Tk 1,15,741 crore.

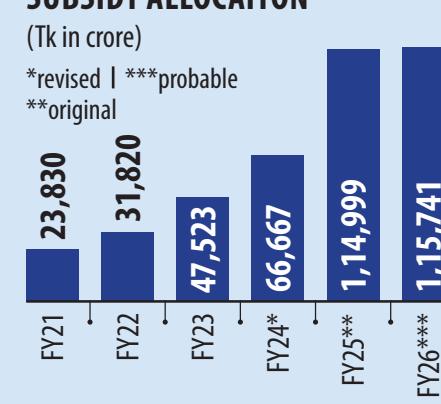
The original subsidy allocation for the current fiscal was Tk 1,15,000 crore, but it rose to Tk 1,33,000 crore as the interim government cleared most overdue payments across several sectors.

Most of the upcoming subsidy allocation will go to the power, fertiliser, and food sectors, according to a draft outline by the finance ministry.

Subsidy expenditure has steadily increased in recent years, driven by costly power generation,

SEE PAGE II COL 1

### SUBSIDY ALLOCATION



Pry school teachers go on indefinite strike today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assistant teachers at government primary schools across the country will go on a full-day work abstention from today for an indefinite period to press home their three-point demand, including fixing their starting salary to the 11th grade of the national pay scale.

Assistant Teachers' Unity Council, a platform of several teacher associations, announced the strike, said a press release signed by the council's convener Mohammad Mansuddin.

The association said the teachers would continue their protest until their demands were met.

This phase of movement follows the

SEE PAGE II COL 4

## Lost WWI submarine captured in images off California coast

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A World War I submarine wreck off the coast of Southern California has been captured for the first time in new video and images made possible using advanced deep-sea imaging technology.

The sunken US Navy vessel now resting on the San Diego seafloor is known as the USS F-1. F-class submarines were based in the Pacific, serving at Hawaii and off California.

The F-1 was lost at sea following an accidental collision on December 17, 1917, resulting in the death of 19 crew members.

While others were rescued, the submarine sank in just 10 seconds.

It was found again nearly 60 years later, according to the Submarine Force Library and Museum Association.

The high definition images of the over a century-old submarine were taken in February and March, when researchers at the Massachusetts-based Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution used a human-occupied vehicle called "Alvin" and the autonomous underwater vehicle named "Sentry" to travel down 1,300 feet below the surface of the Pacific waters.



**MUDY MERRIMENT ...**  
Villagers of all ages in Madinabagh of Jashore's Noapara upazila wading through knee-deep muddy waters during a festive fishing event yesterday. After draining a cultivated pond, locals dive into the slush to catch native species like puti, bele, pona, and rui. More than just a fishing session, it is a joyous celebration of rural life and community spirit.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Russia launches largest air attack on Ukraine

**12 killed; Zelensky calls on US to not be silent**

REUTERS, KYIV

Russian forces launched a barrage of 367 drones and missiles at Ukrainian cities overnight, including the capital Kyiv, in the largest aerial attack of the war so far, killing at least 12 people and injuring dozens more, officials said.

The dead included three children in the northern region of Zhytomyr, local officials there said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on the United States, which has taken a softer public line on Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin, since President Donald Trump took office, to speak out.

"The silence of America, the silence of others in the world only encourages Putin," he wrote on Telegram. "Every such terrorist Russian strike is

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সচেতনতামূলক বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসন্ন পরিব্রহ্ম-উল-আজহা উপলক্ষে সংগঠিত সকলের প্রতি আহ্বান ও অনুরোধ-

(ক) প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত পণ্য সামগ্রী ত্রয় করে বাজারে কৃত্রিম সংকট সৃষ্টি করবেন না;

(খ) কোনোভাবেই মসলা আরোক্তিক মূল্য দাবী করা যাবে না;

(গ) মানবীন মসলা বাজারজাত করা যাবে না;

(ঘ) কোনোভাবেই কারসাজি করে পত্র চামড়া বিক্রয়ীন্তার পরিবেশ তৈরী করা যাবে না;

(ঙ) স্থানীয় জেলা/উপজেলা প্রশাসন ও ইউপি/উপজেলা পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কোর্বানীর চামড়া যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণের কার্যকর উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করবে;

(চ) রেফ্রিজারেটর/ফ্রিজের সার্ভিস/মেরামত সম্পর্কিত প্রযোজ্য সার্ভিস সংগঠিত কর্তৃপক্ষ দ্রুততম সময়ে সম্পন্ন করবে।

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