



GDP growth lowest since pandemic

Bangladesh now a \$462b economy

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's GDP grew by 3.97 percent this fiscal year, the slowest in 34 years excluding the pandemic, on the back of lower growth in the agriculture and service sectors.

When the global coronavirus pandemic hit in fiscal 2019-20, the GDP growth was 3.75 percent. Otherwise, this year's provisional estimates by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics suggest that the economy will expand at the slowest pace since fiscal 1990-91, when it stood at 3.24 percent.

This fiscal year, the agricultural sector grew by 1.79 percent, down from 3.30 percent in fiscal 2023-24.

Service sector growth dropped 58 basis points to 4.51 percent, while the industrial sector growth jumped 83 basis points to 4.34 percent.

"This is a realistic assessment -- the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank projected similar growth estimates," said Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling.

GDP GROWTH

	FY24	FY25*
Agriculture	3.3	1.79
Industry	3.51	4.34
Service	5.09	4.51
GDP Size	\$450b	\$462b
GDP per capita	\$2,625	\$2,671
GNI per capita	\$2,738	\$2,820

*PROVISIONAL

When the ousted Awami League government prepared the budget for this fiscal year, the GDP growth projection was set at 6.75 percent. It was later revised down to 5 percent by the interim government.

However, the WB estimated the growth at 3.3 percent for the current fiscal year while the ADB estimated at 3.9 percent.

There was political instability and factory closures, while the law-and-order situation was dicey, said Raihan, also a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka.

"It's a kind of reflection of reality," he said, adding that the garment sector performed well, dragging up the overall industrial growth.

If the economic activities stagnate, the service sector growth is bound to be lower, he added.

In its Bangladesh Development Update released in April, the WB said the overall deceleration of economic activities in the first three quarters of fiscal 2024-25 was driven by a slump in both private and public investment.

Subdued private investment has been associated with declining private sector credit growth, which grew at 7.3 percent year-on-year in December 2024 -- the slowest pace of growth in 30 years, the report said.

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A Palestinian woman carries a girl wounded in an Israeli strike in the Saftawi neighbourhood, west of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: AFP

Top criminals Subrata Bain, Molla Masud held

Jt forces also arrest their 2 cohorts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Subrata Bain and Molla Masud, two of the country's most-wanted criminals, along with two of their close associates, were arrested yesterday in separate drives jointly conducted by the Bangladesh Army and intelligence agencies.

Subrata Bain, alias Fateh Ali, 60, and Abu Rasel Masud, alias Molla Masud, 54, were arrested in Kushtia. Based on information provided by them, their associates Arafat, alias shooter Arafat, and Sharif were arrested in Hatirjheel.

"These individuals were involved in killings, extortion, and sabotage across the country. The operation was the result of prolonged surveillance and was executed with precision without any casualties or confrontation," said Lt Col Sami Uddowla Chowdhury, director of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).



Subrata Bain

Both Subrata and Masud are named on the list of the country's top 23 most-wanted criminals and are believed to be masterminds of the infamous "Seven Star" gang, said the ISPR director in a press briefing at the Mess Alpha of Dhaka Cantonment.

During the raid, five foreign pistols, 10 magazines, 53 rounds of ammunition, and a satellite phone were seized from the suspects, he added.

The operation was coordinated with support from the Military Operations Directorate at the Army Headquarters, 55 Infantry Division, 14 Independent Engineer Brigade, 71 Mechanised Brigade, and the National Security Intelligence (NSI).

In a separate raid in the capital's Mohammadpur, the army also arrested notorious criminal Farid Ahmed Babu, alias Excel Babu, along with three others from the Buriganga Filling Station area yesterday.

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Please forgive us if we caused you any hurt'

Says Jamaat chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman yesterday apologised to anyone who might be hurt by the party at any time.

"If you have been hurt by any of our behaviour or performance -- whenever, however -- please forgive us," he told a press conference, following the acquittal of Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam, who was accused of committing war crimes in 1971.

"We are humans after all, to err is human. As a party, we do not claim to be above mistakes. If any party activist, party worker or the party itself has caused harm or hurt anyone, anywhere, we unconditionally apologise. Please forgive us," the Jamaat leader said.

There was a time when the party was in great danger, but "we tried to stand by the people" who were in need.

After the fall of the fascist regime, he said, his party tried to be beside the families of martyrs and the wounded. "But we believe that we could not fully discharge our duties due to many limitations."

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Employees of various ministries and divisions demonstrate on the Secretariat premises for the fourth consecutive day yesterday against some provisions of the Public Service (amendment) Ordinance, 2025.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEW PUBLIC SERVICE ORDINANCE

Govt mulls softening strict provisions

Say high-level meeting sources; Secretariat employees suspend protests for today

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is considering changes to the newly issued "Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance-2025" so that it can soften harsh provisions and incorporate clauses to ensure workplace safety for female employees.

This development comes amid protests by government employees demanding the cancellation of the ordinance.

At least two top officials said the decision to amend was made in a meeting held at the office of Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the railways ministry, on Monday afternoon, just a day after

the ordinance was issued.

The meeting was also attended by Adilur Rahman Khan, adviser to the housing and public works ministry; Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser assigned to the home ministry; Sheikh Abdur Rashid, cabinet secretary; and Mokhles Ur Rahman,

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Unveil roadmap or it'll be hard to cooperate

BNP tells govt about polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday expressed disappointment over the absence of a clear roadmap for the upcoming national election, despite the demand for one made during its recent meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Excuses are being made to delay the elections. One excuse is that the trial [of AL] must be completed before the elections.

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, BNP Standing Committee member

"We demand the immediate announcement of a roadmap for the formation of parliament by December. Otherwise, it will become difficult for the BNP to continue its cooperation with the government," said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, a member of the BNP Standing Committee.

Reading out a statement at a press conference at the

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Jamaat's Azharul cleared of crimes against humanity

SC orders his immediate release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning political parties and student organisations yesterday condemned the acquittal of Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam in a crimes against humanity case.

They also held protest marches in Dhaka University and Rajshahi University.

At least two leftist students were injured in a clash between "Anti-Shahbagh Union" -- comprising mostly Islami Chhatra Shibir members -- and left-leaning organisations at Rajshahi University, protesting the verdict.

The apex court also directed the jail authorities to release Azharul immediately unless he is arrested in another case.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed delivered the verdict following an appeal filed by Azharul challenging the conviction and death penalty handed down by the International Crimes Tribunal.

Azharul's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir said his client, who has been in jail since August 8, 2012, may get released today.

"Azharul is currently treated at the prison cell of Bangladesh Medical University (BMU), formerly Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University," he told

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জাতীয় পুষ্টি সপ্তাহ ২০২৫

২৮ মে - ০৩ জুন



শিশু থেকে প্রবীণ
পুষ্টিকর খাবার
সর্বজনীন

১। পুষ্টিমানে সমৃদ্ধ খাবার এহাগ করুন
২। খাদ্য উৎপাদন, পরিবহন, সরবরাহ ও রান্নায় পুষ্টিমান এবং নিরাপদতা
৩। খাবারে চিনি ও লচনের মাত্রা সীমিত রাখুন
৪। অতিবি঱্বত ভাজা, তেলাত খাবার ও ফাস্টফুড বর্জন করুন
৫। শিশুদেরকে অতি প্রক্রিয়াজাত পদ্মীয়া ও খাবার এহাগ করুন
৬। খিলেব বুজির বিকাশ এবং শারীরিক গঠনের জন্য প্রতিদিন ১টি করে
তিম এবং নির্মিত পরিমাণ আমিয় জাতীয় খাবার দিন
৭। পরিবারের প্রীতি সদস্যদের পুষ্টিকর খাবার নিশ্চিত করুন
৮। প্রতিদিন অস্তত একবেলা ডিন, দুধ বা আমিয় জাতীয় খাবার খান -শক্তি, সার্বার্থ ও
রোগ প্রতিরোধ করতা রাখুন

জনবাস্তু পুষ্টি প্রতিষ্ঠান
মহাবাসি, ঢাকা

Huge explosion at China chemical plant kills five

AFP, Beijing

An explosion at a chemical plant in eastern China yesterday killed at least five people, with six more still missing, state media said.

The blast occurred at the Youdao Chemical plant at around 12 pm (0400 GMT) in Gaomi, a town in Shandong province around 450 kilometres (280 miles) southeast of the capital Beijing, according to Xinhua news agency.

Videos broadcast by the Beijing newspaper Xinhingbao showed a gigantic column of grey smoke rising into the sky, a fire in an industrial zone and shop windows apparently blown out by the explosion.

The disaster "left five people dead, six missing and 19 lightly injured", Xinhua said citing local officials.

Clips also showed debris strewn across a road, a car with a smashed windscreen, and dark orange flames devouring installations in the background.

Emergency services dispatched 55 vehicles and 232 first responders to the scene, the national Ministry of Emergency Management said in a statement.

Govt mulls

FROM PAGE 1

senior secretary to the public administration ministry.

According to sources present at the meeting, an extensive discussion was held regarding section 37(A) of the ordinance, which outlines punishment for "insubordination".

This section allows severe punishment of any employee for even minor offences. A specific clarification regarding the term "insubordination" was asked to be added, said sources.

The officials, who would be working on the changes, were asked to submit recommendations to ensure female employees do not face harassment at work.

Meanwhile, several secretaries expressed dissatisfaction over the newly issued ordinance to the cabinet secretary during an informal meeting of secretaries at the Cabinet Division yesterday.

At least three secretaries who attended the meeting told The Daily Star that top officials felt a sense of unease regarding the ordinance, which prompted the recent protests by lower-tier government employees.

The protesters yesterday suspended their demonstration at the Secretariat for today following assurances from the authorities.

A secretary who joined the meeting of secretaries, on condition of anonymity, told this correspondent, "We don't understand why it was necessary to amend the Public Service Act. Around 1.5 million employees are directly impacted -- positively or negatively -- by this law. Why was such a sensitive amendment rushed through? These questions were raised during the meeting."

Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid called the meeting with all secretaries around 10:00am yesterday, according to sources at the Secretariat.

During the meeting, several secretaries raised questions about the rationale behind the formulation of the ordinance. A secretary questioned the necessity of rushing the ordinance process.

At the meeting, ASM Saleh Ahmed, senior secretary to the land ministry, opined that it would be appropriate to hold talks with the protesting employees. Several secretaries supported it.

Following the discussions, a five-member committee of secretaries was formed, with Saleh Ahmed as its convener, to hold discussions with the employees.

A few hours after the committee was formed, a meeting between the committee and leaders of the protesting employees was held.

After the meeting, committee convener Saleh Ahmed told reporters that the employees demanded cancellation of the ordinance. "We will convey their demand to the cabinet secretary. The cabinet secretary will inform the higher authorities of the government, and you will be informed of the government's decision in due course."

Speaking to this newspaper, Nazrul Islam, a leader of the Secretariat employees, said, "We presented the flaws in the ordinance before the secretaries. They did not disagree with our arguments. We hope this will lead to a positive outcome."

Another employee leader, Badul Kabir, said, "We have suspended Wednesday's [today's] protest programme. If our demands are not met, we will talk to all stakeholders and announce the next programme."

Employees from various ministries and divisions held protest rallies and processions inside the Secretariat yesterday despite a ban imposed by Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

To avoid any untoward incident, tight security was enforced in and around the Secretariat. Members of SWAT and BGB were deployed at the main gate, while personnel from the Armed Police Battalion (APBn), Rab, and police were stationed at other entrances.

Until 10pm, no one except Secretariat employees and those invited to official meetings were allowed to enter the premises.



Women patiently stand in line to buy soybean oil, lentils, and sugar from a TCB truck in the capital's Abdul Gani Road area in the sweltering heat. Although TCB recently raised the subsidised rates, these essential goods are still somewhat of a relief for lower-income groups struggling with high commodity prices.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Top criminals Subrata Bain, Molla Masud

FROM PAGE 1

The raid was conducted around 3:30pm by a team from the Basila Army Camp, according to a press release issued by the ISPR.

"Farid Ahmed Babu, 56, is a top-tier criminal wanted in over 15 cases filed with various police stations across the capital. The charges against him include murder, illegal arms possession, abduction, extortion, and land grabbing," the ISPR stated.

Intelligence reports suggest that Excel Babu acted as a godfather figure for several notorious juvenile gangs -- namely, Teenage Tornado, Dark Strikers, and Red Volcano.

He is also believed to be linked to the infamous shooter Anwar, alias Kobzikata Anwar, the statement added.

Urging public cooperation, Sami Ud Dowla said, "If anyone notices suspicious activities or has information related to terrorism, please report it to the nearest army camp or law-enforcing agency."

Reiterating the army's unwavering stance on national security, he said, "Under the clear directive of the Army Chief General Waker Uz Zaman, the Bangladesh Army remains fully prepared and committed to safeguarding the lives and properties of the people."

RISE, FALL OF THE NOTORIOUS

Subrata Bain was a notorious figure in Dhaka's criminal underworld during the 1990s. Although he faced a number of arrests during the height of his career, Subrata managed to secure bail and return to the life of crime every time.

According to multiple sources in law enforcement, Subrata Bain's name has resurfaced in connection with three recent murders in Dhaka's Hatirjheel and Gulshan areas. In addition to murder, he and his associates have been linked to cases of extortion and illegal occupation of land and apartments.

One police source reported that on April 21, Subrata's followers allegedly

shot and killed Arif Sardar, a local ward-level leader of the Jubo Dal, BNP's youth wing, in Hatirjheel.

Subrata is also believed to have smuggled firearms into the country via the Indian border, which his gang is allegedly using for various criminal activities.

Law enforcement agencies have detailed records of Subrata Bain's involvement in organised crime.

Throughout the 1990s, his name was frequently associated with violent turf wars, extortion rackets, and manipulating public tenders. These activities often led to incidents of murder and assault.

Despite being arrested multiple times and serving prison sentences, he repeatedly returned to criminal activities after securing bail.

Subrata Bain's full name is Trimati Subrata Bain. He was born in 1967 at Holy Family Hospital in Dhaka. Originally from Jobarpur village in Agailjhara upazila of Barishal, he lived with his mother and three sisters in a rented house in Dhaka's Moghbazar area. He was the eldest.

He began his education at Oxford Mission School in Barishal and later transferred to Sher-e-Bangla School in Dhaka, where he passed his matriculation exams.

His entry into the world of crime reportedly began during his college years.

While seeking admission to Siddheswari College, he came into contact with a political leader who introduced him to firearms. Soon after, he had his own gang in Moghbazar.

Subrata first came under police scanner in 1993, following the murder of a vegetable vendor in Madhu Bazar. He gained further notoriety during the construction of the Bishal Centre in Moghbazar, where he was accused of extortion. He quickly rose to infamy, becoming a feared figure in Moghbazar, Ramna, Karwan Bazar, and Madhubagh.

After his return, it didn't take long for him to get involved in criminal activities, leading to his name popping up in several cases.

To evade arrest, he reportedly stayed in the capital's 300 feet area and later moved to Patuakhali for some time before his eventual arrest in Kushtia yesterday.

But following the fall of the Awami League regime in August last year, Subrata suddenly resurfaced and reportedly began meeting his old associates in Moghbazar, Mohakhal Wireless Gate, and Madhubagh.

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"In light of this, and in the interests of justice, the conviction and sentence of the appellant cannot be sustained."

The apex court also acknowledged with considerable regret that due consideration was not accorded to the broader context of the alleged crimes against humanity together with the evidentiary weaknesses inherent in the prosecution's case.

"Let an advance copy of this order be sent expeditiously to the jail authority for immediate compliance," the CJ said.

Meanwhile, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said Azharul was acquitted as he was proven innocent, and credited the July uprising for paving the way for justice.

In a post on his verified Facebook page, Prof Asif wrote that the verdict nullifies both the previous International Crimes Tribunal sentence and the Appellate Division's earlier ruling that upheld that sentence.

The court said the conviction was occasioned by a "manifest disregard for the fundamental principles of criminal jurisprudence, resulting in a gross miscarriage of justice".

The apex court acknowledged its earlier lapse in properly assessing evidence.

It acknowledged with a profound sense of judicial responsibility that in its earlier adjudication, it failed to give due and dispassionate consideration to the evidentiary deficiencies and the broader context in which the allegations of crimes against humanity were framed against the appellant.

The earlier judgment regrettably fell short of the high standards of

In 1991, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Murad, a student leader from the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

Subrata also maintained close political ties. During the 1991 elections, he worked for the BNP in the Moghbazar area and became close to the then home minister. His birthday celebrations were reportedly attended by top BNP leaders, earning him the nickname "celebrity gangster".

Later, he clashed with Liaquat of the Awami League's youth wing, Jubo League, over territorial control in Moghbazar.

The infamous "Seven Star" was an organised criminal syndicate that was jointly led by Subrata Bain and Amin Rasul Sagor, alias Tokai Sagor.

The Moghbazar-based gang gained widespread notoriety in 1998. Molla Masud, Arman, and Tikka were among the top members of the gang.

In 2001, an Interpol Red Notice was issued against him, which remains active. Following the notice, he fled to Kolkata, where he continued his criminal activities. Kolkata police arrested him in 2008, but he later escaped to Nepal, only to be arrested again.

His most recent known arrest occurred in Kolkata in 2012. It's not clear when he returned to Bangladesh.

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"We want the same thing. During the Awami League's autocratic rule, there was nothing they didn't do to try to wipe us out. Even after that, why would the question arise as to whether we want [AL's] trial or not?"

He, however, stressed that the trial of the Awami League must take place through an independent judiciary.

"If we demand an independent judiciary but also say the trial must be completed within a specific timeframe -- these would be contradictory statements. That's why we're saying the processes of reform, election, and justice are entirely separate. All three can and should proceed simultaneously," he said in response to a journalist's question.

Mentioning that December is the most suitable time for the polls, he said, "Ramadan is in February, followed by the monsoon season, then the SSC and HSC exams."

All previous elections, he noted, have been held in December or January, he added.

"The credit for creating the opportunity to establish justice goes to the fearless leadership of the July mass uprising. It is now our collective responsibility to safeguard this opportunity," he added.

Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Abdul Quader Mollah, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed, Mir Quasem Ali, and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury were previously executed following SC verdicts for crimes against humanity in 1971.

The earlier judgment regrettably fell short of the high standards of

GDP growth lowest

FROM PAGE 1

The overall investment-to-GDP ratio was 29.38 percent, which was 30.7 percent last fiscal year, according to BBS's provisional figures. Of the amount, private investment was 22.48 percent of the GDP, which was 23.96 percent last fiscal year.

The agriculture sector faced significant challenges in the first quarter, primarily due to severe flooding, the WB report said.

"In the industrial sector, export growth provided some support, particularly in the ready-made garments (RMG). However, industrial activity outside of the RMG sector remained sluggish."

High inflation dampened consumer purchasing power, the WB said, adding that the Bangladesh Bank continued its tight monetary policy stance in the first three quarters of the fiscal year and raised the policy rate to rein in inflationary pressure.

Meanwhile, the ADB said the slowdown was driven by political instability, natural disasters, disruptions at factories due to worker protests and high inflation, all of which dampened demand.

In the service sector, wholesale and retail sales grew by 4.35 percent, which was 5.77 percent last fiscal year, according to BBS's provisional figures. The transport sector grew by 4.37 percent, which was 5.15 percent in fiscal 2023-24. Real estate activities

India pushes 67 more into Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

At least 67 people were pushed into Bangladesh from India, allegedly by the Border Security Force, through the Kurigram and Meherpur borders yesterday, according to Border Guard Bangladesh. Of them, 30 were confirmed as Bangladeshi nationals. The identities of the others remain unverified till the filing of this report at 8:00pm.

In Kurigram, BGB detained 23 individuals pushed in from India around 4:00am through the Kedar, Baburhat, and Sonahat areas of Bhurungamari upazila. They are currently in custody pending identity verification, said Lt Col Md Mahbubul Haque of BGB Battalion-22.

Elsewhere in the district, BSF allegedly tried to push 14 more people across the Barabari border in Rowmari upazila at 4:30am. BGB intercepted the attempt, and the group was later brought to the BGB camp after BSF ignored requests for a flag meeting, said Lt Col Hasanur Rahman of Battalion-35.

In Meherpur's Mujibnagar upazila, 30 Bangladeshi nationals -- including seven men, eight women and 15 children from various villages in Kurigram -- were detained after being pushed in through the Anandabash border, said BGB and police officials.

According to BGB headquarters, 902 individuals have been pushed into the country from India since May 7, including 78 through the Sundarbans' Mandarbaria area.

(Our Correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Benapole contributed the report.)

were almost the same at 3.19 percent.

Electricity production grew 6.32 percent, which was 1.55 percent last fiscal year. The gas sector growth, however, worsened.

The size of the economy stands at \$462 billion, up from \$450 billion in fiscal 2023-24. The per capita income was \$2,820, which was \$2,738 last fiscal year.

The GDP size and per capita income should be recalculated as those are still "manipulated and inflated", said Raihan, who was part of the 12-member committee that prepared a white paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy.

"We raised a question in the report that there were big methodical problems in the national accounts as those were calculated on wrong assumptions and methods, without updated data."

The white paper said Bangladesh's economic growth has been overstated since 1995 and the practice of making inflated estimates rose after fiscal 2012-13.

"Bangladesh was seen as one of the fastest-growing economies but its growth became a paradox to many during the tenure of the previous government. The development narrative was underwritten by cooked up GDP growth figures."

He demanded an independent data commission to identify the loopholes in national accounts, as recommended by the white paper.

Unveil roadmap

FROM PAGE 1

The BNP leader said the government's claim that a normal working environment has been disrupted is "actually the result of its own actions".

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



Speakers at a roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event, titled "Building Climate-Resilient and Inclusive WASH Infrastructure: Creating Period-Friendly Schools, Health Care Facilities and Workplaces," was jointly organised by Unicef, WaterAid, and The Daily Star.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Prioritise menstrual hygiene in climate crisis response

Experts call for inclusive, climate-resilient WASH systems in schools, workplaces, health centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ranked among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, Bangladesh frequently faces disasters that disrupt water and sanitation infrastructure, making menstrual hygiene management (MHM) increasingly challenging, said speakers at an event yesterday.

As a result, climate-smart water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems are urgently needed in the country, they added.

The remarks came during a roundtable titled "Building Climate-Resilient and Inclusive WASH Infrastructure: Creating Period-Friendly Schools, Health Care Facilities and Workplaces," jointly organised by The Daily Star, Unicef, and WaterAid at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

"Menstrual hygiene management is about dignity, health, education, gender equality, and resilience," said Peter Maes, chief of Unicef's WASH Section.

"Inadequate MHM affects girls' school attendance, women's ability to work, and

health workers' capacity to serve -- especially during climate-induced emergencies such as floods and cyclones," he added.

Recalling the 2022 floods in Sylhet, Maes noted that women and girls faced severe shortages of sanitary products and a lack of privacy in shelters, highlighting the need for WASH systems that remain functional and inclusive during crises.

Unicef WASH specialist Md Shofiqul Alam delivered the keynote address at the programme.

He highlighted that 68 percent of Bangladeshi women and girls rely on old cloth for menstruation. "Cloth use isn't inherently problematic if properly cleaned and dried. Many choose it because it's accessible and free," he explained.

Alam also pointed to the impact on the ready-made garment (RMG) sector, where female workers lose an average of six days a month due to vaginal infections caused by unsanitary menstrual materials. "Many wear the same pad all day, harming their

reproductive health," he added.

He further noted that 90 percent of adolescent girls in Dhaka slums reuse unclean rags, leading to skin infections, urinary problems, and pregnancy complications.

Partha Hafez Shaikh, director of programme and policy advocacy at WaterAid, called for inclusive and climate-resilient menstrual hygiene solutions, particularly addressing water scarcity in South Bengal and coastal areas.

Fayazuddin Ahmed, policy and advocacy lead at WaterAid, said, "Menstrual hygiene services must be accessible to all, including people with disabilities."

Mushfiqur Zaman Satiar of the Netherlands Embassy highlighted the need for true inclusivity, encompassing all genders and communities.

She urged full implementation of the National MHM Strategy and greater societal efforts to break longstanding taboos.

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MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

A monthly struggle fought in silence

NILIMA JAHAN and TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Three years ago, when 12-year-old Ayesha Begum got her first period, she thought she was dying.

Alone in a sweltering tin-roofed shack in Dhaka's Korail slum, she curled up under the bed -- frightened, confused, and unaware of what was happening to her body.

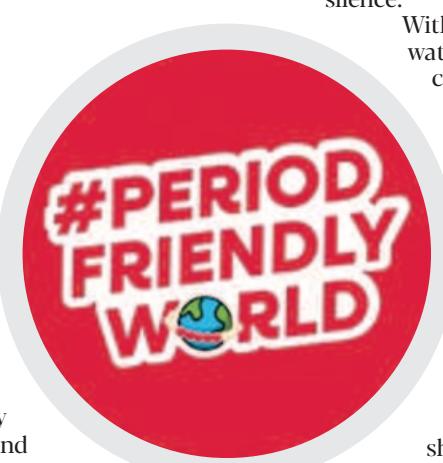
No one had ever explained menstruation to her -- not a teacher, not a health worker, not even her mother.

"I thought something was broken inside me," she said. "I didn't even know the word for it."

Her mother, Shahnoor Begum, a domestic worker, handed her a piece of old cloth after returning from work and simply said, "It happens to all girls."

In Dhaka's slums, menstruation is not seen as a natural biological milestone. It is endured as a recurring emergency -- shrouded in shame and compounded by poverty, inadequate sanitation, and social silence.

With clean water scarce, communities



toilets shared by dozens of families lacking

privacy, and menstrual products often unaffordable, managing a period becomes a monthly ordeal.

As the world marks Menstrual Hygiene Day today (May 28) under the theme "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld," the lived experiences of girls like Ayesha reveal how far Bangladesh's urban poor remain from that goal.

To avoid changing clothes during the day, Ayesha layers damp rags and secretly washes her soiled clothes in limited water when no one is around.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

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them in her underwear -- an unreliable improvisation her mother had once taught her out of necessity.

"I was too scared to ask to go to the toilet -- it's filthy and there's never any water," she said. The blood soaked through her school uniform. Boys laughed.

"I froze. I just ran home crying."

Her mother, Shahida Akter, a garment worker, repeated what she herself had once been told: "It's natural. It happens to all girls."

"But the truth is, I didn't know how to help," Shahida admitted. "No one ever helped me either."

Raised in a village in Mymensingh, Shahida has never used a sanitary pad.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Ending violence against women, children a national priority

Sharmeen Murshid tells MJF event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an event yesterday expressed their aspiration to build a country free from violence and discrimination against women and children.

They made the call during the launch of the "Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership in Bangladesh" project, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at a city hotel.

Speaking as the chief guest, Women and Children Affairs

Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid said,

"We need to support grassroots-level organisations to empower women, the way Manusher Jonno Foundation does. We should also have a policy where both government and non-government organisations work in coordination to achieve national priorities."

She also emphasised that ending violence against women and children will be a national priority this year.

Praising MJF's role as "exemplary", she said the

organisation has strengthened women-led and women-managed organisations and helped build a violence-free Bangladesh.

Over the past 18 years, MJF has not only provided support to hundreds of small and large non-governmental organisations across the country, she said, but has also helped them become well organised and efficient, said Sharmeen S Murshid, also the social welfare adviser.

"As a result, many of these

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Participants at the launching ceremony of a project 'Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership in Bangladesh', organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid was present as the chief guest. Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ajit Singh also attended the event.



All entry gates of Nagar Bhaban have remained locked since the protest began on May 15. As a result, all civic services -- including birth and death registration, trade licences, and tax processing -- have been suspended. Even officials are unable to enter the building.

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A DSCC official said, "As long as the mayoral issue remains unresolved, this deadlock will continue."

Meanwhile, the LGD issued a press release yesterday, stating that it is awaiting a Supreme Court verdict before proceeding with Ishraque's swearing in.

Signed by Md Salauddin, public relations officer of the LGRD ministry, the statement said the division's legal wing informed that preparations for the swearing in were underway following the High Court's dismissal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Bangladesh lost \$700m in aid as USAID halted most projects

Affected dev professionals tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-five out of 59 USAID-funded projects in Bangladesh were shut down following a "stop-work" order issued by the Trump administration in January this year, said a platform of development professionals, who lost their jobs as a result of the order.

Over 50,000 professionals involved in these projects and linked organisations lost their jobs, and Bangladesh lost development assistance worth \$700 million. These projects were linked to education, health, food security, climate change, good governance, and skills development, said Zinat Ara Afroze, convener of the Association of Unemployed Development Professionals (AUDP), at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The platform also placed a six point demand, including formal recognition of the unemployment crisis caused by the USAID cuts and acknowledgement of the contributions of development professionals.

It also urged the government to carry out a national survey to accurately determine the number of laid-off development workers, promptly publish the findings, and hold dialogue with them to explore solutions.

Until April 2025, a total of 59 USAID projects were underway in Bangladesh. However, excluding a few projects in the emergency food and humanitarian assistance sectors, 55 of these projects were shut down, said Afroze.

Due to this, along with the withdrawal of support from some other donor agencies, many large and small international and local NGOs faced a severe financial crisis, she added.

According to an assessment by AUDP, the total number of development workers who lost their jobs could be over 50,000.

"Despite the loss of so many jobs, there was no official statement from the government. Yet, we spent years of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Residents of the capital's Khilgaon staged a protest yesterday, demanding the restoration of the 47-year-old Khilgaon Taltola playground in Chowdhurypara from the possession of Ansar and VDP. The field has remained off-limits to the public since 2007, leaving children in the area with no open space to play.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Prioritise menstrual hygiene

FROM PAGE 3

Nargis Akter, national programme officer (WASH and environment) at WHO Bangladesh, said menstrual hygiene should be recognised primarily as a health issue, not just a hygiene concern, as it involves physical, psychological, and social dimensions.

While progress has been made, she noted that many psychological barriers remain.

She stressed the need for accurate information, environmentally safe menstrual products, and

empathetic support from families. Infrastructure in schools, healthcare facilities, and workplaces must be gender-sensitive and regularly monitored. A comprehensive, multisectoral approach is essential to address all aspects of menstrual health and well-being, she added.

Dr Md Monjur Hossain of the Directorate General of Health Services said infrastructure design must be guided by user needs, with accessible facilities for people with disabilities.

Chief guest Prof Dr AQM Shafiqul Azam, director of planning and development at

the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, concluded the event by emphasising the need for intersectoral collaboration to turn the government's good intentions and strategy into action.

"Taboos must give way to respect," he said, calling for strengthened resources and evidence-based planning.

Dr Jesmin Zaman, head of marketing at Square Toiletries Limited, and Shehrin Shafila Mahmood, associate scientist (health systems and population studies division) at icddr,b, also spoke at the event.

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 28

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

Services remain

FROM PAGE 3

decision and the Election Commission's declaration of a petition on May 22.

However, Ishraque filed a new petition on May 25, seeking an order to be sworn in.

Additionally, a leave to

appeal petition was filed by a citizen challenging the HC verdict that upheld a Dhaka tribunal's

decision and the Election Commission's declaration of a petition on May 22.

Meanwhile, the

full bench of the SC is

scheduled to hear the

appeal today.

National Curriculum and Textbook Board

69-70, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

www.nctb.gov.bd

Ref. No.: 37.06.0000.303.07.005.25/90

Date: 27/05/2025

Invitation for Corrigendum e-Tender (OTM)

This is to notify to all concerned tenderers that the following tenders have been published by National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) through the e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) regarding textbook printing, binding and supplying Class-6 for the Academic Year 2026.

Existing Date and Time		Corrigendum Date and Time	
Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening:	27/05/2025; 14:00 PM <th>Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening:</th> <td>02/06/2025; 14:00 PM</td>	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening:	02/06/2025; 14:00 PM
Tender Document last selling:	26/05/2025; 17:00 PM <th>Tender Document last selling:</th> <td>01/06/2025; 17:00 PM</td>	Tender Document last selling:	01/06/2025; 17:00 PM

Interested tenderers may visit www.eprocure.gov.bd website to get the details of the Tender. This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender, you are requested to go through the www.eprocure.gov.bd web portal.

27-05-2025

Prof. Md. Shahtab Uddin
Secretary, NCTB
Phone: 2233-85644
Email: secretary@nctb.gov.bd

GD-1300

BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL

(An Enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)

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

■ : 01060501-24, Fax: 01060476

Website: www.birdebd.org, www.dab-bd.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. Division /Entity	Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
2. Procuring Entity	BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
3. Source Of Fund	Revenue & Govt. Grant, BIRDEM General Hospital
4. Reference No	BIRDEM/Purchase/LTM/Equipment/2025/4, Dated: 27 th May 2025
5. Details of Work	Drawing, Design, Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) type Air Cooler for OPD open space and corridor of BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
6. Procurement Method	Limited Tender Method (LTM)
7. Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Director (Hospital Administration), BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, On behalf of Director General, BIRDEM General Hospital
8. Name & address of the office selling tender documents	Procurement Section, Room: 230, 1 st floor of OPD Building, BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
9. Date of selling of tender documents	Tender documents will be available from 29 th May 2025 to 23 rd June 2025 on all working days (09.00 am to 01.00 pm).
10. Tender closing date & Time	25 th June 2025 (From 08.00 AM to 12.00 PM).
11. Tender opening date & Time	25 th June 2025 at 12.30 Noon (In presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent, if anybody available).
12. Price of tender document	Tk. 5000/ (five thousand) only. (Non-Refundable)
13. Tender Security	3% of the quoted amounts have to be deposited in the form of Demand Draft or Pay-order from any local commercial bank in favour of Director General BIRDEM General Hospital.
14. Pre bid Meeting	A pre bid meeting will be held on 18 th June 2025 in the room no: 246 at 12.00 PM.
15. General terms & conditions for the Tenderers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The tenderers should be the manufacturer or their authorized supplier/distributor or dealer of the items. b. Detail specifications, terms & conditions, warranty & after sales service shall be enumerated in the tender schedule. c. The tenderers shall have valid trade license, TIN, VAT, Income Tax Certificate & All other related documents as per Tender Schedule. d. Detail terms & conditions are mentioned in the Tender documents.
16. BIRDEM authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.	
17. In case of holiday or any unavoidable circumstances last date of dropping & opening will be the next working day.	

Brig Gen Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin Ahmed (Retd.)
Director (Hospital Administration)
BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
2 MAY 2025

Bangladesh lost \$700m in aid as USAID halted most projects

Affected dev professionals tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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INTERNATIONAL

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 2025

JAISHTHA 14, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

5

UK to spend billions to cut reliance on migrants

REUTERS, London

Britain will spend a record 3 billion pounds (\$4 billion) to boost training opportunities, the government said yesterday, part of a broader strategy to train locals to fill gaps in the labour market and reduce reliance on foreign workers.

The investment will "refocus the skills landscape towards young, domestic talent" by creating 120,000 new training opportunities in key sectors such as construction, engineering, health and social care, and digital, a statement from the government's education department said.

More than one in five working age Britons do not have a job and are not seeking one, with the latest official data showing the inactivity rate at 21.4 percent, having steadily risen since the Covid-19 pandemic.



Palestinians throw objects at Israeli army vehicles during a raid in the heart of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, yesterday. Israeli forces also raided foreign exchange stores in several West Bank cities, including Ramallah and Nablus, accusing their parent company of having 'connections with terrorist organizations,' according to an army closure notice.

PHOTO: AFP

180,000 displaced in Gaza

Says UN migration agency after Israel begins renewed offensive; dozens of Palestinians killed in strikes

AGENCIES

A renewed Israeli military offensive has forcibly displaced almost 180,000 people in just 10 days through to May 25, the International Organization for Migration said yesterday.

The statement on behalf of the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster expressed deep alarm and denounced direct attacks on shelters, which it said had become "common".

A UN spokesperson said that the work of a US-backed private humanitarian organisation tasked with distributing aid in Gaza is a distraction from what is needed such as the opening of crossing points,

"We do not participate in this modality for the reasons given.

- ② US-backed aid group begins Gaza operations
- ② Israeli attacks no longer justifiable as battle against Hamas: Germany

It is a distraction from what is actually needed (...)," said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN humanitarian office (OCHA), calling for the reopening of all crossings into Gaza and more Israeli approvals for emergency supplies.

Meanwhile, medical sources told Al Jazeera that dozens of people killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza

since early yesterday.

Close ally Germany said Israel's recent attacks in Gaza were inflicting a toll on civilians that could no longer be justified as a fight against Hamas.

Germany and Finland yesterday called for nations to "put pressure" on Israel to allow urgently needed humanitarian aid into Gaza.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said humanitarian aid must be allowed into Gaza "immediately", reports AFP.

"We must put pressure on Israel to ensure the aid truly reaches its target. But it is also crucial that Hamas must not prevent humanitarian aid from arriving," he told reporters alongside Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo in Finland.

Leftist orgs condemn

FROM PAGE 1

Shimul Kumbhakar, general secretary of a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, said, "We saw that the government has acquitted ATM Azharul, who was said to be a commander of the Al-Badr force during the Liberation War. Now they're claiming he actually supported Bangladesh."

"We condemn the interim government for trying to rewrite history 54 years after our independence," he added.

Protesters said police attempted to stop them at the Shahbagh intersection, but they broke through the barrier and continued the march to the Raju Bhashkarji.

Khalid Monsur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, denied the allegation.

Meanwhile, the Left Democratic Alliance issued a statement condemning the interim government over Azharul's acquittal.

The statement said the trials of individuals associated with Al-Badr and Al-Shams -- forces that opposed the Liberation War and committed crimes against humanity -- remain incomplete.

Even decades later, when the trial started, many convicted individuals' sentences could not be executed due to the previous fascist government's political agenda, it added.

The left-leaning Gonotantrik Chhatra Jote also rejected the verdict, saying it raises serious questions about the court's neutrality.

At Rajshahi University, two leftist students were injured in the clash.

According to witnesses, the clash took place around 8:00pm at the university's Paribahan Chhattar, as left-leaning students were preparing to hold a torch procession protesting the verdict.

Ready to hold peace talks with India Says Pak PM; Delhi approves stealth fighter programme

AGENCIES

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday evening expressed his willingness to talk with India to resolve ongoing disputes between the two countries, including the Kashmir issue and water security, during his visit to Iran.

Meanwhile, India's defence minister has approved a framework for building the country's most advanced stealth fighter jet, the defence ministry said yesterday.

India's Aeronautical Development Agency will shortly invite initial interest from defence firms for developing a prototype of the warplane, it said.

Patchworks won't do

percent, capital machinery imports have declined by 22 percent, indicating that growth is coming from existing capacity rather than new investments.

"To generate jobs and sustain growth, we need to reignite private investment, but that cannot happen without institutional trust and policy predictability," Rahman said.

He cautioned that the interim government is largely continuing its predecessor's policies, with minimal progress in implementing structural reforms.

As the government has already spent over nine months in office, it can now provide a specific timeframe for the election, which could contribute to overall stability, said Fahmidah.

"It would be a prudent decision for the government, whether the election is held in December, January, February, or March. I believe the time has come to announce a specific date. The time has come to provide a clear and fixed schedule," she added.

Mustafizur Rahman believes that along with announcing an election timeframe, the government should also address various existing issues that are acting as barriers to investment.

The think tank also highlighted Bangladesh's banking sector crisis, which it said is plagued by rising non-performing loans and weak regulatory oversight.

Fahmidah described the sector as being stuck in "institutional quicksand," criticised the dual regulatory authority of the finance ministry and Bangladesh Bank, and called for a single, independent financial watchdog.

According to CPD, defaulted loans have more than doubled over the past five years -- from Tk 12.6 lakh crore in Q2 of 2020 to Tk 3.45 lakh crore in Q2 of 2025. This amount is nearly four times the national education budget and eight times the health budget.

Termed the upcoming FY2026 budget a "make or break" moment, CPD said revenue collection grew by only 5.3 percent in the first seven months of the fiscal year, far below the 13.7 percent growth seen the previous year.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স
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উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ব্যবহারের জন্য ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ সালে অন্যান্য যত্নপ্রতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি মেরামত কাজের নিমিত্তে সীলনমোকাবকৃত খামে প্রয়োজনীয় যোগাতা সম্পর্ক দরপত্র প্রতিটানের নিকট হতে দি পাবলিক প্রক্রিয়ামেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ এবং বিধিমালা-২০০৮ মোতাবেক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আবহান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রালয়/বিভাগ	ব্রহ্মপুর পুলিশ
০২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
০৩।	দরপত্র ক্রম কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
০৪।	দরপত্র আইচিমের নাম	(ক) এরাবিকভিশামৰ যত্নাশ ও মেরামত; (খ) ফটোকপিয়ার যত্নাশ ও মেরামত; (গ) জেনারেটর যত্নাশ ও মেরামত এবং (ঘ) লিফট, সাব স্টেশন, পাস্প ও বৈদ্যুতিক মিটার যত্নাশ ও মেরামত সরবরাহ। (আইচিমের বাই আইটেম ব্যাসিস)
০৫।	দরপত্রের আহবানের নম্বর	০৬ (২০২৫-২০২৬)
০৬।	দরপত্রের তারিখ	২৮-০৫-২০২৫ খ্রি।
০৭।	দরপত্র জামানত	দরপত্র জামানত হিসাবে এর জন্য ১,৫০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা) বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমতি যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাক এর প্রে-অর্ডার উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স), ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের অনুকূল দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যান্য দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
০৮।	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য দরপত্রের জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরত্বযোগ্য)।
০৯।	দরপত্র পক্ষতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
১০।	দরপত্রের অর্থাতের উৎস	জিপিবি ব্রাজিল।
১১।	প্রি-টেক্টার মিটিং	তারিখ-৪/০৬/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ সময়সংকল ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা, স্থানঃ উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স) এর কার্যালয়, বাজারবাগস্থ লজিস্টিক্স বিভাগের কক্ষ নং-১৪, ওয়ে ভ্রা, ঢাকা।
১২।	দরপত্র দলিল বিতরণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪-০৬-২০২৫ খ্রিঃ সময়সংকল ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে।
১৩।	দরপত্র দলিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫-০৬-২০২৫ খ্রিঃ সময়সংকল ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে।
১৪।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৫-০৬-২০২৫ খ্রিঃ সময়সংকল ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫।	দরপত্র দলিল সংজ্ঞারের ঠিকানা	(১) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স), অফিস-রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা। (২) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (অর্থ), অফিস-৩৬, শহীদ ক্যাম্পেন মন্দিরের আলী স্মৃতি, ডিএমপি সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা। (৩) পুলিশ সুপার (যোডামিন), টেলিকম, অফিস-টেলিকম ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা।
১৬।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার ঠিকানা	(১) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স), ডিএমপি, ঢাকার তৃতীয় শহীদ ক্যাম্পেন মন্দিরের আলী স্মৃতি, ডিএমপি সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা। (২) পুলিশ সুপার (যোডামিন), টেলিকম, ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা।
১৭।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	তৃতীয় শহীদ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স) এর রাজারবাগের কক্ষান্তরে প্রক্রিয়াজ্ঞান বিভাগের কক্ষ নং-১৪ (গুরু তারা), ঢাকা। দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
১৮।	কাজের সংস্থিক্ষণ বিবরণ	(ক) এরাবিকভিশামৰ যত্নাশ ও মেরামত; (খ) ফটোকপিয়ার যত্নাশ ও মেরামত; (গ) জেনারেটর যত্নাশ ও মেরামত এবং (ঘ) লিফট, সাব স্টেশন, পাস্প ও বৈদ্যুতিক মিটার যত্নাশ ও মেরামত সরবরাহ। (আইচিমের বাই আইটেম ব্যাসিস)
১৯।	দরপত্র আহবান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা।
২০।	দরপত্র কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স)	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স), ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা।
২১।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	লজিস্টিক্স অফিস, রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস, ঢাকা।
২২।	দরপত্র দাতার যোগাতা	দরপত্রের সাথে মে সকল কাগজপত্রের সত্ত্বার অনুমতি দেওয়া হবে। (ক) সিটি কর্পোরেশন/পোর্টের পুরিয়ান কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃপক্ষ হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইনস; (খ) হালনাগাদ ভাটি ক্যাম্পেন সার্টিফিকেট; (ঝ) হালনাগাদ ভাটি ক্যাম্পেন সার্টিফিকেট; (ঝঝ) হালনাগাদ ভাটি ক্যাম্পেন স্টেটমেন্ট; (ঝঝঝ) দরপত্র দাতা কর্তৃপক্ষ উন্মুক্ত এক ফার্ম-৫ অন্যান্য ৮০% Liquid Asset (Working Capital) ধারকত হবে মর্মে মূল্যের পিঞ্জর-৩ এর ফর্মার সংস্করণ প্রস্তুত করে। (ঝঝঝ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র

The reform drive must continue

First round of talks with political parties concludes

It is reassuring to see the conclusion of the first round of talks between the National Consensus Commission (NCC) and political parties over reforms meant to lay the groundwork for a more accountable and transparent system of governance. In a country where political deadlock is more common than consensus, the achievement of common ground across a wide spectrum of issues marks a departure worth noting. The first round—which covered 166 key reform proposals over 45 sessions—produced agreements on several major areas, while disagreements remain on others, setting the stage for the second round of talks set to begin within days. While this goes on, the NCC plans to engage the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to conduct a survey to gather public feedback on key proposals and finalise a “National Charter” based on broader consensus by July.

Thanks to the structured and publicly accessible manner in which the discussions were held, we now know the areas where the parties agreed, partially agreed, or disagreed. For instance, all parties agreed to reinstate the non-partisan caretaker government system to oversee elections, but disputes remain over its formation, tenure, and the mechanism for appointing a chief adviser. Similarly, while there is support for a bicameral legislature and empowering the opposition through the deputy speaker’s post, disagreements remain over how members of the proposed upper house should be elected. Another crucial sticking point is the proposal to limit the prime minister’s authority—particularly preventing one from simultaneously holding the posts of PM, party chief, and leader of the House. Proposals to impose term limits on PM and reform the process of electing the president have also proven divisive. Sharp divisions remain over the proposed formation of a National Constitutional Council to oversee key appointments and uphold legal standards.

That said, the areas of consensus are significant in their own right. Parties have collectively endorsed vital judicial reforms, including the creation of a separate Supreme Court Secretariat, curbing executive control over judicial appointments, and introducing accountability mechanisms to discipline judges exhibiting political bias. There is also agreement on placing key parliamentary committees—such as those on public accounts, estimates, and government undertakings—under opposition control. On anti-corruption, all parties supported granting the Anti-Corruption Commission constitutional status, and ensuring its independence and accountability. Electoral reforms have also made notable progress. In public administration, there is strong support for automating public services, revising outdated laws such as the Official Secrets Act, and modernising the Right to Information Act.

While full consensus on all unresolved issues is unlikely, as Prof Ali Riaz, co-chair of the NCC, has acknowledged, we hope that political parties will engage sincerely in the remaining talks. Otherwise, the push for critical reforms may stall. At the same time, we must keep in mind the challenges of implementing reforms. The ongoing protests following the dissolution of the National Board of Revenue and the introduction of the Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 show that real change will depend on our collective resolve to follow through despite the resistance these changes may provoke. All stakeholders must, therefore, rise above partisan or group interests, and act from a place of national responsibility.

Dhaka law and order must be restored

Effective measures needed to curb crime in capital city

We are concerned by the recent spate of crime in Dhaka that put its law and order situation once again under the spotlight. Since the political changeover in August last year, public security in the city has been an area of concern with a persistent rise in various criminal activities. Although the authorities have taken a number of measures to address the situation, things have proven difficult to manage. The spike in criminal incidents—with CCTV footage of several going viral on social media—is understandably fueling fear among the general public. The government, therefore, must increase its efforts to comprehensively address these security concerns.

According to data from the Police Headquarters, Dhaka witnessed a noticeable rise in violent crimes in the first four months of this year, with robbery cases almost doubling and dacoity and murder cases nearly tripling compared to the same period last year. Over time, the criminals appear to be growing more audacious, often attacking people in broad daylight. On Tuesday morning, muggers attacked a currency trader, shot him, and robbed him of currencies worth Tk 22 lakh in the city’s Mirpur area. On Sunday night, a BNP leader was shot dead by two assailants. Some perpetrators have even been seen carrying machetes, using them to intimidate or attack their victims.

What does it say about our law enforcement if gun-toting, machete-wielding criminals can roam freely in public? In some cases, police appeared reluctant to take action. For instance, a victim of mugging in Nikunja, who was attacked with machetes, reported the incident to Pallabi Police Station but no action was taken until a video of the incident went viral. Speaking to The Daily Star, he said the incident had shattered his sense of security, and—one may easily assume—that of many others.

This situation has persisted more or less since August. While the interim government has taken some initiatives, including deploying army troops with magistracy powers to assist in maintaining law and order, these efforts have often proven insufficient. Unfortunately, the police have yet to fully regain their footing, and criminals continue to take advantage of the vacuum. This is unacceptable. Law enforcement agencies must reassess control over the city’s law and order using whatever means necessary. It is unacceptable for people to continue living in fear for their safety.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Amnesty International founded

On this day in 1961, dedicated to informing public opinion about human rights and to securing the release of political prisoners, Amnesty International was founded.

PRIMARY TEACHERS' STRIKE

Is reform stumbling?



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at BRAC University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), and adviser to the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MANZOOR AHMED

Assistant teachers at government primary schools across Bangladesh began an indefinite work abstention from Sunday, demanding that their entry-level pay be at the 11th grade of the national pay scale. Is the government’s reform initiative to settle many long-standing problems in primary education unravelling?

On February 10, a government-appointed consultation committee presented a set of recommendations for reform and development in primary and non-formal education to the chief adviser, who said the committee’s report deserved serious consideration and early action. A key recommendation was about teachers’ and field education workers’ status and professional development. It proposed a career path for teachers, shifting from the present pattern of being recruited as assistant teachers, a majority of whom retire from the same position without any career progression.

The proposal was to make “teacher” the entry-level post with salary at 12th grade of the pay scale. They would then become “senior teacher” at salary grade 11 after serving a probationary time. Assistant headteachers and headteachers would be recruited exclusively from serving teachers and would have the chance to be recruited into supervision and management posts. In addition, recommendations were made about easing promotion, transfer, and continuous professional development in response to various complaints.

Importantly, the committee considered the recommended actions as interim measures within the present structure. It proposed that in the longer term, work should be urgently undertaken to provide all schoolteachers (both primary and secondary) a higher status, recognition, and remunerations.

The committee’s main concern has been improving children’s learning and well-being. It looked upon teachers as the pivot of change, and thus teachers’ working conditions and well-being had to be improved. The reforms included over a hundred urgent, medium and long-term actions critical to children’s learning outcomes. Some of the recommendations that focus on foundational skills, one-shift

schools, remedial learning, student and school assessment, reducing the families’ economic burden, preventing corruption and mismanagement, and piloting decentralisation of planning and management are detailed here.

Primary education activities and objectives must focus on building children’s foundational skills in Bangla reading and writing and basic arithmetic. The learning content, teaching time, teacher preparation, and assessment of students should



Teachers are the pivot of change, and thus their working conditions and well-being have to be improved.

FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

be organised around the objective of foundational learning outcomes. To ensure enough learning time, all schools should have only one shift, with enough teachers and classrooms, through a high-priority time-bound plan.

Remedial learning should be arranged for the section of students who remain behind others in coping with class lessons. Apart from classroom care, extra help should be offered to these students beyond class hours, planned and organised by each school, employing para-teachers and cooperating with local education NGOs as needed. Budgets should be allocated for this purpose.

Continuous classroom assessments and annual assessments of students are needed along with assessments

of a school’s performance. Methods and tools should be developed and disseminated online; teachers should be oriented and supported. Applying criteria, each school, along with the upazila education office, can assess itself, marking itself as green, yellow or red (good, problematic or bad, respectively), and plan to reach or maintain the green status.

Mid-day meals and essential learning supplies (paper, pen, schoolbag) should be provided to all students, starting with the country’s poorest areas. Increased and targeted cash support should be considered instead of the general stipend at present. A hotline for complaints from citizens or education personnel should be set up along with a system to attend adequately to complaints and periodically report to the public about actions taken and analysis of trends.

Recognising the complexity of the problem, a pilot project of upazila-

and with stakeholder consultation about recommendations; iii) determining steps for implementation of early and medium-term actions; iv) urgent consideration of long-term and relevant matters related to the total education system; and v) financing and budget allocations for reforms (especially, in the upcoming financial year).

Four months since the submission of the committee’s report, government actions, as much as are publicly known, have been fragmented, partial, uncoordinated, slow, and few. We are not aware of a mechanism for an overall review and consideration of the report as well as measures taken along the lines mentioned above. Media reports about some sporadic actions do not inspire confidence. Cases in point: a unit in the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has categorised and notified some schools as “red,” “yellow” or “green” (turns out very few are “green”). Developing criteria for assessment and engaging schools in a self-assessment process have obviously not happened. Circulars have been sent to some upazilas that schools must not organise any out-of-class hours coaching or tutoring of students, apparently for the safety of female students. This also prevented schools from charging parents any payment. Obviously, well-considered policy guidance for remedial lessons in schools and adapting these to local circumstances are needed but not ad hoc and uncoordinated actions. Besides, contrary to reform ideas, it is reported that the discontinued scholarship examinations at the end of Class 5 is to be re-introduced.

Teachers’ grade and salary level are clearly a sensitive matter. Media reports about a new salary level proposed by the primary education directorate to the public administration ministry, without explaining the context and other ancillary proposals regarding teachers’ grades and promotions, have generated resentment and led to protests by the teachers. The committee members voluntarily offered to discuss with the concerned planners the intricacies of incorporating the proposed recommendations into the PEDP5 design, but so far there has been no interaction, as far as we can tell. Unless there is a change in the way decisions are made and implemented, the reform results will not be achieved.

It appears that top officials of the government lack the enthusiasm for transformative change or are unable to comprehend the significance of the changes proposed. So far, we have seen only partial, fragmented, uncoordinated and slow steps, which are creating a negative momentum.

Global lessons to redesign social protection in Bangladesh



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RASSIQ AZIZ KABIR

Like many other streams, the July uprising has opened up new opportunities for redesigning the social protection mechanism in Bangladesh. High income inequality and changing dynamics in the labour market necessitate the adoption of pertinent policies that are appropriate considering the country’s socioeconomic climate. The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) was initiated in 2015 to institutionalise a well-grounded social security policy in the country and to prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable segment of people. Despite the strategy being quite thorough in restructuring the outlook of social safety nets in Bangladesh, incorporating best practices globally would possibly make the mechanism more methodical.

Polices taken in countries having a similar societal fabric as Bangladesh can be considered for implementation in our context. For example, in 2024, India came up with a medical insurance coverage of \$6,000 per family for citizens aged 70 years and above, which, in the perspective of Bangladesh, can be crucial to refurbish the old-age-specific health insurance policies. The Indian government also

approved a pension scheme which guarantees the federal employees 50 percent of their base salary as a pension, a move away from previous schemes where the payouts were intrinsically linked to the market returns, something which can also be considered in the case of Bangladesh to improve the current Universal Pension Scheme. India also has the Code of Social Security adopted in 2020, which holistically expands the social security benefits to the gig and platform workers. Bangladesh lacks any such system that can be one of the most instrumental measures in bringing this spectrum of the workforce under the umbrella of social protection.

As the global landscape of the labour market is changing, holistic benefits for employees are becoming a prerequisite of a sound social protection mechanism. The Indonesian government implemented a programme for job loss security, which systematised various incentives for the employees, including cash benefits, access to labour market information and online or offline job training. The incorporation of similar policies in our NSSS can be crucial in

expediting better working conditions. Indonesia also has a law on mother and child welfare that aims to ensure the well-being of mothers and children during the first 1,000 days of the children’s lives, starting from conception, enhancing the benefits of maternity leave, something Bangladesh doesn’t have a legislative equivalent of. When it comes to maternal and child social protection policies, Argentina passed a law in 2021 which can be considered a benchmark, as it ensures that women can earn the equivalent of a year of social security contributions for every single child they have raised. And in the case of an adopted or disabled child, the benefit extends for two years. Bangladesh is still far behind regarding the undertaking of innovative social safety net practices for mothers and children, and these global practices can be a baseline for the country to follow.

Social safety nets specifically enforced for women of minority ethnic origins are not uncommon in the world as well. Mexico has implemented the “Pensiones Mujeres Bienestar,” a programme which provides a monthly financial support of 3,000 pesos to women aged 60-64 years, particularly those belonging to the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities,

a policy that can be regarded as a cornerstone in financially supporting women belonging to Indigenous communities in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, having a lot of frameworks for a specific law can turn out to be quite cumbersome for policymakers. Egypt, in this regard, has unified various social insurance

schemes under one framework: Social Insurance and Pensions Law of 2019. Such a unified, comprehensive outline for social insurance schemes can also be looked into in the context of Bangladesh.

Nigeria, Kenya, and Thailand have welfare policies specifically laid out for senior citizens. Kenya has a universal social pension scheme from 2018 for persons over the age of 70 years, an age-specific threshold that can be incorporated into the existing social protection mechanism of Bangladesh. Nigeria, on the other hand, established the facilitation of a National Senior Citizens Centre in order to cater to the needs of senior citizens above the age of 70 years, a model which can be followed by Bangladesh, specifically to cater to the needs of elderly people residing in urban areas. Thailand has had the provision of a non-contributory pension scheme for elderly citizens since as early as 2009. Bangladesh can emulate the coverage and the non-contributory nature of this allowance.

Social protection policies throughout the world are rapidly evolving, taking into account the needs of an ever-changing world where the principles of leaving no one behind are stronger than ever. As a paradigm shift has occurred in Bangladesh, considering the climate of reform and the undertaking of new and innovative practices, there is no better time for reconditioning the current laws and policies in the domain of social protection as well as replacing outdated policies with modern ones that have turned out to be effective in the global context.

HARVARD VS TRUMP

'Limiting international participation would impoverish our academic mission'

Dr Fernando M. Reimers, the Ford Foundation Professor of the Practice in International Education at Harvard University, speaks with **Sarzah Yeasmin**, contributor to The Daily Star, about the battle between Harvard and US President Donald Trump, and the repercussions for global education and democracy in the interconnected world today.

On May 22, 2025, the US Department of Homeland Security revoked Harvard University's certification to enrol international students, which threatened the legal status of nearly 6,800 international students—about 27 percent of the university's student body—and placed many global academic partnerships in jeopardy.

How do you believe the removal of international enrolment would affect not just Harvard, but the broader landscape of higher education in the US?

The removal of international enrolment would have devastating consequences not just for Harvard but for American higher education as a whole. International students and scholars are essential to the vitality, innovation, and relevance of our universities. Without their contributions, our higher education system would become more insular and parochial, undermining America's long-standing leadership in global knowledge creation and problem solving. Ultimately, it weakens the openness and excellence that attract the world's brightest minds.

In truth, universities do not exist in a vacuum. Their legitimacy and excellence depend on their ability to serve as meeting grounds for diverse experiences, cultures, and perspectives. Removing international students means removing a central pillar of our academic ecosystem—one that enables our institutions to educate global citizens and produce knowledge that reflects the complexities of our shared world.

This policy would deprive Harvard of a resource essential to its mission. The advancement of knowledge and the improvement of the human condition through education are possible only when ideas cross borders and diverse minds collaborate. The presence of international students and scholars is not an accessory to the academic mission; it is central to it.

In what ways does Harvard's history of international engagement serve as a model for the role that universities should

play in geopolitics?

Harvard's commitment to international engagement and vision for global engagement dates back to Charles William Eliot, Harvard's 22nd president, who transformed the university into a global institution by expanding international faculty and graduate programmes. Eliot's efforts demonstrate how Harvard's identity and excellence are historically tied to looking beyond national borders. This openness has enabled Harvard to address global challenges and improve the human condition through education and research. In today's interconnected world, universities must model this spirit of dialogue and partnership if they are to serve as engines of progress and innovation.

There is an ethical imperative for universities to participate in shaping a peaceful and just world, and that requires meaningful collaboration across national boundaries. Harvard's ability to support inclusive global development has always been linked to its willingness to be shaped by voices beyond its borders. This example—of intellectual humility and shared problem-solving—should be emulated widely.

How would limiting international student and scholar participation specifically undermine any university's academic mission and research capabilities?

Limiting international participation would fundamentally impoverish our academic mission. The very advancement of knowledge relies on the free exchange of ideas across borders. International students and scholars bring essential perspectives, expertise, and creativity, enriching teaching, learning, and research. Excluding them weakens our ability to tackle global challenges and limits the university's capacity for innovation and excellence.

It is in the presence of cultural and disciplinary diversity that ideas mature. The global academy thrives on constructive tension and collective inquiry. Curtailing participation from beyond our borders

jeopardizes the very conditions that make scholarship transformative. Science and scholarship are inherently global enterprises. Throughout history, the greatest breakthroughs have emerged when researchers have been free to collaborate, build upon each other's work, and join forces on projects of common concern. This freedom to engage across borders is essential to academic vitality.



Dr Fernando M. Reimers

What do you see as the long-term risks to higher education institutions when government actions are used to exert political pressure on curriculum, admissions or faculty decisions?

The long-term risks are severe. When governments attempt to dictate curriculum, admissions or hiring for political purposes, they erode the autonomy that is central to universities' roles in a democracy. This stifles academic freedom, undermines trust in institutions, and leads to intellectual stagnation. Over time, such interference could irreparably damage the integrity, credibility, and global reputation of American higher education.

Such pressures do not just threaten

governance; they threaten purpose. Universities that become captive to political directives cease to serve the common good. They risk becoming provincial institutions, incapable of helping societies navigate the moral and technological dilemmas of our time. The erosion of institutional autonomy threatens not just academic freedom, but the university's democratic purpose.

How should universities protect their autonomy while continuing to engage with governments and policymakers?

Universities must remain steadfast in defending their mission and core principles while constructively engaging with policymakers. This requires clear legal and policy protections for academic freedom and institutional independence. At the same time, universities should foster transparent, principled dialogue with governments, advocating for the critical societal role that education plays while refusing to accept undue political interference.

Engagement must always be grounded in integrity. Universities can and should work with governments, but only in ways that preserve their moral compass and their primary allegiance—to truth, to inclusion, and to the long-term public interest. Autonomy of universities is essential to a functioning democracy. Universities serve as spaces to envision a better future and to bring people together to realise that vision. Political interference compromises this mission at its root.

What concrete steps should the academic community and the public take to defend global academic collaboration and institutional independence in the face of political interference?

The academic community and the public must mobilise to challenge any encroachments on academic freedom and diversity. This entails legal challenges to unlawful government actions, robust advocacy for the value of openness and international collaboration and forming alliances with civil society and

political leaders who support institutional independence. It also means educating the public about the essential role global engagement and academic autonomy play in addressing humanity's greatest challenges.

There is a civic duty here: to defend the university not as a sanctuary for the elite, but as a platform for solving global problems. By building coalitions, protecting institutional independence, and reinforcing public trust, universities can serve not just national interests but a global future. Protecting international engagement is about protecting the spirit of inquiry and collaboration that defines a free society.

What are the broader implications of this moment for higher education in the US and its global role?

The current confrontation extends well beyond administrative policy—it touches the core of what a university is and whom it serves. At stake is not merely the continuity of international enrolment, but the philosophical and civic foundations of higher education itself. In an era defined by geopolitical fragmentation and rising authoritarianism, the university must remain a space of principled openness, intellectual pluralism, and global responsibility. Defending academic freedom and cross-border engagement is not a defensive act; it is an affirmation of higher education's most enduring values.

This moment also calls for a wider reckoning within the education landscape of the US. The policies and precedents set in institutions like Harvard will ripple across the entire higher education system, affecting community colleges, state universities, and liberal arts colleges alike. If the US chooses to retreat from global intellectual exchange, it risks ceding leadership in research, innovation, and the moral project of higher education. The health of American democracy, and its place in the world, will be shaped by whether its universities remain open, independent, and truly global.

Is Trump's approach to the Russia-Ukraine war a geopolitical gamble or a strategic withdrawal?



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KAWSAR UDDIN MAHMUD

When Donald Trump returned to the White House in January 2025, he vowed to end the Russia-Ukraine war, saying that he would end the war in Ukraine in 24 hours. This attitude, repeated relentlessly during his campaign, hinged on his self-proclaimed prodigy for dealmaking and personal rapport with Vladimir Putin. Yet over 100 days into his presidency, the war rages on, as well as Russian strikes on Ukrainian cities have intensified. Trump's strategy has devolved into a pattern of contradictions and disengagement. The US president's initial bravado has collided with the grim realities of a war now in its fourth year, with escalating drone warfare and a large number of casualties on both sides. Trump's policy reversals—abandoning sanctions threats to Russia by lowering them, downplaying the US leadership, prioritising rare earth mineral deals with Ukraine—have left the Kremlin emboldened and strained transatlantic unity.

However, the roots of this shift lie in Trump's transactional worldview. His administration inherited a war that had settled into a brutal attritional grind under President Joe Biden, with Ukraine relying on Western arms to thwart Russian advances. However, where Biden's approach marked the war as a struggle for "democratic sovereignty," Trump has treated it as a nuisance—an obstacle to his vision of a grand bargain with Moscow. Since Trump's win, US direct involvement has decreased. Meanwhile, enforcement of sanctions has ground to a halt and ceasefire plans have only advanced demands favourable to Russia. Yet in May 2025 alone, Russia carried out its largest aerial bombardment in the war. In this respect, Trump's recent calling of Putin "absolutely crazy" has been notable, but how much impact it will pose on the US approach remains a critical question.

The surge of Russian attacks coincided with Trump's diplomatic inertia. His sole tangible intervention—a two-hour call with Putin in mid-May—yielded little beyond vague Russian commitments to draft a "memorandum" on peace. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky slammed Russia for the delay,

Trump's policy has been marked by a reluctance to leverage sanctions against Russia, a departure from the Biden-era consensus. Biden used to believe that economic pressure could curb Moscow's aggression. Where the European Union (EU) imposed 17 rounds of sanctions targeting Russian energy, finance, and technology sectors, Trump deemed such measures as obstacles to maximising opportunities for Americans.

while the US president emboldened Russian President Vladimir Putin by declining to impose pressure for an immediate ceasefire—backed by Europe—of meaningful sanctions. After Trump's two-hour phone call with Putin, he told reporters on May 19 that the call was "meaningful and frank" while the Russian leader declined to support the 30-day ceasefire plan. Putin instead ordered a "security buffer zone" along Ukraine's Eastern borders, and strikes on Ukraine's civilian

buildings escalated to the heaviest bombings on May 10, with 70 missiles and almost 300 drones. Russian air raids continued on May 25, and Trump remained silent until May 27, when he finally addressed the massive aerial attacks on Ukraine. Posting on TruthSocial, Trump referring to the Russian President, said, "Something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY!" On the same day, sources interviewed by The Wall Street

Journal said Trump is considering renewed sanctions, but he could also decide to not impose sanctions at all. One of Trump's key considerations, according to US officials interview by The Wall Street Journal, was his belief that he knew Putin well and that the Russian leader would end the war as a favour. Trump's dynamic of bluster and retreat has undermined US credibility. It left Kyiv to face intensified attacks and fractured Europe's trust. Critics argue that Trump's approach has been less about diplomacy than coercion, pressuring Ukraine to comply with the territorial concessions. It became explicit in May, when the US declined to join the European-led sanctions, instead suggesting that Kyiv and Moscow resolve the conflict "independently." For Ukraine, already strained by dwindling Western aid, the lack of US leadership has been critical.

Biden's stalemate vs Trump's concessions
The differing approaches of the Biden and Trump administrations divulge a dichotomy. Biden considered the war as "a defense of democratic values," rallying NATO allies to supply tanks, artillery, and air defence systems. His strategy reached a fragile stalemate, suggesting the preservation of Ukraine's territory while avoiding direct



An explosion of a drone lights up the sky over the city during a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine on May 24, 2025.

PHOTO: REUTERS

President JD Vance said that the war is "not our conflict." It drew sharp rebukes in Kyiv. Consequently, the contrast extends to their handling of alliances. Biden's administration worked closely with Europe to coordinate sanctions and aid. By contrast, Trump's "America First" policy gave rise to cynicism. Therefore, European leaders question whether NATO can function without US commitment, particularly after Trump hinted at withdrawing troops from Europe's eastern border.

Trump's policy has been marked by a reluctance to leverage sanctions against Russia, a departure from the Biden-era consensus. Biden used to believe that economic pressure could curb Moscow's aggression. Where the European Union (EU) imposed 17 rounds of sanctions targeting Russian energy, finance, and technology sectors, Trump deemed such measures as obstacles to maximising opportunities for Americans. This shift was clear during Trump's call with Putin this May, where discussions focused less on ending the war than on post-conflict economic collaboration. The Kremlin later emphasised Trump's enthusiasm for Russian rare-earth minerals and energy exports—sectors critical to US tech and manufacturing. In the

meantime, the lack of US enforcement diluted EU efforts to isolate Moscow. One EU diplomat remarked, "We cannot deter Putin if America prioritises trade over security."

Putin's chess game is complex. On May 27, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan went on a two-day visit to Moscow, and Russian stressed on bilateral relations rather than Ukraine. Russian sources have said they viewed Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman as potentially suitable venues for direct talks with Ukraine in a direct blow to Trump who posed himself as the chief negotiator to end the war. The Kremlin's state media in February, framed Trump's deference as a victory. For Putin, Trump's isolationism validates a long-standing assumption: that Western resolve would fracture under economic and political pressure.

A strategic dilemma for Europe?
In March, the EU unveiled an 800-billion-euro defence plan with a view to bolstering arms production and making a joint rapid-response force. However, internal divisions persist. Poland and the Baltics advocate for unwavering military aid to Ukraine, while Hungary's Viktor Orbán—echoing Trump's rhetoric—calls for pragmatic engagement with Moscow. The EU's May 2025 sanctions package, targeting Russian LNG and shadow tankers, marks progress but highlights lacunae. Europe lacks the capacity to replace US intelligence sharing or advanced air defences. It leaves Ukraine vulnerable to missile strikes. At the same time, Trump's threats to withdraw US troops from NATO's eastern flank have given rise to concerns. If the US does not ensure its commitments, Europe cannot help but prepare to defend itself. For Ukraine, Europe's resolve is a lifeline, but doubts linger. Although the EU amplified aid, Kyiv's battlefield prospects depend on sustained Western unity—a unity questioned and puzzled by Trump's ambivalence.

Trump's approach to Ukraine raises questions regarding transatlantic ties (with NATO and the EU) as it has insofar left Kyiv fighting for survival with waning support. For Europe, the lesson should be clear. The EU's push for strategic autonomy faces immense hurdles—from internal divisions to military inadequacies. For the US, the cost of winning a trade deal with Russia may be the loss of its role as the self-proclaimed anchor of global stability. The war in Ukraine has become a referendum on something far larger: whether a world order built on rules and alliances can withstand the rise of transactional nationalism. In the era of a geopolitical and geoeconomic crux, ambiguity is the only certainty.

BILLIE EILISH
wins big at
American
Music Awards

Billie Eilish emerged as the night's biggest winner at the 2024 American Music Awards, clinching all seven awards she was nominated for, including the coveted Artist of the Year. The Las Vegas ceremony saw her also take home the Album of the Year for *Hit Me Hard and Soft* and Favourite Touring Artist.

Accepting her awards via video call from Europe, Eilish said, "I feel speechless. I wish I could be there tonight." Gracie Abrams won New Artist of the Year, while SZA took home two R&B awards. Beyoncé earned her first AMA wins in the country category with Cowboy Carter, though she was absent.

Kendrick Lamar, despite leading with 10 nominations, won only one—Favourite Hip-Hop Song for *Not Like Us*. Janet Jackson received the Icon Award, and Rod Stewart, honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award, performed *Forever Young* on stage. The ceremony opened with a medley by host Jennifer Lopez.



'I've always believed in clean, honest storytelling'

Afsana Mimi on her big screen return

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Beloved actress and director Afsana Mimi returns to the silver screen this Eid-ul-Azha with *Utshob*, a heartfelt family drama directed by Tanim Noor. The film also reunites her with Zahid Hasan, signalling their first on-screen reunion in over 20 years.

With her signature poise and quiet intensity, Mimi doesn't just step back into the spotlight, she owns it. Once a defining presence in 1990s Bangladeshi television, she now brings that legacy full circle in a film that, she says, moved her deeply enough to say yes.

"I chose to be a part of *Utshob* because the story moved me," Mimi tells The Daily Star during a relaxed afternoon conversation. "When Tanim shared the plot with me, I immediately felt that it was warm, real, and beautifully written—I knew I had to be part of it."

Utshob is a family drama, packed with a stellar cast that includes Zahid Hasan, Jaya Ahsan, and Sadia Ayman, among others. But for Mimi, it's also personal—a return not just to acting, but to old friendships.

"I acted with Zahid after more than 20 years. Can you believe that?" she says, smiling. "We had so much fun. We were shooting while Sadia Islam Mou was abroad, so Zahid and I took a selfie and sent it to her. That felt like a full-circle moment."

Her chemistry with Zahid Hasan, once one of television's most iconic pairings, is central to *Utshob*. But Mimi insists the film doesn't belong to any one actor.

"This isn't a one-man show. We're all supporting each other's characters," she explains. "That's what real cinema is—shared, collective storytelling."

And what about the tagline on the film's posters—not to be watched without family?

Mimi laughs. "It's true! You need your family around for this one. *Utshob* is about home, about togetherness. It only makes sense that it should be watched that way."

Despite appearing on screen only occasionally in recent years, Mimi hasn't exactly been idle. She's directed several acclaimed television dramas and web projects, and appeared in films like *Jongli*, *Paap Punno*, and *Patalghor*.

"I'm consistently working—just not all the time," she says with a shrug. "I choose stories that speak to me. That's the only rule."

With *Utshob* releasing this Eid-ul-Azha, Afsana Mimi reclaims her space not as a star seeking a comeback, but as an artiste who never left—just someone who waited for the right story.

"I've always believed in clean, honest storytelling," she says. "And with *Utshob*, I think we've done just that."



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHORKI

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Haate Gorom Shingara'

This Friday Studio 6/6 will present *Haate Gorom Shingara*, a cyanotype exhibition featuring works from its inaugural hands-on workshop. Participants have explored this historic photographic process to create textured, deep-blue prints. The event will also include a curated screening of short films by emerging filmmakers, fostering a dialogue between image and motion.

DATE: FRIDAY | MAY 30

TIME: 3-9PM

VENUE: STUDIO 6/6, MOHAMMADPUR



Bappa Mazumder set for US tour after nine years



Popular singer Bappa Mazumder is set to embark on a US tour this September-October, marking his first American performances since 2016. Organised by US-based entertainment company Iron Cloud, the tour will cover at least 10 major cities, including New York, Florida, California, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Bappa, fresh from a successful tour in Canada, will be joined by his band Dalchhut, featuring Masum Wahidur Rahman (guitar), John Sharton (bass), Dano Sheikh (drums), Sohel Aziz (keyboard), and Shahab Kabondiho (manager).

Speaking to a local daily, Bappa confirmed final discussions are complete, with preparations in full swing. He expressed hopes that the tour would strengthen his connection with the Bangladeshi diaspora through his signature soulful performances.

NEWS

Govt struggling to ensure adequate care

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Prof Dr Ferdousi Begum Flora, former president of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, said, "Among every 10 women, at least three never come in for even one ANC visit. We've failed to bring them into the system."

She added that essential drugs are often out of stock where they are most needed. "Magnesium sulphate for treating preeclampsia is sometimes available in Non-Communicable Disease units, but not in maternity wards."

Training and supervision also fall short, with many medical colleges lacking qualified instructors and updated equipment.

Public awareness, she added, is worryingly low. "Pregnancy is as normal as eating rice. But it can be life-threatening too. That's what people need to understand... The government, the health system, the media, and the public, all need to act."

Her concerns are echoed by DGHS data showing over 1,000 maternal deaths reported in the past year, with nearly half in government facilities. More than 1.1 million complicated pregnancy

Dhaka expects \$750 million

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a briefing yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy.

He is expected to participate in the 30th Nikkei Forum Future of Asia on May 29 and hold bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on May 30.

Bangladesh has sought \$1 billion in budget support from Japan, and an announcement is likely during the bilateral meeting, said CA's press secretary.

During the visit, the two countries will sign seven memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in the areas of human resources development, recruitment, infrastructure development, railways, energy, etc.

Shafiqul Alam said the chief adviser is giving much emphasis on sending skilled manpower to Japan.

"We have a target to send 1,00,000 skilled manpower," he said, adding that the government is working to send them very quickly with adequate training, especially on language skills.

During his visit, he is scheduled to hold meetings with Japan Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League President Taro Aso, Nippon Foundation President Yohei Sasakawa, JICA president Dr Tanaka Akihiko, JETRO

cases were admitted last year alone. Irfana Lima's harrowing journey reveals how critical gaps can become deadly.

The 30 year old from Gazipur suffered placental previa, a condition where the placenta blocks the cervix. She lost her baby and had her uterus removed to save her life.

In her sixth month of pregnancy, she began bleeding heavily and collapsed. Hospitals in her upazila and district refused to admit her, directing her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. "But DMCH is far, and beds are never guaranteed. I was almost dead," she said.

A private hospital in Uttara finally admitted her. "After 21 days, I returned home. But I was never able to hold my baby, who died before I regained consciousness."

Prof Dr Nasrin Akter of DMCH's Feto-Maternal Medicine Unit said patients frequently arrive with complications such as hypertension, diabetes, thyroid disorders, or placenta previa.

"At least two women per week are near-miss cases needing ICU care, but shortages of ICU beds, anaesthetists,

and night-time blood supply severely limit critical care."

She stressed the importance of early screening, stronger referral systems, and emergency transport, especially at the upazila level.

Teenage pregnancies, often due to early marriage, also worsen outcomes, with many young mothers arriving with anaemia or preterm labour.

Dr Raunak Jahan, assistant professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, noted that preeclampsia, caused by high blood pressure, is now the second leading cause of maternal death after postpartum haemorrhage. "It's a multi-organ disorder. Once seizures begin, saving both mother and baby becomes very difficult."

Her unit manages up to 25 high-risk cases daily, yet often lacks access to life-saving drugs like labetalol and magnesium sulphate. "Sometimes we ask patients to buy them or use our own emergency stock."

With only two operation theatres, limited ICU beds, and unreliable blood supply, Dr Jahan said, "Overcrowded, under-resourced wards make respectful maternity care almost impossible."

President Kimura Fukunari.

Prof Yunus will also attend three seminars: one on human resource development and the recruitment of skilled Bangladeshi workers to Japan; one on trade and investment; and one with the heads of Japanese companies and Japanese youth.

He is also scheduled to address an audience at the Soka University of Japan, which is set to confer on him an honorary doctorate.

In the inaugural plenary session, the chief adviser will deliver a keynote speech, calling on Asia and the wider world to work together and build a better future on the theme 'Asia's Challenge in a Turbulent World'.

Dr Tanaka Akihiko, President of JICA, is also expected to make a courtesy call to the CA.

Besides, he will attend a community event at the Bangladesh embassy in Japan. During the meeting, JICA's future cooperation with Bangladesh and the progress of various ongoing projects funded by JICA will be discussed.

Some major Japanese media, including Nikkei Media, Asahi TV, Nippon TV, Asahi Shimbun and NHK will interview the chief adviser.

Up to \$20b loan money laundered

FROM PAGE 12

organisation can move quickly, but when four or five organisations are involved, it gets caught in a complex bureaucratic web. That's why we are also looking to make some legal changes—because without those, the blame game will just continue, and no real work will get done."

The existing law will be amended to bring the joint task force—formed with representatives from various agencies—under a legal framework. The task force would be incorporated into the Money Laundering Act, giving it official recognition as a government agency.

"Once that happens, the task force will be significantly empowered. It will then act as a coordinating body among all stakeholders, helping us overcome bureaucratic obstacles."

The process of recovering the laundered money would take three to five years, Mansur added.

Assistance is being taken from the World Bank's StAR

The government is receiving considerable support from foreign counterparts, said Mansur, also a former economist of the International Monetary Fund.

Already, the assets of one individual have been seized abroad.

"Our goal is to put pressure on the money launderers so that the funds can be recovered through out-of-court settlements. Our intention is not to harass anyone by putting them in jail. We do not aim to shut down anyone's business. We haven't shut down anyone's business—those whose businesses have closed, it happened for other reasons."

The process of recovering the laundered money would take three to five years, Mansur added.

Assistance is being taken from the World Bank's StAR

(Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative), the US Department of Justice, the International Stolen Asset Coordination Committee and the International Centre for Asset Recovery for this end, said BFIU head AF Shahinul Islam.

Steps have even been initiated to appoint foreign legal firms to aid in asset recovery.

"However, since the process is long-term and complex, it will take time," he added.

Since July last year, the workload of the anti-money laundering agency has increased severalfold, said BFIU Director Mohammad Anisur Rahman.

Suspicious transactions and suspicious activity from banks increased 23 percent to 17,345 last fiscal year.

Overhaul the power structures before polls

FROM PAGE 12

to a betrayal of the Liberation War. "If we bypass these values, we forfeit the democratic future we seek."

Reflecting on the July uprising, he said the movement was led by ordinary people, workers, religious scholars, women, Hindus, and the rising middle class, united in their demand for a systemic change.

He criticised the politicisation of state institutions and warned that replacing one leader with another, without reform, would perpetuate authoritarianism.

Nasiruddin also called for accountability for alleged rights violations committed by law enforcement agencies over the past 15 years. "If justice cannot be ensured institutionally, then the people's court will try them."

He demanded the "separation of the military from the politics".

NCP Member Secretary Akther Hossain said the existing constitutional framework grants the prime minister absolute power. "The legal structure must be rewritten to prevent authoritarianism."

He said goodwill alone cannot ensure democracy if institutions are built to enable unchecked executive control.

Akther added that autocratic leaders could still be constrained if the constitution included strong checks and decentralisation.

He criticised partisan appointments to institutions such as the judiciary, Election Commission, and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Referring to the Appellate Division's acquittal of Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam, he said, "Courts under Sheikh Hasina's tenure ignored the principle of reasonable doubt and weaponised trials against opposition figures."

He also urged Jamaat to publicly clarify its historical role [in 1971]. "We support elections, but not a rushed one. Reform must come first."

NCP Joint Convenor Sarwar Tushar said, "Those who only talk about elections are merely seeking power. True defenders of democracy are calling for structural reforms first."

He said future elections must be preceded by reforms ensuring that no one can remain in office without public consent.

Prof Dilara Choudhury, a political scientist, called for justice for all state-sponsored killings, including BDR, Shapla Chattar, and the July 24 incidents. "Justice must come first. Only then should elections be held."

She warned that rushed polls would only repeat a cycle of oppression.

Asaduzzaman Fuad of AB Party, Md Ashraf Ali of Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Constitution Reform Commission member Sharif Bhuiyan, BGD fellow Mirza M Hasan, and Syed Hasib Uddin Hossain of the Rashtra

Sanskrit Andolon also spoke at the event, organised by the NCP's Reform Coordination Committee.

Earlier in the programme, Javed Rasin, a member of the Reform Coordination Committee, presented the party's core proposals, including formation of an independent EC, ensuring judicial independence, introducing a non-partisan caretaker government during polls, and launching administrative reforms.

Muggers shoot money changer

FROM PAGE 12

reviewing CCTV footage to identify the suspects, said Mizanur Rahman, assistant commissioner of police of Mirpur Zone.

This incident is the latest in a series of killings and muggings in the capital over the past few weeks, raising fresh concerns over Dhaka's law and order.

On Sunday night, two masked assailants shot dead Kamrul Ahsan Shadhon, 52, joint convenor of BNP's Gulshan Thana unit, in Badda's Gudaraghata area.

A day earlier, a group of three muggers attacked a man beneath the Pallabi metro station around 11:30pm, stabbing him and fleeing with his phone.

Bangladesh lost

FROM PAGE 4
our lives working with the government through these USAID-funded projects to improve the lives of millions of underprivileged people in Bangladesh," she said.

Almeer Ahsan Asif, former deputy chief of party of the USAID Bijoyee Project, said he had been leading a team to help 2,00,000 young people find pathways to employment.

"But that endeavour has come to a halt," he said.

As a result, Bangladesh's development momentum has come to a standstill, he added.

Alal Uddin, former upazila coordinator of the USAID Esho Shikhi Project, said the development professionals have dedicated their lives to bringing change to others.

"But today, we are in deep crisis. I don't know

how I will manage my children's education, my parents' medical expenses, and the daily needs of my family," he said.

Kakoli Gomes, who had been working as a driver, said, "As a single mother of two daughters, I am struggling to make ends meet. My savings have nearly dried up."

AUDP's other demands include -- carrying out an economic impact assessment to evaluate the broader economic consequences of the crisis; amending existing laws to ensure tax refunds for laid-off workers for this fiscal year and waivers of advance income tax for the next year; and developing a national integrated talent retention strategy to create employment opportunities for laid-off professionals in the private, corporate, business, and investment sectors.

A monthly struggle fought in silence

FROM PAGE 3

She managed her own periods with torn sari cloth, washed in secret. "We didn't talk about it. We just endured it."

Now Rina does the same. She washes clothes at night in cold water, using a bit of detergent if available. There is no hot water, no disinfectant, and hardly any sunlight to dry them.

"I dry them under the bed, sometimes behind the food rack or under other clothes," she said. "They smell bad, but I don't have another option."

Like Ayesha and Rina, many girls rely on cloth -- less by choice and more by necessity.

A 2024 UNFPA study found that 22 percent of adolescent girls under

17 in urban slums use cloth as their primary menstrual product. None of the study's participants had heard of tampons or menstrual cups.

Even disposable pads -- considered a basic necessity -- are often out of reach.

"I buy one pack a month if we have extra money," said Rina. "Otherwise, it's back to rags."

For 16-year-old Sumi Akter in Dhaka's Tejgaon slum, pads are an unattainable luxury. She uses torn cloth, washed in secret and dried behind furniture in the dark.

"There's no soap, no sun," she said.

The shared toilet has no bins, no running water, and no guarantee of safety, with boys often loitering nearby. Most of the time,

she has only a single wash jug -- or bodna -- of water to manage her menstrual hygiene.

Globally, an estimated 500 million women and girls lack access to proper menstrual hygiene products and facilities, according to a 2022 World Bank report.

In Bangladesh, WaterAid's ongoing project "Stop the Stigma: Empowering Menstruating Girls in Bangladesh" (2022-2025) found that 94 percent of women and girls lack adequate menstrual knowledge.

This knowledge gap is evident in schools, where poor menstrual hygiene leads to up to 40 percent absenteeism among girls.

According to the project, 31 percent of teachers

lack knowledge about safe disposal.

Still, there is hope.

"Many adolescent girls want to manage their periods safely," she said. "We've seen a growing demand for reusable pads. They're open to learning."

She believes that the involvement of both government and the private sector is key. Investments in menstrual education, accessible products, and gender-inclusive infrastructure has seen these challenges firsthand.

"Menstruation is still treated as shameful," she said. "Most families don't have private toilets. Girls wait until dark to use them, risking harassment just to fetch water."

Sharmin emphasised that using cloth is not inherently unhygienic -- but when girls don't have safe washing and drying conditions, the risks rise.

Focusing on the infrastructural challenges of menstrual hygiene -- with a strong focus on gender-sensitive planning.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়

সিরাজগঞ্জ।

E-mail: serajganj@cs.dgbs.gov.bd

তারিখ: ২২/০৫/২৫

পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শাস্ত্র ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, প্রশাসন-১ শাখা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-এর স্বাস্থ্য নং-১৫,০০,০০০,১৪০,১১,০০,১০৩,২০-১৫৩ তারিখ: ১৬/০৫/২০২৫
যিঁ অনুযায়ী সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়, সিরাজগঞ্জ ও তার নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে স্বাস্থ্য রাজ্যের শাস্ত্রকৃত ১৭০ (একশত সতর) টি বিজ্ঞপ্তি কার্যালয়ের শূল পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য ছাড়ান্তের প্রয়োজন হচ্ছে অন্তর্ভুক্ত ৩২/৪৮ শ্রেণির (১১-২০ প্রতি) কুকুর নিয়ন্ত্রিত পদসমূহে জনবল নিয়োগের জন্যে সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলা স্বাস্থ্য বাসিন্দার (বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নামান্বিক) এর নিকট হতে নির্বাচিত শর্তসন্তোষে (http://cssirajganj.teletalk.com.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে অনলাইন (Online) এ দরবার্ষত আহরণ করা যাবে। অনলাইন বাস্তীত কোন আবেদন প্রুণ করা যাবে।

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	গ্রেড এবং পদের নাম	শিক্ষাগত যোগাযোগ ও অভিজ্ঞতা
০১	পরিসংস্থানবিষয়	০৫ (শীঁচ)	গ্রেড-১৪ (১০০০-২৪৬৮০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বিবিধবিদ্যালয় হতে পরিসংস্থান/ গমিত/ অবস্থিত বিষয়ে মাত্রক বা সমস্যার জীবন। (খ) কম্পিউটার চালনার ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০২	স্টেচ-স্ট্রাকচার কাম কম্পিউটার অ্যাপ্লিকেশন	০১ (এক)	গ্রেড-১৪ (১০২০-২৪৬৮০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বিবিধবিদ্যালয় হতে পরিসংস্থান/ গমিত/ অবস্থিত বিষয়ে মাত্রক বা সমস্যার জীবন। (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০৩	কাউন্টারী টেকনিশিয়ান	০১ (এক)	গ্রেড-১৫ (১০০০-২৪৬৯০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জীবিকানস প্রিজেক্ট বিভাগে উক্ত মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০৪	চের কিলার	০৬ (ছয়)	গ্রেড-১৬ (১০০০-২৪৬৯০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উক্ত মাধ্যমিক কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে। (খ) চের কিলার প্রযোজন হতে উক্ত মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০৫	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার স্বাক্ষরিক	০৫ (শীঁচ)	গ্রেড-১৬ (১০০০-২৪৬৯০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উক্ত মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে। (খ) কম্পিউটার চালনার ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০৬	শাস্ত্র সহকারী	১৪৬ (একশত চার্চিল)	গ্রেড-১৬ (১০০০-২৪৬৯০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উক্ত মাধ্যমিক কুল সার্টি�ফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০৭	ড্রাইভার	০৫ (শীঁচ)	গ্রেড-১৬ (১০০০-২৪৬৯০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র কুল সার্টি�ফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে। (খ) হালকা গাড়ি চালনার বিভাগ হতে জুনিয়র কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।
০৮	লাবরেটরি এটেন্ডেন্ট	০১ (এক)	গ্রেড-১৯ (১০০০-২৪৬৯০/-)	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উক্ত মাধ্যমিক কুল সার্টি�ফিকেট বা সমস্যার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যবহার করা যাবে।

আবেদনের শর্ত ও নির্বাচনীকৰণ:

- প্রার্থীকে অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশের নামান্বিক ও জাতীয়ীয় পরিচয়পত্র অনুযায়ী সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলা স্বাস্থ্য বাসিন্দা হতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২৫/০৫/২০২৫ প্রিয় তারিখ স্বীকৃত ১৮ (আঠারো) এবং সর্বোচ্চ ২২ (বিশেষ) বৎসর হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণক হিসেবে এসএসসি সমন্বয়স্থান প্রযোজন করতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে একটিকে প্রযোজন হবে।
- জনপ্রশ়াসন সম্বন্ধের স্বীকৃত অসমীয়া কোন স্বাস্থ্যে প্রাপ্তি অন্তর্ভুক্ত অনলাইন অনুসরণ করতে হবে।
- সকল প্রার্থীর আবেদন শুরুমাত্র অনলাইন প্রুণ করা যাবে। অনলাইন বাস্তীত কোন স্বাস্থ্যে প্রাপ্তি প্রযোজন করতে হবে।
- একই বাস্তীত একটি পদে আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।
- শাস্ত্র অধিস্থানের স্বাক্ষর নং- স্বাস্থ্য সিরাজ/সংস্থান/৩০-৪৮ শ্রেণি নিয়োগ-১/২০১৮/২৬৪৮ তারিখ: ১১/০৫/২০১৮ প্রিয় মোতাবেক এবং সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়, সিরাজগঞ্জ এবং স্বাস্থ্য সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলা স্বাস্থ্য বাসিন্দা হতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২৫/০৫/২০২৫ প্রিয় তারিখ স্বীকৃত ১৮ (আঠারো) এবং সর্বোচ্চ ২২ (বিশেষ) বৎসর হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণক হিসেবে এসএসসি সমন্বয়স্থান প্রযোজন করতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে একটিকে প্রযোজন হবে।
- জনপ্রশ়াসন সম্বন্ধের স্বীকৃত অসমীয়া কোন স্বাস্থ্যে প্রাপ্তি অন্তর্ভুক্ত অনলাইন অনুসরণ করতে হবে।
- সকল প্রার্থীর আবেদন শুরুমাত্র প্রুণ করা যাবে। অনলাইন বাস্তীত কোন স্বাস্থ্যে প্রাপ্তি প্রযোজন করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীকে অনুযায়ী পদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে যে ওয়ার্টের (প্রার্থীর) পদের জন্য আবেদন করবেন এবং কোন প্রতিক্রিয়া নেওয়া যাবে। ওয়ার্টের পদের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন এবং কোন প্রতিক্রিয়া নেওয়া যাবে।
- প্রার্থীকে অনুযায়ী পদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে যে ওয়ার্টের (প্রার্থীর) পদের জন্য আবেদন করবেন এবং কোন প্রতিক্রিয়া নেওয়া যাবে। ওয়ার্টের পদের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন এবং কোন প্রতিক্রিয়া নেওয়া যাবে।
- প্রার্থীকে অনুযায়ী পদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে যে ওয়ার্টের (প্র

LAW OPINION

The Passive Revolution of JULY 2024



What is sadly missing in this process is a political reimagining – not just reform. This reimagining is not the task of the unelected interim government; this needed to come through a process of extensive dialogue amongst political parties – old and new, who unfortunately do not have much appetite for this process, it seems. Thus, we collectively sow the seed of yet another passive revolution probably not before long!

MOHAMMAD SHAHABUDDIN

On 5 August 2024, the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India in the face of a nationwide uprising led primarily by students. This brought a dramatic end to Hasina's authoritarian regime. The UN Human Rights Office Fact-finding Report on Bangladesh confirms that to suppress the uprising, law enforcement agencies, together with the country's security and intelligence apparatus as well as violent elements associated with the ruling party of the time, systematically killed at least 1,400 individuals, including several hundred children. The uprising soon came to be known and celebrated as the 'July revolution' and the 'monsoon revolution'.

What is a revolution?

A widely accepted general definition of revolution presents it as "the process by which visionary leaders draw on the power of the masses to seek to forcibly bring into existence a new political order" (Goldstone 2023). A combination of four elements – mass mobilisation, forcible overthrow of the government, the pursuit of a vision of social justice, and the creation of new political institutions – is what makes a revolution distinct from uprisings, peasant revolts, riots, military coups, civil wars, and social movements.

The term 'revolution' derives from the Latin *revolutio*, meaning to relapse, to revert, to be brought back, or to restore. In 12th century Europe, the idea of revolution as a kind of circular movement came primarily to describe the specific action of a celestial object rotating. After the 1381 Peasant's Revolts across England, the word revolution

was rapidly referring to an alteration, change, or upheaval, and by 1521 the term had become interchangeable with that of rebellion – "the overthrow of established government or social order by people previously subject to it" (Kumar 2019). The Glorious Revolution of 1688 registers two opposing meaning of the term: on the one hand, it connoted radical political transformation and upheaval marked by the change from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy. On the other hand, this revolution was also deemed 'Glorious' in that it involved the restoration of the monarchy to its rightful place – a restitution of political and legal order.

It is the French Revolution of 1789 that fundamentally separated the concept of revolution from its cyclical etymological meaning to signify a singular and distinctive rupture with the past. Revolution would thereafter come to mean the fundamental, total, systematic, and radical social, economic, political, and legal change within a society, nation, and state. In particular, revolution became synonymous with rapture and radical change (Kumar 2019).

The July 'Revolution' between Cyclicality and Rupture

In the case of Bangladesh, it is still unclear whether the successful mass mobilisation in July and the ensuing overthrowing of the government in August would ultimately lead to an inclusive politics with respect for non-discrimination and social justice at its heart and whether new political institutions (not just political parties) would emerge to materialise alternative, pro-people political vision.

As soon as the Hasina government was toppled, political elites in Bangladesh had to grapple with the new reality. Senior political leaders of major political parties in opposition as well as civil society representatives were quick to call it a revolution in their speeches and interviews. Also, in a speech on 7 December 2024, the Chief Justice of Bangladesh recalled "the resolute spirit of the student-led revolution of July and August 2024, which catalysed the movement to oust oppression and restore justice, equality, and humanity".

However, major political parties soon refocused their energy on distancing themselves from what they themselves called a revolution. The scary thought of a revolution and the typical imagery that it brings along in the immediate aftermath – disruption, turmoil, demise of political structures they have ever known – was enough for them to disown the revolution, not to mention regional and international pressure and concerns. For them, even if this is a revolution, it must be in the cyclical sense – a process through which the 'fascist' regime has collapsed; the concern is how quickly politics can return to 'normalcy'? What major political parties opposed strongly is the possibility of any rupture or any discontinuity in the post-revolution political reimagining.

In such situations, political, bureaucratic, military, and other elites usually seek refuge under the protective wings of the law. Revolution is not a legal concept *per se*, but when the legitimacy of a revolution is assessed within the framework of the law and when the question of legality and constitutional continuity becomes the

paramount concern in the immediate aftermath of the revolution, the court becomes an important powerbroker or a 'Kingmaker' so to speak (Kumar 2016). A revolution generates its own legality, and it is rather a political decision to conceptualise the revolution within a legal framework. The elites in Bangladesh made that political decision and, thus, began the legal takeover of the July revolution.

In one of the first moves, a new attorney general was appointed on the 8th of August, apparently to foil an attempted judicial coup against the revolution. On the same day, under article 106 of the constitution, the President sought an advisory opinion of the Appellate Division regarding the formation of an interim government to fill the constitutional vacuum given that the Prime Minister had resigned on the 5th of August and the President had dissolved the Parliament the day after. In response, the Appellate Division opined that to address the constitutional vacuum, the President can appoint a Chief Advisor and other advisors to form an interim government. Although the Appellate Division does not specifically mention in their rather brief opinion, the premise of their opinion is of course the age-old 'doctrine of necessity', which is informed by Hans Kelsen's doctrine of revolutionary legality. Leading lawyers quickly extended their support to this reasoning (see an example here).

Interestingly, when the legality of the current interim government was challenged in a writ petition arguing that the July revolution should have brought forth a 'revolutionary government' under an instrument of Provisional Interim Constitutional Order, the High Court Division in its decision of February 2025 found the petition "misconceived, malicious and vexatious" and held that the interim government was backed by the aforesaid advisory opinion as well as by the will of the people. Then the court further noted: "The mass uprising that took place in July-August 2024 is a part of our history and hopefully this will remain in good care of the people for many years to come." In other words, for the court, it is a 'mass uprising' as opposed to a 'revolution' and it is already a matter of the past – a part of our 'history', as opposed to a history in making.

To make things even more complicated, international law has an important role in influencing the nature, form, and substance of a revolution, and its approach to the law. A combination of international recognition of the revolutionary government, continued international responsibilities of the state, and finally, its democratic commitment – all informed by international law – shape political choices of the protagonists of revolution in the midst of intense power negotiations with various local vested interest groups. Especially, transition to democracy remains an important aspect of post-revolutionary political discourse, and rightly so. It is often the lack of democratic culture

that necessitates the revolution in the first place, although democracy cannot be reduced to mere electoral rituals in this context. Thus, a complex process of power negotiations against the backdrop of constitutional and international legal norms gives the revolution a character of cyclicity or rupture or a combination of both.

The July revolution is not unique in this sense. As a matter of fact, in this highly integrated global economic and political structures, marked by neoliberalism and geopolitical complexities, a revolutionary rupture is highly unlikely in a country like Bangladesh in the absence of a strong political will and consensus to go for major socio-political transformations. What we eventually ended up with is rather a 'passive revolution'.

The 'Passive Revolution'

With reference to the moment of the 'Resurgence' leading to the unification of the state of Italy (the Risorgimento), Antonio Gramsci argues in his 'Notes on Italian History' that if new claimants to power lack the necessary social and military capacity to subjugate hitherto dominant classes and establish complete hegemony over the new nation, they prefer an alternative mode of operation. They take a toned-down approach in line with the available social and military strength, in which their demands for a new society are "satisfied by small doses, legally, in a reformist manner – in such a way that it was possible to preserve the political and economic position of the old feudal classes" (Gramsci 1971). They themselves then emerge as the new bourgeoisie and embark upon a 'passive revolution' by attempting a "molecular transformation" of the old dominant classes into partners in a new historical bloc and only a partial appropriation of the popular masses, in order first to create a state [read government] as the necessary precondition for the establishment [or continuation] of capitalism as the dominant mode of production" (Chatterjee 1986).

The July revolution of 2024 indeed resembles Gramscian 'passive revolution' today. Various reform commissions have now submitted their reports. Preparations for a general election are underway. Soon a new democratically elected government will be in power, and the nation will return to some sort of 'normalcy' to give meaning to what we call a form of cyclicity. What is sadly missing in this process is a political reimagining – not just reform. This reimagining is not the task of the unelected interim government; this needed to come through a process of extensive dialogue amongst political parties – old and new, who unfortunately do not have much appetite for this process, it seems. Thus, we collectively sow the seed of yet another passive revolution probably not before long!

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LAW LETTER

Legal consequences of apostasy under Hindu Law

RAJIB KUMAR DEB

From the earliest periods of human civilisation, religion has served as one of the foundational elements of social identity and cohesion. Throughout history, apostasy (the abandonment or renunciation of a religious belief) or conversion from one religion to another, has often been perceived as undesirable from the religions' perspectives, particularly within the context of Hindu personal law.

Under traditional religious laws, conversion to another faith typically results in the loss of familial and succession rights. Recognising the severity of this issue, the British colonial

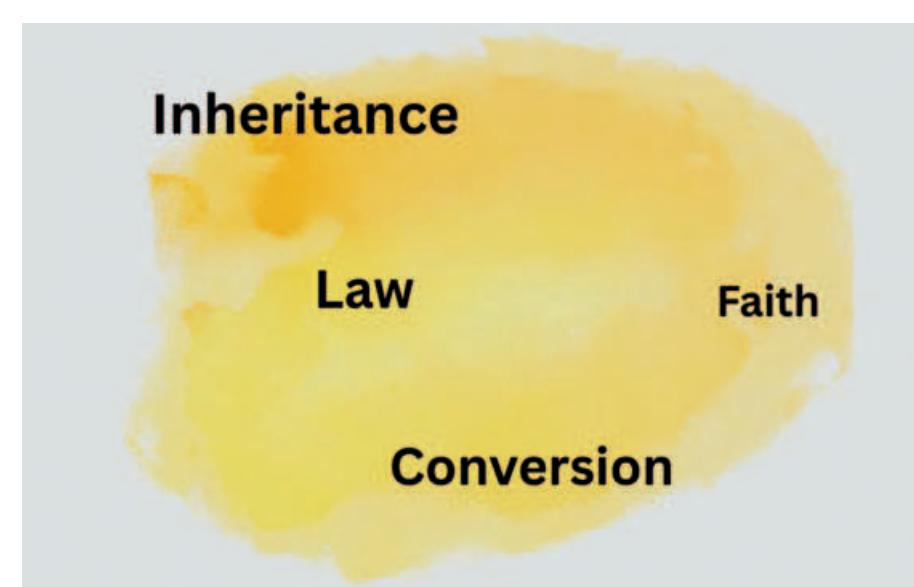
government enacted reforms. Notably, in 1832, a Bengal Presidency Regulation declared:

"The laws of Hindu and Muslim religion shall not be permitted to operate to deprive such party or parties of any property to which, but for the operation of such laws, they would have been entitled."

Despite this proclamation, personal laws continued to apply in practice. Under the Dayabhaga school of Hindu law prevalent in Bangladesh, inheritance is heavily influenced by religious considerations. Consequently, a Hindu person who converts to another religion (such as Islam or Christianity) is still generally disqualified from inheriting property from Hindu family members.

The Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act 1928, while receiving inheritance or any right or share in joint-family property, removed some disqualifications, such as those related to "disease, deformity, or physical or mental defect." However, it did not lift the bar pertaining to religious conversion.

The Caste Disabilities Removal Act 1850,



introduced during British rule, aimed to protect individuals from losing inheritance rights due to caste change or religious conversion. However, this Act was repealed in Bangladesh by the Bangladesh Laws

(Revision and Declaration) Act 1973. Its repeal has been affirmed by the judiciary, rendering it ineffective within the country's legal landscape.

In *Palash Chandra Saha v Shimul Rani*

Saha (14 SCOB [2020] AD), the Appellate Division considered the issue of cross-caste adoption and ruled that the 1850 Act had no application in Bangladesh. This judgment reaffirmed the predominance of traditional Hindu law principles, including disqualifications based on conversion.

Thus, within the current legal framework in Bangladesh, apostasy from Hinduism remains a ground for disqualification from inheritance under Hindu personal law, particularly in the Dayabhaga school. That said, limited exceptions may still apply. For instance, if a converted individual is bequeathed property through a valid will, or if the conversion occurs after inheritance rights have already vested, such cases may warrant judicial consideration. As a result, since this issue has not been addressed by any other law of the state, the disqualification of converts from inheritance under Hindu law remains a legally and socially significant reality in Bangladesh.

The writer is a Senior Assistant Judge, Bangladesh Judicial Service.

PACERS IN FOCUS as Tigers face Pakistan in first T20I

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on hosts Pakistan in the first of the three-match T20I series in Lahore today, and the Tigers are in need of turning things around on two fronts -- reviving their much-hyped pace attack and bouncing back from a 2-1 series drubbing against a lower-ranked UAE.

The task, however, will not be an easy one, especially with the Tigers missing the services of three of their frontline pacers.

A last-minute finger injury to Mustafizur Rahman, sustained during his latest Indian Premier League (IPL) stint with the Delhi Capitals, right arm quick Taskin Ahmed's unavailability due to being in rehab for an ankle issue, and pace sensation Nahid Rana's withdrawal from the series mean Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib and Khaled Ahmed will have to step up in the pace department.

"You miss your senior seamers right now. As we saw, how Fizz (Mustafizur) was bowling in the IPL recently. We will miss him. But again, it is also a chance for somebody to take his place in this series," head coach Phil Simmons also urged the same from the ones who are available.

Bangladesh's bowling, considered their main strength in any format with success for batters always remaining a flip of the coin, has not been up to the mark as of late -- case in point the UAE tour in

"The players are looking forward to the series. Everyone is focused and understands the challenge Pakistan poses, especially in their home conditions. This series is a great opportunity for every player to step up. We are trying a few combinations in the build-up to the T20 World Cup next year and this tour is a valuable part of that process."

LITTON DAS, Bangladesh captain



"A lot of our players are coming off strong performances in the PSL, which is one of the most competitive T20 tournaments in the world. That form and momentum are something we are hoping to carry into this series. Bangladesh are a quality side with talented players and we are expecting a good challenge from them."

SALMAN ALI AGHA, Pakistan captain

which methodical batting from the hosts saw Bangladesh bowlers lose the plot at crucial junctures of the matches.

However, with Shaun Tait on board as the newly-appointed pace bowling coach and spin coach Mushtaq Ahmed joining the team for the Pakistan series, Bangladesh are hoping to recalibrate by soaking in their experiences of working in the latest edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Both Tait and Mushtaq worked with different franchises in the 10th PSL.

"We will assess what's happening. We have Shaun [Tait] who has been in the PSL right from the start. Mushtaq [Mushtaq]

has also been in the PSL. We will get information from them and make our decisions," Simmons added.

Pakistan will also have their work cut out, as they are without three of their star cricketers -- Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Pacer Naseem Shah leads the charge for them in the pace department while Saim Ayub, Fakhar Zaman, Khushdil Shah, and skipper Salman Agha needing to fill in for the experienced duo of Babar and Rizwan.

Bangladesh made history in their last visit to the country when they beat Pakistan 2-0 in a Test series to clinch

their maiden series victory over the hosts in 2024. Bangladesh can eye something similar this time, as the Tigers are yet to beat Pakistan in their own backyard in the shortest format -- losing all three T20Is so far.

But Simmons only wanted to focus on their own agenda.

"I don't know if it's the best time to beat Pakistan in T20Is. I think it's time for us to play our best. Pakistan are a dangerous side at any point of time. So, you can't take anything for granted," Simmons warned the Tigers to not take Pakistan lightly even if they are missing some experienced campaigners.

Abahani confirm second spot

SPORTS REPORTER

With only one fixture left, the 2024-25 Bangladesh Premier League is all but wrapped up, and Abahani have secured the runners-up spot for a fifth time with a commanding 3-0 win over Brothers Union in Cumilla yesterday.

Champions Mohammedan Sporting Club had clinched the title with three matches in hand, but the battle for second place went down to the wire between six-time winners Abahani and reigning champions Bashundhara Kings.

At the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium, goals from Asaduzzaman Bablu, Raphael Augusto and Mirajul Islam sealed the deal for the Sky Blues.

Abahani could have slipped to third with a loss,



The Bangladesh women's national team held their first training session at the Polo Ground in Jordan yesterday, ahead of their upcoming FIFA friendlies. The session focused on light recovery, ball work and tactical drills as the Afeida Khandaker-led side started preparations for their games against Indonesia on May 31 and Jordan on June 3.

PHOTO: BFF

Scolari passes torch, Ancelotti embraces 'GREAT MISSION'

STAR SPORTS DESK

Carlo Ancelotti has seen it all -- Milan, Madrid, Munich, London -- but as he stepped into the heart of Rio de Janeiro, wrapped in green and yellow, the maestro found himself walking into something even he hadn't quite experienced before: a nation's collective hope.

"It is an honour to lead the best national team in the world," Ancelotti said, flashing a modest smile before a sea of more than 250 journalists on Monday.

"I have a great mission, so that Brazil can be champions again."

It's been 24 years since Brazil last lifted the World Cup, equaling their trophy drought from 1970 to 1994. In that time, five different coaches have tried and failed. The team has gone from *jogo bonito* to jumbled and bruised -- falling at the 2022 quarter-final stage and humiliated 4-1 by Argentina at home earlier this year.

But now, the weight of the drought sits on Ancelotti's shoulders, a man whose resume glitters with five Champions League titles and unmatched man-management finesse.

His unveiling was not just a press conference. It was theatre, nostalgia,

and prophecy rolled into one. Luiz Felipe Scolari, the last manager to guide Brazil to World Cup glory in 2002, handed him a coach's jacket -- a symbolic torch-passing. Messages from legends like Zico and Kaka, and the presence of former stars like Denilson and Junior gave the day a cinematic tinge.

But Ancelotti, with his characteristic calm, focused not on spectacle but on spirit -- the spirit of Brazil. "My connection with Brazil began in the 1980s, with Falcao and Cerezo," he reflected. Then with Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Pato, Kaka, Marcelo, Cafu and currently with Vini [Vinicius Junior], Rodrygo, Militao and Endrick.

"But this will be the first time I will work in Rio. I've lived in big cities around the world, but I've never lived in Rio. I want to enjoy this city."

That blend of joy and duty may prove vital. Brazil, as a footballing nation, lives through its contradictions -- flair and pressure, samba and scrutiny. Ancelotti appears to understand that.

His first squad reflects a thoughtful mix: the experienced Casemiro returning to lend leadership -- reuniting with the Italian after having played a key role as a defensive midfielder at Real Madrid from

2021 to 2023 -- and 18-year-old Estevao called up from Palmeiras to symbolise a new generation.

"Young players bring joy and enthusiasm. Experienced players bring knowledge, reading and experience," he explained. "Estevao can help Casemiro. Casemiro can help Estevao."

Of course, questions surrounded Neymar, still recovering from injury. Ancelotti ruled him out of the upcoming qualifiers against Ecuador and Paraguay but left the door open. More pressing, however, is Vinicius Junior -- a megastar in Madrid, yet often subdued in yellow.

Since 2012, not one elected president of the CBF has finished their term. Political instability has plagued the federation, but Ancelotti declined to address the chaos, instead choosing optimism.

"Our negotiations began two years ago," he explained. "But it ended because I had a contract with Real Madrid. That's why I come just now."

Now, he comes with total autonomy -- a €10 million salary, a packed calendar, and the blessing of a newly elected CBF president. But above all, he comes carrying the dream of 214 million people.



The personal relation [with players] is very important. I always pay special attention to this. It's not just a professional issue. Each player has a different character. Brazil has spectacular players. But what sets Brazilians apart is that they can do serious things and also fun things. I like that and I also care about having a great work environment."

Brazil Coach CARLO ANCELOTTI

T Sports
Bangladesh Emerging vs South Africa
Emerging
2nd four-day, Day 2
Live from 10:00 am

Pakistan vs Bangladesh
1st T20I
Live from 9:00 pm
Sony Sports 1 and 2
French Open
Live from 3:00 pm

Singapore match 'tickets sold out'

SPORTS REPORTER

Tajwar Awal, member of Bangladesh Football Federation's Competitions Committee, yesterday informed the media that all the gallery tickets and majority of VIP-category tickets for the Asian Cup Qualifiers fixture between Bangladesh and Singapore have been sold out through the designated online platform.

Speaking to reporters yesterday afternoon, Tajwar claimed that there has been a huge demand for tickets for the June 10 fixture to be played at the National Stadium in Dhaka, with tickets brought from outside the country as well as from inside.

Following the four-year-long renovation, the country's premier multisport venue will stage the eagerly anticipated fixture of the Asian Cup Qualifiers five days after hosting a friendly match against Bhutan on June 4.

The renovated venue has a seating capacity of 22,660, with most tickets, except for corporate and hospitality boxes, supposed to be sold online through ticketing platform, Tickify. The ticket prices were set from Tk 400 to Tk 5,000.

However, the experience for fans eager to buy tickets to see Hamza Choudhury and Co take on Singapore have not been a pleasant one to say the least. Following an opening-night fiasco, which Tickify and BFF later claimed to be the result of a 'cyber attack', the fans had to go through a long waiting game on Monday night. While some fans eventually succeeded in getting virtual receipts, others were left empty-handed.

Later on Tuesday, the site went up again for about an hour before it was announced by both BFF and Tickify that all tickets had been sold out, leaving many wondering how all tickets were sold out so quickly when the BFF had on Monday announced that the eastern gallery tickets would be sold later.

Iftikhar Ifty, founder of Tickify, told The Daily Star around noon yesterday that the short window they had opened saw smooth selling of tickets.

Speaking about the huge demand for tickets, Tajwar said: "Last night we witnessed 30,000-plus people searching for tickets online in a five-minute span. We created a queue system, there were two or three DDoS attacks again, but we successfully prevented those. We saw that tickets were being sold by the ticketing company each minute."

"Expats have applied for tickets too. Tickets have been brought from Teknaf to Tetulia, from USA to Australia," Tajwar said. "There was one from Uganda too."

Tajwar said that they were going through a forensic audit to find out any mismatches or any tickets remaining unsold. Someone with valid proof will definitely get tickets, he said, in case they haven't got their tickets yet.

When asked about the possibility of counterfeit tickets or black marketing, Tajwar claimed that a magistrate will be on duty to apprehend black marketers or counterfeit ticket sellers. He added that that with the ticketing issue for the Singapore match solved, they would open up online ticket sales for the Bhutan match on Wednesday and then move on to logistical issues related to organising a concert, setting up fan zones and ensuring the overall security of the area.

had Kings managed a bigger win but they ended their campaign on a high, beating Dhaka Wanderers Club 5-3 at the Kings Arena in Dhaka, but it wasn't enough to reclaim second.

There had been doubts about Abahani's campaign early on, especially after the political transition in August last year, which affected their squad-building process. Yet, the Dhanmondi-based outfit impressed with a core of local talent and finished the season with two runners-up trophies.

Under coach AKM Maruful Haque, Abahani briefly looked poised to challenge Mohammedan for the title, but inconsistent results in the second phase saw them fall short. Still, they ended ahead of the Kings for the first time in six seasons.

Kings, who had won five straight league titles since their top flight debut in 2018-19, failed to keep pace this year. A dip in form under their new coach and a low conversion rate in front of goal proved costly. Nevertheless, they salvaged their season by lifting the Challenge Cup and Federation Cup.

Mohammedan, meanwhile, ended their long wait for a maiden professional league title. A settled core -- with several players in their third or fourth season -- played a key role, especially in the first half of the campaign. Although they wobbled in the second phase, they capitalised on Abahani and Kings' inconsistency to stay ahead.

They capped off their triumphant campaign with a 6-1 thumping of Fakirpool Young Men's Club, led by a five-goal blitz from captain Souleymane Diabate.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Export Competitiveness for Jobs (EC4J) Project

Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners' Association

BANGLADESH LIGHT ENGINEERING EXPO
11:00 AM TO 08:00 PM
29-30 MAY 2025
VENUE: SHAHID ABU SAYED
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE



AWAMI LEAGUE RULE

Up to \$20b loan money laundered

Says BB governor Ahsan H Mansur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About \$18 billion to \$20 billion was laundered abroad during the Awami League regime, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday.

"Tracking where this money was used abroad or where it was diverted is a massive task for us -- none of us were prepared to handle such tasks," he said at a press conference organised by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit to unveil its annual report for 2023-2024.

Money was taken from the banking sector as loans.

Efforts are underway to reduce bureaucratic complexities to expedite the process of recovering the laundered funds, he said, adding that a joint investigation is ongoing involving 11 teams.

"If we speak frankly, inter-ministerial cooperation is a major challenge in Bangladesh. One

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A motorcyclist panics and falls on the road, with thick smoke from burning garbage visible in the background. The poor visibility, due to thick smoke from burning garbage next to the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Baliapur area of Savar, contributed to the accident. Battery-run rickshaws are banned on highways.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Russia launches 60 drones at Ukraine

10 people hurt; Moscow says Ukraine trying to wreck peace talks

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched 60 drones at Ukraine overnight, injuring several people, officials in Kyiv said yesterday, indicating a sharp decrease in the intensity of Moscow's attacks after it conducted three nights of massive aerial bombardment.

The earlier attacks -- which the Ukrainian Air Force said included a record barrage of 355 drones on Sunday night -- prompted US President Donald Trump to say that Russian President Vladimir Putin had "gone absolutely CRAZY" and threaten sanctions.

The air force said Russia's latest drone attack hit targets in nine locations and used 60 drones. A 17-year-old boy was among 10 people who were injured overnight and early yesterday, officials said.

"Air defence forces were working during the night in Dniproprovska," Serhiy Lysak, governor of the central-eastern region, said on the Telegram messaging app.

Meanwhile, Russia's defence ministry said yesterday that Ukraine, backed by certain European countries, had taken several 'provocative steps' aimed at derailing Moscow-initiated direct peace talks with Kyiv.

The first direct talks between Russia and Ukraine in over three years took place on May 16, but failed to produce a ceasefire agreement.

"At the initiative of the Russian Federation, direct Russian-Ukrainian dialogue on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine has been resumed," the ministry said.

"At the same time, the Kyiv regime, supported by certain European countries, has taken a number of provocative steps aimed at disrupting the negotiation process."

According to the Russian ministry, since May 20, Ukraine has significantly increased drone and missile attacks on Russian territory, using Western-supplied munitions and targeting civilian areas.

Muggers shoot money changer in Mirpur, take Tk 22 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals shot a man and robbed him of Tk 22 lakh in local and foreign currencies in broad daylight in Dhaka's Mirpur area yesterday.

The victim, Jahidul Islam, 55, is the proprietor of a money exchange service in the Mirpur 10 area.

Sajjad Rumon, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said Jahidul was on his way to his shop from his home in Section 6 of Mirpur, carrying currencies worth Tk 22 lakh.

"When he reached Abdul Baten Road around 10:00am, six men in two motorcycles intercepted him. They demanded the money and, when he refused, one of them shot him on the left side of his waist," he added.

The attackers fled the scene with the money, the OC said.

Locals first rushed Jahidul to a nearby hospital. He was later transferred to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Law enforcement officials are

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Surrounded by Meghna river tributaries, residents of Narsingdi's Alokbali union require this slender bamboo bridge to get to the neighbouring Hairmara union on foot. With ominous clouds signalling heavy rain, this bridge is likely to disappear underwater, at which point boats will become the only means to leave their villages. The photo was taken in Khodadila village of Alokbali on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: JAHIDUL ISLAM JOY

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ECONOMIC REFORMS

Patchworks won't do, show commitment

CPD urges govt; 'time to announce a polls date'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday urged bold reforms in the economic sector to attract investment, ensure inclusive growth, and build a resilient economy.

The think tank said the government must move beyond piecemeal measures and demonstrate a clear commitment to comprehensive reforms, as the economy faces challenges including persistent high inflation, political and policy uncertainties, and sluggish investment.

At a press briefing at its office, the CPD said government reform initiatives, such as splitting the NBR and steps to address the banking sector's weaknesses, have not delivered optimal results.

"Governance challenges and regulatory bottlenecks continue to undermine investor confidence and impede economic potential," said CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatoon.

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the CPD, said Bangladesh lacks investment dynamism despite the promotional efforts of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).

He noted that while exports are growing at nearly 10

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Overhaul the power structures before polls

NCP demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party leaders have demanded fundamental reforms in the country's power structure before national election.

They also warned that without decentralisation and accountability, polls would only legitimise a flawed and authoritarian system.

Speaking at a discussion titled "Democratic Transformation: Fundamental Reforms and Elections" at the Jatiya Press Club, the leaders said the political framework in Bangladesh has long enabled concentrated power and partisan control of state institutions.

They said the demand for reform, which stems from two mandates, the 1971 Liberation War and the July uprising, rejects authoritarianism.

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary said any attempt at reform or election ignoring the foundational values of equality, human dignity, and justice would amount

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EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Govt struggling to ensure adequate care

Healthcare professionals cite lack of manpower and facilities

NILIMA JAHAN

Even as pregnancies rise across the country, fewer women are turning to government health facilities, the most accessible and affordable source of care, for help during and after childbirth.

Despite the often-life-threatening risks of pregnancy-related complications, recent data from the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division shows a steady decline in antenatal check-ups, deliveries, contraception use, and postnatal care in public hospitals and clinics.

Healthcare professionals cite shortages of medical staff, essential equipment, available beds and reliable medication as key deterrents, along with limited awareness among expectant mothers.

Meanwhile, the number of deliveries nationwide jumped from 2.79 million in 2023 to 3.03 million in 2024, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. But this surge has not been matched by a rise in the use of public health services, raising urgent concerns about the wellbeing of mothers and newborns.

Government health facilities handled just over

six percent (193,755) of total deliveries in 2023-24, slightly down from 194,992 the previous year, according to the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division's report.

WHO now recommends eight antenatal care (ANC) visits during pregnancy, but in Bangladesh, even the older target of four is becoming harder to meet.

In 2023-24, only 5.14 lakh pregnant women received the recommended four ANC check-ups at government facilities -- down from 10.7 lakh in 2019-20. Postnatal care has followed the same trajectory, with only 3.55 lakh women receiving four full check-ups in 2023-24, compared to 5.7 lakh four years ago.

Contraceptive use has also dropped sharply, especially for long-term methods like injectables, IUDs, no-scalpel vasectomy, and tubectomy.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the national Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) stands at 136 per 100,000 live births. In rural areas, the figure is even higher at 157 -- still far from the Sustainable Development Goal of reducing MMR to less than 70 by 2030.

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Bangladesh is celebrating yet another Safe Motherhood Day today to raise awareness about maternal health and promote safe healthcare for women during pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum periods.

Dhaka expects \$750 million in support from Japan

Yunus leaves for Tokyo today



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus leaves Dhaka today for a four-day official visit to Japan.

During his visit, Bangladesh is expected to secure \$500 million in budgetary support from Japan, along with \$250 million for the railway sector and additional commitments across other areas.

The visit also aims to strengthen bilateral relations and deepen economic cooperation between the two countries, said Shafiqul Alam, chief adviser's press secretary, at

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Army won't manage Eid waste: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has no plans to engage in waste management of sacrificial animals or dengue mosquito control during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press statement yesterday.

The clarification came after media reports quoted Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Administrator Mohammad Aziz as saying the army would assist in post-Eid cleanup and mosquito eradication efforts.

"To inform all, it is hereby clarified that the Bangladesh Army is not aware of any such assignment, nor does it have any plans to be involved in such activities in the future," the ISPR statement read.

It added that such civic responsibilities fall under relevant city corporations and not the armed forces.

"The army remains focused on safeguarding national sovereignty and public security," it said.

Subsequently, DNCC said in a press statement the mayor's statement was misrepresented in

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