



DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 29, 2025

Plus 12-page Business Jacket on Banked Assurance

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 130

JAISHTHA 15, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILHAJJ 1, 1446 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS: Tk 15.00

Get ready to ensure polls by December

Tarique tells BNP leaders, activists at youth rally

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and MD ABBAS

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the next general election must be held by December and called on party activists and leaders to prepare to ensure that.

"This is our call to the interim government: the national election must be held by December. We once again want to say: the polls will be held by December," he said, while virtually addressing a mammoth youth rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

"Prepare to ensure that the election is held by December [Decide] who will run the country and who will be your representatives," he added.

Tarique stressed the need for visible preparations by the government for the election. "In the past one and a half decades, about 3.5 crore new voters have been added

WHAT TARIQUE SAYS

- » Election's fate trapped in conditions for small- and large-scale reforms
- » Efforts underway to delay election
- » Govt should not turn people, parties into opponents

to the voter list. These new voters have not yet had the chance to vote in any national election and elect their preferred candidates as public representatives.

"We want to see a government that is free from fascism, directly accountable to the people through their votes."

Tarique alleged attempts being made to delay the election. He said the government had yet to announce

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Thousands gather for a youth rally outside the BNP's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Eid-ul Azha on June 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The holy Eid-ul-Azha, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country on June 7 as the moon of Zilhajj was sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

The decision was made at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the Islamic Foundation yesterday evening with Religious Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain in the chair, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

Rooppur, MRT-1, Matarbari to get special focus

9.9% of FY26 ADP will go to the three mega projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Three mega projects will get special focus in the upcoming development budget with the view to providing cheaper electricity, easing Dhaka dwellers' transportation problem and enhancing international trade for Bangladesh.

The three mega projects – Rooppur nuclear power plant, Dhaka mass rapid transit line-1 (MRT-1) and the Matarbari Port Development Project – are together getting Tk 22,710 crore, which is 9.9 percent of the development budget of Tk 230,000 crore for fiscal 2025-26.

The Rooppur nuclear power plant, which aims to provide cheaper electricity, is set to receive the highest allocation in next fiscal year's annual development programme: Tk 12,177 crore.

In the revised budget for this fiscal year as well, the power plant secured the highest allocation: Tk 11,899 crore.

The government is targeting the start of commercial operations of the 2,400-megawatt (MW) nuclear power plant this year, said planning ministry officials.

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DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has reiterated that the next general election will be held by June next year under any circumstances.

He also said the reform initiatives of the interim government will be carried forward.

Prof Yunus said these when former Japanese prime minister and Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League President Taro Aso called on him at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo yesterday.

The chief adviser reached Tokyo at 2:05pm for a four-day visit. He will attend the Nikkei Forum for Asia today and hold bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba tomorrow.

Taro Aso thanked Prof Yunus for moving Bangladesh towards political stability and emphasised the need for a general election for a smooth democratic transition.

The interim government has made significant economic progress in restoring discipline in the banking sector, rebuilding the foreign exchange reserve and repaying the debts, he said.

"Japan has given every kind of assistance that we needed in the past 10 months. I want to thank Japan a lot for its support. This is, in a way, a thank you tour," he said.

Several Japanese lawmakers who accompanied Aso during the meeting said that signing the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) could be a step forward in attracting more Japanese investment in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is expecting to complete the negotiation by August and sign the agreement in September.

Once signed, Japan will be the first country to have an EPA with Bangladesh. The bilateral trade is now \$4 billion.

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Grabbers feast on Sonadia forest

More than 1,000 acres of mangroves destroyed since August last year

MOKAMMEL SHIWO

Over 1,000 acres of protected mangrove forest on Sonadia Island in Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar have been razed since August 5 last year.

The encroachment, aimed at developing enclosures for shrimp and crab farming, came to light

Encroachers cleared over 4,000 acres of forest

Encroachment continues defying SC order

Forest razed for shrimp and crab farming

recently when grabbers set fire to piles of felled mangrove trees at night in an attempt to destroy evidence of their illegal activities.

The incident, which defied a Supreme Court ruling issued last year, sparked public outrage and led to criticism of the authorities for their inaction.

The upazila administration said it has launched drives against the encroachers.

On May 18, the Department of Environment (DoE) filed a case against 20 individuals, including a local BNP leader and several leaders and activists of the now-banned Awami League, for encroaching on at least 112 acres of forest land.

Over the years, encroachers have cleared over 3,000 acres of Sonadia's mangrove forest and established 37 shrimp enclosures. Last July, the DoE filed a case against 26 individuals, mostly linked to the AL, for grabbing 128 acres of forest land. That move temporarily halted the encroachment.

However, the illegal activities soon resumed.

On November 28 last year, the SC upheld a High Court order that directed the government to immediately stop the destruction

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A shrimp enclosure set up razed a section of the mangrove forest in Sonadia Island.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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AZHARUL'S ACQUITTAL 15 hurt in clash between student groups in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 15 activists of the Ganatantrik Chhatra Jote were injured yesterday in a clash between two student groups in Chattogram's Jamal Khan area over the acquittal of Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam in crimes against humanity cases.

Ripa Majumder, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front's Chattogram city unit, said activists of the Jote, a coalition of seven left-leaning student organisations, gathered near the Chattogram Press Club around 3:30pm to protest Azharul's acquittal and a previous attack on students at Rajshahi University.

"As we were putting up our banner, several hundred people -- mostly Shibir activists and some from a faction of Students Against Discrimination -- attacked us with sticks and brickbats," she said.

"The police stood by silently," she alleged.

Ripa said at least 15 activists of the left-leaning coalition were injured in

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Leaders and activists of Ganatantrik Chhatra Jote, a left-leaning student body, bring out a torch procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting the acquittal of Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam in crimes against humanity case.

PHOTO: STAR

EU 'well on track' to reach 2030 climate targets

AFP, Brussels

The European Union is on track to reach its 2030 climate targets, Brussels said yesterday, but uncertainty remains over the bloc's ambitions to cut greenhouse gas emissions much further by 2040.

The European Commission expects emissions to fall by 54 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, very close to its 55 percent target, it said, after analysing member states' energy and climate plans for the coming years.

The EU, however, faces a tough balancing act.

It is seeking to boost European industry confronted by fierce competition in the United States and China, ramp up its defenses faced with Russia, and tackle climate change that is wreaking havoc at an alarming pace with wildfires and floods.

"The world is in a full geopolitical winter. But despite everything that is going on today, we do feel we have good news, and we're pleased to say that the EU is well on track to achieve its 2030 target," climate chief Wopke Hoekstra, said.

Election by June next

FROM PAGE 1

The chief adviser also explained the situation of Rohingya refugees to Japanese lawmakers and sought their support to promote the agenda for Rohingya repatriation.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, chief adviser's Special Envoy Lutfey Siddiqi and the senior secretary for SDG affairs, Lamiya Moshred, were also present at the meeting.

During the bilateral meeting with the Japanese prime minister tomorrow, Bangladesh will seek \$1 billion budget support.

At a dinner hosted by Nippon Foundation chief Yohei Sasakawa, Prof Yunus sought his cooperation to resolve the Rohingya crisis and ensure the safe repatriation of the displaced people of Rakhine, reports UNB.

The CA's deputy press secretary said Yohei Sasakawa visited Myanmar more than 150 times and is hugely respected by the Myanmar government and the country's more than 100 ethnic groups, according to the CA's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

He said the two leaders discussed the Rohingya crisis, the evolving situation in Myanmar and the sharp decline of grants and aid to humanitarian crises across the globe in recent months.

Azad said the Chief Adviser stated that every year some 35,000 babies are born in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, and they are growing up without any hopes.

"Help us before it becomes explosive and dangerous for us," he said, adding that increasing smuggling of drugs has also worsened the security situation in the camps...we need to bring an end to the Rohingya crisis. This is a good moment. We can work together," Kalam said, quoting the chief adviser.

Azad said the Chief Adviser also sought support from the Nippon Foundation for life saving healthcare research work of the ICDDR,B, which has been hit hard by the suspension of aid by the USAID.

Rooppur, MRT-1, Matarbari to get special focus

FROM PAGE 1

The first 1,200MW unit is expected to come online in December this year, while the second unit is projected to start operations in December 2026, according to the latest progress report of the Bangladesh Power Development Board.

Once operational, the power plant would reduce dependence on smaller and more expensive power plants, such as those running on furnace oil.

The Rooppur plant is over 80 percent complete, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star in an interview recently.

A test run is expected by September or October, with one unit becoming fully operational by the year's end, he said, adding that the second unit is approximately 60 percent complete.

Additionally, five related projects -- including transmission lines, a high-frequency telecommunications system and water supply -- received Tk 2,166 crore in the upcoming ADP, down 10.6 percent year on year.

The five projects' total cost is Tk

17,471 crore, with Tk 6,792 crore spent as of June last year.

The MRT-1 project will receive the second highest allocation: Tk 8,631 crore, up from Tk 2,043 crore this fiscal year.

The 31.24 kilometre project, stretching from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kamalapur via Purbachal, includes a 19.87-kilometre underground line. The Tk 53,977 crore project began in February 2023.

Besides MRT-1, two other JICA-funded metro projects -- MRT-6 and MRT-2 -- are also getting priority in the upcoming budget. Their combined allocation stands at Tk 2,837 crore, up 13.1 percent year on year.

The project cost was revised upwards by about 37 percent to Tk 24,381 crore shortly after the interim government took charge. Initially

launched in 2020, the project's deadline has now been extended to December 2029.

Ahead of his recent trip to Japan, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus stressed the importance of fast-tracking development in the Matarbari region with the view to turning it into the country's largest manufacturing and export-oriented free trade zone.

"We envision Matarbari as the nation's largest hub for ports, logistics, manufacturing and energy. To realise this vision, we must attract substantial foreign investment," he said.

In April, the Chittagong Port Authority signed a deal with a Japanese joint venture comprising Penta Ocean Construction and TOA Corporation to construct a terminal for a deep-sea port at Matarbari.

The terminal will enable the handling of mother vessels and reduce Bangladesh's dependence on transhipment ports for import and export cargo.

Get ready to ensure polls by December

FROM PAGE 1

an election date despite being in office for 10 months. Caretaker governments in the past on the other hand had successfully organised general elections within three months.

"The fate of the election is trapped in a cycle of innovative conditions like the so-called small and large scale reforms," said the BNP leader.

He said people have already begun to believe that certain individuals, both within and outside the government, might have a hidden agenda for stalling the polls in the name of reforms.

Jointly organised by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, and Swebchhasebok Dal, the rally titled "Establishing the Political Rights of the Youth" was scheduled to start at 2:00pm.

Tens of thousands of leaders, activists, and supporters started thronging Naya Paltan in large processions from Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Faridpur since early morning.

Dressed in bright green, yellow, and red T-shirts and caps, they chanted slogans and waved flags.

The slogans mentioned BNP founder and late president Ziaur Rahman, whose death anniversary is on May 30, and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

A stage was set up directly opposite the BNP's central office, while many supporters occupied roads in adjacent areas, effectively bringing traffic to a halt. Heavy congestion was reported in many areas, with the crowd stretching as far as Motijheel.

The land grabbers had already started burning down the forest and setting up shrimp enclosures, she said, acknowledging that the destruction continued even after August 5 last year.

"After taking charge of the office, my first initiative regarding Sonadia was to bring the land back under the Forest Department's control from BEZA," she said.

She said only one step remains to complete this process as Cox's Bazar district administration has cancelled the allocation to Beza.

"Once the forest is officially recorded under the Forest Department, it can exercise legal authority in the area," said the adviser.

She said the last incident of forest burning occurred on April 27 this year.

"Joint forces have carried out several raids and demolished a number of shrimp enclosures there," she added.

"A full-scale operation is now required. The Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner has been instructed to lead the effort," she said, adding that local administration, navy, and other forces will take part in the major drive.

Asked about the fund needed for demolishing the embankments that encroachers built for their "ghers" [shrimp enclosures], she said, "The government is working to secure the necessary funds. The embankments built by the occupiers must be dismantled."

On May 5 this year, the government officially cancelled the land allocation to BEZA to help restore the island's environment and biodiversity.

"In these nine months, we

have received nothing from this government -- only disdain," he

Freed Azharul wants prosecution of those involved in war crimes trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam yesterday demanded the trial of those involved in the "judicial killings" of party leaders executed for crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

"With a heavy heart, I am remembering those who are no longer with us. They were killed unlawfully. They are victims of judicial killing," he said while addressing a rally at Shahbagh.

"All individuals involved in these murders, regardless of their level of involvement, must be brought to justice," he demanded after he was released yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court cleared him of the charges of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

He was freed from the prison cell at Bangladesh Medical University, formerly known as BSMU, around 9:15am after his release process was completed by the authorities of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

Soon after the release, the Jamaat leader joined the rally at Shahbagh intersection.

"After serving nearly 14 years in jail, I have been released today. I am free now... I am a free citizen of an independent country," he said.

He expressed his gratitude to the Supreme Court, his lawyers, participants of the July uprising -- especially the students -- members of the army, and the people of the country.

ALLOCATION FOR 3 MEGA PROJECTS IN FY26

Project	Total cost (Tk in crore)	Spending as of Jun'24 (in Tk crore)	Allocation in FY26 (in Tk cr)
Rooppur Power Plant	114,225	74,991	10,011
MRT-1 lines	53,977	2,470	8,631
Matarbari Port Development	24,381	801	4,068

Grabbers feast on Sonadia forest

FROM PAGE 1

August 5 last year, during a period of administrative transition.

"Opportunists took advantage of the situation and grabbed forest land due to a lack of oversight," he said.

Since taking office on December 5, 2024, the UNO said he has monitored the situation, deployed forces to prevent further encroachment, and conducted five drives against encroachers on Sonadia.

He said a detailed report on about 50 illegal occupiers has been prepared and will be submitted to the High Court soon.

He also said an estimated Tk 5 crore is needed to permanently remove the 45-kilometre-long embankments built for the shrimp enclosures on the island.

The UNO added that the trees might have been burnt in preparation for the upcoming shrimp cultivation season, but did not disclose the total area of forest destroyed since last August.

Requesting anonymity, another official of the upazila administration said the total destroyed forest area may well exceed the figures mentioned in DoE cases.

"If there are about 30-35 shrimp enclosures in the island and each enclosure has 70-100 acres of land, the encroached land may exceed 3,000 acres. In some estimates the total grabbed land may reach 4,000 acres," he said.

In the latest case filed on May 18, Md Abdus Salam, senior chemist at the DoE's Cox's Bazar office, said the latest encroachment occurred in the Paschimpara and Purbapara areas of the island.

"We found evidence that the grabbers set fire to felled mangrove trees to erase signs of destruction," Salam said.

The 20 named accused include Alamgir Chowdhury, general

secretary of Kutubjom Union BNP; Sheikh Kamal, chairman of Kutubjom Union Parishad; his brother Sheikh Alamgir; Abul Kalam, president of Ward 2 AL; Abdul Monal, his nephew; Swebchhasebok League leader Imtiaz Uddin; AL member Azizul Haque; Sonadia UP member Ekram Mia; Mohammad Shamsher Ullah, cousin of former MP Asheq Ullah Rafiq; and 12 others. An additional 25-30 unidentified individuals were also named in the case.

According to the case statement, the accused committed offences under the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act by destroying mangroves in an ecologically critical area (ECA), building embankments, establishing shrimp and salt farms, and harming flora, fauna, and natural land and water features.

Maheshkhali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Kaisar Hamid said the DoE will investigate the case under the Environment Court Act 2010.

One of the accused, Sheikh Kamal Uddin, Kutubjom UP chairman and also an AL leader, denied his involvement.

"I was on the run after August 5,

so how would I destroy the mangrove forest?" he said.

He claimed that his name had been included in the case by his political rivals to tarnish his image ahead of the upcoming union parishad election. He claimed to have joined anti-encroachment drives and said the encroachers are influential people of the Mosheshkhali area, without identifying anyone.

Alamgir Chowdhury, secretary of Kutubjom union unit BNP, said the allegations against him were part of a conspiracy by his political rivals.

Contacted, Environment, Forest

and Climate Change and Water Resources Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said the previous government

in 2017 allocated 9,467 acres of land on the island to the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) for an eco-tourism park.

The land grabbers had already started burning down the forest and setting up shrimp enclosures, she said, acknowledging that the destruction continued even after August 5 last year.

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Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister and Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League (JBPL) President Taro Aso at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo yesterday.

Bangladesh to observe Peacekeepers Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is set to observe International Day for UN Peacekeepers today with a series of events honouring its peacekeepers' contributions to global peace and security.

The day's programmes will begin with a "Peacekeepers' Rally 2025" in the morning to commemorate fallen and serving peacekeepers.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will inaugurate the rally as chief guest, said a statement of ISPR.

At 11:00am, a special reception will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed will attend the reception as the chief guest.

"Over the course

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DOCTORS AWAITING PROMOTIONS Govt creates 5,089 supernumerary posts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government has created 5,089 supernumerary posts to accommodate government doctors and medical college teachers awaiting promotion.

The health ministry has already issued two circulars creating these posts for a one-year tenure, officials said.

After completing necessary procedures, the ministry will issue promotion letters to the selected individuals, they added.

In addition, the process of creating 1,853 more supernumerary posts for doctors is underway and expected to be completed soon.

Supernumerary posts are temporary positions created outside the regular structure to facilitate promotions or workforce adjustments. This practice is common in the administration, police, and foreign service cadres and has recently been introduced in some other sectors.

The move follows years of pending promotions for over 7,000 doctors,



Supernumerary posts are temporary positions created outside regular structure to facilitate promotions or workforce adjustments.

Decision follows years of pending promotions for over 7,000 doctors

Posts created for one-year tenure

Additional 1,853 posts under process

which led a group of doctors to stage a work abstention in early March.

Doctors under the banner of the "BCS Health Cadre Specialists Doctors Forum" had postponed their

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GABTOLI MARKET

Cattle plentiful, buyers scarce

Customers cite high prices, traders blame feed costs

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite a sufficient number of sacrificial animals available in the country, cattle prices remain high compared to the same period last year.

However, customer turnout at cattle markets has been significantly low, with little impact so far on stabilising prices. Traders and farmers attribute the high prices to the rising cost of cattle feed.

According to estimates by the Department of Livestock Services and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, a total of 1,24,47,337 sacrificial animals are available this year. This includes 56,02,905 cattle and buffaloes, 68,38,920 goats and sheep, and 5,512 animals of other species. An official from the Department of Livestock said there is an expected surplus of approximately 20,68,135 animals this year.

During a visit to the Gabtoli cattle market yesterday, only a small number of buyers were seen. Those who did make purchases paid Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 more than last year for similarly sized bulls.



PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Adnan Rahman, a resident of Adabar who went to buy a bull, said they purchased one for Tk 14,500 whereas a similar bull would have cost Tk 1,20,000 to Tk 1,25,000 last year.

He said unlike last year when they bought their animal just three days before Eid, this year they opted to buy early, fearing further price hikes.

Saad Ali, a cattle trader from Manikganj with 25 years of experience, said he has never encountered such a situation before. "I brought 12 bulls to the market on May 20 but have only sold two so far. This is highly unusual," he said.

His business partner, Taju, noted that last year they sold at least 100 bulls during the month leading up to Eid.

Mohammad Nusrat Ali, another trader at Gabtoli who sources cattle from Sirajganj, pointed out that both the

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Patients and relatives gather at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital gates following the authorities' announcement of an abrupt service shutdown yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Subrata Bain placed on 8-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Subrata Bain, one of Bangladesh's most-wanted criminals, on an 8-day remand in an arms case.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Jakir Hossain passed the order, according to a sub-inspector present in court.

The court also granted six-day remands for Molla Masud, another top-listed criminal, and their two associates -- Arifat Ibne Nasir alias Shooter Arifat, and MAS Sharif -- in the same case filed with Hatirjheel Police Station.

The four were brought to court amid tight security around 3:45pm, with investigators seeking a 10-day remand for each of them.

Subrata Bain, alias Fateh Ali, 61, and Abu

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INST OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND HOSPITAL

Patients suffer as clashes halt services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All sorts of medical services at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital remained suspended for over eight hours yesterday due to "tripartite clashes", causing immense suffering to patients.

"I asked all staffers, including doctors and nurses, to return to work, but as far as I know, none have joined, citing security concerns," Prof Khair Ahmed Choudhury, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star around 7:00pm.

Following two untoward incidents at the hospital over the last two days, hospital staffers, including doctors and nurses, began a work stoppage yesterday morning, citing security concerns.

However, emergency services continued until 11:00am.

Around 11:00am, a group of injured July protesters, who have been receiving treatment at the hospital, attacked staff members, leading to

a tripartite clash involving other patients and their attendants, the director said.

"Some doctors and nurses were injured, and their residences also under attack," he added.

Police and army personnel later arrived and brought the situation under control.

"But there is no safe environment to resume services," the director said during the afternoon.

On Monday, four victims injured in the July uprising attempted suicide by consuming poison during a meeting at the hospital. They were later treated at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital.

On Tuesday, the hospital director was confined to his office for about an hour and a half due to infighting between two groups of the July protesters.

However, Akhter Hossain, a July protester, denied attacking hospital staff and claimed they were protesting

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ISHRAQUE'S OATH ROW

People bear the brunt of strike
Services remain halted as Nagar Bhaban padlocked

DIPAN NANDY

Rajib Hasan of Tantibazar returned home empty-handed yesterday for the third time in 10 days. Each visit to Nagar Bhaban, in search of his daughter's birth certificate, ended in frustration.

Azizul Islam from Narinda faced a similar ordeal. Unable to pay his holding tax, he now fears incurring a fine.

Lutfa Jahan, preparing to go abroad for higher studies, is desperately waiting for her citizenship certificate -- a mandatory document for her visa. "But I have no idea when I'll be able to get it."

These are just a few examples of how civic life in Dhaka South has been thrown into disarray, as Nagar Bhaban remained padlocked for the 14th consecutive day yesterday.

The closure has halted all major administrative functions, leaving city dwellers in distress. Only limited services such as waste management and mosquito control are continuing.



The crisis began on May 14 when supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain began protesting to demand the announcement of his swearing in as mayor. They locked the gates of Nagar Bhaban on May 15, shutting down operations. The situation intensified on May 21 when several DSCC employee unions joined the strike.

"No work has been possible in the past 14 days," said DSCC Administrator Md Shahjahan Mia. "If we reopen, Eid preparations will be our top priority. Work for the National Eidgah and temporary cattle markets is still incomplete."

Protesting employee Jahidur Rahman said, "Just as Dhaka residents want Ishraque as mayor, so do we. Once he takes office, we'll resume work."

With Eid-ul-Azha only 11 days away, DSCC officials have warned of a looming crisis. "We haven't finalised tenders or arranged logistics," said a Waste Management official.

Officials also said the strike has halted peak-season revenue collection, compounding the city's troubles.

Subrata Bain placed

FROM PAGE 3
Rasel Masud, alias Molla Masud, 53, were arrested in Kushtia on Tuesday. Based on information provided by them, their associates Arafat, 43, and Sharif, 25, were arrested in Hatiirjheel.

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.

Employees declare

FROM PAGE 5
of the ordinance will be made after the return of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus from his official visit to Japan.

The cabinet secretary was briefed on the matter by a five-member committee of secretaries, led by Saleh Ahmed himself, following discussions with employee representatives on Tuesday.

The cabinet secretary will place the matter before the chief adviser once he returns on May 31.

PLOT SALE
A plot is for sale in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Only interested and genuine buyers should Contact: 01973456904

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH, HIGH COURT DIVISION (ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 904 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF :

An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3), 183 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND- IN THE MATTER OF :
Sharmin Akter, shareholder & Managing Director of **Industrial EquipSol Ltd.**, having its registered Office at Oriental Arabian Tower 849/3 (3rd Floor) Begum Rokeya Sarani, Sherwana Para, Mirpur, Dhaka.

-VERSUS-

Industrial EquipSol Ltd. A Private Limited Company having its Registered Office- at Oriental Arabian Tower 849/3 (3rd Floor) Begum Rokeya Sarani, Sherwana Para, Mirpur, Dhaka, representative by its Managing Director Sharmin Akter and another _____ Respondents

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3), 183 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company name & style as "Industrial EquipSol Ltd.". The Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Md. Sohel Ahmed allowed the said application on 26.05.2025 and High Court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 30(Thirty) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before 30th June, 2025 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

(Ferdous Khanam Mukta)

Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court, Address: Hall Room No.1
Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01715-778621

Patients suffer as clashes halt

FROM PAGE 3
irregularities at the hospital and the authorities' negligence in their treatment.

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.

Asked about allegations of beating up hospital cooks, he denied the claim, saying the hospital authorities had failed to provide them with food since the afternoon.

The hospital director said the cook refused to come to the hospital due to security concerns.

Around 2:30pm, this

correspondent found the entrance and exit gates of the hospital locked, with many people waiting outside while protests continued inside.

Many of the patients' attendants had to endure suffering.

Mousumi Akhter, one such attendant, said her mother underwent surgery yesterday morning, while her son was accompanying her mother at the hospital.

"I was bringing medicine and food for them, but I had to wait at the gate for about three hours before I was allowed in. Both my mother and son suffered a lot," she

Govt creates 5,089

FROM PAGE 3
demonstration for 12 weeks after receiving government assurances regarding their demand for promotion.

The Health Services Division on May 20 issued a circular creating 3,030 supernumerary posts -- 150 for professors, 850 for associate professors, and 2,030 for assistant professors.

On Tuesday, another circular was issued creating 2,059 more posts -- 201 for professors, 548 for associate professors, and 1,310 for assistant professors.

Contacted, an official from the division said they would now hold meetings and issue promotion letters to the selected individuals. "The process will start soon," he said, requesting anonymity.

He said the proposal for creating 1,853 more supernumerary posts is pending with the finance ministry and expressed hope it will be approved soon.

These posts have been created for a one-year tenure. If those

supernumerary post holders are not promoted to regular posts within that time, the government may extend the tenure, he said.

Officials at the health ministry and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said many of these doctors were denied promotion during the previous government for political reasons.

Since the political changeover in August last year, these doctors have been urging the ministry to grant their overdue promotions.

In response, the DGHS sought applications from eligible candidates for various posts and received many submissions.

Candidates were selected based on a set of criteria. As the number of vacant posts was insufficient, the authorities decided to create supernumerary posts, officials said.

Meanwhile, the promotion process for regular posts is also ongoing and expected to be completed soon, said a DGHS director.

Frobel Academy hosts STEAMS Day CITY DESK

Frobel Academy, a STEM-accredited and Cambridge Associate inclusive school, hosted STEAMS Day 2025 on its Aranya Residential Area campus in Chattogram on May 27, said a press release.

The highlight of the event was the inauguration of the Frobel Herbal Healing Garden, a transformative space created to support students' mental health and emotional growth through mindfulness and reflection.

Razina Mushfiq, president of the Ladies Club, Chittagong Cantonment, attended the event as the special guest.

"At Frobel, we believe that nurturing a child's emotional and mental wellbeing was foundational to academic and social success," said Huwra (Tehseen) Zohair, director and principal of Frobel Academy.

Head of School Nusrat Khan, Director Sabeen Aameir, Syeda Rehnuma Tarmeen, Alisha Tariq Changi, Abdullah Bin Sulaiman Khan, and Md Amzad Hossen, among others, supported the event.

PRAYER TIMING MAY 29

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

Submit reports against 2 ex-Rab

FROM PAGE 5
company commander Mohiuddin Faruqui respectively.

During the proceedings, ICT prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim told the tribunal new evidence and numerous complaints against Alep Uddin have surfaced, including rape and torture, and hence the agency

needs three months' time to investigate further.

The prosecution also informed the tribunal that the investigation agency requires additional time, as they are also investigating multiple cases of crimes against humanity committed during the July

mass uprising. The tribunal yesterday also set August 18 for

holding a hearing of a case filed against nine individuals over war crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Of the accused, eight were arrested, and the remaining one went into hiding.

However, two of the arrestees died, while six others are currently out on bail.

Cattle plentiful

FROM PAGE 3
number of traders and bulk buyers -- those who purchase multiple bulls at once -- have decreased this year, despite a rise in small-scale farming across the country.

"Typically, customer traffic begins to pick up 15 days before Eid, but this year the market is almost empty."

Due to tighter border controls this year, Indian cattle have not entered the local markets, creating a glut of domestic animals. While this initially raised hopes among local farmers and traders, the lack of buyers has dashed expectations.

Meanwhile, goat prices have slightly declined compared to last year. Ziafat Ali, a goat trader at Gabtoli, said he recently brought around 300 goats, 60 galor (a hybrid of sheep and goat), and 20 sheep to the market and plans to bring more in the coming days.

"The price of a mid-sized goat is Tk 2,000 to 3,000 less this year due to the poor customer turnout," he said. "By this time in previous years, I would have sold about 100 goats. This year, it's close to zero."

He said he is now relying on the final few days before Eid to make any profit.

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A total of 168 Bangladeshi peacekeepers

have laid down their lives in the line of duty. This year, two injured peacekeepers are being honoured in recognition of their service, said the ISPR release.

Currently, 199 police personnel, including 71 women officers, are deployed in DR Congo, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. Since women were first included in 2000, 1,927 female police peacekeepers have successfully served in various missions.

In a separate statement, Police Headquarters yesterday emphasised the vital role Bangladesh Police has played in UN peacekeeping missions since 1989, starting with its first deployment in Namibia. Since then, 21,815 police peacekeepers have

served in 26 missions across 24 countries, with 24 police personnel sacrificing their lives in the line of duty.

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Jahangirnagar University

Savar, Dhaka

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Father, son among 3 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three people, including a man and his son, were killed and four others injured in a road crash in Mymensingh yesterday.

The accident happened on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Ishwarganj upazila.

The victims were identified as Abdus Sobhan, 65, his son Md Sabuj Mia, 35, of Paukura village; and Kohinoor Sultan, 36, of Daripatisi village.

OC Obaidur Rahman of Ishwarganj Police Station said the three died on the spot and four sustained injuries when a Mymensingh-bound BRTC bus collided head on with a human haulier in Shimrail area around 6:00pm.

The injured, including the driver of the human haulier, were admitted to a local health complex, said the OC. The victims were passengers of human haulier.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee. A case was filed.

Man to die for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A Faridpur court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife over dowry in 2022.

The convict is Asad Sheikh alias Bacchu Sheikh, 43, of Rajbari.

Judge Shamma Parvin of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal passed the verdict in the presence of Asad, said public prosecutor Golam Rabbani.

According to the case statement, Asad married Shanta, 22, of Madhukhali upazila, in July 2022. The couple used to work and live at an agro farm.

On May 26, 2022, police recovered Shanta's body from their home while Asad went into hiding. Shanta's mother filed a murder case with Kotwali Police Station on May 28, accusing Asad of killing her daughter for dowry. Asad was later arrested on March 25, 2023.



Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmin S Murshid inaugurated the National Photography Exhibition, "Ruposh Bangla", organised by the Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. The week-long exhibition and competition feature 91 photographs selected from approximately 500 entries submitted from across the country.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Coffee cultivation gains ground in Sherpur hills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Farmers in the hilly areas of Sherpur are increasingly turning to coffee cultivation, drawn by its low cost, ease of maintenance, and profitability.

According to officials from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Sherpur, coffee can be cultivated in areas that mostly remain uncultivable throughout the year or in orchards as a mixed crop.

Md Abdul Wadud, upazila agriculture officer in Nalitabari, said, "Initially, coffee was cultivated in some 12 villages of Ramchandrakura, Poragoan, Kakorkandi, and Rupnarayakura unions in Nalitabari in 2021. But later, more farmers, mostly small and marginal, started showing interest."

Farmers are now selling each coffee sapling at Tk 20, generating additional income and making it easier for them to maintain their plants.

The coffee plants begin to bear fruit at the age of three, with production increasing each year. Farmers can continue harvesting from the same plant for up to 30 years, the official added. The DAE is also providing training to help

farmers improve their cultivation practices.

A farmer can harvest around seven kilogrammes of coffee seeds from a five-year-old plant. Currently, each kilogramme is being sold at Tk 150 in the local market.



Khandakar Jalal Uddin, a farmer from Beltoil village in Nalitabari, said he cultivated coffee on 30 decimals of land and made a profit of Tk 20,000 this season, excluding all costs.

Monir Hossain from Baruajani

village said he made a net profit of Tk 22,000 from 35 decimals of land. Both farmers said this was their first harvest and that production is expected to increase as the plants mature.

DAE officials said saplings are being distributed for free to expand cultivation. Coffee farming has now spread to around 20 villages in Nalitabari and Jhenaigati upazilas in Sherpur, as well as Haluaghata in Mymensingh.

A farmer can plant around 700 saplings on one acre of land, potentially producing up to 5,000kg of seeds annually and earning over Tk 7 lakh. Such income is highly beneficial for hilly farmers, who often lack farming opportunities during the off-season, the officials added.

Contacted, Mohammad Shakhsaht Hossain, deputy director of the DAE in Sherpur, said the overall weather conditions in the hilly areas are highly suitable for coffee cultivation.

"The cultivation first started in Nalitabari few years ago and is now spreading to adjacent areas. It is very promising as a new crop," he said, adding that the DAE is supporting farmers to help ensure better yields.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়

জেজাও, ঢাকা

সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ওয়ার্কশপ নতুন তালিকাভুক্ত এবং নবায়নকরণ সম্পর্কিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মুক্তনামান্বিতাপ	প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়
০২	আবেদনপত্র আবেদনকারী সর্বা	পার্শ্বকল (পরিবহন), প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়, জেজাও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
০৩	সংশ্লিষ্ট সর্বার স্বীকৃত জেলা	জাকা
০৪	কি জন্ম আবেদন	প্রধান উপদেষ্টার পরিবহন স্বীকৃত জন্ম সরবরাহকারী তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ওয়ার্কশপ নথিগ্রন্থ এবং নতুন প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্ত প্রস্তরে।
০৫	আবেদনের সূচ ও তারিখ	৫০,০০,০০০.০০,০০,২৬,০৫০৫ (অক্ষণ-১২), ২৪-৮-৬০; তারিখ: ২৭/০৭/২০২৫ খ্রি।
০৬	সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান	শ্রীমতি বৰুণ প্রতিষ্ঠান।
০৭	বাস্তু ও সৌন্দর্য প্রতিষ্ঠান	প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ের ব্যবস্থাকৃত সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রত্যন্ত ব্যবস্থা।
০৮	প্রাক্তনের নাম	প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ের প্রত্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ওয়ার্কশপ নথিগ্রন্থ এবং নতুন প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্ত প্রস্তরে।
০৯	আবেদনপত্র প্রদর্শনের পথ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮ জুন ২০২৫ তারিখ সকল ১০০ টাকার হতে বেলা ১২:০০ টাকার হতে বেলা ১২:০০ টাকার মধ্যে প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ে ৪ মি. ফটোক প্রাপ্তি প্রতিষ্ঠানের বাজে আবেদন কর্তৃত প্রদর্শন করা হবে। বিষয় প্রাপ্তি আবেদন বিবৰণ করা হবে না।
১০	আবেদনপত্র প্রোলার নাম ও চিকনা	প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ের প্রত্যন্ত সংসদ ভবন, জেজাও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১১	আবেদনপত্র প্রোলার দ্বারা	প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ের প্রত্যন্ত সংসদ ভবন, জেজাও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১২	আবেদনকারীর দোষাত্মা	(ক) সংক্ষেপে কর্তৃত আবেদনকারী এবং ব্যবস্থাকৃত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান-কে কর্তৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্টেটার প্রাপ্তি আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে এবং আবেদন কর্তৃত সাময়িক সাক্ষীকরণ কর্তৃত হবে। (খ) সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে দেশের প্রতিষ্ঠানের চূক্ষেশ্বর-চার্যালয়/ বিবিধ দ্বৰাবান দোকান/ সেপ্টুর আবেদন আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। (গ) ওয়ার্কশপের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি/সেপ্টুরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। ওয়ার্কশপের মালিকানা নিষ্পত্তি হলে তা প্রদর্শন কর্তৃত হবে। তাঁরা তাঁর প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংস্থায়িত্ব কর্তৃত আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (জ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (জ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (জ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (জ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (জ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (জ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আবেদন কর্তৃত হবে। অভিজ্ঞাত সামাজিক প্রত্যায়ন আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত কর্তৃত হবে। (ঘ) ওয়ার্কশপে অধিকারীক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে যানবাহন মেরামতের কাজের ০৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের অন্তর্বর্তীন নিরাপত

Pakistan slams Modi's 'inflammatory monologue' Urges India to honour int'l order

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan's Foreign Office yesterday condemned the "inflammatory monologue" delivered by Indian PM Narendra Modi in Gujarat, urging India to "return to the core principles of international order".

The developments follow a recent military confrontation between India and Pakistan over New Delhi's allegations against Islamabad, without evidence, about a deadly attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam.

In a video posted by Indian news outlet ANI, Modi, addressing India's youth, calls into question the contents of the Indus Waters Treaty. He said, "If you study the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, you'll be shocked."

He continued, "It was decided that the dams built on the rivers of Jammu and Kashmir would not be cleaned... For 60 years, these gates were never opened. Reservoirs that were supposed to be filled to 100 per cent capacity have now been reduced to only 2pc or 3pc."

Stating that the treaty has only been held in abeyance as of now, he added, "Right now, I haven't done anything, and people are sweating there [Pakistan]."

Calling Modi's remarks "unexpected", Pakistan's foreign office in its statement urged India to set aside its project of "historical revisionism".



People hold signs during the Harvard Students for Freedom rally in support of international students at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Golden Dome' free for Canada if it joins US: Trump

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Canada could join his proposed "Golden Dome" missile defense system for free -- but only if it becomes part of the United States.

Otherwise it would cost Canada \$61 billion to be part of the system, said Trump, who has repeatedly called for the United States' northern neighbor to become the 51st state.

Canada has expressed interest in joining the missile system -- plans for which Trump unveiled last week to defend against a wide array of enemy weapons -- but has firmly rejected any loss of sovereignty.

"I told Canada, which very much wants to be part of our fabulous Golden Dome System, that it will cost \$61 Billion Dollars if they remain a separate, but unequal, Nation," Trump posted on his Truth Social network. "But (it) will cost ZERO DOLLARS if they become our cherished 51st State. They are considering the offer!"

There was no immediate response from Canada to Trump's claims. Trump announced plans for the "Golden Dome" system a week ago, saying it would eventually cost around \$175 billion and would be operational by the end of his term in 2029.

Cambodian soldier killed in clash with Thai army at border

AFP, Bangkok

A Cambodian soldier was killed yesterday after an exchange of gunfire with the Thai army at the border, a Cambodian army spokesman said, a rare fatality in a long sensitive frontier region.

"One of our soldiers died during the fight, and there were some injuries, but we don't have detailed figures yet," said Cambodian Royal Army spokesman Mao Phalla. The Royal Thai Army said in a statement that the clash happened after Cambodian soldiers started firing near Ubon Ratchathani province in Thailand's east.

Global temp could break heat record in 5 yrs: UN

REUTERS, Geneva

The world is expected to experience more record temperatures over the next five years, with Arctic warming predicted at more than three times the global average, a new report by the UN weather agency said yesterday.

There is an 80 percent chance that at least one of the next five years will see record heat, with a high likelihood that average warming will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, according to

the report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Last year, the hottest year on record, saw the first breach of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which committed countries to avoid global warming of more than 1.5 C.

From this year until the end of 2029, the mean near surface temperature globally is forecast to be between 1.2 C and 1.9 C higher than pre-industrial levels of the years 1850-1900, the WMO said, adding that this would fuel more extreme weather.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)

প্রধান কার্যালয়

মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

তারিখঃ ১৩ জৈষ্ঠ, ১৪৩২

২৭ মে, ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় হতে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে প্যানেল প্রস্তুতির দ্বার্ষে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশ নাগরিকের নিকট হতে

Online এ নথিভাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম ও প্রেরণ	বেতন কেল (জাতীয় বেতন কেল, ২০১৫)	সংস্থা	সংস্থার ব্যাংকে/ অর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান	Job ID	বিদ্যুত মেগাওয়াট
১	সিনিয়র অফিসার (প্রকৌশলী-সিভিল)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (সিভিল)/সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল) (প্রেত-৯)	টাঙ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০ এবং তৎসহ প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	০৮টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০৪টি বাংলাদেশ হাউজিং বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন-০৩টি প্রবাসী ক্যান্যন ব্যাংক-০১টি	10231	ক) স্থান্ত কোনো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিষয়ে ম্লেচ চিত্র। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষামূলকে মুনতাম ২টি তে প্রথম বিজয়/প্রেমি থাকতে হবে। প্রেতিং প্রস্তুতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি মীতিমালা প্রযোজ্ঞ হবে। (গ) শিক্ষাজীবনে কোনো প্রাক্ষিক্য ও বিভাগ/প্রেমি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
২	এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (প্রকৌশলী ইলেক্ট্রিকাল)/সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল) (প্রেত-৯)	টাঙ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০ এবং তৎসহ প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	০৩টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০১টি বাংলাদেশ ক্রম ব্যাংক-০১টি প্রবাসী ক্যান্যন ব্যাংক-০১টি	10232	(ক) স্থান্ত কোনো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রকৌশল (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল) বিষয়ে ম্লেচ চিত্র। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষামূলকে মুনতাম ২টি তে প্রথম বিজয়/প্রেমি থাকতে হবে। প্রেতিং প্রস্তুতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি মীতিমালা প্রযোজ্ঞ হবে। (গ) শিক্ষাজীবনে কোনো প্রাক্ষিক্য ও বিভাগ/প্রেমি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৩	সিনিয়র অফিসার (মেকানিকাল)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (মেকানিকাল) (প্রেত-৯)	টাঙ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০ এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	০৩টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি	10233	(ক) স্থান্ত কোনো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রকৌশল (মেকানিকাল) বিষয়ে ম্লেচ চিত্র। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষামূলকে মুনতাম ২টি তে প্রথম বিজয়/প্রেমি থাকতে হবে। প্রেতিং প্রস্তুতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি মীতিমালা প্রযোজ্ঞ হবে। (গ) শিক্ষাজীবনে কোনো প্রাক্ষিক্য ও বিভাগ/প্রেমি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৪	উর্বরতন ব্যবস্কর্তা (আইইম)/সিনিয়র অফিসার (প্রকৌশলী ইলেক্ট্রিকাল)/সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল) (প্রেত-৯)	টাঙ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০ এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	৫৫টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-২৪টি অঞ্চলী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-১২টি বাংলাদেশ হাউজিং ব্যাংক-১২টি প্রবাসী ক্যান্যন ব্যাংক-০১টি	10234	(ক) স্থান্ত কোনো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে আইইম বিষয়ে মুনতাম ৮ বর্ষ যোরাদী স্নাতক ব্যাকেলেক্টেড চিত্র। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষামূলকে মুনতাম ২টি তে প্রথম বিজয়/প্রেমি থাকতে হবে। প্রেতিং প্রস্তুতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি মীতিমালা প্রযোজ্ঞ হবে। (গ) শিক্ষাজীবনে কোনো প্রাক্ষিক্য ও বিভাগ/প্রেমি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৫	সাব-এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (পিভিল)/প্রস্তুত সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুরুষ)	টাঙ ১৬,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০ এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	১৩টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০৩টি অঞ্চলী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০১টি বাংলাদেশ হাউজিং বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন-০১টি	10235	(ক) স্বর্ণকর্ম অনুমদিত কোন পলিটেকনিক ইনসিটিউট/কলেজ হতে সহস্ত্র বিষয়ে প্রতিযোগিতা ডিপ্লোমা। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষামূলকে মুনতাম ১টি তে প্রথম বিজয়/প্রেমি থাকতে হবে। প্রেতিং প্রস্তুতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি মীতিমালা প্রযোজ্ঞ হবে। (গ) শিক্ষাজীবনে কোনো প্রাক্ষিক্য ও বিভাগ/প্রেমি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৬	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল)/সাব-এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল)	টাঙ ১৬,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০ এবং তৎসহ প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	০৫টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০১টি অঞ্চলী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০৩টি বাংলাদেশ হাউজিং ব্যাংক-০১টি	10236	(ক) সরকার অনুমদিত কোন পলিটেকনিক ইনসিটিউট/কলেজ হতে সহস্ত্র বিষয়ে প্রতিযোগিতা ডিপ্লোমা ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং চিত্র। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষামূলকে মুনতাম ১টি তে প্রথম বিজয়/প্রেমি থাকতে হবে। প্রেতিং প্রস্তুতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি মীতিমালা প্রযোজ্ঞ হবে। (গ) শিক্ষাজীবনে কোনো প্রাক্ষিক্য ও বিভাগ/প্রেমি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৭	সাব-হ্যান্ডেল প্রকৌশলী (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল)/সাব-এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (ইলেক্ট্রিকাল)	টাঙ ১৬,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০ এবং তৎসহ প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	০৫টি	সোনালী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০১টি অঞ্চলী ব্যাংকে পিএলসি-০৩টি বাংলাদেশ হাউজিং ব্যাংক-০১টি	10237	(ক) সরকার অনুমদিত কোন পলিটেকনিক ইনসিটিউট/কলেজ হতে সহস্ত্র বিষয়ে প্রতিযোগিতা ডিপ্লোমা ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং চিত্র। (খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমামান এবং তদৰ্শ পর্যায়ের

INTERNATIONAL



A view shows emergency services attempting to rescue migrants from the water after a migrant boat capsized while being escorted to port in La Restinga, Spain's Canary Islands, yesterday. This screengrab was obtained from a video.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia masses 50,000 troops near Sumy front

Says Ukraine's Zelensky; US, Russia clash in public over intensifying war

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia has massed more than 50,000 troops, including some of its best forces, near Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region, but Kyiv has taken steps to prevent them from conducting a large-scale offensive, President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

The build-up comes as Russia appears to be gearing up for a summer offensive in Ukraine while Kyiv waits for Moscow to present a memorandum laying out its conditions to proceed with ceasefire talks.

Sumy lies across the border from Russia's Kursk region where Ukraine previously seized and held a pocket of land for months, before being almost fully pushed out last month, although it says it still holds some small areas there.

Kremlin rebuffs a call by Zelensky for a three-way summit with Trump and Putin

Putin has said he wants a "buffer zone" along Russia's border with Ukraine. Zelensky said he believed Russia wants to carve out an area of Ukrainian territory about 10 km (6 miles) deep.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin yesterday rebuffed a call by Zelensky for a three-way summit with Trump and Putin.

The United States and Russia also quarrelled in public yesterday over the intensifying Ukraine war after US President Donald Trump warned that President Vladimir Putin was "playing with fire."

Trump, in a post on Truth Social, said that Putin was playing with fire and cautioned that "REALLY BAD" things would have happened already to Russia if it was not for Trump himself.

Top Russian security official Dmitry Medvedev, a former president, dismissed Trump's criticism.

"Regarding Trump's words about Putin 'playing with fire' and 'really bad things' happening to Russia. I only know of one REALLY BAD thing – WWIII. I hope Trump understands this!" Medvedev wrote in English on the social media platform X.



France's President Emmanuel Macron greets students upon his arrival at the National University in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. France and Indonesia have signed a preliminary defense pact that could lead to new orders of French military equipment, including Rafale fighter jets and Scorpene submarines, Macron said.

PHOTO: AFP

15 hurt in clash

FROM PAGE 2
 the attack. They received treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), she added.

Nurul Alam Ashik, in-charge of the CMCH Police Camp, however, said five students injured in the clash were treated at the emergency and casualty wards of the hospital.

Kotwali Police Station Officer in-charge C Abdul Karim confirmed the clash, stating that both sides hurled brickbats.

"Police intervened and dispersed the crowd. Two people were detained and are being questioned," he added.

Rijaur Rahman, senior joint convener of Bangladesh Ganatantrik Sangsad and former leader of Students Against Discrimination, said Shibir activists held some

local positions within their coalition and may have been involved, but denied any role by the group's central leadership.

Islami Chhatra Shibir's Chattogram city president, Tanzir Hossain Jewel, denied involvement, saying, "I'm learning about this from the media like everyone else."

Meanwhile, the central unit of Ganatantrik Chhatra Jote held a torch procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday evening, protesting the acquittal of Azharul and alleged attacks by Islami Chhatra Shibir on their activists at Rajshahi and Chittagong universities.

The procession began around 7:20pm from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), moving through the campus before ending at the Raja Sculpture.

A brief clash occurred in the Hall Para area between the protesters and a group they identified as Shibir activists. Both sides exchanged heated slogans before dispersing without further escalation.

At a rally following the procession, Chhatra Jote leaders labelled Shibir a "terrorist organisation" attempting to "infiltrate and rehabilitate" itself through other student bodies.

Fahim Ahmed Choudhury, general secretary of the Democratic Student Council, said, "Shibir attacked our rally against war criminals. Similar attacks happened today in law Trump's vision for a new 'Golden Age,' led by efforts to shrink social safety net programs to pay for a 10-year extension of his 2017 tax cuts.

Musk says 'disappointed' by Trump mega-bill

AFP, Washington

Billionaire Elon Musk, who has stepped back from his role of slashing US government spending by firing tens of thousands of people, has criticized President Donald Trump's signature spending bill.

The "One Big, Beautiful Bill Act" -- which passed in House of Representatives and now moves to the Senate -- would usher into law Trump's vision for a new "Golden Age," led by efforts to shrink social safety net programs to pay for a 10-year extension of his 2017 tax cuts.

Israeli air strikes target Sanaa airport in Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

Israel struck the international airport in Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa yesterday, the Iran-backed Houthis and the Israeli military said.

"Israeli aggression on Sanaa International Airport," the Houthis' Al-Masirah television channel posted on X, later reporting that multiple strikes had hit an aircraft and the runway at the facility.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said fighter jets had carried out the strikes on Houthi "terror targets" at the airport in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, a day after the group fired two projectiles at Israel. The strikes had destroyed aircraft belonging to the group.

"The aircraft struck were used by the Houthi terrorist organisation for the transfer of terrorists who advanced terrorist attacks against the state of Israel," the military said. "Similarly to the Hodeida and Salif ports that were struck last week, the main airport of Sanaa is continuously operated by the Houthi regime and is used by them for terror purposes," it added.

UN labour agency says US hasn't paid dues

AFP, Geneva

The United States is behind in its dues to the International Labour Organization (ILO), but the UN agency's chief said yesterday he was "hopeful" they would soon be paid.

Washington, under President Donald Trump, has stepped away from several UN agencies and programmes as it pursues an "America First" policy that spurns multilateral bodies and pacts.

"Have they paid for the current year? Not yet. I always want to add 'yet' – not yet," ILO chief Gilbert Houngbo told journalists.

The ILO was not currently looking to revise its budget. "It's not something that I'm contemplating," Houngbo said.

Under a February executive order, Trump directed his government to look at withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council, UNRWA for Palestinians, and Unesco, the UN's education, science and culture agency.

Kaliganj Pourashava, Jhenaidah

Memo No. Kali/Poura/8-8/2024-25/235

Date: 28.05.2025
e-Tender Notice: 02/2024-25 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from enlisted tenderers of Kaliganj Pourashava for

SL No.	Package No.	Name of scheme	e-Tender ID No.	Last date & time of selling documents	Opening & closing date and time
1	KP/ADP/24-25/W-01	1) Improvement of CC road & 1 X drain at Sreerampur from H/O Mr Hobi Mollah to H/O Zaid (Ch.00-85m) Ward No. 1 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 2) Improvement of BF Soling road at Chapali a) From H/O Mr Nazrul Islam to Chirita River (Ch.00-25m). b), Nimgata Bus Stand S/o Mr Dadud to H/O Sabdar ch.00-57m Ward No. 01 under Kaliganj Pourashava.	1111072	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:00am
2	KP/ADP/24-25/W-02	1). Construction of BF soling road at Bakulia from a. H/O Azizul to Madrasa (Ch.00-310m). Ward No. 02 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 2.) Improvement of BFS road at Sree Rampur from Gunna road to H/O Mr. Royel (Ch 0-100m) under Kaliganj Pourashava, Ward No. 01	1110814	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:00am
3	KP/ADP/24-25/W-03	1) Improvement of CC road, one X drain & With Single Palasaiding at Fayala a. H/O Shaidul to Anamul Via H/O Mintu (Ch.00- 95m) b. one X drain Masterpara near H/O Anil Ward No. 03 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 2) Improvement of Brick drain a) from Fayala Gohata Eidgah to old drain (ch.00-30m) Ward No. 3 b) Construction of CC road at Bolidapara H/O Rabul Driver to RCC road (Ch.00-10m) Ward No. 05 under Kaliganj Pourashava 3) Improvement of Kola road by lane at Foyla Daspara east side Khristan Mission (From Kola road to H/O Mr. Anis) under Kaliganj Pourashava	1111345	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:00am
4	KP/ADP/24-25/W-04	1) Improvement of CC road & 2 (Two) X drain at Healy Shop of Mr Altaf to New Mosque (Ch.00-125m) Ward No. 04 under Kaliganj Pourashava.	1111471	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:05pm
5	KP/ADP/24-25/W-05	1) Improvement of CC Road at Nischontopur Cria Voban to Puzamindop (Ch.00-67m) & Single palasaiding 05m Ward No. 05 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 2) Improvement of BF Soling road at Nischontopur Bonanpara a) H/O Mr. Robul to H/O Sushil (Ch.00-26m) b) H/O Mr. Reazul Master to H/O Mr. Habib (Ch.00-14m) c) H/O Mr. Reazul to H/O Mr. Din Mohammed (Ch.00-50m) Ward No. 05 under Kaliganj Pourashava.	1111524	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:05pm
6	KP/ADP/24-25/W-06	1) Construction of brick drain at Mubrakgonj Sugar Mill Mosque to F-type Building (Ch00-53m) Ward No. 06 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 2) Improvement of Soling road at Bolidapara a) Dhaka road to H/O BulBul (Ch.00-130m) Ward No. 06. b.) Bro Raygram H/O Mr. Alim to Chirita River (Ch.00-65m) Ward No. 06 c) Arpara BC road to Aysa Khatun Girls School Office Building (Ch.00-40m) Ward No. 7 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 3) Improvement of BF Soling road at Babra a) From H/O Mr. Razzak to H/O Mr. Reazul (ch-00-14m) b). Babra Soutpara WBM road to H/O Mr. Mohor Ali (Ch.00-32m) Ward No. 06 under Kaliganj Pourashava.7	1112250	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:05pm
7	KP/ADP/24-25/W-07	1) Improvement of BF Soling road at Arpara a) H/O Mr Isaque to H/O Mr. Monirul (Ch.00-46m). b) H/O Mr Barun to H/O Mr Mizan (Ch.00-35m). c) BF Soling road at Arpara H/O Mr Isaque to H/O Mr. Topu (Ch.00-31m) d) BF Soling road at South Arpara in front of H/O Mr. Aziz Amin. (Ch.00-25m). e) BF Soling road at South Arpara H/O Mr. Eunus to H/O Freedom Fighter Mr. Asharaful Islam (Ch.00-55m) Ward No. 07 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 3) a). Construction of Brick drain with slab at Arpara (Boirapara) H/O Ali Driver to H/O Farad (Ch.00-40m). b). Repairing Old drain near Gubtala. (ch 0-38m) & in front of H/O Firoj Ahmed (12m) with Slab 12 m. c). Repairing Old drain at Arpara H/O Mr. Lal towards Behari More (Ch.16m) Slab 2m. d) Improvement of CC road at Arpara Borigypara H/O Mr. Khogen to H/O Bakul (Ch.00-34m +12m) & 12m slab at Kaliganj Pourashava Ward No. 07. 4) Improvement of CC road from H/O Mr. Fatiq to H/O Mr. Reporter Habib at Arpara under Kaliganj Pourashava (ch 0-47m) 5) Improvement of CC road at Arpara from Soieb Nagar Madrasa to H/O Mizanur Rahman under Kaliganj Pourashava Ward-01 at Ch 0-00-0+50m)	1112257	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:10pm
8	KP/ADP/24-25/W-08	1) Improvement of BF5J Soling road at Issora ponds of a). From H/O Mr. Islam to H/O Mr. Razzaque (Ch.00-125m) with 10m Single Palasaiding. b) H/O Mr. Hasem to H/O Mr. Momin (Ch.00-60m). c) Kashipur H/O Mr. Jalil to H/O Mr. Olier (Ch.00-110m). d) Kashipur H/O Mr. Soror to H/O Mr. Kabir (Ch.00-86m) Ward No. 08 under Kaliganj Pourashava 2) Improvement of BFS road at Kashipur from H/O Mrs. Aduri to H/O Mr. Delwar (Ch 0+00-0+46m) under Kaliganj Pourashava.	1112259	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:10pm
9	KP/ADP/24-25/W-09	1) Improvement of BF Soling road at Srerampur Mathpara in front Shop of Mr. Sakur to H/O Mr. Jafor (ch.00- 281m. Ward No. 09 under Kaliganj Pourashava. 2) Improvement of CC road at Shib Nagar from H/O Mr. Jhantu to H/O Mr. Nazrul Islam (Ch.00-37m) Ward No. 09 under Kaliganj Pourashava.	1112265	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:10pm
10	KP/ADP/24-25/W-10	1) Improvement of HBB road at Arpara Notun Bazar from Kotchandpur road to Brickfield Mosque (Ch.00-170m) Ward No. 07.	1112269	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:15pm
11	KP/ADP/24-25/W-11	1) Improvement of BC and BFS road at Pourashava Office Campus of a). BC road ~80.00m, BFS 1) Shop of Tipu =10m, Pourashava Garris ~8m & Information Center~8m-26m b). Improvement of BF Soling road at Issora Dumping House (Ch.00-20m) Ward No. 07 & 09 2) Improvement of BC road at Chapali at Kuthi Para from BC road to H/O Mr. Jalal Ch 0+00-0+88m) Ward No. 1 3) Improvement of partly BC road of Kaliganj Upazila Campus Ch 0+105.00-0+155.00=50.000m under Kaliganj Pourashava	1112273	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:15pm
12	KP/ADP/24-25/W-12	1) Construction of A Toilet and 4 Nos. Oju seat at ground floor of Kaliganj Poura Bhaban, 2) Construction of Pucca Drain at Bolidapara Kowmi Madrasa from Bolidapara Kowmi Madrasa to Existing Pourashava Pucca drain under Kaliganj Pourashava Ward No. 06 3) Improvement of Modhuganj Dhakalia Para road (ch.0-62m) from H/O Mr. Rabiu to Mosque under Kaliganj Pourashava Ward No. 05	1112279	Date:16/06/2025 Time: 4:00pm	Date:17/06/2025 Time: 12:15pm

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited on the line through any registered banks branches up to 16/05/2025 at 4:00pm.

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



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

29 MAY 2025



MESSAGE

PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

I warmly welcome the initiative to observe the "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025" in Bangladesh with due dignity and honor. To ensure global peace, security and to provide humanitarian assistance, the United Nations peacekeeping operations have been playing a vital role since its inception. On this occasion, I extend my deep respect, gratitude and appreciation to all peacekeepers participating in UN missions around the world, especially the brave members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police. I pay solemn tribute to the heroic peacekeepers who have made ultimate sacrifices in fulfilling the noble duty of maintaining global peace and stability. I also express my heartfelt sympathy to their families.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been making significant contributions in peace building by demonstrating professionalism, dedication, sincerity, discipline and courage in various conflict-affected and war-torn countries under challenging conditions. Our peacekeepers have enhanced Bangladesh's reputation and dignity in the international arena by providing essential services such as food, medical assistance, protection to civilians and ensuring a peaceful environment in the conflict zones.

Participation in UN peacekeeping operations reflects Bangladesh's commitment and dedication to global peace and security. Bangladesh is now one of the leading troop contributors to global peacekeeping missions. The way members of Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police contribute in global peace and stability, they are similarly efficient at the national level as well. The sense of responsibility, professionalism and patriotism of Bangladeshi peacekeepers for controlling law and order situation during the recent 'student-public movement' in Bangladesh has earned a remarkable appreciation at home and abroad. I hope that this commitment continues in the future and the Bangladeshi peacekeepers will play an even more significant role in establishing peace and stability.

I wish all current and former peacekeepers good health, success and prosperity.

Mohammed Shahabuddin
Mohammed Shahabuddin

MESSAGE

ADVISER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



United Nations Peacekeeping Operations represent a truly extraordinary global partnership that fosters resilience, accountability, protection of rights and contributes meaningfully to sustainable peace. On the occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025, I extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all courageous and dedicated peacekeepers, deployed for establishing peace, under constant risk and in the world's most volatile and unstable regions. These peacekeepers protect civilian populations, ensure their access to basic needs, uphold human rights, assist in electoral processes, and provide a wide range of essential humanitarian support in the conflict zones. I pay my deepest tribute to all the peacekeepers who have laid down their lives in the line of duty while performing these noble tasks.

Currently, thousands of peacekeepers from Bangladesh are deployed in 10 UN peacekeeping missions across Europe, Africa and Asia. Their role in guiding conflict-ridden countries toward peace is invaluable. Bangladeshi peacekeepers, through their courage, professionalism and deep sense of humanity, have made significant contributions to global peace and security. Their participation in UN peacekeeping operations has greatly enhanced Bangladesh's image in the international arena.

The active participation of Bangladeshi women peacekeepers in UN missions is a powerful indicator of our national progress. Through their leadership and professional excellence, they have earned international recognition and continue to play an impactful role in advancing gender equality and sustainable peace.

Bangladesh remains committed to playing a proactive role in peacekeeping efforts, reflecting our enduring pledge to uphold the global peace, security and human rights. We believe that peace, tolerance and inclusivity can help build a safer, more secure and prosperous future for the next generation.

I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all peacekeepers around the world specially the Bangladeshi contingents for their dedicated service and tireless efforts in pursuit of peace.

Md. Touhid Hossain
Md. Touhid Hossain

MESSAGE

CHIEF OF AIR STAFF
BANGLADESH AIR FORCE



On the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2025, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all peacekeepers, including members of the armed forces serving in UN peacekeeping missions. Besides, I pray for the departed souls who lost their lives while performing their duties in peacekeeping missions. I also express my deepest condolences to their bereaved families. At the same time, I express my sincere sympathy to the members who were injured and disabled while discharging their duties as peacekeepers.

Bangladesh has achieved outstanding success in establishing peace and security in conflict areas around the world through the UN's global peacekeeping operations. The dedication, professionalism and great sacrifice of the peacekeepers of Bangladesh Armed Forces helped UN to achieve these results. Bangladesh Air Force is one of the most successful partners in this effort. Bangladesh Air Force has made significant contributions to peacekeeping in various conflict zones of the world including Kuwait, East Timor, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and Ivory Coast. Currently, three separate contingents of Bangladesh Air Force are deployed in two regions of United Nations. Among them, a Utility Aviation Unit with 06 x Mi series helicopters and an Aviation Transport Unit with 01 x C-130 transport aircraft are deployed in Democratic Republic of Congo and a Bangladesh Armed Military Utility Helicopter Unit with 03 x Mi series helicopters is deployed in the Central African Republic. It is worth noting that since 1993, more than nine thousand members of Bangladesh Air Force have successfully participated in a total of 28 UN peacekeeping missions.

Bangladeshi women peacekeepers continue to play a commendable role in UN peacekeeping missions. Their contribution to peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and safety of women in conflict-ridden regions is praiseworthy. Their participation has not only enhanced the effectiveness of the mission but also made Bangladesh's image in the international arena brighter and more dignified. I am hopeful that they will continue to prove their excellence in carrying out this great responsibility in the future.

May the UN peacekeeping operations be more effective and may the global peace be established where the world would become free from war and conflict; this is our sincere prayer today. Finally, I wish the overall success of 'UN Peacekeepers Day-2025'. May Almighty Allah bless us all.

Hasan Mahmood Khan
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of Air Staff



MESSAGE

CHIEF ADVISER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH



On the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025, I extend my heartiest felicitations and congratulations to all the members of UN peacekeepers. I pay my humble tribute to those courageous peacekeepers who have made the ultimate sacrifices in the line of duty, glorifying the noble cause of peace.

The United Nations peacekeeping operations are the most significant initiative for establishing peace in war-torn and conflict-ridden regions of the world. Starting from the very first peacekeeping mission in 1948, Bangladesh has now become one of the largest troop-contributing nations. Our peacekeepers are working tirelessly to maintain peace and deliver emergency humanitarian assistance in various conflict-affected countries. Their efficiency and dedication have earned the trust of the civilians in conflict zones and have further elevated the status of Bangladesh in the international arena.

During the July uprising in 2024 and subsequent periods, our armed forces stood by the people, setting an iconic example in maintaining peace and stability in the country. I firmly believe that the members of the Armed Forces and Police, who are experienced in peacekeeping operations, will continue their relentless work to prevent conflict, protect civilians, ensure human rights, and establish peace.

Bangladesh believes in the culture of peace, tolerance, and the practice of humanity. Our active participation in UN peacekeeping missions stands as a testament to our enduring pledge toward establishing peace and stability in the world. I hope that through the professional excellence, exceptional courage, humanity, self-sacrifice, and integrity, our peacekeepers will continue to uphold Bangladesh's image in the world as a peace-building nation.

I wish the observance of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025 a great success.

Professor Muhammad Yunus
Professor Muhammad Yunus

MESSAGE

CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF
BANGLADESH ARMY



"International Day of UN Peacekeepers" is celebrated every year as a very special day on 29 May to commemorate the contribution and sacrifices of all peacekeepers across the world. Bangladesh, being one of the largest troop contributing countries, observes this day with due respect and solemnity. On this great occasion, I extend my deepest respect and sincere greetings to all peacekeepers around the world.

We are a peace-loving nation and always committed to promoting world peace. Our constitution also clearly affirms the commitment to world peace. As such, our participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations is a matter of great pride and honour for all members of Bangladesh Army. Since our inaugural engagement in 1988, more than 1,62,035 peacekeepers of Bangladesh Army have successfully completed 56 UN Peacekeeping Missions in 40 different locations. Currently, approximately 5,000 members of Bangladesh Army are deployed in 09 UN Peacekeeping Missions. Upholding the highest standard of professionalism, Bangladesh Army remains steadfastly impartial and resolute in executing mandated duties. Thus, we have earned a worldwide reputation under the emblem of Blue Helmet.

On this auspicious day, I respectfully commemorate 131 valiant peacekeepers of Bangladesh Army who laid down their lives for global peace. Besides, 241 peacekeepers also sustained injury in different peacekeeping operations. I convey my heartfelt respect and deep empathy to all our deceased and wounded peacekeepers as well as to their families. Their supreme sacrifice is a source of immense pride and inspiration for us.

Bangladesh Army has proudly completed over three decades of distinguished service in UN peacekeeping missions. Today we remain ready to uphold its reputation as one of the professional, capable and most prepared forces for global peace. Currently, with a wide range of modern weaponry, armaments and gadgets, Bangladesh army remains ready to deploy anywhere in the world. In recent development we have deployed three helicopters to Democratic Republic of the Congo making a significant milestone in its operational capabilities. Furthermore, to enhance our counter-IED measure, we have recently introduced Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and presented to Peruvian Armed Forces to extend our support. Demonstrating the commitment to the mission area, Bangladesh Army has established the "Touadera Community Clinic" in Central African Republic. This civil-military cooperation initiative portrays the commitment and deep respect of Bangladeshi peacekeepers towards human rights, values and overall development of the mission area. At present, beside the male peacekeepers, our female peacekeepers are equally contributing to various missions. Therefore, Bangladesh has become a brand name with world class training, experienced personal, advanced equipment and high values.

At the end, my prayer remains for all Bangladeshi peacekeepers deployed across the world. At the same time, I wish success to the efforts taken by all members of UN in establishing a peaceful world for the succeeding generations.

May Almighty Allah bless us all.

Waker-Uz-Zaman
General
Chief of Army Staff

MESSAGE

PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICER
ARMED FORCES DIVISION



I am extremely delighted to know that the "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025" is being observed in Bangladesh on 29 May, as in every year, in solidarity with fellow member states of the United Nations. The commemoration of the "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025" through the combined initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Armed Forces, Bangladeshi Police, and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator underscores its profound importance and reflects Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to global peacekeeping efforts.

On this auspicious occasion, it's my distinct honour to commemorate the brave men and women peacekeepers from Bangladesh and across the globe who serve under the United Nations flag to protect the vulnerable, uphold peace, and rebuild war-torn societies. The theme for this year, "The Future of Peacekeeping," resonates profoundly with Bangladesh's distinguished legacy in UN peacekeeping, symbolizing the nation's enduring commitment, valor, and sacrifice in the pursuit of global peace and security.

Since our first participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions in 1988, Bangladesh has remained steadfast in its commitment to global peace, stability, and humanitarian service. In keeping with this legacy, Bangladesh today stands as a beacon of peace and harmony on the global stage, setting a unique example through its continued contributions to international peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. The active and distinguished participation of members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police in United Nations peacekeeping missions for 37 years has not only bolstered the nation's global image but has also reaffirmed Bangladesh's resolve commitment to uphold the principles and spirit of the United Nations in the pursuit of international peace and security.

Currently, 5,619 peacekeepers from the Bangladesh Armed Forces and 199 peacekeepers of the Bangladesh Police are actively engaged in 10 United Nations peacekeeping missions across the globe. Over the years, a total of 2,00,558 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have served with distinction in 63 missions spanning 43 countries and their effective roles in United Nations peacekeeping missions have garnered appreciation globally. The contributions of female peacekeepers from the Bangladesh Armed Forces and the Bangladesh Police in upholding global peace are highly commendable. To date, 3,845 female peacekeepers from Bangladesh have actively participated in various United Nations missions, showcasing Bangladesh as a pioneer in women's empowerment and a leading advocate for gender equality in global peacekeeping initiatives.

Tragically, 168 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have made supreme sacrifice and embraced martyrdom in the line of duty while serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations. I solemnly pray for salvation of the departed souls of those courageous peacekeepers and convey my heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families. I also pray for the complete recovery of the 272 Bangladeshi peacekeepers who have been injured while upholding the principles of peace under the United Nations flag. Their invaluable contributions to world peace will forever remain enshrined in the annals of United Nations history, and continue to inspire generations to come.

I profoundly wish "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025" a grand success and convey my best wishes for the prosperity and well-being of all the peacekeepers.

S M Kamrul Hassan
Lieutenant General
Principal Staff Officer



MESSAGE

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS



With unwavering courage, United Nations peacekeepers step into danger – to help protect those who need protection, preserve peace, and restore hope in some of the world's most challenging contexts.

Today, we honour their service.

We draw inspiration from their resilience, dedication and courage.

And we remember all the brave women and men who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace. More than 4,400 peacekeepers have died in service – 57 last year alone.

We will never forget them – and we will carry their work forward.

The focus of this year's International Day of Peacekeepers is on "the future of peacekeeping".

Today, peacekeepers face increasingly complex situations in an increasingly complex world: Growing polarization and division around the globe ...

Operations made even more dangerous from a multiplicity of threats such as terrorism...

Targeting of peacekeepers through deadly misinformation...

And challenges that transcend borders – from the climate crisis to transnational crime.

As we look ahead, it is essential that peacekeepers have what they need to do their jobs.

This is the shared responsibility of the United Nations and Member States.

The Pact for the Future – adopted last year at the United Nations – includes a commitment to adapt peacekeeping to our changing world.

This challenge is also an opportunity:

To analyse what makes peacekeeping operations successful...

To better understand what hinders them...

And to help design new future-focused models that are anchored in political solutions, adequately resourced, and have mandates that are achievable, with clear exit strategies.

The first step – reviewing our peace operations – is underway.

And together, we will keep pushing this vital effort forward.

Now more than ever, the world needs the United Nations – and the United Nations needs peacekeeping that is fully equipped for today's realities and tomorrow's challenges.

MESSAGE

Antonio Guterres



With immense pride and satisfaction, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and felicitations to all the peacekeepers on the occasion of the International United Nations Peacekeepers Day 2025. On this special day, I pay my solemn tribute to all the brave peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifices while upholding global peace, security and stability. I also gratefully acknowledge the dedication and commitment of all former and current Bangladeshi peacekeepers whose tireless services have earned international recognition for Bangladesh as one of the leading troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions. I express my sincere appreciation and deep respect to all peacekeepers deployed under the UN mandate.

Bangladesh Navy began its journey in United Nations peacekeeping operations in 1993, to contribute to global peace, human rights and solidarity. The deployment of two naval ships BNS OSMAN and BNS MADHUMATI in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in 2010 marked a significant milestone in projecting Bangladesh's stature and credibility at the international level. Currently, Bangladesh Navy Corvette BNS SANGRAM is deployed in Lebanon as part of the Maritime Task Force.

Additionally, a Riverine Unit of the Bangladesh Navy has been deployed since 2015 in South Sudan as Bangladesh Force Marine Unit (BANFMU). This unit has been playing a vital role in ensuring the safe passage of essential supplies, food, medicine and humanitarian aid via the White Nile River. In addition to the above ship and contingent, male and female naval personnel of various ranks of Bangladesh Navy have been serving in different UN missions worldwide, with professionalism, dedication and pride.

Naval personnel continue to enhance the national image in the international arena by demonstrating exceptional professionalism, unwavering courage, dedication, discipline and outstanding success in their duties toward global peacekeeping efforts. During and after the recent movement led by the students, the role of the Bangladesh Navy is being widely appreciated in stabilizing the overall law-and-order situation of the country particularly in coastal areas.

On this very occasion, I extend my sincere gratitude and best wishes for the continued success and well-being of all members of Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police serving in UN peacekeeping missions. May the Almighty Allah bless all our endeavors with success. Ameen.

MESSAGE

M Nazmul Hassan

Admiral

Chief of Naval Staff



MESSAGE

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
BANGLADESH

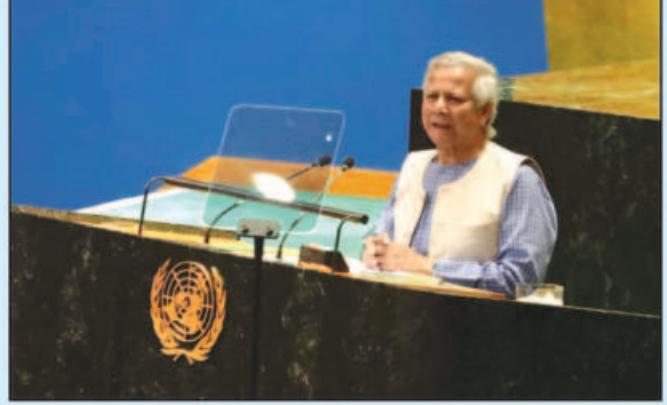


The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2025 is being observed across the globe today with the message of building a thriving, sustainable and peaceful world that is more



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

29 MAY 2025



Hon'ble Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus
Giving Speech at UNHQ



Hon'ble Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus Meets
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at UNHQ

BANGLADESH IN UN PEACEKEEPING

Bangladesh is committed to upholding the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter, promoting the peaceful resolution of international conflicts and maintaining global peace and security. Bangladesh is a peace-loving country. This very fact is enshrined in the constitution of Bangladesh with the foreign policy dictum "Friendship to all, malice to none". Bangladesh on its quest to establish world peace has already made enormous contribution under the auspices of Blue Helmet. Steadfastly inherent to this policy, Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police have globally been engaged in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) for the last 37 years. To commemorate their glorious participation, every year on 29 May observed the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This year's main theme is "The Future of Peacekeeping."

Bangladesh embarked on its participation in UN peacekeeping missions in 1988 by initially sending 15 military observers from its army to the Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). This was followed by the deployment of Bangladeshi police personnel to Namibia in 1989. Later, in 1993, the Bangladesh Navy joined peacekeeping efforts in Mozambique, while the Bangladesh Air Force began its involvement in Bosnia-Herzegovina the same year, marking the nation's expanding role in global peace operations. From Haiti to East Timor, Lebanon to Congo the peacekeepers of Bangladesh have left their footprints in almost every place crawling in conflict. They carry out their duties amidst the shivering cold of Bosnia, the scorching heat of the Sahara Desert and the dull humid weather of East Asia. Leaving behind all differences of religion, creed and cast, Bangladeshi peacekeepers risk their life in serving global humanity. Today, they have earned the time-honored credentials of a 'Role Model' in global peacekeeping by dint of proven professionalism, impartiality, integrity and humane attitude in their approach.

With all-out support from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the country now stands as one of the world's foremost contributors of military and police personnel to global peacekeeping efforts. To date, a total of 2,00,558 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have served in 63 UN missions/operations across 43 countries/regions. Currently, 5,818 Bangladeshi peacekeepers are actively engaged in 10 ongoing missions/assignments worldwide. Besides, the participation of women peacekeepers for global peace is gradually increasing. Meanwhile, 3,645 women peacekeepers have successfully completed their mission and currently 444 women peacekeepers are working in various peacekeeping operations. Till today, 168 Bangladeshi brave and valiant peacekeepers have laid down their lives and 272 peacekeepers suffered major injuries for the greater cause of world peace. In observing the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2025, let us pay our deep respect and homage to the supreme sacrifice made by these true sons. Their sacrifice has brightened the country's image in the world. Bangladesh resolutely reiterates her firm commitment to always undertake any UN assignment for global peace and stability.

BANGLADESH FOR WORLD PEACE AT A GLANCE

Country/Location	Name of the Missions/Assignment	Participants
Abyei	UNISFA	534
Central African Republic	MINUSCA	1,475
Cyprus	UNFICYP	01
DR Congo	MONUSCO	1,981
Lebanon	UNIFIL	120
Libya	UNSMIL	01
South Sudan	UNMISS	1,663
USA	UNDPO	10
Western Sahara	MINURSO	32
Yemen	UNMHA	01
Total		5,818
Total Country/Location : 43		Total Mission/Assignment : 63
Total : 2,00,558		



Bangladesh Army Contingent conducting Mechanized Patrol in MINUSCA, Central African Republic



Bangladesh Navy Force Marine Unit conducting Boat Patrol at River White Nile in South Sudan



Bangladesh Air Force Contingent performing MEDEVAC in Fataki, DR Congo



Bangladesh Police conducting Security Patrol in Goundam, Mali



Hon'ble Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres Visiting Rohingya Camp



Homage to the Martyr Peacekeepers of Bangladesh

SINCE 1988

DECEASED	INJURED
Army - 131	Army - 241
Navy - 04	Navy - 09
Air Force - 09	Air Force - 07
Police - 24	Police - 15
Total 168	Total 272



Bangladesh Army Peacekeepers performing a Military Short Duration Patrol (SDP) in Kiyango, South Sudan



Bangladesh Navy Ship carrying out Joint Exercise with
Indonesian Ship in the Mediterranean Sea, UNIFIL, Lebanon



Bangladesh Air Force C-130 ac conducting troops rotation
in MONUSCO, DR Congo



Bangladesh Police performing QRF Duty in Kinshasa, DR Congo

DECEASED PEACEKEEPERS LIST

ARMY	
1. Lt Col Faizul Karim	58. Pvt Md Abdu Salam
2. Pvt Md Yousuf Ali	59. Pvt Md Belai Hossain
3. LCpl Sanwar Hossain	60. Pvt Md Mohammad
4. Pvt Md Akbar Hossain	61. Pvt Md Zulfikar Hossain
5. Mess Waiter Md Alaudin Hauladar	62. Sgt Md Alamgir Khan
6. WO M A Haroon Ur- Rashid	63. NC (E) Abdol Monim Sarker
7. Pvt Md Abdul Hai Mondol	64. Pvt Md Amir Hossain
8. Pvt Md Ismail Hossain	65. LCpl Md Faruk Miah
9. LCpl Md Abdur Rahim	66. LCpl S M Miraz Ahmed
10. Lt Col Mohammad Hossain	67. LCpl Md Abdus Satter
11. LCpl Md Foyez Ahmed	68. Snk Md Mizanur Rahman
12. Maj Alamgir Mohammad Sarwar Hossain	69. Snk Abdul Halim
13. Cpl Md Abdul Aziz	70. Snk Mohammad Kamruzzaman Khan
14. Cpl Bellal Hossain	71. Snk Mohammad Shohid Miah
15. Cpl Md Zafar Ullah	72. Snk Md Shahab Uddin
17. Cpl Md Abdul Mannaf	73. Capt Md Razibul Kabir
18. Capt Md Quamruzzaman	74. Pvt Nur Alam Talukder
19. Capt Md Mizanur Rahman	75. Pvt Md Khurshed Alam
20. LCpl Md Mokaddes Hossain	76. WO Mohammad Alimuzzaman
21. Pvt Md Aminur Islam	77. Pvt Md Abdul Khaled
22. WO Md Nurul Islam	78. LCpl Md Jahangir Alam
23. Maj Md Abdus Sattar, psc	79. Pvt Md Nurminurul Islam
24. WO Md Lutfur Rahman	80. Pvt Md Didaruzzaman
25. Lt Col Syed Shamsul Arefin	81. LCpl Md Mahbubur Rahman
26. Maj Md Abdur Rahim Miah, GL	82. Maj Mohammad Moshiur Rahman
27. Maj Mirza Md Abdul Baten	83. WO Md Abdur Rashed
28. Maj Md Mostafizur Rahman Chowdhury	84. Cpl Md Muzaffar Rahman
29. Maj Mosharraf Hossain, psc	85. RT Md Emdadul Haque
30. Capt Anefur Rahman Talukder, G+	86. Capt Mohammad Iftekhar Alam
31. Capt Mohammad Farid Uddin Ahmed	87. Maj K M Ziaul Haque
32. Capt Mohammad Rafiqul Islam	88. Capt Md Younus Meah
33. Capt Md Alauddin Sarder	89. RT Md Abdus Salam
34. Capt Md Rakibul Hassan	90. Cpl Mohammad Rafiqul Islam
35. Capt Md Zaidul Islam	93. Snk Md Sanwar Hossain
36. Capt Md Abdul Mabud	94. Lt Col Md Tawhid-Ul-Mulk, FCPS
37. SWO Md Shafiqul Islam	95. Snk Md Amir Hossain
38. Maj M Raunaq Akhtar	96. Snk Mohammad Abdul Motin
39. Maj Imliaz Uddin Ahmed	97. LCpl Md Abdur Razzaque
40. Pvt Md Abdul Meleque Gazi	98. Sgt Md Labu Islam
41. LCpl Md Abdul Kader Siddique	99. Sgt Md Mirgul Islam
42. Cpl Md Zahidul Islam	100. Sgt Md Shahidul Islam
43. SWO Farid Uddin	101. LCpl Md Nazrul Islam
44. LCpl Md Jaman Uddin	103. LCpl Md Mozibur Rohman
45. Maj Mohammad Shahjahan, psc	104. Snk Md Abu Bashir
46. Pvt Md Aminul Islam Khan	105. Snk Md Abdur Rahim
47. Cpl Mahmudul Nabi	106. Sgt Md Altab Hossain
48. Cpl Md Shahidul Islam	107. LCpl Jakirul Alam Sarker
49. Cpl Md Shahidul Islam	108. Snk Md Monowar Hossain
50. Pvt Md Milton Miah	110. LCpl Md Akter Hossain
51. Capt Md Joynal Abedin	115. Snk Md Monjur Ali
52. Capt Md Shahid Ashraf Khan	
53. WO Sohrab Hossain Talukder	
54. Sgt Md Serajul Haque	
55. Cpl Md Atawar Rahman Sarker	
56. Pvt Md Zahirul Islam	
57. Pvt Md Abdus Salam	
58. Snk Md Monjur Ali	
59. Snk Md Jamal Uddin	
60. Snk Md Shahidul Islam	
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Bubly joins Eid lineup with film 'Sardar Barir Khela'

Shobnom Bubly is set to join this Eid-ul-Azha's cinematic lineup with *Sardar Barir Khela*, adding to the growing list of releases alongside *Taandob*, *Neelchokro*, *Insaaf*, *Esha Murder*, *Tagar*, *Utshob*, *Nadan*, and *Gowar*.

Bubly announced the film through a Facebook post, unveiling its poster and confirming her return to the big screen. Directed by Rakhal Sabuj and written by Onon Zaman, the film features Bubly opposite Ziaul Roshan.

The poster reveals Bubly in a gritty, unpolished look—portraying a weary, intense character far removed from her usual screen persona. The transformation has drawn praise from fans.

This marks her follow-up to *Jongli*, which received critical acclaim during Eid-ul-Fitr and performed well at the box office alongside titles like *Daagi* and *Borbaad*.



HBO's 'Harry Potter' series finds its golden trio

HBO and Warner Bros have unveiled the leads for their upcoming *Harry Potter* series: Dominic McLaughlin as Harry Potter, Arabella Stanton as Hermoine Granger, and Alastair Stout as Ron Weasley.

The announcement follows an extensive casting process involving thousands of young hopefuls. Executive producers Francesca Gardiner and Mark Mylod praised the trio's fresh talent and chemistry.

The series, announced in April 2023, will be a faithful adaptation of JK Rowling's seven books, each season covering one title. Notable cast members include John Lithgow as Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as McGonagall, and Paapa Essiedu as Snape.

Gardiner and Mylod, known for *Succession*, will lead the project, with Rowling serving as a producer alongside key names from the original film series.



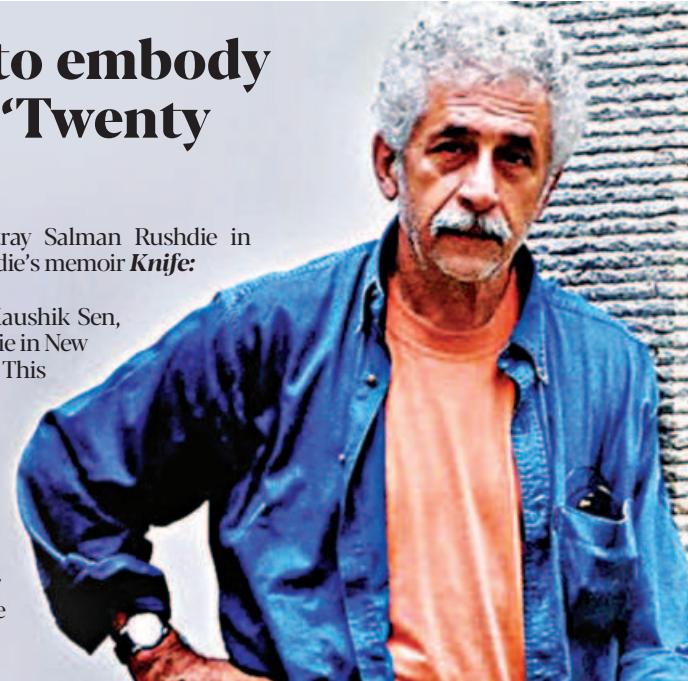
Naseeruddin Shah to embody Salman Rushdie in 'Twenty Nine Seconds'

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah is set to portray Salman Rushdie in *Twenty Nine Seconds*, a stage adaptation of Rushdie's memoir *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*.

Directed by renowned Bengali theatre maker Kaushik Sen, the play explores the 2022 onstage attack on Rushdie in New York and its aftermath—both personal and political. This marks Shah and Sen's first theatrical collaboration.

The cast also includes Hiba Shah, Riddhi Sen, Reshma Sen, and Surangana Bandyopadhyay, with Riddhi playing Rushdie's assailant. Produced by KCC Productions and Swapnasandhani, the play is set to debut in Kolkata and Mumbai this November.

With music by Probhuddha Banerjee, *Twenty Nine Seconds* reflects on violence, survival, and the power—and peril—of storytelling.



Jaya Ahsan and Churni Ganguly pair up for 'Ardhangini' sequel



Director Kaushik Ganguly has announced *Ajo Ardhangini*, the sequel to his acclaimed film *Ardhangini*. Starring Churni Ganguly, Jaya Ahsan, Kaushik Sen, and newcomer Indrashish Roy, the shoot is set to begin mid-June.

Jaya Ahsan confirmed the news via social media and recently visited Kolkata for a look test. Moreover, Anandabazar has already revealed her new look for this upcoming flick.

Speaking to Indian media, Jaya shared, "*Ardhangini* had a very mature storyline. It's truly a joy to be part of its sequel. The audience embraced the previous film wholeheartedly. Now, our challenge is to give back something that exceeds their expectations."

Jaya is currently promoting her Eid-ul-Azha releases *Taandob* and *Utshob*. She recently dubbed for *Taandob* in Kolkata, while post-production continues on another upcoming film, *Dear Maa*.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Ontorongo Joler Gaan'

Joler Gaan returns with *Ontorongo Joler Gaan*, an intimate solo performance following a brief hiatus. Organised by NOOR's EVENT and Jatra Biroti, the evening promises a heartfelt musical journey featuring fan-favourite tracks like *Emon Jodi Hoto*, *Patar Gaan*, and *Dana Vanga Pakhi'r Gaan*. With each song carrying emotion and memory, the event aims to reconnect the band with their audience in a soulful setting.

Date: Thursday | May 30

Time: 6:30-9pm

Venue: Jatra Biroti Restaurant



Netflix secures Richard Linklater's Cannes hit 'Nouvelle Vague'



Netflix has acquired the global rights to Richard Linklater's Cannes sensation *Nouvelle Vague*, outbidding competitors, confirmed Variety. The film, a tribute to Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless*, received a six-and-a-half minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival, with Quentin Tarantino among its admirers.

Nouvelle Vague reimagines the birth of the French New Wave, with Guillaume Marbeck portraying Godard alongside Zoey Deutch, Adrien Rouyard, and Aubry Dullin.

This marks Linklater's first feature shot entirely in French. While Netflix's acquisition secures the film's streaming future, a broader theatrical release remains uncertain.

NEWS

There'll be no compromise

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh Army—were commissioned after three years of rigorous military training. Four Palestinian cadets were also among the graduates, who will serve in their national forces.

Air Chief Hasan took the salute as the chief guest, distributed awards among top-performing cadets, reads the statement.

Battalion Senior Under Officer Samrat Zabir received the prestigious "Sword of Honour" as the best all-round cadet, while Company Senior Under Officer Abdul Wadud Masum was awarded the "Army Chief's Gold Medal" for excellence in military subjects.

Among the foreign cadets, Palestinian Officer Cadet Sgt Md Mohammad Isbar received the "BMA Trophy of Excellence".

In his speech, Air Chief Hasan reminded the newly commissioned officers that with their oath they had taken on the sacred responsibility of defending the country's independence and sovereignty.

He emphasised that the Bangladesh

HC clears Tarique, Zubaida

FROM PAGE 16

The bench said that non-appellant Tarique would also get the benefit of the judgment as the charges brought in the case were not proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Following yesterday's judgment, Tarique was cleared in all the cases in which he had been convicted by lower courts, Md Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan, a lawyer for Tarique and Zubaida, told The Daily Star.

He, however, could not say in how many cases Tarique was convicted or accused.

Replying to a question, Zakir said there is no legal bar on Tarique to contest elections now.

Zubaida's principal counsel SM Shahjahan told The Daily Star that the High Court accepted the argument that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had not issued any notice to Zubaida to submit her wealth statement, although it is mandatory under section 26(l) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004.

Besides, Tarique's wealth statement was cited in the charges, but it was not mentioned that the wealth was allegedly earned through corruption or beyond known sources, Shahjahan added.

Contacted, ACC lawyer Md Ashif Hassan told this newspaper that he

Bangladesh youth

FROM PAGE 16

Armed Forces must always be prepared to counter both traditional and non-traditional threats, adapting to rapidly evolving technologies and global challenges.

"To stay relevant in modern warfare, you must be intellectually sound, mentally resilient, physically fit, and of strong character. Only then can you develop the initiative and creativity needed in the field."

Hasan Mahmood noted that future battlefields will be dynamic, where success will depend not on individual efforts but on joint training, inter-force cooperation, and optimal use of resources.

"Jointness among the three services is not just a strategy—it is a necessity. I firmly believe your courageous and committed journey will help uphold the development of the armed forces and the nation," he said.

He called upon the cadets to remain honest, focused, and committed to their responsibilities as future defenders of the nation.

He emphasised that the Bangladesh

Armed Forces must always be prepared to counter both traditional and non-traditional threats, adapting to rapidly evolving technologies and global challenges.

The jobless rate stood at 3.95 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023, according to the BBS.

In the WESO report, the ILO revised its global employment forecast for 2025, projecting the creation of 53 million jobs instead of the previously estimated 60 million.

This translates into a reduction in global employment growth from 1.7 percent to 1.5 percent this year, the report said.

The drop—equivalent to around seven million fewer additional jobs—reflects a downgraded global economic outlook, with GDP growth expected at 2.8 percent, down from a previous projection of 3.2 percent.

The ILO's latest employment estimates are based on economic growth projections from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) April 2025 World Economic Outlook.

The curious case

FROM PAGE 16

will inform the ACC about the verdict, after which the commission will decide whether to challenge the High Court judgment in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Earlier on May 13, the HC bench condoned a 587-day delay by Zubaida in filing the appeal against the trial court verdict. A day later, the bench granted her bail after accepting her appeal for hearing. It also stayed the fines imposed by the lower court on her and called for records from the lower court.

According to the law, an appeal must be filed with the HC within 60 days after the trial court delivers judgment in such a case, lawyer Shahjahan said.

He also said the government, on October 2 last year, suspended Zubaida's jail term in the case for one year, on the condition that she would file an appeal upon surrendering to the court.

The ACC filed the case with Kafrul Police Station against the couple and Zubaida's mother Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu on September 26, 2007, on charges of amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through "illegal" means and concealing the information of Tk 2.16 crore in their wealth statements.

A Dhaka court sentenced Tarique to nine years and Zubaida to three years on August 2, 2023.

Couple, 2 others murdered in city

FROM PAGE 16

Dolon, a vegetable vendor, is undergoing treatment under police custody.

Police are verifying his claim and investigating the murders.

In another incident, a woman was stabbed to death on the street by her husband in the Ashoknagar area of Dakhinkhan around 11:00am.

The victim, Sima Akter, 39, was a domestic help. Police said her husband, Dolon Miya, attacked her on the street and later consumed poison.

Pedestrians took both of them to Kurmitola General Hospital, where doctors declared Sima dead around 1:15pm, said Sub Inspector Nur Mohammad of Dakshinkhan Police Station.

The deceased was identified as Sumi Rani Roy, 36, of Dinajpur district.

Motijheel Police Station OC Mesbah Uddin said Sumi had checked into the hotel with a man, identifying themselves as husband and wife.

The victim was identified as Sumi Rani Roy, 36, of Dinajpur district.

Motijheel Police Station OC Mesbah Uddin said Sumi had checked into the hotel with a man, identifying themselves as husband and wife.

In Kamalapur, police recovered the body of a woman from a hotel and suspected she was suffocated to death.

The deceased was identified as Sumi Rani Roy, 36, of Dinajpur.

Dolon, a vegetable vendor, is undergoing treatment under police custody.

He admitted to stabbing his wife over a family dispute, the SI said.

Meanwhile, in Kamalapur, police recovered the body of a woman from a hotel and identified themselves as husband and wife.

The victim was identified as Sumi Rani Roy, 36, of Dinajpur district.

Police suspect that the man she was with, Manik Chandra Roy, is the perpetrator, who fled the scene before hotel staff discovered the body in the room.

"The door was found unlocked. Primary investigation suggests she was suffocated," the OC said.

Police are trying to apprehend the suspect.

The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Israel kills

FROM PAGE 16

A Palestinian medical source reported at least one death.

Ajith Sunghay, head of the UN Human Rights Office in the Palestinian territories, said most had been hurt by Israeli gunfire.

The military rejected this, with spokesman Colonel Olivier Rafowicz saying Israeli soldiers "fired warning shots into the air, in the area outside" the Rafah distribution centre, and "in no case towards the people".

GHF also denied that crowds were shot while waiting for aid.

Meanwhile, UN envoy for the Middle East Sigrid Kaag told the Security Council that Palestinians living in Gaza "deserve more than survival".

"Since the resumption of hostilities in Gaza, the already horrific existence of civilians has only sunk further into the abyss," she said.

"This is manmade ... Death is their companion. It's not life, it's not hope. The people of Gaza deserve more than survival. They deserve a future."

Gazans said there was no reason to hope for a better future.

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes killed 16 people since dawn yesterday.

Israel imposed a full blockade on Gaza for more than two months, before allowing supplies in at a trickle last week.

Israel stepped up its military offensive in Gaza earlier this month, while mediators push for a still elusive ceasefire.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza yesterday said at least 3,924 people had been killed in the territory since Israel ended a ceasefire on March 18, taking the war's overall toll to 54,084, mostly civilians.

Those pushed-in allege torture

FROM PAGE 16

The statement said 111 people were pushed in through borders in Khagrachari, 84 through Kurigram, 103 through Sylhet, 331 through Moulvibazar, 19 through Habiganj, 16 through Sunamganj, two through Dinajpur, 17 through Chapainawabganj, 19 through Thakurgaon, 32 through Panchagarh, 75 through Lalmonirhat, 19 through Chuadanga, 42 through Jhenaidah, 13 through Cumilla, 39 through Feni, 23 through Satkhira, and 30 through Meherpur.

As many as 78 individuals were reportedly pushed in through the remote Mandarbaria area of the Sundarbans.

Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrauzzaman Siddiqui, director general of BGB, told The Daily Star that despite repeated protests conveyed through flag meetings and diplomatic channels, incidents of push-ins by BSF and other Indian agencies have regrettably continued.

"BGB remains on high alert and has intensified surveillance and patrols in sensitive border areas. However, during recent engagements, the neighbouring authorities denied any such push-ins—denials that contradict facts and constitute both a violation of human rights and glaring falsehoods," he said.

Fake Ansary served at Bangladesh Bank until May 27, when he was fired.

The Daily Star tried to reach him for comments, but found his mobile phone switched off.

However, Md Shahjahan Miah answered a phone call and said before hanging up: "I didn't go to the office today. I don't

MORE THAN JUST A BITE

The new face of biscuits

AYMAN ANIKA

Walk into any grocery store in Bangladesh – from a bustling supermarket in Dhaka to a tea stall in a village – and biscuits are everywhere. A staple with tea, in school tiffins, or at office desks, biscuits are deeply woven into our daily rhythms. But how often do we pause to ask: What are we really eating? In a country where convenience usually trumps consciousness, biscuits remain one of the most consumed and least questioned snack foods.

Yet, with changing lifestyles and increasing public health concerns, the humble biscuit is now at the centre of broader debates about nutrition, quality assurance, and food transparency.

The health shift in a sugary landscape

For years, biscuits in Bangladesh meant glucose sticks or classic Marie – simple, sugary, and cheap. But as

we're excited to explore low-sugar and fortified options to meet the evolving needs of our health-conscious consumers," Sarowar adds.

And it's a shift that's not just reactive – it's strategic. Healthier biscuits no longer belong to a niche market. They're part of a larger realignment, driven by consumer demand and informed dietary choices.

Are biscuits just "empty calories"?

It's a question nutritionists often raise: Are we just feeding ourselves sugar and starch under the illusion

The bigger issue, he suggests, is how biscuits are made and marketed. "At the end of the day, it's about balance and transparency. We want our consumers to enjoy their treats without compromising on quality."

Quality beyond compliance

While major players in the biscuit industry follow international hygiene protocols and food safety certifications like HACCP or ISO 22000, not all manufacturers in the country meet the same standards. Local markets are still flooded with cheap, low-grade biscuits that skip corners on both ingredients and safety.

Dan Cake aims to differentiate itself through its adherence to European production techniques and rigorous quality control. "From sourcing the finest raw materials to maintaining rigorous standards, we ensure every bite is both delicious and trustworthy," says Sarowar.

This, he argues, is where manufacturers can do more than make biscuits – they can change consumer habits. "The most powerful way biscuit manufacturers can contribute to public awareness is by consistently delivering high-quality products, because quality speaks louder than any campaign."

A biscuit revolution?

The way forward isn't just about switching to oat cookies. It's about collective shifts in policy, in manufacturing, and in consumer habits.

Regulatory bodies like BSTI and BFSA must play a more proactive role in food standard enforcement and labelling guidelines. Food literacy should be part of school curricula and community education campaigns. And manufacturers must stop chasing profit margins at the cost of public health.

As Sarowar puts it, "Improving awareness starts with what's inside the biscuit. If the product is genuinely good, the message becomes much easier to share, and much more credible."

Hence, let's rethink the snack that's on nearly every Bangladeshi shelf. Biscuits are not just casual treats. They're cultural markers, nutritional variables, and trust exercises wrapped in foil. And in a time when health is not a luxury but a necessity, even something as small as a cookie can and should be a conscious choice.



awareness around non-communicable diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity grows, a new generation of consumers is starting to read beyond the label.

"In today's fast-paced world, consumers are becoming increasingly mindful of what they eat. Health and quality are no longer optional – they're essential," says Shaheed Bin Sarowar, Head of Marketing at Dan Foods Limited, the company behind Dan Cake. "Recognising this shift, Dan Cake, a renowned brand from Denmark, is setting new standards in the Bangladeshi bakery market."

Dan Cake's growing product line now includes Oats Cookies, marketed as a fibre-rich, more wholesome alternative to conventional options. "Looking ahead,

of a snack?

Sarowar believes this criticism doesn't always apply. "While it's true that some biscuits on the market are high in sugar and low in nutrients, it's important not to paint the entire category with the same brush," he explains. "At Dan Cake, we believe biscuits can absolutely be part of a balanced lifestyle when made with care and quality ingredients."

DAN CAKE
THE FINE ART OF BAKING®
SALTED COOKIES
with Sesame & Black Seeds

NEW

The Delightful Taste
OF
SESAME AND BLACK SEEDS

A BRAND OF
DENMARK

Budget must prepare us for difficult times

Low GDP growth demands political stability to reignite investor confidence

For quite some time, ordinary citizens have been feeling the brunt of economic hardship due to rising prices and other external shocks, including job losses. Therefore, the fact that the economy has experienced one of the slowest growth rates this fiscal year since FY1990-91, excluding the first year of the pandemic, does not come as a surprise. Bangladesh's GDP grew by 3.97 percent—almost half the inflated growth rate projected by the Awami League government when it prepared the budget last year. Although the interim government has revised the projection to five percent, the current provisional estimate is closer to what the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has forecast: 3.3 and 3.9 percent, respectively.

The decline has been attributed mainly to the sluggish performance of the agriculture and service sectors, which respectively saw growth rates of 1.79 percent and 4.51 percent in the current fiscal year, compared to 3.3 percent and 5.09 percent in FY2023-24. While the prolonged floods last year impacted agricultural output, stubbornly high inflation damped wholesale and retail sales in the service sector. But thanks to the RMG industry, the industrial sector performed well despite political tensions, labour unrest, and factory closures, with growth increasing from 3.51 percent in FY2023-24 to 4.34 percent this year.

However, the outlook for the coming fiscal year does not appear too rosy either, as global disruptive factors, including the imposition of US tariffs and Bangladesh's graduation from LDC status, present added challenges. Domestically, slumped investment, especially in the private sector, has failed to create job opportunities. In fact, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 2.1 million jobs were lost in the first half of the current fiscal year. More concerning, women accounted for the majority of those who lost their jobs. International factors, such as severe cuts in donor-funded projects in the NGO sector, played a part in this crisis.

Unfortunately, the steps taken by the interim government over the last nine and a half months—including banking reforms, attempts to encourage investment, and the splitting of the National Board of Revenue—have not yet delivered any positive results. In fact, the banking sector is still reeling from the heavy burden of non-performing loans and irregularities incurred during the Awami League era. Under these circumstances, the upcoming budget must reflect the government's plan to tackle rising unemployment, high inflation, and illicit financial outflows. At the same time, the marginalised, including those at risk of falling below the poverty line, must be supported with well-designed and expanded social safety net programmes. Incentives should also be provided to sectors that can generate substantive employment, with a special focus on the female workforce.

At the same time, we agree with economists that the interim government should soon declare a definite roadmap for the election, which would provide businesses with the predictability they require for planning investments and economic activities. Last but not least, the law and order situation must be improved to reignite investor confidence and reaccelerate the economic wheel.

We must act to save mothers, newborns

Public healthcare gaps, poor awareness putting lives at risk

We are concerned by the findings of a report by this daily that has revealed how our public health system is failing expectant mothers. Despite a surge in deliveries nationwide—rising from 2.79 million in 2023 to 3.03 million in 2024—there hasn't been a proportionate increase in the use of relevant health services. Recent data from the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division show a steady decline in antenatal check-ups, deliveries, contraception use, and postnatal care in public hospitals and clinics. Of the deliveries recorded, government health facilities have handled just over six percent. That fewer women are turning to public facilities—the most accessible and affordable source of care—means they, and their babies, are more likely to face serious health risks without timely medical intervention.

Further details from our report help provide a clearer picture. For example, while the WHO now recommends eight antenatal care (ANC) visits during pregnancy, in Bangladesh, even the older target of four is becoming harder to meet, with only 5.14 lakh pregnant women receiving the recommended ANC visits in 2023-24—less than half the number recorded four years earlier. Postnatal care has followed the same downward trend, as has the use of contraception. Meanwhile, experts have cited shortages of medical personnel, essential drugs, equipment, and ICU beds that continue to plague public facilities, along with limited awareness among expectant mothers. These deficits are most dangerous for women with high-risk pregnancies, especially in rural areas where the maternal mortality rate remains significantly above the national average.

The experiences of the women cited in our report also highlight the urgency of proper and timely care for pregnancy-related complications. To address the crisis, we need a multi-pronged intervention from the authorities. First, it is vital that the government allocates more resources to public maternal healthcare, recruiting and training staff, expanding ICU capacity, and ensuring an adequate supply of essential drugs. Second, local-level facilities need to be strengthened so that women aren't forced to travel long distances for emergency care. Third, there must be sufficient awareness campaigns to educate families on the importance of antenatal and postnatal check-ups, especially in rural areas where misconceptions about pregnancy persist. Access and awareness must happen simultaneously for us to turn the current trend around.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reach Mt Everest

On this day in 1953, following numerous failed attempts by others, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers to surmount Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world (8,849 metres).



Dr Faridul Alam
a retired academic, writes from New York.

FARIDUL ALAM

Amid resurgent nationalism and rising global friction, globalisation has moved from consensus to contention, now a central fault line in geopolitics. Once seen as the engine of progress, economic integration now draws fierce resistance from populists like Donald Trump, who cast globalism as a threat to sovereignty and national identity. Globalisation has undeniably powered growth and innovation, but it has also deepened inequality and cultural dislocation. The post-World War II boom, particularly in the US, showcased its promise, yet the benefits were uneven, sowing discontent and backlash. Nowhere are globalisation's contradictions starker than in the US, the world's richest nation, yet mired in ballooning \$35 trillion debt and a chronic trade deficit. These imbalances expose the fragility beneath the facade of dominance. While the US still wields unmatched clout in finance, tech, and defence, its internal fractures complicate the myth of

Globalisation is anything but new. Its roots trace back to the Age of Exploration, when European nations established trade routes and colonies. The Industrial Revolution accelerated this process. Post-WWII, institutions like the IMF and World Bank were created to promote global trade. The Cold War spread Western capitalism. The collapse of the Soviet Union and China's economic reforms in the late 20th century intensified global interconnectedness. The World Trade Organization's (WTO)'s formation in 1995 was another milestone, embedding free trade in global economic policy.

But globalisation can be disrupted. Between the two World Wars, protectionist policies

Deglobalisation is gaining ground—not as a romantic return to autarky, but as a clear-eyed recalibration of systemic risk. The pandemic shattered illusions of supply chain resilience: a ship lodged in the Suez halted Detroit's output; a COVID flare-up in Guangdong emptied shelves in Berlin. 'Reshoring' and 'friend-shoring' are no longer buzzwords; Japan bankrolls exits from China, while the EU scrambles for autonomy in rare earths and chips. Efficiency yields to resilience.

unshaken leadership.

The future of globalisation hinges less on market logic than on political will, institutional agility, and the ability to build fairer systems. The imperative is not to abandon globalisation, but to reinvent it, reducing inequality, honouring local agency, and recalibrating cooperation without ceding autonomy. Trump's return in 2025 has sharpened this reckoning. His agenda—universal tariffs, strategic decoupling, and transactional diplomacy—tightens the noose

and geopolitical turbulence led to its decline. The Great Depression prompted tariffs and trade restrictions, like the US Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, worsening the downturn. Fascist regimes under Mussolini, Hitler, and Franco focused on autarky, stalling trade. Decolonisation and national liberation movements across Asia and Africa also challenged Western dominance, reshaping global trade relationships. These events demonstrate that globalisation is by no means invincible. It can fracture when economic,

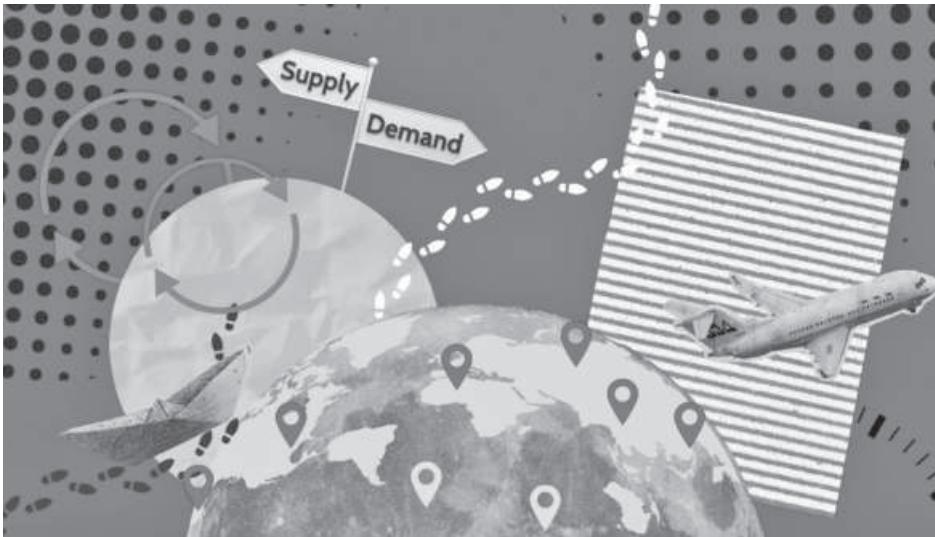
political, and social crises align. Immanuel Wallerstein's World Systems Theory illustrates this: global systems integrate, but also break apart. The interwar period remains a vivid reminder. Understanding the cyclical nature of global integration helps us grasp how quickly cooperative gains can be under pressure.

Deglobalisation is gaining ground—not as a romantic return to autarky, but as a clear-eyed recalibration of systemic risk. The pandemic

innovation, and raises the spectre of geopolitical conflict.

Supporters contend that globalisation lifted millions from poverty, catalysed innovation, and broadened human mobility. A retreat risks reawakening the zero-sum nationalism that globalisation once kept at bay.

Trump's return revives economic nationalism, with a universal 10 percent tariff now on the table. But this goes beyond policy—



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

shattered illusions of supply chain resilience: a ship lodged in the Suez halted Detroit's output; a COVID flare-up in Guangdong emptied shelves in Berlin. "Reshoring" and "friend-shoring" are no longer buzzwords; Japan bankrolls exits from China, while the EU scrambles for autonomy in rare earths and chips. Efficiency yields to resilience.

In the Global South, deglobalisation signals defiance. Dependency theory, once derided, finds renewed urgency. Structural inequality, extractivism, and capital flight aren't bugs—they're built into the system. For many, globalisation is less a ladder than a trap.

Yet, globalisation is not so easily unravelled. Supply chains are algorithmically mapped, digitally enmeshed, and globally optimised. While goods may shift towards local production, data, capital, and knowledge still flow across borders with frictionless speed. But deglobalisation has its costs. Tariffs raise prices and provoke retaliation; Trump's trade war led to net losses in US agriculture.

Fragmentation fuels inflation, saps

it's ideology. For Trump, globalism equals betrayal; decoupling is redemption. Yet, his first term exposed the limits: manufacturing didn't flood back; firms rerouted to third countries. Trade deficits held steady. What surged instead was uncertainty and the erosion of the rules-based order.

With a Republican Congress, Trump 2.0 could entrench these shifts—sidelining the WTO, undermining NATO, and reversing climate commitments. But even as nationalism escalates, structural entanglements remain. US firms still rely on global markets; American consumers still demand imports. Trump may posture against globalisation, but he confronts not the 1980s, but a densely interwoven world—one that no leader can cleanly unwind.

Bangladesh has long ridden the wave of globalisation, with its export-led RMG sector as the backbone of economic growth. But that reliance now cuts both ways. Rising protectionism in key markets in the EU and the US threatens to destabilise an industry that employs millions and anchors the

nation's trade. Deeply embedded in global supply chains, the RMG sector is vulnerable to external shocks that could ripple across the entire economy.

Yet, deglobalisation also presents a chance for domestic fortification. Investing in technology, skills, and entrepreneurship can reduce dependency while enhancing resilience. A self-reliant economy could prioritise local needs and foster sustainable growth. Strengthening regional trade blocs, boosting agricultural productivity, and improving energy infrastructure offer promising avenues. Bangladesh's strategic location positions it as a potential hub for South-South cooperation. The challenge is a complex cost-benefit analysis. Pragmatic diversification, a focus on value-added industries, and institutional reforms are essential. Strategic foresight, regional collaboration, and economic justice must drive its recalibration.

Dependency theory, as articulated by scholars like Andre Frank and Samir Amin, critiques global capitalism for benefiting core nations at the expense of peripheral ones. Deglobalisation offers peripheral nations an opportunity to reclaim autonomy and renegotiate the terms of engagement. This aligns with decolonial perspectives that critique the epistemic violence of global capitalism.

Kwame Appiah's cosmopolitanism advocates inclusive cooperation and global solidarity, transcending nationalism. Postmodern theories reject singular narratives, emphasising globalisation's complexity and fragmentation, challenging neoliberal orthodoxy, and reframing globalisation as contingent, contested, and multidirectional. It is not monolithic, but layered, uneven, and constantly evolving.

We stand at a critical juncture—what Joseph Stiglitz calls "global governance without a global government." Globalisation, once seen as self-correcting, is now volatile, fragmented, and driven by escalating instability. Deglobalisation may offer short-term political gains, but it risks a dangerous overcorrection, fuelling fragmentation without offering viable alternatives. The choice is not between globalisation and its absence, but between a broken model and a reimagined one. What's needed is not retreat, but reinvention: equity over efficiency, sustainability over speed, and cooperation over coercion. Globalisation will not vanish, but it must be reshaped. As Stiglitz rightly insists, "The challenge of globalisation is not to protect ourselves from it, but to make it work for everyone."

Remembering Barrister Abdur Razzaq

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari
is a Bangladeshi British civic leader, educationalist,
author, and parenting consultant, actively engaged
in youth development and social cohesion.

MUHAMMAD ABDUL BARI

The passing of Barrister Abdur Razzaq, a distinguished lawyer, politician, and a man of deep integrity and unwavering professionalism, is a profound loss for Bangladesh and the wider legal community. He departed this life on May 4, 2025, in Dhaka, at the age of 76, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born in 1949 in Sylhet district in the then East Bengal, Abdur Razzaq went on to earn his barrister-at-law degree from Lincoln's Inn in London, where he was called to the bar in 1980. During his years in London from the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, he became a driving force in uplifting the Bangladeshi diaspora, dedicating himself to empowering young people, particularly those in Tower Hamlets. His work left a lasting mark on the community and inspired a generation.

In 1985, he returned to Bangladesh to practise law, embarking on a distinguished legal career and earning recognition as a senior advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. After relocating to the UK in late 2013, he remained dedicated to his profession and continued to serve the community until his return to Bangladesh in December 2024.

Barrister Razzaq's legal career was marked by both depth and breadth. His expertise spanned various domains, including constitutional and administrative law, banking and commercial law, labour law, telecommunications law,

and international criminal law. As a senior partner and head of chambers at The Law Counsel in Dhaka, he led with intellectual rigour and professional excellence. His legal practice included numerous high-profile public law cases that left a lasting imprint on Bangladesh's legal landscape.

He was perhaps most widely known for his role as the chief defence counsel at widely controversial International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), where he represented several prominent Jamaat-e-Islami leaders accused of war crimes. Throughout this period, he faced persistent harassment and attempts to hinder legal work. Yet, his unwavering commitment to justice and due process never faltered. His advocacy, even in the face of significant challenge and immense pressure, remained principled and resolute, earning commendation from international human rights organisations, including Human Rights Watch, for his efforts to uphold fair trial standards.

Barrister Razzaq served as the assistant secretary general of Jamaat, where he was engaged in the party's political direction and strategy. However, in February 2019, he took the courageous and principled step of resigning, citing the party's failure to apologise for its role during the 1971 Liberation War in supporting the Pakistan Army and its reluctance to pursue crucial reforms. According to a report

published in Al-Jazeera on February 16, 2019, Razzaq said, "When I saw that I could not take it any further and that there was no hope that the party would apologise and I had come to the end of the road, I decided to resign." He had long advocated for open, honest dialogue about the past and for the party to embrace more inclusive models of governance.

His resignation marked not a retreat from political life, but a reaffirmation of

regime. He practised in London with a focus on human rights and asylum law.

In 2020, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and in the years that followed, his health gradually declined. He was later diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and received treatment at the Royal London Hospital. Despite his illness, his resolve remained strong and in late 2024, he made the poignant decision to return to Bangladesh, where he continued treatment

staungh professionalism. A man of faith with profound knowledge of Islam, he strove to embody the principles of *ihsan*: excellence in all things, in both his personal conduct and professional life. In London, I had the privilege of regular exchanges with him on a range of topics. He exemplified the beautiful hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): "Verily, Allah has prescribed *ihsan* (perfection) in all things..." (Muslim).

He was a man of principle who was never afraid to speak truth to power or defend justice, even when doing so was unpopular or risky. His inclusive and sociable nature endeared him to people across political and ideological divides. More than a legal luminary, he was a mentor, a role model, and a source of guidance to many young professionals and activists at home and abroad.

His funeral prayers were held at Taqwa mosque in Dhanmondi on the evening of May 4, followed by another at the Supreme Court on May 5. In a mark of respect, the Supreme Court suspended proceedings for half a day. Chief Justice Syed Reafat Ahmed expressed deep sorrow and extended condolences to his family. A further funeral prayer was held at the Supreme Court's Inner Garden, a rare honour, and another at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, reflecting the high regard in which he was held across the legal and national community.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq is survived by his wife, two sons who have followed in his footsteps and serve as barristers, and a daughter. His family, colleagues, and the many lives he touched mourn his loss deeply. His memory will live on through the principles he championed and the people he inspired. He will be remembered for his steadfast dedication to law, fearless pursuit of justice, and lifelong service to truth.



Barrister Abdur Razzaq (1949–2025)

his commitment to ethical leadership and meaningful reform. He later joined the Amar Bangladesh Party until stepping down in August 2024.

In late 2013, Barrister Abdur Razzaq left Bangladesh for the UK, citing concerns over potential retaliation from the Sheikh Hasina

regime. He practised in London with a focus on human rights and asylum law.

His passing marked the end of a remarkable life, one defined by unwavering dedication to justice, personal integrity, and tireless service to his country and community.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq was widely admired for his noble character, deep integrity, and

TUESDAY'S ANSWERS



BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Of women, rage, and what burns unseen

Review of 'Heart Lamp: Selected Stories' (And Other Stories, 2025) by Banu Mushtaq, translated by Deepa Bhasthi

Again and again, we witness women trying to reclaim control: some wanting to undergo sterilisation without their husbands' permission, some demand their right to inheritance, others quietly but firmly refuse to return to homes where they've endured years of mental and physical abuse. These are not grand acts of revolution, but small rebellions of survival, each one cutting into the social fabric that seeks to bind them.

MAHMUDA EMDAD

"Hakhaara tarise toh angaar ka nuuh barse..."
(If the one who has rights is displeased, a rain of fire will fall)

—This quote, from the story "Fire Rain" in *Heart Lamp*, sets the emotional temperature of the entire collection.

There are books that try to rebuild the world. There are books that try to explain it. And then there are books that do neither; they just hold up a mirror. *Heart Lamp* is that mirror. It does not seek to heal or to reconcile. It simply insists you look. It speaks of smoldering anger—not the kind that explodes, but the kind that simmers in silence, tucked away inside generations of women who have been denied dignity, voice, and justice. Banu Mushtaq writes about the displeased; about those whose pain society has normalised, whose lives are shaped by absence: of choice, of power, of recognition.

Heart Lamp, which recently won the 2025 Man Booker Prize, is a curated collection of 12 short stories written between the 1990s and 2023. Selected from the best of Mushtaq's literary career, these stories center the everyday lives of women from Kannada—particularly Dalit and Muslim women—whose experiences are shaped by caste, religion, poverty, and gendered violence. The collection's core themes include reproductive rights, patriarchy, societal traditions, and the subtle yet violent mechanisms that control and erase women's agency.

The opening story, "Stone Slabs for Shaista Mahal", lays the foundation for the collection's recurring themes: reproductive injustice, domestic labour, and the normalised disposability of women. Shaista, a woman who bears seven children in quick succession, dies soon after childbirth. But her death barely disrupts the rhythm of her husband's life; he remarries a younger woman to care for the children, stops his eldest daughter's education to manage the household, and moves on. The story doesn't dramatise this; it simply presents it, as if to say: this is what happens, every day, everywhere. In "Fire Rain", Mushtaq turns her focus toward inheritance and religious hypocrisy. The story revolves around the Mutawali Sahib—a man tasked with overseeing religious matters in the village—whose sister dares to demand her rightful share of inheritance, even citing verses from the Quran itself. His rage isn't just personal; it's cultural, political, and performative. He is more concerned about doing charity, involving himself in political stunts and maintaining his prestige in the village than practicing justice within his own family. Though written in the 1990s, the story painfully mirrors present-day realities where women still fight for the bare minimum, and even scriptural legitimacy is not enough to earn them their due.

At times, the stories and the plot of the book feel repetitive; again and again, women face versions of the same suffocation. Yet, repetition is the point—it builds into a collective portrait of women's lives, showing just how relentless and normalised the violence against them is. Even in



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

this overwhelming similitude, though, Mushtaq refuses to strip her characters of agency. Again and again, we witness women trying to reclaim control: some wanting to undergo sterilisation without their husbands' permission, some demand their right to inheritance, others quietly but firmly refuse to return to homes where they've endured years of mental and physical abuse. These are not grand acts of revolution, but small rebellions of survival, each one cutting into the social fabric that seeks to bind them.

The titular story, "Heart lamp", stands as a devastating example of this tension between endurance and collapse. Mehrun, the protagonist, finally decides to leave her husband's house after facing repeated abuse. But when she returns to her family, instead of support, she is met with cruelty. She is labeled a disgrace to womanhood for failing to "keep" her home, her marriage, her man. Her suffering is seen not as a wound but as a shameful mark she must carry. Forced to return to the very home she fled, something inside Mehrun breaks. The lamp of her heart—once flickering with hope, perhaps for her children, perhaps for a different life—goes out. Her act of burning herself isn't framed as a moment of weakness, but as a final response to a world that gave her no other way to be heard. That too, Mushtaq tells us, is what society can do to a woman: not just silence her, but hollow her until she no longer recognises herself.

As the collection unfolds, Mushtaq adds layers of complexity to her narrative world. While the focus remains on women's lives, some stories reveal how patriarchy entraps men as well albeit differently. In "Red Lungi", she examines how blind faith can fuel inhumanity, showing how belief systems, when unchecked, become dangerous. In "A Decision of the Heart", the protagonist Yusuf arranges the marriage of his widowed mother who is nearly 50 years old, not out of empathy, but as an act of quiet defiance against his own wife. These stories subtly highlight how even within patriarchal structures, men, too, are shaped, sometimes twisted by the systems they benefit from. Suffering is not always one-dimensional, and Mushtaq allows room for this complexity.

The collection concludes with "Be a Woman Once, Oh Lord", ending on a haunting invocation: "If you were to build the world again, to create males and females again, do not be like an inexperienced potter. Come to earth as a woman, Prabhu! Be a woman once." It encapsulates the deep exhaustion and quiet rage of women who have been sidelined for generations by poverty, caste, gender, religion, and societal norms.

Building on the book's deep-rooted connection to community and resistance, the translation by Deepa Bhasthi plays a vital role in carrying its essence to a global audience. Rather than erasing the linguistic texture of the original, she preserves

its multilingual spirit—retaining Urdu and Arabic words without flattening them into English, and embracing the natural hyperbole and repetition found in everyday speech. She also resists the colonial convention of italicising non-English words, refusing to mark them as "other." This approach not only honored the linguistic richness of southern India but also carried forward the spirit of protest and resistance embodied by the author, Banu Mushtaq, a key figure in the Bandaya Sahitya movement that challenged upper-caste, male-dominated literary spaces.

Banu Mushtaq writes as someone who has lived what she tells. She is both a lawyer and an activist from the communities she portrays in her stories, stories that are shaped by what she has seen, lived through, and fought against. They do not rely on dramatic villains or heroic figures; instead, they unfold through the quiet tragedies and daily negotiations of women navigating unjust systems. That is the quiet power of *Heart Lamp*—its ability to find meaning in the mundane, to expose how normalised cruelty and silence can be, and to speak of lives that are often spoken over.

Mahmuda Emdad is a women and gender studies major with an endless interest in feminist writings, historical fiction, and pretty much everything else, all while questioning the world in the process. Reach her at mahmudaemdad123@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

A kaleidoscopic collection of stories by an outsider

Review of 'Modhu' (Arghya Saha, Agantuk, 2023) by Taufique Mujtaba

ZERTAB QUADERI

Storytelling is not easy, especially when a few words portray a character with depth and just enough strokes to etch the social milieu for certain classes and creeds and the outcomes of political ideologies in post-independent Bangladesh. A copy of *Modhu* was handed over to me by the author, who happens to be my brother-in-law. It took me a few hours to enjoy the slim volume of less than 100 pages. I seldom read Bangla books, and I was glad it kept me hooked. It strings together a series of short accounts by Modhu to the author. While it offers glimpses into the author's social and economic class, it sits squarely on the shoulders of the central character, Modhu, who belongs to the minority Hindu community. Each story takes the reader into the lives of various relatable characters. However, the backdrop remains the same, always reminding us of the brunt of classism that minority community members have to bear in every society.

The first-person conversational style of the stories made it immediately endearing to me because it felt as if I was witnessing the unfolding of the life events of the wealthy Begum Aziz, Abrar Shahab with a past, or Khokon with his shirt—and his family—tainted by the stain of an innocent bowl of black plums.

The author and the readers are sitting very much on the same side of the table, as Modhu shares chunks and snippets of these characters. In the process, he recounts his own life story.



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

Each story deals with a different set of characters, but through them all, the author reveals various sides of Modhu like peeling the layers of an onion, slowly revealing what lies at the core. His character is gradually unravelled from a slightly timid person until we see his bold, principled, intelligent, responsible, emotional, and enlightened sides. His characterisation and the plot of each storyline are juxtaposed perfectly so

that the reader doesn't lose interest in either. On the contrary, all the plots pique our interest to a crescendo and then leave the rest to our imagination and interpretation.

Besides the characters and plots being immensely relatable, Mujtaba uses Modhu to throw light on the vulnerabilities and insecurities of the less privileged class. The smatterings of wit enhance the storytelling and keep things simple

and entertaining, although there are deeper meanings to be gleaned for the astute reader. Another literary device the author has used cleverly is continuing the plot of a previous story into the next one, as well as referring to characters we met before. The reader's interest runs in parallel lines until they reach the vanishing point. Detailed descriptions of characters and their thoughts and actions uncover the deepest human psychology and also share a glimpse into the backstory of every person, with enough bait to help the reader put two and two together.

Modhu is a sensitive and sensible person. Despite being a barber by generational profession, he is educated and enlightened with strong political ideologies and a keen sense of art appreciation. The last quality comes out beautifully in the story titled "Chobi", my favourite. The power of observation and in-depth analysis emanates like a glowing lamp from Modhu, spreading a soft light all around, and reaching the murky shadows behind which hide lives and loves. This is the second last account in the series and rounds up the attitudes, self-images, and feelings of those shackled by the caste system. Modhu and his likes are always on the move, rarely getting an opportunity to settle down anywhere. Their linear trajectory is aptly titled "Ora Jabey Onek Dur" in the concluding section of the book.

Zertab Quaderi is living her dream life: reading books, dabbling in art, spending me-time, and guzzling coffee.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Caring for myself is not self-indulgence. It is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.

—Audre Lorde





SHAMIT ADDS to Bangladesh's midfield facelift

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team's midfield facelift, which began with the arrival of Hamza Chowdhury, entered its next phase yesterday with Canada-based midfielder Shamit Shome getting called up in the 26-member

against India in the Asian Cup Qualifying opener, visibly bolstering the team's midfield.

Hamza and Mohammad Ridoy played as pivot midfielders against India, linking the defense and attack seamlessly. But the men in red and green failed to penetrate the Indian defence in the goalless draw, seemingly missing a quality midfielder who could add an attacking edge.

With the inclusion of Shamit of Cavalry FC, who has played in Canada's top flight

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HC clears Tarique, Zubaida in graft case

Lawyer claims Tarique no longer convicted in any case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife, Zubaida Rahman, of corruption charges that had led to their conviction and sentencing to different jail terms in 2023.

The HC also scrapped the trial court judgment that handed down nine years' imprisonment to Tarique and three years to Zubaida.

The bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman delivered the verdict following an appeal filed by Zubaida, who challenged the trial court verdict upon her return to Bangladesh on May 6 from London after 17 years.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Waves crashing on Kuakata sea beach in Patuakhali yesterday. The Met Office predicts heavy rains across the country and potential landslides in hilly regions over the next 24 hours, starting today, as a low-pressure system has formed over the Bay of Bengal.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Israel kills Hamas's presumed leader

47 injured in 'shooting' at Gaza aid centre; 16 more killed in strikes

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday said its military killed Mohammed Sinwar, Hamas's presumed Gaza leader as military offensive in the tiny Palestinian territory killed dozens more.

"We drove the terrorists out of our territory, entered the Gaza Strip with force, eliminated tens of thousands of terrorists, eliminated... Mohammed Sinwar," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told parliament.

Israeli media outlets reported Sinwar was targeted in Israeli air strikes in southern Gaza earlier this month.



The announcement came as the United Nations condemned a US and Israeli-backed aid system in Gaza after dozens of people were hurt in chaotic scenes at a food distribution site.

Israel's military denied allegations that its forces had fired on the crowds.

The aid issue has come sharply into focus amid a hunger crisis coupled with intense criticism of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a shadowy group that has bypassed the longstanding UN-led system in the territory.

The United Nations said 47 people were injured in the mayhem that erupted on Tuesday when thousands of desperate Palestinians rushed into a GHF aid distribution

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



There'll be no compromise on territorial integrity

Says air force chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan yesterday said Bangladesh would never compromise its independence, sovereignty or territorial integrity.

"Our foreign policy is based on friendship with all, malice towards none. But when it comes to our geographical integrity and sovereignty, there will be no compromise," he said in his address to the commissioning parade of the 88th BMA Long Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy in Bhatiary, Chattogram.

According to a statement from the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), 155 officer cadets -- including 128 male and 23 female officers of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Vehicles stand still on the Panthapath-Tejgaon link road and the Hatirjheel exit ramp of the elevated expressway near FDC. Thousands of commuters faced severe traffic congestion all day yesterday in the southern part of the capital, largely due to political events organised by the BNP and Jamaat.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Appointments for US student visa halted

Expanded social media vetting planned; China slams the move

AFP, Washington

The US State Department has ordered the suspension of student visa processing in the latest escalation of a Trump administration crackdown on foreign students criticised yesterday by China.

President Donald Trump's administration is seeking unprecedented control of the nation's universities, taking particular aim at foreign students by revoking visas and deporting some of those involved in protests against the war in Gaza.

A cable signed Tuesday by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and seen by AFP orders embassies and consulates not to allow "any additional student or exchange visa... appointment capacity until further guidance is issued."

The government plans to ramp up vetting of the social media profiles of international applicants to US universities, the cable said.

Rubio earlier rescinded hundreds of visas and the Trump administration has moved to bar Harvard University from admitting non-Americans.

China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning yesterday said Beijing urged Washington to "safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of international students, including those from China."

Bangladesh youth unemployment rate to stay high Says ILO report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youth unemployment in Bangladesh will continue to be high -- more than double the national unemployment rate -- with university graduates being the hardest hit, according to the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) report released yesterday by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

"The global contraction of jobs is of grave concern, especially for Bangladesh, which is undergoing political, economic, social, and climatic transitions and sends over a million workers abroad," said Tuomo Poutiainen, the outgoing country director for the ILO in Bangladesh.

"The WESO report underscores the need for Bangladesh not to lose sight of the urgency of creating decent work opportunities, particularly for women and youth."

"As more jobs are anticipated in high-skilled occupations, such as digital roles, it is critical for Bangladesh to move forward with its skills development reforms to adequately equip its labour force for more specialised, better-paying jobs both at home and abroad," Poutiainen said in a statement.

The ILO identified geopolitical tensions and trade disruptions as key factors weakening the economic outlook, leading to slower job growth.

Bangladesh's unemployment rate rose to 4.63 percent in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25, as a growing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Those pushed-in allege torture, abuses in India

1,053 individuals have been forced into Bangladesh since May 7

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A Bangladeshi woman has alleged that India's Border Security Force (BSF) tied empty plastic bottles to her and her three daughters to keep them afloat, then pushed them into the Feni river along the Tripura border in the dark of night, in a chilling account of abuse at the border.

Selina Begum, 41, said she and her three daughters floated in the water all night before being rescued by locals in Khagrachhari's Ramgarh on May 22.

"They tied bottles to our waists and threw us into the river," she told The Daily Star.

"My children had no idea what was happening. We floated all night. None of us know how to swim," she said.

Selina, her husband Ummid Ali, 47, and their daughters Rumi Khatun, 16, Rumpa Khatun, 15, and Sumaiya Khatun, 6, were later found cold and exhausted by locals near the Sonai Pool area around 6:00am on May 22 and taken into custody by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members from the Mahamuni camp.

The family members said they were working as labourers in Haryana when Indian authorities detained them.

After holding them overnight, the

authorities drove them to the border, robbed them of their money and phones, and then pushed them into the river.

"We just kept drifting in the darkness. They didn't even care that there were children with us," said Ummid.

Rana, a local who first spotted the family, said, "They were clearly in shock. The children looked frightened and freezing. We immediately called the BGB."

What happened to this family is not an isolated case.

Several Bangladeshi nationals have alleged that Indian authorities tortured them prior to pushing them across the border.

A 45-year-old woman, requesting anonymity, said she had been living in India for the last 10 years.

On May 10, she and her husband were detained and taken to a Delhi police station along with 46 others.

"They kept us in custody for the next three days without food or water. Then they drove us to the border and pushed us across the fence around 3:00am," said the woman.

Since May 7, at least 1,053 individuals have been pushed into Bangladesh from India through different border points, according to a statement from BGB headquarters.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

The curious case of imposter at BB

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank has recently discovered through a probe that the joint director of its Rajshahi office, who has been serving the central bank for 12 years under the name of Md Abdul Waresh Ansary, is actually an imposter.

The real Ansary, who is now the additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Narayanganj district, was unaware of the situation until yesterday, when Bangladesh Bank informed him that someone had been impersonating him at the central bank.

The ADC said he had passed both the 31st Bangladesh Civil Service exam and Bangladesh Bank's assistant director recruitment exam in 2013.

"I preferred joining the civil service. I had no idea that someone was serving at Bangladesh Bank using my credentials," he said.

He added that the central bank might have been tracking the fraud for some time.

"Some ID-based scrutiny might have uncovered the fraud."

Bangladesh Bank has conducted an investigation into the matter, said Arefi Hussain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank.

The investigation found that the imposter joined Bangladesh Bank as an assistant director

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Couple, 2 others murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people, including a married couple, were killed in separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

In Pallabi, a man and his wife were stabbed to death in their home.

The victims were identified as Pappu, 34, and his wife, Dola, 29, a private university student.

Police have detained a suspect, Gaus Miya, in connection with the double murder.

Quoting neighbours, Pallabi Police Station Officer in Charge Shafiqul Islam said Gaus entered the couple's home around 1:00pm and stabbed them.

Locals rushed in after hearing screams, detained the attacker at the scene, and handed him over to police.

Saleh Mohammad Zakaria, additional deputy commissioner of Pallabi Zone, said Dola was living in the Mirpur-11 flat as a sublet, while her husband stayed in Barguna for work. He would occasionally visit her there.

Gaus Miya, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in Saudi Arabia, confessed to the crime, said ADC Zakaria.

Based on the detainee's confession, police said the murder happened over an

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