

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in Indian territory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Indian territory near the Dattagram border outpost (BOP) in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar on Saturday.

The incident took place around 7:30pm near the border Pillar 1852/M in Debjpur area, under the jurisdiction of Kailashahar Police Station of Tripura's Unakoti district, said Lt Col ASM Zakaria, commander of the Border Guard Bangladesh 46 Battalion, in a press release issued yesterday.

The deceased is Pradeep Baidya, 22, a resident of Nishchintapur village in Sharifpur union of Kulaura upazila, said Azizul Haque Darud, a member of the Sharifpur Union Parishad.

The body of the deceased has been kept at Kailashahar Hospital in Tripura. BGB 46 Battalion is maintaining regular communication with BSF to facilitate the repatriation of the victim's body, according to the press release.

Additionally, BGB is preparing to send a protest letter to the BSF. Information is being gathered in relation to the deceased's entry into India and the circumstances surrounding the shooting, the press release stated.

Hasina charged with crimes against humanity

FROM PAGE 1

the tribunal, originally set up in 2010 to try the 1971 war crimes.

The prosecutors produced 8,747 pages of documents and testimonies from 81 witnesses along with 135 pages detailing the formal charges.

The charges state that 1,500 people were killed and 25,000 others wounded during the protests in July and August last year when the law enforcers expended 3,00,011 rounds of ammunition.

Evidence also includes drone and CCTV footage, audio clips of telephone conversations, forensic reports of digital evidence, confessional statements, photographs and videos on social media and news outlets, reports from national and international organisations, and official documents from state agencies.

Audio clips include two phone conversations from July 16 and July 18 between Hasina and former Dhaka South mayor Fazle Noor Taposh, and another between Hasina and former Dhaka University vice chancellor Maksud Kamal in which Hasina said she had instructed the use of lethal weapons to kill the protesters, according to evidence submitted to the court.

This case began with a complaint to the investigation agency on August 14 last year against Hasina. The first investigation officer, Jane Alam Khan, was later replaced by Alamir Hossain who submitted the probe report on May 12.

Amid tight security, the tribunal judges walked into a packed courtroom at 12:10pm. For the first time in the country, the proceeding was broadcast live on TV.

There was a bit of anxiety as well, since two crude bombs went off at 5:50am outside the court. The police recovered a third bomb that did not go off.

THE CHARGES

Count 1 accuses the defendants of murder, attempted murder, torture, and other inhumane acts. They are accused of abetting, inciting, facilitating, being complicit in, and failing to prevent these crimes committed against civilians by law enforcement and armed cadres of the Awami League and its affiliates.

This count specifies that following Hasina's July 14 press briefing, former home minister Asaduzzaman, former IGP Mamun, and other high officials of the then government abetted, assisted, and were complicit in the severe and systematic attack on innocent, unarmed students and masses.

In count 2, Hasina is accused of ordering the use of drones and helicopters along with lethal weapons to subdue protesters. The prosecution charged Asaduzzaman and Mamun with facilitating and executing this directive by instructing law enforcers.

This count charges the defendants with ordering, facilitating, being complicit in, and conspiring to commit crimes against humanity, knowingly and systematically.

Count 3 accuses the defendants in the murder of Abu Sayed, a student



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus poses for a photo with China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, and BIDA Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, among other dignitaries, at the China-Bangladesh Conference on Trade and Investment held at the BIDA office yesterday. Story on Page 12.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur.

Hasina is accused of making inflammatory remarks and ordering the use of deadly weapons against protesting students.

The two other defendants then, along with senior government officials, allegedly instigated, aided, and were complicit in the actions of their subordinate law enforcement personnel and armed Awami League cadres.

As part of the widespread and systematic attack on unarmed student protesters, on July 16, police shot Sayed several times without provocation. The defendants ordered, incited, abetted, facilitated, were complicit and conspired to commit crimes against humanity.

Count 4 accuses the defendants over the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The charges accuse Hasina of making inflammatory remarks and ordering the use of deadly weapons against student protesters. In response, the former home minister

said that this was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

'SYSTEMATIC ATROCITIES'

In his opening presentation before the tribunal, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam described the July-August 2024 atrocities in Bangladesh as a "blood-soaked chapter of history" that left the nation and the world stunned.

He accused the defendants of unleashing the state machinery to commit widespread, systematic atrocities -- murders, torture, and enforced disappearances.

Tajul said the uprising, dubbed "Monsoon Revolution", arose from years of political repression and human rights abuses. He said the accused, alongside state forces and political affiliates of the AL, coordinated an extermination campaign across the country.

"This trial is not merely a domestic



Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam reading out the charges at the tribunal yesterday.

and former IGP, along with other senior government officials at the time, allegedly instigated, aided, and were complicit in the actions carried out by their subordinate law enforcement personnel and armed Awami League cadres.

The prosecutors said the atrocities in Chankharpul were carried out on the defendants' orders, and with incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity.

In count 5, the defendants are accused in the shooting of six student protesters, five of whom were killed and burned, while the sixth was reportedly set on fire while still alive, in Ashulia on August 5 last year.

Hasina is accused of making inflammatory remarks and ordering the use of deadly weapons against student protesters. Following this directive, the defendants, along with other senior government officials at the time, allegedly instigated, facilitated, and were complicit in the actions carried out by their subordinate law enforcement personnel and armed Awami League cadres.

issue of Bangladesh. The crimes against humanity committed in July-August 2024 are also prosecutable under International Human Rights Law, the Rome Statute of the ICC, and the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973 of Bangladesh," he said.

Paying tribute to the victims of the July uprising, Tajul said, "This trial is not a pursuit of vengeance.

"We aim to prove that in a civilised society, where democracy and the rule of law prevail, genocide and crimes against humanity cannot be tolerated. In a country where justice exists, no one can stand above the law, no one will be above the law."

He also said, "We seek a trial that is impartial, evidence-based, and grounded in justice."

Two other prosecutors, Mizanul Islam and Abdus Sobhan Tarafdar, also read out parts of the formal charges that provided the historical background spanning five decades and added context to the trial, while Tajul read out the charges and took the opportunity to stress that Awami League, its affiliates and alliance partners were involved in these crimes. He said this was sufficient cause to recognise them as criminal organisations.

A budget without illusions

FROM PAGE 1

One critical area long left in the margins is unemployment. It deserves more attention from this government than ever before, as it aligns with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's vision for zero unemployment. For decades, the economy has grown -- but without growing jobs. It has built roads, buildings, and bridges, yet left millions without meaningful work.

A job scarce economy took shape in the shadows of progress, quietly eroding dignity and hope. Now, that silence can no longer be ignored. It is time -- long past time -- to confront the scourge of unemployment as a central test of the country's economic vision. Growth that does not employ is growth that forgets its people.

"A growing disconnect between the skills imparted by our education system and the requirements of the private sector continues to limit employment opportunities," said Selim Raifan, a professor of economics at Dhaka University. "At the same time, a significant portion of the workforce remains trapped in the informal sector, where job security and benefits are minimal or absent," he added.

The budget arrives at a moment when the political skies are overcast. Optimism is being tempered by uncertainty, as political parties continue to seek clarity on the election timeline. Discontent has begun to ripple outward.

Protests broke out at the National Board of Revenue over an IMF-backed ordinance, disrupting operations in the final stretch before budget day. Demonstrations hit the Dhaka South City Corporation over control of the mayoral office. Another wave of protest swept through the secretariat over yet another ordinance. All of it -- almost simultaneously.

NO FANTASY

In his pre recorded speech, Ahmed won't peddle GDP fantasies. No rosy projections -- at least not this year. The government's growth forecast, 5.5 percent, lags behind even the IMF's cautious estimate. There will be no more chasing growth at any cost, no more hollow boasts.

Last week, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics released its provisional estimate, and it confirmed what many feared. The economy in the current fiscal year grew just 3.97 percent, the slowest pace since the pandemic year. The slowdown came from within: agriculture.

Still, there's a big number on the table: Bangladesh's GDP is expected

to cross \$500 billion in the new fiscal year. Many will greet the estimate with scepticism, but in a year defined by restraint, it remains a milestone worth acknowledging.

Behind these numbers is a deeper story: a country in the midst of an economic reset. For the first time in years, the budget is being shaped by economic necessity, not political whims.

But some economists have voiced concern that the interim government has yet to design a clear roadmap for economic recovery. In their view, the numbers may be sober, even honest, but without direction, they risk drifting. A budget, they argue, is more than an annual ledger. It can be a moment, perhaps the best moment, to set out a coherent strategy for rebuilding, reforming and reimagining the economy.

The metrics of judgment will shift this year. Will subsidies continue? Only for food and agricultural inputs. Will infrastructure spending surge? Not likely. The focus will shift to what the rural economy needs, not what cities want.

"The government would do well to prioritise investment in labour-intensive sectors such as agro-processing, light engineering and ICT. A robust employment strategy that supports SMEs, promotes entrepreneurship, and expands access to vocational and technical training could make a meaningful difference," Raifan said.

And taxes? Ahmed's message leaves little room for ambiguity. "I'm in the mood to end every exemption," he said at an event on May 18. The age of selective generosity may be drawing to a close.

This government will not be judged by promises, but by the progress it makes on reforms. And reforms are never gentle. In the banking sector, the central bank acted swiftly, stamping out the first flames before they could swell into a full-blown inferno. Holding reckless banks to account requires more than policy -- it demands quiet resolve. In this, Bangladesh Bank passed its first true test.

Now, this administration will aim to ensure stability in the financial sector and reduce inflation. With that foundation, the forthcoming budget will prioritise social sectors to boost employment and inclusive growth.

Amid rising food prices and intensifying climate shocks, the government also plans to expand

Ride-sharing biker sent to jail over rape of passenger

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A Narsingdi court yesterday sent a man to jail after he was arrested in connection with the rape of a woman on May 28.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Meshkat Islam sent Shah Poran, 30, a ride-sharing biker, to jail after recording his confessional statement, said Md Anwar Hossain, additional superintendent of Narsingdi police (Sadar Circle).

He said Poran of Dhaka's Keraniganj was arrested early yesterday by Narsingdi police after the woman filed a case with Palash Police Station on May 29 against Poran and two others.

According to the case statement, she got on a ride-sharing motorcycle from the capital's Mirpur I2 on May 28 to visit a doctor in Shyamoli.

After wearing the helmet Poran gave her, she started to lose consciousness. Poran then took her to Palash upazila in Narsingdi and raped her, it added.

Police rescued the victim and took her to a hospital after receiving a call on the national emergency hotline 999, said ASP Anwar.

He said police were trying to identify and arrest the two other suspects.

Second round of talks with parties begins today

FROM PAGE 1

electoral system, public administration, and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The first phase of discussions, held between February 15 and May 19, involved meetings with 33 political parties.

Major political parties have reached consensus on a wide range of reforms, yet divisions persisted over some key issues during the first round of meetings.

Parties agreed to reinstate the non-partisan caretaker government system, though disputes remain over its formation and tenure, and the mechanism for appointing the chief

adviser.

There is also alignment on forming a bicameral legislature with a 100-strong upper house and granting the deputy speaker role to the opposition, regardless of the structure of the parliament.

The method of electing upper house members, such as via proportional representation or the traditional voting system, remains unresolved, while some parties still prefer the current unicameral system.

Parties are split over imposing term limits on the prime minister.

They are divided over the proposal to limit the powers of the prime

minister, specifically barring any individual from simultaneously holding the posts of prime minister, party chief, and Leader of the House.

Political parties are also sharply divided over the proposed formation of a "National Constitutional Council" to oversee key appointments and legal standards. Parties disagreed on the constitutional council's composition and powers.

While parties broadly agree on elevating "equality, human dignity, social justice, and democracy" as state principles, the term "pluralism" as a fundamental principle of the constitution failed to gain consensus.

We were protesting peacefully, but police attacked us

Say female protesters from 'Tathyapa' project; demand job regularisation and arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday dispersed a group of women protesters near Kakrail Mosque in Dhaka, as they attempted to march towards the chief adviser's residence, demanding job regularisation and payment of pending salaries and allowances under the government's "Tathyapa" project.

The protesters, who had been on a hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club since May 28, began marching towards the Jamuna around 11:00am yesterday.

Despite police resistance at the press club, they moved forward due to the absence of female officers. Around 12:30pm, they were intercepted again near Kakrail Mosque by police, including female personnel.

A scuffle broke out, followed by a brief baton charge, according to witnesses.

"We were protesting peacefully without blocking roads, but police attacked us. A dozen were injured, including



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A scuffle broke out between police and a group of women protesters yesterday near Kakrail Mosque in Dhaka, as police dispersed them when they attempted to march towards the chief adviser's residence. They have been demonstrating since May 28, demanding job regularisation and payment of pending salaries and allowances under the government's "Tathyapa" project.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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JULY ATROCITIES No permission needed to arrest FIR accused: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld till further order a High Court decision that cleared the way for the law enforcers to arrest any FIR-named accused or suspects without permission from the higher authorities in connection with the cases filed over the July uprising.

The SC also asked the HC to dispose of the rule that asked the government to explain why the DMP commissioner's order over this issue should not be declared illegal.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury passed the order following a petition filed by the government challenging the HC order.

Following the SC order, law enforcers can arrest any FIR-named accused or suspects without permission from the higher authorities in connection with the cases filed over the July uprising, petitioner Advocate Md Jasim Uddin told The Daily Star.

PRAYER TIMING					
JUNE 2					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrab	Esha	
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:45	8:15	

JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Implement health reform proposals without delay'

Experts call for addressing shortcomings in commission's report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts and campaigners yesterday urged the government to begin implementing the recommendations of the Health Sector Reform Commission to bring about major positive changes.

They acknowledged that the commission's report may have some shortcomings that can be addressed, but stressed the need to start acting on feasible measures -- particularly the enactment and amendment of key laws -- without delay.

A member of the commission also said efforts are underway to correct the errors in the report.

The remarks came during a discussion titled "Health Reforms: Review of Commission Recommendations and Way Forward", held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the capital.

The event was organised by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum, with support from Unicef.

The commission submitted its report last month, recommending an overhaul of the health sector. Key proposals included making primary healthcare a constitutional obligation and providing it free of cost to ensure universal access.

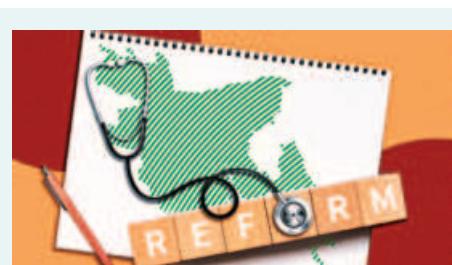
The report also called for the formation of an independent and permanent Bangladesh Health Commission to develop essential policies and strategies. It further recommended the separation of health services by restructuring the current health cadre.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC and convener of the UHC Forum, said the post-report phase is crucial, especially in a country where progress is rarely linear.

He said implementation of some achievable actions that could trigger significant change should begin immediately.

"We can launch a movement demanding that primary healthcare be made a constitutional right by 2025," Zillur said.

He also stressed the need for social validation and collective ownership, urging the Health Sector Reform Commission and



Implementation of some achievable actions that could trigger significant change should begin immediately. We can launch a movement demanding that primary healthcare be made a constitutional right by 2025.

Hossain Zillur Rahman

civil society to jointly develop a priority action agenda for 2025.

In addition, he called for a feedback mechanism based on user experience and community input.

Prof Abul Kalam Azad, former director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, said the interim government should urgently do two things -- amend the

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BNP to win two-thirds majority if polls held in Dec

Says Khandaker Mosharraf; Farroque alleges conspiracy underway to eliminate BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said many within the government privately acknowledge that if elections are held in December, the BNP would secure a two-thirds majority.

He made the remarks while speaking at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the 44th death anniversary of party founder Ziaur Rahman.

Referring to BNP's meeting with the chief adviser on May 24, Mosharraf said there was no clear explanation as to why the polls would be held between January and June.

"February-March will be spent on fasting and Eid. April-May will have public exams, and June will be the monsoon season. So, elections are possible in December; the government should announce the date within this month," he said.

"The interim government will have to leave at some point. We think that if they leave by December, it would be possible for them to leave with dignity. There can be no greater honour than this. If there is a delay, conspiracies will arise, leading to uncertainty about when the elections will take place."

If the elections are delayed, the conspiracies of the fugitive autocrat will intensify, he said, adding that some signs of this are already visible.

Mosharraf said the BNP was disappointed by the chief adviser's remarks made during his visit to Japan.

"Apparently, only the BNP wants elections. Who doesn't want elections?"

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NAT'L EYE HOSPITAL Services remain halted for 5th day



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All medical services at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka remained suspended for the fifth consecutive day yesterday, leaving many patients without care.

Earlier on Saturday, the health ministry in a statement said it was working to resume the hospital's services. However, no visible steps were taken till yesterday.

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Nagar Bhaban stays locked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain, along with a significant number of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) employees, yesterday continued their sit-in in front of the Nagar Bhaban, demanding Ishraque's formal appointment as mayor without further delay.

The protest, which began around 10:00am, saw a large gathering of Ishraque's supporters and members of the DSCC employees union on the premises of the city corporation headquarters.

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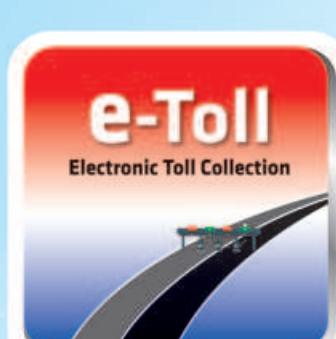
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দিন-মাত্র 24 ঘণ্টা যে কোন কোণ থেকে

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সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ
সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয়



ডাচ-বাংলা রচান্ত
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

bti-Star honours 2 stellar women

STAR REPORT

The idea for Stellar Women was conceived in 2023 from a simple thought -- that women's efforts often go unnoticed, rarely receiving the recognition they deserve.

This led to a collaboration with the country's leading English daily, The Daily Star, to launch bti-The Daily Star Stellar Women -- a unique initiative to celebrate and honour young women from diverse backgrounds for their outstanding contributions to society. The inaugural season spotlighted 12 exceptional women across a variety of fields.

The second season of the initiative began in September 2024, with the first two awards presented in November. Recently, an intimate announcement ceremony was held at bti Celebration Point in Gulshan-2, Dhaka, where two more exemplary women were honoured for their achievements.

Artist and architect Papia Sarwar Dithi moved the judges with her evocative art, while engineer Nusrat Nur Maisha received the award in the "Engineering (Civil, Structural, Water Resource & MEP)" category, recognised for her dedication and impressive track record of completing over 50 projects early in her career.

This season has introduced several new categories, reflecting the initiative's growing commitment to recognising women from all walks of life -- especially those whose contributions are often overlooked.

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The stellar duo -- engineer Nusrat Nur Maisha, left, and architect and artist Papia Sarwar Dithi, right, -- with FR Khan, bti's managing director, at a ceremony at the bti Celebration Point in Gulshan-2, Dhaka recently. The two women were honoured for their creative brilliance and remarkable contributions to their fields. PHOTO: STAR

MoU signed to build country's first monorail in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The country's first monorail is set to be constructed in Chattogram in a bid to ease the port city's traffic congestion.

The city corporation signed a memorandum of understanding with Orascom Group and Arab Contractors Group, a joint venture between German and Egyptian companies, yesterday at the World Trade Center in the city.

The event was attended by the City Mayor Shahadat Hossain, top officials from the financing organisations, as well as representatives from Chattogram's business community and civil society.

Following the signing of the MoU, Orascom and Arab Contractors Group will conduct a feasibility study in the city.

A monorail is a modern rail system that is around 40 percent more cost-effective than a metro rail. It requires less land and can be implemented through existing structures. A monorail runs on a single rail, typically with one wheel. It can be constructed and made operational within two to two-and-a-half years.

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO.856 of 2025
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under section 228 read with section 229 of the Companies Act, 1994.
IN THE MATTER OF:
1. Seven Circle (Bangladesh) Limited.
2. Shun Shing Power Limited. -----Transferee-Petitioner
-----Transferor-Petitioner
-VERSUS-

1. The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
-----Respondent

Notice is given to all concerned that the petitioners filed an application under section 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 before the High Court Division of Bangladesh for amalgamation of Shun Shing Power Limited with Seven Circle (Bangladesh) Limited. Upon hearing the application, the Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel admitted the application on 21.05.2025 and directed both the petitioners to convene meetings of the members and the creditors for their consideration and approval of the draft Scheme of Amalgamation and directed to file an affidavit in compliance within 3 months from date.

That in compliance with the court order an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the members of Seven Circle (Bangladesh) Limited and Shun Shing Power Limited shall be held on 25.06.2025 at 9 AM and 11.30 AM respectively at their registered addresses to discuss and approve the draft Scheme of Amalgamation. All the members of the petitioners companies are requested to attend the Meeting.

That a separate meeting with the creditors of Seven Circle (Bangladesh) Limited and Shun Shing Power Limited shall also be held on 25.06.2025 at 3 PM and 4.30 PM respectively at their registered addresses to discuss and approve the draft Scheme of Amalgamation. All the creditors of the petitioners companies are hereby requested to attend the meetings.

Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either himself or through his lawyer. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

(Mohammad Ariful Islam)

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No. 401(Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01713033898, 01886033898.

CHATTOGRAM GENERAL HOSPITAL No working ventilators at ICU for 3 months

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Chattogram General Hospital (CGH) has been running without a single ventilator for over three months, failing to provide full-fledged services to critical patients.

Of the hospital's 22 ventilators, none are currently operational. Meanwhile, only five out of 27 BiPAP (bilevel positive airway pressure) machines are functional.

There is already an acute shortage of ICU facilities in Chattogram, with the service available in only two government hospitals -- Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and CGH -- and a handful of private hospitals. Of these, CMCH and CGH offer the service almost free of cost, while private hospitals charge around Tk 10,000-20,000 per day.

As a result, the ICU at the 250-bed CGH is usually overwhelmed with critical patients. However, over the past three months, the hospital has not been admitting such patients due to the non-functional ventilators.

Many patients, especially from low and middle-income backgrounds, are being compelled to



bear the financial burden of availing ICU facilities at private hospitals.

"A ventilator is an integral part of ICU that helps patients breathe when they are unable to do so on their own. It works by pushing oxygen-rich air into the lungs, either through a breathing tube inserted into the windpipe or a mask," said Dr Harunur Rashid, ICU expert and head of Anesthesia and ICU at CMCH.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found most ICU beds at CGH vacant. Four patients were admitted to the 10-bed ICU-1, while the eight-bed ICU-2 was closed.

"My brother is a patient of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Recently his condition deteriorated, so we admitted him to the hospital. However, the doctors said he needs ventilation, which is unavailable here at present. So, he will need to be shifted to another hospital. Availing an ICU bed at CMCH is extremely difficult, while we can't afford the cost in private hospitals. I honestly don't know what we should do," said Rashed Mahmud, an attendant of a patient at CGH.

Dr Moumita Das, a consultant at

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Nagar Bhaban stays

FROM PAGE 3

The operations at the Nagar Bhaban remains at a standstill, severely disrupting public services and causing inconvenience to the residents of Dhaka. The main gates of the building also remained locked yesterday.

Beginning on May 14, the demonstration has shown no signs of slowing.

Under the banner

of "Dhakabashi", the protesters marched within the compound and returned to the gates chanting slogans and demanding that Ishraque be handed the DSCC charge.

Mashirul Rahman, a former secretary and chief coordinator of the protest, told The Daily Star, "We will not leave until the people's mayor, Ishraque Hossain, is handed over charge."

TO-LET in KHULNA
Independent 1.5-storied house on 17-katha land having 7500 sft. floor area and 15 car parking. Foreign/ Multinational Org. preferred. Contact: 01777881122, 01711507243

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

Expression of Interest (EOI)

MJL Bangladesh PLC. (MJLBPLC) requires new installation of complete Fire safety system (Fire suppression, Fire protection, and Fire detection systems), Electric system setup (Substation, HT-LT cabling & relevant equipment), Diesel generator (with all accessories) HVAC (VRF and exhaust system) and Plumbing at its Kathgar, Chattogram Project till commissioning & handover.

The project needs to be completed within 2 months, therefore sufficient sourcing of equipment & items, man power engagement, necessary certification & sanction works till completion from relevant Govt. offices (if required), etc. are mandatory within limited timeline. Only firms having minimum of ten (10) years' working experience in relevant fields who have successfully completed at least twenty (20) similar projects under Government / Semi-government / Bank / Insurance / Corporate Houses / NGO are eligible to apply mentioning their area of expertise or the types of works mentioned above they are willing to undertake.

Reputable firms interested in this project are requested to submit a forwarding letter as an **Expression of Interest** along with company profile mentioning experience in similar field, track record, client list, available manpower, import and shipment handling capabilities, detailed equipment resources and financial capabilities.

Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below by June 30, 2025.

MJL Bangladesh PLC.
Mobil House, CWS (A) 13/A, Gulshan Avenue
Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Sarak, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.

Attention: Engr. Mir Md. Mazedul Hussain, Manager-Electrical and Maintenance.

Please note that this notice does not constitute a solicitation and MJLBPLC reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or submitted proposals. Parties shortlisted as a result of this EOI will be invited for offer submission.



Housing & Building Research Institute
120/3 Darus-Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.

Memo No: HBRI/SRE(Procure)/2024-25/08

Date: 01-06-2025

Corrigendum notice of Invitation For Tender for supply of security service for Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI)

All concerned are hereby requested to follow the correction for the tender notice HBRI/SRE(Procure)/2024-25/06, Dated:06/05/2025 as per following status. All other terms & conditions of the tender will be remained unchanged.

Original date & Duration					Revised date & Duration				
Time frame of service	Tender Document last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time for Tender Submission	Tender Opening Date & Time	Tender validity period	Time frame of service	Tender Document last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time for Tender Submission	Tender Opening Date & Time	Tender validity period
01 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	03/06/2025, 05:00 p.m.	04/06/2025, 02:30 p.m.	04/06/2025, 03:00 p.m.	60 days	01 January 2026 to 31 December 2026	29/06/2025, 05:00 p.m.	30/06/2025, 02:30 p.m.	30/06/2025, 03:00 p.m.	120 days

N.B: This corrigendum notice will be part of tender document

(Md Ibnu Warah)
Senior Research Engineer (A.C.)
Housing and Building Research
Institute (HBRI), Dhaka.

GD-1334



PHOTO: PRAIRIE DAS

Palli Bidyut Samity workers continue protest for 12th day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers under the banner of the Bangladesh Palli Bidyut Association continued their demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka for the 12th consecutive day yesterday.

They began the demonstration on May 20, demanding a unified service rule for the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB) and the 80 Palli Bidyut Samitys across the country. They also demanded the removal of the chairman of REB.

However, they said the emergency power supply would not be affected due to their programme.

As per their prior announcement, they started the countrywide work abstention starting from May 27.

Other demands include the withdrawal of cases filed by REB against dismissed employees and their reinstatement, regularisation of casual jobs such as readers and messengers, an end to "harassing and punitive transfers", fixing of working hours and shift schedules, and formation of an interim board to carry out reform activities.

PROTESTING GOVT ORDINANCE Secretariat staff submit memoranda to three advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretariat employees submitted memoranda to three advisers of the interim government yesterday, protesting the recently enforced Government Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, which allows termination of government staff without departmental proceedings.

The memoranda were handed over to Food Adviser Ali Imam Majumder, Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, and Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan at their respective offices.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Nazrul Islam, a prominent leader of the Secretariat employees, said the food adviser urged employees to uphold the dignity of the highest administrative office and assured them that their concerns would be conveyed to the highest levels of government.

"He told us, I have noted your concerns. Please ensure you adhere to official rules and procedures," Nazrul quoted the adviser as saying.

Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan reportedly agreed with many of the concerns raised and suggested the employees identify specific clauses in the ordinance that could be reviewed, while cautioning that any amendment must avoid further complications, Nazrul said.

MANARAT DHAKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE (MDIC)
Plot (CEN) # 16, Road # 104, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, www.manaratcollege.edu.bd

JOB VACANCY

Ref: MDIC/AO/F-43(Recruitment-2025)/01
Applications are invited to fill up following vacancies:

Subject Teacher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al-Quran • Arabic & Islamic Studies • Computer Science Salary: 42,000/- (Consolidated)	Assistant Purchase Officer Salary: 38,000/- (Consolidated)	Lab Assistant (Computer Lab) Salary: 31,000/- (Consolidated)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • English Salary: Negotiable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV Technician • Junior Storekeeper Salary: 25,000/- (Consolidated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Assistant (Website maintenance) • Office Assistant • Security Supervisor (Male) Office Support Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messenger • Peon • Sister (Aya) Salary: 23,000/- (Consolidated)
Junior Teacher (Female) Salary: 40,000/- (Consolidated)		

Interested candidates are requested to visit the MDIC website www.manaratcollege.edu.bd for detail terms and conditions with instructions to apply.

Application should reach this office by 19 June 2025

Mohd. S. M. Mahbub-Ul-Alam, OSP, SGP, ndc, psc (retd)
Principal, MDIC

GD-1334

'All I think about is Gaza' War weighs heavy on hajj pilgrims

AFP, Makkah

Away from home in Gaza, Palestinian pilgrim Mohammed Shehade said the rare chance he was given to perform hajj is overshadowed by fears for his family trapped in the war-battered territory.

The 38-year-old engineer had been granted a permit to leave as he sought life-saving cancer treatment in Egypt, but Israeli authorities barred his family from accompanying him.

He said his departure from the Gaza Strip in February presented him with "the opportunity of a lifetime" to apply for the annual Muslim pilgrimage, which begins on Wednesday.

But even as he visited the holy sites in the Saudi city of Makkah, his heart was heavy with thoughts of his wife and four children stuck in Gaza under relentless bombardment.

"This is life's greatest suffering, to be far away from your family," Shehade told AFP on a roadside leading to Makkah's Grand Mosque.

He is among hundreds of Gazans set to perform Islam's holiest rites alongside more than a million worshippers from across the globe.



As pilgrims robed in white filed by, Shehade said he had been praying day and night for the Gaza war to end and to be reunited with his family.

"You could be in the best place in the world but if you are away from your family, you will never be happy," he said.

Leaving Gaza has become practically impossible for most inhabitants, but some like Shehade have been evacuated on medical grounds.

"Here I am preparing to perform hajj but there are things I can't speak about. If I do I will cry," he said as tears began to form in his eyes.

Shehade left Gaza during a truce, but Israel has since renewed its intense bombing campaign and blocked aid deliveries, with the United Nations warning of widespread famine.

"When I left I was caught between two fires," Shehade said of the choice to travel for an essential surgery and leave his family behind.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 4,149 people have been killed in the territory since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, taking the war's overall deaths toll to 54,418, mostly civilians.

India's Covid cases rise over 1,200pc in a week

4 deaths reported

NDTV ONLINE

The number of active Covid-19 cases in India has crossed 3,000, with Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi being the worst-hit states in the latest wave.

According to the data available on the official website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there are 3,395 active Coronavirus cases in the country as of Saturday morning, a rise of about 1,200 percent from last week.

India had 257 active cases on May 22 and 1,010 by May 26. The country reported 685 new coronavirus cases between Friday and Saturday, along with four deaths, the data showed.

Kerala, the worst hit state in India, reported 189 new Covid cases on Friday, and has 1,336 active infections, according to the data.

It is followed by Maharashtra (467), Delhi (375), Gujarat (265), Karnataka (234), West Bengal (205), Tamil Nadu (185) and Uttar Pradesh (117).

Rajasthan (60), Puducherry (41), Haryana (26), Andhra Pradesh (17) and Madhya Pradesh (16) are other states that are seeing an uptick in Covid cases. The data also showed that India has reported 26 deaths this year.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has said the genome sequencing of samples in the west and south has shown that the new variants are sub-variants of Omicron, a strain that was behind the big Covid wave in India in 2022.

2 bridges in Russia collapse in 'blasts'

7 dead; Moscow treats the incidents near Ukraine border as 'acts of terrorism'; Ukraine attacks Russian nuke-capable bombers in Siberia



AFP, Moscow

The overnight collapse of two bridges in Russian regions bordering Ukraine that killed seven people were caused by explosions, Russian officials said yesterday, treating them as "acts of terrorism".

In Russia's Bryansk region bordering Ukraine, a blast caused a road bridge to collapse onto a railway line late Saturday, derailing a passenger train heading to Moscow and killing seven people, authorities said.

A separate rail bridge in the neighbouring Kursk region was blown up hours later in the early hours yesterday, derailing a freight train and injuring the driver.

Authorities did not say who was behind the explosions, but investigators said a criminal inquiry was underway. Russian President Vladimir Putin was briefed on the incidents throughout the night, the Kremlin said.

Meanwhile, a Russian missile strike on a Ukrainian army training area killed at least 12 soldiers and wounded dozens more yesterday, Kyiv said, in a rare admission of its military losses.

Videos posted on social media from the Bryansk region showed rescuers clambering

over the mangled chassis of a train belonging to national operator Russian Railways, while screams could be heard in another video.

"There are seven dead as a result of the collapse of a bridge onto railway tracks," Alexander Bogomaz, the Bryansk region's governor, wrote on Telegram.

At least 71 people were injured, 44 of whom were in hospital, he told reporters.

In the incident in the Kursk region, a rail bridge collapsed onto a road, derailing a freight train.

"Last night... in the Zheleznogorsk district, a bridge collapsed while a freight locomotive was passing. Part of the train fell onto the road below the bridge," Kursk region governor Alexander Khinshten said on Telegram.

Meanwhile, Ukraine attacked Russian nuclear-capable long-range bombers at a military base in Siberia yesterday, the first such attack so far from the front lines more than 4,300 km away, according to pro-Russian bloggers.

Unverified video and pictures posted on social media showed Russian strategic bombers - whose purpose is to drop nuclear bombs on distance targets - on fire at the Belya air base north of Irkutsk.

STRICKEN WARSHIP N Korea deploys mystery balloon-like objects

CNN ONLINE

New satellite images show North Korea has deployed what appear to be balloons alongside its damaged 5,000-tonne warship that has been laying on its side and partially submerged since a botched launch last week.

While the purpose of the objects is unclear, experts told CNN they could be used to help get the ship back upright, or protect it from the prying eyes of drones.

The stricken destroyer was the country's newest warship and was meant to be a triumph of North Korea's ambitious naval modernization effort. Instead, a malfunction in the launch mechanism on May 21 caused the stern to slide prematurely into the water, crushing parts of the hull and leaving the bow stranded on the shipway, state media KCNA reported, in a rare admission of bad news.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Motijheel PWD Division
Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
Phone : 02-22226721

Memo No. T-Moti/3296

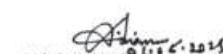
Date: 01-06-2025

e-GP Re-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below :

SI No.	Tender ID	Tender Closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
1	I122554	15-Jun-2025 12:00	15-Jun-2025 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, 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 online through any Schedule Bank up to mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Abdullah Al Mamun
Executive Engineer
Motijheel PWD Division
Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

GD-1338



Demonstrators lie on the ground covered with white sheets as they take part in a protest performance in support of the Palestinian people of Gaza, under the slogan "Stop genocide, Break with Israel now!" in the Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Iran warns of retaliation if Europe misuses UN nuke report

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday warned it would retaliate if European powers that have threatened to reimpose nuclear sanctions "exploit" a UN report showing Tehran has stepped up production of highly enriched uranium.

The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iran had sharply increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 60 percent, close to the roughly 90 percent level needed for atomic weapons.

Iran's total amount of enriched uranium now exceeds 45 times the limit authorised by a landmark 2015 agreement with world powers, and is estimated at 9,247.6 kilograms, according to the confidential IAEA report seen by AFP.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a statement he had told IAEA chief Rafael Grossi in a phone call that "Iran will respond to any inappropriate action by the European parties" to the 2015 agreement, referring to Britain, France and Germany.

The European trio have warned they could reimpose sanctions if they deemed

The report was leaked as Iran and the US have been engaged in talks towards a new deal

Iran's nuclear programme a threat to the continent's security.

Araghchi urged Grossi in their Saturday call to stop "parties from exploiting" the nuclear watchdog report "to advance their political objectives", according to the statement. The IAEA Board of Governors is set to review Iran's nuclear activities in its upcoming quarterly meeting in Vienna starting June 9.

Iran rejected the IAEA report, the latest move in years-long efforts to restrict its nuclear activities over fears that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

The Islamic republic has denied seeking nuclear arms and says it needs the uranium for civilian power production. The report was leaked as Iran and the United States have been engaged in negotiations towards a new nuclear deal.

EU MIGRANT CRISIS Over 1,100 crossed Channel on Saturday: UK data

AFP, London

Some 1,194 migrants arrived in the UK after crossing the Channel in small boats on Saturday, a record for this year according to AFP counting from government data.

It brings the overall number of migrant crossings this year to 14,808, an unprecedented figure despite several measures in place by the French and UK governments to curb the crossings.

French coastal authorities said they also rescued nearly 200 migrants between late Friday and late Saturday. The latest crossings, which UK Defence Secretary John Healey described as "shocking", fall short of the all-time record of 1,300 migrants arriving on small boats in a day in September 2022.

But they will still prove a headache for UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has been at pains to toughen his rhetoric on irregular immigration amid pressure from the far right to slash migrant numbers.

Trump pulls Musk ally's Nasa nomination

REUTERS, Washington

The White House withdrew on Saturday its nominee for Nasa administrator, Jared Isaacman, abruptly yanking a close ally of Elon Musk from consideration to lead the space agency.

President Donald Trump said he would announce a new candidate soon. "After a thorough review of prior associations, I am hereby withdrawing the nomination of Jared Isaacman to head Nasa," Trump wrote on his Truth Social site.

Isaacman, a billionaire private astronaut who had been Musk's pick to lead Nasa, was due next week for a much-delayed confirmation vote before the US Senate. His removal from consideration caught many in the space industry by surprise.

Smallholder Agriculture Competitiveness Project (SACP), BADC
Office of the Component Director
Ministry of Agriculture
Sech Bhaban, (6th Floor)
22, Manik mia Avenue, Shere bangla nagar, Dhaka-1207
E-mail: edsacp@bdc.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the component Director of smallholder Agriculture Competitiveness Project (SACP), BADC part, Ministry of Agriculture, Sech Bhaban, 22, Manik mia Avenue, Shere-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

SL No.	Description of the Tender	Tender ID No.	Tender Proposal Document last selling Date	Tender Proposal Closing & Opening Date	Last Date for Tender Proposal Security Submission
01.	Procurement of office Furniture for BADC Local & regional office in SACP.	1014984	15-Jun-2025 15:00 pm	16-Jun-2025 15:00 pm	15-Jun-2025 15:30 pm.
02.	Construction of On Farm Water Cattle Crossing/foot bridge/small Regulator etc. at any upazila in Project Area.	1117982	15-Jun-2025 15:00 pm	16-Jun-2025 15:00 pm	15-Jun-2025 15:30 pm.

বিএভিসি = ৩৪৪ (৪১৩)

GD-1335

RJ 05/06/2025

(Md. Rezaur Rahman)
Component Director
SACP, BADC P, Sech Bhaban, Dhaka

Coastal people need urgent support

Help those affected by rains, improve disaster preparedness

We are quite concerned about the sufferings of people in coastal regions as recent heavy rains and tidal surges have submerged many areas, following a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal. According to a preliminary assessment by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), seven out of 19 coastal districts experienced significant damage, with a significant portion of homes and infrastructure severely affected. At least two deaths have been reported, including a police officer who died when a trawler capsized in the Meghna River, leaving eight people missing.

While the depression has now weakened, light to moderate rainfall is expected across the country over the next few days, with further flooding anticipated in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, and Netrokona. In that case, there are also chances of landslides in areas like Chattogram. Against this backdrop, the government must make it a priority to provide immediate aid to the affected regions while also strengthening its preparedness for future disasters.

Among the more affected districts are Noakhali, Patuakhali, Bhola, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Barguna, and Barishal, which suffered from a combination of flooding, strong winds, and embankment breaches. People are still stranded across these districts, enduring food and water shortages. Meanwhile, thousands of homes have been destroyed, vast Aman seedbeds submerged, and many fish farms washed away. For instance, the fisheries sector in Barishal alone suffered an estimated Tk 45 crore in losses. In the Sundarbans, tidal surges contaminated freshwater ponds. In Khulna, a collapsed embankment near Harinkhola has left 15,000 residents in distress. Transportation has also been severely affected in all these regions as rains have caused severe waterlogging. In St Martin's Island, residents are struggling with food shortages and power outages due to boat service suspension.

The full extent of the damage will only be known after a complete assessment is conducted. However, based on our reports, we can assume that the economic loss caused by recent flooding would be huge and take time to recover. We, therefore, urge the government to take all necessary measures to address it. It must intensify efforts to assist affected communities and deploy teams to hard-to-reach areas with food, water, and medicine. Additionally, it should provide monetary assistance to crop and fish farmers who have lost their sources of income. Repairing breached embankments and building new ones, where necessary, should also be a top priority. As the monsoon season has just begun, we are likely to face more such calamities in the coming months. Our flood preparedness must therefore be more efficient so that both damage and suffering can be minimised.

Another absurd case over July atrocities

'Dead' man turning alive shows how such cases are being exploited

The extent to which the right to file cases has been exploited in the wake of the July uprising boggles the mind. It was only the other day that we commented on the questionable manner in which a 69-year-old former professor accused in an attempted murder case has been treated. The case—filed by a former Jagannath University Chhatra Dal leader who was injured in a clash at the height of the uprising—had several hallmarks of an exploitative case, including its lodging after about seven months since the alleged crime and mass listing of accused individuals (193 in total). Yet she was singled out, arrested, denied bail, and sent to jail. As we try to process the role likely played by police and magistrate courts in enabling such cases, we are again reminded of their absurdities by yet another case reported by this daily.

The victim this time, strange as it may seem, is an alive individual turned dead. According to our report, Md Selim, a grocer from Mymensingh's Phulbaria, was falsely declared dead in a murder case filed over the July uprising. Lodged by his elder brother, with two other brothers serving as witnesses, the case claims Selim was shot dead in Dhaka's Jatrabari on August 3. It also falsely implicated 41 people, including ousted PM Sheikh Hasina. Selim, who remains alive, is now fighting a surreal legal battle just to prove he exists, scurrying from office to office, facing social harassment, and fearing for his life as a potential murder would fit the narrative of his "death." The motive behind this case, as recent police investigations have uncovered, is a family dispute over inherited land. With Selim having no sons, his three brothers allegedly sought to seize his share by exploiting the chaos of the uprising to eliminate him, at least on paper.

That the legal system could be weaponised so easily for personal gain, and that such a bizarre case could progress as far as it did, speaks volumes about the merit of many of the cases filed over July atrocities. The incident also raises alarm about the integrity of those responsible for vetting or handling such cases. If an alive man can be shown as dead, and a 69-year-old widow arbitrarily jailed, how many other opportunistic or retaliatory cases have slipped through the cracks? We call on the authorities to urgently review all such politically or personally motivated cases, and hold to account those filing or enabling them. No one must be allowed to exploit the legal system.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Coronation of Elizabeth II

On this day in 1953, 27-year-old Elizabeth II, the elder daughter of King George VI, was crowned queen of the United Kingdom at Westminster Abbey. She was the longest serving British monarch.



EDITORIAL

Two questions, two ironies the budget must address



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

RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

In the forthcoming 2025-26 budget, two pressing questions warrant urgent attention: how to bolster domestic resource mobilisation and how to secure financing to mitigate post-Covid poverty and income losses. These questions are not merely fiscal but are deeply entwined with historical ironies and systemic failures that continue to haunt the nation's development trajectory. A third concern, whether the budget will offer a path out of the debt spiral, was discussed in this newspaper on May 25, 2025.

The first irony lies in the colonial legacy of resource extraction. During British rule, India was drained of 30-50 million pounds annually in the late 19th century, as estimated by economist Dadabhai Naoroji. Even during the Bengal Famine of 1943, which claimed millions of lives, Bengal remained a revenue engine for the empire, contributing 10-15 percent of British India's total tax income.

Today, Bangladesh, a post-colonial state, struggles with a tax-to-GDP ratio of 7.4 percent, far below South Asia's average of 10-12 percent and the global developing-country average. This reveals a stark paradox: a nation once exploited for its revenue now grapples with mobilising resources for its own people.

The second irony is embodied by Lord Beveridge, architect of the UK's post-World War II social security system, who was born in Rangpur. His birthplace remains one of the poorest regions, with a poverty rate of 24.8 percent—6.1 percentage points above the national average of 18.7 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. This juxtaposition underscores the failure to translate historical legacies into equitable policies.

The British established a centralised revenue system with salaried district collectors, replacing traditional intermediaries like zamindars with British-trained officials to ensure efficiency. Meticulous land surveys, cadastral mapping, and digitised records minimised corruption and enabled precise tax assessments. Over time, systems like the Permanent Settlement reduced intermediaries, allowing direct taxation of peasants. The British strategically monetised the economy through cash crop cultivation—indigo, opium, jute, and

tea. The strategies of administrative rigour, agrarian exploitation, and institutional coercion ensured revenue extraction for the coloniser, a contrast to the equitable system the post-colonial state now aspires to, as reminded by the July 2024 uprising.

The roots of failure lie in an economy dominated by patronage networks. Tax evasion and illicit financial flows cost the country Tk 226,000 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal



Bangladesh, a post-colonial state, struggles with a tax-to-GDP ratio of 7.4 percent, far below South Asia's average of 10-12 percent and the global developing-country average. This reveals a stark paradox: a nation once exploited for its revenue now grapples with mobilising resources for its people.

VISUAL: STAR

year, with corporate tax evasion alone accounting for half of the staggering loss, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Multinational corporations exacerbate this by siphoning off \$3.5 billion annually through abusive transfer pricing practices, according to the State of Tax Justice 2024 report.

The regressive nature of Bangladesh's tax system further entrenches inequality. While indirect tax accounts for 66 percent of NBR receipts, 38 percent of revenue comes from the VAT, disproportionately burdening low-income households. Only 1.4 percent of people file tax returns. Affluent elites exploit loopholes, such as non-resident status claims and the misclassification of business profits as tax-exempt agricultural income.

The VAT system, though holding immense potential, is crippled by millions of retail businesses operating

strategy and a well-thought-out implementation plan. Here is a sketch of five pillars of the reform agenda:

First, institutional restructuring is imperative. The NBR should be replaced with an autonomous agency, which can be called the Bangladesh Revenue Authority, to oversee tax collection, alongside a separate Bangladesh Tax and Tariff Commission to design policies.

Second, the outdated tax code requires modernisation to prioritise progressive direct taxes, simplify compliance, and mandate digital payment systems, with emphasis on enhancing the tax net, including offices at the upazila level.

Third, technology-driven surveillance systems, such as a national Tax Identification Dashboard integrating electricity bills, bank transactions, and land records, must be implemented. Blockchain based

tracking for bonded warehouses and AI-powered risk assessment tools could curb fraud.

Fourth, an effective transfer pricing law is required, mandating master and local file submissions for multinational corporations, imposing hefty penalties on profit-shifting, and enforcing country-by-country reporting to ensure global profit transparency.

Fifth, a green tax framework can be introduced, including a carbon tax (e.g., Tk 1,200 per tonne) on high-emitting industries like cement and textiles, with revenue directed to a climate resilience fund.

The country is facing a polycrisis, with the World Bank estimating that the national poverty rate will rise from 20.5 percent in 2024 to 22.9 percent in 2025. There are critical challenges in harnessing the demographic dividend due to low education and healthcare spending—currently at 2 percent and 2.34 percent of GDP, respectively—alongside poor learning outcomes and a high youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training rate, standing at 41 percent nationally and 62 percent for women.

An ageing population, projected to reach 21.3 percent aged 60 and above by 2050, places considerable strain on healthcare and social systems, as per UNFPA.

Rapid urbanisation and increasing population density lack corresponding economic productivity gains. Under moderate and worst climate change scenarios, the country could lose 5-7 percent of GDP, indicating the high-risk level of the country to climate change. These multifaceted challenges risk undermining sustainable growth, hindering progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Currently, government allocations for social protection are inadequate and marred by corruption, with social safety net programmes (SSNPs) often targeting specific groups through relief-based approaches, while beneficiary selection remains erroneous and politicised, rather than being elevated to universal, rights-based entitlements. Over 100 fragmented SSNPs need to be brought under a unified administrative authority.

Many hope that the budget will propose a "Universal Lifecycle-Based Social Security System," a transformative initiative that could play a crucial role in overcoming "low social traps" stemming from livelihood crises, ensuring citizens are not left behind and are resilient to economic shocks. Such a system would be a fitting tribute to the July 2024 martyr, Abu Sayed, who grew up in Babanpur village of Pirganj Upazila in Rangpur, the same district where Lord Beveridge was born.

Our real emergency isn't political, it's environmental



Ejaj Ahmad is the founder and CEO of the Global Youth Leadership Center and the founder and executive chairperson of the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center.

EJAJ AHMAD

As Bangladesh stands at the crossroads of democratic renewal, every established and emerging party has articulated its vision for change for various issues from judicial independence to educational overhaul. Yet, one critical omission in this reform conversation that renders all other reforms meaningless if left unaddressed is climate resilience.

The World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) latest Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update, released on May 28, should wake up every political leader in Bangladesh. Global temperatures are predicted to be between 1.2 and 1.9 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels for each year between 2025 and 2029, with an 86 percent chance that temperatures will exceed the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold for at least one year in this period. For Bangladesh, these findings pose existential threats. Bangladesh ranks ninth worldwide for climate disaster risk, facing a brutal combination of sea level rise, temperature increases, floods, cyclones, droughts, and storm surges. Even Dhaka is sinking at nearly 12 millimetres per year due to excessive

groundwater extraction according to a Scroll.in article. The WMO specifically notes that South Asia will experience continued heavy rainfall through 2029, threatening countries where climate disasters already displace millions annually.

While these climate realities intensify, our capacity to adapt is being undermined by youth unemployment. According to the International Labor Organization's (ILO) latest report, Bangladesh's youth unemployment rate continues to be more than double the national rate, with university graduates hit hardest. With unemployment rising to 4.63 percent in fiscal 2024-25's second quarter, we have a generation of educated young people with no economic prospects in an increasingly climate-threatened nation.

These crises of climate vulnerability and youth unemployment aren't separate issues; they demand one integrated response: green jobs and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Political parties preparing manifestos for upcoming parliamentary elections need to stop treating climate change as just

another environmental issue separate from economic development. In Bangladesh, climate adaptation can support economic development. Building flood-resistant infrastructure creates construction jobs. Developing climate-smart agriculture employs farmers and agricultural technicians. Installing renewable energy systems requires skilled workers and ongoing maintenance. Green entrepreneurship is essential for survival. We need leaders who will actually connect our youth with climate-focused education and green livelihoods. This means real investments in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy infrastructure, sustainable urban planning, and disaster-resilient construction.

It means training programmes that teach young Bangladeshis to lead clean energy transitions, design flood-resistant homes, develop drought-resistant crops, and create early warning systems for extreme weather.

In a climate-vulnerable country like Bangladesh, digital skills must be climate-focused. We need data scientists who can model flood patterns, app developers who can create disaster response platforms, and engineers who can design climate-resilient infrastructure. Important leadership skills for 2025 and beyond in Bangladesh are climate intelligence, climate literacy and climate awareness.

Leaders should understand that every policy decision, from urban planning to food production, from industrial development to educational curricula, must be seen through the lens of climate resilience.

Here's the truth no politician wants to face: no reform will work when the basic requirement for all human activity, a liveable country, no longer exists. Judicial independence means nothing if courts are regularly dealing with extreme heat and flooding. Economic growth is pointless if industries keep getting destroyed by cyclones and droughts. Educational reforms won't matter if schools are constantly damaged by climate disasters. Democratic institutions can't function if millions of climate refugees are always on the move.

Young Bangladeshi voters are looking for leaders who can handle climate change that affects youths' ability to find meaningful work, live in decent cities, and build actual lives. This should be reflected in manifestos that put green infrastructure first, promise renewable energy transitions over fossil fuel dependence, invest in climate education, and create green.

The choice for Bangladesh's political leadership is simple: adapt to meet the climate challenge or become irrelevant as climate reality takes over. Young Bangladeshis, educated, unemployed, and very aware of their climate vulnerability, won't support leaders who don't get this basic truth.

Climate resilience isn't just another item on the reform list; it's what makes all other reforms possible. Until our political parties grasp this, they're not offering real leadership. They're just offering different versions of ignoring reality. The choice is between climate-smart politics and climate-blind politics. We need to make that choice now.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Coronation of Elizabeth II

On this day in 1953, 27-year-old Elizabeth II, the elder daughter of King George VI, was crowned queen of the United Kingdom at Westminster Abbey. She was the longest serving British monarch.



Interim govt losing sight of public mandate



Anu Muhammad
is former professor of economics
at Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

After this government came to power through a historic mass uprising, big expectations naturally followed. This is an interim government, with limited powers and tenure, we are all aware of that. And knowing this, society has developed expectations in line with the spirit of the uprising, focusing on what can realistically be achieved and what new paths might be forged.

What we demand of them are actionable measures, tasks that are feasible and within their scope. For example, first and foremost is identifying the real culprits of the July killings, conducting a proper investigation, and expediting the judicial process. While it seems that tribunal has been formed and investigations are going on, we are simultaneously witnessing a disturbing trend: numerous indiscriminate, false, and deliberately harassing cases being filed in the hundreds. In many instances, the complainants themselves do not even know the accused individuals. Yet, such cases are being filed.

The government claims with statements such as, "We didn't file these, an individual did." But what is the government's responsibility if not to ensure justice? As a result, the judicial process is becoming farcical, and the blame lies squarely with the government. This farce continues, particularly affecting teachers, writers, artists, journalists, lawyers, doctors and other individuals with no conceivable link to the killings. Some were even outside Bangladesh at the time. This continues to happen and is deeply regrettable.

Secondly, during the Awami League era, institutional failure became widespread. Functioning bodies were filled with submissive, corrupt, government-aligned individuals. This interim government was expected to reverse that trend—to appoint qualified people and vet them properly. However, we are now seeing unqualified individuals or politically aligned figures with various allegations against them being placed in universities and other institutions, a continuation of past practices. One of the key reasons for unrest in many institutions is "mob" interference. When mobs incite violence in institutions, appointments and removals are being made according to their



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

wishes, which destroys institutional process again.

Thirdly, large sections of society, including workers, employees, students, and teachers, have long-standing grievances and have suffered discrimination and deprivation under the previous autocratic government. They had hoped that their voices would finally be heard. They have submitted demands and memoranda, but in most cases, the government has responded with a chilling indifference.

Those pursuing legitimate demands were either ignored or attacked, even peaceful protesters are facing harsh treatment. Police assaults, harassment, and intimidation are common, even though the same government is apparently incapable or unwilling to take action against those engaging in coercion or mob violence.

from public concerns is unacceptable from a post-uprising government. When people raise legitimate issues, the government must respond, but it is failing to do so.

Fourth, instead of increasing national institutional capability, the previous government pursued policies to patronise private big corporate, domestic and foreign interests, against national interest. Bad deals in the energy sector were signed that harmed the economy and the environment in the long term. The interim government was expected to change this direction. While they cannot undo everything, they were expected to at least begin a shift. Instead, we see a continuation of the same trend.

Take the Chattogram seaport, for instance. There appears to be an attempt to hand it over to a foreign company. Such

initiatives began in the late 1990s, when proposals were placed to lease the port for 199 years to a US company (*Prothom Alo*, December 30, 2024). But widespread public protests saved the country. The National Committee organised long marches, workers demonstrated, and legal battles were fought. Investigations exposed fraudulent documentation of the US company, and public opposition ultimately

not enter into contracts with such lasting impact, especially without public discussion or consultation with the mass uprising's stakeholders, whose support legitimised this government.

Similarly, an LNG import contract has been signed in secrecy. Even Petrobangla was unaware of this deal. This was signed at a time when we should be moving away from coal and imported LNG, and towards boosting national capability. That means strengthening local institutions so Bangladesh can conduct its own gas exploration and develop renewable energy. Instead, LNG imports, Adani deals, coal-based power and nuclear projects are being continued. This is the very direction the current government was meant to change.

Lack of transparency and coordination within the government is also evident. Take the issue of the "corridor." The foreign adviser stated that a decision was made in principle. Yet, following public protest, conflicting statements emerged. The government claimed no such decision had been made. More recently, the national security adviser and high representative to the chief adviser, a figure already facing various allegations, rebranded the corridor as a "channel." This lack of transparency and internal contradiction, coupled with the government's eagerness to serve corporate interests, is highly concerning.

The interim government's focus should instead be on justice for the killings and rehabilitation of the injured, issues that remain unresolved. Institutional instability continues. Workers are protesting over unpaid wages. There is no resolution in sight for ongoing issues affecting women. Long-standing cases, such as the murders of Tonu, Taqi, Sagor Rumi, Munia, remain unsolved, despite high expectations that this government would address them swiftly.

Although reform commissions have been formed and have submitted their reports, implementation of feasible sections of those reports is lacking. The government seems detached from the very reforms it was expected to lead. These commissions are operating in isolation, with no sign of official commitment to their recommendations.

In conclusion, rather than focusing on genuine reform, the government appears to be moving in a dangerous and misguided direction. It must reverse course and concentrate on its true responsibilities. Immediate reforms, justice for the killings, and institutional strengthening should be the priority. Otherwise, this current trajectory will only lead to greater instability, insecurity, and danger for the country.

Upcoming budget must address inequality



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MD ASADUZZAMAN

The per capita income in Bangladesh has reached \$2,820, according to the latest provisional data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) last week. If this figure remains unchanged in the final calculation at the end of the current fiscal year, it would mark the highest per capita income in the country's history.

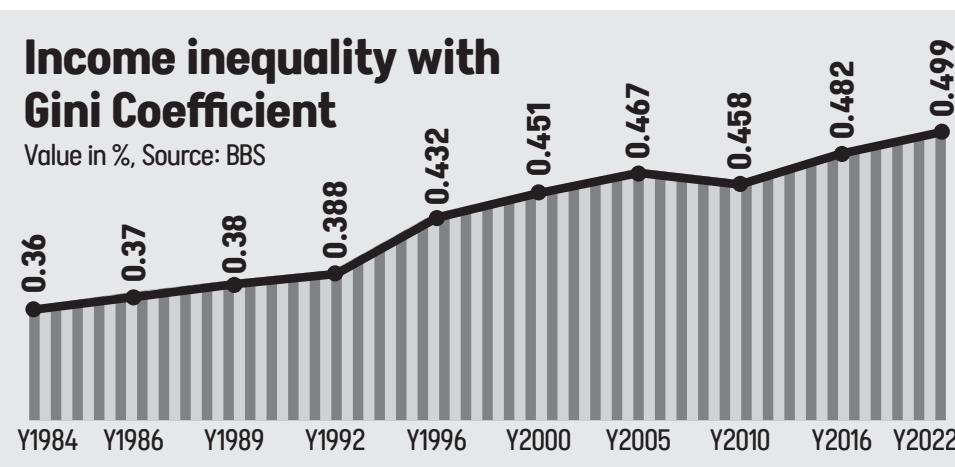
Previously, the BBS had reported the per capita income at \$2,824 for FY2021-22. However, the figure was later revised down to \$2,793 in FY22, according to BBS data.

Therefore, this could have been a moment of celebration for the nation, a symbol of collective progress, if only the gains of this growth were more equally shared. But behind this impressive figure lies a more uncomfortable truth: inequality in Bangladesh is deepening, and unless addressed with urgency, it threatens to undercut the very foundations of our development.

Sometimes, the averages don't tell the whole story. Per capita income is a statistical average, which tells us the size of the economic pie, but not how it's divided. By definition, per capita income means the average income earned per person in a country over a specific period, usually a year. It is calculated by dividing the country's total national income by its total population.

But in reality, the benefits of growth have been disproportionately captured by a small section of society, as they mostly dominate the society.

As much as 40 percent of the country's total income is concentrated within the top 10 percent of the wealthy—up about three percentage points since 2016—found the latest BBS Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022. Additionally, the income accruing to the bottom 5 percent of households was 0.37 percent in 2022, which was 0.23 percent in 2016, adds the report.



the white paper report on the state of the Bangladesh economy, where data from the HIES was used.

Citing World Bank data, the white paper said that among the 72 countries with Gini coefficient data, only Colombia, Brazil, and Panama reported values over 0.50 in 2021. In

the case of wealth inequality, data from the World Inequality Database (WID) for 2022 paints a grim picture of economic disparity in Bangladesh.

The wealthiest 10 percent of the population controlled a staggering 58.5 percent of the country's total wealth. This concentration underscores the disproportionate accumulation of assets among a small segment of society, according to the taskforce report. In contrast, the bottom 50 percent of the population collectively held a mere 4.8 percent of the wealth, highlighting the limited resources available to half of the nation.

Income inequality in Bangladesh shows stark urban-rural disparities. Cities like Dhaka and Chattogram, driven by industrialisation and investment, have seen faster income growth and better living standards. However, rural areas—home to over 60 percent of the population—face limited access to quality services and economic opportunities, leading to slower development.

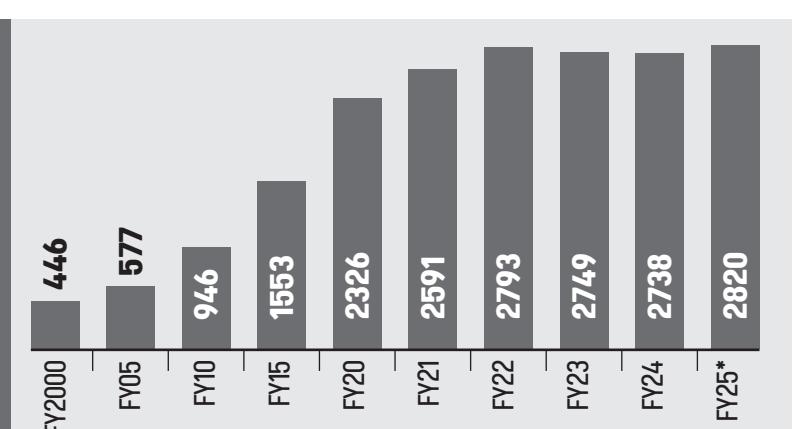
Between 2010 and 2022, the rural Gini coefficient rose slightly from 0.431 to 0.446, while the urban Gini jumped from 0.452 to 0.539, indicating rising inequality and

working class remain stagnant, the cost of living continues to climb, and inflation has steadily eroded the purchasing power of ordinary families.

For the past 26 months, inflation has remained above 9 percent. In this context, a higher per capita income offers little comfort to those who are being left behind.

How can the budget help reduce inequality?

Per Capita Income in terms of GNI
Value in \$
SOURCE: BBS



Fiscal policy is a powerful tool to reduce inequality, but only if it is used that way. Unfortunately, Bangladesh's tax system remains regressive. Over 65 percent of our revenue comes from indirect taxes like VAT, which disproportionately affect the poor. Meanwhile, the effort to impose wealth, property, and capital gains taxes is still out of the race.

A positive signal may emerge this year as the government is considering reintroducing the 30 percent income tax rate for top earners from the upcoming fiscal year—those making over Tk 38.5 lakh annually—a move that reverses previous rollbacks and indicates some intent to pursue progressivity. But the rate of surcharge is likely to remain the same for wealth and the environment.

Currently, Bangladesh imposes a surcharge on wealth, but its effectiveness is limited. The surcharge ranges from 0 percent for assets up to Tk 4 crore to 10-35 percent for higher asset brackets.

The government needs to rationalise and expand the country's social safety net

programmes, and bringing an additional million people under coverage could help ease the burden on low-income households and make a meaningful dent in inequality. In addition, tackling inequality requires expanding the direct tax base, especially by targeting high-value assets, and introducing wealth and property taxes, as well as reducing tax evasion.

In FY23, Bangladesh lost an estimated

Tk 226,236 crore in potential revenue to tax evasion and avoidance, largely due to rampant corruption and a weak but complex system, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

At the same time, investments in

universal education, healthcare, and rural development must be prioritised.

Social protection systems also need to be more transparent, digitised, and better targeted to

reach those most in need. Strict monitoring and effective action against corruption

can help reduce inequality, as many of the issues stem from corruption and fiscal irregularities.

Inequality is not just an economic issue, it's a political and social one. It determines who gets access to opportunity, who benefits from public services, and whose voices are heard in the policy process.

Inequality is not an inevitable outcome of growth. It is a result of choices—of who we tax, where we spend, and whom we prioritise.

As such, it is high time we made better choices.



Shakib Khan all set to entertain in 'Anandamela'

Shakib Khan's fans are in for a treat this Eid-ul-Azha, as BTV's *Anandamela* will feature the megastar in a candid appearance on the popular festive programme.

Filmed on May 28 at BTV's own studio, the episode will feature Shakib performing on songs from his films and reflecting on his remarkable 26-year journey in showbiz.

Hosted by Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Intekhab Dinar, the hour-long special is set to air at 10pm on Eid night.

According to the *Anandamela* production team, this year's edition will once again dazzle viewers with star-studded performances, including songs by legendary singer Sabina Yasmin, a musical segment by rock band Warfaze, and appearances by several film celebrities.

'Coco' actress Renée Victor passes away at 86

Renée Victor, the actress best known for voicing Abuela in Disney and Pixar's *Coco* and playing Lupita on Showtime's *Weeds*, has passed away at the age of 86.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, she died last Friday night at her home in Sherman Oaks, surrounded by family, following a battle with lymphoma.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1938, she relocated to Los Angeles during the 1960s to pursue a music career. Victor collaborated with notable figures like Xavier Cugat and Perez Prado, both instrumental in bringing Latin music to mainstream American audiences. From 1963 to 1973, she and her husband performed together as the musical duo Ray & Renée.

Coco, the Oscar-winning film, is acclaimed for its all-Latin cast and the Oscar-winning song *Remember Me*.



Millie Bobby Brown, and Finn Wolfhard.

Described by co-creator Ross Duffer as the show's most ambitious season yet, it was filmed over a year with over 650 hours of footage. The final season promises eight blockbuster-

sized episodes filled with suspense, nostalgia, and one last battle against the Upside Down.

The ensemble cast also includes David Harbour, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Natalia Dyer, Sadie Sink, Joe Keery, and Maya Hawke, among others.

NEWS

We want to be your partner

FROM PAGE 12
to Beijing, he requested Chinese President Xi Jinping to encourage companies of his country to invest in Bangladesh. "I'm honoured that the president has followed up on his word."

For many years, Bangladesh has been touted as a strategic location -- at the heart of South Asia -- with a dynamic workforce, positioning it as an ideal destination for investment.

"Yet, for decades, we have failed to attract foreign direct investment. Scores of economic zones were developed, but they remain empty. In many places, they are being used for cattle grazing. Widespread corruption, misrule, and brutal dictatorship drove away potential investors."

"The July uprising led by young people brought an end to those days. They committed to creating a new Bangladesh," Yunus said, adding, "So please be part of our history. Make a history for this nation with us."

The interim government, which took over after the uprising, has restructured BIDA as an agency that means business.

"Invite you to explore the extensive opportunities that Bangladesh offers -- from textiles and garments to pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, fisheries, jute, as well as information technology," the chief adviser said.

"I urge Chinese investors to make

Bangladesh their home and their production hub. Our young people are ready to accept that challenge."

Yunus also stressed the need for reviving the lost glory of jute and increasing its use to strengthen the country's economy.

"When you talk about jute, it is an emotional issue for Bangladesh. This is a unique country, which produces enormous natural fibres over many years," he said.

He also recalled the lost glory of Muslin, which was one of the most valuable fabrics on the planet.

At the conference, Yao Wen, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, said the visit of the largest business delegation will write a new chapter in collaboration, deepen ties, and take partnership to a new height.

Encouraging foreign investment has been a key focus for Bangladesh's interim government. Since its formation, around 20 Chinese companies have entered investment agreements with Bangladeshi partners, collectively committing over \$400 million.

"The Chinese companies that have come with me are excited. You expressed the direction of Bangladesh's future development. The Chinese companies told me that they are now more confident about investing in Bangladesh after your initiatives," Wentao told Yunus.

real benefits to the people of both nations.

Among others, Cao Derong, president of China Chamber of Commerce of Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-Products; Liu Chun, vice-president of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronics Products; Zhang Xian, vice-president of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles; and Kong Linghui, vice-president of China International Chamber of Commerce for the Private Sector; spoke at the programme.

Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, BIDA executive chairman, moderated the event and its Head of Business Development Nahian Rahman Rochi made a presentation.

Meanwhile, during a meeting later in the day with the chief adviser at Jamuna, Chinese minister Wentao said his country was ready to extend cooperation with Bangladesh in trade and commerce, with a particular focus on agriculture, jute, marine fisheries, and research, reports BSS.

"The Chinese companies that have come with me are excited. You expressed the direction of Bangladesh's future development. The Chinese companies told me that they are now more confident about investing in Bangladesh after your initiatives," Wentao told Yunus.

Conservation Commission to initiate action against Shah Cement and other encroachers.

"Although the Munshiganj District Administration and the National River Conservation Commission identified the company as an "encroacher" in 2018, 2019, and 2023, the government has yet to take effective action to protect the rivers."

have been summoned by the ACC at 10:00am today, according to multiple ACC officials who spoke anonymously.

The couple was not served a formal summons; instead, they were contacted by the ACC via mobile phone, they added.

This is not the first time Nagad has come under ACC scrutiny. In February, an ACC team raided the company's headquarters and claimed to have found preliminary evidence of corruption and the laundering of Tk 2,300 crore.

Morshed could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.

Meanwhile, he and his wife Jakia

TIB voices concern over river grabbing

FROM PAGE 12
"We believe that such a river-grabbing entity has no moral or legal right to maintain any business relationship with the state or the government. We call for the immediate blacklisting of Shah Cement as a first step toward ensuring strict accountability," he said, adding that the firm should

be barred from all government contracts, licences, and financial incentives.

He also urged all other businesses to set an example by cutting ties with Shah Cement.

TIB urged the local administration, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, and the National River

commission has formally asked Nagad to submit all pertinent documents and records. "Upon receiving and reviewing the documents, the investigation team will submit a detailed report to the commission," it added.

The investigation follows a recent media report linking Morshed to suspected corruption involving the financial service provider.

Morshed could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.

Meanwhile, he and his wife Jakia

ACC raids Nagad HQ

FROM PAGE 12
service provider's head office in connection with the two complaints. "During the drive, the ACC team found initial evidence of irregularities in the recruitment process. Based on these findings, the commission may interrogate Atif Morshed, the personal officer to Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, and Morshed's wife Jakia Sultana Jui," the statement read.

As for the suspected misappropriation of funds, the

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'ONTORE TUMI ACHO CHIRODIN'

A tribute to Nazrul's enduring musical legacy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To commemorate National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 126th birth anniversary, Gems of Nazrul hosted *Ontore Tumi Acho Chirodin*, a musical tribute uniting renowned and emerging artistes to celebrate his rich musical legacy.

The programme, held at The Daily Star Centre last Saturday evening, opened with a projected audiovisual sequence of Nazrul's songs, followed by live performances by artistes, including Dr Asif Roy, Yasmin Mushtari, Sujit Mustafa, Dr Priyanka Gope, Shaheed Kabir Polash, Dr Padmini Rai, and Bijon Chandra Mistry.

In her opening remarks, Sadya Afreen Mallick, the founder of Gems of Nazrul, reiterated the platform's mission: to bring Nazrul's musical genius to broader public consciousness.

"Much of Nazrul's work remains unfamiliar to the younger generation," she noted. "If school children are taught even ten



of his songs, it would offer them a profound understanding of who Nazrul was; not only as a poet but as a visionary of musical and social harmony."

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, delivered brief closing remarks, reflecting on the continuing relevance of Nazrul's messages in a world fraught with division and inequality.

The event was directed by Sadya Afreen Mallick, with Dr Gulzar Hossain guiding as the master of

ceremonies. Dr Asif Roy delivered the final performance of the night.

The tribute did not seek to reinvent Nazrul's legacy. Instead, it asked a more urgent question: why has so much of his music faded from public memory? By drawing attention to what remains overlooked, *Ontore Tumi Acho Chirodin* positioned itself as more than a celebration—it became a meditation on the gaps in cultural education, the erasure of artistic heritage, and the need for deliberate reintroduction. In doing so, it reminded audiences that legacies do not endure on their own; they require work.

Netflix to roll out final season of 'Stranger Things' in three volumes

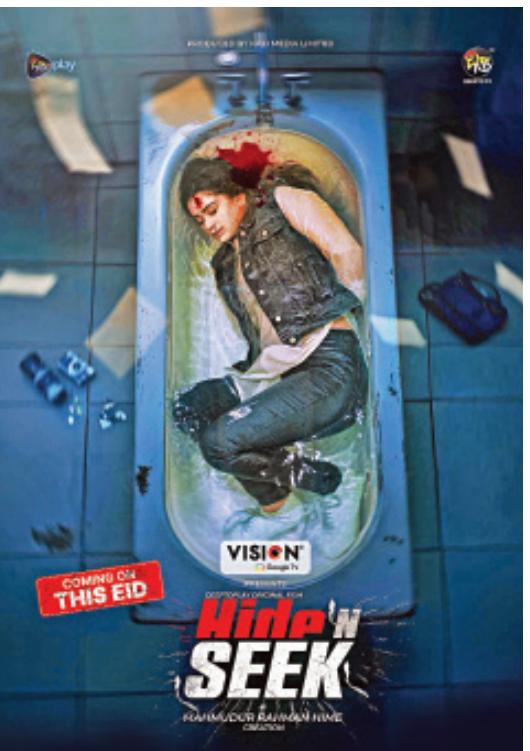
Netflix has announced the release dates for the fifth and final season of *Stranger Things*. The epic conclusion begins streaming worldwide on November 26, with Volume 2 arriving on December 26 and the finale on January 1, 2026.

The announcement came via a two-minute teaser video featuring returning stars like Winona Ryder, Millie Bobby Brown, and Finn Wolfhard.



of suspense, nostalgia, and one last battle against the Upside Down.

The ensemble cast also includes David Harbour, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Natalia Dyer, Sadie Sink, Joe Keery, and Maya Hawke, among others.



Tanjin Tisha, Dighi and Chamak unite for Eid web thriller 'Hide N Seek'

This Eid, the web-film *Hide N Seek* brings together Tanjin Tisha, Prarthana Fardin Dighi, and Rukaiya Jahan Chamak in a suspense-filled narrative directed by Mahmudur Rahman Hime.

Set to stream on Deepo Play, the story follows entertainment journalist Nadia as she investigates an incident involving Rasha, a young woman injured on the night filmstar Imtiaz Khan announces his wedding. Rumours suggest Rasha had a secret relationship with Imtiaz and attempted suicide.

The film also stars Ziaul Roshan, Intekhab Dinar, and Deepa Khandakar. Written by Ahmed Khan Hirak, the project aims to challenge societal taboos through a gripping, edge-of-the-seat thriller.

Downpours submerge hundreds of villages

FROM PAGE 12

in rivers in Sylhet, and the Manu in

"We advise the residents to stay alert," he added.

In Brahmanbaria, villages near Akhaura Land Port have been inundated amid heavy rains upstream.

Farmlands and roads in Kalikapur, Birchandrapur, Abdullaipur, and Bangerchar villages have gone under water.

In Cox's Bazar, the deep depression damaged 1,700 metres of embankment in Maheshkhali, Kutubdia, and Bahrakhali.

To temporarily tackle the situation during this monsoon, the authorities have requested Tk 2.5 crore in emergency funds to drop geo tubes at the breached embankments in Kutubdia, said Mohammad Nurul Islam, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Cox's

Bazar.

After six days of suspension, boat services on the Teknaf-Saint Martin's Island route resumed yesterday.

In Patuakhali, the depression damaged nearly 7,000 fish farms and enclosures, causing an estimated Tk 25 crore damage, according to the district fisheries office.

In Noakhali, the body of a woman was recovered a day after a boat capsized in the Meghna.

A police officer and a child were still missing.

Almost all the villages in Hatiya had been damaged during the depression.

[Our Correspondents in Sylhet, Chattogram, Moulvibazar, Brahmanbaria, Lalmonirhat, Patuakhali, and Noakhali contributed to the report.]

SC orders EC to restore Jamaat's registration

FROM PAGE 1

been reinstated following yesterday's SC judgment, the party's lawyer Ehsan A Siddiq told The Daily Star.

The Election Commission will now dispose of other issues, including the party's election symbol.

The party will now submit an application to the EC for necessary decisions, he said.

Talking to reporters at his office, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said the EC had not yet received any directive regarding Jamaat's registration and election symbol from the court.

Once the EC received the SC order, necessary steps would be taken accordingly, he added.

Jamaat lost the right to contest parliamentary elections as a party after the HC declared its registration illegal on August 1, 2013, following a writ petition.

Maulana Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of the Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, along with 24 others, filed the petition on January 25, 2009, seeking a court order declaring the party's registration illegal.

The EC subsequently scrapped Jamaat's registration in October 2018 ahead of the 11th national election.

Jamaat later filed an appeal with the Appellate Division, challenging the HC verdict. The Appellate Division began hearing the appeal on

December 3 last year.

No lawyer placed arguments on behalf of the writ petitioners during the hearing before the Appellate Division on this issue.

Jamaat's registration was snatched through a politically motivated case, said Mohammad Shishir Manir, another lawyer for Jamaat.

Through this verdict of the Appellate Division, the multiparty democratic and participatory parliament will be ensured, he said.

"We asked for a short order. Hopefully, we will get the order within a day or two and will take the short order to the Election Commission. I hope that the commission restores the registration and allocates 'Daripalla' (weighing scale) as its [Jamaat's] election symbol very soon," he added.

On December 12, 2016, the SC had a full court meeting and decided to request the EC not to allocate the symbol to any political party since it is used as the monogram of the apex court. The then SC authorities on December 14, 2016, sent a letter in this regard to the EC.

The weighing scale was earlier allocated to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Four days before its ouster, the Awami League government banned Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir and others through an executive order. The organisations were prohibited under the Anti-

Terrorism Act 2009.

The interim government on August 28 last year lifted the ban on Jamaat, Shibir, and all of Jamaat's front organisations.

Jamaat was first banned in independent Bangladesh in 1972 over their anti-liberation role under a new constitutional provision that banned politics based on religion.

In 1976, the then military government repealed the restriction by issuing a martial law proclamation, allowing the formation and functioning of organisations based on religion.

The Palestinian group said Saturday evening that it had responded positively to a US-backed ceasefire proposal, but had emphasised the need for a permanent ceasefire -- long a sticking point for Israel.

Washington's

No working

FROM PAGE 4

CGH's ICU, said they are currently unable to admit patients requiring life support.

"All the 22 ventilators are non-operational. Also, out of 27 BiPAP machines, now only five are working. Therefore, those requiring ventilation are referred to hospitals with fully equipped ICU facilities," she said.

The ICU at CGH was introduced by the government during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to treat critical patients, in phases with 18 ICU beds and 22 ventilators.

A doctor at the hospital, requesting anonymity, said the ventilators and several other essential pieces of equipment are now out of order due to lack of maintenance and repairs.

Contacted, Dr Abdul Mannan, superintendent of CGH, said, "I have written to the higher authorities. A technical team from the Directorate General of Health Services recently visited the ICU and inspected the equipment, and opined that the ventilators could be repaired. They assured us of starting the repair works very soon."

He also said the ICU is struggling with a severe manpower shortage, including the posts of medical officer and trained nurses. "I have also informed the authorities in this regard," he added.

JP, SAD trade blame Implement health

FROM PAGE 3

Rangpur city BNP Convener Shamsuzzaman Samu, Member Secretary Mahfuz Un Nabi Don, and district BNP Member Secretary Anisur Rahman Laku also met with the army personnel there.

"Legal action will be taken after proper investigation," he said, adding that no arrests had been made yet.

Meanwhile, army personnel from the 72 Infantry Brigade began gathering information regarding the attack early yesterday, as they met leaders from both the BNP and SAD.

Imtiaz Ahmod Imty, convener of SAD's Rangpur city unit, and Imran Ahmed, convener of the district unit, met the army personnel near Payra Chattar in Rangpur city at 12:30am.

They showed us videos and photos of the incident and asked us to identify if any of our fellow activists were involved. We cooperated fully," Imty told The Daily Star.

About an hour later, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (north) of NCP, arrived at the scene and talked to Brig Gen Humayun Kaiyum, commander of the 72 Infantry Brigade.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Sarjis accused GM Quader of conspiring with the Awami League to create unrest in Rangpur and demanded a ban on JP.

He later left the area, taking the two SAD leaders with him, according to witnesses.

At around 1:40am,

[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Thakurgaon contributed to the report]

demanding that all staff under the "Tathyapa" project be absorbed into permanent government positions through post creation and transferred to the revenue sector. They also want withheld salaries and allowances paid without delay.

Monira Akter, an information service assistant from Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat, broke into tears as she said, "My father is gone; my mother raised me through hardship. If I lose this job, who will look after her?"

Mukta Akter from Cumilla's Meghna upazila said her husband has been battling cancer since 2022, and she now supports the family.

Ayesha Akter from Madhupur, Tangail, said without this job, she cannot provide for her nine-year-old son.

The project first began as a pilot in 2011 and was expanded in 2018 to 492 upazilas under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Each upazila has one officer and two assistants recruited directly, with one office assistant hired through outsourcing.

"Our project director went abroad to perform hajj. She is the one authorised to talk to the media," he added.

Originally titled Tathyapa: Empowerment of

Women through ICT for Digital Bangladesh, it was renamed to Tathyapa: Empowerment of Women through ICT Project (Phase II - Second Revised) in September 2024.

After the fall of the Awami League government, staff stopped receiving salaries from August 5. Payments resumed in January after protests, and the project was extended for one year until June 2025. Of the original 2,484 positions, around 1,968 remain filled, with many resigning amid pay uncertainty.

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SPIRIT ON THE TOUCHLINE

Enrique, Xana, and the healing power of sport

KHALID HOSSAIN

Sometimes, sport does more than crown winners. In a world spinning faster, louder, and often colder, it often offers healing as an unlikely source; a reminder of something quieter: humanity. Of loss. Of love. Of remembering the right things, and, perhaps most of all, of carrying on.

On Saturday night in Munich, Paris Saint-Germain finally climbed Europe's greatest peak. A first Champions League title. A thumping 5-0 win over Inter Milan; glory long overdue for the big spenders.

But as the fireworks burst and silver rained down, the night belonged not just to the players or the club, but to someone who wasn't even on the pitch.

Xana.

Six years ago, Luis Enrique's nine-year-old daughter died from osteosarcoma, a rare and cruel bone cancer. And when the final whistle blew, Enrique, who had just coached PSG to a historic treble, turned not to the cameras, but to the sky.

And to her.

"My daughter has been with me since she left," he said. "She left physically, but she is always with me spiritually."

In the stands, PSG fans held up a massive tifo; an image of Enrique and Xana, together, planting a flag. It was a recreation of their moment after his 2015 Champions League win, leading to a treble, with Barcelona. Back then, she was beside him.

This time, she still was, just not where we could see.

"It was very emotional with the banner from the fans for my family," Enrique said. "But I always think about my daughter."

Grief changes you. Sometimes it hardens. Other times, it humbles. For

Enrique, it became a quiet strength. As the 55-year-old's young team delivered what Lionel Messi, Neymar, and Kylian Mbappe could not, their coach never lost focus. Dressed all in black, he roamed the touchline; agile, composed, almost serene.

Maybe that is what makes Enrique's story so powerful. In a time where violence often drowns out kindness, and grief is something to hide, he has done neither. He has shown us what it means to carry someone with you, gently.

Reflecting on Xana's death, he once said in a documentary: "Can I consider myself lucky or unfortunate? I consider myself lucky, very lucky."



When asked, "but your daughter died at nine years old," the Spaniard replied, "Well, my daughter came to live with us for nine wonderful years. We have thousands of memories from her, videos, incredible things."

He told of how his mother couldn't even put up Xana's photos; it was too much. But Enrique gently reminded her of something larger than sorrow: "Xana is alive... Because every day we talk about her, we laugh and remember."

Among the many narratives that unfurled at the Allianz Arena, a man carrying his loss with grace stood out, like a colossal monolith.

And in that moment, when the confetti settled and the lights dimmed, Enrique wasn't just a coach. He was a father. He was a lesson. A quiet voice in a world that's forgetting how to feel.

He was proof that even when you lose almost everything, you can still lead. Still laugh. Still love and find strength in it that lingers long after separation.

Mohammedan's bitter-sweet coronation as AFC ticket missed



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club (MSC), one of the country's most popular teams, celebrated their maiden Bangladesh Premier League title in vibrant fashion at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

However, their joy was tinged with disappointment over missing out on a spot in the AFC Challenge League -- a continental competition they last appeared in back in 2006.

Since winning the now defunct Dhaka Premier League in 2002, the Black and Whites have struggled in top-tier football. But this season, they reclaimed their former glory with a long awaited league triumph.

Under usual circumstances, the BPL champions would qualify for the newly introduced AFC Challenge League, provided they meet AFC club licensing requirements. MSC, however, failed to secure the licence due to not meeting all the criteria.

As a result, either runners up Abahani or third placed Bashundhara

Kings -- both of whom applied for the licence -- are expected to take the AFC slot. Bangladesh Football Federation is likely to announce the licensed clubs within a few days.

Asked about missing out on the AFC opportunity after 19 years, MSC director and football committee chairman Ghulam Mohammad Alamgir said:

"In the last 15 years, Mohammedan SC could not stay at the top for different reasons, but now we don't have anything to look back on. Still, we believe we can try it [AFC club licensing], and we have to accept it if we can't do it now."

"MSC... always played for the championship, but they had lacked one for the last 22 years. There was a cry from players, officials and fans for not winning the league title, but this time we came out of it. It was possible because of the cordial efforts from the committee members, specifically due to the president [General (retd) Mohammad Abdul Mubeen] and me," he added.

A former MSC player, speaking

anonymously, said the club may struggle to retain their title-winning squad next season, as the current board is hesitant to begin preparations ahead of the club's upcoming elections. He also noted that while meeting licensing criteria is manageable, securing sufficient funding to compete in the AFC Challenge League is the real challenge.

Midfielder Alamgir Kabir Rana echoed the sentiment, saying, "Such an opportunity will not come every season for Mohammedan SC and they should have availed the opportunity to regain their image beyond the country."

While the missed AFC chance was a letdown, it didn't dampen the celebratory spirit. The stadium became a gathering place for MSC's former footballers, cricketers, organisers, fans, and journalists.

Captain Souleymane Diabate entered the venue with the champion's trophy, donning a golden T-shirt marked with the title-winning year.

A former MSC player, speaking

Writ petition challenges Faruque's removal as BCB president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

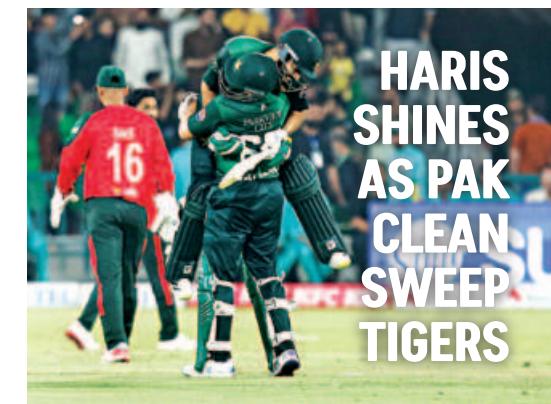
Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed on Sunday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of his removal from the post by National Sports Council (NSC).

The petition also challenged the legality of NSC's decision to appoint former national captain Aminul Islam Bulbul as the new BCB president, Faruque's counsel Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told The Daily Star.

The hearing of the petition is likely to be held today, he informed further. Barrister Kazal, however, declined to disclose further details of the writ petition.

Bulbul was elected BCB president on Friday, a day after the NSC revoked Faruque's directorship following a vote of no confidence from the majority of the board's directors and a review of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) fact-finding committee's report.

With this, Bulbul became the 17th president of the BCB.



HARIS SHINES AS PAK CLEAN SWEEP TIGERS

PHOTO: PCB

Mohammad Haris embraces skipper Salman Agha after helping Pakistan chase down a 197-run target with 16 balls remaining as the hosts clinched a seven-wicket win in the final T20I of the three-match series against Bangladesh in Lahore on Sunday. Haris' maiden T20I hundred (107* off 46) saw Pakistan clean sweep the Tigers, who had put in their best-ever showing with the bat against Pakistan in T20Is when they amassed 196/6 after opener Parvez Hossain Emon scored a 34-ball 66 and his opening partner, Tanzid Tamim, made 42 off 32 deliveries.

Election, reforms not in BCB boss's list of priorities

SPORTS REPORTER

When Aminul Islam Bulbul joined the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) under unprecedented circumstances, replacing Faruque Ahmed as the president, it was expected that his major task would be reforms in the BCB constitution and bringing about elections in October.

During his introductory press conference on Friday, his statements did not reveal anything fundamentally different from what other presidents, such as Faruque, had said during their introductions.

On Saturday, however, he held an official board meeting, setting the list of priorities. Election, changes in the constitution, or reforms needed in the board's structure were not among those.

He had said during his first day as president that he was looking to play a quick T20 innings as the BCB boss, but also contradicted himself by saying that he did not come here for just three months.

"We [Bulbul and Youth and Sports Advisor Asif Mahmud] discussed the decisions we've made about our action plans. There was no discussion regarding the elections," Bulbul said at an informal event of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association yesterday, after he had met the sports advisor at the National Sports Council (NSC).

"It hasn't even been 48 hours yet. We need to gather more information before speaking on that."

Instead, his focus has been on pilot projects to help spread cricket. But a short 'T20 innings,' as he described it, has to be more than just projects – it must address how to hold a fair election, when to hold the election, and how to ensure integrity and fairness in the board's functioning.

"Yesterday [Saturday], during the board meeting, we created a list of what we want to do. Everyone has been given specific responsibilities, and they have been asked to come back with their plans by June 30," he said, identifying that he wants to notch a "triple century", consisting of 100 percent trust, 100 percent programs, and 100 percent reach while implementing the vision.

The programmes he talked about and planned are related to high performance and decentralisation. Constitutional changes may be needed to make regional cricket a reality, but there are more fundamental issues in the board's structure yet to be addressed.

When decentralisation has not been enacted in Bangladesh's history to date, it seems Bulbul is delving into forces that require more time than just three months.

স্থান পরিবর্তন

ব্রাক ব্যাংক মতিবিল শাখা
এখন নতুন ঠিকানায় আরও বড় পরিসরে

পুরাতন ঠিকানা

খান ম্যানশন, হোল্ডিং # ৮০ (সাবেক-১০৭)
শহীদ বীর উত্তম আশফাকুশ সামাদ সড়ক
ওয়ার্ড # ০৯, মতিবিল, ঢাকা।

নতুন ঠিকানা

রূপালী রেড ক্লিনিক টাওয়ার
হোল্ডিং # ৮৬-৮৮ (প্লট নম্বর)
শহীদ বীর উত্তম আশফাকুশ সামাদ সড়ক
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We want to be your partner

Yunus tells Chinese companies, says large-scale investment from China can be a game changer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said that large-scale Chinese investment in Bangladesh can be a game changer for the country's economy.

"Chinese companies are the masters of manufacturing in the globe, and we want to be your partner," Yunus said while inaugurating the China-Bangladesh Conference on Trade and Investment.

The daylong event was organised by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) with assistance from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and the Chinese government, at the BIDA office in the capital.

China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao spoke there as special guest.

Yunus said tens of millions of young Bangladeshis desperately need good jobs to express the skill and tenacity they have in making a mark in history.

"Bangladesh stands on the cusp of a transformative era. Our interim government has been steadfast with implementing reforms aimed at enhancing the investment climate, streamlining regulatory frameworks, and ensuring a conducive environment for business operations," the chief adviser said.

These efforts are designed to attract foreign direct



investment, stimulate economic growth, and create employment opportunities for the youth, he added.

Yunus also said the conference is a historic moment for Bangladesh, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the country's independence.

He said that the gathering marks a significant milestone in the relationship and growing economic partnership between the two countries. The largest-ever Chinese business delegation has been visiting Bangladesh, comprising over 150 investors and business leaders representing scores of companies, including some of the largest in China.

"We have to build a future which can touch the sky. That's the potential we have together," the chief adviser said.

Yunus said a couple of months ago, during his visit

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Autorickshaw drivers push their vehicles through a flooded stretch of Bangabir Road on the old Sylhet-Dhaka highway yesterday, after their engines stalled from ingesting water. Days of continuous heavy rain have left low-lying areas of Sylhet city severely waterlogged.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

We want to be your partner

Yunus tells Chinese companies, says large-scale investment from China can be a game changer

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Downpours submerge hundreds of villages

Landslide kills 4 of a family in Sylhet

STAR REPORT

Amid torrential downpours and flooding, a landslide in Sylhet killed four members of a family, including two children, early yesterday.

Hundreds of villages and neighbourhoods in Sylhet and Moulvibazar have been inundated by swelling rivers, upending the lives of residents.

In Chattogram city, officials opened shelters and warned people about the risks of potential mudslides and asked people to evacuate the houses near hills.

The districts along the coastline, especially Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, and Patuakhali, are still reeling from the damage done by last

Met office said light to moderate rain with thunderstorms are likely to continue for several more days.

week's deep depression over the Bay.

According to a Met Office forecast issued yesterday morning, light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and lightning are likely to continue for five days.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said more areas may get flooded in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj,

Netrakona, and Habiganj districts.

In Sylhet's Golapganj, a landslide crushed a hut around 2:00am yesterday, killing Riaz Uddin, 50, his wife Rahima Begum, 35, their daughter Samia Khatun, 15, and son Abbas Uddin, 13.

Despite a rescue operation by army personnel, firefighters, and police, none of the family members survived. Their bodies were recovered more than six hours later, said acting upazila nirkhi officer Faisal Mahmud.

The Met Office in Sylhet reported 404.8 mm of rain in the 24 hours preceding 6:00am yesterday, the highest in a day this year.

The Surma and Kushiya

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

TIB voices concern over river grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday expressed deep concerns over illegal structures and rampant encroachment at the confluence of the Dhaleshwari and Shitalakkhya rivers.

TIB urged the authorities to immediately blacklist Shah Cement, which according to a report published by this newspaper, occupies approximately 24 acres of land at the confluence in the Mukterpur area of Munshiganj, said a statement.

The TIB called this a blatant violation of environmental and river conservation laws and called for removal of illegal structures to restore the natural flow of the rivers.

The Daily Star report headlined "A blatant river grab" was published on Sunday.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "There is no justification whatsoever for this operation that is destroying two rivers through encroachment. Such actions not only ruin the navigability of rivers but also gravely endanger the country's ecological balance and the lives and livelihoods of river-dependent communities."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

ACC raids Nagad HQ over hiring irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday raided the Dhaka headquarters of Nagad as part of an investigation into allegations of irregular recruitment and embezzlement of Tk 150 crore through fake bills and vouchers.

At the centre of the recruitment allegation is the appointment of Jakia Sultana Jui, wife of Atik Moshed, who serves as personal officer to Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, the chief adviser's special assistant for the posts, telecommunications and ICT ministry.

"We have found preliminary evidence of irregularities in the appointment of Atik Moshed's wife to Nagad," ACC Assistant Director Md Ikram Hossen told reporters following the raid.

Regarding the embezzlement allegation, he said, "We have collected relevant records and documents related to both allegations, and we'll now begin reviewing them."

In a statement issued later in the day, the ACC said it carried out the enforcement drive at the mobile financial

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Smoke and debris rise after an Israeli strike on a house west of Jabalia in northern Gaza yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli gunfire kills 31 near Gaza aid distribution site

Say rescuers; US rejects Hamas's response to truce proposal

AGENCIES

Gaza rescuers said Israeli gunfire killed at least 31 Palestinians near a US-backed aid distribution site yesterday, shortly after Washington rejected Hamas's response to a ceasefire proposal as "totally unacceptable".

Israeli recently introduced a revamped aid delivery mechanism in cooperation with a newly formed US-backed organisation, bypassing the longstanding UN-led system.

An Israeli attack near an aid distribution point run by the Gaza

Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) killed at least 31 people in Rafah, Palestinian news agency WAFA and Hamas-affiliated media said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the reported attack, which WAFA said injured more than 115 people, reports Reuters.

The casualties were taken to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, Bassal said.

Displaced Beit Lahia resident Sameh Hamuda, 33, told AFP he had walked from Gaza City and spent the night with relatives in a tent near Rafah before heading to the

aid centre around 5:00 am to wait among a crowd of people.

"They began distributing aid, but suddenly quadcopter drones opened fire on the people, and tanks started shooting heavily. Several people were killed right in front of me," he said. "I ran and survived. Death follows you as long as you're in Gaza."

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 4,149 people have been killed in the territory since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, taking the overall toll to 54,381, mostly civilians.

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প্লাস্টিক ব্যবহারে সতর্ক হোন

বহু ব্যবহৃত পিইটি (PET) বা টাইপ ১ প্লাস্টিক যথানিয়মে ব্যবহার না করলে মারাত্মক স্বাস্থ্যবুকি হতে পারে।

একই পিইটি প্লাস্টিক বারবার ব্যবহার করবেন না। এটি বারবার ব্যবহার করলে শরীরে মাইক্রোপ্লাস্টিকের বিষক্রিয়া সৃষ্টি হতে পারে।

পিইটি প্লাস্টিক সর্বোচ্চ ৭০° সেন্টিগ্রেড তাপমাত্রা সহ্য করতে পারে। এতে গরম চা/কফি পরিবেশন করলে প্লাস্টিক গলে গিয়ে স্বাস্থ্যবুকি সৃষ্টি হয়।

গরম পানীয় পরিবেশনের জন্য স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত উপায়ে সিরামিক/কাচের পাত্র ব্যবহার করুন। পিইটি প্লাস্টিক একবার ব্যবহারের পর ধ্বনি করে রিসাইকেল করুন।

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