



Govt revises definition of freedom fighter

Constituent assembly members will no longer be considered FFs

BAHARAM KHAN and MD ABBAS

The government last night promulgated an ordinance redefining the term “freedom fighter” (Bir Muktiyoddha) and introducing three new categories.

The new categories are Muktiyuddher Shohojogi (associate of the Liberation War); Muktiyoddha Poribar (family of a freedom fighter); and Muktiyuddher Shohojogi Poribar (family of a Liberation War associate).

The National Freedom Fighters Council (Amendment) Ordinance-2025 amended the previous National Freedom Fighters Council Act-2022.

The definition of “associate of the Liberation War” specifically includes all Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) who were affiliated with the wartime provisional

The definition of “associate of the Liberation War” specifically includes all Members of the National Assembly and Members of the Provincial Assembly who were affiliated with the wartime provisional government of Bangladesh and later considered members of the constituent assembly.

government of Bangladesh (Mujibnagar Government) and later considered members of the constituent assembly.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, and more than 400 others were members of the constituent assembly and used to be recognised as freedom fighters.

The ordinance, however, included the Mujibnagar government in the definition of “Bir Muktiyoddha”.

BIR MUKTIJODDHA (FREEDOM FIGHTER)

According to the ordinance, the new definition of a Bir Muktiyoddha reads:

“Bir Muktiyoddha is someone who, between March 26 and December 16, 1971, either prepared for war and received training within villages across the country, or crossed the border into India to enroll in various training camps with the aim of participating in the Liberation War. These individuals actively took part in the war against the occupying and invading Pakistani armed forces and their

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As the Jamuna's water level rises with the onset of monsoon, severe erosion has devoured a large stretch of riverbank in Char Poulee of Tangail Sadar, triggering panic among the locals. River erosion has been an ongoing threat in the area for several years.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Govt workers, pensioners to get special allowance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has announced a special allowance for public sector employees and pensioners, effective from July 1, in a move aimed at cushioning their incomes.

According to a finance ministry circular issued yesterday, employees in Grades 1 to 9 will receive an additional 10 percent of their basic salary each year,

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Budget ‘realistic, pragmatic’

Salehuddin defends fiscal plan, hints at revisiting black money provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday described the budget for the new fiscal year as “realistic, implementable, and pragmatic”, saying it aims to stabilise the economy.

“We didn’t want to just make lofty promises or use flowery rhetoric,” Salehuddin said at a post-budget media briefing in Dhaka. “Most of the commitments we made are grounded in what’s practically possible.”

The Tk 790,000 crore budget for fiscal 2025-26 is the first in years to be smaller than the previous

one in original size. “Normally, budgets keep expanding every year, but this time we’ve trimmed it,” he said. “The aim is to deliver something we can actually implement, not just announce.”

Salehuddin said the interim administration inherited a fragile economy teetering on the edge. “Some said the country was in the ICU. Others said we were at the edge of a cliff, especially in financial governance,” he said. “We had to restore order, bring back normalcy, and revive economic activity. That’s been our first priority.”

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CONSENSUS TALKS Parties largely agree to let MPs vote at will in JS

Lawmakers must follow party lines on finance bills, no-confidence motions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties have, by and large, agreed on keeping a constitutional provision that allows lawmakers to vote against their parties unless the vote is on finance bills, no-confidence motions and constitutional amendments.

The parties also agreed to have 400 seats in parliament.

Leaders of 30 parties met the National Consensus Commission yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy.

The parties agreed that heads of key parliamentary standing committees, such as the Estimate Committee, Undertaking Committee and Privilege Committee, should be appointed from the opposition.

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Budget goals not backed by measures: CPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The positive objectives laid out in the proposed national budget for fiscal 2025-26 are not backed by measures, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

“The budget focused on several things like reducing inequality, overall development and human capital, which is good. Unfortunately, these are not supported by steps,” said CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun at a media briefing on the think-tank’s analysis of the national budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

While there are several positive initiatives such as tax relief for several

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MY DHAKA

Dhaka's silent sole keepers COBBLERS OF THE STREET

JANNATUL BUSHRA

In Dhaka, we live almost a vertical life! But there are some who habitually don't look up -- because their eyes are trained to stay on the ground, scanning scuffed heels and frayed straps, through which they are able to read the city's pulse. They are Dhaka's silent foot soldiers: the cobblers!

Sitting quietly by the roadside, surrounded by scraps of leather, worn-out shoes, a few tools, and an unyielding determination to make things last, these men (and sometimes women) patch up our soles while the world rushes past.

They work with a hammer, a thread, and a faith that not everything is disposable -- not yet.

On a busy corner of Jigatola, where Jigatola Boro Masjid meets the old Kacha Bazar, you'll find Shyamol Das, a middle-aged man who can't quite tell his exact age, but he's been around long enough to know a thing or two.

Sitting cross-legged on a battered scrap of cardboard, with a hammer in one hand and a torn sandal in the other, Das grins as he says, "I've been at this for as long as I can remember. My father did it; my grandfather too. We fix shoes because, you see, a man's character is like his shoe."

He taps the sandal for emphasis,



PHOTO: JANNATUL BUSHRA

adding "Once it's broken, people start looking down on you. My job is to make sure no one's character falls apart."

For over 16 years, Das's world has been stitched together in the narrow rectangle of the roadsides. Sometimes here, sometimes there. His gaze, like that of most street cobblers, rarely rises beyond the few inches in front of him. Yet, within that small frame, he carries the weight of generations, quietly patching lives together.

"We see the world from the ground up," he says, while polishing another pair of shoes. "It's a different city when you're looking at it from here. People's shoes tell their stories -- who is struggling, who is running late, and who can afford the fancy brands."

Just like Shyamol Das, Dhaka has so many other cobblers who are scattered across the arteries of the city -- Nilkhet, Mirpur, Badda, Mohakhali, Gulshan, Dhanmondi, and Motijheel -- just name

a place, and they're there!

They crouch beside electric poles, on sidewalks shaded by banyan trees, or at the edges of rickshaw stands. And what of their customers? A colourful parade -- rickshaw pullers, office workers, students, and sometimes, even a flustered female executive whose brand-new shoe betrayed her on the first day at her dream job.

Life isn't quite exactly smooth for these sidewalk saviours. They have to dodge city corporation evictions, endure the occasional wrath of the police, brave the monsoon's mood swings, and juggle rising material costs.

They might appear as invisible fixers, but their invisibility doesn't mean insignificance. For every pair of shoes mended, there's a story: a job interview saved, a school exam not missed, a festival not spoiled by a broken strap.

As Das hammers the final nail into a worn-out slipper, he smiles. "People walk miles in these shoes, chasing dreams, fighting for their families. I just help them keep going."

People like Shyamol Das are the city's repairers -- not just of shoes, but of lives in small ways. When someone can't afford a new pair, they make the old pair work. When a journey threatens to end with a broken strap, they step in. Their hands hold together the threads of resilience.

Mongolia PM resigns after anti-corruption protests

AFP, Ulaanbaatar

Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene resigned yesterday following weeks of anti-corruption protests in the country's capital.

The landlocked democracy in northern Asia has battled deep seated corruption for decades, with many arguing that wealthy elites are hoarding the profits of a years-long coal mining boom at the expense of the general population.

Frustrations have flared since last month as public suspicions over the supposedly lavish lifestyles of the prime minister's family have fuelled persistent demonstrations in the capital Ulaanbaatar.

Oyun-Erdene announced his resignation yesterday after losing a confidence vote among lawmakers, according to a parliamentary statement.

Pakistan teen influencer killed after 'rejecting' man

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani police yesterday said a 17-year-old TikTok star was shot dead by a man who had repeatedly contacted her online.

Sana Yousaf, who turned 17 last week and had more than a million followers across her social media accounts, was killed at her home in the capital Islamabad on Monday evening.

The police have arrested a 22-year-old on suspicion of her murder who spent hours loitering outside her home.

"It was a case of repeated rejections. The boy was trying to reach out to her time and again," Islamabad police chief Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said during a news conference.

"It was a gruesome and cold-blooded murder," Rizvi added.

Yousaf had more than 800,000 followers on TikTok, a wildly popular platform in Pakistan, where she posted lip-sync videos, skincare tips, and promotional content for beauty products.

Budget 'realistic, pragmatic'

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Despite constraints, the government has opted not to pursue a highly expansionary fiscal path. "We've heard talk of high growth for years. But who has actually benefited?" Salehuddin said. "We want to improve the quality of life, make living easier for ordinary people, raise purchasing power, and ensure that business and trade can thrive. That's the focus of this budget."

BLACK MONEY DEBATE

Salehuddin also addressed the politically sensitive topic of black money, saying the government was weighing both the ethical and economic implications of legalising undeclared income.

"There are two sides to this," he said. "One is the moral question -- should we even allow it? The other is practical -- will it help us collect more tax revenue?"

While the budget does not offer blanket amnesty, it includes limited provisions for legalising undisclosed funds in real estate. "This isn't a free pass to whitewash everything," Salehuddin clarified. "For example, if you build on your own land, you will have to pay a specific amount. That's been formalised."

The adviser rejected the notion that such measures signal a policy failure. "We're not saying it's a good thing to whiten black money. But sometimes you have to look at it sector by sector," he said. "There may definitely be something to consider regarding the whitening of black money -- we will evaluate what can be done."

Amid criticism of the black money provision, Abdur Rahman Khan, chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), said the government could reconsider it if necessary.

The finance adviser pointed to several policy initiatives targeting underserved groups. "Bangladesh Bank has set up a large fund for women entrepreneurs. We are allocating money for startups and for the youth. These are steps toward inclusive development."

INSTITUTIONAL REPAIR

Salehuddin placed particular emphasis on rebuilding damaged institutions, especially in the financial

sector. "Many institutions were either broken or deliberately weakened. Even capable people cannot function if the structure around them is hollow."

The adviser said Bangladesh Bank, under its current leadership, was taking action to trace and recover laundered assets. "This is not an easy task. People who launder money are extremely clever. They layer the transactions -- it goes from Sylhet to Keraniganj to Brahmanbaria. You have to track all that," he said.

"Twelve high-profile cases are already under investigation. It will take time. Look at Nigeria, it took 18 years. But at least we've started."

Salehuddin acknowledged that the current administration has not sought to reinvent the wheel but has retained elements of the macroeconomic framework left by the previous government.

He said it's not realistic to expect a dramatic break from the past with a "flashy, revolutionary budget that suddenly delivers massive new revenue".

"Some say we're just following in old footsteps -- there's some truth to that," he said. "But that doesn't mean there's no innovation. There are some bold steps in tax and expenditure. There are certain frameworks and methodologies in place, and those need to be carried forward successfully."

He added that the budget remains open for public feedback and that suggestions will be considered before final approval later this month. "We are asking for constructive collaboration, not just one-sided criticism."

BUDGET GEARED TOWARD STABILITY

Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud said the proposed budget aims to restore economic stability through pragmatism and fiscal discipline, mainly by curbing excessive public expenditure. "This budget follows austerity measures," he said at the media briefing. "We've already paid off our foreign loans. We did it without taking new ones."

He criticised the previous government for approving many projects based solely on political considerations without securing

adequate financing. "The interim government is now implementing projects approved by the previous administration, because budgeting is a continuous process," he said.

Of the 1,113 projects initiated by the previous government, the interim administration has approved only 20 to 30, and those were pre-listed by the former government, he said.

While the interim government has not taken on any new mega projects, it has prioritised the continuation of several important ones that are already underway. "We cannot abandon projects halfway through," he said, citing the Matarbari power plant, Bay Terminal, and Mongla Seaport as key priorities.

Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan described the 2025-26 budget as "exceptional" in its focus on reducing excessive costs and curbing irregularities. He expressed hope that inflation would ease soon, citing recent cuts in petroleum and LPG prices. "We're also increasing LNG imports to meet industrial demand."

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin addressed previous warnings of possible food shortages. "The former prime minister warned there might be a famine, but that didn't happen because we took action to strengthen the supply of essential commodities."

Agriculture Adviser Lt Gen Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (ret'd) said that this year's boro season yielded 1.5 million tonnes of additional paddy. To support farmers, the government plans to build 100 small cold storage facilities to help them preserve their produce and sell during periods of market stress.

Finance Secretary Khairuzzaman Mozumder said the budget has been designed to avoid excessive reliance on bank borrowing.

The government also expanded coverage under social safety net programmes, he said, adding that the measures are expected to help ease inflationary pressure.

NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan said tax rates on nearly all essential goods have been proposed for reduction. "This budget also aims to protect local industries."

in the previous fiscal year.

The new allowance will not apply to employees on unpaid leave or those who surrendered their entire pension without restoration.

For self-governing and state-owned institutions outside the revenue budget, the allowance must be financed from their own funds, the circular added.

Foreign ministry officials further said the allowance will not be applicable to members of the judiciary or the armed forces.

Govt revises definition of freedom fighter

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local collaborators -- Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezame Islam, and the Peace Committee -- towards achieving Bangladesh's independence.

Those recognised as freedom fighters must be civilians who were of the minimum age as determined by the government during the time of war. Also included as freedom fighters are members of the armed forces, East Pakistan Rifles (EPR), police, the Mujibnagar government and its recognised forces, naval commandos, Kilo Force, and Ansar members.

All women who were subjected to torture by the Pakistani forces and their collaborators (Biranganas); and all doctors, nurses, and medical assistants who provided treatment to wounded freedom fighters in field hospitals during the war will continue to be regarded as freedom fighters.

MUKTIJUDDHER SHOHOJOGI (ASSOCIATE OF THE LIBERATION WAR)

The ordinance defines an "associate of the Liberation War" as follows:

"Individuals who, between March 26 and December 16, 1971, resided either within the country or abroad and played a role in inspiring freedom fighters, organising support, accelerating the war effort, and contributing to the achievement of Bangladesh's independence through organisational leadership, global opinion building, securing diplomatic support, and strengthening psychological resolve."

These associates include the

Bangladeshi professionals who were abroad during the Liberation War and made significant contributions in favour of the war, and Bangladeshi citizens who actively engaged in shaping international public opinion.

The persons who served under the Mujibnagar government as officials, employees, diplomats, or who were appointed as doctors, nurses, or assistants by the government will also be considered associates.

All MNAs and MPAs affiliated with the Mujibnagar government who were later recognised as members of the Constituent Assembly will also fall under this category.

Besides, all artists and personnel of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, and all Bangladeshi journalists who worked in support of the war both at home and abroad and members of the Swadhin Bangla football team will now be considered associates of the Liberation War.

They would previously be considered freedom fighters.

The ordinance defines a "freedom fighter's family" as: "The spouse, son, daughter, father, or mother of a recognised freedom fighter."

The family of a Liberation War associate is defined as: "The spouse, son, daughter, father, or mother of a recognized associate of the Liberation War."

The ordinance also makes a slight revision to the definition of the Liberation War itself. It now states:

"The Liberation War refers to the

armed struggle, conducted between March 26 and December 16, 1971, by the people of Bangladesh to establish a sovereign democratic state founded on equality, human dignity, and social justice, against the occupying and invading Pakistani armed forces and their collaborators -- Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezame Islam, and the Peace Committee."

The new definition of Liberation War drops the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The previous one mentioned that the war was waged responding to Bangabandhu's call for independence.

Freedom fighter and Liberation War researcher Afsan Chowdhury said the move was entirely a bureaucratic decision.

"We have seen this since 1972 -- every time a new government comes to power, they create a new list of freedom fighters. There are personal benefits involved," he told the newspaper late last night.

"People will not accept this. The Liberation War will remain as it always has been -- in the hearts of the general people."

Talking to The Daily Star, valiant freedom fighter Fazlur Rahman, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said, "They [the government] do not uphold the spirit of the Liberation War ... It does not matter to me what types of ordinances they issue. The Liberation War will forever remain in its rightful place."

Parties largely agree to let MPs vote

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The issues related to the caretaker government were not discussed at yesterday's meeting. These topics will be covered when the dialogue resumes after Eid.

Leaders of the BNP, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Ganosamhati Andolon, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Amar Bangladesh Party, among others attended the meeting.

After the meeting, BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters that his party supported allowing MPs to vote freely unless the matter in question was a vote of confidence, finance bill, constitutional amendment, and other issues related to national security.

If the country is in a state of war, MPs should not be allowed to vote against the party on national security issues, he said.

The BNP does not support the idea of having all parliamentary standing committee chairs from the opposition. This can be done when it comes to the four expenditure-related committees and some other committees, he said.

The BNP agrees to increase the number of seats reserved for women from 50 to 100, he said.

Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (northern region) of the NCP, said his party partially agreed on the question of whether MPs should be allowed to vote against their party.

The NCP leaders would discuss

among themselves whether MPs should be allowed to vote independently on constitutional amendments, he said.

The NCP does not agree that lawmakers shouldn't be allowed to vote independently when the issue is about national security.

The party supports that opposition MPs would lead the four expenditure-related committees, said Sarjis, adding that his party proposed that the committees on home affairs, finance, planning, and public administration should also be chaired by the opposition.

On women's representation, Tasnim Jara, joint member secretary of the NCP, said 25 percent of the parliamentary seats must be allocated for women representatives.

Direct elections should be held in these seats to ensure female leadership.

Jamaat Nayebe-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said his party supports amending Article 70 of the constitution to allow MPs to vote independently on all matters except finance bills, votes of confidence, and constitutional changes.

He further mentioned that the BNP had informally indicated that it would agree on the three exceptions and might issue a note of dissent about the inclusion of broader national issues on which MPs could vote independently.

The Khelafat Majlish expressed support for MPs having the freedom to vote independently on all matters

except for finance bills and no-confidence votes.

In addition to the four agreed-upon standing committees, the party also proposed that the heads of other major parliamentary committees of public importance should come from the opposition.

The party opposes the idea of reserving seats for women.

The Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, the Left Democratic Alliance, Ganosamhati Andolon, and Rashtra Sanskar Andolon supported the proposal to allow MPs to vote freely on all matters except for no-confidence motions and finance bills.

Some parties also proposed achieving balance in parliamentary standing committees through proportional representation, suggesting that committee chairs be distributed 50/50 between the government and the opposition.

At the beginning of the meeting, National Consensus Commission Vice President Prof Ali Riiaz said, "We do not have much time. There is a growing public interest in the work of the National Consensus Commission. In response to that, we arranged for the second phase of discussions to be broadcast live."

He expressed hopes that the National Charter would be finalised by July, emphasising the importance of reaching at least a minimum level of consensus among political parties.

Govt workers, pensioners to get special allowance

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while those in Grades 10 to 20 will receive an additional 15 percent. The minimum payable amount will be Tk 1,000 for employees and Tk 500 for pensioners.

The allowance will also be extended to those on post-retirement leave, suspended employees (at 50 percent of their last basic), and certain contractual appointees.

Finance ministry officials estimate that implementing the allowance will require Tk 5,000-5,500 crore.

In July 2023, the previous

government had announced an additional five percent special incentive, on top of the existing annual five percent increment, for government employees.

Yesterday's circular cancels that order, meaning the actual annual increases now stand at five percent and 10 percent, respectively, for different grades.

In the proposed FY26 budget, the government allocated Tk 84,114 crore for salaries and allowances of public employees -- up from Tk 79,247 crore

CA seeks increased support for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

The UN Resident Coordinator commended the robust cooperation with the Interim Government, and both leaders engaged in comprehensive discussions on advancing development in Bangladesh.

They explored the extensive support the UN could provide to bolster the government's ambitious reform initiatives.

Gwyn Lewis also highlighted the critical measures undertaken to ensure a seamless transition for Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category.

In the meeting, the Resident Coordinator and the Chief Adviser addressed the pressing issues surrounding the Rohingya crisis and the ongoing financing challenges.

They expressed grave concern over the significant reductions in funding, which are already severely impacting education and other essential programmes within the camps.

Prof Yunus underscored the urgent need for sustained solidarity and increased support from the international community to mitigate Bangladesh's efforts to aid the vulnerable Rohingya population.

Gwyn Lewis reaffirmed her unwavering solidarity with Bangladesh's reform and transition process, emphasising the UN's commitment to supporting the nation's path towards sustainable development and prosperity.



UN Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER GOB/ FACEBOOK

Cattle sales off to a slow start

BNP, allies bag most market leases

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

Though 20 cattle markets in Dhaka officially started operating from yesterday, the number of customers remains very low.

Cattle traders have already brought in a large number of sacrificial animals but are passing their time idly due to the lack of buyers. Prices of bulls are significantly higher compared to the same period last year.

Fakir Chan, a trader from Gangni in Meherpur, who brought 18 bulls to the Kamalapur cattle market two days ago, said, "None of my bulls were sold as of yesterday afternoon. There are hardly any customers, and those who come offer unreasonably low prices."

Mizanur Rahman, another trader from Meherpur, said, "I bought a bull for Tk 1.89 lakh and raised it for a year. Now I'm asking for Tk 5.5 lakh. If I sell it for less than Tk 4 lakh, I'll incur



a loss, but I haven't received any decent offers." Moksed Ali, also from Meherpur, brought 13 bulls to the Kamalapur market three days ago, with prices ranging from Tk 1 lakh to Tk 5 lakh. "There are no customers. I am hoping to sell all of them in the next few days," he said.

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DEATH OF BAWM YOUTHS IN CUSTODY

384 citizens demand judicial inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 384 citizens issued a statement yesterday demanding a judicial investigation into what they said were the deaths of Lalsangmoy Bawm and Lal Kim Bawm in custody.

In a written statement, they said, "We strongly condemn the indiscriminate arrest of ordinary indigenous people in Bandarban in the name of counter-terrorism -- especially the prolonged imprisonment of innocent civilians, including women and children of the Bawm community."

Quoting the families of Lalsangmoy, the statement said Lalsangmoy, who

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Budget does not reflect July spirit: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed national budget fails to reflect the spirit of a discrimination-free society envisioned by the July uprising, said National Citizen Party convener Nahid Islam yesterday.

"The budget shows signs of the old economic system. It does not embody the spirit of the mass uprising, which called for a new political and economic settlement," he said at a press conference.

He also said the government had acknowledged some existing problems but offered "no solutions for real change".

Nahid criticised the budget for lacking a roadmap to reduce inequality.

"Our expectation was that the gap between the rich and the poor would begin to narrow. But the current budget does not include any policies or steps to achieve that," he said.

He pointed out that the tax threshold for low-income earners remains unchanged,

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Open to Dec polls if level playing field ensured

Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said once a level playing field is ensured, the party will be ready to participate in elections anytime.

"We have mentioned a flexible timeline from February to April. We initially proposed February, then extended it to April. BNP has insisted on December. If elections are held in December and we feel that a truly level playing field has been created and that all state organs are prepared for a fair election, we have no issue in joining," he said at a press conference at a hotel in the capital.

The party arranged the briefing following an Appellate Division verdict that restored Jamaat's registration.

Shafiqur said the next national election should

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Two women stood outside the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka yesterday, as services remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day. Doctors and nurses have halted work, citing security concerns after an alleged attack by injured July uprising victims -- currently receiving treatment at the hospital -- and a tripartite clash involving patients and their attendants last Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Political goodwill needed to reduce waterlogging

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not just holding wetland grabbers accountable, but ensuring political consensus is also essential to mitigate urban waterlogging, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said encroachers often receive protection from various political parties and remain beyond legal reach, even after a change in government.

The views were shared at an online event titled "Urban Waterlogging in Early Monsoon: IPD's Observation," organised by the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD).

In the keynote presentation, Prof Adil Mohammed Khan, director of IPD, said despite several drainage and canal recovery projects in recent years, cities like Dhaka, Cumilla, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Khulna, and Mymensingh still suffer from waterlogging following moderate rainfall.

In contrast, coordinated planning and implementation have slightly improved the situation in Chattogram.

Adil pointed out that while some efforts were made to recover canals in Dhaka, re-encroachment of the original Buriganga channel wasted about Tk 30 crore in public funds.

A nearly Tk 900 crore project for canals in Kalunagar, Jirani, Manda, and Shyampur has seen very little progress. Due to a dysfunctional local governance system and the absence of elected mayors or councillors in some areas, there was inadequate monsoon

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Eid travellers to be photographed for added security

Says home adviser; steps taken to ensure safety during festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of heightened security ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, authorities will photograph all long-distance passengers before they depart, aiming to prevent crimes such as robbery, extortion, and harassment during the holiday rush.

"If someone boards a bus in disguise with criminal intent, this step will help law enforcement identify them quickly," said Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury after a coordination meeting with transport owners, workers, and agencies yesterday.

Photos will be taken at key locations like Aminbazar or during the journey if new passengers board.

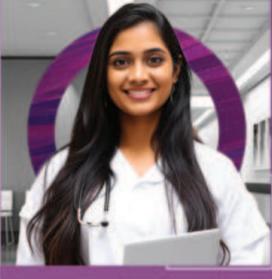
At a press briefing at the Secretariat, the home adviser said the move is part of a broader plan to ensure safe and smooth Eid travel.

Meanwhile, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has increased surveillance across

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The Daily Star
STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2

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HOSPITAL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION Mosaddek president, Shamim GS

CITY DESK

Dr Mohammad Mosaddek Hossain Biswas Dambel has been elected as the president and Dr AM Shamim as the general secretary of the Bangladesh Private Hospital, Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association for the 2025-2027 term, said a press release.

Twenty-five valid nominations were declared as winners against 25 posts.

Dr Mahbubur Rahman Liton was elected as the senior vice president and Prof Salauddin Al Azad as the treasurer in the 25-member committee.

The election was held on June 1. Hospitals, clinics, and diagnostics from all over the country – including LabAid Hospital, EverCare Hospital, United Hospital, Square Hospital, Ibn Sina, Medinova Center, Bangladesh Specialized Hospital, and Fazlul Haque Collaborative Hospital – participated in the election.



Mosaddek Shamim



A buyer inspects a locally made fishing trap crafted from thin bamboo rods at Salutikar Bazar in Gowainghat upazila, Sylhet. With the monsoon approaching, demand for such traps has risen, with a hundred selling for Tk 4,000-6,000. While the sellers and artisans are from Gowainghat, buyers come from Sylhet Sadar, Chhatak, Companiganj, Jaipur, Balaganj, and Bishwanath. Although the market runs on Saturdays and Tuesdays, these traps are sold daily during this season. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Open to Dec polls

FROM PAGE 3
be held by mid-February or, at the latest, by April 2026. "We prefer an election before Ramadan. But if necessary conditions aren't met by then, it should not be pushed beyond April under any circumstances," he said, adding that worsening weather from May would make elections difficult.

He clarified that Jamaat is not dictating terms. "If we specify a particular date, it may sound like a decision. That is for the government to make. We are only expressing our opinion and raising demands," he said.

The Jamaat ameer also

alleged that although the previous regime has fallen, its oppressive system remains.

He said without resolving these issues, holding elections in either December or April would be meaningless.

"The fascists may be gone, but fascism still casts a shadow over the nation," he said, adding that only a free, fair, and acceptable election can end this.

He urged the Election Commission to return Jamaat's party symbol and act neutrally. "If there's any biased or exceptional behaviour, Jamaat will not stay silent," he warned.

Political goodwill needed

FROM PAGE 3
preparedness, he said.

He added that lower-income and marginalised urban residents are disproportionately affected, facing both economic and spatial inequality.

Unregulated housing on low-lying lands and wetlands has blocked natural water flow, he said.

Since the July uprising, no one has been jailed for wetland encroachment, giving impunity to what he called "environmental homicide".

Md Shahjalal Mishuk, assistant professor of Urban and Regional Planning at CUET, said recent coordination among agencies and implementation of ongoing mega drainage projects have slightly improved conditions in Chattogram. However,

restoring all 57 canals is necessary for a lasting solution.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan, an activist from Jurain-Shyampur, said despite a billion-taka military-led project in the DND area, the problem persists.

He alleged that stakeholders seem more focused on fund allocation than actual results, and garbage removal from canals is neglected.

Sheikh Adnan Islam, a planner from Khuina, claimed that some government officials are involved in wetland grabbing and must be held accountable.

He stressed the need for dredging the Mayur and Bhairab rivers and curbing corruption in river-related projects.

Dr Farhadur Reza, associate professor at Jahangirnagar University,

called for nature-based solutions and reducing concrete coverage in urban areas.

Environmental expert Asif Iqbal said "housing mafias" are destroying wetlands and now dominate urban development.

He criticised the lack of public access to information on public funds, urging people-centric policies.

From Mymensingh, planner Fahim Ahmed Mondal reported that the canals are being filled for housing, and high-rise buildings are being built beside narrow roads without oversight.

From Cumilla, planner Ibtisam Rashedin Najla said ponds are disappearing, and during floods, drains become hazardous.

Planners Abdul Ahad Nafis and Md Redwanur Rahman also spoke at the event.

In Loving Memory

"We remember with love and deep respect Dr. A.K.M. Shamsul Alam, renowned archaeologist of Bangladesh, on the first anniversary of his passing. On this day, 4th June 2024, he departed for eternity."

He left behind a legacy of knowledge, integrity and kindness that continues to inspire all who knew him. He is dearly missed by his wife Mrs. Kohinoor Alam, sons Dr. Iftekhar Alam and Shawkat Alam, daughters-in-law Salma Parveen and Fahmin Rezwana and grandchildren Aiman, Shehzad, Aneez, Atif, and Sophie.

His memory lives on in the hearts of his family, friends and all who had the privilege to know him. May Allah grant him salvation and eternal peace.

Budget does not reflect July spirit: Nahid

FROM PAGE 3
while the government has failed to introduce effective measures to hold large-scale tax evaders accountable.

"This means the tax burden will continue to fall disproportionately on the lower- and middle-income population," he said.

Nahid said it was particularly disappointing that the budget ignored the core demand of the mass uprising, which was job

creation. "There are around 2.6 million unemployed youths in Bangladesh. But the budget does not outline how investments will increase to generate jobs. Instead, we think the budget will make people more dependent on bank loans," he said.

He expressed concern over stagnation in education, health, science, and innovation.

"We demanded at least 2 percent of GDP be allocated to education, but only around 1.07 percent has been earmarked. The health sector has also been neglected again," he added.

He slammed the government for cutting the budget of the expatriates' welfare ministry by half.

"Remittances from migrant workers are a vital pillar of our economy. We strongly oppose the budget

cut in this area."

Nahid also said that small and medium enterprises were overlooked in terms of incentives. The hike in e-commerce tax from 5 to 15 percent would also hamper the growth of the digital economy, he warned.

He voiced strong opposition to the continuation of policies allowing the whitening of black money.

However, he welcomed the allocation of Tk 405 crore for those injured and martyred during the July uprising but urged the government to ensure the funds reach those genuinely in need.

"While the government has made an effort, there is no clear vision on economic transformation after 15 years of Awami League rule, which destroyed all the institutions," he said.

Affidavit of Name Change

MD. ALAMGIR HOSSAIN,
Present Name- ARNAV
EMIR, Son of MD KHALIL,
Village- West Rasulpur, Post
Office- Kutubpur-1421,
Fatullah, Narayanganj.

PLOT FOR SALE

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested firm/organization for Business Development Service (BDS) Portal. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM) at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/268569>

The deadline for submission of proposal is Monday, June 30, 2025, by 04:30 PM, Dhaka Time (GMT+6).

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization Promoting South-South Cooperation

Recruitment of Consultancy Firm/ Individuals to develop 5 Years Strategic Plan (2025-2029)

PPD is a Southern-led, Southern-run Intergovernmental Organization of 27 Member Countries headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh. PPD is inviting for submission of Expression of Interest (EoI) from experienced Consultancy Firms/Individuals to develop a new Strategic Plan (2025-2029) guided by the framework of South-South Cooperation for Reproductive Health, Population and Development.

The interested firm/ individual is requested to submit Expression of Interest (EoI) with financial proposals to PPD at the following address on or before 16 June, 2025 with sealed envelope/e-mail with soft copy.

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

Plot- 17 B & C, Block- F, Agargaon Administrative Zone, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka- 1207, E-mail: partners@ppdsec.org

For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), please visit our website: <http://www.partners-popdev.org/>

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter No. 715 of 2025
In The Matter of
An application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND-
In The Matter of:
Akij Cement Company Ltd. --- Petitioner
VERSUS-
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms. --- Respondent

Notice is hereby given that the petitioner above named filed and moved an application under Section 12 read with 13 of the Companies Act 1994 before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh for amendment of the Memorandum of Association of the petitioner company. Upon preliminary hearing, His Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the application on 18.05.2025. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fix. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs.

Munim Ahmed Chowdhury
Barrister-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
1st Floor, 45/C, New Eskaton Road
(Opposite of The Grand Terrace)
P.S-Hatirjheel, Dhaka-1000

384 citizens

FROM PAGE 3

was imprisoned in a false case, had been undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital for nearly two months.

After his condition became critical due to what they claimed was negligence, he was granted bail on May 29. However, he passed away on May 31.

Meanwhile, Lal Kim died in Chattogram Central Jail custody without receiving treatment on May 15, the statement said.

According to hospital records, he suffered cardiac arrest before arriving at the hospital.

His family alleged that he had been held without trial for a year and despite his worsening health, he was denied proper medical care, according to the statement.

The statement also placed five demands, including bringing those responsible to justice through a judicial investigation and releasing all arbitrarily detained members of the Bawm community.

The other demands are to stop state surveillance and restrictions on the movement, trade, and livelihoods of the Bawm people; conduct a fair and credible investigation to identify and bring to justice all those, including the KNF, who are directly or indirectly involved in a bank robbery; and ensure equal rights, dignity, security, and justice for all citizens of both the hills and the plains.

The statement's signatories include economist Prof Anu Muhammad, Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, writer and environmentalist Zareen Ahmad, Barrister Sara Hossain, JU Prof Roksana Sultana, DU Prof Gitara Nasreen, rights activist Khushi Kabir, and DU teacher Samina Lutha, other eminent citizens and 150 members of an organisation.

Cattle sales

FROM PAGE 3

Rezaul Mostafa, a resident of Basabo who bought a bull for Tk 1 lakh, said, "Prices are much higher this year. The same sized bull last year cost around Tk 80,000."

20 CATTLE MARKETS APPROVED

Both Dhaka north and south city corporations have approved 20 cattle markets this year. Of the makeshift cattle markets, 12 fall under DNCC jurisdiction – including the permanent one at Gabtoli – while eight are in DSCC.

The leasing process, however, has seen a significant number of bids won by leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations.

On April 29, DNCC invited tenders for 10 makeshift markets. However, two – Eastern Housing in Aftabnagar and Banarupa in Khilkhet – were cancelled following High Court orders.

In the first round of bidding, only three markets received offers above the government-fixed lease rates. One of those had two equal highest bids.

The Gabtoli cattle market received a top bid of Tk 25 crore in the tender, but the lease was awarded to the second-highest bidder, Erfan Traders, for Tk 15.71 crore. The company is owned by Syed Abu Bakar Siddique (Saju), convener of Darus Salam Thana BNP.

Contacted, Siddique said they were offered the lease on June 1 after the top bidder backed out due to delays in the approval process. "We will run the market for 10 and a half months and then hand it back to the city corporation," he said.

Md Rafiqul Islam, who won the lease for the market at the open space adjoining the Bhatara Sutibhola canal for Tk 3.70 crore, told The Daily Star he is a former general secretary of BNP.

The market at the open space at Eastern Housing in Mirpur Section-6 was leased to Messrs Sohag Enterprise for Tk 2.55 crore. Proprietor Md Ratan Miah confirmed his affiliation with BNP politics. The lease

for the market at the open space adjoining the 40-foot road went to Messrs Ahmed Enterprise for Tk 2.72 crore. Jalal Mridha, the proprietor, said he is joint coordinator of Mohammadpur Thana BNP.

The market stretching from Bhatulia Shaheb Ali Madrasa to Sector-10 Ranavola Sluice Gate was awarded to Atiqur Rahman and Co for Tk 95 lakh. Atiqur Rahman said he is a former president of Dhaka Mohanagar Uttar BNP.

MARKETS UNDER DSCC
This year, DSCC finalised eight cattle markets, most of which are reportedly under the control of BNP leaders. Previously, such markets were largely dominated by Awami League leaders.

Hasiba Khan, DSCC Estate Officer, said eight markets has been finalised.

The lease for the open space of North Shahjahanpur Maitree Sangha Club went to Anisur Rahman, a businessman known to be BNP-aligned. Last year, the lease was held by former AL councillor Hamidul Haque. For seven years prior, it was under the control of Shahjahanpur Thana AL president Abdul Latif. Joyal Abedin Ratan, former president of Demra Thana BNP, secured the lease for the market north of Anumlia Aligarh Model College in Demra.

Muhammad Ali, also linked with BNP politics, leased the market on the riverbank next to the west side of Postogola cremation ground.

Eid travellers

FROM PAGE 3

the country to guard against potential threats during the festivities.

"We are on maximum alert," said Wing Commander MZM Entekhab Chowdhury, director of Rab's Media Wing. "From cattle markets to highways and terminals, our teams are conducting patrols and undercover surveillance."

Authorities also warned transport operators against overcharging.

Janata Bank PLC.

Head Office
IT Procurement, Security, Compliance and Maintenance Department
110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: +02223356514, Website: www.jb.com.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

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

Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Tender Publish Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1123586	JB/IT-Proc-35/OTM/Computer/2025	Procurement of Workstation, Laptop, Online UPS, 27 inch Monitor of Janata Bank PLC. following Open Tendering Method.	03/06/2025 15:00 PM	26/06/2025 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP Help Desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1363

(Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain)
Deputy General Manager

Extra- Ordinary General Meeting

As per direction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Notice is hereby given that an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of **Amit Footwear Ltd.** will be held on 25.06.2025 at 2.00 P.M. at 209, Chhaydana, Hajir Pukur, Gazipur and creditors meeting will be held at 3.00 P.M. on the same date and place to transact the following agenda.

To Consider the Scheme of Amalgamation to the effect that subject to the approval of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and any other Regulatory body as may be required the **Amit Footwear Ltd.** will be merged with its all assets and liabilities into **Amity Sweaters Limited** as per sections of the Companies Act 1994.

All shareholders and Creditors of the Company as requested to attend the meeting in time.

(Sukumar Chowdhury)
Managing Director
Amit Footwear Ltd.

Extra- Ordinary General Meeting

As per direction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Notice is hereby given that an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of **Amity Sweaters Limited** will be held on 25.06.2025 at 10.00 A.M. at 209, Chhaydana, Hajir Pukur, Gazipur and creditors meeting will be held at 11.00 A.M. on the same date and place to transact the following agenda.

To Consider the Scheme of Amalgamation to the effect that subject to the approval of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and any other Regulatory body as may be required the **Amity Sweaters Limited** would take over the 01 (One) company name & style as **Amit Footwear Ltd.** and this One company will be merged with its all assets and liabilities into **Amity Sweaters Limited** as per sections 228 & 229 of the Companies Act 1994.

All shareholders and Creditors of the Company as requested to attend the meeting in time.

(Sukumar Chowdhury)
Managing Director
Amity Sweaters Limited

Flood situation worsens across Sylhet division

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The flood situation across Sylhet division has deteriorated further as more low-lying areas were inundated, leaving thousands of people marooned.

The Surma, Kushiya and Manu rivers were flowing above the danger level at five points in Sylhet and Moulvibazar.

Manu river's water level, however, has been showing downward trend over the past 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Google satellite data shows that low-lying areas are inundated in Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Jaintiapur, Beanibazar, Golapganj, Balaganj, Osmaninagar, Fenchuganj, Dakshin Surma and Bishwanath upazilas of Sylhet.

It also shows that parts of Moulvibazar's Barlekha, Juri, Kulaura and Rajnagar upazilas, and Sunamganj's Jagannathpur, Shalla and Chhatak upazilas are submerged.

In Dakshin Konagaon of Moulvibazar's Juri upazila, about 15 feet stretch of the Juri river embankment broke last night,

causing water to enter and inundate some 40-50 houses in Konagaon and neighbouring areas, said Imtiaz Gafur Maruf, a member of Fultala Union Parishad.

Parts of the Kapnapahar Tea Garden, Hafizi, and Dakshin Sagarnal areas were also submerged under two to three feet of water, said locals.

Meanwhile, many are still stranded in several areas of the district as the water level is yet to recede, said officials.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board, flood situation in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj is likely to deteriorate further in the next 48 hours with increase in water levels of Surma and Kushiya rivers.

In Sylhet division, highest rainfall of 64mm was recorded in Maheshkhola area under Sunamganj's Madhyanager upazila.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rain and thundershower in Sylhet division till today.



An illegal fish enclosure built by blocking the Sholmari river in Khulna continues to disrupt its natural flow. Meanwhile, rampant encroachment is also choking the river. As a result, monsoon waterlogging has worsened in nearby villages, damaging farmland, threatening biodiversity, and disrupting the region's ecological balance. The photo was taken from the Sholmari Kheaghat area recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

3 of a family killed as microbus hits parked truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three members of a family were killed and three others injured when a microbus collided with a parked truck on the Dhaka-Tangail Bangabandhu Bridge highway yesterday.

Amjad Mandal, 60, and his sons Ratul Mondal, 25, and Atul Mondal, 14, from Kamarchar in Sherpur Sadar upazila, died on the spot, said police.

Amjad, who lived with his family in Badda, Dhaka, was involved in the construction business. Yesterday morning, he rented a microbus to travel to his village home in Sherpur to celebrate Eid with his family.

The injured — Maksuda Begum, 55, wife of Amjad, their daughter-in-law Maryam Begum, 25, and driver Nazmul, 40, — were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Basail Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Jalal Uddin said the microbus driver lost control near the Karatipara Bypass area of Basail upazila. The vehicle then crashed into the truck.

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib 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

GOPALGANJ MUNICIPALITY Safe water a daily struggle for residents

SUZID DAS, Faridpur

Gopalganj municipality is currently unable to ensure uninterrupted supply of potable water to its residents due to the declining capacity of its water treatment plants and the lack of necessary renovations.

At present, the municipality can meet only 25 percent of the daily demand for safe drinking water, leaving thousands of residents in distress.

The area of the municipality was expanded in 2021 from 13.82 to 30.70 square kilometres. The total population now stands at around 2,09,450. A total of 9,900 households are connected to the municipality's water supply network. Water is treated at four plants with a combined daily output of 13 to 14 million litres, against a daily demand of 60 million litres.

"We get water only for an hour early in the morning. We store water in buckets, bottles — whatever we can find. However, the quantity supplied is hardly enough, and if we fail to collect water timely, the whole day becomes a struggle," said Masum Sheikh, a resident of Hemangon area.

"After bathing my three children with stored water, we often have to skip showers ourselves. I never thought in a town like Gopalganj, I'd have to plan my daily chores based on when the water comes," said Asma Begum, a schoolteacher residing in Courtpara area.

Swaroop Bose, sub-assistant engineer (Electricity and Water) of the municipality, said the main water treatment plant, which has been running continuously for years without proper maintenance, saw its capacity decline from 540 cubic metres per hour to around 250-300 cubic metres per hour. Without urgent repairs, the plant could fail entirely at any time.

The town's two primary treatment facilities, located in Shishubon area, were established in the 2000-01 and 2019-20 fiscal years respectively. While the newer plant is still functioning normally, it is under significant strain due to overdependence. Other

supplementary sources — including an iron removal plant, a groundwater-based facility at Kazulia Beel, and a surface water plant sourcing from the Madhumati River in Manikhar — are also operating below capacity due to a lack of maintenance, he added.

Md Faiz Ahmed, executive engineer of DPHE in Gopalganj, said they had discussed a new plant plan with higher authorities, but no steps had been taken



yet. Moreover, installing deep tube-wells in the municipality is not feasible as the underground water is laden with arsenic and iron at 50-100 feet depth. Deeper down, the water is saline. As such, water can only be sourced from the river, purified and supplied to the residents.

"Meanwhile, applications for new connections are coming daily," said Bishwajit Kumar Pal, administrator of Gopalganj Municipality and deputy director of Local Government Division in the district.

"We submitted a DPP to expand plant capacity and extend pipeline coverage in the newly added areas. We hope to receive a prompt decision from the ministry concerned," he added.

Govt mulls amendment to public service ordinance Hints law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In response to the ongoing protests by Secretariat employees, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has indicated that the government is considering amending the "Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025."

He said a high-level committee is being formed to review the ordinance.

However, the protesting employees are demanding its complete repeal. Speaking to reporters after receiving memoranda from leaders of the Secretariat Officers and Employees Unity Forum, Asif Nazrul yesterday said, "As far as I know, a high-level advisory committee will be formed. The committee will be tasked with reviewing the objections raised by the employees and making recommendations accordingly. Since a committee is being formed, it means there is scope for reconsideration."

Earlier, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan also expressed concern over the possible misuse of the newly issued ordinance.

Before submitting the memoranda, the protesting employees held a brief rally at Secretariat. They termed the Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 a "black law" and vowed to continue their movement until it is repealed.

Ishraque suspends protest till Eid

Warns of self-oath if swearing-in delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing movement demanding BNP leader Ishraque Hossain's swearing-in as the mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation has been suspended until the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

Ishraque made the announcement while expressing solidarity with protesters at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

Supporters of Ishraque and a large number of DSCC employees continued their sit-in protest in front of Nagar Bhaban for the 21st consecutive day yesterday.

Ishraque also warned that if the government fails to arrange the official oath-taking, he will take the oath himself at the Central Shaheed Minar with the support of Dhaka residents, voters, and the general public, and assume the mayor's office accordingly.

He accused the interim government of losing its neutrality and undermining both the constitution and the Election Commission.

Ishraque said, "We have won on all legal fronts, but the biased government and its advisers have delayed the verdict and obstructed the oath-taking process. This long-standing denial violates the constitution and disrespects the Election Commission's authority."

Ishraque said that the citizens of Dhaka will decide how the Nagar Bhaban will run. "We will not allow any outsider — be it an adviser or an administrator — to operate Nagar Bhaban. This is our final word," he declared.





Mymensingh City Corporation

Mymensingh
Estd: 2018
Engineering Division
www.mcc.gov.bd

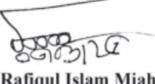
Memo No. 46.21.6100.014.00.000.25-809 Dated: 03/06/2025

e-Tender Notice-16/2024-25

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works under Mymensingh City Corporation, Mymensingh:

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of work	Tender publication date & time	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing and opening date & time
01	ID No. 1123217 & LGCRPP/Mymensingh/2024-25/W-12	Rehabilitation of RCC Road starting from Maskanda Mosque (Khanka Mosque) to Barera Bypass Road in Ward No. 26 (Ch. 00-550m)	04/06/2025 10.00am	02/07/2025 16:00pm	03/07/2025 13.00pm
02	ID No. 1123218 & LGCRPP/Mymensingh/2024-25/W-13	Installation & replacement of Smart LED Street light from a) Chorpora More to Beltoli Bridge in Ward No. 14, 15, 19, 24, 25, 26 & b) Around of (i) Circuit House Math in Ward No. 3, 7 (ii) Maskanda Bus stand in Ward No. 19, 20 (iii) Patgudam bridge bus stand in Ward No. 18, 19 under Mymensingh City Corporation.	04/06/2025 10.00am	02/07/2025 16:00pm	03/07/2025 13.00pm

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Md. Rafiqul Islam Miah
Chief Engineer
Mymensingh City Corporation
Mymensingh
E-mail: ce.dce.cc.mym@lgi.gov.bd

GD-1376



গ্যাস প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে
প্ৰাকৃতিক বিকল্প জ্বালানি।

BANGLADESH PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COMPANY LTD.

(A Company of Petrobangla)
BAPEX Bhaban (4th floor), 4, Kawran bazar, C/A, Dhaka-1215.
(Construction Division)

Ref: 28.09.0000.000.088.38.0003.25/ Date: 02 June 2025

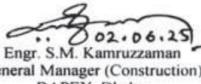
e-Tender Notice

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

SI	Tender ID	Description of work & Package No	Last selling Date & Time	Last Date and Time for Security Submission	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1099412 OSTETM	Package No: bpx.28.09.0000.000.088.38.0003.25 Land development work of well site area along with construction of new approach road from Boyalia Road to Mabrakpur Deep-1 Exploratory Well Drilling Field, Sujannagar. Pabna.	29-Jun-2025 17:00	30-Jun-2025 13:00	30-Jun-2025 14:00	30-Jun-2025 14:00

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guide lines are available in the National e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



Engr. S.M. Kamruzzaman
General Manager (Construction)
BAPEX, Dhaka.
Phone: 02-55011799

GD-1366

More than 4m refugees fled Sudan civil war

Unicef says UN convoy attacked in Darfur

REUTERS, Geneva

The number of people who have fled Sudan since the beginning of its civil war in 2023 has surpassed four million, UN refugee agency officials said yesterday, adding that many survivors faced inadequate shelter due to funding shortages.

"Now in its third year, the 4 million people is a devastating milestone in what is the world's most damaging displacement crisis at the moment," UN refugee agency spokesperson Eujin Byun told a Geneva press briefing. "If the conflict continues in Sudan, thousands more people, we expect thousands more people will continue to flee, putting regional and global stability at stake," she said.

Meanwhile, a UN convoy delivering aid to the besieged city of El-Fasher in Sudan's famine-stricken western Darfur region was attacked on Monday, Unicef said, with initial reports indicating multiple casualties.

More than 800,000 of the refugees have arrived in Chad, where their shelter conditions are dire due to funding shortages, with only 14 percent of funding appeals met, UNHCR's Dossou Patrice Ahouansou told the same briefing.



An elderly woman is assisted as she enters a booth at a polling station during the presidential election in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran deal won't allow 'any' uranium enrichment: Trump

Tehran defends 'peaceful' pursuit of fuel for power generation

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Monday ruled out allowing Iran to enrich uranium under any nuclear deal between the foes -- as Tehran defended what it said was its "peaceful" pursuit of fuel for power generation.

Iranian enrichment has remained a key point of contention in five rounds of talks since April to ink a new accord to replace deal with major powers that Trump abandoned during his first term in 2018.

"Under our potential Agreement -- WE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM!"

Trump said on his Truth Social network after Axios news outlet said Washington's offer would let Tehran enrich some of the nuclear fuel.

Republican Trump also blamed predecessor Joe Biden for the impasse, saying the Democrat "should have stopped Iran a long time ago from 'enriching.'"

Axios said the latest proposal that Washington had sent Tehran on Saturday would allow limited low-level uranium enrichment on Iranian soil, for an amount of time that has yet to be determined.

Iran has insisted that Iran has "nothing to hide" on its nuclear program. Speaking in Cairo, where

he met the UN nuclear watchdog's chief Rafael Grossi, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said: "If the goal is to deprive Iran of its peaceful activities, then certainly no agreement will be reached."

The remarks came after Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Monday called for more transparency from Iran following a leaked report that showed Tehran had stepped up uranium enrichment.

The IAEA report showed that Iran has ramped up production of uranium enriched up to 60 percent -- close to the roughly 90 percent level needed for atomic weapons.

200 prisoners break out of Pak jail after quake panic

Prisoners snatch guards' guns, start shootout; one prisoner killed, three guards hurt

REUTERS, Karachi

More than 200 inmates escaped from a jail in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi late on Monday when they overpowered prison guards after being allowed to leave their cells following a series of earthquakes, local officials and police said.

The jailbreak began just before midnight and continued into the early hours yesterday after hundreds of prisoners were allowed into the courtyard of the District Malir prison because of the tremors, Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, the provincial law minister, told reporters at the scene.

Police said the prisoners snatched guns from prison staff and forced open the main

gate after a shootout, evading paramilitary soldiers.

At least one prisoner was killed and three guards wounded, said Provincial Police Chief Ghulam Nabi Memon.

"I heard the firing for quite some time and then some time later prisoners made their way out running in all directions," Bukhsh, a private security guard at a residential complex opposite the jail who goes by a single name, told Reuters.

He added that some of the prisoners entered the apartment complex before being taken away by police.

Yesterday, a Reuters reporter who visited the prison saw shattered glass and damaged electronic equipment.

BANGLADESH RURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRDB)
PALLI BHABAN
05, KAWRAN BAZAR, DHAKA-1215.

Memo No: 47.62.0000.413.07.001.24.4917 Date: 29/05/2025

e-Tender Notice
Limited Tendering Method (LTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of below mentioned works.

Name of Work	No. of package	Tender ID	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender last selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
Repair, Renovation and Modernization of Upazila Palli Bhaban Batiaghata, Cumilla under BRDB.	01 Package	1114578	04/06/2025 12.00	22/06/2025 12.00	22/06/2025 15.00
Repair, Renovation and Modernization of Upazila Palli Bhaban Brammanpara, Cumilla under BRDB.	01 Package	1114558	04/06/2025 12.00	22/06/2025 12.00	22/06/2025 15.05
Repair, Renovation and Modernization of Upazila Palli Bhaban Burichong, Cumilla under BRDB.	01 Package	1114513	04/06/2025 12.00	22/06/2025 12.00	22/06/2025 15.10

There are online tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Rashedul Alam
Joint Director (Construction)
BRDB, Dhaka.

(3 col. x 4")

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি
দোয়েল চত্বর সড়ক, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-1000
www.shishuacademy.gov.bd

তারিখ: ০৩.০৬.২০২৫ খ্রি.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
ছাপাখানা তালিকাভুক্তির পূর্বযোগ্যতা নির্ধারণ

বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমির বই, পত্রিকা মুদ্রণ এবং বাঁধাই কাজের জন্য ২০২৫-২০২৭ মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তির উদ্দেশ্যে প্রতিষ্ঠিত ছাপাখানার নিকট থেকে মূল্যবদ্ধ করা খামে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ২২.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন ছাপাখানার নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদন করে অফিসের কার্যসূচী ১.০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকার বিনিময়ে একাডেমির হিসাব শাখা থেকে তালিকাভুক্তির সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

২৩.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১.০০টার মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমিতে রক্ষিত ব্যালু সিডিউলে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্রসহ আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

দিলারা বেগম
মহাপরিচালক
বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি
ঢাকা-১০০০।

GD-1362

"Our Army is pushing forward and will continue to advance. Everything that needs to be blown up will be blown up, and those who must be eliminated will be."

Senior Russian security official DMITRY MEDVEDEV on Ukraine-Russia war

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO 917 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994. **AND**
IN THE MATTER OF: Engr. Md. Mominur Rahman, son of Md. Obaiddul Hoque and Momena Begum, Shareholder and Managing Director, Domicile Holdings Ltd. of 57, Tejgumpara, Farmgate, Adjacent Tejgaon Thana, Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. **—Petitioner**

VERSUS:
Domicile Holdings Ltd. of 57, Tejgumpara, Farmgate, Adjacent Tejgaon Thana, Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. **—Respondents**

Take notice that an application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Domicile Holdings Ltd.** for the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 and to give necessary direction for holding the said meeting within a reasonable time. Upon hearing of the application on 28-05-2025 the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** has been pleased to admit the said application. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Advocate Md. Anwar Hossain
Room No. 351 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: 01913391551

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO 877 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994. **AND**
IN THE MATTER OF: Mohammad Tauheed Hossain, son of Late Mohammad Harun Hossain & Late Anwar Begum, Shareholder and Managing Director of **Novivo Healthcare Limited** of 212, Lake Road, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh. **—Petitioner**

VERSUS:
Novivo Healthcare Limited of 212, Lake Road, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. **—Respondents**

Take notice that an application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Novivo Healthcare Limited** for the calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and to give necessary direction for holding the said meeting within a reasonable time. Upon hearing of the application on 25-05-2025 the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** has been pleased to admit the said application. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Advocate Md. Anwar Hossain
Room No. 351 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: 01913391551

UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Camellia House, 22 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION ON CREDIT RATING REPORT

This is for kind information of all concerned that Credit Rating Information and Services Ltd. (CRISL) vide their letter dated June 02, 2025 announced the Credit Rating of United Insurance Company Limited based on the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended on December 31, 2024 and 1st quarter unaudited Financial Statements up to 31st March, 2025 as well as other relevant qualitative and quantitative information up to date of the rating declaration. Details of the rating is as follows:

Rating Summary	Date of Declaration	Valid From	Valid Till
Entity Rating: AAA	Stable	June 02, 2025	June 02, 2025
Outlook		June 02, 2025	June 01, 2026

The information disseminated has already been published in the company website in compliance with the Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission notification no. BSEC/CMRRCD/2024-193/ Admin dated 09 June 2022.

For United Insurance Company Limited
Dated: June 02, 2025
Dhaka

Md. Shakhawat Hossain
Company Secretary

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Chattogram Division Upazila and Union Road
Widening and Strengthening Project (1st Revision)
62, West Agargaon, Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.0000.695.07.049.2025-487 Date: 03/06/2025

Corrigendum

With reference to the e-Tender Notice No: 3/2024-25, e-Tender ID No. 1123047 (Re-Tender ID 1101226) Memo No: 46.02.0000.695.07.049.2025-481 Date: 02/06/2025, it is to notify all concern that the tender Opening date will have changed as mention below.

Discription	Published Date & time	Corrected Date & Time
Document last selling date & time	25/06/2025 12:00 hr	25/06/2025 12:00 hr
Closing Date & Time	25/06/2025 14:00 hr	25/06/2025 14:00 hr
Opening Date & Time	30/06/2025 14:00 hr	25/06/2025 14:00 hr

All other terms & condition in this tender notice will remain unchanged

Aminur Rashid Chowdhury
Project Director
Chattogram Division Upazila and Union Road
Widening and Strengthening Project (1st Revision)
Phone: 02-22242141
e-mail: pd.cdvsp@lged.gov.bd

GD-1361

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Bogura.
Phone/Fax: 051-66304
email: eebog@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No.35.01.1000.405.16.100.25-1237 Date: 03/06/2025

e-Tender Notice

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

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Bogura for the procurement of:

Tender ID & Package No.	Package Description	Publishing Date, Closing Date
Tender ID No: 1122352, e-GP-106/EE/BRD/OSTET/M/PMP-ROAD/2024-2025	Emergency repair work by excavation, cutting, scarifying and recompact of existing bituminous layer including Surfacing work under Periodic Maintenance Program (PMP Road) at Ch:0+000 to 8+670 KM of Banani-Matidali Road (N-514) under Road Division, Bogura during the year 2024-2025.	03-Jun-2025 14:00:00, 01-Jul-2025 14:05:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded are from as stated above on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursue.

e-Tenders will be accepted only up to as above date and time. Accepted tender will be opened online immediately after as stated above date and time.

(Abul Monsur Ahmed)
Identity No: 602288
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Bogura.

GD-1365

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Altanagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৪৫৩.১৮.০৩০.২৫.৬৪৯ তারিখঃ ১৯/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ

নবনির্মিত ১৩২কেভি আন্ডারগ্রাউন্ড লাইন চার্জিং এর জন্য
সতর্কীকরণ ও বিদ্যুৎ ব্যাহতির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাস্তবায়নধীন "ঢাকা এবং পশ্চিমাঞ্চলীয় গ্রিড সঞ্চালন ব্যবস্থা সম্প্রসারণ" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতাধীন নবনির্মিত "রামপুরা-বসুন্ধরা ১৩২কেভি আন্ডারগ্রাউন্ড ক্যাবল লাইন" চার্জিং / কমিশনিং এর নিমিত্ত নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচী অনুযায়ী বিদ্যমান রামপুরা-বসুন্ধরা ১৩২কেভি সঞ্চালন লাইনের সার্কিট- ১ ও ২ পর্যায়ক্রমে সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ/শাটডাউনে থাকবে:

ক্রঃ নং	সঞ্চালন লাইনের নাম	শাট-ডাউনের তারিখ ও সময়	মন্তব্য
১.	রামপুরা-বসুন্ধরা ১৩২কেভি সঞ্চালন লাইনের সার্কিট- ২	১১ জুন ২০২৫ (সকাল ৮:০০টা) হতে ১৭ জুন ২০২৫ (রাত ৮:০০টা) পর্যন্ত	বর্ণিত আন্ডারগ্রাউন্ড ক্যাবল লাইনটি আক্ষতাবনগর ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং, স্বদেশ প্রপার্টিস, বেড়াইদ রোড, ইউনাইটেড সিটি এবং বসুন্ধরা সিটি এলাকা দিয়ে অতিক্রম করেছে। সংশ্লিষ্ট লাইন রুট এলাকার জনগণকে সদয় সতর্কতা অবলম্বনের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।
২.	রামপুরা-বসুন্ধরা ১৩২কেভি সঞ্চালন লাইনের সার্কিট- ১	২০ জুন ২০২৫ (সকাল ৮:০০টা) হতে ২৬ জুন ২০২৫ (রাত ৮:০০টা) পর্যন্ত	

শাটডাউন চলাকালীন, ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সপ্লাই কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডেসকো) এর বসুন্ধরা ১৩২/৩৩কেভি উপকেন্দ্রের আওতাধীন সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ ব্যাহত হবে। জাতীয় বিদ্যুৎ গ্রিডের সঞ্চালন লাইন ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন মূলক কাজের জন্য উপরিউক্ত এলাকার সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকগণের এই সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

মোঃ আবুল কাশেম
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী)
ঢাকা এবং পশ্চিমাঞ্চলীয় গ্রিড সঞ্চালন ব্যবস্থা সম্প্রসারণ প্রকল্প

Trump, Xi will likely speak this week

Says White House amid tariff row

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping will likely speak this week, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday, days after Trump accused China of violating an agreement to roll back tariffs and trade restrictions.

Leavitt is the third top Trump aide to forecast an imminent call between the two leaders to iron out differences on last month's tariff agreement in Geneva, among larger trade issues. It was not immediately clear when the two leaders will speak.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Trump and Xi would speak "very soon" to iron out trade issues including a dispute over critical minerals and China's restrictions on exports of certain minerals.



People hold banners and light candles next to portraits of 39-year-old Nigerian Michael Kenechukwu Ekemezie during a protest in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday, following his death at the Lausanne police station. Ekemezie died on May 25, 2025, less than an hour after being arrested on suspicion of drug-related activity.

PHOTO: AFP

HIV cases soar in Philippines

Medical authorities warn of health emergency

AFP, Manila

Philippine medical authorities yesterday warned of a looming "public health emergency" as HIV infections have soared this year, with young males especially hard-hit.

On average, 57 new cases a day were tallied in the country of 117 million people over the first three months of 2025, a 50 percent jump from a year earlier, health department data shows.

"We now have the highest number of new cases here in the Western Pacific," Health Secretary Ted Herbosa said. "What is frightening is, our youth make up many of the new cases," he said. The health department said 95 percent of newly reported cases were male.

Ukraine peace efforts are complex: Kremlin

Says no quick decisions to be expected; Russia 'deliberately' targeting civilians after 3 killed in Sumy: Zelensky

AGENCIES

The Kremlin warned yesterday that work on trying to reach a settlement to end the war in Ukraine was extraordinarily complex and that it would be wrong to expect any imminent decisions.

It was commenting after Russia told Ukraine at peace talks in Turkey on Monday that it would only agree to end the fighting if Kyiv gives up big new chunks of territory and accepts limits on the size of its army, demands Ukraine has repeatedly rejected.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday that agreements reached at the Istanbul talks to exchange prisoners and the bodies of dead soldiers would be honoured however, and that work on agreeing a possible settlement



would continue.

He said Russia and the US had not yet agreed on specific future contacts between President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump, but that Putin was ready for various high-level contacts if they were properly prepared, reports Reuters.

It was unlikely, added Peskov when asked, that Putin, Trump and Zelensky would hold face-to-face talks together in the near future.

Meanwhile, Zelensky yesterday accused Russia of "deliberately" targeting civilians in a rocket attack on the city of Sumy.

Russia's troops have also accelerated their advance, seeking to establish what Putin called a "buffer zone" inside Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region.

A rocket attack on the city, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Russian border, yesterday killed at least three people, Zelensky said.

"The Russians launched a savage strike on Sumy -- directly targeting the city and its ordinary streets with rocket artillery. It was a fully deliberate attack on civilians," he said in a post on social media.

He posted a video from the emergency services showing destroyed cars and the body of one victim lying on the road, reports AFP.

FLASH FLOODING Death toll in Nigeria jumps past 200

AFP, Abuja

Flash flooding in north-central Nigeria last week killed more than 200 people, the Niger state humanitarian commissioner said yesterday, while hundreds more remain missing and are feared dead.

The town of Mokwa was hit with the worst flash flood in living memory Thursday from overnight rains, with more than 250 homes destroyed and swathes of the town wiped out in a single morning.

The announcement comes after several days of the official toll standing at around 150, even as residents were sometimes missing more than a dozen members in a single family.

"We have more than 200... corpses," Ahmad Suleiman told Nigerian Channels Television.

Budget goals

FROM PAGE 1

sectors, allocations and incentives for some sectors and higher taxation for tobacco producers, the proposed budget fails to address the ongoing economic challenges holistically.

Some fiscal measures, including allowing black money, contradict the theme of the budget, which is 'building an equitable and sustainable economic system', she said.

Though the tax rate for legalising undisclosed income has been raised significantly, keeping this provision will send the wrong signal to the public and is against the spirit of July, according to the CPD.

This provision creates a disincentive for honest taxpayers and creates inequality as the huge supply of funds raises the apartment prices beyond the reach of honest taxpayers and middle-income people.

The overall budget is compatible with assumptions but it is disappointing in terms of expectations, said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD.

About the 1 percent turnover tax on all firms, he said the move was in preparation for graduation from the least developed country bracket in 2026 and must be accepted.

"The government tried to reduce the anti-export bias and protection for local firms."

However, there is no indication of measures that can raise the firms' competitiveness. Such steps could include a single window for all services, a reduction in bank interest rates and reducing the cost of doing business, he said.

Although the government came through the July uprising, it was expected that there would be specific steps for the unemployed youth.

"But this was not done. So, job creation will have to come through investment. But, protection has been reduced for local firms, so it would be a challenge to create more jobs."

As the tax-to-GDP ratio is low, the government is limited in its ability to reduce inequality.

Moreover, out of the total revenue collection, two-thirds come from indirect tax, which comes from the general public too. So, it is difficult to reduce inequality with the existing tax system, Rahman added.

The budget shows that provisional GDP growth

for this fiscal year would be 5 percent, whereas the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics estimated it would be around 4 percent.

So, how it would rise is not clear, the CPD said.

It is also not clear how the 5.5 percent GDP growth target for next fiscal year would be achieved, Fahmida said.

Inflation is expected to fall drastically to 6.5 percent next fiscal year, while average inflation was 10.1 percent as of May.

"The inflation projection seems ambitious."

The government may not have considered the actual progress on revenue collection for this fiscal year when it set fiscal 2025-26's collection target.

"It looks high," she said.

The slash in allocation for the agriculture sector from next fiscal year's development budget is a troubling development at a time when ensuring food security remains a high priority.

The share of projects with symbolic allocation has increased substantially, which is an objectionable development and a move in the wrong direction.

Meanwhile, the pace of implementation of mega projects remains a concern. Even if maximum utilisation of resources is ensured, none of the eight mega projects scheduled for completion in fiscal 2025-26 will be wrapped up.

Regarding private investment, the CPD said the government has targeted to increase the private investment-to-GDP ratio to 24.3 percent.

"Whether it is possible in the current political climate remains a question."

The moves to reinstate the highest tax slab of 30 percent and fix a minimum tax of Tk 1,000 for new taxpayers are both welcome.

The tax burden on relatively low-income groups and middle-income people will be higher due to the change in the tax rate of several tax slabs.

For those with annual incomes of Tk 6 lakh, Tk 10 lakh and Tk 15 lakh, the total tax liability will rise by 12.5 percent, 16.7 percent and 16.7 percent respectively.

In contrast, for those earning Tk 30 lakh, the rise will be comparatively lower at 7.6 percent.

This goes against the principle of equitable tax burden and fairness, and such types of fiscal measures will not be able to reduce inequality, the CPD said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the District Primary Education Officer

District: Narsingdi

<https://dpe.narsingdi.gov.bd>

No. 38.01.6800.000.07.0013.22-589

Date: 2/6/2025

e-Tender Notice-01/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 02 No. Package under Need Based Infrastructure Development of Government Primary Schools Project (1st Phase), FY 2024-2025 for District: Narsingdi.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. and name of scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing & Opening date & time
01	1073077	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0467. Furniture supply for 42 Nos. classroom and 03 Nos. teachers room of selected 15 Nos. Govt. Primary School at different location of Belabo Upazila, Narshingdi Sadar Upazila, Monohardi Upazila and Palash Upazila of Narsingdi District. The school names are 1. Dakshin Dhuru GPS, 2. 28 No. Ibrahimpur GPS of Belabo Upazila of Narsingdi District. 3. Bashail GPS, 4. Rohimdi GPS, 5. Satir Para GPS, 6. Baghata No. 2 GPS, 7. Char Digoldi No. 2 GPS, 8. Nuralapur GPS of Narshingdi Sadar Upazila of Narsingdi District. 9. Uttar Chalakhar GPS of Monohardi Upazila of Narsingdi District. 10. Cholona No. 2 (Balika) GPS 11. Mathi Char GPS, 12. Pitambordi GPS, 13. Polash No. 1 GPS 14. Char Sindur Girl GPS, 15. Sekandordi GPS of Palash Upazila of Narsingdi District.	25.6.2025 5:00pm	26.6.2025 2:00pm
02	1109453	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0468. Furniture supply for 46 Nos. classroom and 02 Nos. teachers room of selected 14 Nos. Govt. Primary School at different location of Raipura Upazila, and Shibpur Upazila of Narsingdi District. The school names are 1. Hoglekandi GPS, 2. Raipura (1) GPS, 3. Mirzar Char Kanda Para GPS, 4. Sherpur GPS of Raipura Upazila of Narsingdi District. 5. 56 No. Dori PURA GPS, 6. 60 No. Moishar Tek GPS, 7. Ajkitola No. 2 GPS, 8. Atashia GPS, 9. Bhati Chinadi GPS, 10. Bhongar Tek GPS, 11. Bir Lakh Pur GPS, 12. Dhanua GPS, 13. Dotter Gaon Bhiy Para GPS, 14. Uttar Sadharchar Poshchim GPS of Shibpur Upazila of Narsingdi District.	25.6.2025 5:00pm	26.6.2025 2:00pm

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 26 June 2025, 1:00pm.

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

Niranjana Kumar Roy
District Primary Education Officer
Narsingdi
Phone: 02224453231
E-mail: dpeonarsh@gmail.com

GD-1360



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

সম্পূর্ণ বৃক্কে উন্নতমানের আগর রেজিন সঞ্চয়ন প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন

বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২১১

ফোনঃ ০২৪১৩০৭২১, ই-মেইলঃ awrl.org@gmail.com

ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.bfri.gov.bd



নং: ২২.০৪.০০০০.০৩৯.০৯.০০০.২২.১৪০

তারিখঃ ২০ জ্যৈষ্ঠ, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৩ জুন, ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

স্টাডি প্রস্তাব আহ্বান

পরিবেশ বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয় নিয়ন্ত্রিত বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএফআরআই), চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়মান সম্পূর্ণ বৃক্কে উন্নতমানের আগর রেজিন সঞ্চয়ন প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন প্রকল্পের আওতায় জিওবি তহবিল হতে প্রকল্পের লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্যসমূহ সঠিকভাবে বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত বিষয়বস্তুর উপর গবেষণা স্টাডি প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে-

২। গবেষণার বিষয়বস্তু (শিরোনাম):

1. Chemical induction of agarwood and Bangladesh perspective (Study Area No. 04).
2. Nanotechnology in agarwood induction/inoculation (Study Area No. 06).
3. Chemical analysis of agar & agar-oil and their gradation (Study Area No. 08).

৩। আবেদনের শর্তাবলী:

- (ক) প্রধান গবেষককে (পিআই) বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক হতে হবে এবং আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীর জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/পাসপোর্টের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে; (খ) মূল গবেষণা কার্যক্রম বাংলাদেশে পরিচালনা করতে হবে; (গ) প্রধান গবেষককে পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট ডিগ্রীধারী এবং প্রাক্তিত গবেষণা বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; (ঘ) সরকারি, বেসরকারি বা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত গবেষকগণ যথাযথ মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন; (ঙ) আবেদনকারীর একই শিরোনামে/বিষয়বস্তুর উপর চলমান কোন গবেষণাকর্ম নেই মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে; (চ) আবেদন ফরম অনুযায়ী প্রয়োজনীয় সকল তথ্যাদি/দলিল সন্নিবেশিত করতে হবে; (ছ) গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা, পাবলিকেশন ইত্যাদিসহ প্রধান গবেষকের পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবনবৃত্তান্ত (৩ পৃষ্ঠার অধিক নয়) সহ-গবেষক ও রিসার্চ ফেলোদের সংক্ষিপ্ত জীবনবৃত্তান্ত (১ পৃষ্ঠার অধিক নয়) সংযোজন করতে হবে; (জ) যে প্রতিষ্ঠানে গবেষণা করা হবে সে প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের নিকট হতে অনুমতিপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে; (ঝ) চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হতে গবেষণাকাল হবে ২ বছর বা প্রকল্পকালীন সময় (ঞ) অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন/প্রস্তাব বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;

৪। আবেদন জমাদানের নিয়মাবলী:

- (ক) স্টাডি প্রস্তাব নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরম এবং নীতিমালা/মান্যলয় বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএফআরআই) এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.bfri.gov.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে; (খ) প্রত্যুক্ত স্টাডি প্রস্তাব এর ২টি হার্ডকপি (স্পাইরাল বাইন্ডিংকৃত) আলাদা আলাদা খামে ভরে খামের উপর অর্জিনাল এবং কপি লিখে একটি খামে প্রেরণ করতে হবে; (গ) খামের উপরের অংশে স্টাডি টাইটেল এবং প্রেরক অংশে আবেদনকারীর নাম, বিস্তারিত ঠিকানা, মোবাইল নম্বর ও ই-মেইল উল্লেখ করতে হবে; (ঘ) স্টাডি প্রস্তাব আগামী ২৯.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকায় মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন দিন ও সময়ে নির্ধারিত ফরম অনুযায়ী ই-রেজিস্ট্রেড প্রত্যুক্তপূর্বক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে (প্রকল্প কার্যালয়ে) দাখিল করতে হবে; (ঙ) স্টাডি প্রস্তাব সরাসরি, ডাকযোগে বা কুরিয়ারে প্রেরণ করতে হবে, ই-মেইলের মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত প্রস্তাব/আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

৫। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে যা যে কোন সময় সকল প্রস্তাব/আবেদনের পূর্ণ/আংশিক গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করা এমন কি বিজ্ঞাপন বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ড. মোহাম্মদ আকির হোসাইন

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

সম্পূর্ণ বৃক্কে উন্নতমানের আগর রেজিন সঞ্চয়ন প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন

বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২১১

ফোনঃ ০২৪১৩০৭২১, ই-মেইলঃ awrl.org@gmail.com

GD-1370

Is the CFA the right choice for you?

The CFA is particularly valuable for individuals who are either starting out or advancing in roles such as investment analyst, portfolio manager, or research analyst.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) program is administered by the CFA Institute and is often considered one of the most prestigious credentials in the finance industry. It consists of three sequential levels: Level I focuses on the foundational tools and concepts of investment valuation and portfolio management; Level II delves into the application of those tools in real-life scenarios; and Level III emphasises portfolio management and wealth planning.

Each level requires an average of 300 hours of study, meaning the full program demands close to 900-1,000 hours of preparation, often spread over 2-4 years. In addition to passing the exams, candidates must complete at least 4,000 hours of relevant work experience over a minimum of three years and adhere to strict ethical and professional conduct standards to earn the CFA charter.

who are either starting out or advancing in roles such as investment analyst, portfolio manager, or research analyst. The program's rigorous focus on investment principles, ethics, and financial analysis makes it an ideal fit for those who want to gain credibility and expertise in these areas. "The CFA degree significantly deepened my knowledge and skill for the finance industry, especially all things related to the asset management industry. It also created unprecedented access to potential employers, partners and investors," explains Md Saimum Hossain, a CFA charter holder. Hence, for someone aiming to analyse stocks, bonds, or other financial assets and provide investment recommendations, the CFA equips you with a standardised, globally recognised skill set that is well-regarded by top financial institutions.

Financial advisors and wealth managers
For financial advisors looking to provide a higher level of service and analysis to clients, the CFA

a professional degree is absolutely necessary for my line of work if you want to move up the ladder," shares Kazi Ajwad Ahmed, a charter holder currently working as a deputy manager at LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Limited.

Analysts involved in evaluating investments, mergers and acquisitions, or capital projects can apply CFA knowledge to assess the financial viability of business decisions and growth initiatives. For these professionals, the CFA adds depth to their financial modelling and analysis skills, though some may consider alternatives like an MBA if their focus is broader.

Equity and credit analysts

The CFA is almost a must-have for analysts who specialise in assessing companies' stock or creditworthiness. Equity analysts use CFA-based skills to conduct in-depth valuations of public companies, while credit analysts assess the risk and profitability of lending or investing in businesses. "Preparing for CFA exams provided me with a solid foundation for my roles in corporate finance and sell-side equity research. Having a deeper dive into finance and adjacent areas such as economics and statistics were incredibly helpful in doing a better job at my work," shares Tanvir Ahmed, a former investment professional who is currently an MBA candidate at Kelley School of Business.

Bankers with a focus on financial markets

Investment banking analysts and associates who aspire to specialise in financial markets and trading may find the CFA valuable. "In retail product management, the CFA has improved my decision-making abilities and allowed me to provide more informed and valuable advice in business strategy formulation," explains Fahad Bin Sultan, Head of Customer Value Management at HSBC. The designation provides a deeper insight into securities markets, derivatives, fixed income, and other assets. This knowledge can complement on-the-job learning, especially for those who want to move into buy-side roles, such as private equity or hedge funds.

While the CFA is highly respected, it is not the only path to a successful career in finance. For example, if you are more interested in accounting, auditing, or tax roles, the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is often more relevant. It is a strong credential for roles in accounting firms, corporate finance departments, or regulatory bodies. Alternatively, if you are interested in hedge funds, private equity, or other alternative investments, the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) is designed to provide specialised knowledge in these areas. Lastly, those focused on corporate finance, managerial roles, or accounting may find more value in qualifications like an MBA.

The CFA's investment focus might not align with the needs of professionals interested in broader business leadership, strategic planning, or specific finance functions. Additionally, for professionals who prioritise networking and soft skills, an MBA may offer more immediate benefits, providing access to alumni networks, management training, and a broader business perspective.

Choosing to pursue the CFA is a big decision, one that could impact your career for years to come. For those with a clear interest in investment management or financial analysis, the CFA can be a career-defining credential. But if your aspirations lie outside these areas, another credential may provide a better return on investment.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Deciding whether the CFA designation is the right choice depends on your career aspirations, readiness to undertake rigorous study, and the professional paths you are aiming for. While it is ideal for finance professionals, not all functions require it and hence, the CFA journey may not be worth it for everyone. Read on to learn if the CFA is the right choice for you.

Considering a career in finance

For students still pursuing their undergraduate degrees, the CFA can serve as both a differentiator and a developmental tool. The curriculum not only introduces complex financial concepts but also builds analytical discipline and ethical grounding, i.e. qualities highly valued by employers. "Being a member of the CFA Society of Bangladesh helps me stay updated with the market on macroeconomic policies and provides the opportunity to network with charter holders around the world. This helps me see the bigger picture of the financial markets around the world," explains Mita Somoyeeta, a charter holder currently working at HSBC.

Aspiring investment professionals

The CFA is particularly valuable for individuals

designations offers a significant advantage. "The CFA gives you an edge in roles like Investment Analyst or Portfolio Manager and even helps corporate bankers stand out. It is increasingly valued by employers in Bangladesh, but the time commitment, around 1,000 hours, is intense," shares Baha Uddin Khan Sayem, who recently cleared CFA Level II and is currently working as an Associate at Standard Chartered Bank.

The CFA program's emphasis on ethical standards and fiduciary responsibility further helps advisors build client trust, while the knowledge in asset allocation, portfolio management, and client needs analysis allows advisors to construct and manage diversified portfolios.

Corporate financial analysts

While most corporate finance roles do not require the CFA, certain positions, particularly those related to corporate strategy, financial planning, and analysis, benefit from the CFA curriculum. "The CFA is mostly relevant to the investment industry. Think banks or asset management companies. In that way, I am an outlier as I am in more of a corporate finance role. Professionally, it has set me apart. Having

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

World Food Programme



Logistics Assistant, SC5

Deadline: June 9

Eligibility:

● Bachelor's degree in Supply Chain Management, Logistics, Economics, Business Administration or any relevant subject.

Minimum experience: 5 years

Radiant Export Import Enterprise



Technical Services Officer

Deadline: June 14

Eligibility:

● BSc in Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, or Master of Science in any discipline from any well-reputed university.

Minimum experience: N/A

Aga Khan Academy Dhaka



BMS Engineer

Deadline: June 15

Eligibility:

● Diploma/BSc in Electronics or Electrical Engineering, with hands-on experience in BMS operation and maintenance.

Minimum experience: 5-8 years

South Breeze Housing Ltd.



IT Executive

Deadline: June 30

Eligibility:

● BSc in CSE, with prior experience in IT & Software Development.

Minimum experience: 5 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



"The scientists of today think deeply instead of clearly. One must be sane to think clearly, but one can think deeply and be quite insane."

NIKOLA TESLA



THE BOSSMAN
BY E. RAZA RONNY



How to get started with competitive programming

IKRAM HOSSAIN AKIF

Some people enjoy solving problems, and then there are those who land top tech jobs by doing just that. Competitive programming (CP) is a sport for the mind, where coders have to solve problems with efficient solutions on a ticking clock. It is a wonderful avenue for anyone to become a smarter coder, and be ready for some of the most competitive job interviews in the world. We've broken the enigma down to a short guide so you can get started too.

Getting started

The first step is choosing a programming language. While many competitive programmers prefer C++ for its high performance and flexibility, C is also a solid choice, though it might be a bit more challenging for beginners. What about other languages like Python and Java? Although less performant and popular, they are still accepted in the CP community as valid alternatives for beginners.

"It is more important to develop comprehension and problem solving skills at the beginning. If you don't know where your destination is or which route to take, then it does not matter how good your car is, you will never get there," says Dr Asif Mahmood, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Independent University, Bangladesh, and an experienced competitive programmer. "Similarly, understanding and solving the problem is more important,

especially for beginners, than the choice of programming language."

After your pick, you must learn to speak this language well. By embracing the syntax or grammar of code, you can let the computer be an extension of your mind without getting lost in translation. Dr Mahmood added, "It is important for young students to practice a lot, and understand how their approaches can make a solution efficient." In essence, this will teach you how certain coding approaches can be faster and use less memory.

If you're new to coding, platforms like HackerRank are a great starting point. They offer lessons that gradually increase in difficulty, helping you build a strong foundation. To get a feel for how CP contests work, try platforms like Codeforces. Once you're comfortable with these, you can move on to sites like LeetCode and AtCoder, which focus on problems that mirror the kinds of challenges you'll face in coding interviews.

Finally, once you feel comfortable solving easy problems and want to prepare, you should try and form a team to participate in contests in person. Most contests require a three-person team from the same institution, so reach out to your peers and mentors in your own school or university and find your own people. Participating in team contests will accelerate your journey, with a good team complementing each others' growth and skills in various areas.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

The big leagues

If you are an undergraduate student, CP has a breadth of opportunities to offer you. There are a variety of programming contests for university teams that take place all year round. The biggest of these is the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), where teams from all over the world get to fight for glory. The ICPC has a regional round in Bangladesh, usually held in Dhaka, followed by the winners moving on to the next round. Out of the eight geographical ICPC Regions, winners from Bangladesh fall under Asia West, and from there participants can advance to the highly coveted ICPC World Finals.

There are also numerous Inter-University Programming Contests (IUPCs) organised by universities all over the country, such as Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (BUET), and more. These contests are more frequent than the yearly ICPC, and offer a great introduction to the arena of competitive programming. These contests offer great cash prizes to the winners, often to the top ten teams, as well as an opportunity to network with leading tech firms that tend to sponsor contests.

Participating in these contests not only hones your skills but also keeps you motivated to push yourself further. Most universities have vibrant CP communities, so connecting with like-minded peers can make learning more enjoyable and collaborative. Munawar Shakil Muhi, a veteran in the CP scene from the University of Dhaka, shares: "CSEU has fostered a strong contest culture, encouraging newcomers to join the community through sessions, problem-solving classes, and of course, the success of our top problem solvers." He

added that when a community has a top-class culture and successful seniors willing to help, you're already halfway to success.

What then?

Solving problems in CP is rewarding in itself, but the real advantage is how it builds your ability to reason and prepares you for the toughest tech interviews. Israfil Diganta, Software Engineer Level II at Enosis Solutions and Competitive Programming Instructor at American International University Bangladesh says, "To be hired, you need to present employable skills from your university life. Although there are many ways to do so, such as by building projects or participating in hackathons, CP is the easiest to get started with in my opinion."

Diganta shares that all you need to get started is basic coding to begin solving problems and participating in contests. As such, you will develop transferable skills and grow outside your comfort zone. "Companies want the employee to be clay, ready to be moulded to the job at hand. Applying logic to solve a problem is the same skill, no matter what framework or tools we use. CP allowed me to secure that invaluable skill to utilise in my career," he says.

By consistently practising, mastering essential concepts, and engaging with the community, you can significantly improve your problem-solving abilities and position yourself for success in both coding competitions and the tech industry.

Budget 2025-26: Time to Make Public Procurement Work for Bangladeshi Manufacturers

The Daily Star organised a roundtable titled "Budget 2025-26: Time to Make Public Procurement Work for Bangladeshi Manufacturers" on May 18, 2025. Here is a summary of the discussion.



Md. Faruque Hossain,
Former Secretary,
Government of Bangladesh
and Procurement Policy
Consultant

Public procurement in Bangladesh has several defining features: the type of tender (local or international), the procurement category (goods, works, intellectual or physical services), and whether it is government-funded or supported by development partners. The criteria are set by the procuring entity, not the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA). However, if any deviation or manipulation originates from these entities, the private sector often seeks redress from the BPPA.

BPPA is mandated to support procuring entities with legal and technical advice and to clarify what is permissible under the rules. However, it frequently avoids responsibility, offering vague guidance. If BPPA exercised its authority to provide clear, authoritative decisions, many issues could be addressed more effectively.

BPPA also encourages local participation by allowing SMEs and women-led businesses to compete in RFQ and L1M tenders. There are provisions for small firms to form Joint Ventures (JVs) to build capacity. Yet, manipulation remains common. Procuring entities sometimes set standards that exclude local firms, even rejecting bids that meet 99.9% of requirements for a 0.1% shortfall—revealing a systemic bias towards foreign products. To prevent such practices, BPPA must take a stronger, more proactive role in enforcement and oversight.



Md. Ziaul Alam FCA,
ACA (ICAEW), Additional
Managing Director & Chief
Financial Officer, Walton Hi-
Tech Industries PLC.

Walton now exports electronic and electrical products to over 40 countries, maintaining strict adherence to product specifications and international standards. Yet, it is regrettable that we are deemed ineligible in government procurement.

The Public Procurement Act (PPA) emphasises industrial growth, job creation, and domestic value chain development. It also clearly prohibits referencing specific trademarks, brands, countries of origin, or suppliers in the technical specifications of tender documents.

However, the Public Works Department (PWD) uses a rate schedule that divides products into Category A and Category B. Category A explicitly names countries such as South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, the US, and the UAE, applying different pricing standards. Despite being listed in Category B and submitting lower bids, we are frequently overlooked in government tenders.

An outdated clause in the PPA requires 65 years of lift manufacturing experience—automatically disqualifying many local firms, even though Bangladesh itself is just over 50 years old. If local companies like ours are allowed to compete under fair specifications, we can meet international quality standards. We are open to collaboration with the PWD to improve further. If our products conform to US standards, why should we still be relegated to Category B?

Granting us fair access would help retain national revenue, boost employment, raise GDP, and support industrial growth. We have no objection to complying with strict quality requirements; we simply seek a fair opportunity to compete in government procurement.



Aameir Alihussain,
Managing Director, BSRM

In Bangladesh, procurement processes vary, including those under government-to-government (G2G) agreements tied to loans or funding terms. These often include clauses such as duty-free import of project materials. In sectors like steel, project documents may either grant duty-free status or require the implementing authority to pay duties, which are ultimately added to the project cost. As a result, contractors prefer duty-free imports—even when local alternatives are available—hurting domestic industries.

Duty-free imports should not be allowed when quality local materials are available. In foreign-funded projects, supplying local materials qualifies as deemed export with full VAT and tax exemptions under VAT rules. However, discrepancies remain, as income tax rules do not align—banks often deduct source tax and do not treat proceeds as export earnings. This inconsistency requires urgent coordination between VAT and income tax authorities.

Another critical issue is the lack of protection for local suppliers. In the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, despite approval after foreign testing, we were left unpaid when a foreign subcontractor exited the country. Local suppliers need protection through mandatory bank guarantees or securities in such contracts.

Additionally, frequent replacement of



project directors disrupts implementation and handover. Lastly, enforcing Bangladesh Standards (BDS) in all projects is essential to prevent inconsistency—whether in demanding Japanese or American standards. BDS reflects our local context, including seismic safety, and should be made a contractual requirement to ensure fairness, quality, and wide participation across sectors.



Md. Shamsuddoha,
Additional Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department,
Ministry of Housing and
Public Works

The Category A and B classifications are indeed outdated. Our department is nearly 200 years old—when these rules were set, there were no local lift manufacturers. Yet, this practice continues today.

If Walton or PRAN-RFL comply with the standards, we are open to working with them. The 65-year experience rule for lift suppliers is outdated and currently under review. It is time we engage local companies and set realistic, inclusive criteria.

Walton lifts are currently undergoing trials at the Secretariat, and their successful performance could pave the way for wider adoption. However, Development Project Proposals (DPPs) often specify particular foreign brands, and once these are approved by the Planning Commission, revisions become nearly impossible. This entrenched mindset needs to be reformed.

BSTI enforcement is also weak. New rod manufacturers frequently enter the market, offering lower prices but compromising quality. BSRM's higher cost reflects their standards, yet contractors often choose the cheaper option.

Public procurement can promote jobs and innovation if DPPs include criteria for tender standards, worker skills, and contractor qualifications. Supporting local bidders in international tenders will enhance technology transfer and industry capacity.



Rathendra Nath Paul,
Managing Director, RFL
Group

We also produce electronic products under the Vision brand. I fully support the recommendation that tender documents avoid brand names—product quality should be the primary criterion when assigning categories.

Regarding enlistment and evaluation, we supply around 50 products to the Military Engineer Services (MES), yet fewer than 10 are enlisted with PWD. MES follows strict evaluation procedures—if they approve our products, why can't PWD? I urge PWD to update their evaluation criteria and actively engage local manufacturers. For example, when lift safety standards were set, I'm unsure how much input came from domestic producers.

While safety concerns are valid, companies like PRAN-RFL—with a brand value of \$3-4 billion—would never compromise on quality. Lift products make up just 1% of our business, but a single accident could damage the rest. PWD can trust our quality—updating criteria will allow more inclusive participation.

We also manufacture construction materials. Dredging used to rely on imported metal pipes and floaters. Now, our plastic alternatives have replaced them—but it took five years of effort, including securing separate tenders for machines and pipe systems. Even then, vested interests tried to discredit us, allegedly organising fires to claim plastic is unsafe. We've created nearly 2,000 jobs supplying these components and could do more if supported.

On international bids, outdated experience requirements compel us to hire costly foreign consultants, raising project costs. Recognition of our contributions—like in the Padma Bridge—should not be denied simply because we were subcontractors. If local companies were engaged as nominated subcontractors, we could build stronger credentials.

Our sector has grown immensely. The government should visit local factories to witness our capabilities. PRAN-RFL alone can invest \$100 million immediately. At least 20 other companies are ready to invest in national projects. Procurement rules must evolve to support local industry growth and reduce dependence on imports.



Md. Mizanur Rahman Mamun,
Director, Finance & Accounts,
HAAIL

I would like to highlight concerns regarding the continued use of wooden products in government procurement. Despite policies against deforestation, many tenders still specify hardwoods like mahogany and segun (teak), contributing to illegal logging and threatening our shrinking forest reserves. The government should actively promote sustainable alternatives such as plywood and engineered boards.

Procurement should also be done directly from manufacturers rather than individual retailers, which would lower costs, ensure better quality, and avoid the double payment of VAT—currently a common inefficiency.

Furthermore, there must be clearly defined compliance criteria with a transparent scoring system to prevent the exclusion of eligible firms that incur higher compliance costs. Many government procurement procedures remain unnecessarily complex, delaying supply chains and discouraging participation. Simplifying these processes and improving ease of doing business are essential for fostering fair competition and supporting local industries committed to environmental responsibility and quality standards.



Iftekharuzzaman,
Executive Director,
Transparency International
Bangladesh

Public procurement in Bangladesh amounts to roughly BDT 30 billion, yet an estimated 27% of contract value is lost to corruption. Despite its scale, policy support for local industries remains inadequate.

The Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system, launched in 2011, aimed to ensure open competition, reduce costs, and enhance quality. While it has broadened access for smaller vendors, its impact has been limited.

From 2012 to 2024, data from 6,914 procurement entities across 66 ministries show that 666,474 contracts were awarded to

enabling market dominance.

The BPPA must strengthen its supervisory role and introduce legislation enforcing Beneficial Ownership Transparency. This would require identifying real owners through a registrar—standard in many countries but absent in Bangladesh. Despite adopting most UN anti-corruption commitments, Bangladesh still lacks laws targeting private sector corruption. Bribery in private transactions must be criminalised.

Market concentration must also be addressed. While supporting local manufacturers is vital, it must occur within a competitive and corruption-free environment. BPPA should consider capping market dominance, as some procurement entities award 100% of contracts to a single firm.



Prof. Dr. A. K. Enamul Haque,
Director General, Bangladesh
Institute of Development
Studies (BIDS)

As Bangladesh nears LDC graduation, with an economy comparable to Malaysia and approaching that of Norway, reforming outdated rules and regulations is vital. One major concern is the misuse of joint ventures (JVs), many of which serve as fronts for money laundering. Some well-known JVs are essentially fake companies created to channel bribes. Instead of encouraging such arrangements, we must focus on strengthening domestic firms to improve competitiveness.

The Bangladesh Competition Commission, created to ensure market fairness, remains ineffective due to legal gaps that prevent oversight of government procurement. A single authority like BPPA cannot guarantee fairness. A quasi-judicial body with legal authority, such as the Competition Commission, is better suited to regulate procurement with High Court appeal options.

Our procurement system lacks transparency. For instance, at BIDS, national brands like Walton were excluded due to rigid PWD criteria. Cost estimates are often inaccurate—actual costs may be four to ten times higher, not always from corruption but from inefficiencies. Frequent design changes, such as relocating utility pillars, inflate costs within the project budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) must ensure procuring entities set unbiased criteria and provide fair access to local manufacturers in government procurement.
- » Local companies should be given priority when they meet all quality standards and product requirements.
- » The procurement provisions related to the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system must be overhauled to promote fair competition and curb corruption.
- » BSTI must be strengthened for expanding institutional capacity and better quality control.
- » When local construction materials are available, duty-free import must not be allowed for any project.
- » Enforce Bangladesh Standards (BDS) in all projects to ensure consistency, fairness, and national relevance.
- » Avoid brand names in tender documents and prioritise product quality as the primary criterion for category assignment.
- » Procurement rules must ensure all contracts—except those internationally funded—are included under e-GP.
- » The Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) must strengthen its supervisory role and introduce legislation enforcing Beneficial Ownership Transparency.
- » Ensuring ease of doing business must be a priority to make procurement more inclusive for local manufacturers.



Shoeb Ahmed Masud,
Former Vice President (Admin),
BASIS

Recent amendments to the Public Procurement Act (PPA), mandating the inclusion of local firms in joint ventures (JVs) for IT services funded by the government, represent a positive shift. This allows local firms greater participation in a space previously dominated by foreign providers, reducing overreliance on external sources.

However, further clarity is required. JV eligibility criteria—whether limited to software firms or broader categories—must be explicitly defined. Guidelines on local manpower engagement should also be outlined, as much of the work continues to be outsourced. Ensuring local participation would better uphold the intent of the reform.

The amendment currently applies only to government-funded procurements, yet many IT purchases are included in Development Project Proposals (DPPs) as part of broader "works" packages. Separating software

components could ensure benefits reach the local industry.

India offers useful lessons—its procurement manual offers local firms and SMEs preferential terms: free tender documents, no earnest money, 45 day payment guarantees, and special appeal mechanisms. These could be adopted in Bangladesh.

SMEs producing IoT devices also face import and payment barriers. Simplifying customs and financial procedures would promote growth. Moreover, large infrastructure projects using digital technologies should include local assembly clauses to foster backward linkages and industrial development.



Farooq Ahmed,
Additional Secretary
(Development Wing-2),
Ministry of Housing and
Public Works

Our key objective is to explore how local manufacturers can be more actively engaged in public procurement. Over 80% of our ADP disbursement involves procurement, so prioritising local industry is crucial.

Companies like PRAN, BSRM, and Walton now have expert manpower and factories equipped with advanced technology, and they contribute significantly to foreign earnings. Yet, a bias towards foreign products still exists. We must shift this mindset and reform regulatory policies under the PPA and PPR (Public Procurement Rules) to better accommodate local firms.

Procurement specifications and standards must be inclusive while upholding quality. Transparency, value for money, and fair competition are essential. We aim to incorporate today's recommendations into future legal reforms to boost efficiency, ensure proper resource use, and curb corruption and wastage.



Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed,
Adviser, Ministry of Finance

Procurement is essential to ensuring quality and value for money in public projects. Inefficiencies lead to cost overruns, poor outcomes, and

waste. Procurement spans goods, works, and services, and while Bangladesh produces quality goods—like electronics—we still often import due to a lingering bias favouring foreign products. We are working to change this by reforming the Public Procurement Rules (PPR), including removing illogical provisions such as disqualifying bids that deviate more than 10% from the estimated cost.

This rule, for instance, could exclude a BDT 4 crore bid on a BDT 10 crore estimate—discouraging competition. We must also strengthen standards and institutions like BSTI.

Consultancy and service costs are another challenge. In one case, a BDT 7 crore construction budget had a BDT 10 crore consultancy fee.

Oversight is critical to prevent anomalies in joint ventures, inflated equipment costs, and fake assembly practices. Open tender syndication—such as identical sugar bids—undermines fairness. Stricter enforcement is needed.

Procurement occurs both directly and via government-to-government (G2G) deals. Though G2G can be more reliable, problems arise when contracts are handed to private firms. In donor-funded projects like the \$800 million Bay Terminal, foreign agencies impose procurement conditions. For example, JICA managed procurement for metro rail and the third terminal, using their own strict standards, often excluding Bangladeshi firms.

We aim to raise our standards like South Korea once did. Korea, now highly industrialised, offers soft loans—unlike more expensive IBRD or OCR loans.

In procurement, preparedness is vital. Often, we're not ready when a project is approved. Appointing a Project Director can take six months—delays that cost us in commitment charges.

We must prioritise quality and healthy competition in the private sector. Regulation alone is not enough—implementation and intent matter most. With modernised PPR, e-GP, and digital platforms, corruption should decline.



Mahfuz Anam,
Editor & Publisher, The Daily
Star

Bangladesh's procurement volume is estimated at BDT 30 billion—a key driver of national growth. As our industries

mature, procurement rules must be updated. Historically, standards favoured foreign firms due to quality concerns, but many local products now match or surpass global competitors. Yet, outdated provisions still rank Bangladesh in lower categories, while countries like Japan and Korea are placed in 'A'. Our industries deserve that status too. We must overcome this inferiority complex and decolonise our mindset. The interim government can resolve many of these smaller yet impactful issues.

Take Walton—exporting to over 40 countries—yet still not recognised fully at home. We must acknowledge that Bangladeshi companies now operate at a global level. Changing this mindset is essential for inclusive national progress.

Tanjim Ferdous, in charge of NGOs and foreign missions at The Daily Star, moderated the discussion.

Apurba-Farin pair up for new Eid drama 'PRIYO PROJAPOTI'



Popular actors Apurba and Tasnia Farin will share the screen this Eid in Jakaria Showkhin's new romantic-comedy drama *Priyo Projapoti*. Inspired by Sadat Hossain's short story *Billboard*, the drama centres on playful office banter and a budding romance between two colleagues.

Director Showkhin describes the project as a feel-good, modern romantic-comedy, expressing confidence in the duo's on-screen chemistry. The drama also features an original song written by lyricist Someshwar Oli, composed and performed by Jahid Nirob, with vocals by Atiya Anisha.

Priyo Projapoti is scheduled to premiere on the Capital Drama YouTube channel during Eid, promising a lighthearted watch for the festive season.



Theatre Artists Association voices concern over FY26 cultural budget

The Theatre Artists Association of Dhaka (TAD) has expressed disappointment over the proposed national budget for the cultural sector in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

While acknowledging a slight increase from last year, TAD president and veteran actor Azad Abul Kalam called the overall allocation "disappointing" last Monday via an official statement. He emphasised that culture is essential for shaping national identity, history, and future, but continues to be neglected.

TAD had previously urged that at least one percent of the total budget be dedicated to culture. The organisation highlighted the

ongoing challenges faced by theatre artists, musicians, visual artists, and other cultural workers, who operate with limited resources and infrastructure.

They stressed the need for sustainable financial support, improved infrastructure, and research-based cultural practices. Signed by Azad Abul Kalam and Secretary General Saif Suman, the press release urged the government to recognise culture as a foundational element of national development, not a luxury.

TAD called for a proper and effective budget allocation to support the cultural sector's growth and prevent further setbacks.



'Fête de la Musique 2025'

Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) presents *Fête de la Musique 2025*, inviting music lovers to celebrate World Music Day on June 20 at their Dhanmondi venue. The event is set up to be an evening of vibrant performances and cultural exchange. Musicians interested in performing can apply by sending their portfolio or YouTube link to AFD.

Open to all, this celebration aims to unite the community through music and rhythm.

DATE: FRIDAY | JUNE 20

TIME: 3PM ONWARDS

VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA

Taylor Swift's old albums stream double on Spotify after catalogue deal

Taylor Swift's original albums saw a sharp rise in Spotify streams following her announcement of reclaiming ownership of her first six studio albums. On May 30, streams of her *Big Machine*-era records more than doubled, with *Speak Now* surging 430 percent, *Taylor Swift* 220 percent, and *Reputation* 175 percent.

Other albums like *Fearless*, *Red*, and *1989* also saw significant increases. The spike follows years of dispute with Scooter Braun, who acquired Swift's masters in 2019. Swift later bought them back from Shamrock Capital.

In a statement, she celebrated regaining her catalogue, saying, "All of the music I've ever made... now belongs... to me." Fans now await potential re-recordings of *Reputation* and *Taylor Swift*, both yet to be re-released.



JAMES CAMERON to co-write fantasy epic 'The Devils'

Acclaimed filmmaker James Cameron is set to co-write the movie adaptation of Joe Abercrombie's best-selling novel *The Devils*. Announcing the news on Facebook, Cameron expressed long-standing admiration for Abercrombie's work, particularly the *First Law* series and *The Age of Madness* trilogy.

The collaboration will begin after Cameron completes *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, the third instalment of the *Avatar* franchise, scheduled for release on December 19.

Set in an alternate medieval Europe threatened by a flesh-eating elvish invasion, *The Devils* will be adapted with a focus on its cinematic storytelling.

Abercrombie praised Cameron as the ideal creative partner, lauding his ability to blend action, spectacle, and emotional depth on screen over four decades of filmmaking.



Top bands unite for BTV's Eid-ul-Azha special programme

Bangladesh Television (BTV) has organised a special four-part musical series for Eid-ul-Azha, featuring performances by 13 bands, both established and emerging.

On the third day of Eid, popular band Chirkutt will perform at 7pm, directed by Nasir Uddin and hosted by Kazi Momrez Mahmud.

The fourth day will feature performances by emerging bands, including F Minor, Mechanic, Natai, and Torun at 4pm, followed by sets from veteran bands Ark, Symphony, Orbit, and others at 7pm.

Audiences can expect classics like *Sweeti Tumi Ar Kedona* and *Ekhono Prithibita Ki Darun Sejchhe*. The final day will feature Bijoy, Bengal Symphony, Shubhojatra, and Avash.

NEWS

Israeli fire kills 27 near Gaza aid point

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killed in fighting in the northern Gaza Strip, as its forces pushed ahead with a months-long offensive against Hamas that has laid waste to much of the enclave.

A spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross told Reuters that its field hospital in Rafah received 184 casualties, adding that 19 of those were declared dead upon arrival, and eight died of their wounds shortly after.

More than 35 patients required immediate intervention, the spokesperson added.

The head of the UN agency, Volker Turk, urged a prompt and impartial investigation into the killings. "Attacks directed against civilians constitute a

grave breach of international law, and a war crime," he said in a statement.

The US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said it distributed 21 truckloads of food early yesterday and that the aid operation was "conducted safely and without incident within the site".

However, there have been reports of repeated killings near Rafah as crowds gather to get desperately needed supplies.

On Sunday, Palestinian and international officials reported that at least 31 people were killed and dozens more injured. On Monday, three more Palestinians were reportedly killed by Israeli fire.

The Israeli military has denied targeting civilians gathering for aid and called reports of deaths during

Sunday's distribution "fabrications" by Hamas.

It issued new evacuation orders to residents of several districts in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip late on Monday, warning that the army would act forcefully against Hamas members operating in those areas.

The military told residents to head west towards the Mawasi humanitarian area. Palestinian and United Nations officials say there are no safe areas in the enclave, and that most of its 2.3 million population has become internally displaced.

The territory's health ministry said yesterday that the new evacuation orders could halt work at the Nasser Hospital, the largest, still-functioning medical facility in the south, endangering the lives of those being treated there.

BNP to avoid showdown

FROM PAGE 16
briefed the meeting about his experience at the gathering of the National Consensus Committee earlier in the day.

The party said they still do not understand why the interim government plans to hold the next national election between December this year and June 2026 despite the party's repeated demand for holding polls in December.

The party also discussed Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's recent claim that only the BNP is demanding elections in December while other political parties are not, said a standing committee member on the condition of anonymity.

"That is a blatant lie. We fail to understand why he would make such a false statement," the leader said,

adding that the government's true intentions remain unclear and are causing concern within the party.

On May 29, Yunus told the 30th Nikkei Forum in Tokyo that only one party wants the national election to be held by December.

During the meeting, party leaders also discussed BNP leader Ishraque Ahmed's oath-taking issues and the ongoing protest by government employees at the secretariat.

Regarding Ishraque's issue, the party is awaiting the Election Commission's response.

"We understand the government's motive, but we are now waiting to see how the Election Commission responds, especially since there is a court order directing it to act," said another senior leader.

Regardless of the outcome, the

party's protest will continue until Ishraque is allowed to take the oath as the Dhaka South City Corporation mayor.

About the recent protest by government employees at the secretariat, the party leaders believe the movement is a direct result of the interim government's administrative failures.

"The beneficiaries of the Awami League remain embedded in the secretariat and the current government has failed to contain the unrest. We are closely monitoring how the protest unfolds," said another standing committee member.

Meanwhile, the party is set to hold a press conference today at the party chairperson's Gulshan office to formally respond to the proposed budget unveiled by the interim government.

Schooling of 2.5 lakh Rohingya

FROM PAGE 16
of their jobs. Protesters said only host community teachers were terminated, while Rohingya teachers continue in their roles. They warned that the move would disproportionately affect the already vulnerable host communities.

They have been demonstrating after the UNICEF on May 27 issued a notice saying that immediately all host community volunteer teachers working in Kindergarten Grade-1 and Grade-2 are to have their volunteer contracts ended.

The notice added that there will be further reductions in the number of host community teaching volunteers

for grades 3-5.

RRRC Mizanur Rahman told the Daily Star yesterday that the blockade by the host community teachers cut off the road communications with the Rohingya camps.

Yesterday, the RRRC and the education sector representatives held a meeting. Later, the joint letter was issued by UNICEF and Save the Children to the RRRC, announcing the closure of learning centres in the camps.

There are around 4,000 learning centres in the camps where around 1.2 million Rohingyas have been sheltered, most of them since 2017 when they fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

An estimated 1,50,000 new Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh in the recent months and 50,000 more are expected to join them by this year end, putting further strains on Bangladesh.

The Rohingyas continue to flee the Rakhine state of Myanmar due to escalating violence, said the UN World Food Programme in its country brief published on May 19.

In contrast, the funding for the refugees witnesses a decline.

The total humanitarian needs of the Rohingyas in 2025 have been estimated at \$934 million, but so far only 20 percent or \$180 million have been met.

Salahuddin sues Hasina

FROM PAGE 16
Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan; the then DMP commissioner, Asaduzzaman Mia; and former head of DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTC) unit, Monirul Islam.

"I wanted to lodge the complaint earlier. But, due to my busy schedule, it took some time to gather all the evidence. I've accused seven individuals, but more names may surface if further investigations are conducted," Salahuddin told journalists after submitting the complaint.

He also said, "I urge all victims of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, and police torture under the fascist regime of Sheikh Hasina to file complaints with the tribunal."

He further urged the government to provide logistical support to the tribunal and to expand the prosecution and investigation teams to accelerate the court proceedings.

When asked whether the BNP would continue the trial process if it came to power, he responded in the affirmative, saying, "Of course. This is not only a promise of the BNP but also what the nation expects. A fair trial will be ensured."

Meanwhile, after receiving the complaint, ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam said it would be immediately forwarded to the investigation agency for further action.

After being missing for 62 days, former state minister Salahuddin was found in Shillong, the capital

of the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya, on May 11, 2015.

He was arrested for entering India without valid documents and charged under the Foreigners Act. Later, Shillong police pressed charges against him in the case.

The BNP alleged that Salahuddin was abducted from his home in Utara, Dhaka, on March 10, 2015, by people posing as police detectives.

On October 26, 2018, a Shillong court acquitted him of the charges related to illegal entry.

A higher court upheld the verdict on February 28, 2023, and directed the Indian government to arrange for his return to Bangladesh.

After the fall of Sheikh Hasina, on August 11, he returned to Bangladesh.

Not possible to stop it physically

FROM PAGE 16
long back," he told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon, adding that many on the list were already taken back into Bangladesh after verification.

Last month, India asked Bangladesh to expedite the process of verifying the "illegal" Bangladeshis living in India so that they can be sent back home at the earliest. According to India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, there is a list of 2,369 Bangladeshi nationals illegally living in India. In many cases, the people have completed their jail sentence and are waiting to be deported.

"There's a mechanism for such consular issues, and we're trying to bring this matter under a certain regulation. We'll send a fresh letter to India today or tomorrow [yesterday or today]... We want the process to be regulated."

Regarding updates on the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, he said no response had come from India yet. "We've not yet sent another letter... If needed, we'll write to them again."

On border killings, he said that Bangladesh continues to lodge strong protests through diplomatic channels. "Of course, we'll protest in the strongest language. We can never accept the shooting and killing of people at the border... It does not happen anywhere else in the world."

Meanwhile, Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday detained at least 59 people who were allegedly pushed into the country by India's Border Security Force through border points in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Mymensingh, and Chapainawabganj.

According to a BGB headquarters statement, at least 1,278 people have been pushed into Bangladesh from India since May 7, through border areas in 19 districts and the Mandarbaria region of the Sundarbans. BGB officials confirmed that all those detained yesterday are Bangladeshi nationals.

In Panchagarh, 26 people were detained early yesterday -- 17 near the Shingroad border and nine near Joydharbhanga in Sadar upazila -- said Lt Col Sheikh Mohammad Bodruddoza, commanding officer of BGB 56 Battalion in Nilphamari.

They had been detained by Indian police from various parts of Delhi and later handed over to BSF, who pushed them into Bangladesh. Among them are seven men, nine women, and 10 children.

In Thakurgaon, 13 more individuals were held around 2:00am near border pillar no-341/3-Sat Fakirganj in Pirganj upazila, said Lt Col Abdullah Al Moïn Hasan, commanding officer of BGB-42 Battalion in Dinajpur. The group includes three men, three women, and seven children, all originally from Kurigram. They reportedly entered

India illegally at different times, were detained in Delhi, and later pushed back by BSF.

In Mymensingh, 22 people, including eight men, 12 women, and two children, were pushed in through Munshipara in Dhobaura upazila and the Suryapur border in Haluaghat upazila early yesterday, said Lt Col ASM Kamruzzaman, commanding officer of BGB-31 Battalion in Netrakona. Twelve of them hail from Khulna, Narail, Jashore, and Magura.

Those detained in Haluaghat were handed over to Haluaghat Police Station in the afternoon, said Md Hafizul Islam Harun, officer-in-charge of the police station.

In Chapainawabganj, eight individuals -- four men and four women -- were detained near the Chandshikari border in Bholahat upazila early yesterday, said Lt Col Golam Kibria, commanding officer of BGB-59 Battalion.

Meanwhile in Netrakona, BSF handed over three Bangladeshi nationals to BGB after detaining them for illegally entering India. The handover occurred during a flag meeting at the zero line near the Bijoypur border in Durgapur upazila, said Lt Col ASM Kamruzzaman.

[Our correspondents from Thakurgaon, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, and Netrakona contributed to this report.]

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।

Office of the Registrar
Jashore University of Science and Technology
Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

স্মারক নং-যবিপ্রবি/রেজিঃ/সং ও প্রঃ/রজিঃ সমমান কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগ/ ১০০৫(১)/২২-১১১০
তারিখ: ০২/০৬/২০২৫খ্রি.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নোক্ত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বর্ষিক শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও বেতন স্কেল	বয়স	শর্তাবলী
০১	রেজিস্ট্রার, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	আবেদনকারীকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রসহ পূর্ণাঙ্গ আবেদন ০২ সেট রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, যশোর-৭৪০৮ বরাবরে আগামী ০১/০৭/২০২৫খ্রি. তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন পৌছাতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রকার ডকুমেন্টস জমা নেওয়া হবে না। রেজিস্ট্রার, যবিপ্রবি এর কার্যালয় অথবা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে www.just.edu.bd হতে আবেদন ফরম ও যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সমগ্র করতে হবে।
০২	প্রত্নতাত্ত্বিক, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	
০৩	পরিচালক (হিসাব), ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	
০৪	পরিচালক (পা, উয় ও পূর্ত), ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	
০৫	বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশলী (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী), ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	
০৬	প্রধান চিকিৎসা কর্মকর্তা, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	
০৭	পরিচালক (শরীরচর্চা শিক্ষা), ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় স্কেল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৫৫ বছর	

*** বিঃ দ্রঃ (সেলেক্টেড কাজে অধিকতর অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের জন্য বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য) ***

স্বাঃ/
প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব
রেজিস্ট্রার
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-1357

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
CA-1 Section
www.mocat.gov.bd

Ref: 30.00.0000.000.013.27.0003.18-29
Date: 01.06.2025

Notice for Recruitment

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism invites applications from Bangladeshi Citizens for the following six positions of the Aircraft Accident and Serious Incident Investigation Committee as per Aircraft Accident and Serious Incident Investigation Rules, 2023:

Sl	Name of Post	No of Post	Required Qualifications
01	Head of the Committee	01	Education: Bachelor degree or higher with a background in science at HSC or equivalent level Training: Aircraft Accident Investigation Basic Course or Aviation Safety Course recognized by any Civil Aviation Authority with knowledge in aircraft accident investigation methodologies (e.g., ICAO Annex 13), safety management systems, human factors in aviation, and legal aspects of accident investigation. Experience: At least 18 years of experience as a pilot with knowledge in aviation safety and accident investigation and aircraft operations and management experience are crucial. Have conducted minimum one (01) accident and/or serious incident as Investigation in Charge (IIC) or as a member of Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT) Maximum Age: 70 Years
02	Member (Operations)	02	Education: Bachelor degree or higher with a background in science at HSC or equivalent level Training: Aircraft Accident Investigation Basic Course or Aviation Safety Course recognized by any Civil Aviation Authority with knowledge in aircraft accident investigation methodologies (e.g., ICAO Annex 13), safety management systems, human factors in aviation and legal aspects of accident investigation Experience: At least 15 years of experience as a pilot with knowledge in aviation safety, accident investigation and aircraft operations and procedure. Have conducted minimum one (01) accident and/or serious incident as Investigation in Charge (IIC) or as a member of Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT) Maximum Age: 70 Years
03	Member (Engineering)	01	Education: BSc Engineering in Mechanical/Aerospace/Electrical /Avionics/EIEE from any recognized university Training: Aircraft Accident Investigation Basic Course or Aviation Safety Course recognized by any Civil Aviation Authority and knowledge in aircraft systems, structural analysis, materials science, and accident investigation with a focus on engineering aspects. Proficiency in technical documentation (AMM, SRM) and collaboration with OEMs. Experience: Minimum 15 years of experience in the field of Aircraft Engineering or Airworthiness in civil or military aviation. Have conducted minimum one (01) accident and/or serious incident as Investigator in Charge (IIC) or as a member of Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT). Maximum Age: 70 Years
04	Member (Air Traffic Control)	01	Education: Bachelor degree or higher with a background in science at HSC or equivalent level Training: Training in air traffic control with knowledge in accident investigation related to ATC procedures, navigation and airspace design. Experience: At least 15 years of operational experience as an air traffic controller, with a strong understanding of ATC systems, procedures, and regulations. Have conducted minimum one (01) accident and/or serious incident as Investigator in Charge (IIC) or as a member of Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT) Maximum Age: 70 Years
05	Member (Administration, Planning, and Finance)	01	Education: Bachelor degree or higher Training: Training in aviation regulations, financial management, project management and administrative procedures. Experience: At least 15 years of operational experience in administration, planning, and financial management preferably within the aviation industry or a regulatory body. Maximum Age: 70 Years.

Remunerations and other benefits that the Head of the Committee and the other Members will be entitled to are to be decided by the Government of Bangladesh. Duration of their appointment will be for two years from the date of signing of contract.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- The applicant shall be required to fulfil the following conditions:
 - Good speaking and writing skills in Bangla and English;
 - Ability to write reports clearly and concisely;
 - Proficiency in data analysis tools;
 - Possessing intelligence, patience and endurance.
- An incomplete application will be rejected.
- If called for an interview, no allowances will be provided.

Terms and Conditions for Disqualification:

- The applicant shall be disqualified if he or she:
 - Is not a citizen of Bangladesh;
 - Was dismissed or removed from Government service;
 - Was convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude;
 - Was declared to be of unsound mind by a competent court;
 - Was declared to be a defaulter by any bank or financial institution;
 - Is engaged in Government or private service; or
 - Is an owner of any stock or bonds of an aeronautical enterprise or aviation organization, or engaged in any business, vocational activity or employment having any connection with its financial interest.

Submission of Application:

- Submission: Electronic submission only to jaca3@mocat.gov.bd
- The following information must be furnished in the application:
 - Name; (b) Father's name; (c) Mother's name; (d) Mobile No. (e) Present Address; (f) Permanent Address; (g) E-mail address; (h) Educational Qualifications (i) Date of Birth; (j) Nationality and (k) Experience.
- The following scanned documents must be attached to the application (The application and the attached documents must be submitted in the form of a single PDF file of not more than 5MB in size):
 - Copy of National ID (NID) (Original must be shown during the interview);
 - Recently taken colored passport size photo;
 - Copies of the educational and experience certificates (Originals must be shown during the interview)
- Submission Deadline: June 26, 2025**

Note: The Ministry may disqualify any applicant at any stage of the recruitment process without showing any reason whatsoever.

Ahmed Zamil
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
&
Member Secretary
Selection Committee

GD-1359

Zila Parishad, Sylhet
www.zpsylhet.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.60.9100.001.01.002.25.886(100)
Date: 02-06-2025

e-Tender Notice No. 06/2024-2025 (LTM)

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

SL No.	e. Tender ID No. & Package No.	Name of works
01	Tender ID No: 1121772 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/RB-15	Construction of Main Gate at Rosomoy Memorial High School
02	Tender ID No. 1121773 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/RB-19	I) Construction of Gate at Doubari Gurail College under Goainghat Upazila. ii) Improvement of Enamoti Bitul Falah Jame Masjid under 2 No. Ward 8 No. Koskonokpur UP Zakiganj Upazila.
03	Tender ID No: 1121774 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/RB-20	I) Construction of Gate at Amborkhana Housing Estate II) Improvement of road at Khadimnagar Chalia Village under Sadar Upazila. III) Improvement of road at Lamargaon Village under 2 No. Ward 8 No. Khandigaon UP Sadar Upazila.
04	Tender ID No: 1121775 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/RB-21	I) Construction of Guard wall at Uttargaon Road side under 6 No. Ward 8 No. Vadeshor UP, Golapganj Upazila. II) Improvement of Eidgah field at Sreebohor (Kunachor) under 9 No. Ward 4 No. Laxmipasha UP. Golapganj Upazila. iii) Supplying One Portable X-Ray machine at Cancer and General Hospital Foundation Beanibazar Upazila.
05	Tender ID No: 1121776 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/RB-22	Development and renovation Zila Parishad Building.
06	Tender ID No: 1123749 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-08	Improvement of road by RCC work in Ibne Sina Collection & Consultation Center at Mirganj road under Badeshor UP. Golapganj Upazila (2nd Part).

Tender publication date & time: 02 June, 2025 16:20
Tender documents last selling date & time: 17 June, 2025 12:00
Tender closing & opening date & time: 17 June, 2025 14:00

These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) as well as Sylhet Zila Parishad Contractor License (2024-2025) shall be required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. The Authority reserve the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceeding. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Surjoson Ray
Assistant Engineer (Acting)
Zila Parishad, Sylhet

GD-1364

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Development of an Improved Agarwood Inoculation Technique
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Sholoshahar, Chattogram-4211
Phone: 0241380721, E-mail: awrl.org@gmail.com
www.bfri.gov.bd

Memo No. 22.04.0000.039.11.004.22.141
Date: 03 June, 2025

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Consultant

Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Chattogram has been implementing the project **Development of an Improved Agarwood Inoculation Technique** Project Code: 224350400 under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change with GoB fund. The aim and objective of the project- (a) To invent an artificial inoculum and application technique that will produce quality agar-resin within a short period by establishing a specialized laboratory; (b) Arranging quality testing and quality assurance facilities for easy entry of Bangladeshi agar-wood, oil and agar products into the foreign markets and (c) To disseminate the invented artificial agar-resin production technology among the stakeholders.

The following Consultants (National) will be recruited on the basis of individual capacity.

Title	Qualification	Experience	Age Limit	Duration
Consultant (Package No. SD-01) Position- 01	Required Academic Qualification: B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc./ MS in Chemistry/Applied Chemistry/Chemical Engineering/Biochemistry (Preference will be given to candidates with experience in Colloidal Nanotechnology/Natural Products Synthesis/analytical Chemistry/ Complete Compound Characterization/Biological Applications.) Preferred Qualifications: Ph.D. in the relevant field and publications as proof.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 05 years research experience in relevant field; At least 05 research publication in reputed journals; Practical and theoretical experience in relevant field; Working experience in laboratory with laboratory equipment; Proficiency with computer programs, software and research related software. Excellent written and oral communication skills, ability to train and work with operational staff. 	Maximum 45 years	*12- months

The applicants are invited to provide information in detail indicating their qualification to perform the services according to the complete job description (nature, duty, qualification and ToR) mentioned in the [website noticeboard](http://www.bfri.gov.bd) (www.bfri.gov.bd). The personnel will be hired and contracted as per the Project PP, PPA-2006 and PPR-2008. The duration of the assignment will be 12 months (twelve months) starting from the date of appointment. *However, the duration of assignment may be increased or decreased according to the performance of service, availability, project needs and budget. In that case PPA-2006 and PPR-2008 will be followed.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below (in person or mail) by **29 June, 2025 within 3:00pm** and clearly marked **Expression of Interest (EOI)**, contract package number, name of the position applied for and name and address of the individual.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOIs or cancel the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s). For further information and clarification, intending applicants may contact at the address given below during office hours (9:00am to 4:00pm BST)

Dr. Mohammad Jakir Hossain
Project Director
Development of an Improved Agarwood Inoculation Technique
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Sholoshahar, Chittagong-4211
Phone: 0241380721, E-mail: awrl.org@gmail.com

GD-1369

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Save journalists from retaliatory abuse

Ongoing trends of legal harassment, violence must end

It is disheartening that at a time when the nation is supposedly enjoying press freedom and freedom of speech, journalists continue to face violence, intimidation, and legal harassment. The latest figures provided by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) paint a grim picture, revealing that at least 91 journalists were harassed, assaulted, or intimidated in May. Among the victims, 33 were physically assaulted, seven received threats, and three were arrested. Moreover, 48 journalists were implicated in various cases. While no one is above the law, these cases and arrests seem to mask retaliation and exploitation as legal action, sharing similarities with past instances of journalists being targeted through dubious charges over the July atrocities.

In recent weeks, we have repeatedly commented on this disturbing legal trend. Victims of such dubious and exploitative cases include not just journalists but also individuals from other professions, such as businessmen, lawyers, teachers, and actors. Journalists seem particularly at risk, though. One example reported in mid-May involved 26 journalists, along with others, being implicated in an attempted murder case filed by a pro-BNP lawyer in Chattogram. The relevant case statement seemed quite flawed, with little evidence or corroboration from either police or the accused, many of whom deny the charges or even being present at the scene of the alleged crime. Unfortunately, such cases continue to be filed or acted upon with frightening regularity.

According to an investigative report published by this daily on May 3, at least 266 journalists had been implicated in various criminal cases related to the July uprising as of that time. Such legal assaults not only endanger journalists and undermine press freedom, but also violate the public's constitutional right to access information. Their continuation, we must add, casts a dark shadow over the interim government's commitment to uphold press freedom.

So we again urge the authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure that journalists are protected from retaliatory cases as well as from physical violence and intimidation. The same applies to other victims of rights violations, such as those who have suffered from mob violence, rape and sexual abuse, political violence, and labour exploitation—all of which, according to HRSS data, reached worrying levels in May. These too are serious rights violations that demand urgent redress.

That said, the government alone cannot fix this state of affairs. Political parties, too, must do their part by strictly disciplining their members who engage in violence or inflammatory rhetoric that increases risks for the vulnerable segments of society. The BNP, in particular, must show greater leadership in controlling its errant activists and leaders. This is especially crucial as the country moves towards a long-awaited democratic transition through elections.

Health, education need greater focus

Budget does not reflect government's stated priorities

We are disappointed by the low budgetary allocations and limited attention that the health and education sectors have received in the just-unveiled budget for FY2025-26. In his budget speech, the finance adviser pledged that the government would focus on key areas such as education, healthcare, effective governance, civic amenities, and job opportunities, rather than prioritising physical infrastructure. However, in reality, there is inadequate reflection of these priorities in the budget, particularly with regard to education and health. While Tk 95,644 crore has been proposed for the education sector and Tk 41,908 crore allocated for the health sector, these figures have frustrated educationists and health experts alike.

These two sectors have not only received insufficient allocations, but there is also a palpable lack of strategic planning for the execution of the funds. According to UNESCO recommendations, 4 to 6 percent of GDP, or 15 to 20 percent of a national budget, should be allocated to education. However, only 12.1 percent of the total budget, or just 1.72 percent of GDP, has been allocated to this sector. While the government has proposed some important initiatives—such as steps to raise enrolment in technical education and the launch of a new school feeding programme in 150 upazilas—these are not enough. The education sector requires critical reforms, which remain unaddressed in the budget.

Similarly, the health sector has received only 5.3 percent of the total budget, ranking seventh among all sectors. This is far below the Health Sector Reform Commission's recommendation of 15 percent. While the finance adviser has announced some tax relief on the import of pharmaceutical raw materials and medical equipment—which would help reduce the cost of medicine—he has not clarified how the commission's recommendations will be implemented. Given the dismal implementation rate of the health budget in the outgoing year, special attention is required to ensure proper utilisation of funds in this sector.

We understand that the government is grappling with many challenges. But we hope it will overcome them and proceed with a clear roadmap to bring about the much-needed reforms in these sectors. The finance adviser has rightly pointed out the need to develop human capital, but for that to happen, we must prioritise both the education and health sectors, and also address unemployment, among other pressing issues. The government must take concrete initiatives to harness our demographic dividend for sustainable long-term growth. It should consider the suggestions made by experts and incorporate them into the budget before its finalisation.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dunkirk evacuation ends

On this day in 1940, during World War II, following a massive rescue effort that included civilian boats, the withdrawal of Allied troops trapped at Dunkirk, France was completed. More than 300,000 soldiers were saved in that mission.

FY2026 BUDGET

A missed opportunity for structural reform



Dr Selim Raihan is professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Dhaka and executive director at the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). He can be reached at selim.raihan@econdu.ac.bd.

SELIM RAIHAN

The proposed budget for 2025-26 fiscal year is at an opportune moment in Bangladesh's economic and political economy. Inflation is in the higher range, job creation is sluggish, investment confidence is declining, and the overall macroeconomic situation remains shaky. Given these realities, the finance adviser's address was commendable in terms of tone and content, marked by openness and realism rarely seen in budget announcements in Bangladesh.

But acknowledgement, though necessary, is not sufficient. Even as the speech acknowledges facts on the ground and expresses a willingness to address entrenched problems, the budget itself does not deliver the meaningful structural reforms the country desperately needs right now.

Even more respectful in tone, the FY2026 budget largely maintains the structural status quo. It once again reiterates the pattern of previous years in which institutional lethargy, lack of reform ambition, and bureaucratic inefficiency are the characteristics. For instance, there is no evident reform agenda for the tax system; however, in spite of ongoing issues of low

these are central to institutional credibility and implementation building.

One of the major turning points in public discourse last year was the student-led mass movement that demanded a focus on equity and decent employment. The finance adviser's speech did reference these demands, but the budgetary response is at best fragmented and at worst inadequate.



VISUAL: SUSHMITA S PREETHA

Even the most well-prepared budgets cannot work if there is no strong institutional capacity. Alas, the implementation arm of the Bangladeshi state continues to be weighed down by established weaknesses.

revenue mobilisation, tax evasion, and overly complex and discretionary tax administration, the system continues to be plagued with problems. Likewise, public expenditure inefficiencies, government procurement delays, and weak implementation capacity remain unremedied.

More importantly, there is no mention of such critical accountability tools as outcome-based budgeting, performance audit, or project implementation audit, even when

Allocations for education, health, and social protection show no structural shift. Given the chronic underfunding in these sectors, modest increases fail to address growing needs. Furthermore, there is no visible commitment to invest in human resources for health and education, introduce modern skill-building initiatives, or leverage data systems for transparent delivery and accountability.

In terms of job creation, the budget makes reference to supporting SMEs, tech-based sectors, and manufacturing. However, these efforts are not supported by coherent sectoral strategies or legal and regulatory reforms that can truly enable business growth and attract private investment.

Meanwhile, the approach to investment promotion in the proposed budget is cautious and incremental. While there are tax incentives and sector-specific announcements,

to be weighed down by established weaknesses. Planning and budget coordination are ad hoc. Line ministries are not capable of implementation. Project timelines slip, and funds go unspent or are squandered.

The FY2026 budget does not provide any planned solution to this capacity shortfall. It does not provide an agenda for institutional reforms—neither in new systems of accountability, upgrading human capital in ministries, nor procedures of inter-agency coordination. Without these reforms, the dangers of underspending, leakage, and misallocation exist.

The broader political context further complicates the budget's prospects. The interim nature of the government, the unresolved tensions following the national election, and heightened international scrutiny place the current regime in a fragile

position. In such a setting, there is a tendency to prioritise political stability and management over economic restructuring.

This brings forth an important political question: how sincerely will the current interim government prioritise resolving economic issues? Or will its primary focus remain on political management amid the post-election uncertainty and deadlock among major political parties? The political unrest, controversies surrounding the election, and reactions from the international community have all placed the government under pressure. If, under this pressure, the government sidelines economic priorities in favour of political manoeuvring, the prospects for economic stability will be jeopardised.

For Bangladesh to move beyond budgetary continuity and embrace transformation, four strategic pillars must be prioritised:

- Employment generation:** Targeted investment in labour-intensive sectors, alongside comprehensive skill development for youth in emerging industries such as digital services and green energy.
- Reducing inequality:** Significant resource reallocation towards quality education, rural healthcare, and cash transfer programmes, particularly those addressing vulnerable populations.
- Improving the investment climate:** A bold agenda for tax simplification, contract enforcement, policy predictability, and digital infrastructure is critical to reinvigorate investor confidence.
- Institutional strengthening:** Integrate performance-based budgeting, expand e-governance in public procurement and monitoring, and reform project execution systems to enhance accountability and efficiency.

The FY2026 budget may be remembered for its honest rhetoric, but unless backed by real political will and institutional reform, it will remain a lost opportunity. Bangladesh cannot afford to treat the budget as an annual arithmetic ritual. Instead, it must become a vehicle for structural transformation, inclusive growth, and long-term stability.

If the next political government found that this non-political interim government had introduced a truly different kind of budget, it would be facing significant pressure to carry forward a new policy direction. This raises an important question: did the interim government miss a crucial opportunity to set a bold example in budget-making?

Why victims must lead the truth commission

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The recent declaration by Law Advisor Dr Asif Nazrul to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Bangladesh marks a significant step in Bangladesh's journey towards justice and healing for victims of July massacre and the preceding authoritarian regime. The proposed commission, a long-overdue initiative, appears to be a promising attempt at confronting the dark legacy of political repression, state violence and enforced disappearances in Bangladesh.

However, for the commission to be successful, it must be grounded in an inclusive, holistic and sustainable framework. Three urgent recommendations are offered here that can shape the formation of the proposed commission into

a successful tool for healing. First, the framework of the commission including its role and responsibilities must go through broad consultations to ensure inputs from experts, victims, and marginalised sections of the society. Second, it must be inclusive, especially of victims including those who are not from Dhaka, and start with a national dialogue with all stakeholders beyond Dhaka or divisional centres. Third, it must also include experts in post-conflict justice who specialise in the field. Also, the commission's mandate and modus operandi must be clearly set before deciding the composition of the body.

This transitional justice effort also needs a contextualised framework rooted within the unique sociopolitical realities and psychosocial complexities of Bangladesh and its people. Instead of importing Western case study models, Bangladesh needs to develop its own transitional justice model based on its local political, sociocultural and spiritual norms and values. For instance, truth-telling as developed in South Africa were based on Christian values of catharsis and forgiveness that might be incompatible with the psychosocial conditions of a Muslim majoritarian country like Bangladesh. Hence, Bangladesh needs to develop a decolonial transitional justice model that addresses past harms and fosters healing, tolerance and harmony in the context of its present sociopolitical maladies.

Furthermore, the proposed formation of a TRC presumes that

victims are ready to reconcile with perpetrators who, till date, have shown neither remorse nor acknowledgment of their crimes. In fact, many individuals affiliated with the Awami League continue to exhibit wilful arrogance by denying wrongdoing, justifying abuses, and gaslighting survivors. In such a context, "healing" is a far more appropriate focus than reconciliation. The term "Truth and Healing Commission (THC)" thus more accurately reflects the needs of victims. Reconciliation may become an eventual outcome of the process but it certainly cannot begin until perpetrators take full responsibility for their actions—something that has yet to happen. Until now, no high-level Awami League official has issued a public apology. There has been no attempt to acknowledge harm, no evidence of reflection, and certainly no expression of remorse.

Consequently, the government must commence an inclusive national dialogue and consensus building with all stakeholders involved at the outset, before setting up the commission. Besides politicians, law practitioners, and civil society bodies, the commission needs to include victims such as families of the disappeared, survivors of political detention and repression as active stakeholders. Victims and their families deserve more than a token gesture, they need a meaningful platform where their stories are heard, their pain acknowledged, and their needs addressed. Without their active participation, any commission risks being seen as a top-down, Eurocentric

initiative lacking authenticity and grassroots moral authority. It will just be an attempt to check a political box rather than building a real foundation for justice, accountability and healing.

Including Bangladeshi academic experts, particularly those specialising in post-conflict transitions and reconciliation processes, can ensure that the THC addresses not only symptoms of violence but its deep-rooted causes as well. In Bangladesh, where history is routinely politicised and distorted, having a strong evidence-based framework for truth and healing is essential to ensure credibility. Without involvement of experts specialised in this field, the commission risks becoming an echo chamber of political convenience rather than a mechanism of meaningful accountability.

A politically motivated commission, which is not properly designed to meet the needs of the victims, would entrench impunity, insult victims, and embolden future perpetrators. Furthermore, the establishment of the THC and its relevant laws must not be implemented hurriedly.

The commission should be led by an inter-ministerial process as transitional justice goes beyond criminal accountability. A truly victim-centred, trauma-informed, decolonial truth and healing commission could be a watershed in our political history. Done wrong, it will be yet another historic missed opportunity; another hollow promise made in the name of justice. And Bangladeshi citizens have had too many hollow promises already.

July's legacy and the myth of a singular vanguard



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BOBBY HAJJAJ

In the aftermath of Sheikh Hasina's long and repressive rule, Bangladesh stands at a critical juncture. A moment of rupture—so rare in the history of managed autocracy—has passed into the hands of an interim government. But the narratives now emerging to explain this rupture have taken a troubling turn, shaped less by truth and more by convenience, exclusion, and political opportunism.

The July-August movement, which culminated in the collapse of Hasina's regime, is now increasingly portrayed as the work of a select few—a tightly curated band of young leaders, most of whom are now prominently placed within the interim administration or in the leadership of the National Citizen Party (NCP). This narrative is seductive in its clarity but wholly inadequate in truth. It erases the broader architecture of revolt and misrepresents the diffuse forces that brought a despotic government to its knees.

To begin with, the origins of the July uprising have been widely misunderstood, both by foreign observers and Dhaka's own elite commentariat. The protests began not with any grand vision, but with a specific demand: the reform of quotas in public sector employment, a cause resurrected by students and graduates of public universities. Similar protests had occurred before and had been quelled with surgical repression and partial concessions. There was every reason to believe that this cycle would repeat.

However, in mid-2024, something shifted. The Hasina government, perhaps influenced

by sensitive geopolitical considerations, particularly widespread rumours of a controversial agreement with a neighbouring country regarding regional transit access, chose not to act swiftly. Many suspected the regime was deliberately allowing unrest to simmer to distract public attention from the brewing scandal. This initial hesitation gave the protests time to gain momentum. When repression did follow, it was late—and though brutal, it failed to extinguish the surging dissent.

The original organisers, many of whom would later rise to visibility under the NCP banner, were eventually silenced or sidelined. But by then, the fire had spread. Two unexpected sources breathed new life into the movement. The first, students from private universities and madrasas, who had long been absent from traditional protest politics but now poured into the streets. The second, the disillusioned youth who had borne the brunt of state violence in the earlier quota and road safety movements of 2018. These young people, with no formal structure, no single leadership, and no declared ideology, refused to bow again.

When the state murdered Abu Sayeed, and the video of that killing went viral, the dam burst. What had been a series of localised protests transformed into a national uprising. The movement had no high command, no manifesto, no designated leaders. It was organic, collective, and entirely uncontrollable.

Yet today, we are told that it was engineered and executed by a narrow circle of now-prominent faces. This fiction has taken root in part because of the failure of Dhaka's elites to understand how political movements actually operate. The city's educated class, largely distant from the barricades and relying on a media ecosystem long dominated by the Awami League's propaganda machine, saw only what

opposition in their minds was filled by those closest to the microphones. This misunderstanding was further compounded by the rhetoric of the interim government, led by Prof Muhammad Yunus. In speech after speech, the administration invoked its gratitude to the "youth who overthrew Hasina." The implication was clear: the interim government derived its moral authority from a small group of young

It is impeding the country's path back to democracy. The NCP, buoyed by its proximity to power and flattered by the narrative of singular heroism, has shown little interest in an early or competitive election. Whether out of inexperience, fear of electoral defeat, or a desire to prolong their influence, they appear unwilling to embrace the fundamental logic of democratic transition.

This reluctance has begun to fracture the fragile post-Hasina consensus. Tensions have emerged between the NCP-led factions of the interim government and the country's armed forces, which have thus far acted with caution and restraint. Relations with the BNP, a party with deep organisational capacity and electoral legitimacy, are strained, and clashes with other democratic parties seem inevitable. Meanwhile, the business community, whose support is crucial for economic stability, has grown increasingly disillusioned by the lack of direction and support for commercial recovery.

This impasse cannot persist. We cannot be governed by myth. We must be governed by mandate. The only legitimate path forward is a fresh, free, and competitive general election, one that welcomes all parties, reflects the diversity of voices that took part in the uprising, and restores institutional balance. To reach that point, we must dismantle the false narrative that the NCP leaders alone were the architect of Hasina's fall. This version of events has bred arrogance, exclusion, and political gridlock. More dangerously, it risks repeating the very centralisation of power that the movement sought to dismantle.

The July mass uprising was not the triumph of a single party. It was a broad movement against tyranny. To reduce it to a footnote in someone else's story is not only dishonest, but a betrayal of the people who risked everything for a new beginning. The time for mythmaking is over. The time for elections has come.



The July mass uprising had no high command, no manifesto, no designated leaders. It was organic, collective, and entirely uncontrollable. FILE PHOTO: STAR

they were permitted to see. They mistook visibility for authorship. Worse, they swallowed, almost uncritically, the regime's 15-plus years of campaign to delegitimise the BNP and all other organised opposition as corrupt or obsolete. Thus, when the government fell, the vacuum of credible

figures. The result was the mythologising of a few and the erasure of the many—students, activists, ordinary citizens, and political parties—who had fought and sacrificed just as much, if not more, for the cause. This narrative, at first a convenient fiction, has now become a political liability.

Freedom in the sky? The limits of satellite internet in Bangladesh



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DINAH VAN DER GEEST

When the Bangladesh government pulled the plug on the internet during the student-led mass uprising in July-August 2024, millions were plunged into digital darkness. Messaging apps went silent, live streams were cut mid-broadcast, and access to real-time information vanished overnight. In the chaos, one question echoed across social media: if we can't count on the ground networks, what's left?

Enter Starlink. The satellite internet service, backed by Elon Musk's SpaceX, has been touted by Bangladeshi officials as a futuristic fix to prevent such blackouts. With internet signals beamed directly from orbit, the idea of a censorship-proof, disruption-resistant network has captured public imagination. But amid the enthusiasm lies a host of unanswered questions: can satellite internet safeguard freedom of expression and access to information? Can it truly enhance resilience against politically motivated disruptions? What are the implications for regulatory oversight, data governance, and national sovereignty?

At first glance, satellite internet, particularly low-Earth orbit systems like Starlink, appears to offer a safeguard against the kind of top-down control of the internet we have witnessed in Bangladesh. The internet shutdown in July last year was not just a technical blackout. It was a political decision to sever communication, silence dissent, and control the flow of information.

And so, it's tempting to frame satellite internet as a kind of digital lifeboat. After all, it bypasses terrestrial infrastructure—fibre optic cables, telecom towers, ISP backbones—all of which governments can seize, throttle, or shut off. In theory, satellite internet makes it harder for a single actor to flip the switch on dissent. That's the promise anyway.

But I want to challenge us to interrogate the promise more deeply, because satellite internet does not operate in a vacuum. It is embedded within global systems of capital, geopolitical influence

and technical realities. And while it may sidestep one form of control, it may simultaneously introduce new ones—less visible, but equally consequential.

The political economy of shutdowns
We often talk about shutdowns as censorship, but they are also about control over economic flows. In Bangladesh, the shutdown in 2024 didn't just silence protesters; it disrupted livelihoods. So, it's not surprising that the interim government, immediately after the unrest, accelerated negotiations with Starlink, not as a human rights measure but as an economic stabiliser.

Here, satellite internet becomes a risk management tool for the state, meant to uphold investor confidence and guarantee continuity in economic activities. And while this may inadvertently safeguard freedom of expression, it is not necessarily motivated by democratic principles. If we are not careful, we risk celebrating resilience that is rooted in market logic, not human rights.

Who really controls the skies?
Let's talk about who really has access and control in the context of satellite internet. Starlink is not just a communications service, it is a US-based private enterprise, deeply entwined with the American industrial-defence ecosystem. Starlink satellites can be remotely controlled by authorities—turned off and disabled, confined to a specific area known as geofencing, or redirected and re-routed through alternative networks—often without users' and government knowledge or consent. This makes them powerful tools for enforcing shutdowns or surveillance because the entire infrastructure stack is under the jurisdiction of US law and subject to the US foreign policy.

From a technical standpoint, this means Bangladesh does not own or control the infrastructure through which its citizens' data travels. When someone uses satellite internet,

their data doesn't go directly to local internet infrastructure. Instead, it is sent (uplinked) from the user terminal to a satellite in orbit. From there, the satellite beams the data down to ground stations, which may be in foreign countries and operated by private companies. Only then does the data enter the broader internet, often bypassing national infrastructure and regulatory oversight.

In India, for example, the government forced Starlink to stop accepting pre-orders until it secured a licence. Why? Because encrypted satellite communication could bypass state monitoring systems, especially in politically sensitive regions like Kashmir.

This dependency raises questions about regulatory jurisdiction and accountability. Satellite internet operates across borders, complicating national oversight and creating potential vulnerabilities to surveillance, data privacy violations, or political pressure from external governments. And yet, Bangladesh, despite having far less regulatory capacity, has moved ahead without a coherent or enforceable strategy. Regulatory bodies like the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) are structured to manage traditional spectrum licensing for mobile networks, not to oversee or audit foreign-operated satellite systems that bypass national infrastructure and beam internet directly into remote communities without relying on local intermediaries.

The result is a jurisdictional void. Starlink becomes not just a workaround to terrestrial censorship, but a relocation of power: from state regulators to corporate policy departments, from national laws to foreign boardrooms.

What we call "resilience" may, in fact, be disempowerment—trading one form of control for another.

The illusion of universality
Let's also examine the technical accessibility of satellite internet. In theory, satellite internet should be a great equaliser, offering rural communities and marginalised populations the same digital opportunities as those in urban centres.

But in practice, it is prohibitively expensive. In Kenya, the service is subsidised to \$10 a month. In Zambia and Rwanda, it's around \$30. According to the latest figures, Starlink offers two residential internet packages in Bangladesh, Residential Lite at Tk 4,200 per month (approximately \$35) and Residential at Tk 6,000 per month (approximately \$50), with one-time hardware and setup cost of Tk 47,000 (roughly \$402), while the average monthly salary in the country is around Tk 26,000 (about \$245). That means the upfront cost of the hardware alone is nearly 1.8 times the average monthly income, and the recurring monthly subscription could consume 15-23 percent of a typical worker's wages.

Technically speaking, the Starlink hardware—a phased-array antenna

called "Dishy McFlatface"—is highly advanced. But it's also fragile, requires a clear line of sight to the sky, and draws around 100 watts of power continuously. That's more than what many households can afford to power reliably during outages.

So, who will use it? Not the student live-streaming a protest. Not the rural health worker trying to send data during a crisis. Likely, it will be gated to those with existing access to reliable infrastructure and institutional support—urban elites, corporate entities. In this way, satellite internet risks reinforcing a two-tiered system, one where meaningful connectivity remains out of reach for those who need it most.

Internet shutdowns are not just technical problems
The central policy challenge is that we treat internet shutdowns as technical disruptions that require technical fixes. But the reality is, internet shutdowns are acts of state power—deliberate, political decisions aimed at information control. They are not engineering failures; they are governance failures. And yet, we often respond with technical solutions. We reach for circumvention tools, virtual private networks, mesh networks, and now satellite internet. These tools can be powerful stopgaps.

They can mitigate harm. They can allow human rights defenders to continue documenting abuse, enable journalists to publish when the fibre lines are cut, and preserve life-saving communication during repression or conflict.

But the danger is, if we invest in satellite internet without also reforming the political culture, the legal and institutional frameworks that permit shutdowns in the first place, we will have treated the symptom, not the disease. We risk accepting the false notion that resilience means finding workarounds rather than addressing the root problem: that internet shutdowns should not happen in the first place.

So, can satellite internet safeguard freedom of expression and access to information? Yes, it might be possible. But only if we govern it well. Without robust legal frameworks, democratic accountability, and inclusive policy design, we risk replacing one form of centralised control with another—this time, embedded within opaque corporate structures and complex transnational dependencies.

The satellites may orbit above us. But the consequences of how we govern them will be felt here, on the ground, by the people.

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর		Office of the Registrar	
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়		Jashore University of Science and Technology	
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।		Jashore-7408, Bangladesh	
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০৩	সহকারী পরিচালক (অডিট) (উপাচার্য মহোদয়ের দপ্তর), ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ২৯,০০০-৬০৪১০/- (গ্রেড-৭ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৭ বছর	সকল আবেদনকারীকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ আবেদন ০২ সেট রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, যশোর-৭৪০৮
০৪	একান্ত সচিব (উপাচার্য মহোদয়ের দপ্তর), ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ, বেতন স্কেল: ২৯,০০০-৬০৪১০/- (গ্রেড-৭ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৭ বছর	বরাবরে আপাতমী ০১/০৭/২০২৫খ্রি.তারিখ
০৫	সেকশন অফিসার (গ্রেড-০৯) (রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর-১, প্রশাসন ও সংস্থাপন-১, ইংরেজি বিভাগ-১, কলা ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ-১), ০৪ টি স্থায়ী পদ, বেতন স্কেল: ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	অফিস চলাকালীন পৌছাতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রকার
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১১	সেকশন অফিসার (গ্রেড-১০) (রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর-০১, মুদ্রা মেহেরুল্লাহ হাওলা-০১), ০২ টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেল: ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (গ্রেড-১০ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	সহযোগিতা প্রার্থীদের আবেদন
১২	প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা (রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর), ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ, বেতন স্কেল: ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (গ্রেড-১০ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	সহযোগিতা প্রার্থীদের আবেদন
১৩	সহকারী নিরাপত্তা কর্মকর্তা (রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর), ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ, বেতন স্কেল: ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (গ্রেড-১০ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	সহযোগিতা প্রার্থীদের আবেদন

LAW OPINION

A RECENT INSTANCE OF JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

Few cautionary words



M SAQUIBUZZAMAN AND SAYERE NAZABI SAYEM

Judicial activism is a complex concept that can be both beneficial and risky. A few instances of judicial activism being truly beneficial are in order. In *Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh v Bangladesh and others* (Turag River case), it was held by our High Court Division (HCD) that Turag River and all rivers in or flowing in Bangladesh

will be considered legal entity. Similarly, in another instance, the HCD held pharmaceutical companies accountable by issuing a writ of mandamus to ensure service standards and reform medical care.

However, at times, the objectives of the Court may become challenging to decipher. An example is the case of *Islam Prodhon v Bangladesh, 75 DLR (2023) 1*, which addressed 'delayed' appeals filed under the labour law.

The HCD remarked, "[t]he law and the Rules [...] give a clear picture that an appeal filed before the Labour Appellate Tribunal under section 217 has to be read with 219 (gha) which clearly prescribed that appeal if be filed out of time the reasons for delay must be stated with a prayer for condonation of the delay [...]."

Admittedly, the decision has been taken with a noble intention of allowing delayed appeals of workers (submitted with a prayer for condonation of delay) before the Labour Appellate Tribunal. In a densely populated country such as ours, where access to justice is a significant concern for the rule of law, the decision apparently sets a refreshing example of judicial activism.

But concerns arise when the clear language of the law conflicts with the Court's interpretation. Section 217 of the Labour Act 2006 (BLA) clearly mentions that appeals must be filed within 60 days and no scope for condonation of delay is mentioned in the provision. In contrast, the Court, by interpreting several provisions of the Act and the 2015 rules, observed that condonation of delay beyond the time-limit mentioned in section 217 is in fact allowed. However, the authors submit that while it might be tempting to interpret the law differently, the judiciary ought to restrain itself in doing so.

Notably, the judgment indicates that section 5 of the Limitation Act 1908 applies to appeals under section 217. However, the Labour Act refers to the Limitation Act only in sections 135 and 172. As

such, it is submitted that section 219 (gha) deals with condonation of delay only for appeals under sections 135 and 172 of the BLA, and not section 217.

Although *Islam Prodhon* is a relatively new judgment, it has been relied upon by a judgment passed on 28 February 2024 too, in *Writ Petition No. 1895 of 2023*. Hence, discussion on this matter is important as it is crucial to settle if *Islam Prodhon* offers the correct interpretation of the law.

In this connection, the case of *Jumma Masjid v Kodimaniandra* may be considered, where the Court refused to read an exception into the Transfer of Property Act 1882. The judgement referred to Lord Loreburn's opinion from *Vickers v Evans* (1910), where he said, "we are not entitled to read words into an Act of Parliament unless clear reason for it is to be found within the four corners of the Act itself." Even domestic cases like that of *Md. Ismail v the State 21 DLR (SC) 161*, *Amin Jute Mills v Bangladesh 29 DLR (SC) 85*, *S.N. Kabir v Fatema Begum and Ors. 15 BLC 585*, and many others comply with the said rule.

Keeping that in mind, it is submitted that the judgments are presumably always expected to comply with the existing provisions of the laws as they are. Addressing gaps should only be considered by the legislature and amended accordingly, if at all needed.

The writers are Partner and Research Associate of *Tanjib Alam and Associates, respectively.*

LAW VISION

Thinking about an 'ecocide' law

SABRINA SADIA RIA

The crime of 'Ecocide' has been proposed to be considered as the fifth international crime, along with genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by an expert panel in 2021. The proposed definition is "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts."

An organisation "Stop Ecocide International" urged that any state or group of states that has ratified the Rome Statute may propose an amendment to incorporate the crime of ecocide. In December 2019, the Republic of Vanuatu urged all states parties to consider adding a fifth crime of ecocide to the Rome Statute. On 20 June 2021, the then Bangladeshi Parliamentary Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change recommended drafting a new legal framework to codify ecocide, contemplating ecocide as destructive to humankind as genocide.

Now the crucial question arises, while Vietnam, Uzbekistan, France, Russia, Belgium, and a few other states have existing ecocide laws,



LAW AND WAR

Environmental protection during armed conflicts

MD. NAFIS ANOWAR SANTO

The relationship between environmental protection and armed conflict is 'bi-directional'. The concern lies not only with how international law applies to military activities and their environmental effects, but also with how environmental risks can escalate threats to peace and security. This write-up aims to highlight the important rules in international law relating to environmental protection in armed conflicts.

Starting with the 1982 World Charter for Nature, which took a more general stance, asserting that nature must be protected from harms resulting from war or other hostile actions. It clearly states that military operations that are harmful to the environment should be avoided. Next, Principle 24 of the 1992 Rio Declaration can also be interpreted either as requiring states to respect existing international legal protections for the environment during armed conflict or as mandating a c t i v e

environmental protection per international law during such times.

The 1997 UN Watercourses Convention takes a distinct approach by explicitly referencing international humanitarian law. Article 29 states that international watercourses and related infrastructure must be protected following the principles and rules of international law applicable to both international and non-international armed conflicts.

Similarly, the International Law Commission (ILC) addressed whether environmental and other treaties remain valid during armed conflict in its 2011 Draft Articles on the Effects of Armed Conflict on Treaties. According to Article 3, the ILC affirms that armed conflict does not automatically suspend or terminate the operation of treaties. Consequently, the Draft Articles generally presume that environmental treaties remain in effect during times of war, unless a treaty explicitly states otherwise.

In fact, it is now a well-accepted principle of international law that the methods and means of warfare are not unlimited. They are restricted to activities necessary to achieve legitimate military objectives, must prevent unnecessary suffering and superfluous injury, and m u s t

comply with international law. This general prohibition also extends to prohibition against harming the environment. For instance, the 1996 Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind classified a war crime to include, among other acts, the use of methods or means of warfare that are intended or likely to cause extensive, long-lasting, and severe harm to the natural environment.

Moreover, the first treaty to establish specific rules for environmental protection from the consequences of military activities was the 1977 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques. This Convention aims to prevent the use of the environment as a means of warfare by prohibiting the deliberate manipulation of natural processes to produce phenomena such as hurricanes, tidal waves, or climate change. It prohibits parties from using environmental modification techniques for military or hostile purposes if such use results in widespread, long-lasting, or severe effects intended to cause destruction, damage, or injury to any other party.

Not to mention, the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions contains two explicit obligations aimed at protecting the environment, which may now reflect binding norms of customary international law. Article 35 prohibits the use of methods or means of warfare intended or expected to cause widespread, long term, and severe damage to the natural environment. Similarly, Article 55 states that during armed conflicts, efforts must be made to safeguard the environment from such damage. This includes a ban on methods or means of warfare intended

or likely to cause such harm, and that may endanger the health or survival of the civilian population. Article 55 also prohibits reprisals against the natural environment.

In addition to the specific provisions of international law, some examples of real-life incidents may clarify the matter more. For instance, the Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 prompted the UN Security Council to consider, for the first time, state responsibility for environmental harm caused by unlawful military actions. In Resolution 687, Iraqi accountability was underscored under international law for, among other things, environmental damage and the depletion of natural resources resulting from its illegal invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Similarly, in February 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution affirming that wanton environmental destruction, when not justified by military necessity, clearly violates international law. Lastly, a significant recent development was the 2022 Draft Principles on the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts. These principles aim to protect the environment before, during or after an armed conflict, as well as during occupation.

International law plays a crucial role in mitigating the environmental impacts of armed conflict by establishing legal frameworks and principles that protect ecosystems during wartime. The continued development and implementation of international legal norms are essential to ensure that environmental protection becomes an integral part of conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.

The writer is an LL.M Candidate, University of Dhaka.

and similarly, Mexico, Netherlands, Italy, Brazil, UK have proposed the same, do Bangladesh need a separate ecocide legal framework? Prior to answering, a review of the existing environmental laws of Bangladesh is needed.

First, the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 prohibits the cutting or razing of hills and filling or destroying wetlands. However, with an indistinct exception for "essential/ indispensable national interest", these prohibitions can be mitigated by the Government, ostensibly and statutorily legalising ecocide. For injury to ecosystems, civil liability lies based on the polluter pays principle (PPP) under the Act. In case of failure of payment, the Director General (DG) may file a compensatory claim suit or file a criminal case. The same Act also has some penalty provisions, but only for non-compliance with and violation of the legal directions. However, it is submitted that the penalties are not sufficient when the gravest harm in the nature of an ecocide is caused to the environment, since the penalties follow a range of imprisonment for a minimum of one year and a maximum of ten years, with or without fines. Notably, the Environment Court Act 2010, only provides the legal and jurisdictional procedures, and mechanisms for environmental justice processes.

Furthermore, the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012, is the core legislation aimed at protecting biodiversity, forests, and wildlife. It lays down some punishment for destructive acts concerning wildlife conservation and protection. Notably, the Bangladesh Biodiversity Act 2017, was enacted after ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1994 and provides sanctions as well to protect the biodiversity.

On the other hand, laws on marine environmental protection are even more insufficient as the Marine Environment Conservation Act has not been passed yet, although drafted in 2004. We do have the Bangladesh Water Act 2013, which provides directions for the preservation and protection of water resources and prescribes penalties for the perpetrators. The Protection and Conservation of Fish Act 1950 (East Bengal Act) and the Marine Fisheries Act 2020, are not enough to punish the perpetrators whose actions, intentionally or unintentionally, enormously imperil the marine environment.

Lamentably, the above-mentioned enactments are not adequate to combat ecocide. Therefore, ecocide needs international recognition in the Rome Statute, and Bangladesh needs an ecocide law to safeguard its environment.

The writer is official contributor and a student at the Department of Law, University of Dhaka.



SPORT

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
FIFA friendly
Bangladesh vs Bhutan
Live from 7:00 pm
SONY SPORT 1
AND 2
French OpenLive from 3:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 5
Nations League
Semifinal
Germany vs Portugal
Live from 1:00 am
(Thursday)

‘This kind of fanbase doesn’t exist in Canada’

Sylheti son Shamit embraces Bangladesh call-up

Canada-based midfielder **Shamit Shome** is set to make his Bangladesh debut in the Asian Cup Qualifier against Singapore on June 10. The 26-year-old, born to Sylheti parents, follows in the footsteps of Jamal Bhuiyan and Hamza Choudhury as another expatriate embracing his roots. Fluent in Bengali and raised with a strong connection to his heritage, Shome described his journey, inspirations, and emotional ties to Bangladesh in an interview with *The Daily Star's* Ekush Tapader before flying in for national duty.

DS: You're going to don Bangladesh jersey. How does it feel?
Shamit Shome (SS): I'm thrilled. There's a lot of excitement around Bangladesh football.

DS: When did the board (BFF) first approach you?
SS: I think they messaged me late last year – around the time of the preparations for the India game. That's when I started thinking about it. I had a great discussion with the new president [Tabitha Awal]. After that conversation... I made the decision before the India match. Overall, I felt this was the right time to join. Also, as I mentioned, everyone looks like me here – same culture, same skin tone – that's also exciting. I never had that experience in Canada.

DS: Did seeing Hamza play here motivate you?
SS: Absolutely. It was motivating. He's a big player... But I had already been thinking about playing for Bangladesh.

DS: Have you spoken with any Bangladesh players or coaches?
SS: I've had a great conversation talking to the coach about tactics, how he wants me to play, the game plan for Singapore.

DS: Have you been following Bangladesh football?
SS: A little. And now that I'm joining, I follow more online – how the local clubs are doing, how the national team have performed over the past two or three years.

DS: What do you want to achieve with Bangladesh?
SS: Right now, we're in the Asian Cup qualifiers. If we can get through, that's the target. That's where my focus is – to help Bangladesh do well on the Asian stage.

DS: There's already a buzz among fans about your arrival, just like there was for Hamza. Are you feeling that vibe?
SS: I'm very grateful. I feel the love – everyone welcoming me on social media. That was a big factor in my decision. I'm getting support from the fans, and I'm thankful. This kind of passionate football fanbase doesn't exist in Canada, so I'm really looking forward to experiencing that vibe.

DS: How much support did you get from your parents about coming to Bangladesh?
SS: Yes, my parents are very excited. Even my grandparents are thrilled. They're happy that I'll be representing Bangladesh.

DS: Will any of your family be there to watch the match?
SS: Not from Canada – everyone has work. I thought since this is my first time coming (for football), I'll come independently and stay focused. But all my relatives in Srimangal are planning to

come to watch. They're excited to see me play live for the first time.

DS: You must have many childhood memories in Bangladesh?
SS: I remember we had a pond in front of our house – we used to play there. There was a tree behind which we played cricket and football. Srimangal is a peaceful place. You can see the stars and I've seen all the tea gardens. It's a very special place to me.

DS: How did your football journey start?
SS: I started playing football when I was four or five. Then, around eight to ten years old, I started playing at the club level more seriously. [After getting a university scholarship] I started my first

professional season at 18 and did well. I was in Edmonton, and now I'm in Calgary.

DS: You're naturally a midfielder. Have you spoken with the coach about your position?
SS: Yes, we've had a good talk. We discussed whether I'll play as a defensive or attacking midfielder. I'm comfortable in both roles, so I can be flexible. The coach will decide... what fits the game plan. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens.

DS: Do you follow any specific midfielders?
SS: I follow many. Luka Modric, Toni Kroos... and I've loved Cesc Fabregas since I was young. I try to learn from their styles.

DS: Will you stay in Bangladesh after the match? Visit home?
SS: No, I have to leave quickly... We have a match in Canada just three or four days after the one in Bangladesh.

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh's star midfielder Hamza Choudhury and captain Jamal Bhuiyan vie for the ball in a training session on the eve of a FIFA friendly against Bhutan yesterday. The stage for the contest -- the National Stadium -- is set to host Hamza's home debut as the national team returns to the venue for the first time since November 2020.

New-look Bangladesh ready for Bhutan

SPORTS REPORTER

Although today's fixture between Bangladesh and Bhutan is officially a FIFA friendly, it carries significant weight. It marks the long-awaited return of international football to the National Stadium (NS) and serves as vital preparation ahead of the high-stakes match against Singapore on June 10.

Excitement for the Singapore fixture is building at an exponential rate. Fans are eager to witness Hamza Choudhury play on home soil for the first time, alongside the debuts of fellow expats Fahamedul Islam and Shamit Shome. However, the latter is most likely to be rested today since he is set to land in the capital on matchday.

Adding to the buzz is the unveiling of the newly renovated National Stadium – formerly known as Bangabandhu National Stadium, and long considered the home of the sport in Bangladesh – refurbished at a cost of Tk 158 crore. The venue will host its first international fixture in over four years. The last was a pair of FIFA friendlies against Nepal in November 2020.

At the Bangladesh-Bhutan pre-

match press conference held yesterday at the BFF House, the growing hype was evident. Sports journalists, social media content creators, and YouTubers crowded the space, with some even sitting on the floor to cover the briefing.

Aiming for a victory, head coach Javier Cabrera also sees the match



as a chance to assess his players, test combinations, and fine-tune tactics for the upcoming Singapore game.

"Matches against Bhutan and Singapore are going to be interesting challenges. We believe playing against Bhutan will be perfect preparation for the Singapore match," Cabrera said during the press conference, adding Hamza is available and Fahamedul will be given game time.

The Spaniard acknowledged the energy and anticipation surrounding the Singapore fixture. "Well, it's extremely exciting and the huge expectation is good... we want to fulfill the expectations of fans," Cabrera said.

Last September, Bangladesh played two matches in Bhutan, winning one and losing the other, but captain Jamal Bhuiyan believes circumstances have improved.

"Compared to the last matches we played against Bhutan, the situation is now different because that time we went to play against Bhutan on the back of only two to three months of domestic competition. But this time... everyone is match fit," Jamal opined.

Bhutan head coach Atsushi Nakamura remains hopeful despite having termed Bangladesh as the best team in South Asia, possessing a player of Hamza's calibre with experience of playing in top-tier English leagues.

"Our players are going to get a good experience playing against him (Hamza)," said Nakamura, noting that Bhutan face the challenge of playing in Bangladesh's heat and humidity, in contrast to the high-altitude advantage they enjoyed back in September.

Nations League contenders target bigger prizes

AGENCIES

With the World Cup just a year away, four European heavyweights – Germany, Spain, France and Portugal – are eyeing the UEFA Nations League semifinals.

Tournament hosts Germany face Portugal in Munich on Wednesday, followed by defending champions Spain taking on 2021 winners France in Stuttgart on Thursday. The winners will meet in Sunday's final in the Bavarian capital.

Though the Nations League, launched in 2018, lacks the prestige of the World Cup or Euros, it has become a springboard to greater success. France's 2021 title preceded their run to the 2022 World Cup final, while Spain followed up their 2023 Nations League triumph by lifting Euro 2024.

Germany, the only semifinalist yet to win the tournament, will look to change that. Midfielder Joshua Kimmich is set to earn his 100th cap, becoming the 14th German to reach the milestone – and the first without a World Cup title.

Germany are without several key players, including Jamal Musiala and Antonio Rudiger. France are also depleted, missing key defenders and midfielder Eduardo Camavinga, while Spain have rested Ballon d'Or winner Rodri. Portugal, meanwhile, have recalled Cristiano Ronaldo despite his recent injury issues.

Yet, the ambition remains high. Portugal's Ruben Neves summed it up: "Tiredness takes a back seat. Our main focus is to win both games and lift the Nations League trophy."



PHOTO: BFF

FIGHTING DRAW SPARKS VICTORY SIGNS

Bangladesh women twice came from behind to earn an impressive 2-2 draw against hosts Jordan in a FIFA Tier-1 international friendly at King Abdullah II Stadium in Amman yesterday. Forwards Shamsunnahar Jr (L; 43rd minute) and substitute Shaheda Akter Ripa (4L; 82nd) netted the goals. The result, following a similar strong showing against a much higher-ranked Indonesia in the series opener, provides a timely boost for Peter Butler's side ahead of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in June-July.



KOHLI GUIDES RCB to maiden IPL

Royal Challengers Bengaluru and India star Virat Kohli embraces Liam Livingstone after his side beat Punjab Kings by six runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. The 132,000-capacity stadium was nearly packed with a sea of Bengaluru's red and Kohli's jersey number 18 dominating the stands as chants of "Kohli, Kohli" rang out. And Kohli did not disappoint, as he made a team-high 35-ball 43 to see Bengaluru post 190 for nine in 20 overs. In the end, the target was too much for Punjab, who finished on 184 for seven at the world's biggest cricket stadium. Having stumbled thrice in the final hurdle (in 2009, 2011, and 2016), lifting the coveted trophy in the 18th edition must have come as redemption for one of the most decorated batters in modern cricket.

PHOTO: REUTERS

High Court questions legality of Faruque's removal

SPORTS REPORTER

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule questioning the legality of the National Sports Council's (NSC) decision to remove Faruque Ahmed as president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and to appoint Aminul Islam Bulbul in his place.

The court has asked the government and NSC authorities to explain why the decisions should not be declared unlawful. Also, the HC ordered a status quo on the BCB's operations, meaning the current board, led by Bulbul, will continue functioning as usual, informed Additional Attorney General Aneek R Haque and BCB lawyer Barrister Mahin M Rahman to *The Daily Star*.

The bench of Justice Razik-Al-Jalil and Justice Shathika Hossain passed the order and issued the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Faruque Ahmed. The petition challenges the legality of his removal and Bulbul's appointment.

This development comes after another HC bench, on June 2, declined to issue an order on the same petition and removed it from its cause list following arguments from the involved parties.

Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal represented Faruque, while Additional Attorney General Aneek R Haque appeared for the NSC. Meanwhile, BCB and Bulbul were represented by Barristers Nasir Uddin Ahmed Ashim, Mahin M Rahman, and Saleh Akram Samrat during the hearing.

Previously, Faruque had filed the writ petition on June 1, seeking both a legal review of the NSC's decision and a stay order on Bulbul's appointment.

On May 30, Bulbul was elected as BCB president – a day after NSC revoked Faruque's directorship. The decision followed 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 his appointment, Bulbul became the 17th BCB president and only the second former cricketer, after Faruque, to hold the post.

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PUSH-INS FROM INDIA Not possible to stop it physically, extending letters

Says foreign adviser; BGB detains 59 more

STAR REPORT

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said it is not possible to physically prevent "push-ins" from India, although efforts are underway to resolve the issue.



"We're seeing that it [push-ins] is taking place. It's not physically possible to stop it. We've been exchanging letters with India on this matter. We've mentioned that it's going on, while they said some cases in the list [of Bangladeshi individuals illegally living in India] is not being viewed properly. We checked and saw some of these cases go

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



A Palestinian medic tends to a young girl injured in Israeli strikes on displacement tents in Khan Yunis, at Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BNP to avoid showdown with govt for now

Movement to install Ishraque as DSCC mayor to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has decided not to confront the interim government immediately over the national election roadmap, choosing instead to observe how the situation unfolds in the coming days.

Criticising the Chief Adviser's claim that a particular party wants elections in December, the party expressed confusion and condemned it as a 'false statement'.

The issues were discussed during a meeting of the national standing committee, the highest policymaking body of the BNP, at its chairperson's Gulshan office on Monday night. BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman presided over the meeting virtually from London.

Party leaders discussed the ongoing political situation while standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE Salahuddin sues Hasina, 6 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed filed a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday, accusing ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six top law enforcement officials of their alleged involvement in his disappearance a decade ago.

The other accused include former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal; the then IGP, AKM Shahidul Hoque; the then director general of Rab, Benazir Ahmed; forcibly retired army officer

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Schooling of 2.5 lakh Rohingya children stops

UNICEF, Save the Children close all learning centres amid fund crunch

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Education activities in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar have been suspended amid funding shortage, putting the education of around 2.5 lakh children at risk.

UNICEF Cox's Bazar Chief of Field Office Angela Kearney and Save the Children Director Golam Mostofa

yesterday wrote to the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) in Cox's Bazar.

"The education sector in Cox's Bazar would like to inform you that due to unavoidable circumstances, the sector is in agreement with the suggestion to close the learning facilities in the camps with

immediate effect," the letter says.

Operations of the learning centres in the camps will remain closed until further notice, it said.

The development comes after hundreds of teachers from the host community blocked Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road for hours yesterday, protesting termination of contracts

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Israeli fire kills 27 near Gaza aid point

Dozens of Palestinians injured; UN demands probe, warns of possible war crime

REUTERS, Jerusalem

At least 27 Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded by Israeli fire near a food distribution site in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, local health authorities said, in the third day of chaos and bloodshed to affect the aid operation.

The Israeli military said its forces had opened fire on a group of individuals who had left designated access routes near the distribution centre in Rafah. It added it was still investigating what had happened.

The deaths came hours after Israel said three of its soldiers had been

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড একটি সংবিধিবদ্ধ সেবামূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান। বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড ও এর আওতাধীন ৮০টি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির প্রায় ৪৫ হাজার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী দেশের প্রায় ৩ কোটি ৭০ লক্ষ বিভিন্ন শ্রেণির গ্রাহককে বিদ্যুৎ সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

কিন্তু উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির কতিপয় কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বানুমোদন ব্যতীত কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত আছেন। এতে করে বর্তমান দেশব্যাপী গ্রীষ্ম মৌসুমে এবং ঝড় বৃষ্টিতে গ্রাহক সেবা বিঘ্নিত হচ্ছে- যা মোটেও কাম্য নয়।

দেশের ০৩ কোটি ৭০ লক্ষ গ্রাহকের নিরবচ্ছিন্ন বিদ্যুৎ সেবা নিশ্চিত করাসহ আসন্ন পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-আযহায় দেশব্যাপী বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ সুনিশ্চিত করতে যে সমস্ত পবিস কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী অননুমোদিতভাবে অনুপস্থিত আছেন অনতিবিলম্বে তাদেরকে স্ব-স্ব কর্মস্থলে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড
BANG BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD

প্রচারে-
বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড

বাপবিবো/জন (২৫০৬-২৩৩) ২০২৪-২০২৫

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ঈদ-উল-আযহা ২০২৫ উপলক্ষে বড় অংকের নোট লেনদেনে সতর্ক হোন

পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-আযহা উপলক্ষে দেশজুড়ে অর্থের লেনদেন বিশেষ করে পণ্ড ক্রয়-বিক্রয়ে বড় অংকের নোটের ব্যবহার উল্লেখযোগ্য হারে বৃদ্ধি পায়। এই সময় জাল নোট ছড়িয়ে পড়ার ঝুঁকিও অনেক বেশি। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সম্মিলিত প্রয়াসের মাধ্যমে এই ধরনের প্রতারণা প্রতিরোধ করা সম্ভব।

জাল নোটের প্রচলন প্রতিরোধে করণীয়

১. বড় অংকের/মূল্যমানের নোট (১০০০/-, ৫০০/-, ২০০/- ও ১০০/-) গ্রহণ/প্রদান এর সময় নোটের নিরাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্যসমূহ যথা জলছাপ, নিরাপত্তা সুতা, রং পরিবর্তনশীল কালি, অসমতল ছাপা ইত্যাদি যথাযথভাবে যাচাই করুন।
২. জাল নোট সনাক্তকরণে নিকটস্থ তফসিলি ব্যাংক/অনুমোদিত পণ্ডর হাটসমূহে স্থাপিত তফসিলি ব্যাংকের অস্থায়ী বুথে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তাগণের সহযোগিতা গ্রহণ করুন।
৩. ব্যাংক বা অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে লেনদেন করুন এবং অপরিচিত বা সন্দেহজনক উৎস থেকে অর্থ গ্রহণ/প্রদানে সতর্কতা অবলম্বন করুন।
৪. নিজে সচেতন থাকুন ও অন্যদেরও সচেতন করুন।

আসল নোট চিনুন, জাল নোট প্রতিরোধ করুন
মনে রাখুন জাল নোট তৈরি, বিতরণ বা প্রচলন আইনত দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ

Hajj begins today

AFP, Mina

More than 1.4 million Muslims will begin the annual hajj pilgrimage in the Saudi holy city of Makkah today.

Near a sprawling tent city outside Makkah, Saudi hospital staff are preparing for an influx of heat-related cases as temperatures this year are forecast to exceed 40 degrees Celsius.

So far, authorities have recorded 44 cases of heat exhaustion. Defying the scorching heat, pilgrims have already started to flock to Makkah.

Abdullah Asiri, Saudi Arabia's deputy minister for population health, told AFP at the Mina hospital that a total of 50,000 healthcare workers and administrative staff have been mobilised for the hajj, far exceeding previous years' numbers.

More than 700 hospital beds are ready, equipped with fans to treat severe cases of heat illnesses.

To prevent people from needing hospitalisation in the first place, 71 emergency medical points have been set up around Makkah's holy sites with a focus on "treating patients on the ground before their case deteriorates", said Asiri.

This year, the day of Arafat will fall on June 5, followed by Eid al-Adha on June 6, according to Saudi authorities.

Last year, 1.8 million people took part in the pilgrimage, according to official figures.

Saudi authorities also asked pilgrims to remain in their tents for several hours during the high point of this week's pilgrimage, citing high temperatures.

Hajj Minister Tawfiq al-Rabiah has requested that pilgrims refrain from leaving their tents between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm tomorrow.

কোরবানির মাসের নিরাপদতা নিশ্চিত করণীয়

সুস্থ-সবল পণ্ড ক্রয় করুন। সুস্থ পণ্ড চেনার উপায়:

- সতেজ, স্বাভাবিক ভঙ্গি, জাবর কাটা, নাকের নিচের সোমবিহীন অংশে (মাজল) ভেঁজাভাব ও উজ্জ্বল চেহারা।

পণ্ড জবাইয়ে করণীয়:

- কোরবানির পণ্ড জবাইয়ের অন্তত ১২ ঘণ্টা পূর্ব থেকে পণ্ডকে পরিষ্কার ও জীবাণুমুক্ত খাবার পানি ছাড়া অন্য কোন খাবার খাওয়ানো থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- জবাইয়ের পূর্বে পণ্ডটিকে পর্যাপ্ত বিশ্রাম রাখুন। পণ্ডটি বিশ্রামে না থাকলে মাসের গুণগত মান কমে যাবে।
- জবাইয়ের পূর্বে পণ্ডটিকে ভালোভাবে পরিষ্কার করিয়ে দিন, যাতে পণ্ডর শরীরে কোনো ময়লা ও গোবর লেগে না থাকে।
- সংক্রামক ব্যাধিমুক্ত দক্ষ ব্যক্তি দ্বারা পরিষ্কার পরিবেশে স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত উপায়ে পণ্ড কোরবানি ও মাসে প্রস্তুত করুন। সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত স্থান অথবা নিজস্ব বসতবাড়ীতে কোরবানি করুন। রাস্তাঘাট বা যত্রতত্র পণ্ড জবাই থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- যথাযথভাবে বর্জ্য অপসারণ করুন। ড্রেন, খাল, নদী বা উন্মুক্ত স্থানে বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না; অন্যথায় বর্জ্য থেকে পরিবেশ দূষণের মাধ্যমে রোগ-ব্যাধি ছড়াতে পারে।

মাসে প্রক্রিয়াকরণের সময় করণীয়:

- পণ্ড জবাইয়ের পর পর্যাপ্ত রক্তক্ষরণ শেষে শ্বাসনালী থেকে বায়নালাটি পৃথক করে উত্তরকরণ বেঁধে দিন যেন কোনভাবে পাকস্থলি থেকে খাদ্যদ্রব্য বের হয়ে মাসেকে দূষিত করতে না পারে।
- পণ্ডর চামড়া ছাড়ানো ও মাসে কাটার সময় মাসে যেন সরাসরি মাটি, ধূলাবালি বা অন্যান্য আবর্জনার সংস্পর্শে না আসে সেদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখুন। কুকুর, বিড়াল, হাঁস-মুরগী, পোকামাকড়, মাছি ইত্যাদি প্রাণী দ্বারা মাসে যতে দূষিত না হয় সে বিষয়টি নিশ্চিত করুন।
- চামড়া ও নাড়িভুঁড়ি ছাড়ানোর সময় পরিষ্কার পানি ব্যবহার করুন। কোন অবস্থাতেই সরাসরি মাটি বা মেঝেতে চামড়া ও নাড়িভুঁড়ি ছাড়বেন না।
- পণ্ডর দেহ থেকে চামড়া ছাড়ানোর (Dressing) সময় লক্ষ্য রাখতে হবে যেন চামড়ার বাহিরের অংশ কোনভাবে মাসে না লাগে।
- মাসে প্রস্তুতের সময় রোগাক্রান্ত অংশ (যেমন- সিস্ট, অস্বাভাবিক বড় লসিকাগ্রন্থি, সিমেন্টের মত শক্ত কলিজার কোন অংশ ইত্যাদি) পাওয়া গেলে সতর্কতার সাথে সে অংশটুকু পৃথক করে স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত উপায়ে মাটিতে পুঁতে ফেলুন অথবা বিনষ্ট করে ফেলুন।
- মাসে প্রস্তুতকরণে পরিষ্কার ও জীবাণুমুক্ত ছুরি, দা, চাটাই ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি ব্যবহার করুন।
- মাসে পরিষ্কার পরিবেশে কাটুন, যাতে পুনরায় ধুতে না হয়। পরিষ্কার মাসে ধোয়ার প্রয়োজন নেই, মাসে থাকা ব্যাকটেরিয়া রান্নার সময় মরে যায়। কাঁচা মাসে ধোয়ার সময় পানি ছিটকে মারাত্মক সংক্রমণ হতে পারে। মাসে ধোয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজন হলে তবে আশে-পাশের স্থান আবশ্যিকভাবে সাবান বা জীবাণুনাশক দিয়ে জীবাণুমুক্ত করুন।
- মাসে সংগ্রহ শেষে জবাইয়ের স্থান নির্ধারিত মজায় ব্রিচিং পাউডার বা জীবাণুনাশক দ্বারা পরিষ্কার করুন।

মাসে সংরক্ষণ করণীয়:

- একাধিক পণ্ড জবাই করা হলে একটি শেষ করে মাসে বিতরণ, রান্না বা ফ্রিজে সংরক্ষণ করুন। একসাথে একাধিক পণ্ড জবাই ও মাসে প্রস্তুতকরণে অনেক সময় লাগে, এতে ব্যাকটেরিয়ার মারাত্মক সংক্রমণ ঘটতে পারে।
- কাঁচা মাসে স্বাভাবিক তাপমাত্রায় চার ঘণ্টার বেশি বাহিরে রাখবেন না; যত দ্রুত সম্ভব রান্না করুন অথবা মাসে স্বল্প সময়ের জন্য সংরক্ষণ করতে চাইলে রেফ্রিজারেটরে ৫ ডিগ্রি সেলসিয়াস তাপমাত্রায় নিচে রাখুন।
- কাঁচা ও রান্না করা খাবার পাশাপাশি রাখবেন না। ফ্রিজের উপরের তাকে রান্না খাবার ও নিচের তাকে কাঁচা খাবার ঢেকে রাখুন।
- মাসে দীর্ঘ সময়ের জন্য সংরক্ষণ করতে চাইলে ফ্রিজারে বা ডিপফ্রিজে মাইনাস ১৮ ডিগ্রি সেলসিয়াস বা তার নিচের তাপমাত্রায় রাখুন।
- ফ্রিজারে বা ডিপফ্রিজে মাইনাস ১৮ ডিগ্রি সেলসিয়াস তাপমাত্রায় সংরক্ষিত মাসে সর্বোচ্চ ৬ মাসের মধ্যে খাওয়া নিশ্চিত করুন।
- ফ্রিজারে বা ডিপফ্রিজে কাঁচা মাসের সাথে সরাসরি খাবার উপযোগী খাদ্য (যেমন- ফলদ্রব্য, আইসক্রিম) রাখবেন না। এতে মারাত্মক সংক্রমণ ঘটতে পারে।
- মাসে ছোট ছোট প্যাকেটে ফ্রিজারে রাখুন। যতটুকু প্রয়োজন ততটুকু মাসে রান্নার জন্য বের করুন।

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