

Parties row over constitutional council

BNP disagrees with Jamaat, NCP on who should appoint heads of key bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP and like-minded parties are at odds with other political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, and Islami Andolok Bangladesh, over the proposal for forming a National Constitutional Council (NCC).

According to reform proposals, the constitutional council would be an independent authority that will appoint key constitutional officeholders, including the chief election commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission chairman, and members of the Public Service Commission. The goal is to reduce the executive's unchecked authority and introduce institutional checks and balances.

The issue dominated yesterday's session of the second phase of the National Consensus Commission's talks at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

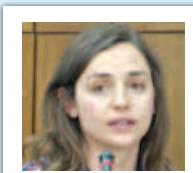
Although three items were on the agenda, the discussions focused mainly on the constitutional council and the powers of the president.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES There can be no justice if culprits hold power: UN

"I'm not surprised that families are afraid to file police cases if the person responsible for the disappearance is still in the same building."

Dr Grażyna Baranowska, vice chairperson of WGEID



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If perpetrators remain in positions of authority, there can be no victim-centred prosecution, said the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) at a briefing in the capital yesterday.

The event, organised by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, was part of the working group's final day of a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

Speaking at the briefing, WGEID Vice Chairperson Dr Grażyna Baranowska, said, "We have heard many times here that perpetrators are in positions of authority, and this is the core issue that needs to be addressed.

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A policeman hauls away five unauthorised battery-powered rickshaws near Shyamoli on Mirpur Road in the capital. Although banned on city streets over safety concerns, these three-wheelers are a source of livelihood for the drivers and an affordable mode of transport for many commuters.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Iran will not accept 'imposed war or peace'

Says Khamenei, vows 'irreparable damage' to US if it intervenes; Trump says 'patience has run out' with Iran, weighs options

AGENCIES

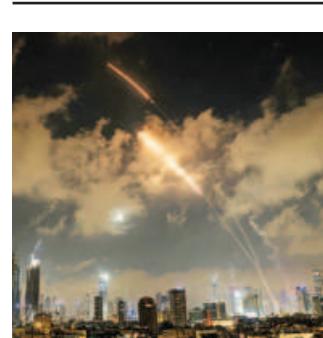
Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said the nation would never surrender as demanded by President Donald Trump and warned the United States it would face "irreparable damage" if it intervenes in support of its ally.

The speech came six days into the conflict, with Trump demanding Iran's "unconditional surrender" while boasting the United States could kill Khamenei and fuelling speculation about a possible intervention.

Yesterday, Trump said he was considering whether the United States would join Israeli strikes on Iran and said that Tehran had reached out to seek negotiations on ending the conflict.

Trump added that his patience "had already run out" with Iran and repeated his call for the Islamic republic's "unconditional surrender."

Amid the escalating war, with attacks being carried out daily on Iran's nuclear and defence sites, Russia's foreign ministry yesterday warned that



the world was "millimetres away from catastrophe".

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has warned that direct US military assistance to Israel could radically destabilise the situation in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said Beijing was "deeply concerned" that the conflict "may get out of control".

"Israel's acts of disregarding

Trump tells Putin to end Ukraine war before mediating ME conflict

China fears conflict may get 'out of control'

Israel hits 40 defence, missile sites; Iran fires hypersonic missiles, drones

Russia warns world 'millimetres away from catastrophe'

DENGUE INFECTION 13 Dhaka wards at high risk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 13 wards across the two city corporations in the capital have been identified as high-risk zones for dengue, with seven under Dhaka South City Corporation and six under Dhaka North.

In these wards, the density of Aedes mosquito larvae, the primary vector for dengue, exceeds the critical threshold, according to a pre-monsoon survey conducted jointly by the Communicable Disease Control programme of the Directorate General of Health Services, and the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research.

Aedes larva density is measured using the Breteau Index (BI), which assesses the number of positive containers per 100 houses inspected. A BI over 20 indicates an uncontrollable situation and a heightened risk of a dengue outbreak, according to global standards.

Among the 99 wards surveyed across DNCC and DSCC in February, March and May, 13 exceeded the BI threshold of 20.

The survey found DNCC's ward 12 (BI: 26.67); wards 2, 8 and 34 (BI: 23.33 each); and wards 13 and 22 (BI: 20 each) to be at high risk.

In DSCC, wards 31 and 41 (BI: 26.67 each); wards 3, 46 and 47 (BI: 23.33 each);

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The Tigers dominate before late collapse

AFP, Galle

Bangladesh continued their dominance over Sri Lanka on the second day of the first Test Wednesday, finishing at a commanding 484 for nine -- despite a few late breakthroughs by the hosts.

The Tigers resumed on 292 for three overnight and turned the screws on a batting friendly wicket, with Mushfiqur Rahim and Najmul Hossain Shanto extending their record-breaking partnership.

The 264-run partnership finally ended when Shanto fell for 148, deceived in the air as he attempted to drive one.

Mushfiqur kept going with wicketkeeper Litton Das before finally falling for 163, a marathon knock that spanned nearly nine hours and 350 balls.

Das piled on further misery for Sri Lanka with a brisk 90 off 123 deliveries, cashing in on tired bowlers and some loose fielding.

He was particularly severe on the spinners, using his feet to good effect to lift the ball cleanly over the in-field.

Litton Das eventually perished attempting a



Duckling supply crunch frustrates farmers

P4



Modi says Trump did not mediate Pakistan ceasefire

P5



'Esha Murder' a perfect detox from Eid blockbusters

P8

Protest against ICMAB's misleading information regarding Audit Profession

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) condemns and unequivocally refutes several misinformation made by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) in their press conference held on 17 June 2025, regarding audit rights and professional standing of Chartered Accountants.

In compliance with the International Standards of Auditing (ISA), the practicing members of ICAB, have been conducting audit of the financial statements prepared by the business entities maintaining with highest standards. Our members are uniquely qualified and play an indispensable role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainable economic growth for the nation.

In order to dispel the confusion created by ICMAB's misleading information about the auditing profession, the following issues are highlighted with accurate information and data:

- At present, there are 613 practicing CAs, supported by another 145 CAs, 12,000 plus competent professional staff are working under 259 CA firms. ICMAB has mentioned that the number of registered entities is more than 300,000, whereas the active entities are much lower, which is also acknowledged by ICMAB. In reality, total DVC generated for audited entities in 2024 were 57,993 which also corresponded to the number of income tax returns filed. Hence, ICMAB's statement about the shortage of auditors in Bangladesh is not correct.
- Blaming auditors for facilitating to siphon off of USD 17 billion is absolutely baseless. Therefore, alleged money laundering, nonperforming loan, share market debacle, lower foreign investment and other issues mentioned by ICMAB blaming auditors clearly indicates mala fide intention to defame the audit profession.
- ICMAB's claim as founding member of IFAC is not true. From Bangladesh, only ICAB is the founding member of IFAC. ICMAB has also misrepresented the experience requirement as stated in International Education Standards (IES) of IFAC while ICAB rigorously follows IES requirement through its articleship program.
- Sec 2(13), 2(18) and 2(19) of FRA 2015 as referred by ICMAB does not confer the rights to conduct audit of financial statements to any member of ICMAB.
- CAs are not allowed to conduct audit of financial statements in almost all countries. For example, Chartered Accountants or CPAs are only eligible to conduct audits in UK, Australia, USA, India, Sri Lanka etc.

ICAB once again reiterates its commitment to ensure the integrity of the audit profession and continue to foster a collaborative professional environment that ultimately benefits all stakeholders for national interest.



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CHARUKOLA'S UNSUNG HERO

Sentu and his animal friends

JANNATUL BUSHRA

Dhaka has its own noise. Along with it, it also has its own rush, distractions and plenty of dust. But if you pause for just a moment, you'll see that this city also has its quiet pockets! Its little moments of stillness, almost like unsung poetry!

Confused? Let me explain.

Right outside the boundary walls of Charukola, under a canopy of dust-filtered polythene, sits one of those quiet moments. A man, not surrounded by crowds, but by creatures of the quiet -- birds, squirrels, stray cats, and the occasional bold rodent. They all gather around him like old friends.

The man's name is Mohammad Kamal Hossain Sentu. Middle-aged and modestly dressed, Sentu can also be seen wearing what might just be the warmest smile in all of Dhaka.

You could walk past him without even noticing. He doesn't shout for customers or wave his hands like most vendors do. His tiny street-side stall is a curious mix of small treasures: black-laced pendants, handmade rings, and braided bracelets. Pretty things? Sure. But that's not why we're here today. We're here to talk about the kindness he spreads, not the things he sells!

Because the real story isn't hanging from his stall. It's alive!



PHOTO: JANNATUL BUSHRA

Every day, without fail, tiny paws and fluttering wings find their way to Sentu. Squirrels dart down from trees, sparrows flutter nearby, starlings even shy rodents peek in the pavement. All it takes is the soft rustling of a bread packet in his hand -- and the little ones come to him.

"I do my business for my family," Sentu says, his eyes twinkling beneath the tiredness of years. "But I feed these little souls for myself."

While people forget, Sentu believes,

and his band of merry animal friends remember him.

In a city that never pauses, where concrete consumes greenery and kindness, Sentu sits patiently with a plastic bottle of water and a pocketful of crumbs, offering safety to the smallest, most overlooked hearts of Dhaka.

His journey here has been anything but gentle.

Born and raised in Dhaka, Sentu's life has been a patchwork of grit and survival. Back in 2000, he owned a small stationery shop. Before that, he laboured in the tannery factories of Hazaribagh -- a place where the air itself bites back. He also once sold toys

near Science Lab, and for a while, he filled gas cylinders on the streets. He's even sold ghungroos in Dhanmondi, Farmgate, and Science Lab, walking through alleys and markets with bags full of sound and hope.

"I did everything I could, for my family -- my wife and my two children," he says.

But nothing was steady. Life slipped and stung; jobs faded like the ink on old receipts. Yet, through it all, Sentu never let go of his warmth. The fact that he is still on his feet motivates him every day!

For the last 12-13 years, he has been stationed outside Charukola. His small stall is unassuming, but each pendant tells a story. Some bear interesting designs. Others look like they belong in forgotten fairy tales.

"Each piece has a meaning," he says. "I don't just sell things, I offer stories."

And yet, it's his story that seems to pull people in. Not the struggle, but the stillness -- the way he kneels down when a bird limps towards him, the way he smiles when a squirrel perches on the railing to nibble his offerings.

Strangers often stop to take photos, to ask questions. But for Sentu, it's never been about attention.

"Animals don't speak. But they feel. That's enough," says Sentu.

There are no awards on his wall. Just a small man, seated on the edge of one of Dhaka's busiest cultural spots, teaching with every crumb what it means to care -- gently, consistently and without expecting anything in return.

13 Dhaka wards at high risk

FROM PAGE 1
and wards 4 and 23 (BI: 20 each) were found to be at high risk.

Among the breeding sources identified, cement water tanks accounted for the highest proportion (22 percent), followed by flooded floors (20 percent).

The other sources included plastic drums (13 percent), water meter holes (11 percent), plastic buckets (10 percent), flower tubs and trays/plastic pipe pits (7 percent), discarded tyres



(6 percent), internal water channels (5 percent) and cement plots (4 percent).

The highest concentration of Aedes mosquito larvae (58.88 percent) was found in multistorey buildings, according to the survey, which was published yesterday.

The other breeding grounds included under-construction buildings (19.63 percent), independent houses (9.8 percent), semi-

a nationwide cleanliness drive involving schools, civil society, youth groups and other stakeholders; and regular dissemination of awareness messages through electronic and print media were also advised.

Authorities emphasised that immediate, coordinated action is essential to prevent a large-scale dengue outbreak in the coming monsoon months.

The Tigers dominate

FROM PAGE 1
reverse sweep off debutant Tharindu Ratnayake, gloving it to Kusal Mendis behind the stumps.

With rain interrupting play shortly after lunch, only 61 overs could be

bowled on day two.

A persistent drizzle forced an early tea and fading light ended proceedings prematurely.

Play will resume fifteen minutes early on Thursday to compensate for the lost time.

Iran will not accept

FROM PAGE 1
"This nation will never surrender," Khamenei said in a speech read on state television, in which he called Trump's ultimatum "unacceptable".

Iran "will stand firm against an imposed war, just as it will stand firm against an imposed peace", Khamenei said.

"Those who know Iran and its history know that Iranians do not answer well to the language of threat".

"America should know that any military intervention will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage," he said.

"I said it's very late to be talking. We may meet. There's a big difference between now and a week ago, right? Big difference," Trump added.

Trump had favoured a diplomatic route to end Iran's nuclear program, seeking a deal to replace the one he tore up in his first term in 2018.

But since Israel launched strikes on Iran six days ago, Trump has moved in behind the key US ally and is now weighing whether to use US military power against Tehran too.

Asked what he had told Netanyahu in a call on Tuesday, he said: "Keep going. I speak to him every day, he's a good man, doing a lot."

The US president, however, rebuffed Russian President Vladimir Putin's offer to mediate in the Israel-Iran conflict, saying Russia should end its own war in Ukraine first.

"He actually offered to help mediate, I said, 'do me a favour, mediate your own. Let's mediate Russia first, okay? You can worry about this later,'" Trump said.

Iran later denied it had offered to send officials to Washington.

"No Iranian official has ever asked to grovel at the gates of the White House," Iran's mission to the UN said in a post on X.

"The only thing more despicable than his lies is his cowardly threat to 'take out' Iran's Supreme Leader."

The US has so far taken only indirect actions, including helping to shoot down missiles fired toward Israel.

But Washington has important capabilities that Israel lacks, including massive bombs able to destroy Iran's nuclear enrichment plant, built deep under a mountain at Fordow.

Media reports have suggested that the US was deploying more fighter aircraft to the Middle East and extending the deployment of other warplanes.

Parties row over constitutional council

FROM PAGE 1

According to the reform proposal, if parliament is active, the proposed council would be composed of the president, prime minister, opposition leader, speakers and deputy speakers from two proposed houses of parliament, the chief justice, and one member from outside the ruling and opposition coalitions.

Those who oppose the proposal argue the council could disproportionately benefit the opposition and constrain the government, risking instability.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the party could not support a body with sweeping constitutional powers but no accountability mechanism.

"If an institution holds authority and power without accountability, we, as a democratic party, cannot support it. Creating a separate body to carry out these functions will lead to an imbalance in the system," he said.

He also opposed introducing a new system for presidential elections, saying the president should

continue to be elected by sitting MPs, and if an upper house is formed, by its members as well. He called for amending and strengthening existing laws governing the constitutional appointments.

In contrast, NCP Convenor Nahid Islam said those opposing the constitutional council were trying to preserve a "fascist" structure. He challenged them to offer alternatives.

Describing the proposed council as a mechanism for balancing power, Nahid said, "Our journey towards a new Bangladesh began with a goal to curb the executive's unchecked power. That's why we support the formation of the constitutional council.

"But it should not have the authority to appoint the head of the armed forces. And the president and chief justice should not be on the council," he said, calling for further discussions on these points.

Expressing his disappointment, the NCP chief said, "We had hoped to reach a policy consensus so that appointments to constitutional bodies would be made impartially, not

at the prime minister's discretion. But that consensus did not emerge."

Jamaat, which skipped Tuesday's session in protest against a joint statement after a meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman in London, participated in yesterday's discussion.

Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said Jamaat supports the constitutional council in principle but echoed concerns about including the president and chief justice in the council, citing the need to protect the dignity of their offices.

Taher also said local government elections must be held under a caretaker government so that representatives are fairly elected. He supported a direct presidential election, but said more discussion was needed on who would vote.

Amar Bangladesh Party President Mujib Rahman Manju called support for the NCP a "moral imperative".

"If we do not build accountability mechanisms like a constitutional council,

the spirit of the 2024 uprising will be betrayed. Thousands gave their lives for a more democratic Bangladesh. We must not let that go to waste," he said.

Ganosamhati Andolok Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki also endorsed the constitutional council, noting that similar councils exist in many democracies.

"At a minimum, appointments to the Election Commission, ACC, and PSC must go through a framework like the constitutional council," he said.

Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the consensus commission, said the constitutional council is intended to hold the executive accountable.

"We have an opportunity to design a system where those in power are finally subject to checks and balances," he said.

Islami Andolok's Gazi Ataur Rahman also voiced his party's support, noting that constitutional bodies have never operated freely since independence. He proposed a referendum if consensus remains elusive, criticising left-leaning parties for opposing urgent

reforms despite being long-time advocates for structural change.

Meanwhile, Shahadat Hossain Selim, spokesperson for the I2 party alliance and chairman of Bangladesh LDP, an ally of the BNP, said, "We are against forming the constitutional council at this moment. It's not the priority now."

During a break in the talks, Rubin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, clarified that while his party is not opposed to the constitutional council, such structural reforms should be left to the next elected parliament.

"If this is done now, it may appear as if another government is being created within the government. Our priority should be ensuring credible, impartial elections," he said.

WALKOUT

After the break, leaders from the CPB and Gono Forum staged a walkout, alleging that the Jamaat was allowed to speak at length while others were restricted.

Prince said the consensus commission took note of their protest, after which

CPB and Gono Forum rejoined the talks.

However, Gono Forum's General Secretary Mizanur Rahman later said the commission had lost neutrality and that their party would not be attending further sessions unless fairness is restored.

Bazlur Rashid Firoz, general secretary of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, also alleged bias in how the session was conducted.

Wrapping up the dialogue, Ali Riaz said most parties agreed on the need for a constitutional institution for key appointments, despite some policy disagreements.

He added that proposals to reform both the presidency and the electoral system remain under active discussion.

Consensus commission members Justice Md Emdadul Haque, Badul Alam Majumdar, Safar Raj Hossain, Iftekharuzzaman, and Md Ayub Miah, attended the talks.

Monir Haider, special assistant to the chief adviser on consensus building, was also present.

A total of 30 political parties participated in yesterday's session.

legal cases.

Mahdi Amin, policy adviser to the acting BNP chairperson, said the party believes in a Bangladesh where no one is subjected to human rights violations.

The party's grassroots has suffered tremendously because of enforced disappearance," he said, pledging to continue efforts to locate the missing.

Golam Mortaza, a survivor, shared how he was picked up by Rab in 2010 and forcibly disappeared for a month.

"My lip had split open from the beatings, and it was sewn back up without anaesthesia. They clipped crocodile clips to my genitals and tortured me with electric shocks. I could smell my flesh burning."

He described being hooded at all times, kept in a five-by-ten foot cell with no hygiene facilities, and being deprived of food to the point that he lost 20kg in a month.

"Every case must be investigated for closure, and we must have a mechanism to recover records. If case records can't be accessed, the command chains must be investigated," she said.

The WGEID concluded by emphasising that this was only the beginning of its collaboration with the country, stating that it will be issuing recommendations to the Bangladesh government in the coming days.

Released on the condition that he remain silent, Mortaza still endured eight more months of incarceration under various

under the defence minister, who is always the head of government.

"Their channel of reporting was not the Bangladesh Army," he said, adding that intelligence agencies operate in a highly compartmentalised manner.

"Many army personnel have undergone trial and been punished when reported by those organisations, the media, or others. In many cases, the army has unilaterally withdrawn personnel and taken necessary action."

Asked by this newspaper whether any individuals had been held accountable specifically for enforced disappearances, he responded in the negative.

"If we [the army] can earn the trust of the people by standing with them during floods, how can the Bangladesh Army act against its own people?" he asked.

He proposed that retired army officials be included in the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances and the International Crimes Tribunal to make them

more "inclusive".

Meanwhile, Sharmin Akther, superintendent of police at the Police Headquarters, reaffirmed the force's commitment to investigating enforced disappearances.

The UN working group further stressed that victims need justice through a fair and credible process.

"What the families and victims need are sentences that will be kept; sentences that are brought in a fair trial and that will stand the test of time," said Dr Baranowska.

She cautioned that while some families demand swift justice, rushing trials could compromise fairness. "Sentences that can later be revised would be detrimental to everyone."

The team welcomed the possible extension of the current commission's tenure until the end of the year, but stressed that other mechanisms should also be used to resolve individual cases.

"There are search mechanisms beyond this commission that would help solve individual cases, which is not the core

mandate of the commission but it is a task that needs to be achieved," said Dr Baranowska.

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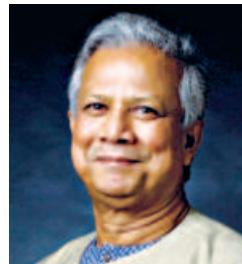
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CA urges SSF members to rise above politics

BSS, Dhaka



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called upon Special Security Force personnel to uphold professionalism and rise above political ideologies.

"In providing security to state-declared VIPs, the issues of characteristic strength, improved discipline, honesty, responsibility and human values must be seriously considered along with professional skills, and you should work with professionalism above all political ideologies," he told SSF personnel at an event arranged at CA's office on the occasion of the SSF's 39th founding anniversary.

Prof. Yunus instructed the SSF personnel to reduce public sufferings as much as possible while imposing various restrictions for the sake of ensuring security.

Mentioning that in the past, all

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus among the members of Special Security Force at CA's office on the occasion of the SSF's 39th founding anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

ABDUCTION CASE
ICT sends former Rab official to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent former Rab officer Rear Admiral (retd) Muhammad Sohail to jail showing him arrested in a case filed in connection with the abduction, torture and confinement of a student in 2012.

The three-member, ICT-1 led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order and set September 15 for submitting probe report in the case.

Rab allegedly picked up Golam Mortuza Mahin from Rajshahi from Dhamondi area. He was released from Rab detention centre after 47 days where he was tortured. Rab later showed him arrested in a false case

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Gulshan house ready for Tarique



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was around 1:00pm yesterday at 196 Gulshan Avenue in the capital. The white-coloured house stood behind tall trees, freshly painted and newly renovated.

Shortly after ringing the doorbell, a police officer stepped out from the main gate. After checking identity, he said, "No one is allowed to enter. This house has been prepared for Tarique Rahman."

The house has been prepared for BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, who is expected to return to the country soon after 17 long years.

According to BNP leaders, the two-story house next to Khaleda Zia's current home "Feroza" has been fully renovated and decorated.

The house, built on 32 kathas of land and given to Khaleda Zia by the government in 1981, is now being prepared for her elder son Tarique, party sources said.

A BNP standing committee member, seeking anonymity, said the house had been used by a

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Barguna slips deeper into dengue crisis

Public hospital overwhelmed as patients flood in

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Despite efforts by the health department and local administration, the dengue situation in Barguna continues to worsen.

Barguna General Hospital is overwhelmed, with patients being treated on floors, in corridors, and even beside nurse stations due to a severe bed shortage.

According to Dr Tajkia Siddikah, resident medical officer of the hospital, 58 new dengue patients were admitted in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

According to DGHS, 30 people have died from dengue and 6,466 have been hospitalised across the country this year as of Tuesday. Of them, 2,048 cases are from Barguna.

Currently, 233 patients are undergoing treatment in the district.

Although the government recently appointed 10 doctors and 10 nurses to the hospital, only five doctors and one nurse have joined so far. Out of 58 sanctioned doctor posts, only 15 are filled, creating a

critical manpower shortage.

"Dengue cannot be controlled through treatment alone. We must destroy Aedes mosquito breeding grounds," said Dr Mohammad Abul Fattah, the district's civil surgeon.

The hospital has allocated a 50-bed facility for dengue patients, but it is currently treating over 200. Many patients are being treated on

Dengue cannot be controlled through treatment alone. We must destroy Aedes mosquito breeding grounds.

Dr Mohammad Abul Fattah
District's civil surgeon

the floor, with relatives staying nearby.

During a visit on Tuesday afternoon, patients were seen lying in hallways, behind nurse desks, and on staircases. Some beds were shared by multiple patients, along with their family members.

Several patients, including Ali Hossain and his son, said they had to go to private clinics for tests and had not received any food from the

hospital since admission. Others echoed similar complaints.

While a few beds have mosquito nets, most patients lying on the floors or in corridors remain unprotected. "There's no way to set up mosquito nets in the corridors," one patient said.

Hospital Superintendent Dr Rezaunur Rahman acknowledged the challenges. "With over 600 patients in a 250-bed hospital, it's difficult to provide meals or services to all."

According to the civil surgeon's office, all six upazilas in Barguna have reported dengue cases, with Patharghata recording the second-highest number at 77.

Based on WHO data, 36 neighbourhoods have been identified as clusters with more than 10 cases each.

The most affected areas include Lakurtala, Sadar Road, Monsatala, College Road, Gaurichanna, Char Colony, Kachpatti, Town Hall, Thana Para, DKP Road, and Khejurtala.

WHY IS BARGUNA A HOTSPOT?
Prof Kabirul Bashar, entomologist and professor at Jahangirnagar University, said, "We predicted

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

UNDP pledges \$18.5m to support fair election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Development Programme has announced \$18.53 million in support of a project aimed at ensuring a fair and democratic process in the upcoming 13th national parliamentary election.

Election Commission Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed shared this information yesterday to the reporters at the EC's headquarter in the capital.

Earlier around 3:00pm, the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh and UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of development partners' cooperation under the UNDP implemented project "The BALLOT".

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller, and Australian High Commissioner Susan Ryle were present at the event.

Susan Ryle said, "Australia and Bangladesh are close friends and partners, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Bangladesh as it moves towards free, fair, and democratic elections."

"Recently, we invited five officials from the Reform Commission to Australia so they could receive training and gain insights into different processes of voter registration and the issuance of national identity cards. Today, we are pleased to contribute nearly \$2 million in direct support to the Bangladesh Election Commission's 'The BALLOT' project," she added.

"This project, implemented in partnership with the UN, UNDP, UNESCO, and UN Women, will help ensure transparency, increased participation, and sustainable institutional reform as Bangladesh transitions toward an elected government. We are proud to play a small part at this important moment in Bangladesh's history," she also said.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Two bus helpers blocked two lanes of traffic on a busy road in Gulistan during a quarrel over which of their buses nearby passengers would board. The altercation halted vehicles behind them, though traffic in other lanes continued. A traffic police officer intervened and broke up the scuffle when it turned physical.

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1. Bangabandhu Cantonment Branch, Tangail
2. Sheikh Hasina Cantonment Branch, Barishal
3. Sheikh Russel Cantonment Branch, Shariatpur

New Name

1. Jamuna Cantonment Branch, Tangail
2. Barishal Cantonment Branch, Barishal
3. Padma Cantonment Branch, Shariatpur

16201



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Stay prepared
for free, fair
election

IGP urges DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam yesterday called upon police officials to remain mentally prepared to ensure a free and fair national election, according to a DMP press release.

"Maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety are responsibilities of the police," the IGP said while addressing the monthly crime review meeting for May 2025 at the Bangladesh Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh.

DMP Commissioner Sheikh Mohammad Sazzat Ali stressed that a peaceful and participatory election must be ensured for the greater national interest, beyond political affiliations.

Additional Police Commissioner (Admin) Faruk Ahmed warned about possible subversive activities by banned political outfits and stressed heightened vigilance.

Imran Haider named new Pak envoy to Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka



Pakistan has named Imran Haider as its new high commissioner to Bangladesh, indicating that Syed Ahmed Maroof is not returning to Dhaka.

Yes, Imran Haider has been named as the new High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh. It will take time to take up the responsibility as routine procedure to be followed," a senior official told UNB.

Imran Haider is currently serving as Pakistan high commissioner to Myanmar.

Syed Ahmed Maroof was Pakistan's high commissioner to Bangladesh since October 2023. In May this year, he left Dhaka on a two-week leave which sparked various speculations.

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



A rickshaw-van driver transports used plastic drums collected from different areas for resale. With the growing popularity of rooftop gardening and similar ventures, demand for these affordable drums is high. Depending on size and quality, each sells for Tk 600-800. The photo was taken opposite the railway station in Khulna city yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

KURIGRAM DUCK BREEDING FARM Duckling supply crunch frustrates farmers

S DILIP ROY, *LaMonirhat*

Inadequate supply of ducklings and hatching eggs from Kurigram Regional Duck Breeding Farm leaves local duck farmers in the district growingly frustrated.

Many farmers claimed they are not receiving their orders on time despite placing advance bookings, making it increasingly difficult to operate their farms profitably.

The government-run farm, established in 2016 on three acres of land, supplies ducklings and eggs of improved breeds, such as Khaki Campbell from the UK and Jingding from China. Although its annual production target is 50,000 ducklings, actual demand reportedly exceeds two lakh.

Farmers said each duckling from the farm costs Tk 25, while those of the same breed sell for Tk 80-100 each in the open market. With the farm failing to meet demand, many are forced to buy ducklings from private suppliers at higher prices, thereby witnessing a sharp rise in operational cost. Some farmers alleged that the farm authorities give

priority to certain preferred clients.

"No matter how many times I go to the farm, I can't get the Khaki Campbell or Jingding ducklings or eggs," said Noor Islam, 55, a duck farmer from Jatrapur village under Kurigram Sadar upazila, adding, "While local breeds lay 80-100 eggs per year, these improved varieties lay 230-250, which makes a big difference in profitability."

Jahid Hossain, 50, a farmer from Mogolbasa village under same upazila, said, "I collect around 250-300 ducklings from the farm yearly. These breeds are very profitable, but due to the supply shortage, I can't expand production the way I had planned."

Monsur Ali, 45, a farmer from Char Gorokmondo under Phulbari upazila, called upon the government to take urgent steps to increase the farm's production and supply to cater to the growing demand and thereby help this promising sector to grow.

According to sources at the breeding farm, it currently houses 800 layer ducks and 140 drakes. Each layer duck lays around 230-250 eggs

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



2 girls found dead in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

The bodies of two girls -- who had been missing since Tuesday noon -- were recovered from a pond in Bottala Chhankanda area of Sribardi upazila, Sherpur yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Swapna Begum, 6, daughter of truck driver Swapna Mia; and Sakal Begum, 7, daughter of Selim Mia. Both were residents of the Betalbari area at Tinani Chhankanda village in Sribardi.

Quoting locals, Md Anwar Zahid, OC of Sribardi Police Station, said the two children went to bathe in a pond adjacent to their houses and went missing around 12:00pm on Tuesday.

As they did not return home by evening, their families launched a search and announced their disappearance through loudspeakers in the area.

In the morning, locals found the bodies floating in the pond inside a fish farm around 9:00am and informed police.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to Sherpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police started investigation into the incident. An unnatural death case was lodged with the police station.

CHITTAGONG PORT AUTHORITY

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry	Ministry of Shipping
2	Agency	Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chittagong Port Authority
4	Procuring Entity Code	NIL
5	Procuring Entity District	Chittagong
6	Invitation for	Maintenance of CPA's Existing Computerized Systems at Pangaon ICT, Dhaka.
7	Invitation Ref No	COMPUTER/19/2024-2025
8	Date	28/05/2025
9	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
10	Budget and Source of Funds	CPA's Own Fund
11	Tender Publication Date	19/06/2025
12	Tender Document Last Selling Date	15/07/2025
13	Tender Submission Date and Time	16/07/2025 12:00 PM
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	16/07/2025 12:15 PM
15	Selling Tender Document	(a) Office of the Systems Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100. Tel: 88-02-333310853 (b) CPA Liaison Office, 2/1 A, Arambag, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000. Tel: +8802222229605
16	Name & Address of the office(s) Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Systems Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100. Tel: 88-02-333310853
17	Place of Opening Tender	Office of the Systems Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100. Tel: 88-02-333310853
18	Place, Date and Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Not Applicable
19	Eligibility of Tenderer	This Invitation for Tender is open to all Related Supply & Service providers of Bangladesh
20	Brief Description of Goods and Services	Maintenance of CPA's Existing Computerized Systems at Pangaon ICT, Dhaka.
21	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 1,000/-
22	Tender Security Amount	Tk. 90,000/- (Taka Ninety Thousand Only).
23	Completion Time	36(Thirty Six) Months
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Akram Chowdhury
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Systems Analyst of Chittagong Port Authority
26	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of Systems Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100.
27	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 88-02-333310853 Fax: 88-02-333310889 e-mail: akramcpabd@yahoo.com
28	Special Instructions	The Purchaser (Procuring Entity) reserves the right to accept or reject any tender either in part or in full and to annul the tendering process and reject all tenders at any time prior to award of contract, without there by incurring any liability to the affected Tenderer(s) or any obligation to inform the affected tenderer(s) of the grounds for the purchaser action.

N.B.: If the date of selling, submission and opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

AB6
Systems Analyst
Chittagong Port Authority

GD-1428

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IFIT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW
2	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire Detection & Fire Protection Systems and Basement Ventilation & Stair Pressurization Systems
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-06
4	Publication Date	19 June 2025
KEY INFORMATION	5 Procurement Method	Competitive Tendering among eligible Tenderers: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Least Cost Based Selection (LCBS).
FUNDING INFORMATION	6 Source of Funds	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	7 Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of 15-Storyed Twin Tower and 4-Storyed Multi-Purpose Business Center with Common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-06
9	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Detection & Fire Protection Systems and Basement Ventilation & Stair Pressurization Systems.
10	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	29 June 2025 up to 5:00 PM
11	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	07 July 2025 at 11:30 AM
12	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
13	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	21 July 2025 up to 12:00 Noon
14	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	21 July 2025 at 12:30 PM at the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Intending Tenderers or their Authorized Representatives may remain present during opening of Technical Offer.
15	Name and Address of the Office Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
16	Name and Address of the Office for Receiving Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
17	Brief Description of Works	The Work comprises of: Section-1: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Detection and Fire Protection System comprising of Major Equipment, Gadget, Accessories e.g. Fire Alarm Control Panel, Heat, Smoke and Multi Sensor Detectors, Modules, Sounder, Strobe, Fire Pumps, Jockey Pumps, Fire Hydrant, Sprinklers, Suppression System (Clean Agent/Foam); Section-2: Basement Ventilation and Stair Pressurization Systems: Ventilation Fans, Jet Fans, Ducting, CO Sensor, Control Panels, etc.
18	Price of Tender Document & Issuance of Tender Documents	Issuance of Tender Documents: Tenderers intending to obtain Tender Documents shall have to apply alongwith a Non-refundable Pay Order/Bank Draft for an Amount of BDT 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) or equivalent in USD in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2). Tender Security furnished by a Foreign Bank must be counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BDT 2 (Two) million or equivalent in USD in the form of Pay Order/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2). The Tender Security furnished by a Foreign Bank must be counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
20	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	a) General Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Tenderer/Lead Firm (Foreign/Local) of a Joint Venture (JV) Tenderer must be a bona fide Contractor having minimum 15 (fifteen) years of experience in Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire Detection, Protection and Fire Suppression System.

• The Joint Venture Partners (limited to 2 numbers) must be Bangladeshi Firms having minimum 10 (ten) years of relevant experience.
• Tenderer/other Partner of the JV must have minimum 5 (five) years of experience in Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Basement Ventilation System.
b) Specific Experience:
i) Lone Local Tenderer/Lead Firm (Foreign/Local) of a JV Tenderer must have successfully completed Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire Detection and Protection System of minimum 3 (three) 10-storyed Commercial Building projects, each of minimum value of BDT 50 (fifty) million or equivalent USD in last 10 (ten) years prior to the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/Website.
ii) The other Partner of the JV must have been associated and successfully completed at least 1 (one) similar work and value in last 10 (ten) years prior to the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/Website.
iii) Tenderer/other Partner of the JV must have completed minimum 2 (two) works of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Basement Ventilation System of value minimum BDT 5(five) million or equivalent USD each in last 5(five) years and Tenderer/other Partner of the JV/Sub-Contractor shall be experienced in installation of Stair Pressurization System of high-rise commercial building.
a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover: Local Tenderer/Lead Firm (Local/Foreign) of a JV Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover of BDT 30 (Thirty) million or equivalent USD in last 5(five) years.
b) Liquid Asset / Working Capital / Credit Limit: Local Tenderer/Lead Firm (Local/Foreign) of a JV Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 30 (Thirty) million or Equivalent USD for this particular project.
a) Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Telephone No.+880 2223 374 601 & +880 9638 917 000 E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org
Any further changes /up-date/ modifications regarding this Tender Shall be available in the official Website of IsDB-BISEW (www.isdb-bisew.org) in the form of Corrigendum and Addendum. Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender
Special Instructions and Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">If the Government declares holiday on the opening day of Tender, Tender shall be received and Technical Offer shall be opened at the same time on the next working day.Applicants without having the requisite experience and qualification need not apply for issuance of Tender Document.This Invitation for Tender can be seen in the Website of IsDB-BISEW.The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.



Neaz Khan
Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Waqf (IsDB-BISEW)
IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
Phone No.: +880 2223 374 601 & +880 9638 917 000
Website: www.isdb-bisew.org, E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org

TANGAIL DISTRICT Road crashes killed 135 in 2024: cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

At least 135 people were killed and 139 others injured in 153 road accidents in Tangail throughout 2024, according to data from the office of the superintendent of police.

The death toll marked a significant rise from 2023, when 91 people were killed and 84 injured in 99 reported accidents. In

Iranians in Iraq report shortages back home

AFP, Penjwen

Near the once-bustling Iraqi border crossing of Bashmakh, Iranian driver Fatah stocked up on rice, sugar and tea, staples that have become increasingly hard to get back home.

Fatah -- who like others in this story is being identified by a pseudonym -- was among dozens of truck drivers waiting impatiently to cross back into Iran from Iraq's northern Kurdistan region, hauling not only their commercial cargo, but also essential goods for their families after days of Israeli attacks.

AFP spoke with at least 30 Iranians near the Bashmakh crossing. They all refused to be interviewed on camera, and the few who agreed to describe life back home asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals back in Iran.



"There are shortages of rice, bread, sugar and tea," Fatah said Tuesday. Finding fuel has also become a major problem, with long queues of cars waiting hours in front of gas stations hoping the fuel did not run out, the 40-year-old driver added.

A long journey awaits Fatah, who must deliver his load of asphalt to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas about 1,700 kilometres (1,060 miles) away, before turning around and driving almost the same distance back to the western city of Marivan, where his family lives and which has so far been spared bombardment.

But "my route passes near the Natanz nuclear facility," Fatah said, referring to one of Iran's underground uranium enrichment sites that Israel has struck several times since the start of its campaign last week.



Iranian tankers stand in a queue at the Pakistan-Iran border in Taftan, Balochistan, yesterday, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran. Pakistan has closed all its border crossings with neighbouring Iran indefinitely, provincial officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

Use of US bunker-buster bomb looms over Iran conflict

The GBU-57 is missing from Israel's arsenal despite its stated goal of preventing Iran from building a nuclear bomb

AFP, Washington

A powerful American bunker-busting bomb is the only weapon capable of destroying Iran's deeply buried nuclear facilities, making it President Donald Trump's weapon of choice if he chooses to militarily back Israel.

The GBU-57, a 30,000-pound (13,607 kg) warhead capable of penetrating 200 feet (61 meters) underground before exploding, is missing from Israel's arsenal despite its stated goal of preventing Iran from building a nuclear bomb.

WHY THIS BOMB?

In less than a week, the Israeli army has taken out Iranian military commanders and damaged numerous surface installations, raising more questions than answers.

"The regime's missile stockpiles, launchers, military bases, production facilities, nuclear scientists, military command and control has taken a very severe beating," said Behnam Ben Taleblu, director of the Iran program at the Washington-based think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), a conservative-



leaning group.

"But there are still outsized questions as to how efficacious of a strike Israel had against the beating hearts of Iran's nuclear program," Taleblu said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported no damage at Fordo, a uranium enrichment plant south of Tehran. Unlike the Natanz and Isfahan sites in central Iran, Fordo is buried deep underground, beyond the reach of Israeli bombs. "All eyes will be on Fordo, which is buried under about

300 feet of rock in central Iran," Taleblu said.

Former US Army lieutenant general and Rand Corporation defense researcher Mark Schwartz insists that "only the United States has the conventional capacity" to destroy such a site. And by "conventional capacity," he means the non-nuclear GBU-57 bomb.

WHAT ARE ITS CAPABILITIES?

The US military says the GBU-57 -- also named Massive Ordnance Penetrator -- is designed to penetrate up to 200 feet underground before exploding, navigating through rock and concrete.

This differs from missiles or bombs that typically detonate their payload near or upon impact.

"To defeat these deeply buried targets, these weapons need to be designed with rather thick casings of steel, hardened steel, to sort of punch through these layers of rock," said Masafo Dahlgren, a fellow working on missile defense for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based research center.

US added over 1,000 new millionaires a day last year Says UBS report

REUTERS, Zurich

Wealth grew disproportionately quickly last year in the United States, where over 379,000 people became new US dollar millionaires, more than a 1,000 a day, a report published yesterday showed.

Private individuals' net worth rose 4.6 percent worldwide, and by over 11 percent in the Americas, driven by a stable US dollar and upbeat financial markets, the 2025 Global Wealth Report by UBS found. The United States accounted for almost 40 percent of global millionaires in 2024.

In 2023, Europe, the Middle East and Africa had led a rebound in global wealth after a decline in 2022. Greater China -- which the report defined as mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan -- led last year for individuals with a net worth of \$100,000 to \$1 million, accounting for 28.2 percent, followed by Western Europe with 25.4 percent and North America with 20.9 percent.

The majority of people worldwide were below that threshold, however, with over 80 percent of adults in the UBS sample having a net worth of under \$100,000. Overall, about 1.6 percent registered a net worth of \$1 million or more, the report said.



Israeli soldiers detain Palestinian men during a raid at the Balata refugee camp east of Nablus city in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Smartphones banned from schools in Afghanistan

AFP, Afghanistan

A ban on smartphones in schools issued by Taliban authorities in southern Afghanistan came into force, students and teachers confirmed to AFP yesterday, over concerns of "focus" and "Islamic law".

The directive by the provincial Education Department in Kandahar applies to students, teachers and administrative staff in schools and religious schools.

"This decision has been made to ensure educational discipline, focus," the statement said, adding that it was taken from a "sharia perspective" and that smartphones contribute to "the destruction of the future generation".

The policy, which has already taken effect in schools across the province, has divided opinion among teachers

and students.

"We did not bring smart phones with us to school today," Saeed Ahmad, a 22-year-old teacher, told AFP.

"I think this is a good decision so that there is more focus on studies," he added.

Mohammad Anwar, an 11th grader, said "the teachers are saying if anyone is seen bringing a phone, they will start searching the students."

Another 12th-grade student, refusing to give his name, said the ban would hinder learning in a country where girls are barred from secondary school and university as part of restrictions the UN has dubbed "gender apartheid".

"When the teacher writes a lesson on the board, I often take a picture so I could write it down later. Now I can't. This decision will negatively affect our studies," the student said.

There was no US mediation in truce with Pakistan Modi tells Trump

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US President Donald Trump late on Tuesday that a ceasefire between India and Pakistan after a four-day conflict in May was achieved through talks between the two militaries and not US mediation, India's senior-most diplomat said.

Trump had said last month that the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours agreed to a ceasefire after talks mediated by the US, and that the hostilities ended after he urged the countries to focus on trade instead of war.

India has previously denied any third-party mediation and Tuesday's phone call between Modi and Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Canada, which Modi attended as a guest, is their first direct exchange since the May 7-10 conflict.

"PM Modi told President Trump clearly that during this period, there was no talk at any stage on subjects like India-US trade deal or US mediation between India and Pakistan," Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in a press statement.

"Talks for ceasing military action happened directly between India and Pakistan through existing military channels, and on the insistence of Pakistan. Prime Minister Modi emphasised that India has not accepted mediation in the past and will never do," he said.

Delete WhatsApp from your phones Iran govt tells citizens

AFP, Washington



WhatsApp said it was "concerned" that its services would be blocked in Iran after a state broadcaster urged the public to delete the messaging app, saying it was sharing data with arch-rival Israel.

State television IRIB appealed to Iranians on Tuesday to delete WhatsApp from their phones, alleging that the app collected users' personal data and "last known locations and communications," and shared them with Israel.

A WhatsApp spokesperson dismissed the IRIB claims, saying all messages sent on the app were "end-to-end encrypted," with only the sender and recipient able to access them.

"We're concerned these false reports will be an excuse for our services to be blocked at a time when people need them the most," the spokesperson told AFP.

"We do not track your precise location, we don't keep logs of who everyone is messaging and we do not track the personal messages people are sending one another," they said.

শ্রম সংকোষ হোল্ডিংস
১৬৩৫ (টেল টি)

শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তর
১২ জুন: বিশ্ব শিশুশ্রম প্রতিরোধ দিবস ২০২৫

প্রতিপাদা: "বিশ্বের ডানায় ভর করি, শিশুশ্রমের শৃঙ্খল ছিড়ি-এগিয়ে চলি দৃশ্য পায়ে, আশার আগুন বুকে ছালি"

শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে হই আগত্যান
শিশুশ্রম বাংলাদেশের একটি অন্যতম বড় সামাজিক চালেঞ্জ। তবে আশার কথা হচ্ছে, টেকসই উময়ান লক্ষ্যমাত্রার অন্যতম উদ্দেশ্য 'Decent work বা শোভন কর্ম' নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে বাংলাদেশ বৃক্ষপরিকল্পনা।

প্রতিপাদা নিরসনে সরকারের পূর্ণীত পরামর্শে

- আই.ও.এল.ও. কনভেনশন ১৩৮ ও ১৮২ অন্যমূর্ধন;
- জাতীয় শিশুশ্রম নিরসন নীতি, ২০১০ প্রণয়ন;
- গৃহস্থীয় সুরক্ষা ও কলাপ নীতি, ২০১৫ প্রণয়ন;
- ৪৩টি শুকুরিপূর্ণ কাজের তালিকা প্রণয়ন করে শিশুশ্রম নিষিক্ষকরণ;
- প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা (বাধ্যতামূলক করণ) আইন, ১৯৯০ প্রণয়ন;
- বাংলাদেশ শ্রম আইন, ২০০৬ এবং বাংলাদেশ শ্রম বিধানালা, ২০১৫-তে শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে ধারা ও বিধি সংযোজন।

সচেতনতা ও অব্লাস্টিটি সুল চৰিকেল

শিক্ষা, খেলাধূলা, নিরসন ও আনন্দময় শিশুশ্রমের প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার। শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে ভাবিয়া নষ্ট করে এবং জাতিকে সামগ্রিকভাবে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করে। তাই শিশুশ্রম প্রতিরোধ করতে সরকারের পাশাপাশি পরিবার, করখানার মালিক, শ্রমিক সংগঠন, এনজিও, গণমাধ্যম, সংরিষ্ট অংশীজন এবং সচেতন নাগরিক সমাজকে একযোগে কাজ করতে হবে।

আমদামের কর্মীরা

- নিজ কর্মসূলে শিশুশ্রমমুক্ত পরিবেশ নিশ্চিত করুন;
- শিশুকে সুল পাঠাতে শ্রামে নিযুক্ত প্রতিটি শিশুর পরিবারকে উৎসাহ দিন এবং এই পরিবারগুলোকে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বৈকল্পিক আওতামুক্ত করুন;
- শিশুশ্রম নিরসন বিষয়ক সরকারি ও বেসরকারি কার্যক্রমের বিষয়ে শিশুর পরিবারকে অবহিত করুন;
- শিশুশ্রম দেখলে কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তরের হালীয় উপমহাপরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়ে সরাসরি বা ১৬৩৫

নথে কর করে অভিযোগ করুন।

শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়

কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তর

১২ জুন: বিশ্ব শিশুশ্রম প্রতিরোধ দিবস ২০২৫

প্রতিপাদা: "বিশ্বের ডানায় ভর করি, শিশুশ্রমের শৃঙ্খল ছিড়ি-এগিয়ে চলি দৃশ্য পায়ে, আশার আগুন বুকে ছালি"

শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে হই আগত্যান

শিশুশ্রম বাংলাদেশের একটি অন্যতম বড় সামাজিক চালেঞ্জ। তবে আশার কথা হচ্ছে, টেকসই উময়ান লক্ষ্যমাত্রার অন্যতম উদ্দেশ্য 'Decent work বা শোভন কর্ম' নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে বাংলাদেশ বৃক্ষপরিকল্পনা।

প্রতিপাদা নিরসনে সরকারের পূর্ণীত পরামর্শে

- আই.ও.এল.ও. কনভেনশন ১৩৮ ও ১৮২ অন্যমূর্ধন;
- জাতীয় শিশুশ্রম নিরসন নীতি, ২০১০ প্রণয়ন;
- গৃহস্থীয় সুরক্ষা ও কলাপ নীতি, ২০১৫ প্রণয়ন;
- ৪৩টি শুকুরিপূর্ণ কাজের তালিকা প্রণয়ন করে শিশুশ্রম নিষিক্ষকরণ;
- প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা (বাধ্যতামূলক করণ) আইন, ১৯৯০ প্রণয়ন;
- বাংলাদেশ শ্রম আইন, ২০০৬ এবং বাংলাদেশ শ্রম বিধানালা, ২০১৫-তে শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে ধারা ও বিধি সংযোজন।

সচেতনতা ও অব্লাস্টিটি সুল চৰিকেল

শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে হই আগত্যান

শিশুশ্রম বাংলাদেশের একটি অন্যতম বড় সামাজিক চালেঞ্জ। তবে আশার কথা হচ্ছে, টেকসই উময়ান লক্ষ্যমাত্রার অন্যতম উদ্দেশ্য 'Decent work বা শোভন কর্ম' নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে শিশুশ্রম নিরসনে বাংলাদেশ বৃক্ষপরিকল্পনা।

প্রতিপাদা নিরসনে সরকারের পূর্ণীত পরামর্শে

- আই.ও.এল.ও. কনভেনশন ১৩৮ ও ১৮২ অন্যমূর্ধন;
- জাতীয় শিশুশ্রম নিরসন নীতি, ২০১০ প্রণয়ন;
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No end in sight to Iran-Israel conflict

Bangladesh must act swiftly to protect its citizens in Iran

The continued intensification of the Israel-Iran conflict since Israel's attack on Iran on June 13 is extremely alarming. One would have hoped that cooler heads would have prevailed by now, and that the international community—particularly the more influential countries—would have united to de-escalate the situation. But far from it, the two countries have continued to exchange attacks, with the use of increasingly sophisticated and destructive weaponry. Meanwhile, not only has the West lent its full and unwavering support to Israel, but there are rumours that the US may become directly involved in Israel's attacks on Iran, further increasing the risk of drawing other powers into the conflict.

Beyond the deaths and destructions on the grounds, the conflict has already begun to exact a far wider regional and global toll. Oil and energy prices have shown significant volatility, and supply chain disruptions may soon have further negative impacts on an already weakened global economy. On top of that, with US President Donald Trump warning people to evacuate Iran's capital, Tehran, and Israel intensifying its targeting of the city, foreign nationals—including diplomats—have been put in harm's way. Among them are about 400 Bangladeshis, including embassy officials, staff members, and their families. Reportedly, amid growing threats of targeted strikes, Bangladesh's ambassador to Iran has been forced to leave his residence in Tehran and take shelter in a more secure location. And after the residence of at least one Bangladeshi embassy official was destroyed, all Bangladeshi nationals have left their previous locations and taken shelter in various parts of the city.

Despite this relocation, it is clear that Bangladeshi nationals in Iran, numbering around 2,000, continue to face grave threats. India has already managed to relocate its citizens to safer areas within Iran. Pakistan has opened its border with Iran, giving Pakistanis wishing to leave a way out. China, too, has successfully evacuated its nationals. Therefore, our government also needs to consider the best course of action to ensure the safety of Bangladeshis there. If necessary, it should reach out to other governments or actors that can either help ensure their safety or assist in evacuating them.

But until this conflict is brought to an end, its impact will continue to escalate, with increasingly dire consequences not only for the region but for the world as a whole. Recognising this, all other countries must refrain from engaging in any acts of aggression, and must also engage with Iran and Israel and convince them to cease all attacks against each other. The international community must not allow this conflict to spiral any further.

Shield street children from vulnerabilities

Worrying levels of exclusion from social safety net reported

We are concerned about the street children's persistent exclusion from social protection systems and mechanisms. According to a survey recently unveiled by Caritas Bangladesh, a staggering 94.3 percent of street children remain excluded from the government's social safety net, while 58.2 percent do not have birth certificates, preventing them from accessing formal education and state-sponsored services. Among those without birth certificates, 71.4 percent do not know their parents' national ID numbers, making their registration difficult or impossible. This shows, among other things, how the system itself can fail the vulnerable thanks to interlinked, often complicated procedures. It is no surprise then that 51.6 percent of the children surveyed are not currently enrolled in any school or madrasa.

The survey size may be small—covering 667 street children across Dhaka, Mymensingh, and Rajshahi—but the picture that emerges from it more or less aligns with the alarming levels of exclusion, abuse, and vulnerabilities reported by the media. So, not only are they being deprived of essential services but they are also being exposed to life-altering dangers including sexual abuse, assaults, early exposure to crime and drugs, and child labour. Even children growing up with parents in slums are often similarly vulnerable because of the lack of support for the marginalised communities. These circumstances offer a reality check about the challenges facing the interim government as it tries to recast the social safety net schemes.

In the proposed FY2025-26 budget, the government allocated Tk 37,076 crore for 39 social safety programmes that directly benefit the poor and vulnerable, excluding unrelated components like pension, savings certificate interest, and agricultural subsidies that previously consumed much of the budget. Monthly cash benefits for marginalised groups have also been slightly increased, and the number of beneficiaries expanded. However, these efforts will fall short unless they are accompanied by systemic reforms to address inclusion and identification barriers. The fact that most street children lack identification, and thereby access to required support and protections, is a structural failure that must be fixed. No reform of the safety net can be meaningful if it continues to leave behind the most vulnerable.

We, therefore, urge the government to prioritise bringing those children into the fold and ensure that they are provided with necessary support. At its survey unveiling programme, Caritas Bangladesh made a number of recommendations which deserve to be considered. With so many children living in vulnerable conditions, we must do more—and do better—going forward.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Pablo Escobar surrenders

On this day in 1991, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar surrendered to the police.

EDITORIAL

Do we need a foreign operator for terminal maintenance?



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KALLOL MUSTAFA

The interim government is pressing forward with plans to lease out the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), the largest and most profitable terminal at Chattogram port, to the UAE's state-owned DP World, through a government-to-government (G2G) arrangement. This initiative was originally undertaken by the Awami League government in March 2023, but was stalled in the face of the port workers' protest. Now, the interim government is pursuing the same arrangement, under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, bypassing an open and competitive bidding process.

According to a recent *Prothom Alo* report, the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the project's transaction adviser. If all goes as planned, a concession agreement is scheduled for signing by November. After that, the operator will fully take over the terminal, recruit manpower, collect container handling charges, and pay the port authority an upfront fee, an annual payment, and a per-container fee. But it is not yet clear how much DP World will invest, what specific improvements it will bring, and how the revenue will be shared between the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and DP World.

Costing Tk 2,000 crore, the 950-metre NCT was constructed by the CPA in 2007. It is equipped with five berths: four for ocean-going container vessels and one for smaller container ships. Of the port's 18 quayside gantry cranes, an important container-handling equipment, the NCT alone has 14. It can currently handle around 1.3 million TEUs against the design capacity of 1.1 million TEUs. About 44 percent of the port's container traffic goes through this terminal, making it the most revenue-generating facility. The CPA's records state that it earned Tk 1,216 crore in revenue from the NCT in FY23, with a net income of Tk 574 crore after expenditures. Why, then, lease out such a profitable terminal that has been operating successfully for 17 years?

Some argue that Chattogram port is inefficient compared to seaports in other countries, and that hiring a foreign operator will solve the issues. However, port performance does not solely depend on the operator's efficiency. It also depends on various

factors like channel depth, number of terminals and berths, yard space, customs management, etc. While crane moves per hour may relate to operator skill, other metrics—such as vessel waiting time, berth occupancy, container dwell time, and overall handling—depend on the broader infrastructure and systemic factors.

Bonik Barta recently reported that Chattogram port's channel is prone to silting due to its geographical location. With regular dredging, the maximum depth reaches 9.5 metres during high tide, dropping to six to seven metres during low tide, preventing larger vessels from entering. The port's limited channel depth naturally hinders its



FILE PHOTO: STAR

The New Mooring Container Terminal is the largest and most profitable terminal at Chattogram port, handling 44 percent of its container traffic.

ability to match the efficiency of deep-sea ports like Singapore (16 metres), Colombo (18 metres), or Vietnam's Cai Mep (16-18 metres). However, improvement can be made through automation, streamlined customs, improved connectivity, and better logistics infrastructure. Handing it over to a foreign operator isn't the only option available; the CPA can achieve much by hiring expert consultants if necessary and implementing targeted reforms.

Furthermore, deciding who manages a country's ports should not be based only on technical or management capabilities. Ports are strategic national assets with implications for national security. In 2006, DP World tried to acquire terminal operations at six US

the operator undermined national sovereignty and was plagued with irregularities and poor management.

Djibouti tried to renegotiate the contract and even offered to buy out DP World's shares. DP World agreed initially but subsequently added an additional restriction on Djibouti developing new ports in its territory. Djibouti rejected this as an infringement on sovereignty and ultimately terminated the contract. The relationship between Djibouti and UAE also soured as a result. In April 2019, a London court ordered Djibouti to pay DP World \$533 million for breach of contract. This underscores the legal, financial, and geopolitical risks that can emerge when strategic national assets like ports are placed

in the dark. They are often known to their victims: relatives, teachers, or neighbours. This makes the problem particularly difficult to detect and harder to prosecute.

A University of New Hampshire study argues that many societies, including conservative and religious ones, are particularly vulnerable due to a culture of silence surrounding sexual matters. Children are taught not to speak, parents fear scandal more than trauma, police lack training, and courts lack the will to act swiftly. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

While temporary outrage follows each disturbing headline, there is a deeper, more disturbing problem that we have barely begun to address: paedophilia.

Paedophilia is not just an act of abuse; it is a diagnosable psychiatric disorder, manifesting as persistent sexual attraction to prepubescent children. However, calling it a "disorder" does not, and should not, excuse the act of physically or sexually abusing a child. It simply urges us to understand how this pathology functions, so we can better confront and contain it.

In other words, we are facing a threat we barely understand and one we're too afraid to confront directly.

Paedophiles do not usually fit our

image of a monstrous stranger lurking

in the dark. They are often known to their victims: relatives, teachers, or neighbours. This makes the problem particularly difficult to detect and harder to prosecute.

Switzerland, meanwhile, has been debating how to strike a balance between civil liberties and the need for stricter surveillance and monitoring of sex offenders after release.

Bangladesh, on the other hand,

has done almost nothing apart from sporadic legal reforms. The death

penalty for rape was introduced in haste in 2020 following mass protests. But, as many warned, punishment without systemic overhaul is like a band-aid over a bullet wound.

With overloaded courts, investigations are almost always botched, leading to survivors being re-traumatised by the very systems meant to protect them. And amid all this, the word "paedophilia" is never uttered, let alone understood or addressed.

In a 2019 exposé by *The New York Times*, investigators revealed that online forums around the world allow paedophiles to trade abuse materials and groom each other with disturbing advice on how to avoid detection. With increasing internet access and insufficient cybersecurity enforcement in Bangladesh, we are a ripe target for these networks. And the signs, as ominous as they are, are already showing.

So, what can be done?

First and foremost, we must name the problem. Paedophilia must be included in our national policy conversations, not just as a moral abomination but as a psychiatric threat that demands intervention.

Public awareness campaigns need to

teach parents, teachers, and children alike how to recognise paedophilic and grooming behaviours. Schools must be equipped with trained counsellors, while mental health services should offer confidential but accountable pathways for those who fear post-complaint backlash.

Second, our justice system must evolve—radically. Judges and investigators must be trained in handling crimes of child sexual abuse

under foreign control.

Bangladesh also had an unfavourable experience with Patenga Container Terminal, handed over in June 2024 to Saudi Arabian firm Red Sea Gateway Terminal International (RSGTI). RSGTI was supposed to invest \$240 million (Tk 2,640 crore) into the terminal over 22 years, and the port authority would get revenue of Tk 300 crore annually, according to a *Samakal* report.

However, 10 months on, the promised investment did not materialise. Due to a lack of equipment and skilled personnel, the terminal was operating at only 12 percent of its expected container handling capacity—handling just 170-180 containers per day out of a possible 1,369. Moreover, the port authority's revenue per container from Patenga is only \$18, while it is currently \$47 per container from the NCT.

There is also concern that container handling charges may increase under a foreign operator, which could raise business costs and undermine competitiveness. For example, according to an UNCTAD report, in Australia, DP World unilaterally raised infrastructure surcharges dramatically to recover its investment: Melbourne port's surcharge soared from 3.45 Australian dollars per container in 2017 to 85.30 dollars in 2019—more than 2,000 percent increase. Similar hikes occurred in Brisbane and Sydney, raising alarm at Australia's competition regulator.

The New Mooring Container Terminal currently provides employment to nearly 1,000 workers. If it is leased out to DP World, instead of creating new jobs, there is a risk that existing employment opportunities could be adversely affected. For example, in 2019, DP World reduced 10 percent of its workforce in Australia to deal with volume losses and blamed the Maritime Union of Australia for refusing to make concessions in the bargain to deal with the losses.

Handing over port operations to a foreign operator offers no guarantee of national benefits. For example, Singapore's ports, widely praised for efficiency, are operated by state-owned PSA Corporation and Jurong Port. Ultimately, everything depends on governance. Without proper oversight, even foreign operators fail to deliver; with effective supervision, even domestic operators can perform well.

Considering Chattogram port's strategic importance, geopolitical risks, and existing profitability, handing over the NCT to a foreign company is not advisable. Moreover, it is questionable whether the interim government has the mandate to make such a strategic decision before a national election. The government should rather focus on building national consensus around reform recommendations and preparing for a credible election.

What is paedophilia and why Bangladesh should be concerned



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NAZIBA BASHER

There is no subtle way to say this: the safety of our children is under threat, and our society is miserably and cruelly failing them.

In Bangladesh, nearly nine out of every 10 rapes in the first four months of this year involved children, according to recent findings by Ain o Salish Kendra. Many of the victims were infants, some just a few months old.

While temporary outrage follows each disturbing headline, there is a deeper, more disturbing problem that we have barely begun to address: paedophilia.

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Second, our justice system must evolve—radically. Judges and investigators must be trained in handling crimes of child sexual abuse

with sensitivity and scientific rigour.

Legal reforms must include surveillance mechanisms for released offenders, including mandatory therapy and digital activity monitoring. Parliament must debate the merits of punishments used globally and find an urgent solution for our children.

Third, we must collect data. Right now, we don't even know how widespread paedophilic tendencies are in Bangladesh because no serious national research has been undertaken. This absence of data is not accidental; it is the result of a cultural shame that prefers ignorance over uncomfortable truths. Like in many other countries, offenders already convicted of child sex abuse must be interviewed and studied to understand the true nature and gravity of the problem.

Finally, we must listen to survivors—not just the ones who made it to a courtroom or a newspaper article, but the ones who never told anyone because they knew no one would believe them. Every single child who has been sexually abused deserves justice, therapy, and the assurance that their abuser will not walk free to hurt another.

Paedophilia is not a Western problem. It is not just a psychological curiosity or a topic for debate in academic journals. It is here, it is real, and it is robbing our children of their safety, their sanity, and, in many cases, their lives.

We can no longer afford to look away. The question is no longer whether we are ready to face this horror. The question is: how many more children must suffer before we are forced to?

Are we looking at a new era of nuclear proliferation?



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SYED RAIYAN AMIR

The latest escalation between Iran and Israel—flaring beyond their traditional shadow war into a more overt theatre of strategic confrontation—has not only brought into sharp relief the frailty of the Middle East's security architectures but also injected a renewed sense of plausibility to a future marred by nuclear proliferation. This is not merely a regional rivalry now shaped by drones, proxies, and ballistic threats; it is a deeper existential tremor through the global non-proliferation regime, particularly as it intersects with an evolving global stance on nuclear energy, evidenced recently by the World Bank lifting its ban on financing nuclear power projects. While such economic realignments suggest a revivalist sentiment towards nuclear energy for development purposes, the geostrategic ripple, if one observes closely, seems to be redirecting states towards the more ominous potential of military nuclearisation.

The gravitational pull of this crisis has clearly intensified since Iran's nuclear posture has taken a turn towards ambiguity, arguably as a form of strategic signal following repeated Israeli threats to pre-emptively neutralise Iran's nuclear infrastructure. While Tehran maintains that its ambitions remain within peaceful bounds—a position reiterated in its official adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)—its progressive accumulation of enriched uranium, combined with the installation of advanced centrifuges, has rendered the so-called breakout time increasingly irrelevant. As argued by Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz in *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*, proliferation is not always about intention but about the temptation born of security anxiety. What we are witnessing in the Middle East is a classic case of the security model driving nuclear aspiration—precisely the kind of condition under which the NPT begins to erode not legally, but normatively.

Israel's long-standing policy of nuclear

opacity, or *animut*, compounded by its non-signatory status in the treaty, makes it a paradoxical actor within the non-proliferation discourse. Avner Cohen, in *The Worst Kept Secret: Israel's Bargain with the Bomb*, exposes the internal logic of deterrence that has shaped Israeli policy since Dimona, a desert city where Israel has a nuclear installation, became functional. But the normalisation of such opacity—protected often by Western double standards—has already created conditions under which regional actors, such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt, may feel increasingly justified in pursuing latent or overt nuclear capabilities. Indeed, as Jacques Hymans demonstrates in *Achieving Nuclear Ambitions*, national identity and state capacity often shape the likelihood of nuclear pursuit, but when perceived threats cross a certain threshold, even states with lower bureaucratic coherence become willing to absorb the risks.

The World Bank's decision to reintroduce nuclear energy into its financing portfolio, albeit under the rubric of green transitions, comes at a time when the line between civilian and military nuclear programmes has grown thinner than ever. In *Nuclear Energy: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Charles D. Ferguson underscores how the dual-use nature of nuclear technology remains the Achilles heel of non-proliferation efforts, particularly in politically volatile regions. The shift in global energy paradigms, driven by climate obligations and the search for low carbon alternatives, inadvertently contributes to a proliferation permissive environment.

While the intention may be to catalyse sustainable development, the outcome, especially in strategically insecure regions, may be the opposite: an acceleration towards weaponisation disguised as energy transition.

One must not underestimate the ideological and existential dimensions at play. In *Nuclear Iran: Birth of an Atomic State*, David Patriarakos articulates how Iran's

nuclear project is deeply embedded within its revolutionary narrative—a means not just of deterrence, but of ideological fortification in the face of perceived Western hostility and Israeli aggression. This framework, where nuclear capability becomes a symbol of sovereignty and resistance, undermines the normative power of the NPT and emboldens other regional actors to similarly frame nuclear pursuits as righteous or defensive.

escalation, the IAEA finds itself unable to contain the narrative spiral; its inspections are challenged, its neutrality questioned, and its authority diluted. Such developments don't merely affect Iran; they delegitimise the architecture built over decades to constrain nuclear ambition globally.

Equally critical is the emergent geopolitics of nuclear patronage. In *Power and Purpose: U.S. Policy Toward Russia after the Cold*

Nuclear Tipping Point, a documentary by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, where it is argued that once regional balances are sufficiently disrupted, the psychological and strategic thresholds for proliferation fall precipitously. The Israel-Iran conflict, layered with religious, territorial, and ideological grievances, appears to have arrived precisely at that inflection. The rising tide of normalisation agreements, while ostensibly peace-building, also brings into sharper contrast the isolation of Iran and the consolidation of anti-Iran blocs, thereby reinforcing Tehran's perception of encirclement and its consequent reliance on nuclear deterrence.

Furthermore, within the broader global reordering, there is now less incentive for emerging powers to be morally constrained by treaties designed in a post-World War II liberal order. As John Mearsheimer's *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* so decisively argues, the international system rewards those who maximise their relative power, even if it means undermining norms. The return of realist imperatives in global politics, from Eastern Europe to the Indo-Pacific, renders disarmament diplomacy not only hollow but also dangerous, as it falsely assumes that regimes guided by survival will disarm for abstract ideals.

To imagine the future, one must be prepared to accept a probable scenario where the number of nuclear-capable states grows—not linearly but exponentially. In *Arsenals of Folly*, Richard Rhodes warns that the mere existence of nuclear weapons creates systemic instability, not because of their use, but because of the crises they perpetually generate. With the legitimisation of nuclear financing for peaceful purposes by the World Bank, and with the NPT facing both ideological and enforcement paralysis, the global community may be on the cusp of a second nuclear age—more decentralised, more volatile, and more dangerous.

The Iran-Israel crisis has not only undermined regional security; it has sent tremors through the global nuclear order. The future likely holds more nuclearisation, justified either as deterrence or energy transition, and normalised under an increasingly bifurcated world order. If the non-proliferation regime is to survive, it must confront both the double standards embedded in its enforcement and the shifting global narrative that now sees nuclear capability not as taboo, but as insurance.



A satellite image shows the Natanz nuclear facility in Iran after Israeli airstrike in this handout image dated June 15, 2025.

PHOTO: REUTERS

The erosion of normative compliance is even more troubling when one considers the declining influence of multilateral institutions. Mohamed ElBaradei, in *The Age of Deception*, recounts the struggles of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to maintain impartial credibility, often caught between technical mandates and political pressures. In the current Iran-Israel

War, Angela Stent reminds us that nuclear diplomacy is often subservient to grand strategy. When the West no longer appears neutral in adjudicating proliferation threats, it creates incentives for other power blocs to encourage, or at least tolerate, proliferation under their spheres of influence as counterweights.

This tectonic shift is mirrored in the

Can Bangladesh forge its own 'economic miracle'?

Mohammad Rashedul Islam
is a lecturer and PhD candidate at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

Maj Gen (retd) Abdul Kalam Mohammad Humayun Kabir
is a former diplomat of the Bangladesh government.

ABUL KALAM MOHAMMAD
HUMAYUN KABIR and
MOHAMMAD RASHEDUL ISLAM

The post-WWII recoveries of Germany and Japan remain iconic examples of national rebirth and rapid reconstruction after complete devastation. Within a decade, both nations had not only rebuilt their economies to the zenith but also quickly emerged as the two leading industrial and technological powers. The Japanese concept of *Kodo keizai seicho* and the German *Wirtschaftswunder*, both meaning "economic miracle", encapsulate their astonishing post-war economic advancements that still awe the world.

These miracles, however, were not reactive or mere flukes; they were well-designed, deliberate, and proactive. Patriotism, ethos, national vision, diligence, ethical leadership, good strategies and planning, proper reforms, conducive political culture and relentless pursuit of excellence were their keys to success. Despite contextual differences, their experiences offer replicable vital lessons for the transformation of our mindset and culture, from street agitations and uprisings

to innovation and productivity.

West Germany's *Wirtschaftswunder* was underpinned by the Marshall Plan, Cold War geopolitics, and an already skilled industrial workforce. Japan's post-war recovery similarly blended domestic reforms with external support, complemented by national longing and resolve.

Bangladesh secured independence in 1971 after many sacrifices, but its pace of recovery and rebuilding remained slow, betraying the nation's dream even though it has made progress in poverty alleviation, women's education, health outcomes and other social indicators, albeit at a snail's pace and exorbitant prices. Looking forward, the critical question is whether Bangladesh can accelerate its trajectory and attain a high-income, sustainable status soon.

Still struggling after five decades, Bangladesh has turned into a development paradox. On one hand, it has achieved consistent GDP growth, built a globally competitive garments sector, and improved some human development indices. On the other hand, it remains heavily dependent on external support, remittances, and low-value manufacturing, instead of a shift towards a knowledge-based, advanced economy. It lacks functional democracy, good governance, policy consistency, and stable law and order. Corruption is rampant, and so is labour unrest. It inherited fragile state institutions, poor infrastructure, and limited geopolitical leverage with trivial scope for value addition, research, innovation and use of technology.

However, Bangladesh can offset its inherent deficiencies by reforming pernicious political culture, consolidating democracy, infusing a development-oriented psyche, institution building and modernisation. It must improve public sector performance, digitise and upgrade overall service delivery, increase regulatory oversight, maintain policy consistency and uphold the rule of law. Ethical leadership, transparency, accountability, institutional independence and integrity are not development luxuries—they are the bedrock of sustainable progress.

Investing in human capital is indispensable. Bangladesh's youthful demography offers a powerful advantage, though boons may turn into bane unless developed and utilised well. The education system must be reoriented towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution—digital literacy, artificial intelligence, problem solving, and creativity.

For Bangladesh, economic diversification is imperative. Reliance on ready-made garments exposes the economy to global volatility and hinders value creation. A robust industrial strategy must prioritise high-value sectors—pharmaceuticals, IT, electronics, and agro-processing—alongside stronger intellectual property regimes and industrial clustering.

Strategic industrialisation and digital infrastructure must be scaled up. The resilience of a modern economy hinges on its capacity to produce essential goods domestically while diversifying exports. Bangladesh must develop core essential industries—steel, chemicals, machines

and parts, electrical and electronic goods, household essentials, ICT items and precision tools—while strengthening supply chain linkages.

Initiatives such as a "Digital Sovereignty Fund" for local tech ventures and the establishment of tech valleys focused on AI, robotics, and quantum computing can secure Bangladesh's position in the digital economy. Developing digital universities and vocational centres in every economic zone, and fostering knowledge exchange with countries like Japan, China, Singapore, and the West, will build the foundation of a tech-savvy workforce.

Urbanisation will also be a significant factor, as it was in Japan. Dhaka's unplanned sprawl is likely to make it unliveable and unsustainable. Drawing on models of Vietnam and Japan, Bangladesh can implement green urban policies, climate-resilient infrastructure, and decentralised development through vibrant secondary cities.

Bangladesh, being one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, must embed climate resilience in all development strategies. Promotion of renewable energy, introduction of green financing tools, and implementation of carbon pricing mechanisms are necessary steps.

Local governments should be empowered to undertake grassroots climate action, ensuring inclusive and effective adaptation and mitigation.

Bangladesh should skillfully leverage its

geopolitical position to play a meaningful

role in regional and global trade. Upgrading ports, streamlining customs, and joining booming trade blocs can open up vistas of opportunities, new export markets, and investment flows. Economic diplomacy and reaching out to ASEAN, BRICS, SCO, the Middle East, North America and Africa should be the major focus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A digital corridor with regional fibre-optic networks, smart logistics, and digital port systems would connect Bangladesh with global supply chains. Strategic alignment with Indo-Pacific frameworks can provide access to critical infrastructure and defence technologies, as long as the country maintains a balanced non-aligned diplomatic posture.

Sustainable development requires more than economic growth. Besides infrastructure and wealth, it should focus on quality of life, civic issues, eliminating corruption, curbing discrimination and injustices for holistic, inclusive development. It needs to bolster the civil service for digital governance, revamp education to produce responsible citizens, critical thinkers, ethical leaders, and construct creative ecosystems that align government, academia, and industry.

Bangladesh, following the July uprising, is now at a crossroads. The time seems propitious, as the nation has resurfaced, reunited, and realigned, simmering with spirit and yearning for advancement. The defining difference between Japan-Germany and Bangladesh's cases is the patriotism, honesty, national unity and will.

CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 44th president
6 Window makeup
11 Air traffic aid
12 Arm bones
13 Follow as a result
14 Glorify
15 April forecast
17 "The Simpsons" bartender
18 Coffee shop workers
22 Aid in crime
23 Lyric poets
27 Gymnast
Comaneci
29 Yearly record
30 Confine to home
32 "You've—point"
33 Leave for a bit
35 Easy victim
38 Grumpy

response to an alarm clock
39 Sound from a smithy
41 Tourist stop
45 French farewell
46 Bear out
47 Devilfish
48 Used a needle

DOWN
1 Mine matter
2 Prohibit
3 TV spots
4 Indian Ocean island
5 Regions
6 Caribbean island
7 Not strict
8 First man
9 Farm structure
10 Location
16 "How was—know?"
18 Firecracker

sound
19 "Two guys walk into —..." (joke start)
20 Give a new look to
21 South China Sea island
24 January forecast
25 "Toodle-oo!"
26 Do in
28 Caribbean island
31 Rep.'s rival
34 Service station fixtures
35 Con
36 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
37 Aspirin target
40 Tennis need
42 Road rescue
43 First woman
44 Was ahead



MONDAY'S ANSWERS



WRITE FOR US, SEND US YOUR OPINION
PIECES TO
dsoopinion@gmail.com.

'Esha Murder' is the perfect detox from your Eid blockbusters



DESIGN: DOWEL BISWAS

The plot revolves around the brutal murder and dismemberment of Esha, played by Puja Agnes Cruze. However, the film makes it abundantly clear that it is not just the murder, but the systematic subjugation of Esha by all the men around her, that is criminal.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

One of the perils of writing about a murder-mystery thriller is that you can't really divulge the details about what really makes a film great. In the case of *Esha Murder*, one that audiences and critics largely ignored because of its unfortunate placement within the sea of star-studded Eid releases, including *Taandob* and *Utshob*, it holds doubly true.

However, competing against these marketing behemoths was the entire point according to what Azmeri Haque Badhan told me before the special screening of the film last Tuesday. "We never intended to compete; it was simply about making a statement. The statement was that I, Badhan, am here regardless of what happens. My name is up there with blockbusters and megastars, with an unconventional female-led film."

And unconventional it is. *Esha Murder*, directed by real-life cop Sunny Sanwar, doesn't

care about our frantic, ADHD-ridden brains that now expect fantastical action or mind-bending twists on every festive release. It is, sometimes to its detriment, a slow burner that takes quite a while to get going.

The plot revolves around the brutal murder and dismemberment of Esha, played by Puja Agnes Cruze. However, the film makes it abundantly clear that it is not just the murder, but the systematic subjugation of Esha by all the men around her, that is criminal. Not a single man in Esha's life, whether it be her stalker, landlord, or actual lover, respects her enough to give her any agency over her own life.

This is where Badhan steps in as the lead, playing officer Leena. From the get go, she is a no-nonsense character. She is a strong police officer, but a heavily traumatised woman. It is the trauma that leads her to train, persist, and become a law enforcement officer in the first

place, a plot device that pays off to its fullest near the end.

Perhaps a trigger warning would be fair at this point – *Esha Murder* is unabashedly gruesome. It holds little back from graphic descriptions and gore, attempting to portray the realities of such a gruesome crime.

However, the gore and the action sprinkled in aren't the USP of the film; it is the intrigue and setting. The dreary Mymensingh is rife with mystery, and seemingly, every other character has something to hide. The secrets are, however, so well kept that a seasoned critic like myself, or the director friend that I watched the movie with, could not unravel them before the very end, to our absolute surprise.

The supporting cast of the film is stellar, with Nibir Adnan, Sharif Siraj, Sushama Sarker, Tanisha Islam Mahi, Faruque Ahmed, Misha Sawdagar, and Syed Azaz Ahmed delivering organic performances that are symbiotic with one another.

Nonetheless, make no mistake, *Esha Murder* is not without its shortcomings. The aforementioned pacing issues leave a lot of drawn-out scenes, which lead to the audience squirming to get to the next scene. Absolutely unnecessary songs, in all likelihood conceived to promote the films, disrupt the film's flow. While the songs are admittedly functional, with Jahid Nirob's *Bondi Shudhu Jane* being hummed outside the halls immediately after the credits roll, the film did not need it. In fact, even with no experience in film editing, I'd bet a dollar and a half that I could simply throw out many scenes in the film to make it more compact, without hurting the plot at all.

Despite these flaws, *Esha Murder* is the grounded *dudh chha* after the hefty servings of biriyani that *Taandob*, *Insaaf*, and *Utshob* have given the audience. It is an underdog that, as time passes, will only receive more adoration from fans of thrillers. The film is an honest effort, with Badhan giving it all, both on-screen and post-release, showing up every single day to promote it. Whether the content is worth your time is subjective. But according to an editor who has watched way too many mindless action flicks this season, this might just be the perfect detox.

Tom Cruise to receive first-ever honorary Oscar



Tom Cruise will receive an honorary Oscar for the first time in his career, the Academy announced last Tuesday. The award will be presented at the 16th Governors Awards in November 2025, ahead of the 2026 Oscars.

Cruise, 62, is being recognised for his outstanding contributions to cinema. He will be honoured alongside choreographer Debbie Allen and production designer Wynn Thomas.

Country icon Dolly Parton will also receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for philanthropy.

Despite four prior nominations, Cruise has never won an Oscar. Renowned for blockbuster franchises like *Mission: Impossible* and *Top Gun*, he remains one of Hollywood's most enduring and bankable stars.

Jaya Ahsan's fourth film in three months set for July release



Jaya Ahsan is on a roll. With three films already released within three months, the acclaimed actor is now gearing up for her fourth, Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's *Dear Maa*, set to hit theatres in Kolkata on July 18.

Her Eid ul-Azha releases, *Taandob* and *Utshob*, have successfully captivated local audiences, while *Jaya Aar Sharmin* premiered in May.

Adding to her momentum, she told local media that *Dear Maa* explores complex familial bonds, with Jaya portraying a mother for the first time.

The film stars Jaya alongside Chandan Roy Sanyal in the lead roles, with an ensemble cast featuring Saswata Chatterjee, Dhritiman Chatterjee, and Malayalam actor Padmapriya Janakiraman.

NEWS

Rooppur loan utilisation

FROM PAGE 12
terms: LIBOR+1.75 percent, with a cap at 4 percent.

A proposal to defer the start of principal repayments was also rejected. Repayment will begin in September 2028, in two instalments per year, March and September, and continue for 20 years in 40 tranches.

The JCC also reviewed the project's progress. The first 1,200MW unit of

the 2,400MW Rooppur plant was initially scheduled to begin commercial operations by December this year.

Salehuddin said the plant is expected to begin trial electricity supply between September and October, following an inspection and certification visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in August.

"We won't take the full load at once. The trial run will start under IAEA

supervision," he said.

He added that several safety protocols, including nuclear waste disposal measures, must be completed before full operations can begin, possibly in early 2026.

As for the power tariff, Salehuddin said it has not been determined yet. "Once the trial run is over and the plant is connected to the national grid, the Power Development Board will fix the tariff," he added.

parties over an unfavourable election timeline in April next year.

At the meeting, Fakhrul said, both Prof Yunus and Tarique moved away from their earlier stances on the election schedule and agreed to hold the polls in the week before Ramadan.

"This is what we call statesmanship. Without fuelling division or conflict, these two leaders have created an opportunity for a peaceful election," he said.

Political actors had misled Ishraque for their own ends, he said.

"Decisions on DSCC were made collectively by the advisory council. I did not act unilaterally," he asserted.

Ishraque, on the other hand, said, "We have learned that the adviser [Asif] allegedly directed officials not to perform their duties. Even regional executive officers have been told not to

join pain that can last for a week. It may leave patients unable to stand, he said. In contrast, dengue typically causes muscle pain that subsides within seven days.

Since Chikungunya testing is not widely available, patients who test negative for dengue are observed for several days. If symptoms persist, physicians may treat them as Chikungunya patients.

"Anyone with fever should see a doctor immediately and stay hydrated. Coconut water, saline, and fresh fruit juices may help," Nazmul said.

According to public health expert Mushtuq Hussain, the authorities should launch a tiered healthcare system comprising clear primary, secondary, and tertiary care levels.

"A stronger primary healthcare network is crucial. Many people, particularly in underprivileged areas, avoid dengue testing due to lack of access to local facilities, which leads to delayed diagnoses," he said.

He proposed expansion of blood sample collection centres and secondary care units to manage moderate cases, allowing medical college hospitals to focus on critical patients.

Serious cases should be transferred from secondary to tertiary hospitals as needed, Mushtuq said.

According to the IEDCR, there is no specific cure for Chikungunya.

Infected individuals are advised to take rest, and take medication prescribed by a doctor, it said.

Chikungunya symptoms include

Asif, Ishraque trade barbs

FROM PAGE 12
Asif said the law adviser clearly explained the issue. "As per his explanation, and my understanding of the process, no legal violation was committed by the government."

He accused Ishraque and his supporters of blocking DSCC offices, disrupting services, and illegally occupying the mayor's chair.

"Blocking DSCC offices and preventing officials from working amounts to obstruction of government duties. Sitting in the mayor's chair without legal authority is also a criminal offence."

He warned that the collapse of services like waste removal would affect over one crore residents.

Political actors had misled Ishraque for their own ends, he said.

"Decisions on DSCC were made collectively by the advisory council. I did not act unilaterally," he asserted.

Ishraque, on the other hand, said, "We have learned that the adviser [Asif] allegedly directed officials not to perform their duties. Even regional executive officers have been told not to

sign birth or citizenship certificates."

It was disgraceful of the government to try to create administrative disruption to be able to shift the blame, he said while inaugurating a mosquito control programme at the Nagar Bhaban, presenting himself as the "elected mayor".

He also chaired a meeting with mosquito control supervisors from all wards, followed by discussions with officials and employees of DSCC's health department.

During the meetings, the BNP leader warned of potential dengue and Covid-19 outbreaks, urging health officials to be vigilant.

"Although our movement is ongoing, essential civic services are being maintained under our supervision. We want to ensure citizens do not suffer. With dengue season approaching, we are intensifying mosquito control efforts," Ishraque said.

On Monday and Tuesday, he held meetings with cleanliness inspectors and ward secretaries across DSCC's 70 wards.

The banners at the meetings referred

to him as "Honourable Mayor, Dhaka South City Corporation". Subsequently, the banners at yesterday's event referred to him as "Elected Mayor".

Meanwhile, DSCC staff continued their protests at the Nagar Bhaban for the second consecutive day, demanding that Ishraque be formally handed the mayoral responsibilities.

Supporters of Ishraque, under the banner "Dhakabashi", also joined the demonstrations.

Around 1:00pm, Ishraque entered the Nagar Bhaban and addressed the demonstrators before officially launching the mosquito control programme on the premises.

Regarding the remarks made by the adviser, Ishraque said: "Yesterday [Tuesday], Asif Mahmud accused me of committing a criminal offence. If that's the case, why hasn't your government filed a case against me? Why haven't you ordered my arrest?"

He called Asif immature and said it was insulting that he was engaging with him. "Whatever is happening now, the government must bear full responsibility."

more for marginal people.

He cited the case of a family that has 11 TCB cards to further his point.

If the cards were distributed properly, 10 families could have benefited from the government's spending, he said.

Vietnam hands death penalties to three drug traffickers

AFP, Hanoi

A court in southern Vietnam has sentenced three drug traffickers to death for smuggling and selling more than 50 kilos of heroin and synthetic drugs, state media reported yesterday.

Communist Vietnam has some of the toughest drug laws in the world with courts routinely handing out death sentences for drug convictions.

After the one day trial in Long An province, 35-year-old gang leader Pham Trung Hieu and his three accomplices were found guilty of trafficking.

Three were given the death penalty while one was jailed for life, VNEnews news site reported.

Chikungunya resurfaces

FROM PAGE 12
and a membership renewal campaign for the Turag unit of Dhaka North BNP.

According to media reports,

the Jamaat skipped the consensus

commission's discussion with political parties on Tuesday as a form of protest against the outcome of a recent meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman in London.

The party reportedly informed

the commission that it felt ignored after Yunus and Tarique issued a joint statement agreeing to hold the election in February next year.

Fakhrul described the meeting as a rare and historic event, as it paved the way for a peaceful democratic transition.

He said Yunus invited Tarique to the meeting when a debate was going on and a rift was developing between the interim government and political

parties over an unfavourable election

timeline in April next year.

At the meeting, Fakhrul said, both Prof Yunus and Tarique moved away

from their earlier stances on the

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mayor".

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their protests at the Nagar Bhaban for

the second consecutive day, demanding

that Ishraque be formally handed the

mayoral responsibilities.

4 die in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Four persons were killed in road accidents in three districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Nilphamari, two people were killed after a bus hit a motorcycle they were riding on Rangpur-Dinajpur regional highway near Kamarpukur Bazar in Saidpur upazila yesterday.

Masud, 28, and Nur Islam, 55, local brick kiln workers, died on the spot, said police.

In Thakurgaon, a motorcyclist was killed as an oncoming truck hit the bike on Thakurgaon-Baldiangi road in Baliadiangi upazila on Tuesday evening.

Faijul Islam, 35, of Lalapur Dangapara village in the upazila, succumbed to his injuries at Thakurgaon 250-bed General Hospital.

Sarwar Alam Khan, OC of Thakurgaon Sadar Police Station, said a case was filed in this connection.

In Munshiganj, a woman died after being hit by a bus on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in Sreenagar yesterday.

The incident took place near the Sholohgar passenger shed. The identity of the woman could not be confirmed immediately, said Hasara Highway Police Station OC Abdul Qader Jilani.

UNDP pledges \$18.5m to support

FROM PAGE 3

Stefan Liller said, "Shortly after the current EC was formed last year, it reached out to the UN seeking support in preparing for the upcoming election. In response, the UN deployed a 'Needs Assessment Mission' which visited Bangladesh in January this year, held meetings with various stakeholders, and worked to define the scope of technical assistance the UN could provide. These recommendations have been shaped into a project

known as 'The BALLOT Project'. The Bangladeshi government approved this project and the UN, EC, and the Economic Relations Division are working together on it. Australia is the first country to come forward with a commitment from its government and taxpayers."

Akhtar Ahmed said there are 16 components for the election, and UNDP has been in discussions regarding financing these components. He added, "The project will run until

December 31, 2027. Under this project, activities such as capacity building, awareness, training, and institutional framework – covering a total of 16 components – will be carried out."

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 19

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Duckling

FROM PAGE 4

annually. The facility includes six layer sheds, one growing shed, and one boarding shed.

Md. Asaduzzaman, poultry development officer at the farm, said, "Although our annual production target is 50,000 ducklings, we have been producing even more. However, since we receive requests from some large farm owners, we can't always meet every farmer's expectations. Nonetheless, we never send any farmer back empty-handed if we have ducklings or eggs available."

"We have informed higher authorities about the need to expand our sheds and increase the number of layer ducks and drakes," he added.

ICT sends former Rab

FROM PAGE 3

and sent to jail, said ICT prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim.

Earlier, Mahin lodged a complaint with the ICT prosecution accusing several people including Sohail, former director Legal and Media wing of Rab.

Before being sent on forced retirement following the changeover on August 5 last year, Sohail was promoted to rear admiral. He also served as the chairman of both the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) and Payra Port Authority.

The tribunal on April 15 had ordered to produce Sohail before it. Prosecutor Tamim said Sohail is the only accused arrested in the case. Sohail was produced before the tribunal yesterday.

Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam moved the case before the tribunal, while Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua stood for the accused.

Additionally, the tribunal extended till September 15 to submit the investigation reports of two cases filed in connection with the crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

Two former additional

Gulshan house ready for Tarique

FROM PAGE 3

British multinational company as the managing director's residence until it was vacated six months ago. Tarique is expected to move in once he returns from London.

ICT investigators

claimed that during initial interrogation, Ishtiaq confessed to deploying drones to conduct aerial surveillance and capture footage over several key areas during the July uprising. This was reportedly done under direct instructions from the then chief of the CTTC unit.

However, he later deleted the footage following further orders, which, according to the prosecution, constitutes a criminal.

And as per the prosecution, Mainul was directly involved in the firing on protesters in the Mirpur area during the uprising.

Chief Prosecutor

Muhammad Tajul Islam moved the case before the tribunal, while Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua stood for the accused.

Following a prosecution petition yesterday, the tribunal also ordered that former state minister Kamal Ahmed Majumder and Jubo League leader Saddam Hossain Mitul be shown as arrested in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed in Mirpur, Kafrul, and Pallabi areas during the July uprising.

Two former additional

deputy commissioners Ishtiaq Ahmed and MM Mainul Islam already arrested in the cases were produced before the tribunal.

ICT

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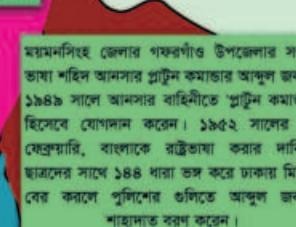
aerial

বাংলাদেশ আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা বাহিনী

(মাটি ও মানুষের আকাঙ্ক্ষা এবং গণপ্রতিরক্ষার প্রতীক)



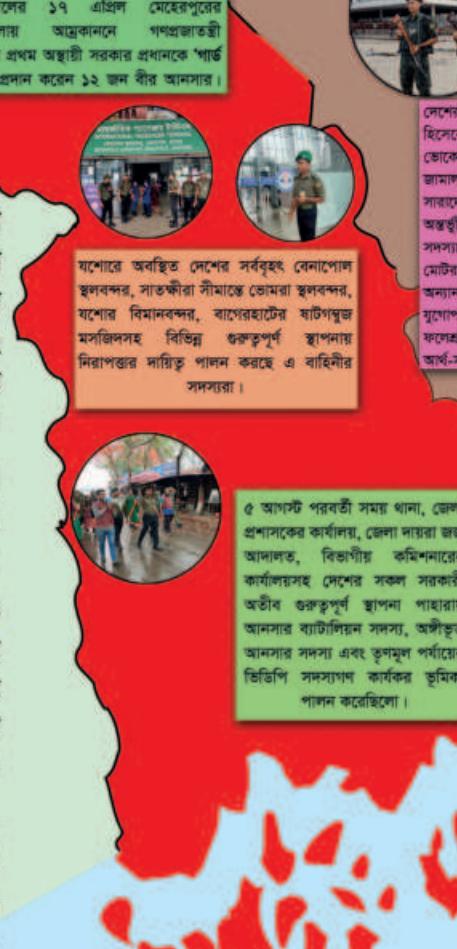
- # মহান স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধে এ বাহিনীর ৪০,০০০ রাইফেলের মাধ্যমে মুক্তিযোদ্ধারা প্রাথমিক প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তোলে এবং ৬৭০ জন আনসার সদস্য শাহাদাত বরণ করেন।
- # স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধে বীরত্বসূচক অবদানের স্বীকৃতিপ্রদর্শন ২০০৪ সালে এই বাহিনী 'স্বাধীনতা পদক' অর্জন করে।
- # জাতীয় উন্নয়ন, সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা ও নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে সুদৃঢ় ভূমিকার মাধ্যমে ১৯৯৮ সালে এ বাহিনী 'জাতীয় পতাকা' অর্জন করে।



আনসার-ভিডিপি সদস্যদের
প্রশিক্ষণ ও কল্যাণের ব্যাপ্তি
বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে আনসার-ভিডিপি
কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের অধীনে 'প্রাতিক
শক্তি' নামক এন্টারপ্রাইজের
যাত্রা শুরু হয়েছে।



- # বাহিনীর নিজস্ব কল্যাণ পরিদপ্তরের উদ্যোগ হিসেবে 'সঞ্জীবন' প্রজেক্টের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা বাহিনীর আজানির্ভরশীলতা অর্জন এবং বেচাসেবক ও দুর্দশাহৃষ্ট সদস্যদের জীবনমাল উন্নয়নের কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ।
- # প্রাথমিকভাবে দেশের ১১৬টি উপজেলায় একটি প্লাটুনের সদস্যদের জন্য এই জীবিকা উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি শুরু হবে।
- # দেশের পার্বত্য, চর ও হাওর, বরেন্দ্র ও উপকূলীয় এই ৪ টি অঞ্চলে সঞ্জীবন প্রজেক্টের আওতাধীন প্লাটুন সদস্যদেরকে জীবনধারণের মৌলিক চাহিদাসহ রাষ্ট্রের অন্যান্য এসডিজি লক্ষ্য অর্জনের সাথে সম্পৃক্ত করা হবে।
- # 'সঞ্জীবন' কর্মসূচির আওতায় গৃহীত কার্যক্রমের মাধ্যমে ৬০ লক্ষ আনসার-ভিডিপি সদস্যদের কর্মসংস্থান বা উদ্যোগ হিসেবে সমাজে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা তৈরি হবে।



সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা ও উন্নয়নের অঙ্গীকার

Litton's near miss dwarfs team advantage

SPORTS REPORTER

Litton Das had to walk back to the pavilion at the Galle International Stadium on the second day of Bangladesh's first Test against Sri Lanka yesterday, falling just 10 runs short of what could have been his fifth Test century.

The missed opportunity, regardless of how minor it may seem, could prove to be far more significant when viewed through a broader lens -- considering the way Litton succumbed to a clear Lankan ploy, Bangladesh falling short of a much bigger total on a batting friendly pitch, and most importantly, how the psychological aspect of getting to three-figure mark could have further boosted confidence of a player struggling with his form across the formats.

Bangladesh had found themselves in a commanding position, with Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton batting fluently, before a rain interruption triggered a collapse late in the day.

Batting at number six, Litton had the perfect platform to play a confidence-restoring innings and notch up a century. But by the end of the day, Bangladesh were suddenly out of their comfort zone.

His role was to press home the advantage alongside Mushfiqur, and the pair were doing just that until the rain-induced break seemingly broke their concentration.

Litton has been enduring a tough time across all formats. Back in 2021-22, when

Bangladesh accumulated 484 for nine in 151 overs on a rain-marred second day of their first Test against hosts Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium yesterday. This was the 30th time that Bangladesh crossed the 400-run mark in an innings of a Test, with the highest eight times being against the Lankans.

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das was dismissed for 90 off 123 deliveries, the third time that the 30-year-old was dismissed in the nervous nineties. However, in this regard, the Bangladesh record belongs to Mushfiqur Rahim, who has been dismissed in the 90s four times in the format.

he hit a purple patch, it was through Test cricket that he rediscovered his mojo. The Galle conditions had already seen Mushfiqur and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto take full advantage -- the former scoring 163 and the latter 148 -- as both returned to form after prolonged lean spells. What would have been the icing on the cake for Bangladesh was if Litton had gone to complete a century.

Dropped on 14 early in his innings, Litton made Sri Lanka pay with a 149-run fifth-wicket stand with Mushfiqur. But just when Bangladesh should have been eyeing a total close to 600, Litton faltered.

Asitha Fernando had been probing persistently and eventually removed Mushfiqur, trapping him leg before in the 141st over. Litton, then on 90 and the most experienced batter at the crease, was expected to carry on Bangladesh's advantage.

Lankan spinner Tharindu Rathnayake had been bowling a leg-stump line for an extended spell. Litton had either swept or fended off most of those deliveries, but the unorthodox line seemed to have been preying on his mind, probably finding ways to score off that channel. Just an over after Mushfiqur's dismissal, Litton opted to reverse sweep in an attempt to dominate.

The ball brushed his glove and looped up gently as the wicketkeeper made a routine catch. In an instant, Bangladesh, who had two set batters at the crease, now had two new men starting from zero near the close of the day's play.

The result? From 458 for four, Bangladesh stumbled to 484 for nine.

With Galle offering ample scoring opportunities, Bangladesh arguably missed out on maximising their first-innings total. Now, the bowlers will need to step up significantly to keep the team in contention for a result.

For Litton, who had gone 10 innings without a fifty, this was more than just a missed century. Not only did he miss out on a personal milestone at an inopportune moment, but his dismissal also triggered a collapse that eroded Bangladesh's advantage.



BCB to felicitate inaugural Test members

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will accord a reception to its inaugural Test members on June 26 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to mark the 25th anniversary of receiving Test status.

Apart from the players and officials of the inaugural Test, players who have so far represented Bangladesh in the elite format are also likely to be invited during a centralised programme titled 'Bangladesh's 25 years in Test Cricket Celebration'.

"Alongside the reception, they [inaugural Test players and officials] will have an interaction with the media where they will share memories of the inaugural Test. Those who are available will be invited to the event. There might be more programmes like short musical or cultural shows during the event," AEM Kawser, BCB's game development manager, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Kawser added that they will also have an U-12 Cricket Carnival across 64 districts and five divisional headquarters, which will be part of the celebration and it will take place between June 21 and 25.

"The U-12 Cricket Carnival will take place in 64 districts, which will be part of the main programme. Six a-side matches among six teams in both boys' and girls' categories, parents' interaction, quiz and fun activities will take place there which will be organised by respective district sports associations.

"In five divisional headquarters, similar type of programmes will be initiated and those will be organised by the board centrally," he added.

Bangladesh got Test status on June 26, 2000, and played their first Test, at home against India from November 23 the same year.

Archer Himu to vie for bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Archer Himu Bachhar is set to face India's Chechi Sachin in tomorrow's bronze medal match of compound individual event in the Asia Cup Stage 2.

Bangladesh men's recurve team and Bangladesh women's compound team, meanwhile, suffered defeats in bronze-medal matches in Singapore yesterday.

Himu, who scored his career best of 707 points out of 720 to finish fourth in the qualification round, will be expecting an individual medal he never achieved at the senior international level even though the 23-year-old was a silver winning member of Bangladesh men's compound team in Asian Grand Prix in 2021.

Yesterday, men's recurve team, comprising Abdur Rahman Alif, Rakib Mia and Ram Krishna Saha, went very close to winning a medal but they had to be content with a fourth-place finish after losing by 5-3 set points to Chinese Taipei.

The women's compound team, comprising Bonna Akter, Kulsom Akter and Pushpita Zaman, followed the footsteps of the men's recurve team to lose the bronze-medal match by 230-224 points to Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will play first rounds of recurve mixed team event and compound mixed team event against Singapore and Hong Kong respectively today while Abdur Rahman Alif will play gold-medal match of recurve individual event tomorrow.



Spanish great Sergio Ramos coming to the aid of his side with headers from floated corners is something that fans had been used to for the better part of the last decade or more -- and they got to enjoy that exact thing in Pasadena on Tuesday, as a Ramos header gave Monterrey the lead in the 25th minute of their World Cup Group E opener against Champions League finalists Inter Milan. Inter, however, levelled through a Lautaro Martinez strike in the 42nd minute. The game ended 1-1 despite Inter making a host of attacks against the Mexican side.

PHOTO: AFP

Salahuddin sees potential in response

SPORTS REPORTER

Senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin believes Bangladesh's dressing room has found renewed positivity yesterday, after three of their underperforming batters came good in the first innings of the opening Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.

Mushfiqur Rahim (163), Najmul Hossain Shanto (148) and Litton Das (90) all returned to form, helping Bangladesh post a strong total of 484 for nine at stumps on day two.

Shanto and Mushfiqur ended century droughts after 20 and 13 innings, respectively, while Litton had gone 10 innings without even a fifty before his fluent 90 off 123 balls.

"Mushfiqur made a strong comeback, showed a lot of character and so did Shanto," Salahuddin told reporters after the end of the second day's play.

"They were under pressure for several reasons. Litton also scored runs after a long time. That's a positive sign in our dressing room that those guys under pressure came forward and scored big," he added.

Bangladesh were cruising at 423 for four before persistent rain halted play for over two and a half hours. On resumption, momentum shifted. The visitors failed to rediscover their rhythm and lost five wickets for just 26 runs, allowing the home

side to sneak back into the contest.

Salahuddin observed "the last session could have been better" but believes replicating Sri Lanka's bowling effort could tilt the game in their favour.

"I want to take positives from their bowling. The way they bowled in the final session, we didn't see that in the first five sessions."

Salahuddin refused to blame the rain break for the collapse, pointing instead to poor shot selection.

"We have nothing to do with the rain. We played some bad shots and that's why we lost the wickets," he concluded.

If you have a Test team that is strong and plays regularly, that has spin-offs for the other formats. When you have a good Test team, you'll have good teams in (white ball cricket) because a good player is a good player.

South Africa coach Shukri Conrad



A few of several thousand South Africa fans pose with photos of captain Temba Bavuma at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg yesterday to welcome the team after a historic World Test Championship (WTC) win, which ended a 27-year major trophy drought for the Proteas.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Root relishes blockbuster summer

AGENCIES

As England prepare for a blockbuster home Test series against India, Joe Root says he's enjoying the "most fun" period of his career.

The 34-year-old batting maestro is set for a busy and high-profile six months in England whites, with the India series at home followed by a much-anticipated Ashes tour Down Under.

"You can only be excited. These are the series you play for. The opportunities in front of us are epic," Root told former teammate Stuart Broad on Sky Sports.

Since relinquishing the Test captaincy in 2022, Root has been in sublime form with the bat, scoring 3,117 runs at an average of 56.67 across 36 Tests -- the most by any England batter in that span. According to him, this stretch has also brought the greatest joy.

"It has become the most fun time of my career. Playing the way we play, the environment that has been created. The job Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum have done has been fabulous and so much fun has come with it," Root said.



England begin a new ICC World Test Championship cycle against India on Friday at Headingley, a venue Root knows well. While the looming Ashes later this year is drawing attention, Root remains grounded in the immediate challenge.

"You know The Ashes is coming... but you have a job to do against a brilliant team," he said. "India have all bases covered -- a great seam attack, talented batters, and a very strong spin unit."

India, under new skipper Shubman Gill, are aiming to win their first Test series in England since 2007. The last tour ended in a 2-2 draw, leaving unfinished business for the visitors.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has spoken about team combinations for Headingley, as India look to crack the English conditions.

But Root believes England's strong home record gives them the edge. "They are going to compete anywhere in the world but our record at home makes for a fantastic series. We'll go into it with confidence but also with huge respect for what they will bring."



Fakhrul slams Jamaat for skipping talks

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday criticised the Jamaat-e-Islami for skipping Tuesday's National Consensus Commission meeting.

In an oblique reference to the Jamaat, he said the party is concerned about how much influence it will retain after the election.

"That is why they were disappointed and did not attend the meeting," Fakhrul said at a programme of Dhaka North City Unit BNP.

"Many were not happy with the meeting outcome because the election would bring danger for them. As long as there is no election, they hold considerable importance," he said.

Once the election concludes, the BNP leader said, the party supported by the people will come to power.

The programme was held on the premises of Sunbeams School to launch the distribution of membership forms



SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



BNP leader Ishraque Hossain operates a fogging machine at the Nagar Bhaban to launch a mosquito control drive yesterday, as he continues his movement demanding to be sworn in as DSCC mayor.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Rooppur loan utilisation to get 3-yr extension

Partial supply expected in Sept or Oct, full operation early next year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The loan utilisation period for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is set to be extended by three years, as about \$3.38 billion of the Russian credit remains unspent after the original deadline expired in December 2024.

An amended protocol to this effect was finalised earlier this month during a high-level meeting between Bangladesh and Russia. Both sides agreed to extend the deadline until December 2027.

Under the original agreement signed on July 26, 2016, Russia committed \$11.38 billion, to be fully utilised by December 2024. However, as of April this year, only about \$8 billion had been disbursed, according to the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

The decision to extend the loan tenure was made at the 9th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting, held on June 3 at a Dhaka hotel. The meeting was chaired by Salehuddin Ahmed, adviser to the ministries of economy, science and technology, while the Russian delegation was led by AY Petrov, first deputy director general of Rosatom, Russia's state atomic energy agency.

"Both sides have agreed to extend the loan utilisation period. The protocol will be signed soon," Salehuddin told The Daily Star.

The Russian side also accepted several other proposals from Bangladesh. Notably, a 0.5 percent commitment fee on the undisbursed amount, originally part of the loan terms, will now be capped at \$250,000.

Officials from the Ministry of Science and Technology attributed the delay in project implementation to the Covid-19 pandemic and sanctions arising from the Russia-Ukraine war. They said without the revised protocol, Bangladesh would have incurred substantial commitment charges.

Russia also agreed not to impose any penalty interest on delayed repayments. Bangladesh currently owes around \$700 million in interest arrears, which remain unpaid due to sanctions-related complications.

While principal repayments will start after a grace period, interest has been accruing since disbursement. Bangladesh had requested a reduction in the loan's interest rate, but Russia maintained the original

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget for fiscal 2025-26 failed to meet people's huge expectations, said economists, entrepreneurs and representatives from marginal people.

"This government came into power through a big change. On this ground, people had a huge expectation from this budget," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, convenor of Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

Bhattacharya's comment came in a discussion titled "National Budget 2025-26: What is There for the Left-behinds?", organised by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh held at the capital's Lakeshore Hotel.

The budget failed to address people's aspirations.

"So the budget of expectations became the budget of disappointment."

The budget formation process was problematic as the government did not consult with all the political parties and stakeholders, he said.

The interim government formed several commissions and committees and they have done their work free of cost.

But their activities and suggestions were not addressed in the budget, said Bhattacharya, who headed the white paper committee on the Bangladesh economy.

"The government did not take the recommendations from the

commissions seriously -- I feel cheated," said Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, head of the labour reform commission.

The budget could have removed some of the inequality in the society by implementing suggestions from several reform commissions, he added.

The structure of the proposed budget is the same as the previous ones said Bhattacharya, also a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"There is a striking disconnect between budgetary efforts and reform efforts," he added.

Since it is an interim government, implementation of reform measures

research fellow of CPD.

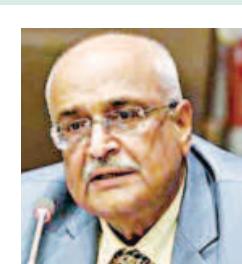
Though the government acknowledged the reports of the white paper committee, task force and reform commission, neither the budgetary allocations nor the fiscal measures were systematically designed to reflect the recommendations.

"There is a striking disconnect between budgetary efforts and reform efforts," he added.

Since it is an interim government, implementation of reform measures

“This government came into power through a big change. On this ground, people had a huge expectation from this budget.”

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA



On top of that, many steps were taken in the budget which went against neglected and marginal people, he added.

Core expectations from the budget were strengthening macroeconomic stability, incorporating reform, safeguarding marginalised citizens and promoting jobs and investment, said Towfiqul Islam Khan, senior

cannot be expected from it, said Anu Muhammad, a former chairman of the economics department at Jahangirnagar University.

"I did not have huge expectations that it would implement reforms. But I expected that it will at least start reform activities like reducing the contribution of VAT and so on."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

DHAKA SOUTH CITY Asif, Ishraque trade barbs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain and BNP leader Ishraque Hossain yesterday sparred over the latter's push to be sworn in as the mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

Asif said Ishraque's occupation of the mayor's office and obstruction of DSCC activities amounted to criminal offences, while Ishraque dismissed him as immature.

Speaking at the Secretariat, Asif said the government could not administer Ishraque's oath as the matter became sub judice after a writ petition.

Legal notices were issued, and the case later went to the Appellate Division, which kept it pending, he added.

He said preparations for oath-taking were in place on May 25, ahead of the May 26 deadline. However, the law ministry, after consulting the attorney general, advised against administering the oath due to the risk of contempt of court as the matter was pending with the Appellate Division.

By June, the gazette had lost its effectiveness, and the government could not act on such an expired notification, he claimed.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

20 pushed in through border in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Twenty individuals were detained from Masudpur border under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj early yesterday after they were pushed into Bangladesh allegedly by India's Border Security Force.

The detainees include three men, seven women, and 10 children, said Lt Col Fahad Mahmud, commanding officer of BGB battalion 53 in Chapainawabganj.

A patrol team from Masudpur BGB Border Outpost detained the people near the zero line shortly after they were pushed in around 4:45am, said Lt Col Fahad.

The BGB official said none of them possessed any Bangladeshi national identity documents or birth certificates.

Upon primary interrogation, they provided their names and addresses, most of which traced back to different villages in Kurigram and Rangpur districts, he told this newspaper over the phone.

He also said the 10 adults had been living in the Indian state of Haryana for years after entering India illegally in search of employment.

The 10 children were born in India during their stay, the BGB official said, quoting the detainees.

The BGB official could not say the exact time when they had entered India for jobs.

The 20 detainees were handed over to Shibganj Police Station, he said.

The BGB already protested the push-in strongly, sending an official letter of protest to the BSF at the battalion commander level, the commanding officer added.



MONSOON BLOOMS ... A young vendor arranges burflowers, locally known as Kadam Phool, for sale at the TSC area of Dhaka University. Always in high demand during the monsoon, each flower is being sold for Tk 15-20. The photo was taken yesterday.

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বকেয়া কর আদায় সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্মানিত কর্মসূলীগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, হোল্ডিং ট্যাক্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ইস্যু ও নবায়ন ক্ষি. এবং ডিএনসিসির মালিকানাধীন মার্কেটের সোকান ভাড়া ইত্যাদি পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে ৩০ জুন ২০২৫ খ্রি। পর্যন্ত নিয়মিত কার্যদিবস ছাড়াও সরকারি সাংগ্রহিক ছান্টির দিন (শনিবার) সকাল ৯:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ডিএনসিসির ১০টি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ের রাজ্য বিভাগসহ প্রধান রাজ্য কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ে অবস্থিত বাজার শাখা খোলা থাকবে।

নগরীর উন্নয়নমূলক কাজে সহযোগিতার জন্য সম্মানিত কর্মসূলীগণকে চলতি অর্থ বছর অর্থাৎ ৩০ জুন ২০২৫ খ্রি। তারিখের মধ্যে কর পরিশোধ করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

প্রশাসক
ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন