



“Israel is now leading the region to the brink of total disaster by attacking Iran, our neighbour.”

Hakan Fidan
Turkish foreign minister

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Diplomatic push loses steam

Iran says European proposals ‘unrealistic’; Trump says Europe’s diplomacy unlikely to yield results



“Iran doesn’t want to speak to Europe... Europe is not going to be able to help in this.”

DONALD TRUMP



“Negotiations by the US were a cover for what the Israelis did. We don’t know how we can trust them [the US] anymore.”

ABBAS ARAGHCHI
Iranian foreign minister

IRAN-ISRAEL WAR

- US moves bunker-buster B-2 bombers to Guam
- Israel claims killing three more Iranian commanders
- Iran president says country will not abandon nuclear prog
- Israel says Iran nuclear prog delayed by ‘at least two or three years’
- Monitors say Iran moved nuclear material to prevent destruction
- Trump says he is ‘unlikely’ to ask Israel to stop attacks
- US intel chief says Iran ‘within weeks’ of producing nukes after Trump rebuke
- 400 Iranians killed, 3,056 wounded in Israeli attacks

AGENCIES

Iran and Israel carried out strikes on each other for the ninth consecutive day yesterday, amid a diplomatic push by European powers to ease the crisis – a move US President Donald Trump said is unlikely to be helpful.

The US president also said his two-week ultimatum to Tehran was the “maximum”, indicating that possible American air strikes might take place even before that if no progress is visible.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian official told Reuters that the

discussions and proposals made by the European powers to Iran over its nuclear programme in Geneva were unrealistic.

He added that zero enrichment was a dead end and that Iran would not negotiate over its defensive capabilities, including its missile programme.

The developments came as news reports claimed that B-2 stealth bombers left the Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri en route to a US Air Force base in Guam. However, it is not immediately clear whether this is related to escalating tensions

in the Middle East.

The bombers apparently refuelled after launching from Missouri, suggesting they launched without full fuel tanks due to a heavy onboard payload, which could be bunker-buster bombs.

The B-2 is capable of carrying America’s heaviest payloads, including the bunker-busting GBU-57, a 30,000-pound (13,607 kg) warhead capable of penetrating 200 feet (61 meters) underground before exploding.

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IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME – PAGE 2



Five-year-old Abdullah clings to his mother as they wait to consult a doctor about the fever he has been battling for the past three days. He was brought to the Mohakhali DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital from Korail slum, amid a fresh surge in Covid cases across the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Dhaka, Beijing, and Islamabad talk trilateral cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan have discussed a possible trilateral cooperation based on a shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

Bangladesh foreign ministry in a statement last night said the three countries held an “informal trilateral meeting” on the sidelines of the 9th China-South Asia Exposition and the 6th China-South Asia Cooperation meeting in Kunming on June 19.

“The three sides exchanged views on possible trilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual trust, understanding and shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in the region,” it said.

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MAYORAL DEADLOCK Dhaka South held hostage for 40 days

DIPAN NANDY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Dhaka South City Corporation has remained effectively crippled for around 40 days due to a contested mayoral claim by BNP leader Ishraque Hossain and the government’s apparent mishandling of the matter.

Despite the BNP warming up to the government after both sides softened their stance on election timing, a widening gulf remains over the DSCC mayor issue.

There is no end to the stalemate in sight, as Ishraque vows to continue his movement, while the government has not made it clear when and how the issue will be settled.

Meanwhile, millions of city dwellers continue to be deprived of civic services, except for waste management, which is also operating at a sluggish pace.

A 2022 census put the population of Dhaka South at 43 lakh, but DSCC officials estimate more than 1 crore people live here.

The impasse has left the city’s core services in disarray. Except for limited waste collection, nearly all functions, including issuance

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Hold Israel accountable for Iran strikes

Touhid says at OIC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday urged the international community to hold Israel accountable, terming its attack on Iran reckless.

He made the call during his speech at the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Istanbul, said a foreign ministry statement.

In his address at a special session, Touhid strongly condemned Israel's attack on Iran, saying the aggression was a grave violation of international law, the UN Charter, and Iran's sovereignty.

"Such reckless actions by Israel pose a threat to regional stability and undermine global peace and security," he said.

He also called for an immediate end to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Palestine.

The OIC must remain united and vocal in demanding justice and accountability through the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Our solidarity must translate into strategic and sustainable actions."



Every Friday during the monsoon, traders gather at the Atghar Floating Market in Pirojpur's Swarupkati upazila to sell boats. Farmers from nearby villages buy them, at prices ranging from Tk 2,500 to Tk 7,000, depending on size, and use them for farming, fishing, transporting fodder, and other daily needs. The photo was taken last Friday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME From origins to today's dispute

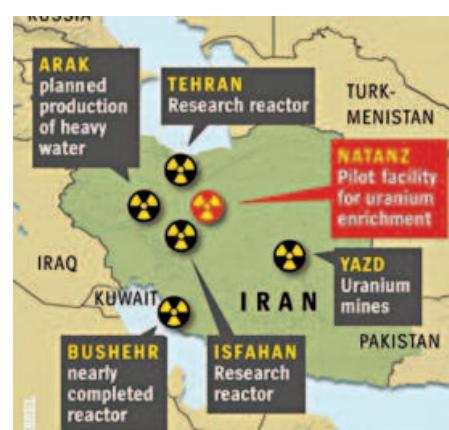
AFP, Vienna

A week ago, Israel launched an unprecedented attack against Iran, saying the country was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon, a claim Tehran has always denied.

Western powers have repeatedly expressed concerns about the rapid expansion of Iran's nuclear programme, questioning in particular the country's accelerated uranium enrichment.

The following is a recap of the main developments regarding Iran's nuclear programme, as European foreign ministers are holding nuclear talks with their Iranian counterpart in Switzerland on Friday.

Iran laid the foundation for its nuclear programme in the late 1950s with technical assistance from the United States, when Iran's ruling shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, signed a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement



with the US.

In 1970, Iran ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),

committing it to declare its nuclear material to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

But revelations in the early 2000s about undeclared nuclear sites raised concerns. An 2011 IAEA report, collating "broadly credible" intelligence, said that at least until 2003 Iran "carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device".

After suspending enrichment activities, Iran began talks with European and then international powers that would later culminate in a historic deal.

On July 14, 2015, Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – plus Germany reached an accord in Vienna.

The deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), placed significant restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme

in exchange for sanctions relief after 12 years of crisis and 21 months of protracted negotiations.

But the hard-won deal began to unravel when the US under President Donald Trump walked away from it on May 8, 2018, and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

Following the US withdrawal, Iran retaliated by stepping up its nuclear activities as if a "red cape had been waved in front of a bull," said Clement Therme, associate researcher at the Rasanah International Institute for Iranian Studies.

According to Therme, Iran "embarked on a strategy of escalation" in a bid to up pressure and obtain help to circumvent sanctions. But Tehran's moves were unsuccessful and came at an "exorbitant economic cost".

Iran first began enriching uranium to five percent – breaching the limit of 3.67

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Diplomatic push loses steam

FROM PAGE 1

Such a bomb, which Israel is not known to possess, is the only weapon capable of destroying Iran's deeply buried nuclear facilities.

When reached for comment, the Pentagon referred AFP to the White House, which did not immediately respond.

Trump, who rarely spends weekends in Washington, is due to return to the White House yesterday evening to hold an unspecified "National Security Meeting."

On the ground, Israel yesterday said it had killed three Iranian commanders in its unprecedented bombing campaign across the Islamic republic, which Foreign Minister Gideon Saar claimed had already delayed Tehran's presumed nuclear plans by two years.

Overnight, Iran said it targeted central Israel with drones and missiles.

Israel's military said its fighter jets successfully targeted a top Iranian official Saeed Izadi, in charge of coordination with Palestinian militant group Hamas, in Qom, south of Tehran and announced the deaths of two other commanders from Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

As Israel continued to strike Iran's nuclear facilities and military targets, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said in an interview that by the country's own assessment, it had "already delayed for at least two or three years the possibility for them to have a nuclear bomb".

"We will do everything that we can do there in order to remove this threat," Saar told German newspaper Bild, asserting Israel's onslaught would continue.

However, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian yesterday warned of a "more devastating" retaliation should Israel continue to attack Iran, saying the Islamic republic would not halt its nuclear programme "under any circumstances".

In a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Pezeshkian said Iran was "ready to discuss and cooperate to build confidence in the field of peaceful nuclear activities".

"However, we do not agree to reduce nuclear activities to zero under any circumstances," he added, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency.

Meanwhile, US-based defence think tanks – the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) and the Critical Threats Project (CTP) – said in their latest joint assessment of the conflict that Iranian nuclear material was relocated to secure locations to prevent its destruction.

"Protecting Iranian nuclear material by hiding the material" would

make "a US or Israeli effort to destroy the material more difficult," the ISW/CTP said.

"This statement is presumably intended to suggest to a Western audience that destroying all of Iran's nuclear material would require a long, challenging, and possibly futile hunt for hidden material and that therefore the West should negotiate with Iran," it said.

Israel and Iran have traded wave after wave of devastating strikes, after Israel launched its aerial campaign on June 13, saying Tehran was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon – an ambition Iran has denied.

Israel said it had attacked Iran's Isfahan nuclear site for a second time after its air force said it had also launched salvos against missile storage and launch sites in central Iran.

The military later said it struck military infrastructure in southwest Iran.

Trump warned on Friday that Tehran has a "maximum" of two weeks to avoid possible American air strikes, as Washington weighs whether to join Israel's unprecedented bombing campaign.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who arrived in Istanbul yesterday for a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to discuss the conflict, told NBC News that "we're not prepared to negotiate with them [the United States] anymore, as long as the aggression continues."

Top diplomats from Britain, France and Germany met Araghchi in Geneva on Friday and urged him to resume talks with the United States that had been derailed by Israel's attacks.

Trump was dismissive of European diplomatic efforts, telling reporters, "Iran doesn't want to speak to Europe. They want to speak to us. Europe is not going to be able to help in this."

"I'm giving them a period of time, and I would say two weeks would be the maximum," Trump told reporters when asked if he could decide to strike Iran before that.

He added that the aim was to "see whether or not people come to their senses."

On Thursday, Trump gave a two-week window to null US involvement in the conflict, citing a "substantial chance of negotiations." But his latest remarks suggest he may act sooner if no progress is made on dismantling Iran's nuclear program.

Trump also said he is unlikely to ask Israel to stop its attacks to get Iran back to the table.

"If somebody's winning, it's a little bit harder to do," he said.

Meanwhile, US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard yesterday

said Iran could produce nuclear weapons "within weeks", months after she testified before Congress that the country was not building them.

Her change of position came after Trump said she was "wrong" and that intelligence showed Iran had a "tremendous amount of material" and could have a nuclear weapon "within months".

Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

RIA Novosti news agency yesterday reported that President Vladimir Putin had told Israel repeatedly that Iran does not intend to acquire nuclear weapons.

At the OIC meeting, where the Israel-Iran conflict topped the agenda, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Israel's attacks on Iran right before a planned new round of nuclear talks with the US aimed to sabotage negotiations and showed Israel did not want to resolve issues through diplomacy.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan accused Israel of leading the Middle East towards "total disaster".

Iran's health ministry said in an updated toll yesterday that Israeli strikes on Iran have killed more than 400 people.

"As of this morning, Israeli attacks have claimed the lives of over 400 defenceless Iranians and left 3,056 others wounded by missiles and drones," health ministry spokesman Hossein Kermanpour said in a post on X.

Iran's retaliatory strikes have killed at least 25 people, in Israel, according to official figures.

Traffic police and Fars news agency reported congestion on roads into Tehran yesterday, indicating some inhabitants were returning to the capital.

Internet service was partially restored in Iran yesterday, after Tehran imposed a blackout during its war with Israel, London-based online watchdog NetBlocks said.

Overnight, Iran said it targeted central Israel with drones and missiles.

Israeli rescuers said there were no casualties after an Iranian missile struck a residential building in Beit She'an.

Israel's air force yesterday said it intercepted about 40 drones overnight.

Israel's National Public Diplomacy Directorate said more than 450 missiles have been fired at the country so far, along with about 400 drones.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency's chief Rafael Grossi told CNN there was no evidence to suggest that Tehran had all the components to make a functioning nuclear warhead.

Dhaka South held hostage for 40 days

FROM PAGE 1

of birth and death certificates, trade licences, tax documentation, cemetery services, roadwork, community centre operations, and streetlight and drainage maintenance, have ground to a halt.

Every day, an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 people rely on DSCC services. Aslam Hossain of Narinda has visited DSCC offices repeatedly over the past month for an inheritance certificate, but without success, as the office remained closed. "Our family is going through stress," he said.

Asit Kumar Saha from Shantinagar said his son is critically ill and needs urgent treatment abroad, but a birth certificate required for a passport remains out of reach. "We haven't been able to get the certificate for 25 days. His condition is worsening."

The deadlock reached a peak on June 16, when Ishraque began discharging mayoral duties without taking the official oath. In response, the government termed his actions a "criminal offence", accusing him of forcefully entering the Nagar Bhaban, the DSCC headquarters in Gulistan.

Experts say the standoff, while fuelled by Ishraque's defiance, also reflects a failure of a timely institutional response. They say that only immediate government intervention and Ishraque's departure from his position as a self-declared mayor can resolve the crisis.

Prof Tofayel Ahmed, a local government expert, agreed with the government to some extent. "Ishraque's actions are unlawful and politically damaging," he told The Daily Star.

The deadlock stems from a March 27 Election Tribunal ruling that nullified the 2020 DSCC mayoral win of Awami League candidate Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, naming Ishraque, the runner-up, as the validly elected mayor. The Election Commission issued a gazette on April 27 endorsing this verdict.

But rather than proceeding with the swearing in, the Local Government Division sought legal opinion from the law ministry. That process was further delayed after a Supreme Court lawyer filed a writ petition on May 13 challenging both the tribunal ruling and the gazette.

The very next day, Ishraque's supporters began a sit-in outside the Nagar Bhaban. They locked the building on May 15, effectively halting DSCC operations. Though the High Court later cleared the path for the swearing in, the matter moved to the Appellate Division. On legal advice,

the government refrained from administering the oath, citing sub judice status.

Meanwhile, the DSCC mayoral term officially expired on June 1, rendering the gazette ineffective. Nonetheless, Ishraque began what he called "parallel mayoral duties" on June 16, holding meetings with mosquito control teams, health officials, and ward staff under banners that described him as the "Honourable Mayor of DSCC".

Tofayel said the crisis emerged as the Election Tribunal took five years to deliver its verdict.

"There should be a judicial review on why the tribunal delivered the verdict after five years," he said.

He also said that following the ruling, the government could have allowed Ishraque to serve the remaining days of the mayor's tenure.

"But Ishraque has started discharging his duties as mayor in

Asit Kumar Saha from Shantinagar said his son is critically ill and needs urgent treatment abroad, but a birth certificate required for a passport remains out of reach. "We haven't been able to get the certificate for 25 days. His condition is worsening."

a very impractical manner. What message he is sending out when the city corporation is locked and being run by party loyalists? This can't continue," he added.

Prof Adil Muhammad Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said, "When the election was declared flawed, how can someone now claim legitimacy based on it?"

"This creates a dangerous precedent. The BNP should handle this responsibly, and Ishraque must show greater maturity," said Adil, also an urban expert.

Ishraque, however, said his actions were intended to serve the public. "Even during the protests, we tried to keep emergency services running," he told The Daily Star.

On the other hand, he alleged that Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain instructed officials not to cooperate.

On being identified as "Mayor" at public events, he said, "I didn't put

Student coordinator sued for 'demanding Tk 10 lakh bribe'

UNB, Feni

A case has been filed against a local student coordinator of the July uprising and another person on charges of demanding Tk 10 lakh bribe in exchange for a government job.

Iftekhar Hasan Bhuiyan, resident medical officer of Parshuram Upazila Health Complex, filed the case with Parshuram Police Station on Thursday night.

Nahid Rabbi, a coordinator of the anti-discrimination student movement's Parshuram unit, is the prime accused, according to Md Nurul Hakim, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The other accused is Abdul Kader, 30, son of Belal Hossain of Anantapur village. Rabbi hails from Kolapara village under Parshuram municipality.

According to the case statement, an audio clip circulating on social media caught the attention of Iftekhar. In the clip, Rabbi is purportedly heard demanding Tk 10 lakh from a jobseeker named Hridoy, promising him appointment as office assistant cum computer typist at Feni Civil Surgeon's Office with Kader's help.

Sources at Feni Civil Surgeon's Office said a recruitment test was held on Friday for 115 posts under the office, for which around 12,000 applications were received.

Two die of Covid, four test positive in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two people died from Covid-19 and four others tested positive in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Both deceased were women, hailing from Chattogram and Khulna, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services.

A total of 211 samples were tested during this period.

With the latest data, nine people have died of Covid-19 so far this year. Since the outbreak began in 2020, the total number of confirmed cases now stands at 2,051,942, and the death toll at 29,510.

After a long gap, the first Covid death this year was reported on June 5. The recent rise in cases has prompted health authorities to issue precautionary directives, including wearing masks.

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Surge in Swiss Bank deposits reflects massive AL looting Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday expressed concern over the sharp rise in deposits by Bangladeshis in Swiss banks last year, saying it has shown the extent of looting by the Awami League's "corrupt elements and mafias".

"I was disheartened to see newspaper reports indicating a significant increase in the amount of money deposited in Swiss banks [by Bangladeshis]... It clearly reflects the massive scale of plundering carried out by the mafia and looter clique during the fascist rule," he said.

He was addressing a discussion organised by the Biplobi Workers Party at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity, marking the party's 21st founding anniversary.

Fakhrul said he did not know who, when, or how such a large amount of money was deposited in the banks. "Every patriotic person may wonder whether any real change has taken place after the uprising... If the report pertains to the year 2024, it is authentic."

According to media reports, the amount of money deposited by Bangladeshis in Swiss banks has increased significantly, rising 33 times in just one year.

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High-level BNP delegation to leave for China today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-level delegation of BNP is set to leave for China today at the invitation of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

The delegation will be led by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and is scheduled to depart Dhaka tonight on an Air China flight at 10:10pm.

BNP Media Cell member Shayrul Kabir Khan confirmed the development.

According to party leaders, the visit is expected to include high-level meetings and policy-level discussions.

The delegation comprises BNP Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra

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DMC suspends all academic activities Orders students to vacate dorms amid protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Medical College authorities yesterday announced the suspension of all academic activities for MBBS students for an indefinite period starting today, amid ongoing student protests demanding renovation of academic and residential buildings.

In notice issued following an emergency meeting of the Academic Council, the DMC authorities also directed all students, except foreign students and those appearing for the university professional MBBS examinations, to vacate their hostels by 12:00pm today.

Later, a press release was also issued regarding the decision.

"Students have been asked to vacate the halls for a short period to avoid any potential risks. It is not possible to implement renovation demands so quickly. Therefore, until an alternative arrangement is made, the directive to vacate the halls remains in effect," Prof Md Kamrul Alam, principal of DMC, told UNB earlier.

This correspondent could not reach Prof Kamrul Alam for comment despite repeated attempts over the phone.

Abdullah Al Noman, a protesting fourth-year MBBS student, said they would continue their demonstrations



SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

UIU revokes student expulsions after daylong protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of United International University (UIU) students blocked the Natun Bazar intersection in the capital for several hours yesterday, protesting the expulsion of 26 fellow students.

The demonstration caused severe traffic congestion from Badda to Kuril, leaving many commuters stranded. The blockade, which started around 8:30am, was called off after 6:00pm.

In response to student demands, the university authorities have withdrawn the permanent expulsion orders issued against the 26 students over alleged involvement in campus protests and breach of discipline.

The decision was made at an emergency meeting of the UIU Disciplinary Committee last night, according to a notification signed by Registrar Md Zulfiqur Rahman.

Earlier, around 8:30am, demonstrators began gathering at the intersection as per a prior announcement, said Rakibul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Bhatara Police Station.

Demanding withdrawal of the expulsions of 26 fellows, UIU students blocked the Natun Bazar intersection, causing severe gridlocks.

Around 50 students gathered at the intersection, holding placards and chanting slogans. Their blockade disrupted traffic on major roads connecting Badda, Kuril, and Rampura, causing significant suffering for commuters, particularly during the morning rush hour.

Tailbacks were reported in Rampura, Badda, Pragati Sarani, and Tejgaon Railgate areas. Many commuters said they were stuck for hours, with

alternative routes also heavily congested, forcing them to walk to their destinations.

A brief scuffle broke out around 10:30am when police attempted to disperse the protesters, said the OC, adding that a few police officers sustained minor injuries.

The students, however, regrouped shortly after and continued the blockade. They claimed that police used batons on them, injuring some protesters.

Despite repeated requests from police to clear the road, the students refused to move. By afternoon, limited traffic movement resumed through

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Teachers with mild, dormant BNP affiliations were favoured as VCs
Prof Wahiduddin recalls appointment process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday said during his tenure as education adviser under the interim government, preference was given to teachers with "mild" or "inactive" BNP backgrounds when appointing vice-chancellors at public universities.

He made the remarks at a discussion titled "The 2025-26 Budget in the Context of LDC Graduation," organised by the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID) at a hotel in the capital.

Reflecting on his experience in overseeing major university appointments, Prof Wahiduddin said, "Since we are a non-partisan government, we could not appoint anyone based on party loyalty. The greatest challenge was that so many positions were vacant, but I hardly knew personally who could be trusted with these responsibilities. In several cases, I sought help from friends with administrative or political experience."

He explained that he approached Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of BNP and a long-time friend and former classmate,

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Pedestrians walk beneath a tangle of hanging cables, posing the risk of accidents at any moment. The photo was taken on Toynbee Circular Road in the capital's Motijheel area recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Proportional representation a must for upper house Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without a proportionate representation (PR) system for the upper house, forming such an assembly would be ineffective, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They noted that while the PR system should be applied in the lower house to uphold people's voting power, political parties have not agreed on it.

So, the system should be incorporated into the proposed upper house instead, they said.

The discussion, titled "Citizens' Thoughts on the Seat Distribution by PR System in the Upper House of the Parliament", was organised by the Nagorik Coalition at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital. Representatives from around 8-10 political parties and civil society members attended the event.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, a member of the National

Consensus Commission, said the upper house proposal was intended to create checks and balances for the lower house and ensure a diverse parliament.

He acknowledged some limitations of PR, such as risks to government stability, the upper house becoming a "dumping ground" for unpopular politicians, and concerns over nepotism. "That's why we're proposing a mixed system, with PR only in the upper house," he said.

He warned that without PR, the upper house would simply replicate the lower one, giving the ruling party more absolute power and deepening autocracy.

The Nagorik Coalition noted that a constitutional amendment would require approval from both houses, but political parties have yet to agree on the percentage threshold for the upper house. The consensus commission has

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Protect heritage sites, cultural practices

Naripokkho urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights organisation Naripokkho yesterday condemned the interim government's inaction over recent attacks and vandalism of heritage sites across the country, including the Rabindra Kachari Bari in Shahjadpur and the "Anjali Laho Mor" sculpture in Trishal.

In a media statement, the organisation called on the government to take effective measures to prevent such incidents in the future and urged it to protect heritage sites and cultural practices from all forms of ill-attempts.

"Such incidents undermine the creativity of society and the country's heritage," the statement read, adding that these actions also threaten the interim government's goal of building a discrimination-free Bangladesh in line with the spirit of the July-August movement.

Naripokkho said most recently, Rabindra Kachari Bari, a monument dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore in Shahjadpur of Sirajganj, was attacked and vandalised.

It also said the "Anjali Laho Mor" sculpture at Kabi Nazrul University in Trishal, Mymensingh, was

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BNP-JCD CLASH Injured JCD activist dies at DMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narsingdi

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist succumbed to his injuries yesterday after being shot during a clash between BNP and JCD factions in Palash upazila of Narsingdi.

Ismail Hossain, 26, died while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:00pm, confirmed his father Abdur Rahim Bhuiyan.

Ismail was a resident of Khanepur village under Ghorashal municipality and a member of the upazila unit of JCD, said Palash thana JCD Member Secretary Mostafizur Rahman Papon.

On June 15, during a rally in the Palash Bus Stand area, supporters of district BNP's Joint Organising Secretary Fazlul Kabir Jewel attacked and opened fire, triggering the clash, he said.

At least 10 people from both sides were reportedly shot.

Siam Mia, joint convener of Ghorashal municipality JCD, filed a case filed. Fazlul

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S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Nearly one lakh farmers from six districts in Rangpur region produced a bumper yield of Boro paddy this season, thanks to the Teesta Irrigation Project.

According to farmers, the average yield per hectare has increased by two tonnes, while production costs have decreased by 30-35 percent by using irrigation water from the project compared to cultivation using groundwater.

They also said the natural silt content in the river water reduces the need for fertilisers and pesticides, which in turn boosts production.

Located in Doani area of Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat, the Teesta Barrage is the country's largest irrigation project. Commissioned in 1990 and operational since 1992, it now benefits farmers from Rangpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Dinajpur, Joypurhat, and Bogura districts with water sourced from Teesta river and distributed through a vast network of irrigation canals.

I harvested 79 maunds of Boro paddy from three bighas of land irrigated with water from the project this season at a cost of Tk 30,000. In contrast, I got only 59 maunds of paddy on the same land using

groundwater earlier, spending Tk 47,000," said Ataur Rahman, 67, a farmer from Dimla village under Nilphamari's Dimla upazila.

"Moreover, the silt in river water enriches the soil, so we need less fertiliser and pesticides," Ataur added.

Another farmer from the same village, Soleman Mia, 70, echoed him.

"Before the Teesta Irrigation

director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Rangpur region, said, "While the average Boro yield using groundwater is six tonnes per hectare, it is eight tonnes within the Teesta project area. Also, the production costs are reduced by about 35 percent."

"The river water is rich in nutrients, and therefore it nurtures soil and crops," he also said.

The project employs 78



Project started, we struggled to grow crops due to a lack of water," he said. "Now, I need to pay only 480 takas for a year-round supply of irrigation water for one acre. Especially during the Boro season, this water is a blessing. I got around 25-27 maunds of paddy per bigha of land," he said.

Shafiqul Islam, additional

gatekeepers to manage and distribute irrigation water across the project area.

"We work tirelessly to ensure that farmers receive adequate water for irrigation," said Abdus Samad, a gatekeeper in Dimla village.

Amalesh Chandra Roy, deputy extension officer of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 982 OF 2025

An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994

AND IN THE MATTER OF

Mr Abul kalam AzadPETITIONER

-VERSUS-RESPONDENTS

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, for the condonation of delay and order to call, hold and conduct annual general meetings of Times Media Limited for the years 2025 has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, comprising his Lordship, **Mr Justice Ahmed Sohel**. The said company bench has been pleased to admit the aforesaid application through order dated 16th June 2025 Any person wishing to contest or oppose the aforesaid application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs

Mohammad Syed Abrar, Barrister-at-Law, Advocate. Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Concord Ovalish (1st Floor), House No -62, Road No. 11A, Dhamondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209. Tel: 01962-425151

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 981 OF 2025

An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994

AND IN THE MATTER OF

Ha-Meem Denim LimitedPETITIONER

-VERSUS-RESPONDENTS

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, for the condonation of delay and order to call, hold and conduct annual general meetings of Advance Denim Limited for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, comprising his Lordship, **Mr Justice Ahmed Sohel**. The said company bench has been pleased to admit the aforesaid application through order dated 16th June 2025 Any person wishing to contest or oppose the aforesaid application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs

Mohammad Syed Abrar, Barrister-at-Law, Advocate. Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Concord Ovalish (1st Floor), House No -62, Road No. 11A, Dhamondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209. Tel: 01962-425151

1 more dies in M'singh road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

One more victim in a road accident in Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila died at a local hospital early yesterday.

With this, the death toll from the road accident rose to eight, said police.

Lal Mia succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

On Friday night, seven others had died after a head-on collision between a bus and a human hauler in Kaziakanda area, while 13 were injured. In a separate accident in Tarakanda upazila the same day, three more people, including a schoolboy, were killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided with an ambulance.

PLOT FOR SALE

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

House for Rent (Only Foreigner)

Duplex upon 3600sqft. Land Area (2000sqft), South facing, Green lawn, Armed Ansar Security guard, Generator, Extra drivers room on 300ft Road, Pink City, Beside Bashundhara R/A #01913-112528

Lotkon yield slumps in Narsingdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Lotkon, or Burmese grape (Baccaurea motleyana), a popular tropical fruit cultivated in Southeast Asia including Bangladesh, saw a significant slump in production in Narsingdi district this year.

According to growers, adverse weather condition lowered yield by around 50 percent compared to the previous year, casting doubts on the fruit's export potential from the region.

Earlier, on April 25 this year, Narsingdi received Geographical Indication (GI) recognition for the fruit grown widely across the district.

Currently, the fruit is cultivated on around 1,800 hectares of land in the district, with a production target of 32,400 tonnes this year, according to sources at the Department of Agricultural Extension in Narsingdi. The red soil and highland terrains of the region are particularly suitable for lotkon cultivation.

Visiting different orchards across the district, this correspondent saw the trees bearing lotkon, but in considerably less quantity than the growers' expectation.

The fruit is prized for its sweet-and-sour taste, rich nutritional value, and being beneficial for managing diabetes, blood pressure, and stimulating appetite among other medicinal qualities. As such, lotkon has a high demand among consumers, thereby encouraging many farmers across Shibpur, Belabo, and Raipura upazilas in Narsingdi to take up its cultivation and become self-reliant in recent years.

However, while a tree would typically yield 3-4 maunds of lotkon, this season each tree is bearing only 15-20 kilogrammes of the fruit, leaving the growers disheartened.

Last year, some lotkon orchards were sold for around Tk 8 lakh each. This year, similar orchards are barely going for Tk 4 lakh each, said one grower wishing anonymity.

Wholesale buyers of the fruit said the price may rise by Tk 1,000-1,500 per maund due to the lower supply, which will in turn cause a hike in retail prices subsequently.

The fruit is currently selling in local markets at Tk 80-130 per kg retail price, depending on size and quality.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

ONE Bank

PLC

...We Make Things Happen

Change of Telephone and Fax Numbers

All our valued customers and stakeholders be hereby notified that the telephone and fax numbers of the Head Office of ONE Bank PLC have changed. All concerned are requested to contact the new numbers as follows:

| Particulars | Previous Number | New Number |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Hunting Number | 02-55012505 | 02-41010666 |
| OBPLC Dealing Room | 02-55012451 | 02-41010662 |
| | 02-55011625 | 02-41010663 |
| Fax Number | 02-55012516 | 02-41010673 |

Additionally, you can contact us on our new IP-Based Auto Hunting Numbers as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Corporate Headquarters | 09666191001 |
| Centralized Loan Administration Department (CLAD) | |
| Centralized Trade Processing Center (CTPC) | |
| Central Clearing Unit (CCU) | 09666191004 |

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

National Head Quarter (NHQ)

684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka 1217.

PABX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 258, Direct: +88-02-8333430, web: www.bdrscs.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Invitation Reference, Tender ID No, and Date | Pro. (Log.) 121/2025, Tender ID: 38/2025 Date: 21/06/2025. |
| 2. Procuring Entity Name | Secretary General, NHQ, BDRCS |
| 3. Name of Requisition Department | Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO), BDRCS, Motel Road, Cox's Bazar District. |
| 4. Implemented by | DR Department, NHQ, BDRCS. |
| 5. Invitation for | Construction of BDRCS-MRRO Central Warehouse at Cox's Bazar. |
| 6. Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (OTM), One stage two envelope. |
| 7. Budget and Source of Funds | UNHCR |
| 8. Work Details | LOT-A: Sand Filling/Land Filling, LOT-B: Civil Work at Retaining Wall, Brick Road, Warehouse Boundary Fence & Office Construction works. |
| 9. Purchase of Tender document | Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.bdrscs.org. Tender Schedule Download Link: https://bdrscs.org/tender/ |
| Important Details: | |
| • Interested bidders are requested to collect the tender documents within the stipulated timeframe from the mentioned link/BDRCS website. | |
| • A Tender Schedule purchase fee for LOT-A for BDT 2,050.00 and LOT-B for BDT 1,020.00 is applicable. This fee is non-refundable. | |
| • The purchase fee should be paid through bKash number 01894-806393 (BDRCS Merchant Account). | |
| • Please mention the bKash transaction reference number on top of the tender schedule. | |
| • Please mention the tender reference number (Pro. (Log.) 121/2025, Tender ID: 38/2025) in the bKash transaction. | |
| Failure to include the bKash transaction reference number may result in the disqualification of your bid. | |
| 10. Tender Schedule available from website/link | 22-06-2025 |
| 11. Tender Closing Date and Time | 07-07-2025 at 3:00 PM |
| 12. Tender Opening Date and Time | 07-07-2025 at 3:15 PM |
| 13. Address of Tender Submission & Opening | Logistics Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217. |
| 14. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting | 30-06-2025 at 11:00 am in the Logistics Meeting Room, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217. |
| 15. Eligibility of Tenderer | As per Tender Documents. |
| 16. Submission Criteria | Tender will be evaluated LOT-BY-LOT. A bidder may submit all LOTs or any individual LOT. |
| 17. Tender Security Amount | |

INTERNATIONAL

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2025

ASHAR 8, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

5

Israel leading Middle East to 'total disaster' Says Turkey

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan yesterday accused Israel of leading the Middle East towards "total disaster" by attacking Iran on June 13.

"Israel is now leading the region to the brink of total disaster by attacking Iran, our neighbour," Fidan told a meeting of top diplomats of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul.

"There is no Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, Yemeni or Iranian problem but there is clearly an Israeli problem," he said.

He called for an end to the "unlimited aggression" against Iran. "We must prevent the situation from deteriorating into a spiral of violence that would further jeopardise regional and global security," he added.

Pakistan to nominate Trump for Nobel prize

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan said on Saturday it would recommend U.S. President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, an accolade that he has said he craves, for his work in helping to resolve the recent conflict between India and Pakistan.

In May, a surprise announcement by Trump of a ceasefire brought an abrupt end to a four-day conflict between nuclear-armed foes India and Pakistan. Trump has since repeatedly said that he averted a nuclear war, saved millions of lives, and grumbled that he got no credit for it.

Pakistan agrees that U.S. diplomatic intervention ended the fighting, but India says it was a bilateral agreement between the two militaries.

"President Trump demonstrated great strategic foresight and stellar statesmanship through robust diplomatic engagement with both Islamabad and New Delhi, which de-escalated a rapidly deteriorating situation," Pakistan said. "This intervention stands as a testament to his role as a genuine peacemaker."

Governments can nominate people for the Nobel Peace Prize. There was no immediate response from Washington.



Israeli soldiers and first responders check the damage caused to a building from an Iranian strike in Beit She'an yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

US B-2 bomber that may be used in Iran

REUTERS, WASHINGTON

The US Air Force's B-2 Spirit stealth bomber represents one of America's most advanced strategic weapons platforms, capable of entering sophisticated air defences and delivering precision strikes against hardened targets such as Iran's buried network of nuclear research facilities.

The US military is ready to carry out any decision that President Donald Trump may make on Iran, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said, adding that Tehran should have heeded the president's calls for it to make a deal on its nuclear program prior to the start of Israel's strikes on Friday.

B-2 SPIRIT SPECIFICATIONS: The US B-2 costs about \$2.1 billion each, making it the most expensive military aircraft ever built. Made by Northrop Grumman NOC.N, the bomber with its cutting edge stealth technology, began its production run in the late 1980s but was curbed by the fall of the Soviet Union. Only 21 were made after the Pentagon's planned acquisition program was truncated.

The bomber's range of over 6,000 nautical miles without refuelling enables global strike capabilities from continental US bases. With aerial refuelling, the B-2 can reach virtually any target worldwide, as demonstrated in missions from Missouri to Afghanistan and Libya.

Its payload capacity of more than 40,000 pounds allows the aircraft to carry a diverse array of conventional and nuclear weapons. The bomber's internal weapons bays are specifically designed to maintain stealth characteristics



while accommodating large ordnance loads which could include two GBU-57A/B MOP (Massive Ordnance Penetrator), a 30,000-pound precision guided "bunker buster" bomb.

The two-pilot crew configuration reduces personnel requirements while maintaining operational effectiveness through advanced automation systems.

CONVENTIONAL PAYLOADS: Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) provide the B-2 with precision conventional strike capability against fixed targets. These GPS-guided weapons can be deployed in large numbers, with the bomber capable of simultaneously engaging multiple targets with high accuracy.

MASSIVE ORDNANCE PENETRATOR (MOP): The 30,000-pound MOP represents the largest conventional bomb in the US arsenal, specifically engineered to defeat hardened underground bunkers. Its massive size requires the B-2 to carry only one or two MOPs per mission, but provides

unmatched bunker-penetration capability.

The weapon's 20.5-foot length and GPS-guided precision targeting system enable accurate strikes against specific underground facilities. Its penetration capability of over 200 feet through hardened concrete makes it effective against the world's most protected underground installations.

NUCLEAR PAYLOAD CAPABILITIES: The B-2 Spirit serves as a key component of America's nuclear triad, capable of delivering strategic nuclear weapons with stealth and precision. The aircraft can carry up to 16 B83 nuclear bombs.

From origins to today's dispute

FROM PAGE 2
Faced with Iran's rapidly expanding nuclear programme, the IAEA expressed "serious concern" in its latest quarterly report at the end of May.

According to the UN agency, Iran is the only non-nuclear weapon state to enrich uranium to 60 percent. It theoretically has enough near-weapons-grade material, if further refined, for more than nine bombs.

Iran has also increased its stockpiles of enriched uranium, which was set at 20.8 kilograms under the deal. Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile is currently believed to be more than 45 times that limit.

And Tehran has since exceeded the number of centrifuges – the machines used to enrich uranium – it is allowed to have while beginning to produce more material faster by using advanced models at its plants.

Efforts to revive the deal have been fruitless so far, with European-led talks on hold since summer 2022.

After Trump's return to the White House, talks between Washington and Iran and mediated by Oman resumed in April.

While the US president has voiced confidence that Iran would eventually sign a nuclear deal, Tehran has said that Israeli strikes that targeted a slew of military and nuclear sites "dealt a blow" to diplomacy.



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabab, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.14.33

Date: 21/06/2025

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Brief Description of Tender | Publication Date | Last Selling Date & Time | Opening Date |
|---------|-----------|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1121878 | Supply of spare parts for different pumps, Metal gaskets and others | 19/06/2025 | 16/07/2025, 15:45 | 17/07/2025 |

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

21/06/2025

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabab, Sirajganj.

GD-1435

India will 'never' restore Indus water treaty

Says Amit Shah

AFP, New Delhi

New Delhi will "never" reinstate a key water treaty it suspended with Pakistan over deadly violence in India-administered Kashmir, the interior minister said in an interview published yesterday.

India halted the agreement following an April attack on civilians which it accused Pakistan of backing, a charge denied by Islamabad and one which was followed by days of fighting between the two foes.

Despite a ceasefire holding, India's interior minister said his government would not restore the treaty which governs river water critical to parched Pakistan.

"It will never be restored," interior minister Amit Shah told the Times of India.

"We will take the water that was flowing to Pakistan to Rajasthan (state) by constructing a canal. Pakistan will be starved of water that it has been getting unjustifiably," he added.

The 1960 Indus Water Treaty gave India and Pakistan three Himalayan rivers each and the right to hydropower and irrigation resources.

It established the India-Pakistan Indus Commission, which is supposed to resolve any problems that arise.

Islamabad last month said the treaty was a "no go area", after New Delhi announced it would maintain its suspension following the ceasefire.

"The treaty can't be amended, nor can it be terminated by any party unless both agree," Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said.

Halting the water agreement was one of a series of tit-for-tat diplomatic measures taken by both countries in the immediate aftermath of the Kashmir attack.

New Delhi has not made public any evidence of Islamabad's alleged involvement in the April 22 killing by gunmen of mostly Indian tourists.

During the four days of fighting which followed in May, more than 70 people were killed in missile, drone and artillery fire. It was the worst standoff between the nuclear-armed neighbours since 1999.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Environment

Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
8th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban
E/16, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Ministry/Division: | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. |
| 2 | Agency: | Department of Environment (DoE) |
| 3 | Procuring Entity Name: | Project Director, Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project. |
| 4 | Procuring Entity Code: | 1450301-223053500 |
| 5 | Procuring Entity District: | Dhaka |
| 6 | Invitation For: | Computer and Accessories |
| 7 | Invitation Ref No.: | 22.02.0000.045.14.003.25-104 |
| 8 | Date: | 19 June 2025 |
| 9 | KEY INFORMATION | |
| 10 | Procurement Method: | Open Tendering Method (OTM) NCT. |
| 11 | FUNDING INFORMATION | |
| 12 | Budget and Source of Funds: | GEF through UNDP |
| 13 | Development Partner: | UNDP |
| 14 | Particular Information | |
| 15 | Project Code: | 223053500 |
| 16 | Project Name: | Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project. |
| 17 | Tender Package No.: | GD-09 |
| 18 | Tender Package Name: | Computer and Accessories |
| 19 | Tender Publication Date: | 22 June 2025 |
| 20 | Tender Last Selling Date and Time: | 20 July 2025 at 12:00pm |
| 21 | Tender Opening Date and Time: | 21 July 2025 at 12:30pm |
| 22 | Name & Addresses of the Offices: | Tender Document Selling & Receiving: Project Director, EbM-ECA Project, 8th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. |

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 23 | Eligibility of Tenderer: | 1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 05 (five) years. 2. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 3 (Three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 8.00 lac. 3. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 08.00 lac. |
| 24 | Price of Tender Document: | 500.00 (Taka Five hundred Only) Cash Only. (Non-Refundable) |
| 25 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender: | Project Director, Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh |
| 26 | Address of Official Inviting Tender: | Poribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. |
| 27 | Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender: | Phone:+880-222221860 Email: fmmunni@yahoo.com |
| 28 | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. | |

Fadi 21/06/2025
Farhana Mustari
Project Director
fmmunni@yahoo.com

GD-1438

Identify and reject false murder cases

They obstruct justice and victimise the innocent

We are dismayed and baffled by the arrest of Mahmudul Haque, an assistant professor of journalism at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, who is well known for marching alongside students and the general public during the July uprising in Rangpur. He was also vocal in demanding justice for the killing of Abu Sayed, a martyr of the July uprising. Mahmudul has been accused in a murder case involving the death of Samesh Uddin, a grocery shop owner in Rangpur, along with 53 others, including ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader. Samesh died on August 2, and a report in this paper cites residents of the area saying he died of a heart attack while fleeing from his shop after police attempted to arrest a local Jamaat leader. Samesh's son has confirmed that his father had a heart condition.

Mahmudul has become a victim of the spree of false cases against people over the July-August killings by the Sheikh Hasina regime. This paper has extensively reported on and published editorials about the dangerous trend of murder cases (related to the July uprising killings) against hundreds of people. In June this year, Md Selim, a grocer, was listed as the deceased victim in a murder case over the July uprising killings. A report in this daily found that Md Selim was alive, and that he had been declared "dead" as part of a conspiracy by his brothers over an inheritance issue. Thus, murder cases are being filed, and sometimes the accused are imprisoned on flimsy and false grounds.

In many of these cases, the accused are from the hometown (not Dhaka) of the victims, even though the killings in question occurred in Dhaka. These false cases are filed not to seek justice, but rather due to personal vendettas. In most cases, those who have filed the case, usually a relative of the murdered victim, do not even know those they have accused—with the names being supplied by others.

We are disappointed that, despite the law adviser's assurance that no innocent persons accused in these cases would be arrested, this has continued, with Mahmudul's arrest being one of the latest examples. This indiscriminate filing of murder cases against individuals on such tenuous grounds must stop.

Apart from the trauma experienced by the accused, this trend will also hamper the legal process of securing justice for the actual victims of the July uprising killings. The government must immediately take action to ensure that nobody can file a false murder case, and that the police personnel who register such cases are held accountable. The interim government must ensure that each of these cases is assessed to determine whether it is plausible and not filed in order to settle personal scores.

Solution to Rohingya crisis urgently needed

The protracted crisis could pose threat to regional security

We are deeply concerned about the increasingly complex Rohingya situation in the country, with no progress in the repatriation process and the persistent crisis in Myanmar. Global funding cuts have made the situation particularly alarming, depriving Rohingya refugees of their most basic necessities. Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain has therefore rightly warned the UN that, if a sustainable solution is not urgently pursued, the Rohingya crisis could soon escalate into a serious threat to regional security. Highlighting that prolonged crises often stem from systemic marginalisation, the adviser rightly urged renewed international attention and action to facilitate the safe and dignified return of the Rohingya people.

Bangladesh has been hosting 1.2 million Rohingya people for over eight years now, despite the fact that this humanitarian act has placed immense socio-economic and environmental pressures on the country. Unfortunately, despite several attempts, not a single Rohingya sheltered in Bangladesh has been repatriated to Myanmar. In fact, the situation has worsened, with around 150,000 Rohingya people arriving in Bangladesh in recent months, having fled escalating clashes between the Arakan Army and Myanmar's ruling military junta. Bangladesh has already been struggling to provide shelter and basic services to the existing Rohingyas. What will happen if 50,000 more arrive by the end of the year, as a WFP report has projected?

The recent funding cuts have made it increasingly difficult for Bangladesh to provide Rohingya refugees with their basic necessities. Reportedly, only 19 percent of the funds required for Rohingya refugees this year have been secured, even though five months of the year have already passed—out of the \$934 million required, only \$180 million has been received so far. This funding gap has already disrupted numerous essential services, including health, education, family planning and nutrition. Aid agencies warn that the situation could deteriorate further without immediate financial support. Access to healthcare and education in the refugee camps has already sharply declined. For instance, the number of patients seeking medical care fell from 372,000 in February to 205,000 in April. Meanwhile, with the closure of learning centres, the education of 230,000 children—and the livelihoods of hundreds of local teachers—are in jeopardy. Rohingya children's safety is also at greater risk.

Clearly, the situation is critical and may lead to an increase in criminal activities in and around the camps. With worsening safety conditions, more refugees may resort to dangerous sea routes. Women and girls will be particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence. We therefore urgently call on the international community to provide much-needed humanitarian aid and to play an active role in finding a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Maradona scores "Hand of God" goal

On this day in 1986, Argentine football player Diego Maradona scored his memorable "Hand of God" goal to help Argentina defeat England in a World Cup quarterfinal game; Argentina went on to win the tournament.

EDITORIAL

What Bangladesh can learn from Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore

Syed Samiul Huq
is a digital infrastructure entrepreneur and an alumnus of Harvard Business School (HBS). He can be reached at: samiul.huq@bahon.com

SYED SAMIUL HUQ

In 1965, few gave Singapore a chance. Thrust into sudden independence, devoid of natural resources, rocked by communal tensions and political isolation, the island city-state seemed destined to fail. Yet by the 1990s, Singapore had transformed into one of the most dynamic and prosperous economies in the world.

At the helm of this improbable rise was Lee Kuan Yew. His leadership combined bold vision, ruthless pragmatism, and an uncompromising commitment to long-term national development. His immediate assurance to his people was to build a Singapore that would be recognisable and identifiable. But beyond charisma and control, Singapore's rise offers a more replicable asset for a country like Bangladesh today: an economics-driven blueprint for navigating uncertainty and achieving productivity-led growth.

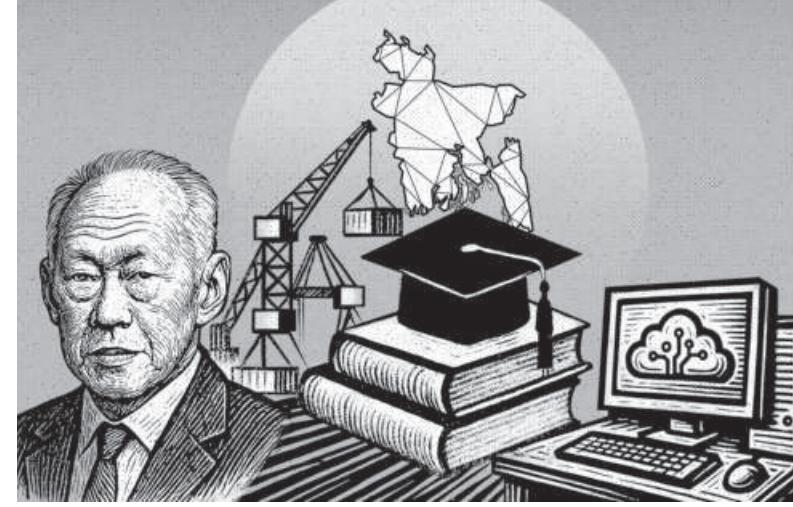
One of my favourite professors at Harvard Business School, Rafael Di Tella, argues that sustainable prosperity depends not just on the quantity of inputs like labour or capital, but on how efficiently those inputs are used—a concept known as Total Factor Productivity (TFP). TFP captures gains made through better resource allocation, continual innovation, and institutional efficiency. If Bangladesh is to achieve its vision of becoming a developed economy by 2041, it must shift its focus from merely adding more inputs to increasing the productivity of everything it already has.

Singapore internalised the TFP principle early. Its economic planners understood that to move up the value chain, the country had to not only produce more, but produce smarter. In the 1970s, the focus was on low-cost assembly and employment generation. By the 1990s, the economy had successfully pivoted to high-value sectors such as biomedical sciences, precision engineering, and financial services. This shift wasn't accidental—rather, it was the outcome of deliberate choices to enhance skill levels, embrace foreign technology, and streamline

policy execution.

For Bangladesh, this means a national growth narrative that is no longer input-driven (labour-intensive, consumption-based), but TFP driven. To do so requires urgent investment in vocational and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education, logistics and digital infrastructure, and a regulatory regime that reduces friction and enhances operational efficiency across industries.

TFP growth cannot occur in a vacuum. It depends on institutions that can allocate resources effectively and adapt to new innovations continuously.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Singapore's institutions—particularly the Economic Development Board (EDB)—functioned like strategic investors, not just administrators. Civil servants were rotated across ministries, incentivised through globally competitive compensation, and held to performance standards often exceeding those of the private sector.

Lee Kuan Yew understood that if you want efficiency, you must first reward competence and enforce accountability. This institutional depth made Singapore attractive not just for its infrastructure, but for the predictability and transparency of its policy environment.

Bangladesh must now build this same institutional muscle. Agencies like Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, and

National Board of Revenue must evolve from being procedural bottlenecks to becoming proactive enablers of growth. Digitisation, depoliticisation, and performance-linked governance must replace outdated practices. Stronger institutions are not a political luxury. They are economic imperatives for sustained productivity growth.

A central element of Professor Di Tella's productivity framework is efficient resource allocation: channelling capital and labour into sectors with the highest potential return. Singapore mastered this through industrial policy that was both targeted and technocratic. Temasek

collection of unaligned ministries.

TFP also depends on the quality of investment, not just its quantity. Singapore's high domestic savings—mobilised through the Central Provident Fund (CPF)—were reinvested in housing, infrastructure, and technology, reducing its dependence on volatile external debt.

Bangladesh's growing external debt and low national savings rate are warning signs. A contributory pension system, linked with sovereign investment funds, could unlock domestic capital for long-term infrastructure and innovation funding—two core enablers of TFP. Financial stability is not just about macroeconomics. It is about ensuring that scarce capital is deployed productively and transparently.

One of the most underappreciated drivers of Singapore's productivity was its predictable, rule-based environment. Investors knew what to expect. Policies weren't reversed overnight, and governance wasn't held hostage to electoral calculations. While Singapore's political model may not be directly replicable, the principle of decoupling long-term economic strategy from short-term politics is essential.

Bangladesh must explore institutional frameworks that protect economic priorities from partisan fluctuations. A bipartisan fiscal council, an empowered planning commission, and a non-partisan sovereign investment board could insulate key economic decisions and build investor confidence over time.

Bangladesh is not Singapore—and it doesn't need to be. Our scale, democracy, and socio-political dynamics are distinct. But the economic logic of Singapore's transformation, led by TFP, is universal.

Lee Kuan Yew famously said, "I always tried to be correct, not politically correct." Bangladesh needs a similar mindset. It's time to move from populist impulses to purposeful planning. From siloed projects to coherent strategy. From incremental input growth to exponential productivity gains.

If Singapore could leap from uncertainty to unmatched success, so can we. The playbook is open. The path is proven. The only variable left is our will.

Justice-based approach needed in reproductive health



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MD NURUZZAMAN KHAN

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo marked a major shift in global development by centring human rights, gender equality, and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the pursuit of sustainability. It moved beyond population control to a people-centred, rights-based approach that emphasised equitable access to healthcare, education, women's empowerment, and reproductive autonomy. Countries were urged to provide universal SRH services, reduce maternal mortality, end gender-based violence, prevent child marriage, and uphold informed reproductive choice. As an early supporter, Bangladesh integrated ICPD principles into national policy, aligning them with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and later the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While progress has been made—particularly in lowering fertility, expanding family planning, and reducing maternal deaths—gaps in gender equality, disability inclusion, adolescent-friendly services, and social equity continue to hinder the full realisation of the ICPD vision.

Since the ICPD, the country has succeeded in reducing the total fertility rate (from 4.6 percent in 1990 to 2.0 percent in 2022) and maternal mortality rate (from 574 to 123 deaths per 100,000 live births between 1990

and 2020). These gains align with ICPD commitments, as well as MDG 5 and the SDGs. Government initiatives in midwifery training, institutional deliveries, emergency obstetric care, reducing inequality, ensuring universal SRH access, and advancing gender equality have played a role. The Adolescent Reproductive Health Strategy (2006) and the National Strategy for Adolescent Health (2017-2030) have been implemented. The government has also maintained a progressive stance on menstrual regulation and expanded post-abortion care to reduce unsafe procedures. Legal reforms—such as the Domestic Violence Act (2010) and the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017)—signal a growing recognition of structural barriers to SRHR.

However, despite progress on quantitative targets, the country has been less successful in ensuring rights-based SRHR and addressing emerging issues, notwithstanding efforts by the government, UN agencies, and other actors. Initiatives to promote bodily autonomy, shift gender norms, and support informed choice have been limited. Family planning programmes have traditionally focused on women, with minimal male involvement, reinforcing the notion that reproductive responsibility lies solely with them. These programmes have also been target driven, at times resulting in coercive practices to

ensure contraceptive uptake. While contraceptive use initially rose, it has since plateaued, with ongoing issues such as stock-outs and provider shortages.

Child marriage, explicitly identified in the ICPD agenda as a major barrier to gender equality and health, remains widespread in Bangladesh. Over half of women aged 20-24 were married before 18, and 27 percent gave birth before the age of 19. Although the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017) prohibits under-age marriage, enforcement is weak and often undermined by social norms and legal loopholes allowing exceptions under "special circumstances." Persistent drivers such as poverty, gender inequality, and limited education continue to fuel early marriage—now compounded by digital platforms, including social media and mobile phones. Yet current initiatives have not adapted to these emerging challenges. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) remains largely absent or is delivered by underprepared or uncomfortable educators, constrained by persistent social taboos. These issues, combined with misinformation on social media, early sexuality, and restricted access to contraception for unmarried adolescents—despite growing evidence of premarital sex among them—make them vulnerable to early pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and exploitation. Moreover, although the ICPD calls for inclusion of marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities and gender-diverse individuals, SRH programmes in Bangladesh often exclude them due to structural barriers and a lack of focus.

While climate change was not originally a central theme of the ICPD, it has become an increasingly urgent concern. In flood-prone and disaster-affected regions, climate emergencies severely disrupt access to maternal health services, contraception, safe delivery, menstrual hygiene, and post-abortion care. These disruptions not only jeopardise health but also increase the risk of gender-based violence—including exploitation, early and forced marriage, and sexual assault—particularly in overcrowded shelters or during displacement. The breakdown of protective systems during crises further limits women's and girls' ability to make informed, autonomous reproductive choices. Despite these clear vulnerabilities, SRHR remains largely absent from climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies. Without integrating SRHR and gender-based violence prevention into climate policies, the compounded risks to women, girls, and marginalised groups will remain unaddressed.

Three decades after Cairo, Bangladesh's progress in fertility reduction and maternal health is undeniable. Yet the deeper goals of the ICPD—centred on justice, equity, inclusion, and autonomy—remain unrealised for many. As Bangladesh approaches ICPD-30 in 2025, a paradigm shift is essential. The country must move beyond demographic targets to a rights-based approach rooted in reproductive justice. This requires dismantling systemic barriers and addressing social and gender inequalities that limit access and autonomy. CSE must be universal, context-appropriate, and delivered by trained educators. Family planning programmes should emphasise choice, dignity, and shared responsibility, actively engaging men and reaching underserved groups, including people with disabilities and gender-diverse individuals. SRH must also be integrated into climate and disaster resilience plans, particularly for vulnerable populations.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Maradona scores "Hand of God" goal

On this day in 1986, Argentine football player Diego Maradona scored his memorable "Hand of God" goal to help Argentina defeat England in a World Cup quarterfinal game; Argentina went on to win the tournament.

Israel and the reinvention of bio-necro-politics



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FARIDUL ALAM

When Michel Foucault theorised biopolitics, he identified a momentous transformation in the mechanics of state power: from the sovereign's prerogative to take life to the modern state's obligation to foster, regulate, and optimise it. The now canonical formula—"make live and let die"—described a shift where public health, census data, birth rates, and urban planning replaced execution and spectacle as tools of governance. Yet what we witness today in Gaza and the broader occupied Palestinian territories is neither a straightforward continuation of this model nor a mere return to sovereign violence. Rather, it is a radical reinvention—an unprecedented fusion of biopolitical management with necropolitical elimination.

Israel has engineered what might best be called bio-necro-politics: a regime in which the technologies of life and death, care and coercion, surveillance and erasure operate not in contradiction, but in concert. In Gaza, this apparatus not only kills—it governs through calibrated suffering. Innocent civilians, particularly women and children, are not spared even in hospitals, shelters, or so-called safe zones. Beyond the immediate toll of airstrikes and sieges, what unfolds is a slower, more insidious orchestration of death—administered with genocidal intent and bureaucratic precision. Israel allows just enough sustenance to forestall mass starvation, just enough medicine to prevent total collapse, while systematically denying everything that makes life dignified: mobility, education, healthcare, security. Gaza is not simply a battlefield. It is a crucible where the very frameworks of power and human dignity are being dismantled, transforming existence into mere endurance and survival into an arena of imposed subjugation. A calculus of bare survival

In Gaza, survival is not a human right—it is a variable, calculated by the occupying power. Israeli officials once admitted to computing the precise number of calories allowed into Gaza to avoid outright famine while "putting pressure" on Hamas. The goal was not to kill, but to make death visible just enough to become a tool of control. Fuel is rationed. Water desalination is blocked. Medical access is obstructed. Borders are sealed.

This is not collateral damage—it is the architecture of domination. The aim is to degrade life to its bare minimum without extinguishing it entirely. What Giorgio Agamben calls bare life—life stripped of rights, voice, and political existence—becomes institutionalised policy. In Gaza, bombings are not followed by resolution, but by a grim choreography of provisional relief, token reconstruction, and the swift return of siege. The rhythm is not one of war and peace, but of perpetual suspension—a managed stagnation in which devastation is

sites—including Natanz and Fordow—killing several senior commanders and others. Two days later, the strike continued, eliminating senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps intelligence officials. These were not acts of battlefield necessity—there was no imminent attack to thwart. Instead, they reflect a deliberate doctrinal shift: diplomacy itself, in its potential to normalise ties, negotiate de-escalation, or forge a future, is being treated

of pacification. Medical supplies become instruments of subjugation. This is not humanitarianism in the traditional sense; it is a "carceral humanitarianism" in which suffering is administered rather than alleviated.

In this perverse economy, the aid truck does not oppose the drone—it completes its work. The management of life is subsumed under the regulation of death. Fragmentation as sovereignty

are now marketed globally. Governments across the Global South and even liberal democracies have adopted these tools under the guise of counterterrorism and border control.

Palestine becomes the prototype. What is tested on the stateless, the occupied, and the besieged is repackaged and deployed against migrants, dissidents, and the poor worldwide.



Palestinians inspect the damage at the Dar Al-Arqam school, where displaced people shelter, after it was hit by an Israeli strike, in Gaza City, April 4, 2025.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

as a threat to be preemptively neutralised. The message is unmistakable: diplomacy is not a path to peace—it's a liability.

Even more disturbing is the public articulation of Israel's intent to assassinate Iran's supreme leader "at the earliest opportunity." This is not simply a military objective—it is an ontological one. It aims not just to decapitate a regime but to erase its symbolic and theological foundation. In this logic, the enemy is no longer defined by behaviour, but by identity.

What emerges is a necropolitical doctrine in which the future is not safeguarded but systematically extinguished. Israel is no longer preventing attacks. It is killing futures. Humanitarianism as control

The weaponisation of humanitarianism is perhaps the most insidious aspect of Israel's bio-necro politics. Aid does not function as a rupture in the logic of violence—it reinforces it. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and similar mechanisms operate not to dismantle the blockade but to manage its consequences. Aid becomes the soft face of coercion.

Israel permits just enough food, fuel, and medicine to avert a full-blown humanitarian crisis, while ensuring that the conditions of siege remain intact. Flour becomes a form

Israel has not only remapped the spatial coordinates of Palestinian life; it has dismembered its political coherence. Gaza is fenced. The West Bank is a mosaic of checkpoints, settler bypass roads, and closed military zones. East Jerusalem is surrounded by surveillance towers. Each fragment is governed by a separate legal regime, movement restrictions, and administrative procedures.

This fragmentation is not incidental—it is constitutive. The very idea of a unified Palestinian body politic is rendered impossible. Political agency is replaced by biometric registration. Sovereignty is replaced by logistical control.

Here, the permit becomes the new passport. The checkpoint becomes the new parliament. Sovereignty is not merely denied—it is dissolved into a bureaucratic maze of control. Life is governed not by laws but by spatial algorithms. From prototype to export model.

What makes this regime even more alarming is its portability. Israel does not merely deploy these technologies for internal use—it exports them. Drones, predictive surveillance software, biometric control systems—all "field tested" on Palestinians—

Israel's reinvention of bio-necro-politics is thus not an anomaly—it is a global harbinger. The future that must be resisted

Israel's rule over Gaza and the occupied territories reveals a political formation that collapses the distinctions between life and death, care and coercion, visibility and erasure. This is not simply the brutal enforcement of occupation—it is the design of a future in which control is total, identity is data, and power is exercised through the management of life's thresholds.

What is being rehearsed in Gaza is not limited to a conflict over land. It is a radical restructuring of governance itself—where the state no longer manages life in order to secure the future, but eliminates futures in order to secure the state.

This bio-necro-political order is not only morally indefensible—it is globally contagious. To confront it is not merely to stand in solidarity with Palestinians. It is to defend the very possibility of life with dignity, futures with meaning, and politics without death at its centre. Gaza is not just a site of suffering—it is the test case of a dystopian future we must resist.

Can Bangladesh's urban drainage survive climate change?



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NAHIAN RAHMAN

The sky rips open, and within an hour, Dharmundi is knee-deep—not just in puddles, but in a murky, swirling current that transforms familiar streets into treacherous rivers. The roar of car engines gives way to the slosh of water, and the vibrant life of Dhaka grinds to a halt. Just a few hours of rain, and our cities become aquatic ghost towns. Students, their hopes for exams drowned by the rising tide, stare despondently from waterlogged apartments. Rickshaw-pullers, their livelihoods quite literally afloat, huddle under makeshift shelters. Small businesses—the lifeblood of our communities—watch helplessly as their inventory succumbs to the invasive floodwaters. What happens when the monsoon truly peaks? More critically, what is the actual, agonising state of our drainage systems?

This recurring nightmare is no accident—it is the by product of Bangladesh's rapid, unplanned urbanisation, where drainage infrastructure has failed to keep pace with city expansion. In Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet and Barishal, even moderate rain now triggers widespread waterlogging. The roots of this crisis are threefold. First, rampant encroachment on canals, floodplains and wetlands—nature's own drainage systems—has throttled water flow, turning once broad channels into clogged trickles. Second, the drainage blueprints still in use were designed decades ago for a different climate and a far

and coordination is virtually absent. This toxic mix of encroachment, outdated design, and bureaucratic disarray turns every rainstorm into a disaster, drowning infrastructure and livelihoods alike.

The relentless urban flooding we witness today is not merely a consequence of poor planning—it is the unmistakable, undeniable face of climate change manifesting as urban chaos. Beyond the widely discussed threats

despite Bangladesh consistently ranking among the most climate-vulnerable nations on the Global Climate Risk Index, national adaptation discourse remains disproportionately focused on rural resilience and coastal defences. Urban centres—dense with population and economic assets—remain dangerously under prioritised. This blind spot in planning and policy is no longer just an oversight; it is a critical vulnerability that leaves millions exposed to cascading climate risks. Recognising the urban flood crisis as part of the climate emergency is not optional—it is long overdue.

If climate change is the accelerant, then poor governance is the kindling. Beneath the rising waters lies a tangle of institutional dysfunction and impunity that sabotages effective action. When Dhaka North goes underwater, blame ricochets from WASA to the City Corporation to RAJUK—yet no agency is held accountable. This bureaucratic merry-go-round ensures that drainage failures are met not with reform, but with finger-pointing. Despite ballooning budgets for drain cleaning and flood prevention, there is little transparency about where the money goes—and even less public trust in how it is spent. Meanwhile, unregulated construction continues to encroach on canals, wetlands and stormwater routes with near-total impunity. Developers routinely fill up vital water bodies, and legal enforcement is either toothless or non-existent. This systematic erasure of natural drainage not only worsens flooding—it cements it as a feature, not a flaw, of urban life. Until we fix who governs water, we will continue drowning in the consequences.

The grim reality demands not just recognition of the problem, but a swift and transformative shift towards comprehensive solutions. Crucially, this involves embracing nature-based solutions that work with, rather than against, our natural hydrology. This means aggressively reviving and restoring



The drainage blueprints still in use were designed decades ago for a different climate and a far smaller population.

FILE PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

smaller population. Today's intense rainfall and relentless concrete sprawl quickly overwhelm systems built for 25–30 mm per hour, while actual downpours often double that. Third, overlapping mandates among key agencies—WASA, city corporations and RAJUK—have created a maze of fragmented responsibilities. No one is fully accountable. Yet

of rising sea levels and coastal erosion, Bangladesh is now grappling with erratic rainfall patterns, sudden cloudbursts, and increasingly extreme weather events that overwhelm city infrastructure within minutes. Our metropolises, already strained by haphazard growth, are now confronting a new, intensified hydrological reality. Yet

our choked canals, turning them back into functioning arteries for water flow instead of stagnant waste receptacles. Furthermore, we must actively pursue the creation of urban retention ponds and expand green spaces that can absorb excess rainfall, acting as vital sponges during deluges. Innovations such as green roofing and permeable pavements must become standard practice in urban development, allowing water to infiltrate the ground naturally rather than overwhelm drainage systems.

We do not need to reinvent the wheel; successful models exist globally. Singapore's ABC Waters Programme—which integrates water bodies into the urban landscape for both drainage and recreation—offers a powerful blueprint. What Bangladesh desperately needs is a Drainage Master Plan 2.0: a forward-looking strategy that not only updates archaic designs but fundamentally integrates the latest climate data and rigorously enforces wetland zoning laws. This cannot be a top-down directive. It requires active, regular dialogue and collaboration among urban planners, climate scientists, engineers and local communities—the very people who live and breathe these challenges. Only by working together can we design and implement a resilient drainage system capable of facing the climate realities of tomorrow.

The choice before us is stark. If we fail to fix our urban drainage systems now, the floods of the future will not merely damage property and disrupt daily life—they will systematically drown opportunity. They will wash away the entrepreneurial spirit of our small businesses and stifle economic growth. They will erode public health, fostering outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Most tragically, they will extinguish hope, leaving our citizens trapped in a cycle of despair and vulnerability. The time for action is not tomorrow, but today. Our collective future, and the very liveability of our cities, depends on it.

A pillar of Bangladeshi PHOTOGRAPHY COLLAPSES



His journey began in 1977, with his professional career taking off in 1978. Emerging in a nascent, post-war Bangladesh where unconventional careers faced skepticism and resources were scarce, Mahmood's dedication was a testament to his passion.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

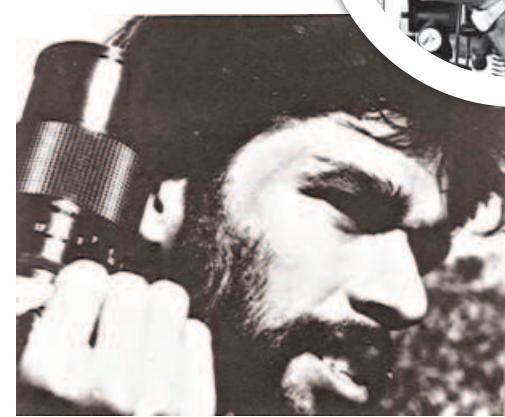
"I live every moment", Chanchal Mahmood frequently said to his friends and colleagues. Even throughout his last days, when he faced considerable physical ailments, alongside the mental trauma of his wife, Raina Mahmood, battling cancer, he genuinely tried to stand by his life's philosophy of 'painting with light.'

The Bangladeshi photographer, educator, and journalist breathed his last on Friday, June 20, at approximately 9:30pm, while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Dhaka. He was 68. The pioneer in Bangladeshi photography had been battling various health complications for an extended period, a battle he fought with characteristic resilience until the end.

Chanchal Mahmood was not just a photographer; he was a visionary who profoundly shaped the landscape of visual arts in Bangladesh. Born on March 13, 1957, in Dhaka, with ancestral roots in Narsingdi, Mahmood initially harboured dreams of becoming a painter. However, it was the astute

guidance of his teacher, Rafiqun Nabi, who recognised his innate talent for composition and aesthetic sensibility, that steered him towards photography with the timeless advice to "paint with light." This pivotal moment set him on a path that he found profoundly fulfilling.

His journey began in 1977, with his professional career taking off in 1978. Emerging in a nascent, post-war Bangladesh where unconventional careers faced skepticism and resources were scarce, Mahmood's dedication was a testament to his passion. He is widely credited as a pioneer in the professionalisation of model and fashion photography in Bangladesh, elevating the craft and setting new standards for an industry still in its infancy. His keen eye extended beyond



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

guidance, capturing the nuances of daily life, landscapes, and news, and showing a particular fondness for working with children.

Beyond his lens, Chanchal Mahmood was a revered educator. He established Chanchal Mahmood Photography, through

which he mentored thousands of aspiring photographers, nurturing new talent and contributing immensely to the growth of the photographic community. He often expressed immense pride in the success of his students, finding deep accomplishment in their recognition of his guidance.

His philosophy was deeply rooted in its power as a historical document. He believed in the medium's ability to preserve moments for future generations, often lamenting the lack of a dedicated institution to properly archive and honour the works of past Bangladeshi photographers.

He viewed photography as a potent tool for social commentary and positive change, consistently advocating for its role in shaping public discourse.

Throughout his illustrious career, Chanchal Mahmood received numerous accolades, including the Ekushey Padak.

More recently, in 2022, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Babisas Awards. He was also an active member of the Bangladesh Photographic Society, Proof News, and the Commonwealth Journalism Society.

In his personal life, Chanchal Mahmood was the younger of two brothers, born to Mohammad Bashiruddin and Firoza Begum. He is survived by his wife Raina Mahmood; their son, Nabil; and their daughters, Raisa and Barsha.

Chanchal Mahmood's passing leaves a void in the photographic landscape of Bangladesh. Yet, his immense legacy of groundbreaking imagery, dedicated mentorship, and an unwavering belief in the power of the camera lives on. Many stars of the 90s and 2000s were first photographed by him. Beyond that, his humility, persistence, and willingness to bring up others will remain his legacy.

BTS set for 2026 reunion as Suga completes military service



BTS rapper and producer Suga has officially completed his alternative military service, marking the discharge of all seven members of the K-pop group from South Korea's conscription system, according to an Associated Press report.

Big Hit Entertainment, under Hybe, confirmed that Suga ended his service on June 18, with his official discharge date set for June 21. He served as a social service agent due to a past shoulder surgery, while the other members served in the military.

With Suga's discharge, the group is set for a full-group return in 2026. RM, V, Jimin, and Jungkook were discharged earlier this month, followed by Jin in June 2024 and J-Hope in October 2024.

BTS had announced in 2022 that all members would complete service without seeking exemption.

Jon Bernthal to appear in 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day'



Jon Bernthal is set to appear as Frank Castle, aka *The Punisher*, in the upcoming Marvel-Sony film *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*; multiple sources confirmed.

The film, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton of *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, begins production this summer in England and continues the storyline from *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. Tom Holland returns as Peter Parker, joined by Zendaya and Jacob Batalon, with *Stranger Things* star Sadie Sink also joining in an undisclosed role.

Bernthal, who first played the Punisher in the Netflix series and recently appeared in *Daredevil: Born Again*, is also co-writing a Disney+ special centred on the character.

NEWS

Dhaka, Beijing and Islamabad talk

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh's acting foreign secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, and Pakistani Additional Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui attended the meeting, while Pakistani Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch participated via a video link.

The foreign ministry statement said the meeting identified several areas for deeper cooperation including infrastructure, connectivity, trade, investment, healthcare, agriculture, maritime affairs, ICT, disaster preparedness, and climate change.

The three sides agreed to forge cooperation on the principles of openness, inclusivity, good neighbourliness and win-win situation, it added.

Bangladesh acting foreign secretary mentioned that as partners of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the three nations could work together in aligning respective national visions with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

It is important to forge a robust partnership among the three friendly nations to deliver real benefits to

their peoples and to improve their livelihoods, it said.

China and Pakistan issued separate statements on the meeting.

China's Sun Weidong in a statement said, "Bangladesh and Pakistan are both good neighbours, good friends, and good partners of China, and important partners in high quality belt and road cooperation."

All three countries face the mission of national revitalisation and modernisation, and all require a peaceful and stable environment, he added.

The cooperation among China, Pakistan and Bangladesh aligns with the common interests of the three peoples, and can contribute to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, said the Chinese foreign ministry statement.

The three sides, after exchanging views extensively, agreed to advance trilateral cooperation based on the principles of good neighbourliness, equality and mutual trust, openness and inclusiveness, common development, and win-win cooperation, it added.

They also agreed to explore and

implement cooperation projects in such areas as industry, trade, maritime affairs, water resources, climate change, agriculture, human resources, think tanks, health, education, and culture, it said.

The three sides will establish a working group to follow up and implement the understandings reached during the meeting, it added.

"The three sides emphasised that China-Bangladesh-Pakistan cooperation adheres to true multilateralism and open regionalism, not directed at any third party," the statement said.

The statement released by Pakistan said Foreign Secretary Amna expressed her country's desire for a deeper engagement between China and South Asian countries.

She conveyed Pakistan's readiness to work with China and Bangladesh to enhance ties in trade and investment, agriculture, digital economy, environment protection, marine sciences, green infrastructure, culture, education and people-to-people exchanges.

Home plans glass walls

FROM PAGE 12

"Reforms are needed to put in place a human resource management system that will ensure fair recruitment, postings and promotions based on honesty, qualification, skills, and seniority," the official said.

REFORMS WITHIN SIX MONTHS

New crowd control measures will be introduced to ensure that police personnel act with restraint, protect civilians, and maintain peace. They must adhere to strict rules of engagement based on a five step use of force model followed by UN peacekeepers.

The approach to crowd control starts with visible presence and verbal warnings, escalating to non-lethal methods and minimal force only when necessary. Lethal force may be used as a last resort.

The ministry has informed the Cabinet Division that the advisory committee on law and order may review and decide in six months whether the Rapid Action Battalion remains necessary, given its controversial past and allegations of rights abuses.

The reform initiatives also include setting up of glass-walled interrogation cells in every police station to prevent custodial torture and deaths.

There have been allegations that law enforcers subject detainees to physical and mental torture during remand to get confessional statements and force their relatives to pay bribes.

Measures will be taken to ensure proper treatment of detainees and cleanliness in lockups at police stations and courts as well as in vehicles for prisoners. Female detainees must be interrogated respectfully in the presence of women officers.

There will be a ban on parading suspects at press briefings before courts deliver verdicts, and special cells will be set up at the offices of the chiefs of police units, allowing people to report rights violations and misconduct by law enforcers.

A guideline will be issued for police officers working in the hill areas to make sure that they respect local customs and social norms while enforcing law.

Ministry officials said the number of female police personnel will be increased to 28,248 from 16,801.

"We are committed to swiftly

Fair polls not possible without govt support: CEC

FROM PAGE 12

interim government and the BNP, which suggested that the election could be held in the week before Ramadan in the first half of February 2026.

"We are in touch with the government but not daily. The election schedule will be announced on time, and you will be informed once it's finalised."

In response to a question on whether the EC would sit with the government to announce the national election date, he said: "A formal meeting isn't necessary for that. We are already in contact with the government through both formal and informal channels. When the time comes, everyone will know where's nothing we are hiding."

Referring to the election plan, he said: "We don't call it a roadmap. Different people use different terms -- some say schedule, others say roadmap. But rather than calling it a roadmap, you can consider it an action plan. We have that in place, and we began working on it quite some time ago."

Akhtar Ahmed, senior secretary of the Election Commission, and other officials were present at the event.

Galle Test ends

FROM PAGE 12

could have forced a result.

Instead, Bangladesh batted on for 12 more overs and, with the innings break taken into account, more than an hour of potentially valuable time was lost on a wearing fifth-day pitch.

The delay gave Sri Lanka some hope but their top order crumbled under pressure. Lahiru Udara was stumped off a cleverly flighted delivery by Taijul Islam, while Pathum Nissanka gifted his wicket to Naseem Hasan by spooning one straight to short mid-wicket.

Taijul struck two crucial blows, removing the experienced Angelo Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal in quick succession, but time ran out for Bangladesh.

Mathews, playing his 119th and final Test, walked off to a standing ovation as the crowd rose for one of Sri Lanka's greats.

The second Test will be played in Colombo next week.

Israeli fire kills

FROM PAGE 12

The Israeli blockade imposed in early March amid an impasse in truce negotiations had produced famine-like conditions across Gaza, according to rights groups.

Bassal told AFP that three people were killed on Saturday in an Israeli air strike on Gaza City in the north, and one more in another strike on the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Israeli forces also demolished more than 10 houses in Gaza City "by detonating them with explosives", he added.

Israeli restrictions on media in the Gaza Strip and difficulties in accessing some areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify the tolls and details provided by rescuers and authorities.

Earlier this week, the UN's World Health Organization warned that Gaza's health system was at a "breaking point", pleading for fuel to be allowed into the territory to keep its remaining hospitals running.

Since Israel launched its offensive in Gaza on October 7, 2023, at least 55,908 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the tiny Palestinian territory.

BNP to sue former ECs

FROM PAGE 12

and credibility.

The 2014 polls were boycotted by the BNP-led alliance, leaving 153 seats uncontested. Voter turnout was officially recorded at 51 percent, but violence and low participation raised questions about legitimacy.

In 2018, BNP contested under the Jatiya Oikya Front, but the election was marred by allegations of ballot-stuffing, voter intimidation and suppression of the opposition.

They also agreed to explore and

the total cases reported this year. The second highest number of cases reported in a single month was in May: 1,773.

Meanwhile, experts fear that the situation this year could spiral into a full-blown health crisis during the monsoon without immediate and coordinated action.

Despite early signs, the authorities have failed to take adequate pre-monsoon measures, leaving both urban and rural areas vulnerable to fast-spreading transmission, they said.

Last year, dengue claimed the lives of 575 people and infected 101,214 people, according to DGHS.

As of June 21, 3,084 cases were reported in June, which is 42 percent of

the total cases reported this year. The second highest number of cases reported in a single month was in May: 1,773.

Meanwhile, experts fear that the situation this year could spiral into a full-blown health crisis during the monsoon without immediate and coordinated action.

Despite early signs, the authorities have failed to take adequate pre-monsoon measures, leaving both urban and rural areas vulnerable to fast-spreading transmission, they said.

Ministry officials said the number of female police personnel will be increased to 28,248 from 16,801.

"We are committed to swiftly

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"We are committed to swiftly

NEWS

DMC suspends all

FROM PAGE 3
instead of complying with the directive to vacate the halls.

The old academic building, Dr Fazle Rabbi Hostel for male students, and Dr Alim Chowdhury Women's Hostel are in a dire state and no longer suitable for academic or residential use. However, despite repeated demands for renovation, no step has yet been taken," he said.

On May 27, a portion of the ceiling of the anatomy museum collapsed, prompting students to boycott classes from May 28, he mentioned.

"We are also demanding students' involvement in the renovation process to ensure transparency," he added.

According to the DMC press release, the Academic Council agreed with the students' demands and said the college has been working regularly with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with some effective steps already taken.

However, it stated that despite repeated notices and

arrangements for alternative accommodation, students from various batches have refused to cooperate, making it impossible to vacate the fourth floor of Dr Fazle Rabbi Hostel.

The floor has been declared abandoned by the Public Works Department, as it poses a serious threat to students' safety, it added.

The authorities also said that newly admitted students of the K-82 batch, either on their own or under influence, boycotted their orientation programme -- an event of critical academic importance. The college described this as a dark chapter in its history.

Noman, however, rejected the allegation of non-cooperation and claimed that students were not provided with viable alternatives for relocation. Established in 1946, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital stands as one of the leading institutions in the country for medical education and tertiary healthcare.

Surge in Swiss

FROM PAGE 3
The total deposits jumped to around 590 million Swiss francs in 2024, compared with only 17.7 million francs in 2023, said the latest annual report by the Swiss National Bank (SNB), published on Thursday.

Fakhruddin alleged that they [AL] destroyed the electoral system, state institutions, the judiciary, bureaucracy, and almost every other sector. "Now, the current [interim] government is trying to restore and fix all these sectors."

High-level BNP

FROM PAGE 3
Roy, Selima Rahman, and AZM Zahid Hossain.

BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council members Zahir Uddin Swapon, Ismail Jabiullah, and Prof Sukomal Barua, along with BNP Media Cell Convener Maudud Ahmed Pavel, will also join them.

Party sources said the visit aims to facilitate discussions on political developments in Bangladesh, reforms, and regional cooperation.

UIU revokes student

FROM PAGE 3
a single lane between Rampura and Badda.

"We will not leave until our demands are met. We've tried to raise our voices peacefully many times, but no one listened," said a protester.

The students alleged that the university expelled 26 of their peers without prior notice or explanation, calling the decision arbitrary and authoritarian.

They vowed to continue protesting until the expulsions are withdrawn and those responsible are held accountable.

Additional police were deployed to the area, and law enforcers began discussions with the university authorities to resolve the matter.

Later in the day, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) issued a statement saying efforts were underway to settle the issue peacefully. It also dismissed social media posts regarding the protest as "completely baseless" and urged the public not to spread confusion.

The DMP also said traffic on one side of the Badda-Kuril road remained unaffected.

In the evening, after withdrawing the blockade, the protesting students entered the Bhaban Police Station and demanded punishment of the policemen who charged batons and took action against the protesters, said Ishtiaq Ahmed, a student of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering department at UIU.

Later, Inspector (Investigation) Shujon Haque was withdrawn from the police station last night, OC Rakibul Hasan told The Daily Star.

The protesting students had placed a five-point demand -- unconditional withdrawal of the expulsion orders; a fair investigation and punishment of those responsible; reforms to address long-standing irregularities at UIU; formation of an independent reform commission for private universities; and scrapping the 15 percent tax imposed on private universities.

US pledges

FROM PAGE 3
that US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau met with Bangladesh's National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman in Washington on Wednesday to discuss the interim government's preparations for the upcoming national elections. "They discussed the US-Bangladesh relationship, including expanding trade and commercial ties," she said.

Most discussants supported a two-thirds threshold in the lower house and 51 percent in the upper house for practical reasons.

On the proposed National Constitution Council, some said a parliamentary body from the upper house may play the role. They recommended excluding the President and chief justice from the committee.

One speaker proposed an advisory body to assist the President in appointing heads of key constitutional institutions, including the Anti-Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Bangladesh Public Service Commission, alongside posts like the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Hasnat Qayum, chief coordinator of Rastra Sanskar Andolan, criticised the constitutional reform process for overlooking the

Proportional

option of a referendum. "We act as if parliament is sovereign, but it's the people who are. Their representatives must act according to the constitution," he said.

He said a PR system would ensure no votes are wasted.

AB Party Chief Mojibur Rahman Monju said the BNP has been acting as though it were in power and fears the PR system could reduce its dominance.

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolan, opposed a proposed rule requiring a party to get at least one percent of total votes to secure a seat in the upper house. He argued a party could win several seats in the lower house without crossing that threshold.

"This would discourage small parties, while the system is intended to empower them," he said.

Nagrik Coalition Coordinator Shahidul Alam presided over the discussion.

Teachers with mild

FROM PAGE 3
for recommendations of honest and competent individuals for education sector appointments.

"I requested Fakhruddin, setting aside all party considerations, to suggest honest and capable people from his circles, since they had previously run the government and had a large pool of members," he said.

According to Prof Wahiduddin, Fakhruddin responded candidly, saying, "None of our people have been able to rise to senior positions in the past 15 years. How do I know if any of them are honest or competent?"

Nevertheless, Prof Wahiduddin said he eventually did receive a list from BNP, though not strictly through party channels.

On the selection process, the adviser said, "I made it clear to those assisting with recommendations that no Awami League affiliates would be considered. The acceptable candidates were those with only mild or inactive links to BNP."

He acknowledged that, despite efforts to ensure neutrality, there had been

public debate and media scrutiny about the political backgrounds of the appointees.

"Major newspapers have investigated and reported on the political affiliations of appointees -- whether anyone had links with BNP, for example. In reality, almost every university teacher has some tag: white panel, blue panel, or rose. Is anyone truly neutral?" he asked.

He also noted this approach had become a joke within BNP circles, who say, "He (Prof Wahiduddin) never selects our active people, only the mild or inactive ones."

Prof Wahiduddin also reflected on the history of vice-chancellor appointments, saying from the Pakistan era to present-day Bangladesh, the focus was rarely on academic achievements like international publications and citations.

"This is the first time such standards have been seriously discussed and implemented. Earlier, these matters were never part of the conversation; instead, political background was

Protect heritage

FROM PAGE 4
"systematically demolished with the cooperation of the vice chancellor".

A few days earlier, an under-construction sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was vandalised in Kushtia. Two days prior to that, part of the "Madhusudan Dey Memorial Sculpture" in front of Madhur Canteen at Dhaka University was destroyed.

Previously, various incidents took place across the country -- stalls were vandalised at the Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka, cultural organisation Udichi's stalls were attacked and banners burned at the Satchira Book Fair, flower shops were damaged in Tangail, and the Lalor Festival was shut down. The Dhaka Metropolitan Theatre Festival was postponed, and spring festivals in Dhaka's Uttara and Chattogram were called off following attacks.

In addition, several other fairs and cultural events have

been closed. Shrines have been demolished, and music and dance performances have been banned.

Naripokkho noted that during and immediately after last year's July uprising, protesters vandalised and ransacked several government and historical establishments linked to the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

If those were reactions of the oppressed people who suffered immensely during Hasina's misrule, the vandalism and attacks on heritage sites continued across the country afterwards, even though the interim government is nearing completion of its one-year term, it said, raising serious concerns about government inaction in this regard.

The organisation urged the government to continue working toward building a just and discrimination-free Bangladesh, rising above political influence and pressure from vested groups.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer

Jhalakathi.

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo: 46.02.4200.000.07.027.25.1007

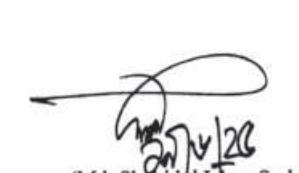
Date: 19/06/2025

Tender Notice No- 28/2024-25 (OTM: 133-140)

e-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work.

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Name of the work with Package No | Method of Procurement | Last Date of Selling | Last Date of Receiving Tender |
|---------|-----------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 133 | 1071360 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-69 Construction of 15.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Ponabalia UP office-Madhabpur bazar via Talukderhat Road at Ch.6434.00m (Road ID-542403001) Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi. Construction of 13.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Ponabalia UP office-Madhabpur bazar via Talukderhat Road at Ch.7200.00m (Road ID-542403001) Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi. | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 134 | 1071361 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-70 Construction of 12.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Ponabalia UP office-Madhabpur bazar via Talukderhat Road at Ch.7530.00m (Road ID-542403001) Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi. Construction of 19.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Ponabalia UP office-Madhabpur bazar via Talukderhat Road at Ch.9619.00m (Road ID-542403001) Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi. | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 135 | 1071362 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-71 Construction of 14.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Silarish Dhalu Fakir Bari-Bhoutita Govt.Pry. School Road at Ch.850.00m (Road ID-542405238) under Sadar Upazila District: Jhalakathi . Construction of 16.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Silarish Dhalu Fakir Bari-Bhoutita Govt.Pry. School Road at Ch.35.00m (Road ID-542405238) under Sadar Upazila District: Jhalakathi . | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 136 | 1117730 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-86 Construction of 40.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Kirtipasha LGED Road to Bidhan Mistry Bari Road at Ch.200m Road ID 542405316 Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi | OTM | 20-Jul-2025 17:00 | 21-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 137 | 1117731 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-87 Construction of 22.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Himanandokati-Satodaskati at Ch.2410m Road ID 542405027 Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 138 | 1117732 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-88 Construction of 17.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Himanandokati-Satodaskati at Ch.1917m Road ID 542405027 Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 139 | 1117733 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-89 Construction of 16.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Dogalchira-Betra khal at Ch.1610m Road ID 542405028 Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |
| 140 | 1117734 | IBRP/Jha/Sadar/Brg-85 Construction of 18.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Deulkati Etimkhana-Deulkati G.School R.d at Ch.0.00m Road ID 542405095 Under Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila. District. Jhalakathi | OTM | 13-Jul-2025 17:00 | 14-Jul-2025 12:00 |

e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Details information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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Teesta irrigation

FROM PAGE 4

Water Development Board in Rangpur, said, "Of the 750km of canals in the project, about half are now clogged with silt and waste. We're dredging these canals, aiming to expand coverage to one lakh hectares by next year, which will benefit around two lakh farmers." "Around 4.40 lakh tonnes of Boro paddy have been produced from 55,000 hectares of land within the project area this

year," he added.

Amitabh Chowdhury, executive engineer of the BWDB in Dalia, Nilphamari, said, "Farmers only pay 480 takas per acre for irrigation water annually under this project, but using groundwater it would cost them 14,000 to 15,000 takas."

The government plans to bring more land and farmers under the irrigation network in the coming years, he added.

Guidance to strengthen midwifery models of care

On 18 June, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released new guidance to help countries adopt and expand midwifery models of care—where midwives serve as the main providers throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period.

The guidance highlighted the benefits of midwifery-led care, including improved health outcomes and higher patient satisfaction. It emphasised that women receiving care from known midwives were more likely to have healthy vaginal births and feel empowered during the process. These models promoted informed choice, communication, and non-invasive techniques such as mobility during labour, emotional support, and alternative birthing positions.

WHO underscored midwifery models as a cost-effective solution, estimating that universal access to skilled midwives could prevent over 60% of maternal and newborn deaths, potentially saving 4.3 million lives annually by 2035.

The guidance also addressed the global trend of over-medicalisation, noting that while interventions like caesarean sections are life-saving when necessary, their routine overuse poses risks. Midwives were seen as key to restoring physiological, respectful birth practices and reducing unnecessary procedures.

The document provided tools and examples for countries to transition to midwifery-led care. It called for political commitment, long-term financing, and high-quality midwifery education and regulation. WHO also emphasised the importance of collaborative care, with midwives working autonomously yet closely with doctors and nurses.

The guidance outlined adaptable models such as continuity of care, midwife-led birth centres, community-based services, and regulated private practice—all aiming to ensure safe, person-centred maternity care globally.

Source: World Health Organisation



Getting rid of chronic lower back pain: my personal experience

FARUQUE HASAN

I was suffering from chronic lower back pain for more than three decades. No medication could cure me from the pain. Sometimes the pain was so severe that I had to keep lying down in the bed for ten or more days. Every movement in the bed would make me feel more pain. I could not walk or even sit. It would become very difficult for me to go to the washroom. Painkilling tablets, rubbing ointment, hot water bag—nothing could give me relief from the pain. Then I started practising yoga *Sphinx Pose*. In two months I got rid of the back pain. And for the last eight years, it did not occur. I also practise a few other yoga poses not related to back pain.

How to do the *Sphinx Pose*:

1. Lie on your stomach with your legs extended behind you.
2. Engage the muscles of your lower back, buttocks, and thighs.
3. Bring your elbows under your shoulders with your forearms on the floor and your palms facing down.
4. Slowly lift up your upper torso and head.
5. Gently lift and engage your lower abdominals to support your back.
6. Ensure that you are lifting up through your spine and out through the crown of your head, instead of collapsing into your lower back.
7. Keep your gaze straight ahead as you fully relax in this pose, while at the same time remaining active and engaged.
8. Stay in this pose for up to 5 minutes.
9. To come out, slowly lower your chest to the floor.
10. After doing the *Sphinx*, do its counter pose—the *Child's pose*—for a few minutes.

Please do not practise the *Sphinx* pose if you have carpal tunnel syndrome or a recent back or wrist injury. Women who are pregnant should avoid practising this pose. It should not be done within two hours after taking a meal. And it is to be done seven days a week.

Sphinx Pose lengthens the abdominal muscles, strengthens the spine, and firms the buttocks. It also stretches and opens the chest, lungs, and shoulders. It invigorates the body, soothes the nervous system, and is also therapeutic for fatigue.

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Sphinx Pose



Child's pose



DR ABDULLAHEL AMAAN & PROFESSOR MA MANNAN

There are approximately 6,500 newborn deaths every day in Bangladesh, amounting to 47% of all child deaths under the age of 5 years. Almost 75% of neonatal deaths occur during the first week of life, and about 1 million newborns die within the first 24 hours. The leading causes of neonatal death are premature birth, birth-related complications (birth asphyxia, birth trauma), neonatal infections and congenital anomalies.

The vulnerable newborns are treated in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) for intensive monitoring. Sometimes they need to stay there for weeks or more, which leads to a prolonged separation from their parents. During this period, free parental access in NICU is usually restricted to prevent dissemination of hospital-acquired infections.

Nurses take care of an admitted newborn in a NICU. Besides providing necessary medical care, nurses also ensure feeding expressed milk, many times with feeding tubes, changing nappies, washing and dressing the babies. As parents are not actively engaged in core healthcare activities, sometimes there occurs a lack of information sharing, parental participation in treatment decisions, and ultimately failure of mutual respect between health professionals and the child's family.

To alleviate such an issue, family-centred care (FCC) is now encouraged.

FCC means involving the family as much as possible in the routine care of their baby. It is an approach that prioritises the family as an integral part of the newborn's care and emphasises communication between healthcare providers and the family.

It recognises that the parents are not only mere attendants; rather, they are an important part of sick newborn care at hospitals. FCC also aims to decrease emotional trauma for families and empower them in their caregiving role for bringing positive outcomes for the newborn.

Healthcare professionals work with families as partners, sharing information, respecting their values, and collaborating on care decisions. This ensures open and honest communication with the parents and fosters trust between families and healthcare providers, which is crucial here.

It also helps the healthcare providers to get familiar with the family's culture, beliefs, and parenting practices. Families become more confident in their ability to care for their newborn, especially after discharge. FCC also helps the parents to develop confidence and skills in caring for their newborn. FCC ensures increased breastfeeding success.

FCC impacts early childhood development by addressing the developmental needs of the small and sick newborn. It protects them from the damaging effects of separation during inpatient care, such as safeguarding sleep, promoting

appropriate sensory interaction (i.e., smell, touch, sound), monitoring and managing pain and stress, and creating a healing environment. The parent's ability to adjust to preterm birth and the quality of early parent-infant relationships are suggested to be critical aspects that impact the development and acquisition of competencies later.

Key aspects related to neonatal FCC include the parents' presence in the ward and their participation in infants' daily care and decision-making processes.

For successful implementation of FCC in neonatal intensive care units, we have to ensure easy access for the parents in NICUs and their comfortable seating arrangements. Healthcare providers also need to be trained in FCC principles and practices.

Responsible and accountable acts from both the parents and healthcare professionals can bring better and sustainable healthcare outcomes for sick newborns. Family-centred care for sick newborns here is now a time-demanding strategy to practise.

The writers are the assistant professors of neonatology at the Institute of Child & Mother Health (ICMH), Mauaill, Dhaka, and Chairman of the Department of Neonatology at the Bangladesh Medical University (BMU), Dhaka, respectively. Emails: abdullahelamaan@gmail.com, drmannan64@gmail.com

World drowning prevention day with global call to action

On 25 July 2025, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will observe World Drowning Prevention Day, a United Nations recognised initiative aimed at raising awareness about drowning, which claims over 300,000 lives each year. Children aged 5–14 are among the most affected, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Despite a global decline in drowning rates since 2000, progress has been too slow. Drowning continues to occur in rivers, lakes, wells, water storage containers, and swimming pools, particularly where preventive measures are lacking. WHO will emphasise that drowning is entirely preventable through low-cost, evidence-based interventions.

This year, WHO will spotlight the power of storytelling. Individuals and communities will be encouraged to share their personal experiences with drowning to inspire action and advocate for water safety policies. The campaign will aim to mobilise governments, civil society, and local communities to scale up prevention efforts.

Proven interventions that WHO will promote include:

- Installing barriers to control access to water
- Providing supervised childcare in high-risk settings
- Teaching swimming and rescue skills
- Training bystanders in safe rescue and CPR
- Enforcing water transport regulations
- Strengthening flood risk management

To support global participation, WHO will release an advocacy toolkit with campaign materials and practical guidance. Landmarks will be lit in blue, and communities will be encouraged to host awareness events.

Source: World Health Organisation



Pus in the chest may cost you your life!

DR K K PANDEY

In many developing countries, thousands unknowingly suffer from a life-threatening condition—pus collection inside the chest around the lungs, medically known as empyema thoracis. Due to lack of awareness, late diagnosis, and inadequate treatment, this disease often leads to irreversible lung damage or death.

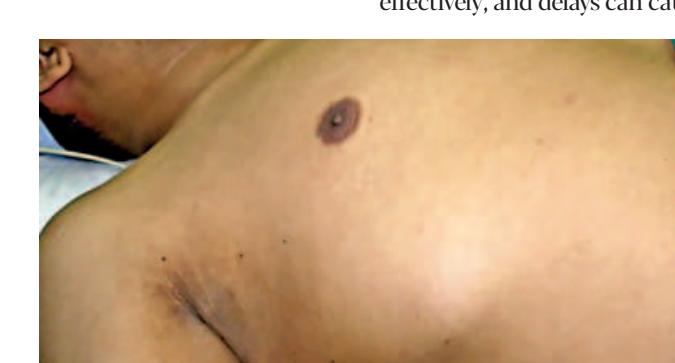
How to identify it: Patients with pus inside the chest typically experience prolonged fever that worsens in the evening, excessive sweating, a frequent urge to cough with little or no sputum, and sharp chest pain—especially on the affected side. If you have recently recovered from pneumonia or chest trauma but still have a persistent cough and fever after a few weeks, do not ignore the symptoms.

A chest X-ray should be done—preferably in a standing position—to check for signs of fluid or whitening of the lung. If there is any suspicion of pus collection, a chest ultrasound is the next essential step. It helps confirm the presence and volume of fluid or pus and guides the proper treatment plan.

What causes it? The most

common cause is infection—particularly pneumonia or tuberculosis. These infections lead to fluid buildup in the pleural space (the area between the lung and chest wall). If the fluid is not promptly treated, it can become infected and turn into pus.

Tuberculosis (TB), in particular, plays a major role in developing countries. If more than 500 ml of fluid collects



due to TB and is not properly drained, the risk of it turning into pus increases.

Chest injuries from accidents that cause internal bleeding can also lead to pus formation if the blood is not drained in time. Rare causes include rupture of liver abscess into the chest cavity, injury or perforation of the food pipe, complications

from spine infections, or lung surgeries that result in bronchopleural fistula (BPF)—a severe complication where pus leaks from the lungs into the chest.

What to do if you suspect pus in the chest? The first step is to seek help from a thoracic or chest surgeon. General physicians or paediatricians may not have the expertise to manage this condition effectively, and delays can cause



the lung to collapse or become permanently damaged.

Treatment strategies: If caught early, a chest tube can be inserted to drain the pus. Medications like streptokinase or urokinase may be used to dissolve internal partitions that trap the pus—a process known as fibrinolysis. If this does not work, a minimally invasive

procedure using a telescope (thoracoscopy) may be required to break the internal walls and allow proper drainage.

In chronic or neglected cases, open surgery called empyema decortication becomes necessary. This involves removing thick pus layers and fibrous tissue that compress the lung, allowing it to re-expand and function again.

Avoid mismanagement: One major concern is inadequate drainage—especially in children—when small needles or narrow tubes are used over several days. This incomplete removal of pus may lead to persistent infection or BPF, making the condition worse.

Final advice: Empyema thoracis is preventable and treatable—but only if diagnosed early and managed by specialists. If fever, cough, and chest pain persist beyond a few weeks after pneumonia or TB, get imaging done and consult a thoracic surgeon immediately. Timely action can save your lung and your life.

The writer is a Senior Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi. E-mail: drpandeykk@gmail.com

CARB-LOADING: A smart strategy for endurance athletes

Carbohydrate loading, or "carb-loading", is a nutrition strategy used by athletes to boost the body's energy reserves before long-duration, high-intensity activities. The aim is to build up glycogen—stored glucose—in the muscles and liver, which helps delay exhaustion during extended physical exertion.

If a headache comes on and you suspect dehydration, drinking one or two large glasses of water may help relieve symptoms. However, if discomfort continues beyond an hour or two, it is best to seek medical advice.

For those living with migraines, staying hydrated is a simple, effective habit that may help prevent attacks and improve overall well-being.



used before endurance events lasting over 90 minutes, such as marathons, triathlons, or long-distance cycling. This helps muscles stockpile more glycogen than usual, allowing for improved stamina.

Carb-loading is typically

the edge needed for a personal best.

There are two main approaches:

• A modern short-term method, which involves consuming about 10 grams of

carbohydrates per kilogram of body weight daily for 2–3 days while tapering physical activity.

• A traditional six-day method, which includes an initial phase of reduced carb intake and intense training, followed by increased carbs and lighter exercise. Recent evidence suggests skipping the depletion phase still yields good results.

To avoid stomach issues, athletes are advised to eat low-fiber, easily digestible foods like pasta, white rice, or toast. Carb-loading is not necessary for short or moderate workouts but can be highly effective for longer endurance events when applied properly.

Mathews lauds Tigers for 'wonderful' Galle Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lankan great Angelo Mathews received a warm reception from the Bangladesh team during his farewell Test in Galle, which ended in a draw yesterday. The visitors gave him a guard of honour during his first-innings walk to the crease and later greeted him warmly after the match.

While it was an emotional occasion for Mathews, he was most impressed by the performance of the Bangladesh team—especially captain Najmul Hossain Shanto and veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim.

"I should congratulate Bangladesh for having a wonderful Test match. Mushfiqur and Shanto batted



beautifully," said Mathews at the post-match presentation.

Shanto's twin centuries (148 and 125) and Mushfiqur's sublime 163, followed by a brisk 49 in the second innings, were standout contributions as Bangladesh began their World Test Championship cycle on a strong note.

Shanto became the first Bangladeshi captain to score twin hundreds in a Test and for his performance, he was named player of the match. "I didn't know about the record, but it feels great to contribute," Shanto said.

Addressing the timing of the declaration—criticised by some as overly cautious—Shanto explained: "Yes, but the rain came suddenly and the plan had to change. We cannot control those things."

"We didn't have enough confidence against Zimbabwe, but we had good preparation before this series and showed a lot of character in this match," he added.

In just his 13th Test, spinner Nayem Hasan claimed his maiden five-wicket haul overseas on Day 4. Taijul Islam, meanwhile, posed constant threats—removing both Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal with probing deliveries.

Shanto was full of praise for his spinners, saying, "Taijul and Nayem bowled really well. Nayem didn't get many opportunities before but his work ethic is brilliant. Today [Saturday] he showed his quality."

Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva admitted the momentum slipped after Bangladesh's fightback. "Shanto and Mushfiqur batted really well. We got early breakthroughs but couldn't capitalise—they didn't give us a chance to get back into the game," he said.

The second and final Test will begin on Wednesday in Colombo.



Bangladesh left-arm spinner Taijul Islam celebrates with teammates after dismissing Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews, playing his final Test, in the final session on Day 5 of their first Test in Galle yesterday. Bangladesh had reduced the hosts to 72 for four at stumps on the day while in chase of a 296-run target, making one ponder if the Tigers could have gone for more than just a draw in their first game of the World Test Championship cycle.

PHOTO: AFP

25 YEARS ON, INTENT STILL MISSING

NABID YEASIN

Come June 26, Bangladesh will be completing its 25 years in Test cricket.

Unfortunately, even with so many years under the belt in the most revered format of the sport, Bangladesh still lack one trait—the hunger to push for wins, evident in the Tigers' drawn Test against Sri Lanka that finished in Galle yesterday.

Churning out a draw and sharing four points with Sri Lanka, the hosts and a team ranked two places above the ninth-

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh 1st innings:

495 all out (Mushfiqur 163, Shanto 148, Litton 90; Asitha 4-86)

Sri Lanka 1st innings:

485 all out (Nissanka 187, Kamindu 87; Nayem 5-121)

Bangladesh 2nd innings:

285 for six dec (Shanto 125 not out, Shadman 76; Tharindu 3-102)

Sri Lanka 2nd innings:

72 for four (Nissanka 24; Taijul Islam 3-23)

Result:

Match drawn

Player of the match:

Najmul Hossain Shanto

ranked Bangladesh in Tests, might look like a positive way for the Tigers to start their latest World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

However, if looked closely at the way the Tigers went about their business across the five days of their first Test against the Lankans, a discernible pattern of Bangladesh leaning towards a safety-first approach could be noticed.

Bangladesh began the fifth day on 177

for three with a 187 run lead—a sizeable advantage that should have made the team management think about at least trying for something other than the ordinary.

But, did they?

Before rain halted proceedings and forced an early lunch, Bangladesh accumulated 60 runs in 19 overs at just over three an over. This makes it apparent that even with the two most in-form batters at the crease—veteran Mushfiqur Rahim and Najmul Hossain Shanto, both of whom had already scored tons in first innings, and were batting in 40s and 80s in second innings—Bangladesh chose to stick with the traditional Test-cricket approach of spending time out in the middle.

Winning a Test that has been marred by rain is always a tough ask, but not even considering to even try to achieve it is a mindset that certainly does not go with today's fast-paced modern cricket, where the introduction of WTC has made teams lean towards churning out wins more than ever.

Just as Mushfiqur was dismissed on 49 off 102 deliveries, rain interrupted, and when the game resumed in the second session, Bangladesh batted another 11 overs. Interestingly, in the first eight overs of these 11, the Tigers managed just 19 runs.

But since then, Bangladesh suddenly upped the ante, scoring 29 in the next three overs as Shanto completed his century—becoming the first Bangladeshi captain to score two tons in the same Test—before eventually declaring at 285 for six.

Shanto said that they did think about declaring early before "sudden rain" forced a "sudden change in plan" for the Tigers. But by the looks of it, the plan probably never included anything other than a draw for the Tigers.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, showed urgency when they had the chance—scoring at around and over four runs an over for the most part of their first innings, having got the scope to bat on Day 3 of the match.

Just a year back, India showed Bangladesh first-hand what it is like to push for victories in the longest format. India extracted a win against Bangladesh in just 312 deliveries—the least number of balls faced by any team in two innings of a game against Bangladesh in a winning cause in Kanpur in 2024.

For Bangladesh, going about business how India would in a Test is over ambitious, but what was certainly within their capacity was to at least show the intent, like their opponents Sri Lanka did—that should be the bare minimum mindset of a side about to complete 25 years in the format.

Heat benefitting South American teams

AFP, Cincinnati

Borussia Dortmund coach Niko Kovac said Friday teams from the "south" have an advantage on European teams at the Club World Cup because of the current high temperatures in the United States.

South American teams have impressed at the tournament to this point with a few high profile victories over European teams. Brazilian side Botafogo stunned Champions League winners PSG on Thursday, while Chelsea lost against another Brazilian team in Flamengo.

Kovac's Dortmund themselves were held to a 0-0 draw against Brazilian side Fluminense in their opening match on Tuesday.

"At the moment in this tournament you see that the clubs from the south, I think they have a big advantage because of the conditions, of the heat," Croatian coach Kovac told reporters ahead of Dortmund's second match.

Temperatures were expected to rise up to 32 degrees Celsius during Dortmund's game against South African outfit Mamelodi Sundowns at TQL Stadium in Cincinnati yesterday.

Some players and coaches have complained about the heat and humidity they have been



forced to play in at FIFA's expanded competition, as well as fans who have also suffered.

"For the spectators in the stadium it is incredibly hot, (so) now you can imagine how difficult it is for the players," continued Kovac.

"(It's) 32 degrees when you're in the shade, and you're not even in the sun. So when you play inside the stadium you can assume it is 3, 4 or 5 degrees even hotter."

"These are not excuses, it's just an explanation... this is very difficult, especially for the Europeans. The players from the south, for them it's easier because they are used to these temperatures."

"Don't forget to bring sunscreen, hat, and enough water to drink," Kovac warned reporters.

Before Dortmund's match against the Mamelodi Sundowns, Kovac said his team would try to keep the ball to mitigate the effects of the sweltering conditions.

"We need to prevent them from possessing the ball, we all know that it is going to be very warm, extremely hot tomorrow," he said.

"We will play at noon tomorrow and we will play under the sunlight, we need to make sure we have the ball at all times."

"If you have to run after the ball, it will mean a lot of effort."



Substitute Wallace Yan celebrates after adding gloss to an impressive Flamengo display with a third goal in a 3-1 win over Chelsea in Philadelphia yesterday which cemented them a spot in the round of 16 of the Club World Cup. The Brazilian side trailed 1-0 before scoring twice within four minutes of the second-half to take the lead and later adding a third in the 83rd minute. Chelsea played the last 22 minutes with 10 players after Nicolas Jackson was sent off. In Miami, Bayern Munich confirmed their spot in the last 16 with a 2-1 victory over Boca Juniors. Harry Kane opened the scoring in the 18th minute and later set up Michael Olise's 84th-minute winner after Miguel Merentiel had drawn Boca level early in the second half.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP



what to WATCH

SONY SPORTS 1

England vs India

1st Test, Day 3

Live from 4:00 pm

DAZN WEBSITE AND APP

Club World Cup

River Plate vs

Monterrey

Live from 7:00 am

Juventus vs Wydad AC

Live from 10:00 pm

Real Madrid vs Pachuca

Live from 1:00 am

(Monday)

Salzburg vs Al Hilal

Live from 4:00 am

(Monday)

WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

Changes on the cards for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are likely to make a few changes from last month's Jordan tour for the upcoming Asian Cup Qualifiers, which will be played in Myanmar towards the end of this month.

The women in red and green will start their Group C campaign against Bahrain on June 29 before taking on hosts Myanmar on July 2 and ending the campaign against Turkmenistan three days later. Only the group winners will advance to the Asian Cup, which will be held in Australia in March next year.

Bangladesh (I28) are the second-lowest ranked side in the group, with Myanmar (55) way above on 1, followed by Bahrain (92), while Turkmenistan (141) are the lowest-ranked side.

However, the recent Jordan tour, where Bangladesh held much higher-ranked Jordan and Indonesia to draws, is giving the team management confidence of getting positive results.

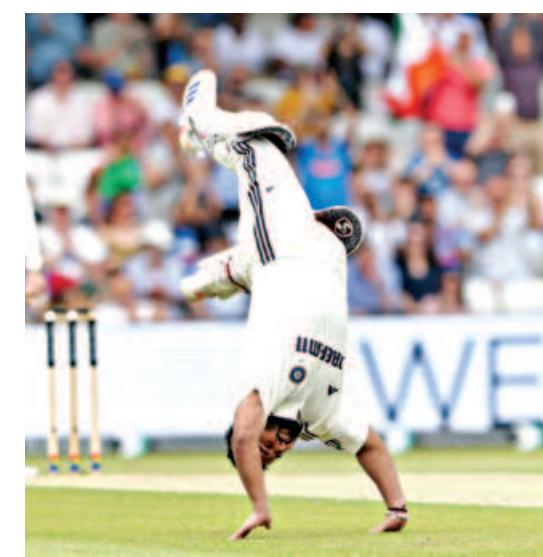
Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, a member of the coaching staff said: "The first match against Bahrain is the most crucial one. We are all focused on that match and if we can win that fixture, we will be confident of making it through to the final round."

A total of 28 players are currently training under head coach Peter Butler for the key assignment, and the squad will be trimmed to 23 members ahead of the team's departure for Myanmar in the early hours of Wednesday.

Five senior players from Bhutan have already returned to join the camp, with Shamsunnahar Sr the latest to arrive. The five other players, including former captain Sabina Khatun and defender Masura Parvin, continue to be overlooked.

The member of coaching staff told The Daily Star that there will be a few changes from the Jordan tour with some experienced players as well as young ones, especially in defence and midfield, joining.

"This is a much more important assignment. There will definitely be a few inclusions while a few players from the Jordan tour will miss out. The final squad will only be revealed by the coach, but I can say that this squad will have more experience," the member said, asking not to be named.



India's Rishabh Pant performs a somersault following his century on the second day of the first Test against England at Headingley in Leeds yesterday. The wicketkeeper-batter's 134 helped the visitors to 471 in the first innings.

PHOTO: AFP

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BANGLADESH'S
NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

352 dengue cases logged in 24 hours

The highest this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more death and 352 new dengue cases were reported in the 24 hours to yesterday morning—the highest single-day tally so far this year—with Barishal division reporting high infection rates.

The previous highest number of cases was recorded at 288 on June 11, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services.

The deceased person is a 25-year-old female from Barura of Cumilla. As of June 21, eight people died from dengue this year.

Currently, 882 dengue patients are receiving treatment in hospitals across the country.

The total number of fatalities and confirmed cases from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh rose to 31 and 7,429 respectively as experts say a rapid dengue outbreak looms large across the country.

Of the total infected cases yesterday, 167 (47 percent) were

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto jumps in the air to celebrate his century during the fifth day of the first Test, which ended in a draw, against Sri Lanka in Galle yesterday. Following his 148 in the first innings, Shanto scored 125 not out in the second and became the first Bangladeshi to hit twin centuries in two Test matches.

PHOTO: AFP

Galle Test ends in a draw

AFP, Galle

The first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka fizzled out into a damp draw on Saturday, with rain robbing the match in Galle of a proper climax.

Sri Lanka were set a tall order of 296 in 37 overs and were tottering at 72-4 when stumps were drawn 9.5 overs into the final hour, with both captains shaking hands and accepting no result was possible.

The day belonged to Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who scored centuries in both innings.

Shanto made an unbeaten 125 in the second innings after posting 148 in his first dig.

It was the second time he had achieved the feat, scoring two centuries in a match against Afghanistan in 2023.

However, questions will linger over his captaincy. In pursuit of his landmark, Shanto might have taken his eye off the larger prize.

Bangladesh were 247 runs ahead when play resumed after a rain delay and, with 50 overs still to be bowled on the day, an earlier declaration

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

2014, 2018, 2024 POLLS

BNP to sue former ECs, officials today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP is set to file a case against officials involved in the last three national elections with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police today. The party will also lodge a formal complaint with the Election Commission in this regard, BNP leaders said yesterday.

The accused will include former chief election commissioners, election commissioners, EC secretaries, and police and intelligence officials who served during the polls.

This move comes less than a week after Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus ordered a probe into the role of previous election commissions in the irregularities surrounding the 2014, 2018 and 2024 general elections.

On June 16, Yunus met with the National Consensus Commission and instructed it to form an investigation committee in this regard.

The three-member BNP team filing the case today will be led by the party's National Executive Committee member Salauddin Khan.

Earlier in January, the Election Reform Commission submitted its report recommending investigation and action against those found complicit in electoral fraud.

Speaking to this newspaper, Salauddin Khan said a complaint has been prepared naming 24 individuals, including former chief election commissioners Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, KM Nurul Huda and Kazi Habibul Awan. Others named include election commissioners, EC officials, and police and intelligence officers.

He added that the list is not exhaustive, as more names are being collected. "Charges will also be brought against officials involved at the district and upazila levels."

The three general elections in question have drawn widespread criticism for lacking inclusivity, transparency

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

POLICE REFORMS

Home plans glass walls, bodycams, legal overhaul

SHARIFUL ISLAM and
BAHARAM KHAN

The home ministry plans to carry out a series of police reforms over the next six months to enhance transparency and accountability within the force and curb corruption and human rights violations by law enforcers.

The initiatives include the introduction of UN-prescribed crowd control measures and the installation of glass-walled interrogation cells at all 664 police stations in line with the recommendations of a reform panel.

Police stations will be required to accept general diaries and first information reports without delay. Besides, there won't be any police verification for government jobs or passport issuance unless an applicant faces specific allegations of involvement in anti-state activities.

A committee led by an additional secretary has drawn up an action plan, categorising the reforms into immediate, mid-term, and long-term ones.

The move comes around three months after the Cabinet Division sent the Police Reform Commission's recommendations to the ministry, asking it to formulate an action plan for their implementation.

The issue of police reforms came to the fore following the fall of the Awami League government through a mass uprising that left over 1,400 people dead—many of them in police shootings.

with a set of recommendations.

Joint Secretary Rebeka Khan, also member secretary of the committee, said reforms that could be implemented within six months were classified as "immediate",

REFORM INITIATIVES

- ◆ Introduction of UN-prescribed crowd control measures
- ◆ No police verification for government jobs or issuing passports
- ◆ Special cells to be formed to let people file complaints of rights violations, misconduct by law enforcers

Public trust in police has declined over the years, largely due to the controversial role of a section of officials during the past government's tenure.

Many police officials have been accused of suppressing dissent through arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearance.

On September 11, the interim government formed the Police Reform Commission which submitted its report on January 15

while those requiring six months to a year were categorised as "mid-term". Reforms needing more than a year were labelled as "long-term".

"Reforms involving multiple ministries or those with complex legal or financial implications will take longer to implement," Rebeka told The Daily Star.

Seeking anonymity, a top official at the police headquarters said the reform initiative overlooked some key areas.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

BUSINESS

No more lifeline for black money

The government may scrap the provision that allows black money to be legalised through the purchase of flats and land. The decision is likely to be taken at today's advisory council meeting, where the Tk 790,000 crore national budget may be passed. The move comes amid heavy criticism against the scope in the proposed Finance Bill 2025 for legalising undisclosed money through investments in real estate.



Police negotiate with protesting students of United International University, who blocked a road in the capital's Notunbazar area for hours yesterday, disrupting traffic. The demonstrators had gathered there to press home their demands, including the withdrawal of expulsion orders against some students.

STORY ON B1

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Israeli fire kills at least 12 people in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli fire killed at least 12 people yesterday, including eight who had gathered near aid distribution sites in the Palestinian territory suffering severe food shortages.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that three people were killed by gunfire from Israeli forces while waiting to collect aid in the southern Gaza Strip.

In a separate incident, Bassal said five people were killed in a central area known as the Netzarim corridor, where thousands of Palestinians have gathered daily in the hope of receiving food rations.

The Israeli army told AFP it was "looking into" both incidents, which according to the civil defence agency occurred near distribution centres run by the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

Its operations began at the end of May—when Israel eased a total aid blockade that lasted more than two months—but have been marred by chaotic scenes and neutrality concerns.

UN agencies and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with the foundation over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli military objectives.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run territory yesterday said that 450 people had been killed and 3,466 others injured while seeking aid in near-daily incidents since late May.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6