



# US strikes Iran

## Trump says three nuclear sites 'obliterated'; Tehran says US has no place in Middle East, its bases 'legitimate targets'

### OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER



- Trump tells Iran to accept peace or face tragedy
- US says strikes not aimed at regime change
- Iran House votes to close Strait of Hormuz
- World powers, Arabs condemn US strikes
- Iran says facilities evacuated long ago; no radiation detected

- 125 aircraft including seven B-2 bombers took part in the operation
- 14 bunker buster bombs from B-2 bombers used on Fordow
- 30 Tomahawk missiles used in attacks on Natanz, Isfahan

### AGENCIES

President Donald Trump said US air strikes yesterday had "completely and totally obliterated" Iran's main nuclear enrichment facilities, and warned of more attacks to come if Tehran does not seek peace.

Tehran vowed to defend itself and responded with a volley of missiles at Israel that wounded dozens of people and destroyed buildings in its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

But, perhaps in an effort to avert all-out war with the superpower, it had yet to follow through on its main threats of retaliation - to target US bases.

However, Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to Iran's supreme leader, yesterday said that the United States "no longer" has a place in the Middle East after the strikes. He also said the bases used by US forces to launch the attacks "will be considered legitimate targets."

Iran also called the US attack a grave violation of international law that would have "everlasting consequences".

World powers, including China and Russia, and Iran's Arab neighbours, strongly condemned the US air strikes, warning of serious repercussions and calling for a return to diplomacy.

In a televised address to the nation from the White House after the United States joined Israel's air campaign against Tehran, Trump called the US attacks a "spectacular military success."

Trump had earlier stunned the world by announcing on social media that US aircraft had struck Iran's Fordow nuclear enrichment plant, plus the Natanz and Isfahan facilities.

But the fresh US military entanglement comes despite Trump's promises to avoid another "forever war" in the Middle East and a two-week time for diplomacy. Iran has vowed to retaliate against US forces in the region if Washington gets involved.

"Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated. Iran, the bully of the Middle East, must now make peace," said Trump.

"If they do not, future attacks will be far

greater, and a lot easier," added Trump, who was flanked by Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for his address to US audiences.

He also reached out to Israeli leadership, saying, "I want to thank and congratulate Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu. We worked as a team. Like perhaps no team has ever worked before, and we've gone a long way to erasing this horrible threat to Israel."

"This cannot continue," Trump added. "There will be either peace or there will be tragedy for Iran, far greater than we have witnessed over the last eight days. Remember, there are many targets left. Tonight's was the most difficult of them all by far, and perhaps the most lethal. But if peace does not come quickly, we will go after those other targets with precision, speed and skill."

Trump said earlier on his Truth Social site that a "full payload of BOMBS" was dropped on the underground facility at Fordo, describing it as the "primary site."

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### CONSENSUS TALKS

## No breakthrough yet on PM's tenure

### Most parties agree on 10-year cap; BNP attaches conditions

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties, except the BNP and two others, yesterday agreed that an individual cannot be the prime minister for over 10 years.

Yesterday was the 5th day of the second round of talks between the National Consensus Commission and 30 political parties at the Foreign Service Academy.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the BNP would not yet support a 10-year cap, unless two issues were settled first: the formation

of the proposed National Constitutional Council and the method for appointing members to the upper house in a bicameral parliament.

These issues, along with the role of the upper house, should be discussed together, not separately, he said.

"Rather than debating the number of terms [an individual can be the PM], we can instead discuss the total number of years one can serve," he added.

The council, according to a reform proposal, would oversee appointments to

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## Scope for whitening black money goes

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has finally scrapped the controversial provision allowing the legalisation of undisclosed income through the purchase of apartments and land in the upcoming fiscal year.

"We have made one of the most significant decisions regarding undisclosed income by completely withdrawing the provision," said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed at a press conference yesterday after the advisory council approved the Tk 790,000 crore budget and Finance Bill 2025.

The development comes following widespread criticism from civil society, economists and anti-corruption watchdogs, who argued that the provision would legitimise illicit wealth and

discourage honest taxpayers.

The previous government had initially offered a blanket provision for black money allowing it to be whitened at a 15 percent tax rate.

**The previous government had initially offered a blanket provision for black money allowing it to be whitened at a 15 percent tax rate.**

"But we scrapped that as soon as we came into office. The second option we considered was permitting some exaggerated valuation, but we ultimately decided it was no longer necessary. That provision has been completely withdrawn."

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Police use a water cannon to disperse protesters staging a fast-unto-death in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The demonstrators claimed they were unfairly eliminated during the interview process for registration under the government's Monthly Pay Order scheme for teachers.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## POLL IRREGULARITIES BNP sues 3 ex-CECs, 21 officials

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has filed a case against 24 individuals, including three former chief election commissioners, 10 election commissioners, and top government and police officials, for their alleged role in irregularities and biasness during the national elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024.

The case was filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in Dhaka yesterday. Earlier, a five-member BNP delegation, led by party executive committee member Salahuddin Khan, also delivered a copy of the case application to CEC AMM Nasir Uddin at the Election Commission.

Talking to reporters, Salahuddin said despite widespread complaints during those elections, the then CECs failed to take any corrective measures.

"We hope the current Election Commission will investigate the matter and take action," he said.

The BNP alleges that in all three parliamentary elections - the 10th in 2014, the 11th in 2018, and the 12th in 2024 - their leaders and supporters were targeted with false cases, abductions,

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## Mob assaults ex-CEC Nurul Huda before his arrest

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda, who oversaw the 2018 national polls, was arrested after a mob assaulted him at his Uttara residence yesterday evening.

Hours before his arrest, the BNP filed a case against him and 23 others over electoral irregularities.

EC officials said this is probably the first time a former CEC has been detained over issues related to elections.

Mohidul Islam, deputy commissioner (Uttara division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a team from the Uttara West Police Station made the arrest around 7:30pm.

He added that Huda was shown arrested in the case lodged against him earlier in the day, and taken into the DB custody for the sake of his security.

A video that was making the rounds on social media shows Huda, dressed in a white T-shirt and lungi, with a garland of shoes around his neck. He is surrounded by a group of unidentified individuals. At one point, a bearded man strikes Huda in the face twice with a shoe, while others nearby appear to attempt to stop the assault.

During the incident, some people were heard chanting slogans: "Rony Bhaier Bhoi Nai, Rajpath chari nai [Don't be afraid, Rony Bhai, we haven't left the streets]."



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# EC will decide if AL can run in polls

## Yunus tells BBC in interview

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said that whether the Awami League will be included in the elections or not is up to the Election Commission to decide.

In an interview with BBC World Service, aired on Saturday night, he also said, "We haven't banned Awami League yet. The activities of Awami League are banned temporarily."

Speaking to Rajini Vaidyanathan's "The Interview" on BBC, he said, "Recently, the resident coordinator of the UN in Dhaka said that inclusiveness does not mean the participation of a particular party, it means the participation of all the people."

He added that Bangladesh will use the international legal system to extradite Sheikh Hasina. "The trial of Sheikh Hasina has already begun."

Yunus also said as they do not have the power, they will use the international system to ensure her detention, adding that her stay in India is not an issue for the government, but her continued political activities are.

"It is her voice which creates problems. She is always addressing people in Bangladesh using airwaves. That creates tensions and creates hatred against the political party [Awami League]."

"We thought the sudden outburst of anger and killings ended on August 5 after she left. [We thought] The chapter is closed; let's move on. But for the Awami League it seems like it didn't end there. They want to continue. This creates a lot of tension within the country."

The chief adviser further said, "We do not want to look back on the horrible things they have done in terms of killing people, the disappearance of people, the massive amount of money they have taken away... one after another, the unbelievable cruelty of it. We thought we would deal with it gradually. But no, she reminds you - 'I am here, I will come back.'"

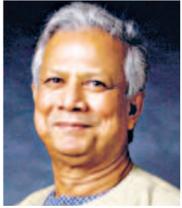
About whether India should do more to stop her, he replied, "You said it." Yunus also addressed allegations of repression of opposition political voices and the interim government "doing the same thing that the Awami League did".

"It will be a shame to say that [the interim government is doing the same thing]. If you compare the interim government with the Awami League government, I do not think you understand Bangladesh. That is absolutely not correct."

He also addressed questions about violence against minorities.

"We invite journalists to come and identify the incidents of [such] violence ... This is all fake news coming up one after another. Come and count them [the incidents], we are here," said Prof Yunus.

The BBC interviewed him during his four-day trip to London earlier this month.



# US strikes Iran

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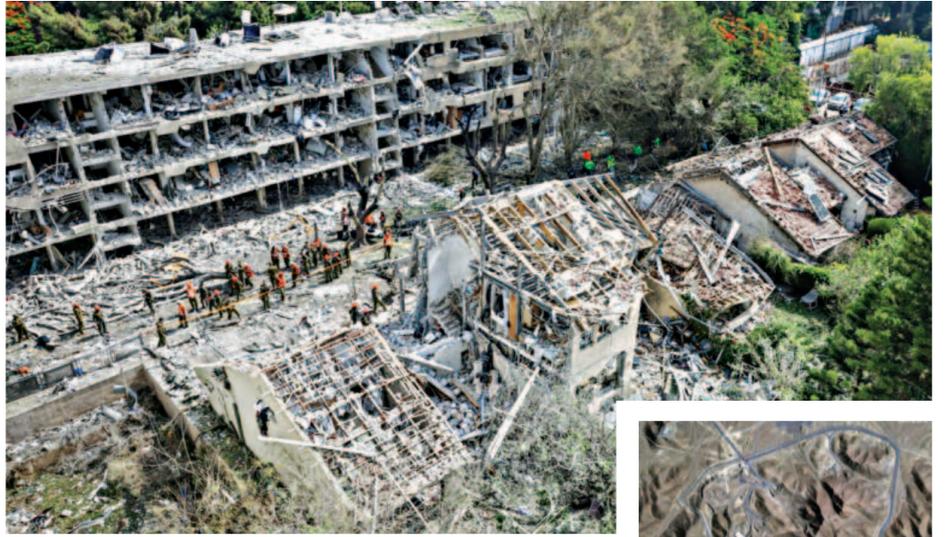
Earlier on Saturday, there were reports that US B-2 bombers - which carry so-called "bunker buster" bombs - were headed out of the United States.

According to Fox News, the B-2s took off from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri around midnight. While initial chatter suggested the aircraft were headed west toward Guam, its national security correspondent Jennifer Griffin noted the true flight path was likely east, directly toward Iran, in what appears to have been a "calculated deception".

Describing the complex operation, dubbed "Midnight Hammer," Joint Chiefs Chairman Dan Caine later said the "main strike package comprised of 7 B-2 Spirit bombers" flying 18 hours from the US mainland to Iran with multiple aerial refuellings.

The Fordow complex, buried deep beneath a mountain near Qom and considered the crown jewel of Iran's nuclear program, was the primary target. Natanz and Isfahan, both core to Iran's uranium enrichment infrastructure, were also hit.

According to Griffin, Israeli forces spent the past week systematically degrading Iran's air defences and missile systems, taking out surface-to-air batteries, command targets, and missile launchers. Since June 12, Israel has eliminated dozens of senior Iranian military officials and more than half of Iran's mobile ballistic missile capabilities, gaining what officials now describe as air superiority over Iranian skies.



Israeli security forces and first responders gather at the site of an Iranian strike that hit a residential neighbourhood in the Ramat Aviv area in Tel Aviv yesterday. Inset, the photos released by Maxar Technologies yesterday show Iran's Fordow site before and after US strikes.

PHOTO: AFP

missiles launched from US submarines were used in the attacks on the Natanz and Isfahan facilities. There is speculation that the missiles were shot from Ohio-class submarines, but there has been no confirmation.

Meanwhile, Israel's News 12 reported that Israel reportedly "knew for several days" that the US was planning to strike Iran. It also said that the two countries deliberately made it seem they were at odds to lull Iran into a false sense of security.

"They crossed a very big red line by attacking [Iran's] nuclear facilities," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on the sidelines of a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul. He said he was heading to Russia for talks with President Vladimir Putin.

Foreign ministers from countries of the OIC yesterday urged Israel to end its "aggression" towards Iran, without mentioning the US strikes on the Islamic republic's nuclear sites.

In a step towards what is widely seen as Iran's most effective threat to hurt the West, its parliament approved a move to close the Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the Gulf where nearly a quarter of the oil shipped around the world passes through narrow waters that Iran controls.

Iran's Press TV said closing the strait would require approval from the Supreme National Security Council, a body led by an appointee of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Attempting to choke off Gulf oil by closing the strait could send global oil prices skyrocketing, derail the world economy and invite almost certain conflict with the US Navy's massive Fifth Fleet, based in the Gulf and tasked with keeping it open.

Earlier, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said radiation system data and field surveys do not show signs of contamination or

danger to residents near the sites.

Another official said Fordow has "long been evacuated and has not suffered any irreversible damage".

The US strikes push the Middle East to the brink of a major new conflagration in a region already aflame for more than 20 months with wars in Gaza and Lebanon and a toppled dictator in Syria.

Netanyahu congratulated Trump on the strikes, saying that "America has been truly unsurpassed."

Hours after the strikes, US leadership tried to strike a conciliatory tone, saying the US was not at war with Iran.

"We're not at war with Iran - we're at war with Iran's nuclear program," the US vice-president told ABC.

The US defence chief also urged Iranian leaders to seek peace to avoid further attacks.

"We devastated the Iranian nuclear program," Pete Hegseth told a Pentagon press briefing, adding that the operation "did not target Iranian troops or the Iranian people."

"This mission was not, and has not, been about regime change," he added.

However, the Israeli military said the attacks against Iran will continue as they have more goals to achieve. It said it launched more attacks on Iran's defence structures yesterday.

Meanwhile, three areas of Israel, including coastal hub Tel Aviv, were hit yesterday morning during waves of Iranian missile attacks, with at least 23 people injured, according to rescue services and police.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the US strikes a "dangerous escalation in a region already on the edge."

Leading US Democrat Hakeem Jeffries said Trump did not seek Congressional approval for the strikes and risked US "entanglement in a potentially disastrous war in the Middle East."

# Woman raped in Barguna, 3 sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case was filed yesterday against three people accused of gang-raping a woman after she was lured into her friend's house in Barguna town on May 16.

The victim, a homemaker, filed the case with the Barguna Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal. The accused include her friend, in whose rented house the incident took place.

Judge Begum Laylatul Ferdous recorded the statement and directed the officer-in-charge of Barguna Sadar Police Station to treat it as a formal FIR, confirmed Special Public Prosecutor Advocate Ronjuara Sipu.

The accused are Mosammat Sima, 33; Ruhul Amin, 45, a worker at pharmacy; and Hadisur Rahman Noyon, 35, a pharmaceutical representative from Sirajganj.

According to the case statement, Sima allegedly uses her rented home for "immoral activities" involving girls of various ages.

Around 3:00pm on May 16, the survivor was passing by the house when Sima called her inside and led her to a room. Shortly after, Ruhul Amin and Hadisur entered. Sima told her to "obey the men" and left the room.

Ruhul then attempted to rape her. When she resisted, Hadisur allegedly used chloroform to render her unconscious. The two men then raped her alternately and filmed the assault on their phones.

In the case statement, the victim said, "After they made me unconscious using chloroform, they both raped me and I was left with severe injuries. They filmed the assault and Ruhul Amin threatened to release the video online if I told anyone."

She said she later went to the pharmacy where Ruhul works and pleaded with him to delete the footage. He instead demanded Tk 1.75 lakh. Her husband, who was in Dhaka at the time, advised her to take legal action, after which she filed the case.

**“**  
**We devastated the Iranian nuclear programme... This mission was not, and has not, been about regime change.**  
**”**  
Pete Hegseth  
US defense secretary

The US strike package included B-2 bombers escorted by F-22 and F-16 fighter jets, and supported by EA-18 Growler electronic warfare aircraft. US Navy destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean also intercepted incoming missiles during the operation, Fox News reported.

Fordow had two entrances and one ventilation shaft, which likely served as the entrance points for the Massive Ordnance Penetrators (MOPs), sources said.

Additionally, 30 Tomahawk

# Scope for whitening black money goes

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The real estate stakeholders are saying flat sales may drop as a result, he said.

"Around 50 to 60 types of professionals are involved in this sector, from masons to painters. Still, I am not saying those with money won't buy flats. Maybe they will just pay a higher tax. So we have completely rolled back that earlier provision."

When asked whether the provision was scrapped due to criticism, he said: "Definitely, we considered that. Besides, there was strong public demand."

On June 2, the government unveiled the finance bill retaining the scope to legalise untaxed assets through investment in real estate but at a much higher cost.

Earlier, Transparency International Bangladesh warned it would fuel corruption, while the Centre for Policy Dialogue described it as a betrayal of

the spirit of the July Uprising.

Welcoming the decision, Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said this can be a good precedent for the future.

"However, we call upon the relevant authorities to be on guard against any possible manipulation that may facilitate the same evil practice in disguise in the name of investing undisclosed income."

There can be no clear dividing line between undisclosed income and black money, he said.

"While one may fail to fully disclose a fraction of income, no sensible, honest income earner can keep or bring from abroad large amounts in crores for any investment, including real estate, unless the source is illegal."

If such scope is kept, it will imply deception with the public and be self-defeating for the government, he

added.

"This is a positive move," said CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun.

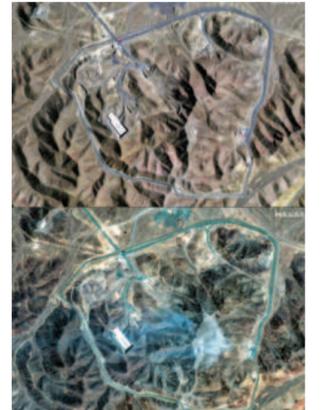
Allowing black money whitening provision is unethical and discriminatory against honest taxpayers.

Such a provision encourages the accumulation of unearned money through various means, she added.

Meanwhile, the government has granted value-added tax (VAT) exemption at the production stage of cotton produced through the recycling of garment waste (jhut).

The government also VAT exempted the import of ballpoint pens and the rent of space and premises for beauty parlours operated by women entrepreneurs.

Besides, advance tax exemption has been granted on the import of heart stents and eye lenses.



Meanwhile, Dhaka yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent attacks targeting nuclear facilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from any actions that could escalate tensions in the region.

It also said that the first group of Bangladeshi nationals willing to return from conflict-hit Iran is expected to arrive home next week.

Israel and Iran have traded wave after wave of devastating strikes since Israel launched its aerial campaign on June 13, saying Tehran was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon. Iran denies seeking an atomic bomb.

The US strikes came as European powers stepped up diplomacy to defuse the crisis. Top diplomats from Britain, France and Germany had met Araghchi in Geneva on Friday and urged him to resume nuclear talks with the United States that had been derailed by the war.

While it remains unclear if and how Iran will respond to the US attacks, the conflict could quickly spiral to engulf the entire region.

Iran and its allies in Yemen, Lebanon could attack US bases and interests across the Gulf, while Iraqi groups allied with Tehran may also get involved in the fighting, destabilising the country that is seeing some relative calm after decades of bloodshed since the 2003 American invasion.

# BNP sues 3 ex-CECs

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and threats. It says many were arrested or harassed so that they could not take part in the polls.

The accused in the case, according to the BNP, were involved in irregularities during the three national elections.

Among them are former CECs Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, KM Nurul Huda, and Kazi Habibul Awal.

Also named in the case are ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

The list of accused includes former inspectors general of police Hasan Mahmud Khandker, Javed Patwary, and Shahidul Haque; former DMP commissioner Benazir Ahmed; former Special Branch chief Monirul Islam; and former chiefs of the National Security Intelligence and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

The BNP said these individuals were responsible for voter intimidation, and manipulation of the electoral process.

"Despite being in a constitutional institution, these suspects are accused of violating the constitution, violating the election code of conduct, illegally forcing electoral victories despite being government employees, concluding the voting process through intimidation, and falsely declaring members of parliament who did not receive the people's votes," said the complaint. 'ONE SIDED'

In the complaint, the BNP alleged that leaders and activists of the party and its allies were attacked and harassed during each of the past three elections.

The party also stated that when party leaders attempted to submit nomination papers, they were obstructed by Awami League supporters; however, the then Election Commission ignored the complaints.

The complaint said that the 2024 national polls, overseen by the Rakibuddin-led commission, were conducted in a "one-sided manner", disregarding public expectations and without reinstating voting rights through a democratic process.

It alleged that false cases were filed against BNP leaders and activists after

the party rejected the election and launched a movement demanding a caretaker government and Election Commission reforms.

In the complaint, the BNP said the 2018 election under the Nurul Huda-led commission was unfair and illegal, claiming that the CEC announced results for all 300 seats without following the constitution, which the party believes ignored the people's wishes and hurt democracy.

The party said the election had no real voters and was rejected by both the people of Bangladesh and the international community, adding that those responsible for the irregularities violated the law by taking away people's right to vote.

The BNP said it had submitted written complaints at the time, but no action was taken by election officials. It said ballot papers from that election should be investigated to find out the truth.

The complaint said the 2024 election was also "one-sided", as most parties rejected it while the Awami League continued with the polls using independent "dummy" candidates and offering a few seats to the Jatiya Party.

The Election Commission declared several Awami League and Jatiya Party members as winners and published the gazette by violating electoral rules to help the ruling party stay in power, it added.

The BNP demanded proper legal action, a full investigation into the roles of the CECs, commissioners, and other officials involved in the three elections. 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 past three general elections. BNP leader Salahuddin said, "We demand justice for the rigging of three consecutive elections, and accountability of those responsible for the irregularities."

He added that CEC Nasir assured the BNP that the Election Commission does not take sides and that the matter would be dealt with neutrally.

# No breakthrough yet on PM's tenure

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institutions like the Election Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission. Most parties support this proposal, but the BNP and allies say that such a body would undermine the elected government's authority.

Disagreement among parties also remains over the upper house, with most parties, except the BNP, favouring proportional representation.

After Salahuddin said this at the televised meeting, there was a 15-minute break in the broadcast for private consultation among parties.

Wrapping up the day's talks, National Consensus Commission Vice Chairman Professor Ali Riaz said that after lengthy deliberations, most participants agreed that no individual should serve as prime minister for more than 10 years. However, full consensus

was not reached due to reservations from the BNP, National Democratic Movement, and Bangladesh Liberal Democratic Party.

He added that the parties requested two days for policy-level consultation before the talks resume.

Jamaat Naye-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher told reporters that his party supported the proposed 10-year cap.

Tasnim Jara, senior joint member secretary of the National Citizen Party, said, "If there is consensus on a 10-year cap... we are willing to consider it."

She added that constitutional bodies should be non-partisan.

Islami Andolan Bangladesh spokesperson Gazi Ataur Rahman said "If the constitution includes democracy, it must also include full faith in Allah."

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said, "The values of 1972 must remain unchanged. We are open to additions, but not to replacing the foundational values. There is no scope for compromise on this. Some say these principles are partisan, but only those who oppose independence oppose these values."

Gono Odhikar Parishad leader Nurul Haque Nur said, "We began the day with the agreement that no one should serve [as the PM] more than two terms. But a few parties vetoed that. Then the discussion was about the number of years, with most supporting a 10-year cap. But still, not all agreed."

"At some point, the commission must act as the referee. Otherwise, these discussions will go on until Keyamat."

Ganosambhati Andolon leader Zonayed Saki said, "Despite differences, we are getting closer to a common ground. That's a positive sign."

On constitutional principles, Salahuddin said the reform commission's initial proposal was to abolish articles 8, 9, 10, and 12 and suggest alternatives.

After BNP's suggestions, the inclusion of equality, human dignity, social justice, and democracy as principles are being discussed.

Jamaat leader Taher said his party supported having equality, justice, democracy, and human dignity as principles.

He added that Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim and faith in Almighty Allah must remain in the preamble.

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Nagar Bhaban  
reopens today  
after 40 days

Key offices to remain locked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 40 days of closure, Nagar Bhaban – the headquarters of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) – is set to reopen today.

However, key offices, including those of the administrator and engineers, will remain locked, according to leaders of the ongoing Dhakabashi movement.

The building was padlocked on May 15 by supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain, who launched a protest demanding his swearing-in as DSCC mayor.

Mashiur Rahman, coordinator of the Dhakabashi movement, announced yesterday that while general access to the building would resume, rooms that were chained shut on May 15 will remain off-limits.

He urged DSCC staff – especially those in regional and public service departments – to return to work and resume essential civic services.

He also demanded the removal of Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, accusing him

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A man moves through a narrow and dangerous gap between two buses amid traffic. Though the buses are stopped at a signal, they could start moving at any moment, posing a serious risk to those crossing. The photo was taken in the Purana Paltan area yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Remain ready  
for all challengesArmy chief urges new  
naval officers

STAR REPORT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday called on newly commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Navy to remain prepared for all challenges, guided by military values, discipline, and unwavering patriotism.

"You must always be ready to face any challenge, guided by military values and unwavering patriotism. You are the future leaders of the Navy," he said while addressing the Summer President's Parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chattogram.

The parade, held in line with naval tradition, marked the commissioning of the Midshipman 2022-B and Direct Entry Officer 2025-E batches.

A total of 52 officers – 44 midshipmen and 8 direct entry officers received their commissions, including eight women and four foreign cadets.

General Waker, attending as chief guest, inspected the parade and took the

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## JULY UPRISING

Give priority to  
circumstantial  
evidence in trials

AG urges judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday urged judges to set a new precedent in criminal jurisprudence by prioritising circumstantial evidence in trials of July uprising-related murder cases, especially in the absence of autopsy reports.

"During the July revolution, around two thousand people were killed and over twenty thousand injured or disabled. Due to interference from the fascist regime, post-mortems could not be conducted for most victims," said the attorney general.

He was addressing a seminar titled "Judicial Independence and Efficiency" organised by the Supreme Court at Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka.

Asaduzzaman noted that the absence of autopsy reports could complicate the trial of many such cases. "If we follow the strict rule requiring post-mortems, martyrs like Shaheed Abu Sayed or Shaheed Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho may never get justice."

He emphasised that judges should allow credible circumstantial evidence if it can be shown that post-mortems were not possible due to deliberate obstruction

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## JP faces new rift

Senior leaders challenge GM Quader's leadership

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party (JP) appears headed for yet another split as internal tensions intensify over leadership and constitutional authority ahead of its 10th central council.

A section of senior JP leaders, led by Co-Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud and former Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, is preparing to hold the party council on June 28 at the central office in Kakrail, defying a suspension order issued by party Chairman GM Quader.

The faction aims to unseat Quader and amend Article 20 (Ka) of the party constitution – a controversial provision that gives the chairman sweeping powers to appoint, remove, or replace any party member.

"This article is highly undemocratic. It has turned the party into a one-man show," said Hawlader, who is set to contest for secretary general, while Anisul will run for chairman in the proposed council.

Sources say at least 10-12 senior leaders, including those previously suspended or sidelined by Quader, have joined the movement. Notably, Raushan Ershad loyalists such as Kazi Firoz Rashid, Syed Abu Hossain Babla, and Kazi Mamunur Rashid have aligned with the breakaway faction.

The current unrest mirrors an earlier

episode in 2014, when a faction led by Raushan Ershad and Anisul defied then-chairman HM Ershad's decision to boycott the national election and instead aligned with the then ruling Awami League.

"This is a replay of 2014," said a central JP leader, requesting anonymity. "Back then, they ignored the party chief's direction for personal gain. Now they are again using the council to divide the party."

JP council set for June 28,  
despite Quader's suspension

Anisul, Hawlader eye top  
posts; seek charter change

Chunnu calls party  
leadership 'autocratic'

The crisis escalated after GM Quader announced on June 16 that the June 28 council had been suspended due to a venue cancellation by the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center.

He said a new date and venue would be announced later and formally informed the Chief Election Commissioner of the postment.

However, senior leaders argue that the party presidium had already decided on

May 20 to hold the council on June 28, either at the centre or the party's Kakrail office, and that Quader's unilateral decision violates party rules.

In protest, Anisul and Hawlader issued a joint statement on June 17, calling the postponement "undemocratic and undesirable." "As per the presidium's decision, we will go ahead with the council and bring change in the party leadership," Anisul said.

Adding fuel to the fire, JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu has also voiced support for amending Article 20 (Ka). "The chairman always speaks of democracy but holds autocratic powers under this article," Chunnu said. "I told him to amend it, but he didn't agree. He can remove me at any time. That's no way to run a democratic party."

GM Quader, however, maintains that the council must be held with his approval and participation.

"If GM Quader truly believes in his leadership, popularity, and acceptance within the party, there is no justifiable reason for him to avoid the democratic process of holding the party's council," said Golam Moshir, former member of the JP presidium and former Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Regarding the matter, JP presidium member Shameem Haider Patwari said, "According to the party charter, the chairman must approve the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

DNCC ends  
Shahabuddin  
park contractFuture of popular spots  
uncertain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka North City Corporation has decided not to renew its contract with 5R Securex Consortium for overseeing Justice Shahabuddin Park, raising concern among the park's many regular visitors.

DNCC has clarified that the library of Bookworm Bangladesh in the park will continue to operate while no final decision has been made regarding other establishments such as North End Coffee Roasters and Graam Cha.

Visiting the park yesterday, this correspondent saw notices hanging on the Bookworm Bangladesh library and North End Coffee Roasters. The Graam Cha stall was also found closed.

"It was a nice place to spend time. I often purchased books from the library and enjoyed tea or coffee here while waiting for my child's class at a nearby school to end," said Farhad Sultana, a resident of Gulshan 2.

She urged the authorities not to alter the park's character.

Several other Gulshan residents echoed her. On June 19, DNCC issued an official letter to 5R Securex Consortium informing them of its decision not to renew the management contract for the park. Originally signed for three years with a two-year extension option, the contract ended on June 1, 2025.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

KILLING CASE  
ICT sets June  
29 for charge  
framing  
hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 (ICT-1) yesterday set June 29 for the hearing on charge framing in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of six people in Dhaka's Chankharpul area during the July uprising.

This is the first formal trial process related to the uprising. The tribunal also decided to appoint state defence counsels for four absconding accused, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman and three of his subordinates.

On May 25, the tribunal accepted the charges pressed by prosecutors against eight police officials. Four accused are in custody and were produced before

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

REPEALING THE ORDINANCE  
Secretariat staffers  
observe 2-hr work  
stoppage today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding the repeal of the "Public Service (amendment) Ordinance-2025", government employees will observe a two-hour work stoppage today.

The announcement came during a protest rally held yesterday in front of the finance ministry at the Secretariat. Addressing the gathering, Md Nurul Islam, co-chairman of the Secretariat Officers and Employees Unity Forum, said employees will observe the strike from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

During the work stoppage, employees will stage a sit-in at the library of Ministry of Public Administration.

Yesterday, around 11:30am, employees gathered in front of Building No-11 at the Secretariat, chanting slogans such as "There's no place for discrimination in our Golden Bengal" and "We won't accept fascist black laws".

Employee leaders urged all officers and staff at the Secretariat to join the strike today. They also hinted at possible sit-ins in front of the offices of those involved in drafting the ordinance.

"We've heard that amendments are being considered, but we won't accept any modification – this black law must be scrapped," said Nurul Islam.

On May 25, the government issued the Public Service Ordinance, which allows the dismissal of civil

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



A local youth rides his motorcycle onto Platform-1 of Brahmanbaria Railway Station while the Chattogram-bound Mohanagar Express is stopped there. Despite strict restrictions on vehicles entering Key Point Installation (KPI)-designated railway premises, such rules are frequently ignored. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Eleven killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Eleven people were killed and scores others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday.

In Chattogram, a truck rammed a lorry on Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in Mirsarai, leaving trucker Faruk Hossain, 39, and his assistant Robiul Islam, 35, dead.

In Patiya, another trucker, Morshed, 24, was killed and four others were injured as a bus collided with a truck.

"Police seized both vehicles," said Jasim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Crossing Highway Police Station.

In Fatikchhari, a bus hit a motorcycle at Dantmara area, killing its rider Md Raju, 25, said Mahbulul Haque, OC of Bhujpur Police Station.

In Mymensingh, a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Tarakanda, killing three passengers and injuring several others, said Md Tipu Sultan, OC of Tarakanda Police Station.

In Gopalganj, Bipul Pal, 40, was killed as a covered-van hit a Nasimon in Gopinathpur area.

Soon afterwards, bus helper Shawon was killed and 10 others were injured as a bus rammed a parked truck in the area. The injured were taken to Gopalganj 250-Bed General Hospital.

In another incident, Sarowar Kha was killed as a bus hit him in Tuku Bazar area.

In Netrokona, two CNG-run auto-rickshaws collided in Kendua upazila, leaving passenger Rahela Begum, 55, dead.



Barishal City Corporation workers clean a canal on the outskirts of Barishal city. Years of encroachment and pollution have clogged the waterway, causing the mini pontoon they were using to get stuck. The photo was taken in the Katherpol area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Farmer dies from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A farmer was electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire placed around a fish pond in Jhajhri village under Chuadanga Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Chan Mia, 35, of Majherpara area of the village.

Muhammad Shahid Titumir, officer-in-charge of Darshana Police Station, confirmed the incident.

A resident of the same village had leased the pond for fish farming and installed live GI wires around it to prevent theft. Yesterday morning, Chan Mia accidentally came in contact with the live wire while on his way to the crop field and died on the spot, the OC said.

## Secretariat staffers

FROM PAGE 3

servants through a show-cause notice without formal departmental proceedings for four types of disciplinary offences.

After discussions with employee leaders, several secretaries, led by the land secretary, conveyed their demands to the

cabinet secretary, who then informed the chief adviser.

In response, the government formed a review committee on June 4, headed by the law adviser. Although the committee has met twice, it has yet to submit any recommendations.

## Give priority

FROM PAGE 3

by a repressive regime.

"This approach can open a new chapter in our criminal justice system. We are not without precedent. In the Mukim Gazi case [51 DLR (AD) (1999) 120], our High Court ruled that in an arms case, the burden shifted to the accused to disprove official testimony," he added.

The attorney general also criticised the judiciary's past vulnerability to both financial and intellectual corruption, particularly during what he termed the last 15 years of fascist rule.

"While some judges have faced disciplinary action

for financial corruption, intellectual corruption has gone largely unaddressed — harming the nation gravely. A prime example is the verdict in the Thirteenth Amendment case..."

He cited reports stating that under the previous regime, around 700 people were forcibly disappeared, over 4,500 were killed extrajudicially, and more than six million faced political persecution.

"In contrast, in the ten months since the July uprising, no enforced disappearance has been reported by any human rights body," said Asaduzzaman.

## JP faces new rift

FROM PAGE 3

council date and preside over it. Those criticising Article 20 (Ka) should raise the issue in the party forum — not take a confrontational stance that risks the party's unity."

Since the 2024 mass uprising, Quader has faced mounting political and legal pressure. Both he and his wife Sherifa Quader have been named in multiple murder cases related to the July unrest.

JP events across the country have faced disruptions, and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has frozen Quader's bank accounts.

Jatiya Party, founded in 1986 by HM Ershad, has a long history of factionalism, having already split at least four times. The current infighting, observers say, could lead to yet another division — unless a consensus is reached soon.

## Trees unprotected in protected forest

10-12 teak trees felled, stolen from Satchari National Park

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

At least 10 to 12 age-old teak trees have been illegally felled and stolen in recent weeks from Section 16 of Satchari National Park, a protected forest in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj — raising serious concerns over forest management and surveillance failures.

One such tree, around 30-35 feet long and worth approximately Tk 3 lakh, was cut down and stolen on June 18. It stood near the park's entrance, adjacent to the Dhaka Sylhet highway. Forest officials discovered the theft a day later, by which time only the root remained — the trunk and branches were gone.

Locals allege the roots of other stolen trees were deliberately covered with soil to conceal evidence. A resident, requesting anonymity, claimed some forest department staffers are complicit in the thefts.

Environmental journalist Nurul Amin noted that despite the Forest Department's manpower, including night patrol teams and a co-management committee, tree thefts continue unabated. "It's alarming and points to serious lapses in forest

protection," he said.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Habiganj chapter, expressed deep concern over the recurring incidents. "There's a disturbing pattern here. Allegations suggest officials themselves helped hide stumps. If true, this is a grave breach of trust," he said.

He called for real-time monitoring using hidden cameras, drones, and community-based surveillance, alongside independent audits and stronger enforcement.

Longtime resident Mosharrar Mia, 50, said the forest has thinned drastically over the years. "It was once dense. Now, it's not even half of what it used to be. Illegal logging hasn't stopped despite various initiatives," he lamented.

Contacted, Mir Jahangir Alam, divisional forest officer of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department in Sylhet, said the park ranger had reported the incident and an investigation is underway.

Regarding legal steps, he said action can be taken within 30 days under the Forest Act. "We are taking the matter seriously, though identifying the culprits immediately is challenging," he added.



## MURDER CASE Mahamudul gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A

Rangpur

court

yesterday

granted

bail to

Mahamu-

dul Haque,

assistant

professor at

the

Department of

Mass

Communication

and

Journalism at

Begum

Rokeya

University,

Rangpur (BRUR), in a

murder case filed over

the death of a grocery

shop owner.

Judge

Mosammat

Marzia Khatun of the

Rangpur Metropolitan

Sessions Judge's Court

approved the

bail

after a hearing in the

afternoon. Mahamudul

was later released from

jail.

Earlier in the day,

a bail petition had

been submitted to a

magistrate court, but his

lawyers withdrew it and

moved to the sessions

court for an immediate

hearing.

Mahmudul's lawyer

Shamim Al Mamun said

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 969 OF 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF:  
Bahon limited, represented by its Managing Director, Syed Samiul Haq, having its office at Star Centre, 2nd Floor, House-02, Block-SE(C), Road-138, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. ————— PETITIONER.  
—VERSUS—  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms, TCB Bhaban, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. ————— RESPONDENT.

This is to notify of all concern that Bahon limited has filed an application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 before the Hon'ble High Court Division for condonation of delay in AGM of the Company for the year of 2024. That the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division upon hearing the learned advocate for the petitioner was pleased to admit the application vide order dated 02.06.2025 and directed to publish notice within 04(four) weeks and submit compliance before or on 9th July, 2025. If any person or body of persons has got any interest on the matter may appear before the court on the date so fixed for hearing. A copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

Md. Faizullah, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Room No.5027(Annex), Cell- 01723511044

**STATUTORY NOTICE**  
In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
High Court Division  
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)  
Company Matter No. 951 of 2025

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

IN THE MATTER OF:  
Mohammed Monirul Islam. ————— Petitioner  
—Versus—  
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and Others. ————— Respondents.  
—Respondent

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting for the year 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and relieving the Directors and officers of the company from their liability of payment of fine or penalty.

Upon hearing of the application on 01/06/2025, the Hon'ble Company judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the said application and directed to publish the notice in this Newspaper and also directed to file an affidavit-in-compliance on or before 03/07/2025.

If any person interested to oppose in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court for hearing either himself or through his advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

Mohammad Mozammel Hossain  
Advocate  
Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Room No 4023 (Annex Building)  
Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Dhaka.

D-43

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

## Addendum-01 to Invitation to Bid for Worldwide Media Rights

(Of All Bilateral International Home Series(s) Involving the Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) from 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2027)

Ref: BCB/ World Media Rights / 2025/389

### ADDENDUM-01

With reference to the advertisements published in the national dailies i.e., the Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Bangladesh Protidin on 12th of June 2025 under the heading: 'Invitation to Bid for Worldwide Media Rights of All Bilateral Home Series(s) Involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) from 12 July 2025 to 15 June 2027' (Ref: BCB/World Media Rights/2025/365). The following modifications and clarifications shall be deemed as part of the aforesaid advertisements and are hereby issued as an official Addendum-01:

#### 1. Inclusion of DTH Rights under TV Category

The BCB has resolved to include Direct-To-Home (DTH) rights within the scope of TV Rights, which now comprises as follows with other Worldwide Media Rights:

- Satellite TV (Linear) including Direct-To-Home (DTH)
- Digital (OTT)

#### 2. Flexible Bidding Structure - Global & Territory-wise

BCB shall offer two bidding models:

- Single Global Bundle (covering all rights and territories)
- Territory-wise rights (e.g., Bangladesh only, Rest of the World/ Specific Regions(s))

BCB reserves the right to award the rights under either structure, at its sole discretion.

#### 3. Eligible Rights Combinations for Bidders

Bidders may submit their offers for:

- Satellite TV including Direct-To-Home (DTH) only
- Digital OTT Rights Only
- Both Satellite TV including Direct-To-Home (DTH) and Digital OTT Rights

This option is available under both bidding models - territory specific (e.g., Bangladesh only, Rest of the World/ Specific Region(s)) and global bundle - allowing bidders to choose the rights category (TV, Digital, or both) that aligns with their strategic interest.

#### 4. Bid Document Purchasing Fee

The Bid Document shall be made available for free of charge. However, prospective bidders are required to submit a formal request via email to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) at [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com) in order to obtain the Bid Document. Such request must be accompanied by a company profile and/or ownership details of the applicant entity.

#### 5. Proportionate Security Deposit Structure

A Proportionate Security Deposit Structure has been introduced whereby bidders submitting offers for specific rights categories or designated territories will be required to submit a Security Deposit calculated on a pro-rata basis, relative to the selected rights bundle and territorial scope. A full annexure detailing the proportional Security Deposit amounts for each category and territory is set out in the Bid Document.

#### 6. TV Production Responsibility

BCB shall retain exclusive responsibility for all television production, including technical and cost aspects, for all matches covered under the Rights period. The Minimum Level of Production shall be specified in the Bid Document.

#### 7. Important Deadlines (Unchanged)

- Bid Document Collection via email: 15 June 2025 - 6 July 2025
- Technical Offer Submission Deadline: 7 July 2025 (by 5:00 PM BST)
- Security Deposit Submission Deadline: 8 July 2025 (by 12:00 PM BST)
- Open Bidding Process: 10 July 2025 (commencing at 12:00 PM BST)

For further clarification or detailed allocation sheet, bidders may contact: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com)

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at its sole discretion at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. The BCB also reserves the right to amend, postpone or cancel this Addendum-01 at any time prior to commencement of the Open Bidding Process on July 10, 2025 at BST 1200 hrs and / or modify, add or alter the terms of this document and/ or the conditions for bidding process by issuing further addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the bid.

Authority  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)  
Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

**বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন**  
চিনি শিল্প ভবন, ৩, দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ  
BANGLADESH SUGAR & FOOD INDUSTRIES CORPORATION  
Chinshilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000  
E-mail: bsfcpurchase@yahoo.com, web: bsfc.gov.bd PHONE 9564890.

নথি নম্বর: ৩৬.০৪.০০০০.০০৫.০৭.০৮৭.২৫.২০১ তারিখ: ২২/০৬/২০২৫ খ্রি.

**হর্স ড্রাই লেড, ফিল্টার পেপার সার্কেল এবং ফিল্টার পেপার শীট ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

টেডার ডকুমেন্টের উল্লিখিত শর্তে বিএসএফআইসি'র আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন চিনিকলে সরবরাহের ভিত্তিতে নিম্নোক্ত দ্রব্যাদি ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে অভিজ্ঞ দরদাতা/আমদানীকারক/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

|    |                                    |  |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| ১  | ক্রয়কারী দপ্তরের নাম              | : বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন, ঢাকা   |
| ২  | দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ               | : ৩৬.০৪.০০০০.০০৫.০৭.০৮৭.২৫.২০১ তারিখ: ২২/০৬/২০২৫   |
| ৩  | টেডার সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান       | : মহাব্যবস্থাপক (ক্যাশ), বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন, চিনিশিল্প ভবন (৮ম তলা), ৩ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা  |
| ৪  | দরপত্র দাখিল ও উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান | : বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন, চিনিশিল্প ভবন, সাচিবিক শাখা (৫ম তলা), ৩ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা।  |
| ৫  | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়  | : ০৯-০৭-২০২৫ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।   |
| ৬  | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়    | : ২০-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।   |
| ৭  | দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়  | : ২০-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২.১৫ টা ঘটিকায়।  |
| ৮  | মালামাল সরবরাহের সময়              | : অক্টোবর, ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে।   |
| ৯  | দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ             | : ১২,০০০ (বার হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে ( ফেরতযোগ্য)।   |
| ১০ | প্রতি স্টে সিডিউলের মূল্য          | : ৭০০.০০ (সাতশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।  |
| ১১ | পন্যের নাম ও পরিমাণ                | : ক) হর্স ড্রাই লেড - ১৫০ কেজি।<br>খ) ফিল্টার পেপার সার্কেল - ২০০ প্যাকেট।<br>গ) ফিল্টার পেপার শীট - ১২৭০ পিস।   |
| ১২ | বিশেষ নির্দেশনা                    | : ক) টেডার দাখিল ও উন্মুক্ত করণের তারিখে অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্য-দিবসে একই সময়ে টেডার গ্রহণ ও উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।<br>খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন/সকল টেডার গ্রহণ/ব্যতিলের অধিকার অত্র করপোরেশন সংরক্ষণ করে।<br>গ) দরপত্র হাতে হাতে অথবা রেজিস্টার্ড ডাক কিংবা কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস যোগেও সচিব শাখায় প্রেরণ করা যাবে, তবে তা অবশ্যই দরপত্র দাখিলের নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে।<br>ঘ) অন্যান্য শর্তাবলীর ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধি-২০০৮ প্রযোজ্য হবে। |

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প্রধান (ক্রয়)

GD-1442

## IRAN STRIKES Authorities step up security across US

CNN ONLINE

US federal authorities and leaders in several major US cities and states are increasing security measures and monitoring for potential threats after US strikes on key Iranian nuclear facilities.

"Our assets are fully engaged. We remain vigilant. God bless America, and all those who defend Her," FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino posted on X.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said, "We will work unceasingly to protect the American homeland."

Local leaders and law enforcement are also on heightened alert. "We're tracking the situation unfolding in Iran. Out of an abundance of caution, we're deploying additional resources to religious,

**"All State agencies, utilities and other critical infrastructure facilities are on high alert to monitor for any possible disturbances."**

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said.

cultural, and diplomatic sites across NYC and coordinating with our federal partners," New York Police Department said.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said there is no specific or credible threat to New Yorkers, but added, "Given New York's distinctive global profile, we are taking this situation extraordinarily seriously."

"All State agencies, utilities and other critical infrastructure facilities are on high alert to monitor for any possible disturbances," she said.

The Los Angeles Police Department is also increasing patrols near places of worship and other sensitive areas, according to Mayor Karen Bass.

"We will remain vigilant in protecting our communities," Bass said.

Police in Washington, DC, will maintain an "increased presence" at religious institutions, according to the Metropolitan Police Department. Mayor Muriel Bowser said, "Together, we are monitoring intelligence and, as always, ask everyone to stay vigilant."

Authorities and leaders in New Jersey, Texas, Illinois and others have announced that security will be heightened and threat monitoring increased following the US strikes.



Palestinians queue yesterday in front of a hot meal distribution kitchen in the al-Mawasi area of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip. Several Palestinian civilians were killed and others wounded that morning as Israeli forces launched a series of airstrikes targeting central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: AFP

# World reacts to US attacks on Iran's nuclear sites

### AGENCIES

The United States has bombed three nuclear sites in Iran, further escalating the war between Israel and Iran.

Iran acknowledged the attacks, saying its personnel working at the nuclear sites were evacuated before the attacks. Here are some key reactions from around the world following the US strikes on Iran's nuclear sites:

### IRAN

In his first public remarks after the strikes, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi accused the US of breaching international law.

"The United States, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has committed a grave violation of the UN Charter, international law and the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] by attacking Iran's peaceful nuclear installations," Araghchi said in a social media post.

### UNITED NATIONS

"I am gravely alarmed by the use of force by the United States against Iran today," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

"This is a dangerous escalation in a region already on the edge – and a direct threat to international peace and security," he said, adding that there is a "growing risk" that this conflict could "rapidly get out of control – with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world."

### SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia expressed its "great concern" following the US attacks, according to a statement by the foreign ministry on X.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following with great concern the developments in the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran, represented by the targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities by the United States of America," the Saudi foreign ministry posted on X.

### QATAR

Qatar says it fears serious repercussions after the US air strikes on nuclear facilities in Iran. The foreign ministry "warns that the current dangerous escalation in the region may lead to catastrophic consequences at both the regional and international levels," a statement said.

### RUSSIA

Russia's foreign ministry said it strongly condemns the US attacks on Iran, reports Al Jazeera online. "The irresponsible decision to subject the territory of a sovereign state



to missile and bomb attacks, whatever the arguments it may be presented with, flagrantly violates international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council," the ministry said in its statement.

### CHINA

The foreign ministry said it "strongly condemns" US strikes on Iran's nuclear sites, that "seriously violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and have exacerbated tensions in the Middle East."

"China calls on the parties to the conflict, Israel in particular, to reach a ceasefire as soon as possible, ensure the safety of civilians, and

start dialogue and negotiation," the ministry said on X.

### UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister Keir Starmer urged Iran to return to the negotiating table and said that stability in the region remained a priority, according to a statement from Downing Street.

"Iran's nuclear programme is a grave threat to international security. Iran can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and the US has taken action to alleviate that threat," Starmer said in a statement.

### EUROPEAN UNION

The EU's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas has called for de-escalation and a return to negotiations.

"I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation," Kallas wrote on X, adding Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and that EU foreign ministers will discuss the situation today.

### FRANCE

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot has expressed concern and urged "the parties to exercise restraint to avoid any escalation likely to lead to an extension of the conflict." In a statement on X, he added that France was "convinced that a lasting solution to this issue requires a negotiated solution within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty."

### US DEMOCRATS

The top Democrat in the House of Representatives accused Trump of pushing the country towards war.

"President Trump misled the country about his intentions, failed to seek congressional authorization for the use of military force and risks American entanglement in a potentially disastrous war in the Middle East," Congressman Hakeem Jeffries said in a statement.

## Trump gambles on force over diplomacy

AFP, Washington

For nearly a half-century the United States has squabbled with Iran's Islamic Republic but the conflict has largely been left in the shadows, with US policymakers believing, often reluctantly, that diplomacy was preferable.

With President Donald Trump's order of strikes on Iran's nuclear sites, the United States – like Israel, which encouraged him – has brought the conflict into the open, and the consequences may not be clear for some time to come.

"We will only know if it succeeded if we can get through the next three to five years without the Iranian regime acquiring nuclear weapons, which they now have compelling reasons to want," said Kenneth Pollack, a former CIA analyst and supporter of the 2003 Iraq war who is now vice president for policy at the Middle East Institute.

US intelligence had not concluded that Iran was building a nuclear bomb, with Tehran's sensitive atomic work largely seen as a means of leverage, and Iran can be presumed to have taken precautions in anticipation of strikes.

Trita Parsi, an outspoken critic of military action, said Trump "has now made it more likely that Iran will be a nuclear weapons state in the next five to 10 years."

"We should be careful not to confuse tactical success with strategic success," said Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for

Trita Parsi, an outspoken critic of military action, said Trump "has now made it more likely that Iran will be a nuclear weapons state in the next five to 10 years."

Responsible Statecraft.

"The Iraq war was also successful in the first few weeks but President Bush's declaration of 'Mission Accomplished' did not age well," he said.

### WEAK POINT FOR IRAN

Yet Trump's attack – a week after Israel began a major military campaign – came as the cleric-run state is at one of its weakest points since the 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the pro-Western shah.

Since the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel by Hamas, which enjoys Iran's support, Israel – besides obliterating much of Gaza – has decimated Lebanon's Hezbollah, a militant group that would once reliably strike Israel as Tehran's proxy.

Iran's main ally among Arab leaders, Syria's Bashar al-Assad, was also toppled in December.

Supporters of Trump's strike argued that diplomacy was not working, with Iran standing firm on its right to enrich uranium.

### ABRUPT HALT TO DIPLOMACY

Trump's attack comes almost exactly a decade after former president Barack Obama sealed a deal in which Iran drastically scaled back its nuclear work – which Trump pulled out of in 2018 after coming into office for his first term.

Most of Trump's Republican Party and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has long seen Iran as an existential threat, attacked Obama's deal because it allowed Tehran to enrich uranium at levels well beneath weapons grade and the key clauses had an end date.

But Trump, billing himself a peacemaker, just a month ago said on a visit to Gulf Arab monarchies that he was hopeful for a new deal with Iran, and his administration was preparing new talks when Netanyahu attacked Iran.

This prompted an abrupt U-turn from Trump. "Trump's decision to cut short his own efforts for diplomacy will also make it much harder to get a deal in the medium and long runs," said Jennifer Kavanagh, director of military analysis at Defense Priorities, which advocates restraint.

"Iran now has no incentive to trust Trump's word or to believe that striking a compromise will advance Iran's interests," said Kavanagh.

## Mob assaults ex-CEC Nurul Huda before his arrest

FROM PAGE 1

A few seconds later, a policeman grabbed Huda by his left hand and took him away. At that moment, someone was heard saying, "We've been keeping him [Huda] on watch since last night [Saturday]."

When the former CEC was being put into a police vehicle, slogans "Oi sei netri Khaleda Zia, Zia ... Khaleda" [There she is, our leader, Khaleda Zia ... Zia ... Khaleda] and "Nurul Huda dui gale, juta maro taley taley [Slap Nurul Huda with shoes – both cheeks] were chanted.

Asked about the assault on Huda, Deputy Commissioner Mohidul said, "I'm not aware of the matter."

Pressed further about the video, he said, "I haven't seen the video. I don't know anything about it."

"As he [Huda] was the chief election commissioner and conducted such an election, many people were aggrieved. A large number of people surrounded

his house. As soon as we reached the spot, we immediately took him into custody. However, I cannot confirm whether any incidents occurred before the police reached the spot."

Nazmul Hasan, organising secretary of Jatiyatabadi Swachhchasebak Dal, told this newspaper that the man, who hit Huda with a shoe, is only a supporter of the organisation at the ward level. He doesn't hold any post.

He added, "Former chief election commissioner Nurul Huda is mainly responsible for ruining Bangladesh's voting system. He also helped the fascists stay in power. He should be punished for taking away people's rights to vote. That's why he must face trial."

Yesterday afternoon, the BNP filed a case against three former CECs, including Huda, deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, 10 election

commissioners, and 10 others over election irregularities with the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The two other CECs are Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad and Kazi Habibur Awal, who presided over the national elections of 2014 and 2024 respectively.

The KM Nurul Huda-led commission became controversial after the December 2018 general election with opposition parties alleging ballot-box stuffing the night before election day.

In January 2019, the Jatiya Oikya Front alleged before the EC that between 30 and 60 percent of the votes were cast the night before.

The same month, Transparency International, Bangladesh, in a study found that stamping of ballots took place the night before the election day in more than one centre in 33 of the 50 surveyed constituencies.

The Awami League

won 288 out of 300 parliamentary seats in that election.

### GOVT ISSUES WARNING

The government in a statement last night said police arrested Huda in connection with a specific case. It came to the government's notice that a "mob" created a chaotic situation, and the accused was physically assaulted during the incident.

"The government once again urges all citizens not to take the law into their own hands.

"All accused will be brought to justice in accordance with the country's law, and decisions on sub-judice matters and individuals will be made by courts."

Assaulting the accused and subjecting them to physical abuse is illegal and a criminal offence. The law enforcement agencies will identify those responsible for instigating chaos through mob action and will take appropriate steps against them.



Rescuers carry a body from a damaged building following a Russian strike in Kramatorsk yesterday, amid the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

## World cannot afford another forever war

### Consequences of US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites may be grave

We're deeply alarmed by the United States forcing itself into Israel's war on Iran after days of provocative rhetoric. Early Sunday, the US Air Force's B-2 Spirit stealth bombers struck three key nuclear sites in Iran, using the powerful GBU-57 "bunker buster" bombs. President Donald Trump later claimed the strikes had "totally obliterated" these sites, although the extent of the damage is yet to be established. Fordow, Iran's most heavily fortified uranium enrichment site buried under 80 metres of rock, was reportedly hit with a full payload; Natanz and Isfahan were similarly targeted. While both the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iranian authorities have confirmed that no off-site radiation has been detected so far, the strategic and psychological toll of this attack is undeniable.

First of all, it marks a dangerous escalation in the ongoing war. Iran, which condemned the attack as "outrageous," warned of "everlasting consequences." Although by now Iranians appear degraded in their military capabilities thanks to the persistent, targeted Israeli attacks over the past week, "they have all sorts of asymmetric ways that they can respond [to the US attack]," as a former Middle East negotiator for US administrations has said. The US strike and threats of further attacks could, according to some analysts, provoke Tehran into retaliating by closing the Strait of Hormuz, attacking US military bases in the Middle East, stepping up its missile barrage on Israel, activating proxy groups against American and Israeli interests, etc. Of course, this is just a hypothetical scenario, as there is no telling what the reactions of a weakened, desperate, but still-resolute Iran will be in the long run.

The US Israeli strikes, we must say, should be viewed as part of an overall continuum that began with Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza—which received full US backing—and then continued with Israel's attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon and the fall of the Iran-backed Assad regime in Syria. The irony with the latest episode is that although Israel attacked Iran based on unfounded claims about the latter's nuclear programme, it likely has little to do with Iran actually acquiring nuclear weapons. As per an observer, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been claiming for over 20 years that Iran was "merely weeks, months, or a few years away" from obtaining them—much like how the US falsely cited the development of weapons of mass destruction to justify its war on Iraq. It is deeply shameful that such false claims are being repeated to commit war crimes while the world watches on silently.

This has to stop. Israel and the US must end their illegal campaigns in Iran and Gaza. We urge the international community to intervene decisively to stop such deadly geopolitical manoeuvres that bring suffering not only to civilians in the affected regions but across the world.

## Marriage as a rape cover-up is not justice

### It not only normalises rape, but also puts victims at further risk

It is alarming to learn of the incidents of rape victims being married off to their rapists, thus putting them at risk of continued abuse. Reportedly, accused rapists often seek to marry survivors as a means to evade legal consequences. While cases filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act—including rape—cannot legally be settled outside court, such arrangements are frequently made across the country through village arbitration or family negotiations. Girls who are married to their alleged rapists through these informal settlements are often subjected to further abuse, divorce, or unstable marriages. The question is: why are such marriages taking place? Are we not, in effect, granting impunity to rapists through these arrangements?

Between 2002 and 2011, *Prothom Alo* said it reported at least 20 cases in which rape survivors were married off to their accused rapists. Of these, 11 marriages ended due to physical and mental abuse, among other factors. In one case, the marriage continued, but the girl was subjected to ongoing violence. The remaining eight cases could not be tracked further. Additionally, over the past four years, *Prothom Alo* spoke with eight survivors and their families who had been married to their accused rapists. It was revealed that none of them were able to sustain a family life. Moreover, they struggled to obtain legal recognition for children born as a result of rape. In one tragic instance, a survivor was murdered after the marriage.

Some families said they agreed to such arrangements out of fear of social stigma. Some parents of adolescent and young girls who became pregnant due to rape said there was "no option but marriage." In some instances, these marriages were even formalised in court, with magistrates present. The recent incident of singer Mainul Ahsan Noble is a case in point. Noble, who was arrested in a rape case last month, married the victim on June 20 with court permission.

These incidents are not only shocking but also unacceptable. Rape is a criminal offence, and rapists must face due punishment under the law—not be rewarded with marriage. Sadly, our legal system is failing not only to convict rapists but also to protect survivors from further abuse and harassment through such marriages. Under no circumstances can forcing or coercing a survivor to marry their rapist be considered a solution. The state must take urgent steps to prevent such marriages and protect survivors from further trauma, injustice, and cruelty.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### The United Kingdom votes for Brexit

On this day in 2016, the United Kingdom voted in a referendum to withdraw from the European Union, with 51.9 percent supporting Britain's exit (Brexit) and 48.1 percent opposing the move; it marked the first time a country had decided to leave the organisation.

# The fallout of Trump's Iran strike

THE OVERTON WINDOW



Eresh Omar Jamal  
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ERESH OMAR JAMAL

US President Donald Trump has bombed Iran, as many had predicted. Rumours of Trump's intention to intervene in the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict had been circulating since June 18, starting with the Israeli media. On June 19, legendary journalist Seymour Hersh reported that, according to his sources, the intervention "will entail heavy American bombing," and that "the Trump administration is in full support of Israel's current plan to rid Iran of any trace of a nuclear weapons programme, while hoping the Ayatollah-led government in Tehran will be overthrown."

Nevertheless, many had hoped that the self-proclaimed "anti-war president," the "America First president," would refrain from dragging



VISUAL: SIFAT AFRIN SHAMS

on June 13 to Trump's subsequent escalation—likely has little to do with Iran actually acquiring nuclear weapons. Indeed, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been claiming for over 20 years that Iran was merely weeks, months, or a few years away from obtaining them.

Many experts, including former US army generals and senior intelligence officials, have argued that Iran's greatest mistake was its decision not to acquire nuclear weapons—something that could have served as a deterrent against the relentless pressure it faces, as well as outright attacks on its sovereignty.

They point to what happened in Libya, Iraq, and Syria—countries that agreed to abandon their weapons programmes—as opposed to North Korea. The North Korean leadership remains in place, while the leaderships in those other countries that made deals with the US have been removed—and, in most cases, eliminated. Those countries have also been bombed and devastated. North Korea, by contrast, has not, because it possesses the nuclear deterrent.

Prior to the US bombing, Iran had warned that it would target American assets in the Middle East if the US intervened. Many experts noted that US assets in the region were extremely vulnerable to retaliation. Some even argued that a US attack would compel Iran to conclude that it has no option

but to acquire nuclear weapons if it wishes to survive.

Now that Trump has crossed that Rubicon, it is impossible to predict what comes next. But in the aftermath of the attack, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu may—perhaps for the first time—have said something that will prove accurate: Trump's decision, he claimed, "will change history." And it

Iranian missiles but of drones and other weaponry. The fleet in the Persian Gulf, just off the Iranian coast, is also vulnerable to Iranian attacks, and that could impact global shipping, oil prices, and indeed the entire global economy." The proxy militias in Iraq could also "target American bases there." And so, there are "a number of ways that American forces could be vulnerable," and it would be surprising "if the Iranians don't target at least some of these."

However, as surprising as it may be for Iran to back down, that may be its best option. Following Israel's devastating success in eliminating Iran's top leadership in the surprise attack on June 13, the conflict has taken some shocking turns. Iran now seems to have been more successful in penetrating Israel's Iron Dome and inflicting damage. While it was initially believed that Iran wouldn't withstand Israel's intense barrage, it is becoming increasingly clear that it is Israel that is struggling to cope with Iran's missile strikes, as its defence systems are becoming exhausted trying to intercept them.

Israel had always sought to drag the US into this war, and in recent days it has tried even more desperately, as Iranian missiles continue to pummel the country. This has led to growing dissatisfaction among Israelis with Netanyahu, whose only path to retaining power appears to be fuelling further chaos.

It should now be clear to Iran that Netanyahu stands to benefit the most from any further escalation between the US and Iran. And that Trump, in bombing the three Iranian nuclear facilities, has effectively bombed his own base, a large portion of which supported him for his anti-war rhetoric. Now that his rhetoric has proven hollow, there could be significant domestic blowback.

The rest of the world, too, has once again witnessed how the US says one thing and does another. Global trust in the US's word has diminished further. Countries such as Russia and China—though unlikely to support Iran directly—may be more inclined to offer indirect assistance, viewing themselves as targets of the same adversary.

Therefore, it may be in Iran's best interest to play the long game: to survive and allow the US and Israel to further expose their hypocrisy to the world, rather than escalate the conflict and give Washington another excuse to raise the stakes and push for rapid regime change in Tehran.

**It should now be clear to Iran that Netanyahu stands to benefit the most from any further escalation between the US and Iran. And that Trump, in bombing the three Iranian nuclear facilities, has effectively bombed his own base, a large portion of which supported him for his anti-war rhetoric. Now that his rhetoric has proven hollow, there could be significant domestic blowback.**

the US into another major conflict.

But those hopes have now been shattered, as Trump—like every US president arguably since JFK—has put "Israel first" and bombed three of Iran's nuclear facilities: Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan. The great irony here is that this entire episode—from Israel's pre-emptive and illegal attack on Iran



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ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA

Ten years ago, countries across Asia and the Pacific united to correct a silent injustice: millions of people were being born and dying without ever being recorded. The launch of the Asia-Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade marked a bold regional commitment to ensure every birth and death is recorded, and every life counts.

At its core, the CRVS Decade was

by strong political commitment, improved systems, and regional cooperation. While there is much to celebrate, 5.1 crore unregistered children in Asia and the Pacific is still far too many.

We've come too far to stop now. We must extend the Asia-Pacific CRVS Decade to 2030.

Doing so will ensure that efforts

**A birth certificate is more than a document; it is a child's first proof of existence in the eyes of the law. Without it, that child may be shut out of school, denied healthcare, and excluded from social protection. They may be unable to prove their nationality—or even their age. The consequences are especially severe for the most vulnerable, and the effects ripple across generations.**

about more than data—it was about dignity. It aimed to equip governments with accurate, timely information to deliver essential services, shape responsive policies, and uphold the rights of every person, in every corner of the region.

Today, the region has made undeniable progress. Since 2012, the number of unregistered children under five has fallen by 62 percent, from 13.5 crore to 5.1 crore in 2024. This is an enormous achievement, made possible

to improve legal identity and vital statistics systems remain aligned with the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It will also provide countries with the time and support they need to finish what they started and to fully close the data gap that still leaves millions of people invisible.

Transforming CRVS systems takes partnership, persistence, and innovation. That's why the United Nations and our partners are committed to working together with

## We must ensure every birth and death is recorded



Since 2012, the number of unregistered children under five has fallen by 62 percent, from 13.5 crore to 5.1 crore in 2024.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

governments across the region, helping to build stronger, more inclusive, and people-centred CRVS systems.

A birth certificate is more than a document; it is a child's first proof of existence in the eyes of the law. Without it, that child may be shut out of school, denied healthcare, and excluded from social protection. They may be unable to prove their nationality—or even their age. The consequences are especially severe for the most vulnerable, and the effects ripple across generations. When mothers have legal identity, they can secure the same for their children, helping to break deep-rooted cycles of invisibility and exclusion.

We also face a grave challenge on the other side of life. Every year, 69 lakh deaths go unregistered in the region, leaving families without access to inheritance, land rights, or pensions. And even among registered deaths, fewer than one in three are medically certified, meaning we often don't know why people are dying.

This gap in knowledge leaves public health systems in the dark, unable to fully understand, prepare for, or respond to health threats. Timely, disaggregated statistics on causes of death are essential for designing and monitoring effective health policies, and for detecting emerging crises, including pandemics.

The upcoming Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific is the moment to act. Governments must use this opportunity to recommit to the CRVS agenda, renew their national targets, and align with the SDG finish line in 2030.

Extending the CRVS Decade to 2030 is a declaration: everyone counts. Data saves lives. Legal identity is a right, not a privilege. No one should be left behind simply because they were never counted in the first place.

Let us finish what we started. Let us get everyone in the picture and ensure every life truly counts.

90TH BIRTHDAY OF SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY

# Interrogating power, envisioning emancipation



**Dr Azfar Hussain**  
is currently summer distinguished professor of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). He is director of the graduate programme in social innovation and a professor of interdisciplinary studies at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, US, and vice president of the US-based Global Center for Advanced Studies (GCAS).

**AZFAR HUSSAIN**

Serajul Islam Choudhury turns 90 today. "Life is all about enjoying work," he said on his eightieth birthday, a deceptively simple line from a man whose lifelong labour—epic in both dimension and direction—has been nothing short of monumental. At 90, he is still remarkably active, while standing out as our foremost intellectual and literary-cultural critic—one whose productivity, passion, and political commitment have few parallels in the country. As a teacher, writer, editor, columnist, historian, translator, activist, public speaker, and even organiser, Choudhury has sustained an intellectual—and politically engaged—struggle that is as rigorous as it is radical. He has authored as many as 115 books and countless articles in both Bangla and English. His work does not merely interpret the world; it is involved in the struggle to change it.

A direct teacher of mine in the English Department at Dhaka University, Choudhury shaped my intellectual formation in more ways than I can count. But beyond the personal, he continues to serve as a committed thinker and writer rooted in the

formalist insularity of New Criticism and instead insisting that literature is never autonomous from the material world. Literature, in his view, is a contested site—a space of ideological struggle, shaped by and shaping the socio-political forces of its time. Choudhury is perhaps the first Bangladeshi critic to propose and practice what he himself calls "the social grammar of literature"—a formulation that draws simultaneously on the dialectics of the social and an acute sense of historical specificity.

What makes this approach so generative is its commitment to interdisciplinarity—not as academic fashion but as an intellectual and political imperative for understanding and transforming the world. Drawing on history, culture, social studies and politics, and even political economy, Choudhury has exemplarily demonstrated how literature emerges from, and participates in, the dense and often antagonistic textures of lived experience. His readings of canonical figures like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Rabindranath Tagore, Sarat Chandra

rather, he interrogates. Even when criticising canonical giants like Rabindranath or Sarat, Choudhury recognises their brilliance and contributions while subjecting them to rigorous ideological scrutiny. He politicises the aesthetic without aestheticising politics.

In many of his seminal works—such as *Bangla Goddyer Samajik Byakaron*, *Sreni Somoy Sahityo*, and *Rabindranath Keno Joruri*—Choudhury compellingly

distorts of developmentalist rhetoric, the failures of our colonial education system, the indifference to political responsibility, and the legacy of the October Revolution. These essays also unmask the cultural contours of capitalism—its capacity to uproot people, commodify life, destroy environment, and normalise violence. Choudhury sees clearly that capitalism is not only a global economic system but also a cultural regime—a way of

cultural erasure—that structure them. He has been anti-fascist precisely because he is anti-capitalist, having long recognised the fascist tendencies of capitalism pushed to its extremes. He views the liberation struggle of 1971 as our most defining and most glorious achievement without diminishing the significance of the unprecedented July uprising of 2024 in Bangladesh.

And for him the question of style is not merely an aesthetic but a political question. His prose is lucid, forceful, evocative—at once intellectually substantial, immensely readable, and thus widely accessible. He does not write for a small coterie of academics; he writes for the people. His language grips, moves, and provokes. It is, in the deepest sense, a democratic language—one that makes knowledge available, not arcane.

Despite the sheer breadth of his work—from the ancient Greeks to Bangladesh's working-class and peasant struggles, from Socrates to Sophocles to Shakespeare to Said, from Beowulf to Bhasani—Choudhury's focus remains unwavering: the production of oppositional knowledge for the purposes of liberation. In his magisterial *Jatiyotabad*, *Sampradayikata o Janoganer Mukti*, he surveys vast historical terrain only to return again and again to one central question: How do we free ourselves—from communalism, from capitalism, and from its highest stage, imperialism?

Even now Serajul Islam Choudhury continues to teach, speak, write, and organise. He already initiated a forum for socialist intellectuals in Dhaka—a powerful reminder that the work of liberation is never done—as he's a convener of Bangladesh's National Palestine Solidarity Committee. In a world where the tyranny of capital is as much economic as cultural, Choudhury remains among the few who persistently connect the dots—between aesthetics and ideology, between language and labour, between everyday life and planetary injustice. Serajul Islam Choudhury is, in the truest and fullest sense of the word, an intellectual—one who intervenes in the world with the intent to remake it. And for those of us who have learned from him, worked with him, or merely read him with care, Choudhury remains not only a teacher but a source of inexhaustible inspiration. As the Latin American poet Otto René Castillo put it, it is beautiful "to love the world with eyes that have not yet been born." Serajul Islam Choudhury's work continues to help us imagine those eyes—and the worlds they might one day see. I wish my teacher a happy birthday and a life ever more filled with love and light and laughter.



**Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury.**

FILE ILLUSTRATION: BIPOB CHAKROBORTY

**Serajul Islam Choudhury redefined the very act of literary criticism in Bangladesh. He did so by emphatically eschewing the formalist insularity of New Criticism and instead insisting that literature is never autonomous from the material world. Literature, in his view, is a contested site—a space of ideological struggle, shaped by and shaping the socio-political forces of its time.**

people's struggles, offering a steady stream of critical interventions across literature, culture, history, and politics, all while persistently aligning himself with those cast to the margins—peasants, workers, women, indigenous communities, and the oppressed in all their forms. Indeed, to read Choudhury's writing is to encounter a relentless resistance to different forms and forces of oppression, and a deep, unyielding belief in the possibility—and necessity—of human emancipation.

Serajul Islam Choudhury redefined the very act of literary criticism in Bangladesh. He did so by emphatically eschewing the

Chattopadhyay, Kazi Nazrul Islam, and Jibanananda Das—to mention but a few—are not just literary interpretations; they are ideological engagements, full of contestations over class, culture, gender, and power.

In this regard, Choudhury's work has inaugurated an entire school of what we might call *oppositional criticism*—criticism that neither genuflects before literary canon nor shies away from exposing the reactionary undercurrents within otherwise celebrated authors. Yet he is never dismissive. His critical gaze is sharp, but never cynical. He does not unthinkingly deify nor hastily demonise;

demonstrates how literary texts encode the contradictions of their historical conjunctures. These texts not only reveal the deep imbrications of culture with class but also indicate literature's potential role in building emancipatory consciousness. For Choudhury, literature is, of course, to be enjoyed or admired; but it is also to be mobilised.

But literature is only one of Choudhury's many battlegrounds. His literary criticism consistently morphs into cultural criticism, and here again, his project is avowedly political. In Choudhury's analysis, culture is never confined to the arts—it encompasses the totality of lived human practices, from everyday rituals to structures of feeling. And this culture, too, is a terrain of struggle—a site where ideologies contend, where the dominant seeks to naturalise itself, and where the oppressed also resist.

Take, for instance, his collection *Pa Rakhi Kothay*, in which Choudhury turns his attention to issues as varied as the

organising desire, aspiration, perception, and language. In response, he calls for a culture of resistance, one that not only criticises the existing order of things but envisions alternative futures. For him, the alternative is socialism. He is our major socialist writer.

Choudhury must also be acknowledged as a sociologist of the everyday. Through his once-nationally-popular columns such as "Somoy Bohiya Jay" and his editorial work with journals like *Notun Diganta* and—earlier—*Saptahik Somoy*, Choudhury brought intellectual rigour to the seemingly ordinary. He has a remarkable capacity to zoom in on what may appear trivial—a conversation on the street, a piece of political rhetoric, a ritual at home—and extract from it insights into the structures of power that shape our lives. He understands that the truth of a society often lies in its smallest ostensibly insignificant details. And in exposing those details, he never loses sight of the larger systemic forces—class exploitation, state repression, patriarchal domination,

## Can Bangladesh feed its projected 22 crore population by 2050?



**Mohammad Kamruzzaman Milon**  
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**MOHAMMAD KAMRUZZAMAN MILON**

Rice is at the heart of Bangladesh's economy, culture, and food system. It is not just a staple food, it is the very foundation of national food security and rural livelihoods. With more than 40 million tonnes produced annually and consumed by nearly every household, rice is woven into the social and economic fabric of the nation. Over the past five decades, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in ensuring rice self-sufficiency. From 9.77 million metric tonnes in 1971-72, production surged to 40.6 million metric tonnes in 2022-23 due to advances in varietal development, irrigation, and farm-level extension.

But as the country looks ahead to 2050, this success story faces serious threats. Climate change, a shrinking labour force, land degradation, and rising demand from a projected population of 22 crore—all point towards a future where business-as-usual will no longer suffice.

To meet these challenges, the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) has developed a bold and forward-looking Perspective Plan 2050. This strategic vision lays out a comprehensive approach to secure Bangladesh's rice sector for the next generation. It recognises that sustainability, resilience, and innovation must drive the future of rice production—not just yield and acreage. The core message is clear: if Bangladesh is to continue feeding its people and supporting its economy, it must radically transform how it produces rice, starting now.

One of the most immediate and pressing threats to rice production is climate change. BRRI's Perspective Plan outlines in stark terms how rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and extreme weather events will increasingly disrupt the country's agricultural calendar. Climate models project that by 2050, Bangladesh could experience between 120 and 150 days each year with maximum temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius. Similarly, the number of tropical nights—when the minimum temperature stays above 26 degrees Celsius—may rise to more than 200 nights annually. These conditions are highly detrimental to rice cultivation, particularly during critical growth stages. High daytime temperatures during panicle initiation and flowering can cause spikelet sterility, leading to yield losses of up to 50 percent. Night-time heat, on the other hand, interferes with the plant's ability to transfer energy, increasing respiration and reducing grain filling. According to studies cited in BRRI's plan, a single-degree Celsius increase in night temperature can cut rice yields by seven to 10 percent.

These alarming projections underscore the need for climate-adaptive strategies. BRRI's plan proposes a range of interventions, including the development of heat, drought, and salinity-tolerant rice varieties; the introduction of early warning systems and crop advisory tools; and the improvement of water management practices to help farmers adapt to erratic rainfall and rising temperatures. Such

adaptation is not optional—it is essential for preserving national food security in the face of environmental uncertainty.

But climate change is not the only factor that will shape the future of rice in Bangladesh. Demographic and economic trends are also reshaping the agricultural workforce. As of 2024, approximately 35 percent of the country's labour force remains engaged in agriculture. However,

**The BRRI Perspective Plan sets an ambitious target: 80 percent mechanisation of rice cultivation by 2050. This transformation would cover all major operations—from land preparation and seedling transplanting to harvesting and drying. Mechanised farming can dramatically reduce labour requirements, cut production costs, and improve timeliness—all of which are essential to remain competitive and sustainable.**

this share is projected to fall dramatically to around 8 percent by 2050, as more young people migrate to cities and take up jobs in manufacturing, services, or abroad. This demographic shift poses a significant risk to traditional, labour-intensive farming systems. With fewer hands available in the field, productivity may decline unless urgent steps are taken to mechanise and modernise rice production.

To address this challenge, the BRRI Perspective Plan sets an ambitious target: 80 percent mechanisation of rice cultivation by 2050. This transformation would cover all major operations—from land preparation and seedling transplanting to harvesting

and drying. Mechanised farming can dramatically reduce labour requirements, cut production costs, and improve timeliness—all of which are essential to remain competitive and sustainable. But mechanisation must be inclusive and accessible. For that, policies must support smallholder farmers in acquiring or accessing machinery, either through credit schemes, farmer cooperatives, or rural service providers. There must also be investment in training programmes to build the skills of machine operators, technicians, and youth entrepreneurs in rural areas. Mechanisation is not just about technology—it is about creating a new ecosystem for modern, efficient agriculture.

Another pillar of the Perspective Plan 2050 is genetic innovation. BRRI's plan emphasises the need to accelerate breeding programmes through speed breeding, genomic selection, and digital phenotyping. These advanced tools can shorten the breeding cycle and deliver high-yielding, resilient varieties tailored to specific ecologies. BRRI has already released 115 modern varieties, including 27 that are nutritionally enhanced with zinc, iron, and antioxidants. These varieties offer not only yield advantages but also public health benefits, helping to combat micronutrient deficiencies that affect millions of Bangladeshis. In a future shaped by climate extremes and dietary transitions, nutritional security will be just as important as caloric security.

In addition to innovation in genetics and machinery, the Perspective Plan identifies opportunities to expand rice production by improving cropping intensity and utilising underused agroecological zones. Large tracts of land in coastal, char, and fallow areas remain underutilised. BRRI proposes that by adjusting cropping patterns—introducing short-duration Aus rice between major seasons or integrating rice with pulses and oilseeds—Bangladesh

could harvest an additional four million tonnes of rice annually. This increase would not require more land, just smarter use of existing resources.

Post-harvest management is also a key focus of the plan. Significant quantities of rice are lost each year due to inefficient harvesting, drying, and storage practices. These losses represent not just wasted food but lost income for farmers and higher prices for consumers. By investing in post-harvest mechanisation, improved milling technology, and cold storage facilities, Bangladesh can reduce losses, improve grain quality, and strengthen the entire value chain. Moreover, developing branded, value-added rice products—such as aromatic or fortified rice—could open up new domestic and export markets, improving farmer profitability and consumer nutrition alike.

A major strength of the BRRI Perspective Plan is its recognition that resilience must be embedded throughout the rice system. The plan anticipates not only climate variability but also shocks such as cyclones, floods, market disruptions, and pandemics like Covid. Building resilience requires strong seed systems, farmer safety nets, crop insurance, and decentralised supply chains. It also means developing institutions that can respond rapidly to emergencies, communicate effectively with farmers, and coordinate action across different sectors.

None of this will be possible without cross-sector collaboration. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning, and the Ministry of Finance must align their strategies and investments with BRRI's vision. Development partners, NGOs, and private firms must be brought in to scale technologies, deliver services, and invest in rural infrastructure. At the heart of it all, farmers—especially smallholders, women, and youth—must be engaged not just as beneficiaries but as co-creators of change. The road to 2050 is long, but the time to act is now.

## 'Banalata Sen' eyes September 2025 release

Filmmaker Masud Hasan Ujjal's second feature film, *Banalata Sen*, is set to be released this September. With production, dubbing, and editing complete, the film is ready for submission to the censor board.

This government-funded project stars Masuma Rahman Nabila, who was initially offered a different role but ultimately landed the titular part after three auditions.

Ujjal describes the film as a poetic tribute to Jibanananda Das on his 125th birth anniversary this year. "I refuse to make any compromises on it," said the director. "This film is a national tribute to a literary genius, and preparations are currently underway," he added.



Two Bangladeshi films have been nominated for the 21st Kazan International Film Festival in Russia, which kicks off on September 5. *The Pair of White Pigeons*, a short film by Shahriar Azad Shaumik, and *Mighty Afrin: In the Time of Floods*,

a documentary by Angelos Rallis, earned spots in the lineup. Inspired by Shaumik's rural childhood in Jhikargacha, Jessore, *The Pair of White Pigeons* stars SK Shahriar and Shaheen Hossain. Meanwhile, *Mighty Afrin* follows a

12-year-old girl's struggle as a climate refugee during devastating floods. Produced in collaboration with Greece, France, Germany, and Bangladesh, it features Afrin Khanam and others. The teams behind both productions are anticipated to be present at the event.



## 'Insaaf 2' set for release next year

Following the success of *Insaaf*, director Sanjoy Somadder has officially announced that work on *Insaaf 2* is underway, with a targeted release slated for next year's Eid-ul-Azha.

The sequel promises to be bigger in scale, continuing the story with the original cast, including Mosharrar Karim, Sariful Razz, Tasnia Farin, and Chanchal Chowdhury, whose character will now be significantly utilised.

Sanjoy revealed that scriptwriting is currently in progress, with Nazim Ud Daula, Swarup Dey, and himself once again collaborating on the screenplay.

While the core cast from the first film remains, an additional female lead is expected to join, though her identity is being kept under wraps for now.

## Mingal's new song melds tradition with hard rock

Manipuri band Mingal has unveiled their latest track, *Kotio Durei*, composed in the Bishnupriya Manipuri language.

Performed by Animesh Singha, the song is now available for streaming on Mingal's official Facebook page and the Music Addiction YouTube channel.

Combining melodic elements with touches of hard rock and metal, the song presents a distinctive musical texture. The lyrics and melody were penned by Shuvashis Sinha, with the arrangement managed by the band members themselves.

Founded nearly 10 years ago, Mingal—which means light in Manipuri—strives to reimagine traditional Manipuri music through a modern lens. Alongside their Manipuri repertoire, the band also delves into Bengali music, broadening their creative scope across cultures.



## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### Jagannath University Film Festival 2025

The inaugural *Jagannath University Film Festival 2025* will run from June 23 to 25, organised by JnU Film Society with support from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Taking place at Chitrashala Auditorium of BSA and Jagannath University, with a special screening at Green University, the festival's theme is "Higher Stories Taking Flight."

A total of 64 short films will be screened across competitive and non-competitive sections. Awards will be given for Best Short Film (two categories) and Best Director. The jury includes Bidhan Ribeiro, Syed Ahmed Shawki, and Sadia Khalid Reeti.

**Date:** Monday-Wednesday | June 23-25

**Time:** 9am onwards

**Venue:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and JnU



## Russell Crowe boards 'Highlander' reboot starring Henry Cavill

Russell Crowe will take on the role of Henry Cavill's immortal mentor in the upcoming *Highlander* reboot, reuniting the duo after their roles in Zack Snyder's DC Universe films. Crowe is playing the modern version of the role originally played by Sean Connery.

The film, set to be directed by *John Wick's* Chad Stahelski and written by Michael Finch, is backed by Amazon MGM Studios, and United Artists.



# NEWS

## Separate secretariat will ensure independence Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury BNP factional clash

**FROM PAGE 12**  
The chief adviser said the opportunity for reform after the July uprising presents the government with the opportunity to design such mechanisms and power structures that can foil these autocratic manoeuvres.

The governance of the state in the 21st century presents distinct challenges to securing politics founded on democratic ideals. These challenges range from countering rising populism to repelling authoritarianism, illiberalism, and similar threats.

Bangladesh has unfortunately experienced all these challenges at various stages and in varying degrees, Yunus said, adding that it is widely argued that there is one institution, namely the judiciary, that can play the most significant role in addressing these issues.

"Every nation awaits a moment of transformation, an opportunity to mark a new beginning. This is our moment. We want to redress the past anarchies, bad administration, despotism and authoritarianism, and to set the country on a path of good governance and rule of law," Yunus said.

Chief Justice Rezaat said that the judiciary today stands as the fully functioning constitutional organ of the state, unyielding in its duty, grounded in its independence, and staunch in its commitment to justice.

The reform initiatives cannot sustain without a full-fledged and

institutionalised reform of the judiciary itself.

"To that end, I reiterate with utmost urgency the need for establishing a separate secretariat for the judiciary, which is essential not only for administrative autonomy but for securing the structural foundation upon which all other reforms must rest," Justice Rezaat said.

"Justice cannot be carried forward on borrowed infrastructure or delegated authority; it must stand on its own institutional legs," he added.

He said the student-led uprising dismantled a "compromised" judiciary and called for a new order grounded in truth and independence.

"I did not assume the office of the 25th chief justice by design, but was summoned by the people's will, entrusted with the solemn duty to restore faith in the rule of law and to rebuild the judiciary as a pillar of constitutional democracy," he said.

He also said that the Judicial Reform Roadmap taken by the Supreme Court is a declaration not of intent, but of institutional transformation grounded in independence, accountability, and service.

Central to this roadmap is the creation of a Supreme Court Secretariat to ensure administrative and financial autonomy, alongside a depoliticised guideline on postings and a proposal for separate civil and criminal trial courts to enhance adjudicatory clarity.

Institutional safeguards, such as enhanced allowances, car loans, and security measures for judges, were introduced not as privileges but as protections of judicial integrity, the chief justice said.

A judiciary cannot claim true independence unless the appointment and accountability of its highest members are structurally shielded from political influence, he said.

The proposal to form the Supreme Judicial Council, endorsed by the Judicial Reform Commission and swiftly operationalised through an ordinance approved by the interim government, has already borne fruit, he said.

The two judges most recently elevated to the Appellate Division were appointed under this process, setting a new standard of legitimacy, the chief justice said. A fresh round of appointments is now under consideration.

A Documentary on the "Roadmap for Judicial Reform in Bangladesh" was screened at the seminar. Appellate Division's Justice Ashfaqul Islam, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul and Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman, also spoke at the seminar. The other speakers included AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, president of Supreme Court Bar Association; Zainul Abedin, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council; and Stefan Liller, UNDP resident representative in Bangladesh.

**FROM PAGE 12**  
scholars, writers, and activists.

Despite facing cases and mounting pressure for his activism, a committed Marxist, Choudhury has also been at the forefront of resistance against environmental and cultural exploitation. He has opposed land grabbing, river pollution, deforestation, and commercial encroachments on historical sites.

To mark the day, his admirers will hold a discussion on the "Liberation War of 1971 and the role of nationalism" and stage a play at Bangla Academy in the afternoon. Choudhury will present the keynote speech there.

Born on June 23, 1936, at Bikrampur, Choudhury is an alumnus of St Gregory's High School and College, Notre Dame College, and English department of Dhaka University.

He completed his postgraduate diploma at the University of Leeds and earned his doctorate from the University of Leicester.

Before the publication of his post-graduation degree examination results, he started teaching English at Haraganga College in Munshiganj. After a brief period of teaching at Jagannath College, he joined the English department at the University of Dhaka.

He served there from 1957 to 2001 as lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. From 2004 to 2008, he had been a UGC professor. He is now an emeritus professor at DU.

In 1971, Serajul Islam Choudhury was one of the six university teachers warned by the then Pakistani military rulers for their so-called "anti-state" activities. During the war, he was on the Al-Badr death squad's "wanted list" but narrowly escaped the targeted killings of intellectuals.

He was elected by the Dhaka University Senate to the three-member panel for the appointment of the vice-chancellor on three occasions. However, each time, the country's president, who also served as chancellor of the university, appointed someone else to the post.

Choudhury was one of the drafters of the Dhaka University Order of 1973. In 1988, he compiled the convocation speeches of Dhaka University in two volumes, which were published by the university.

A prolific writer, Choudhury has authored over 100 titles and countless columns. He continues to offer sharp critiques of the undemocratic dynamics of social, economic, and political order.

His contributions to education and literature have earned him numerous honours, including the Ekushey Padak,

the Bangla Academy Award, and The Daily Star Lifetime Achievement Award (2016). He was also the first recipient of the Nazrul Puroskar, launched by the Bangla Academy in 2022.

He secured a prominent place in Bengali literature through works often through a Marxist lens. His book *Jatiyatabad*, *Samprodayikta O Janagoner Mukti* (Nationalism, Communalism, and the Liberation of the People) was selected as the Prothom Alo Book of the Year in 2015.

Choudhury has been the editor of the quarterly magazine *Natun Diganta* since 2002. He also edited the Dhaka University journals of arts and letters — *Dhaka Bishwavidyalay Patrika* (in Bangla) for 15 years and *Dhaka University Studies* (in English) for nine years.

He founded the University Book Centre in 1978 and the Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities in 1986. He was a leading figure in the Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir, a literary and cultural organisation. He is also the founding president of *Samaj Rupantar Adhyan Kendra* and the convener of *Samajtantrik Buddhijibi Sangha*. In addition, he serves as the president of the *Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad*.

Choudhury has written under various pseudonyms. Notably, he authored the column *Shomoy Bohiya Jay* (Time Flows On) in the *Daily Sangbad* under the pseudonym "Gachhpathor" (Tree Stone) and *Dhakai Thaki* (Living in Dhaka) in the monthly *Pubali* under the pseudonym "Nagarik" (Citizen).

He actively led protests against the felling of trees at *Osmani Udyan* in 1998, the construction of a commercial building in the courtyard of the *Lalon Shah shrine* in 2000, and the proposed airport in *Arial Beel*, *Munshiganj*, which threatened agricultural land in 2011. A case, filed against Choudhury and others over the *Arial Beel* protests, is still pending with a court.

In October 2022, a complaint was lodged with a Chattogram court accusing Choudhury and two others of defaming *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman* in an article titled "Sheikh Mujibur Gopon Shatru" (the Hidden Enemy of Sheikh Mujib) in a book published by *Chattogram Academy* the previous year. However, the case was later withdrawn following widespread criticism.

Since the passing of his wife, Prof Najma Jesmin Choudhury, in 1989, Serajul Islam Choudhury has led his life in the loving company of his two daughters, grandson, and granddaughters.

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Friday over the same issue, he added.

On Saturday afternoon, both groups, armed with sharp weapons, staged shows of force in the *Shahi Masjid*, *Bandar rail line*, and *Hafajibagh* areas.

Around 10:30pm, Kuddus was allegedly stabbed multiple times when he was near the *Bandar rail line*. His younger brother said, "He had no political affiliation. He was targeted because his son Parvez was part of the *Roni Jafar* faction. They couldn't find Parvez, so they stabbed my brother to death."

Later, Mehedi was beaten to death by the rival group. His brother-in-law *Mahfuzul Haque Sourav*, said, "They found Mehedi on the road, picked him up, and took him to *Sirajuddoula Club*. They beat him in the chest, head, and face. We later found his body in the hospital."

*Abul Kawser Asha* told *The Daily Star*, "Roni and Mehedi were once like brothers... but over the last few months, they've had disputes over local dominance."

*Hannan Sarkar* could not be reached for comments despite several attempts.

Police and Rab detained three suspects during overnight raids, SP *Pratyush* said, adding that two separate murder cases will be filed. Patrols continued in the area till yesterday noon.

## 5 die from Covid

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Amid rising numbers of infections, the DGHS urged people to wear masks.

The first Covid-19 cases were reported in the country on March 8, 2020, and the first death 10 days later.

The coronavirus has caused 29,515 deaths in Bangladesh so far.

## Suicide blast

**FROM PAGE 12**  
"We demand that the Syrian transitional authorities take immediate action to hold those involved accountable and implement measures to guarantee the safety of Christian communities and all religious groups, allowing them to live without fear."

Islamic State had previously targeted religious minorities, including a major attack on Shiite pilgrims in *Sayed Zainab* in 2016 — one of the most notorious bombings during Assad's rule.

The latest assault underscores the group's continued ability to exploit security gaps despite the collapse of its territorial control and years of counterterrorism efforts.

## NCP applies for EC registration

**FROM PAGE 12**  
He added that the party submitted all required documents, including 200 supporter signatures per upazila, lease agreements for party offices, and the party constitution, which was approved a day earlier at its general assembly.

On forming an alliance ahead of the next election, he said, "The National Consensus Commission's reform process is ongoing. Dr Muhammad Yunus has committed to announcing the 'July Charter' based on that consensus. Our decision on participating in polls will depend on the outcome of this reform."

Regarding their symbol request, he added, "We reviewed EC laws and found no restrictions on using the *Water Lily*."

NCP Member Secretary *Akhtar Hossain* said the party submitted three symbol options, with the *Water Lily* as its top choice. "We expect the EC to allocate the *Water Lily* as our symbol."

Chief Coordinator *Nasiruddin Patwari* said the other options were "pen" and "mobile phone", "The NCP

will be registered, and we will achieve a sweeping victory with the *Water Lily* as our symbol... We will win 300 [of the 400 proposed] seats to form the next government."

The EC began accepting applications on March 10. Initially, 65 parties submitted applications by the April 20 deadline. Following requests from 46 parties, the deadline was extended, and so far, 147 parties have applied for registration.

Currently, 50 parties are officially registered with the EC.

Registration with the commission allows parties to contest elections with their own electoral symbols under Article 90A of the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

Meanwhile, the registration of the previous ruling party *Awami League* remains suspended, while *Jamaat-e-Islami* is expected to regain its registration following a court order.

Parties that submitted applications yesterday include *Janatar Party Bangladesh* (JPB), *Ganadal*, *Bangladesh*

*Janajote Party*, *Bangladesh Republican Party* (BRP), *Bangladesh Samata Party*, *Janatar Dal*, and more.

**JPB SEEKS 'ELEPHANT', JANATAR DAL WANTS 'KEY'**  
JPB has requested the "elephant" as its electoral symbol.

The party's Secretary General *Shawkat Mahmud* said, "The current registration rules are difficult to comply with. Though the Election Reform Commission proposed changes, those haven't been implemented. Still, we've applied under the existing rules and expect to be registered."

He said JPB supports reforms and would cooperate with the EC if changes in regulations are implemented.

Meanwhile, *Janatar Dal* requested the "key" as its electoral symbol in its application, which was submitted by the party Convener *Brig Gen (Retd) Shamim Kamal* and Member Secretary *Azam Khan*.

"We've met all conditions and formed the required committees. The rest is up to the commission," said *Shamim*.



# REVIVING BAIN Chakma Fashion Reimagined

**For centuries, this weaving tradition had been the aesthetic pillar of Chakma culture. Yet, this significant form of artistic expression nearly faded away under the weight of cultural hegemony and intrusion of different cultural influences.**

JIDIT CHAKMA AND JIBAK CHAKMA

In the late afternoon, the sun seemed to drift hastily towards the Phuromon hill in the west. The krishnachura leaves whispered softly in the breeze while the birds' chirping spread a melodic resonance. A festive air lingered as guests began to arrive at the Upajatio Sangskritik Institute (USAI) premises. It's August 8, 2001—the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Rangamati. But this celebration did not centre so much around the usual themes of the day as around a fashion show highlighting a vital aspect of indigenous culture—traditional clothing. The hard work of two young Chakma individuals, spanning an entire year, was about to be unveiled here. Their work brought out the tale of a cultural revolution woven into the fabric of the hills.

Every culture possesses its own distinct and defining features. It's through elements like language, literature, lifestyle, religion or belief system, cuisine, and traditional motifs and utensils that one culture stands

stages from cotton cultivation to the crafting of these traditional garments, both women and men play essential roles, periodically and collectively.

As time passed and conditions evolved, communication systems improved in this once-isolated mountainous region. With these advancements came an influx of Bengali traders who brought with them an assortment of readily available cloth items. Even before their arrival, Bengali and some Western garments had already made their way into Chakma society, though they were limited to the Chakma Raja and a few other noble, affluent families. These clothes remained a privilege of the elite for some time. However, as these traders began to offer affordable and easily accessible clothes, they steadily gained popularity throughout Chakma society. In turn, the complex, laborious, and delicate traditional garments woven through bain gradually started to lose their relevance and utility.

The decline in the use and utility of men's traditional clothing came first. Notably, during this period, modern education was introduced among the Chakma communities, with men being the first to gain access. Those who had the opportunity to pursue this education gradually moved away from the customs and lifestyle of their forefathers, embracing a new way of living. Consequently, as part of their everyday attire, they no longer wore their traditional garments, which had suited their earlier way of life. Simultaneously, men's involvement in various stages of the weaving process diminished. This led to a decline in cotton production through jhum cultivation, and the once-thriving *Carpus Mahal* faded into history. The traditional knowledge of dyeing yarn with natural ingredients, a skill in which men had actively participated, also began to vanish. Thus, on the one hand, Chakma men gradually abandoned their ancestral clothing traditions and on the other, they lost touch with the wealth of cultural knowledge inherited from previous generations.

The Chakma women were an exception in that respect. They held onto their weaving heritage and traditional garments.

Sari, the customary outfit of Bengali women, increasingly became popular



**Manjulika and her mother emerged as iconic figures in bain weaving, with their deep knowledge of the craft becoming a vital asset to Chakma society.**

sustained the bain tradition using yarn sourced from the market.

In the ongoing effort to preserve the art of bain and the traditional women's attire, pinon hadi, within Chakma society, the contributions of certain organisations and individuals are particularly noteworthy. Foremost among them is an orphanage called *Moanoghar*. Three Buddhist monks had established this orphanage in the village of Rangapani, only a short distance from Rangamati city, in 1974.

One of the three monks, Bimalatishya Mahathero, aka Bimol Vante, initiated weaving activities using handlooms at Monghar in 1976. Despite his efforts, the initiative faced many challenges and did not achieve significant success at the time.

In the 1980s, however, a turning point came when Manjulika Khisa, better known as Hottali, and her mother, Panchalata Khisa, founded the 'Bain Textiles' as a private venture. This company, well recognised in the hill region to this day, was the first to produce a variety of consumer cloth items, including the traditional wear of Chakma women, using both handlooms and waist looms. Another

Arshi Dewan and Tenzing Chakma's project was divided into two distinct phases. The initial phase focused on researching different aspects of bain, involving an in-depth study of the techniques and materials used by various indigenous communities of the hills. The second phase was to organise a fashion show titled *Ray-gulo* (Ray-gulo, also known as *Reye-gulo*, is a motif that is used in weaving 'pinon'). It is the original traditional motif for weaving a pinon in Chakma society), aimed at showcasing the research findings and designs they had gathered to the public. Since their work was deeply rooted in tradition, they began collaborating with individuals who had long been connected to this tradition and enriched it through the years with their talent, hard work, and creativity. They reached out to Manjulika Khisa, Panchalata Khisa, and many others, gathering information from them about their research.

Meanwhile, another significant event occurred. Arshi Dewan was introduced to a cultural organisation called the Jhum Aesthetic Council (JAC), which had long been dedicated to preserving and nurturing the cultural heritage and traditions of the various indigenous communities in the CHI. Some of the senior members of JAC were teachers at an educational institution called *Moanoghar*. This institution was unique in the region, offering educational opportunities to marginalised students from every indigenous community in the jhum hills. *Moanoghar* became an invaluable hub for the study of indigenous peoples' cultures.

Arshi met several skilled weavers from Rangapani, a village near *Moanoghar*. Most remarkable among them were Konabi (known as Maloti Ma), Mala, Fellabi, Sapna, Nirmola, and Shovarani. Discovering such talented weavers in the same village was a fortunate turn for the project.

Most of the weaving work was carried out with the skilled weavers from Rangapani village. First, the team gathered and organised the information, categorising it into sections based on each weaver's expertise. It is important to note that these traditional garments have distinct parts. For instance, the cloth worn by Chakma women from the waist down is called 'pinon' while the cloth from the waist up is called 'hadi'. Among the weavers, some specialise in pinon weaving, some in hadi weaving, and a few are particularly skilled in creating floral patterns and designs on both. By categorising the weavers based on their areas of strength, they effectively prepared for the fashion show called 'Ray-gulo'.

The bain process begins with collecting and preparing the yarn. The yarn is washed, starched, and dried to make *badala*, a type of yarn reel. These reels are then arranged serially into the structures required for pinon or hadi after *suchyek* and *bakadi* bamboo sticks are hammered into the ground. After the basic structure is set, the weaving goes through the 'ju' process. In this step, the bain structure is pushed out of the ground and the designs known as *bakadi* and *teram* are set or drawn to get the right *taglak* and *ju*. It is then the actual weaving begins. A belt called *taty cham*, which is connected to the *taglak* bamboo, is tied around the weaver's waist, and thus the bain is prepared for weaving. After making one *ju* after another, the yarns are inserted into each *ju* and pressed with a biyong, and that's how a piece of pinon or hadi is woven, or other clothes for that matter. The weavers also carefully bring out the *alam* patterns—floral designs—within the cloth. Afterwards, some parts or designs from these cloth pieces were cut and combined with other clothes to create modern, trendy garments.

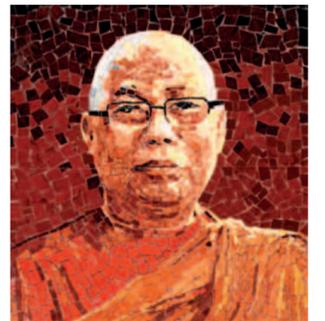
While the weaving work progressed, preparations for the fashion show were

also in full swing. Members of JAC once again stepped in to assist, offering support from start to finish.

Now, let's move on to the final event. It was Thursday, August 9, 2001—the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The day, however, was not celebrated on a large scale back then. But it held deep significance for the Chakma and other indigenous communities of Bangladesh. From that point onwards, the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh proudly displayed their traditional attire at every event and conference.

After the success of the event, Arshi Dewan Roy returned to her workplace abroad. Her research paper was published in a journal at Concordia University in Canada. Although she could not stay closely involved with the groundbreaking work she had initiated in the early 21st century, she passed the torch to a deserving individual.

Following the event in August 2001, Tenzing Chakma launched his career as a fashion designer and entrepreneur through his fashion house and brand, *Sazpadar* (this Chakma word denotes instruments used in bain activities). In 2002, he organised another fashion show in collaboration with the renowned *Bain Textiles*. It was during this second show that the use of pinon, hadi and other garments in a variety of colours beyond the traditional palette was unveiled. Tenzing Chakma's role in popularising the vibrant and



**Bimalatishya Mahathero began handloom-based weaving activities at Moanoghar in 1976.**

aesthetically captivating Chakma traditional attires is undeniable. His efforts earned him invitations to numerous fashion shows, both within and outside Bangladesh, allowing him to present bain of the hills creatively and aesthetically on to the global stage.

Inspired by Tenzing Chakma, there are now hundreds of women entrepreneurs and weaving artists across the hills who are revitalising the bain weaving art with their talent, creativity, and hard work. Today, hill communities proudly wear their traditional clothing at every event, showcasing a renewed sense of cultural pride. *Pahari* entrepreneurs have expanded the traditional *alam* flowery motifs and designs beyond pinon-hadi, incorporating them into various garments, including even Western style clothing, through their refined aesthetic sensibilities.

Currently, pinon and hadi crafted by these designers are the top choice among educated Chakma women when selecting wedding dresses. Even contemporary men's wear now features woven *alam* patterns or designs made through the bain, reflecting the convergence of modernity with tradition. There was once a superstition in Chakma society that it was inauspicious for men to walk beneath drying women's pinons and hadis. Today, however, men wear clothes woven through bain and adorned with the same designs and motifs for pinons and hadis as those used on women's pinons and hadis. Furthermore, men wear these clothes with confidence and pride, marking a significant cultural shift.

The most groundbreaking result, however, is the empowerment of Chakma women. Take Rangapani village as an example. The women who once wove bain solely for their own use have now become the primary breadwinners of their families. The income they generate through weaving supports their households, funds their children's education, and even finances their husbands' businesses. Across the hills, hundreds of similar villages have emerged, where women are actively leading their communities' economic and social transformations through bain weaving. More importantly, the aesthetic art form, once on the brink of extinction, has now evolved into an ever-expanding industry, revitalising itself and the culture it represents.

**Jidit Chakma is an anthropologist by training, and Jibak Chakma is a poet, writer, and activist.**

*The article was translated by Hironmoy Golder and Rifat Munim.*



**Arshi Dewan and Tenzing Chakma during a practice session. Their collaboration around 2000 sparked a new wave of innovation in bain weaving, with an influence that continues to grow today.**

PHOTO COURTESY: RAYGULA ARCHIVE

**A few individuals, with their relentless dedication and creative initiatives, and some Chakma weavers with their tremendous mental and physical effort, revitalised this nearly lost art form, reclaiming its cultural and aesthetic splendour.**

apart from another. For the Chakma people, one such emblematic element is bain. It means the Chakma art of weaving craft of the Chakma people, representing the practice of weaving traditional wear using waist looms.

For centuries, this weaving tradition had been the aesthetic pillar of Chakma culture. Yet, this significant form of artistic expression nearly faded away under the weight of cultural hegemony and intrusion of different cultural influences. But a few individuals, with their relentless dedication and creative initiatives, and some Chakma weavers with their tremendous mental and physical effort, revitalised this nearly lost art form, reclaiming its cultural and aesthetic splendour. Today, we will share the story of that reawakening.

The artistry of Chakma bain weaving stretches back hundreds of years. The cotton used for this craft was cultivated through the region's traditional jhum or shifting cultivation system. This cotton was so renowned that the area had once earned the name *Carpus Mahal*, translating roughly to 'the cotton estate'. The name was given by Mughal traders who exported the fine cotton produced in the forested hills of this region to Europe. The Chakma people's conflicts with and rebellion and war against the British centring the cotton trade are well recorded in Chakma history. The golden era of jhum cotton belongs to the past. Our ancestors had perfected the skill of extracting cotton from jhum fields, crafting eco-friendly yarn, dyeing it with natural pigments, and weaving it into garments using waist looms or bain. These looms produced every piece of traditional cloth, from the pinon-hadi and habang for women, to the *jummo sulum* and *tenye hani* for men, as well as other items like *boga gamchha*, *borgi sheet*, and *ahh habar*. However, with the passage of time, this rich tradition had begun to fade.

Undoubtedly, this method of weaving is intricate and time-consuming. The cultivation of jhum cotton demands specific season, appropriate weather condition, and special care. Extracting yarn from this cotton is a laborious process. Dyeing the yarn with pigments collected from nature adds another layer of complexity, each step requiring careful preparation. However, the most challenging and physically taxing task is weaving the cloth using the waist loom. Through this ultimate test of physical and mental endurance, yarns are placed on intricate designs, thread by thread, and that's how each piece of fabric slowly takes shape and comes to life. In various



**Konabi Chakma, also known as Maloti Ma, a master bain weaver from Rangapani village in Rangamati, working on a traditional waist loom.**

among Chakma women, reflecting the aggression of hegemonic cultures. Consequently, from the late 1960s to the beginning of the 21st century, most Chakma women from the educated community chose to wear saris during their weddings, gradually shifting away from their traditional attire.

Despite these changes, the bain and its unique weaving techniques endured. Behind this resilience lay a rich tradition and the efforts of countless unsung Chakma weavers, scattered across the jhum hills. Perhaps these weavers did not see the light of modern education, but they were well versed in the traditional knowledge and customs of Chakma society. Among their most prized form of knowledge was the art of weaving with the waist loom, and the most cherished custom tied to this craft was the creation of the *alam*. The *alam* is, in essence, a collection of intricate designs woven into a fabric. In those days, the ability to weave an *alam* was considered a key qualification for marriage, and the designs within each piece held cultural significance. Every young woman was expected to learn the methods for weaving these designs as part of her preparation for marriage. This knowledge was passed down from generation to generation, as mothers taught their daughters these intricate patterns. While the practice began to wane among the educated Chakma families at the time, it remained alive and kicking in rural communities. However, even though these women kept the weaving tradition intact, they no longer had access to the cotton and yarn once extracted from the jhum. Instead, they

talented weaver, Saratmala Chakma, had earned state recognition for her weaving skills and creativity since the Pakistan era. Most unfortunate was the fact that the knowledge and creativity of these talented individuals was yet to be fully utilised by the Chakma communities. Meanwhile, Bengali businessmen replicated their designs and techniques, produced garments traditionally worn by Chakma women on handlooms and sold them at lower prices. The bain, or the art of weaving on waist looms was faced with an existential crisis as a result.

Around 1997, a young woman named Arshi Dewan Roy, who had spent much of her life abroad, visited the hill regions and observed bain weaving for the first time at a relative's house. She was captivated by the technical skill and creativity of the practitioners and the aesthetic beauty of the designs. This experience sparked her interest in exploring ways to integrate this traditional weaving technique into her own work. Consequently, in 2000, she decided to focus her master's thesis on the weaving methods of all the indigenous communities living in the hills. This marked the beginning of a new phase in the renaissance of Chakma bain.

Fortunately, around that time, she met a young Chakma designer named Tenzing, who had completed a fashion design course at an institute in India and was eager to do something innovative in his homeland. This meeting was fortunate because their collaboration sparked new developments and activities in the sphere of bain.

## BCB hopes to host BPL games in Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hopes to host Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) matches at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi next year and also launch a premier league in the division.

"We need to enhance the facilities of this ground in order to have more international matches, for which we have already talked with the National Sports Council (NSC) and have also submitted a proposal. I hope that NSC will take over this project and that we will be able to see international matches and BPL games here sometime next year," BCB grounds committee chairman Mahub Anam told the media at the stadium in Rajshahi yesterday. The visit by top BCB officials was part of the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's attainment of Test status.

Meanwhile, BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul mentioned starting a new league in Rajshahi.

"We will start a premier league in Rajshahi division, increasing cricketing activities here and also turn the age-group tournaments here into two-day formats," Bulbul said. Rajshahi's Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium has recently seen a three-match series between Bangladesh and South Africa Emerging sides.

## Bijoy gets Bashar backing amid team's Miraz boost

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehidy Hasan Miraz could return to Bangladesh's Test eleven after recovering from the fever that kept him out of the series opener in Galle, where the game ended in a draw.

Selector Abdur Razzak confirmed that the all-rounder will be available for the second Test, beginning June 25 at the SSC Cricket Ground in Colombo.

His potential return comes amidst criticism of Bangladesh's conservative approach with the bat in the second innings of the first Test. There are both combination and form dilemmas the Tigers would have to address going into the series finale.

Despite gaining some control on the fifth day by picking up four Sri Lankan wickets, the visitors ran out of time to force a result.

Former captain and selector Habibur Bashar, currently working in game development, feels that declaring earlier would not have made an impact, defending the cautious approach of centurions Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim.

"During that time [day five] there were overs left in the day and if Shanto and Mushfiqur got out, we will be under pressure," Bashar said during a talk with the media in Mirpur yesterday.

"Maybe the question is arising that



we could have taken the opportunity, but having looked at the wicket in the morning, it didn't seem like the wicket broke a lot, which is usually the case on the fifth day of a Test match. I don't think declaring earlier would have had an effect."

With Miraz available for selection, Bashar feels that Bangladesh have the option of picking five bowlers.

"In this [first] Test we played with four bowlers and in SSC and after the first day, the wicket becomes flat. Sri Lanka do not play with three pacers at SSC so I don't know what the wicket will be like because such decisions will be dependent on the wicket."

"But if Miraz returns we can play five bowlers. In that case a batter will have to

sit but it will not be a problem because Miraz is capable as a full-time batter," he said.

That raises the question of who makes way. Bangladesh have just two openers in the squad and Anamul Haque Bijoy's form has particularly come under fire. Bashar was in favour of playing the opener in the second Test instead of unsettling in form Shanto. With patience running thin, it could be Bijoy's last opportunity.

"His [Bijoy] domestic form was not translated to Tests. But when he has been taken, he should be given one more chance since we have taken only two openers. There were talks about Shanto opening the innings, which I had strongly opposed," he concluded.



India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah celebrates with teammates after casting the stumps of England's Chris Woakes on the third day of their first Test at Headingley in Leeds yesterday. Bumrah cleaned up the tail to clinch his 14th five-wicket haul in Tests. Bumrah's five for 83 in 24.4 overs saw India bundle out England for 465 in the first innings, helping the visitors to a slender six-run lead at Tea.

PHOTO: AFP

## Trailblazer Lawrence passes away

REUTERS

Former England fast bowler David "Syd" Lawrence has died at the age of 61 after a year-long battle with motor neurone disease (MND), his family said on Sunday.

Lawrence, the first British-born Black cricketer to represent England, was diagnosed last year with MND, a degenerative condition that causes muscle wastage and affects the brain and nerves.

Lawrence, who earned five Test caps for England, made 280 appearances for Gloucestershire and took 625 wickets for the county.

His Test debut came at Lord's against Sri Lanka in 1988, with his career highlight being a five-wicket haul against the West Indies at the Oval in 1991.

In 2022, Lawrence became Gloucestershire County Cricket Club's first Black president and he was named one of the inaugural Honorary Life Vice-Presidents of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) earlier this year.



Inter Milan's Argentine forward Lautaro Martinez celebrates his equalising goal against Urawa Red Diamonds in their FIFA Club World Cup Group E fixture at Lumen Field in Seattle on Saturday. His compatriot, Valentin Carboni, later scored a stoppage-time goal as the Italian giants snatched a 2-1 win, bolstering their chances of a Round of 16 berth.

PHOTO: AFP

## Mathews' farewell a lesson in sportsmanship

ASHFAQ UL ALAM

Even in his final outing for Sri Lanka in Test cricket, Angelo Mathews had no chance to relax as, alongside Dinesh Chandimal, he was battling to see out the Bangladesh spinners in the final session on the fifth day, trying to save his side from a defeat in Galle on Saturday.

Although he couldn't stay in the middle till the end, he fended off 45 deliveries for his eight runs and helped the hosts earn a hard-fought draw.

Throughout the match, the Bangladesh players were extra cordial towards the Sri Lankan legend who was playing his farewell Test, giving him a guard of honour when he came out to bat in the first innings and going up to him to congratulate him on a wonderful career after he was dismissed for the last time in Test cricket.

Mathews had addressed the Bangladesh players as his friends before the Test and his statement rang true throughout the match and especially during one incident in the final session.

Bangladesh had just reviewed a not-out decision against Mathews for an LBW, and while the TV umpire gave his judgement, Mathews and Mushfiqur Rahim struck up a conversation.

The smiles on both their faces indicated



that it was a jovial chat, which ended with Mathews playfully stroking Mushfiqur's beard.

After the match, Mathews revealed that Mushfiqur was actually playfully egging him on to hit a big shot, and he responded by saying, "No, Mushfiq, I've played with you since Under-19s and I know you very well - and this is not the time for me to go for big shots; obviously, we want to draw this game."

Seeing two veterans of the game

engaging in playful banter was heartening, and at least in that moment, it seemed that the two players are great buddies.

But that certainly did not seem to be the case on March 18, 2024, when Mushfiqur was re-enacting Mathews' timed out dismissal while Bangladesh celebrated a 2-1 ODI series win over the Lankans at home.

Thanks to Bangladesh, Mathews will always have a place in cricketing trivia as the first batter and so far the only one in international cricket to get timed out. And the fact that this happened during a World Cup match in 2023 and the Tigers went on to win that game to effectively replace Sri Lanka in following year's ICC Champions Trophy just added salt to the wound.

Considering what had happened before, Mathews had enough reasons to hold onto resentment against Bangladesh, and especially Mushfiqur.

But the 38-year-old Sri Lankan evidently rose above it, displayed sportsman's spirit, left the past in the past and moved on.

Mathews showed incredible maturity in the entire ordeal, and because of that, earned the respect of his peers and opponents.

In the past as well, Mathews was heavily

criticised for his lack of fitness by Lankan head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, but rather than engaging in a war of words, he scored a Test century in Wellington in 2018 and did 10 push-ups while looking at Hathurusingha at the dressing room.

Mathews has been dropped from the team multiple times and lost his captaincy to younger guys. But at the end of the day, he was able to keep his ego aside, deal with everything with dignity and receive a grand farewell from the Test arena.

The same, sadly, can't be said for many of Bangladesh's stalwarts.

Senior players drifting away without officially retiring is part of Bangladesh's cricketing culture. Here, cricketers hold onto every incident and in their eyes are often the victim of gross mistreatment. Here, ego often wins at the expense of cricket's betterment.

Mushfiqur himself, for instance, announced his retirement from both T20Is and ODIs through social media posts following criticism over his form. The same applies to other stalwarts such as Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad.

So, Bangladeshi cricketers should not just applaud at Mathews' career, but actually learn from it. Only then will the fans get to see their stars walk into the sunset with their heads held high.

## 'No official talks with anyone' BFF to appoint eight technical personnel

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will soon invite applications for eight key technical positions, president Tabith Awal confirmed to The Daily Star, refuting media reports that former national team coach Lodewijk de Kruij has been chosen to helm the federation's technical director's post.

A report on T Sports TV channel on Saturday claimed that the Dutchman has been appointed as the TD while his former deputy, Rene Koster, will be given charge of youth development.

The position of BFF's technical director, currently held by Saiful Bari Titu, will be vacant after this month. According to media reports, Titu will likely be given a different role within the federation.

When contacted, Tabith Awal refuted the T Sports report, claiming that they have not had "official talks" with anyone regarding any of the positions.

"There is no info and BFF has not had any official talks with anyone," Tabith, currently in the USA, told The Daily Star through text message on Saturday night.

With a number of assignments for the senior team this year apart from three for youth teams - U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers in September, U-17 SAFF Championship in October and U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers in November - BFF is looking for coaches that can guide the teams through these assignments.

BFF's technical committee chairman Kamrul Hasan Hilton told The Daily Star that they have prepared a note for vetting at the

executive committee to appoint key technical personnel including technical director, goalkeeping coach, assistant coach, etc for both the national team and the youth teams.

The positions of most of these coaches are usually made on piece-meal basis, ahead of international assignments. Apart from the national team's head coach Javier Cabrera,



whose tenure ends in April 2026, the positions of assistant coach, filled in by Hasan Al Mamun and David Gomez, goalkeeping coach, filled in by Miguel Angel Iglesias - are on temporary basis.

Hilton, however, also confirmed that there has been no "official approach" made to de Kruij or anyone else regarding these positions

even though he did not rule out the possibility of unofficial communication.

It may be noted that De Kruij, currently 55, had two stints with the Bangladesh national team as head coach from 2013 to 2015, with mixed results. While he was credited with giving the team an identity by introducing possession-based pressing football, the results under him were barely impressive.

While in charge of talented players like Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain and Zahid Hasan Emily, the Dutchman, with his deputy Koster, could guide Bangladesh to only three wins against seven defeats in 17 matches.

The Dutch duo, however, can be credited with finding a talent like Hemanta Vincent Bishwas, who was later taken to the Netherlands for a trial with a local club.

It may also be noted that De Kruij has not had a coaching job since leaving Bangladesh in 2015. Koster, meanwhile, has been involved with clubs in various places since leaving Bangladesh but he had taken BFF to the FIFA following the unceremonious end to his Bangladesh stint, winning the verdict of 80,000-euro payment.

Tabith, meanwhile, informed that they will take interviews with interested candidates for the eight technical positions before selecting anyone.

"BFF is in the process of releasing ads for eight technical positions. Once the ads are published, we will take CVs of interested individuals, then go for interviews and finally seek budgetary support before assigning anyone or all eight."

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## 5 die from Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily number of coronavirus deaths has reached five, the highest this year. The Directorate General of Health Services recorded the deaths in the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday. During the same period, 36 new infections were confirmed, also the highest in a day this year, said the DGHS. The cases were detected after testing 621 samples. Since January 1, 433 Covid-19 cases have been recorded. Of those, 275 were reported this month, DGHS data shows. All 16 deaths reported this year occurred between June 5 and June 22. Of the five patients reported dead yesterday, three were from Chattogram division and one each from Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions. Each belonged to a different age group: 11-20, 41-50, 61-70, 71-80, and 91-100. Four were men and one was a woman. One of the deceased in Chattogram was a 14-year-old boy with chronic kidney disease, and the other was a 45-year-old woman who had tuberculosis, said Civil Surgeon Jahangir Alam. In Chattogram, 12 new cases were detected after testing 253 samples, he added.

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In Sylhet city's Baluchar, people are living in tin-roofed houses that have been built cutting into hills. During the peak monsoon season, there is a risk of landslides, and a tragic loss of life could occur. Although living at the base of hills is common in the city and its surrounding areas, little steps are seen from local administration to move the people elsewhere. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



## Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury turns 90 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, one of the most revered intellectuals in Bangladesh, celebrates his 90th birthday today. A towering figure, Choudhury has worn many hats: an eminent teacher of English literature, prolific writer, editor, columnist, literary and cultural critic, and political analyst. He continues to speak out against injustice, steadfastly defending freedom of speech and academic autonomy. His voice — resonating in the classroom and the public sphere — has shaped generations of

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## NCP applies for EC registration

Requests Water Lily for symbol; 69 other parties submit applications on final day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 70 political parties, including the newly formed National Citizen Party (NCP), submitted applications to the Election Commission yesterday seeking official registration. The NCP, in its application, requested that the Water Lily — Bangladesh's national flower — be assigned as its electoral symbol. It also demanded a reconstitution of the EC currently led by AMM Nasir Uddin. A 50-member NCP delegation arrived at the EC headquarters in the capital around 4:00pm and submitted their application to the dispatch section on the second floor. At a press briefing in the evening, NCP Convenor Nahid Islam said, "We have not only fulfilled the EC's conditions but exceeded them. NCP has formed committees in 105 upazilas and 25 districts."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## Separate secretariat will ensure independence of judiciary

Says Yunus, hails formation of judicial council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said that the government cannot walk away from the creation of a separate secretariat for the judiciary. He made the remarks just minutes after Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, speaking at the same programme yesterday, emphasised the "utmost urgency" of establishing such a secretariat. Prof Yunus was the chief guest at a national seminar on judicial independence and efficiency, organised by the Supreme Court at InterContinental Dhaka hotel. Justice Refaat chaired the event. Yunus said a separate secretariat would grant the judiciary the structural autonomy to adjudicate without external pressure.



"We are deeply committed to achieving an efficient and independent judiciary, and we look forward to its effective realisation. The fate of these crucial

aspirations and initiatives depends entirely on our collective efforts," he said. Yunus said three "magic words" — judiciary, independence and efficiency — define the foundation of the society. He said when the government speaks of reform, it does not talk about minor twitches that will fall apart under pressure. "We speak of changes that will create a powerful democracy while ensuring that democratic aspirations do not twist into either authoritarian desires or populist yearnings. "Using populist tactics to win elections, and then abusing and manipulating the power structures, dismantling checks and balances, and turning oversight bodies into tools of oppression — these are common strategies from the autocratic playbook," he said.

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## BNP factional clash leaves 2 dead in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two people were killed after rival factions of BNP supporters clashed over establishing supremacy in Narayanganj's Bandar upazila on Saturday. The deceased were Abdul Kuddus, 70, a mason; and Mehedi Hasan, 42, a former joint convener of the Swechhasebak Dal's Bandar thana unit. Kuddus was killed near the Bandar rail line and Mehedi near Shahi Masjid, said Narayanganj SP Pratyush Kumar Mojumder. Inspector Saiful Islam of Bandar Police Station said one group was led by Swechhasebak Dal activists Roni and Jafar, and the other by Mehedi, Babu Sikdar, and Shyamal. Both groups were loyal to two former Narayanganj City Corporation councillors Abul Kawser Asha and Hannan Sarkar. The factions had clashed earlier on

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Perched precariously on a rope ladder and without any safety gear, two workers are seen painting a wall of a multi-storey building on Dhanmondi Road-27 in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Suicide blast at Damascus church kills at least 20

REUTERS

At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the Mar Elias Church in the Dweila neighbourhood of Syria's capital Damascus yesterday, health authorities and security sources said. It was the first suicide bombing in Damascus since Bashar al-Assad was toppled by an Islamist-led rebel insurgency in December. Syria's interior ministry said the suicide bomber was a member of the Islamic State. He entered the church,

opened fire and then detonated his explosive vest, a ministry statement added. A security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two men were involved in the attack, including the one who blew himself up. Islamic State has been behind several attempted attacks on churches in Syria since Assad's fall, but this was the first to succeed, another security source told Reuters. Syria's state news agency cited the health ministry as saying that 52 people were also injured in the blast. A livestream from the site by

Syria's civil defence, the White Helmets, showed scenes of destruction from inside the church, including a bloodied floor and shattered pews and masonry. Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who led the offensive against Assad before taking over in January for a transitional phase, has repeatedly said he will protect minorities. "We unequivocally condemn the abhorrent terrorist suicide bombing at the Mar Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Damascus, Syria," the Greek foreign ministry said in a statement. SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

**ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন**  
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**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

- এডিস মশা ডেঙ্গু রোগের বাহক। এডিস মশার বিস্তার রোধে আপনার বাড়ির ভেতর এবং চারপাশ পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন। ফুলের চিব, ডাবের খোসা, পরিত্যক্ত চায়ের ইত্যাদি সহ পরিত্যক্ত যেকোন পাত্রে পানি জমে থাকলে প্রতি ৩ দিনের মধ্যে অবশ্যই পরিষ্কার করুন
- বাড়ির আঙিনা, ছাদ, বারান্দা, গ্যারেজের কোথাও পানি জমতে দেবেন না এবং জমে থাকা পানি নিয়মিত ভাবে পরিষ্কার করুন
- অপরোজনীয় ও পরিত্যক্ত পাত্রসমূহ সরিয়ে ফেলুন
- বর্ষাকালে ছাদ বাগানের কোন চিহ্নে যেন পানি জমতে না পারে তা নিশ্চিত করুন
- বাড়ির বেজমেন্ট এ জমে থাকা পানি নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার করুন
- নির্মাণাধীন বাড়ি এডিস মশার অন্যতম বংশ বিস্তারের স্থান, এ ব্যাপারে নির্মাণ শ্রমিকদের সচেতন ও নির্দেশনা প্রদান করুন
- পানির মিটারে জমে থাকা পানিতে মাসে একবার ডিএনসিসি কর্তৃক বিনামূল্যে সরবরাহকৃত নোডালিউরেন (মসকিউটন) ট্যাবলেট প্রয়োগ করুন
- শরীরের বেশিরভাগ অংশ এবং হাত, পা ঢাকা থাকে এমন কাপড় পরিধান করুন
- দিনে এবং রাতে বিশ্রাম অথবা ঘুমানোর সময় মশারি ব্যবহার করুন
- সপ্তাহের ছুটির দিনে নিয়ম করে ঘরের আঙিনা পরিষ্কার রাখুন
- আপনার বাড়ির আঙিনা/স্থাপনা/প্রতিষ্ঠানে এডিস মশার লার্ভা পাওয়া গেলে ডিএনসিসির নিবাহী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের সহযোগিতায় মোবাইল কোর্টের মাধ্যমে বিধি মোতাবেক আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে
- ডেঙ্গু মৌসুমে জ্বর হলে ডাক্তারের পরামর্শ অনুযায়ী রক্ত পরীক্ষা করুন ও চিকিৎসা গ্রহণ করুন
- গর্ভবতী মা, নবজাতক, শিশু ও বয়স্কদের প্রতি বিশেষ যত্ন নিন
- নগর স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রে বিনামূল্যে ডেঙ্গু পরীক্ষার সুযোগ গ্রহণ করুন

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