

CHILLING THE HEAT

INSIDE BANGLADESH'S BOOMING AC MARKET

PRIYAM PAUL

Once seen as a luxury reserved for the elite, air conditioners (ACs) in Bangladesh have become an everyday essential. Today, the AC market is booming, with locally manufactured brands leading the charge and transforming the electronics landscape of the country.

Bangladesh's journey from importer to self-sufficient AC producer mirrors its broader economic transition—from a lower-income country to a burgeoning middle-income nation. With scorching summer temperatures and a growing middle class, the demand for cooling solutions has soared. Local brands now control around 70 percent of the market, with foreign brands accounting for the rest, primarily in Dhaka and Chattogram's upscale neighbourhoods.

The shift isn't just economic—it's technological too. Inverter ACs, which consume significantly less electricity, have become the new standard. These energy-efficient units are driving both household and commercial demand, making cooling not just accessible but sustainable.

For households, ACs with capacities between one ton and one and a half tons are the most popular, with one and a half ton models in particularly high demand.

SEE PAGE J4

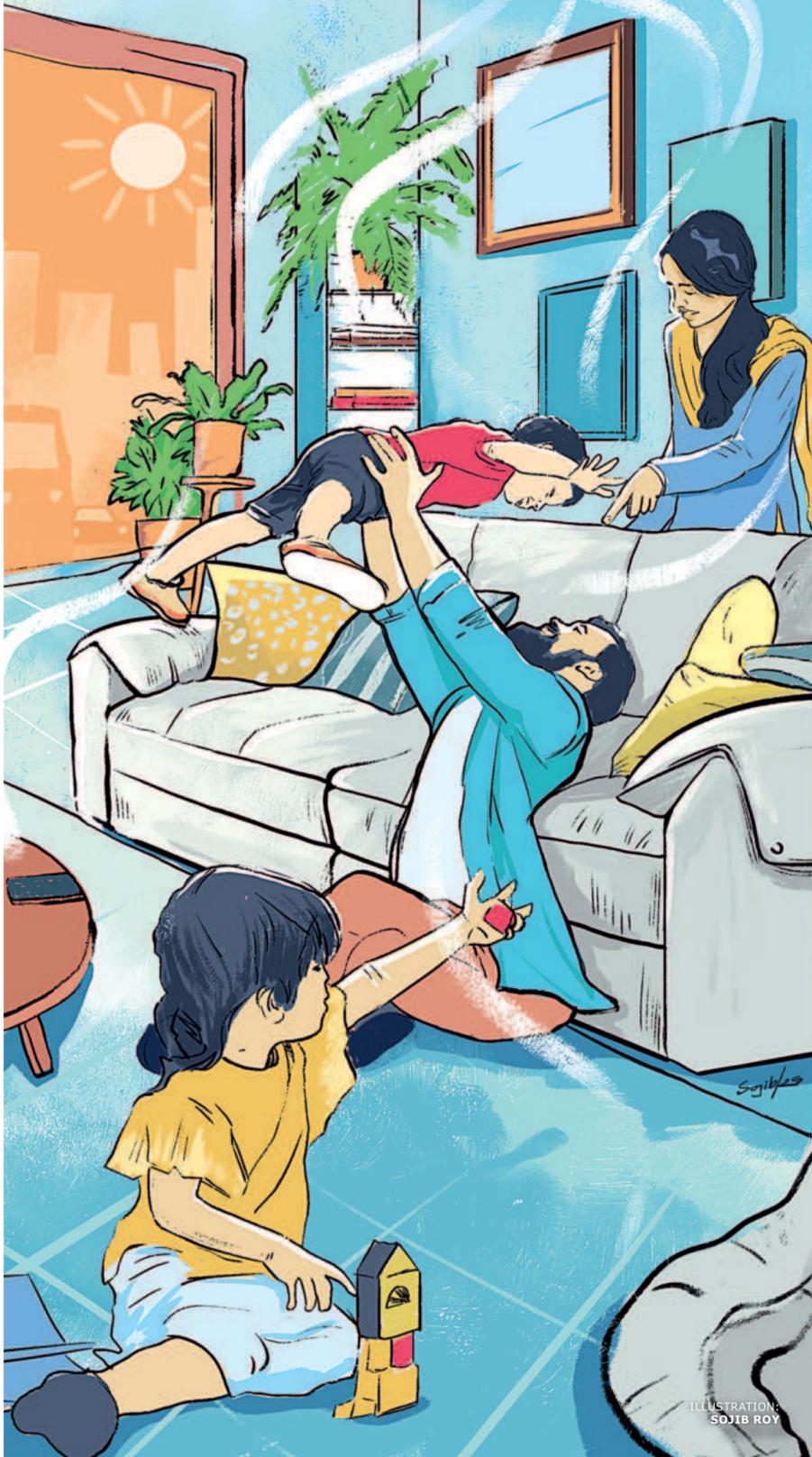


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SOJIB ROY



WALTON
Air Conditioner



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PEOPLE'S NO. 1 CHOICE

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Warranty

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WARRANTY

Inverter Compressor
12 YEARS
GUARANTEE



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ISO 45001: 2018 Certified Company

All models are listed by
NUSDAT-UTS
Capable to test in per Bangladesh, India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Sri Lanka & British Standard
Accepted in IAC & APLAC Member Countries





DELIVERING QUALITY Products at Affordable Prices

SHABBIR HOSSAIN, Director - Marketing, Singer Bangladesh Limited



Alongside Singer ACs, we are now offering Beko-branded ACs from our parent company, Beko—Europe's No.1 large home appliances company.

The Daily Star (TDS): How would you describe your company's current position and market share within the air conditioning industry?

Shabbir Hossain (SH): Singer Bangladesh Limited has established itself as a leading and trusted name in the air conditioning segment, driven by its strong brand heritage, extensive retail footprint, and customer-centric approach. With a robust nationwide distribution network, we have maintained a solid market position with a significant market share, particularly in the residential AC category. Our focus on affordability, energy efficiency, quality, and after-sales service continues to ensure a loyal customer base and sustainable growth in both inverter and non-inverter segments.

Alongside Singer ACs, we are now offering Beko-branded ACs from our parent company, Beko—Europe's No.1 large home appliances company. Beko ACs incorporate advanced global-standard technology to deliver enhanced performance, energy efficiency, and intelligent comfort—perfectly suited to the needs of today's modern consumers.

TDS: What innovation and technology have you integrated in your products to enhance energy efficiency?

SH: Singer's ACs feature advanced Green Inverter Technology, enabled by eco-friendly R32 refrigerant gas, which ensures efficient cooling with

reduced electricity consumption and lower environmental impact. R32 enhances energy efficiency and supports our commitment to sustainability. Additional features such as fast cooling and energy-saving modes further help users enjoy powerful, cost-effective, and eco-conscious air conditioning.

TDS: How are you addressing

TOP OFFERS

Singer is offering up to 7% cash discount, a 10% hot offer, and trade-in benefits of up to BDT 18,000. Customers also get free installation and 12-month 0% EMI at showrooms. These offers make owning a Singer AC easier and more rewarding than ever.

changing consumer preferences, particularly regarding smart home integration and user-friendly features?

SH: Understanding the shift towards smarter lifestyles, Singer ACs now come with intelligent features such as smart control via mobile apps (Homewiz). Our designs prioritise user convenience, including features like auto-cleaning, sleep mode, and multi-stage filtration systems through a 4-in-1 filter and HEPA filter.

In addition to the above features and technologies, Beko ACs are equipped with intelligent functionalities like Wi-Fi connectivity and an integrated ioniser for enhanced comfort and air quality.

We continuously gather consumer insights to adapt our offerings, ensuring that every model is intuitive, modern, and tailored to the evolving expectations of Bangladeshi households.

TDS: What steps are you taking to expand your market presence both in urban and emerging rural markets across Bangladesh?



SH: Singer is expanding its market presence by targeting both urban and rural segments through its strong nationwide retail network and channel partnerships. For urban customers, we focus on offering modern, energy-efficient models with smart features, backed by attractive promotional offers and free installation services. In rural areas, our affordable

pricing, localised marketing, and expanding service coverage ensure that more households can access reliable air conditioning solutions. To address affordability, we are providing 12-month 0% EMI facilities. Our goal is to deliver comfort and trust, irrespective of the location.



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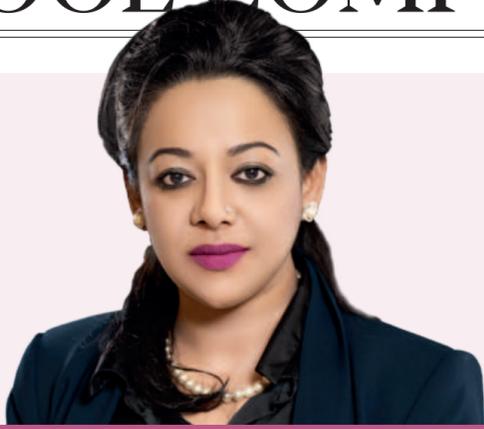
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JAMUNA AC: A Symbol of Innovation, Excellence, and National Pride

MONIKA ISLAM, Group Director, Jamuna Group



We understand that consumers purchase air conditioners primarily for comfort and relief from heat, but we also recognise the importance of energy efficiency and affordability.

The Daily Star (TDS): How would you describe your company's current position and market share within the air conditioning industry?

Monika Islam (MI): Jamuna AC holds a dominant position in Bangladesh's competitive air conditioner market. While several local and international companies have been operating in the home appliance sector for over two decades, the industry has long suffered from a shortage of high-quality products that are accessible to the general consumer. Recognising this critical gap, the late, respected founder and chairman of the Jamuna Group, Nurul Islam, envisioned a future where world-class electronics would be accessible to every household at an affordable price. Driven by this vision, Jamuna Electronics and Automobiles Ltd.—a key subsidiary of the nation's industrial giant, Jamuna Group—commenced large-scale manufacturing of electronics and home appliances in 2014. Among its standout products, Jamuna AC has emerged as a flagship brand, setting new standards in quality, performance, and value.

Produced in a state-of-the-art facility equipped with cutting-edge technology, advanced machinery, and top-grade raw materials, Jamuna ACs rival global competitors in both innovation and reliability. Continuous research and development, along with a relentless pursuit of excellence, have firmly positioned Jamuna AC as the leading air conditioner brand in the country.

Historically, the Bangladeshi air conditioning (AC) market has been

heavily reliant on imports. Today, thanks to the pioneering efforts of companies like Jamuna Electronics, over 85% of the country's AC demand is now fulfilled by locally manufactured units. This shift not only reduces import dependency but also strengthens the national

technology in the development of Jamuna ACs. Our air conditioners are equipped with advanced 5D AI Inverter Technology, which ensures optimal cooling performance while significantly reducing electricity consumption. This state-of-the-art innovation enables Jamuna ACs

economic realities of our customers.

TDS: How are you addressing changing consumer preferences, particularly regarding smart home integration and user-friendly features?

MI: Jamuna Electronics is proactively addressing evolving consumer preferences—especially in smart-home integration and advanced user-centric features—by embedding innovative, health-focused, and intelligent technologies into its AC lineup.

Intelligent & Smart-home Features
5D AI Inverter with intelligent "Follow Me" zone control:

Utilises AI to detect room temperature around the user and adjust cooling accordingly, optimising comfort and energy usage.

Wi-Fi connectivity + app control:
Jamuna Smart AC models support mobile app control, enabling users to adjust settings—temperature, fan speed, modes—from anywhere.

Offline voice control:
Some models offer remote-free voice commands (in Bengali and English), making smart-home interaction possible even without internet.

Air Quality & Wellness Enhancements:

Jamuna AC goes beyond cooling to prioritise air purity and health.

Multi-stage purification system:
PM2.5 filter with high-pressure ionisation and nano-catalysts.

Cold plasma ioniser to reduce mental stress and boost immunity.

Vitamin-C filter to preserve skin moisture.

Silver ion & anti-germ filters to

neutralise bacteria and odours.

Energy Efficiency & Sustainability:
70% more efficient than conventional units—heading towards 6-star energy ratings.

0.5W standby power draw and Eco-mode significantly reduce electricity usage.

R410A refrigerant, inner-grooved copper tubes, and Gold-fin condenser support eco-friendly operation.

Servicing & Reliability

24/24 service promise: free installation within 24 hours, two complimentary cleanings over 24 months, and same-day service for just BDT 24.

TDS: What steps are you taking to expand your market presence both in urban and emerging rural markets across Bangladesh?

MI: AC is a growing industry. AC sales have increased significantly in the last few years. Bangladesh has become a big market due to its large population. Global climate change is shifting the weather patterns in our subcontinent, resulting in an increase in temperature in Bangladesh every year. Along with this, the purchasing power of the common people is also increasing due to the progress of the country's economy.

With our growing demand for ACs, socio-economic development, and climate change, I believe the AC market has a bright future. Keeping this growing consumer demand in mind, Jamuna is already working on increasing production capacity, continuously improving quality, and introducing new models of ACs to the market.

TOP OFFERS

We offer convenient instalment facilities with a 20% down payment. Consumers can purchase all electronic products, including ACs, from our Jamuna Plaza showroom in 6, 9, and 12-month instalments. In addition, there is also a bank EMI facility available at 0% interest on credit cards.

economy, supports job creation, and enhances technological self-reliance.

TDS: What innovation and technology have you integrated in your products to enhance energy efficiency?

MI: At Jamuna Electronics, we understand that consumers purchase air conditioners primarily for comfort and relief from heat, but we also recognise the importance of energy efficiency and affordability. To meet the needs of a wide range of customers, including the middle and lower-middle-income segments, we have prioritised innovation and

to save up to 70% on energy usage compared to conventional systems, making them both cost-effective and environmentally responsible.

Additionally, Jamuna ACs feature an ultra-low 0.5W standby power consumption mode. This intelligent feature ensures minimal energy usage when the unit is not actively cooling, helping to keep electricity bills under control without compromising comfort. By combining world-class engineering, energy-efficient technology, and customer-centric design, Jamuna ACs deliver reliable performance that aligns with both the climate demands and the

JAMUNA
AIR CONDITIONER



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NO
TENSION
বেশি ঠান্ডার
QUICK ACTION



Customer Service
09613333666





WALTON HAS DEVELOPED the Most Energy-efficient Air Conditioner in Bangladesh

S M MAHBUBUL ALAM, Managing Director, Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC



Walton is the first Bangladeshi brand to manufacture VRF systems, ranking 9th in the world, and we've successfully begun exporting chillers to other countries like Sri Lanka and Singapore.

The Daily Star (TDS): How would you describe your company's current position and market share within the air conditioning industry?

S M Mahbul Alam (SMMA): Walton Air Conditioner currently holds the leading position in Bangladesh's air conditioning industry, both in residential and commercial segments. We are proud to be the No. 1 brand of choice among Bangladeshi consumers, providing a complete solution in the air conditioner manufacturing industry. Our market share continues to grow rapidly, driven by innovation, energy efficiency, and unmatched after-sales service. Internationally, Walton is the first Bangladeshi brand to manufacture VRF systems, ranking 9th in the world, and we've successfully begun exporting chillers to other countries like Sri Lanka and Singapore. This reflects our growing footprint in the global HVAC market. Walton exports its various products, including residential air conditioners, to more than 50 countries around the world.

TDS: What innovation and technology have you integrated in your products to enhance energy efficiency?

SMMA: Walton has one of the most energetic and youthful Research & Innovation teams in the industry. The continuous efforts of our highly skilled engineers have positioned Walton as a pioneer in the air conditioning industry, not only in Bangladesh but on the global stage.

Walton has developed the most energy-efficient air conditioner in

Bangladesh, certified by BSTI. It has the country's only 6-star rated AC, making it one of the most energy-efficient air conditioners in the world. Our commitment to sustainability is further reflected in the use of environmentally friendly refrigerants like R-32 and R-290. Walton's solar-hybrid inverter ACs run on solar energy during the day and switch to grid power when necessary, significantly cutting down electricity bills and promoting renewable energy use.

The dedicated 'Eco' mode is designed to significantly reduce energy consumption while keeping the indoor temperature comfortable, making it an ideal choice for everyday use. With adjustable output (6,000, 9,000, 12,000, or 18,000 BTU/hr), Walton's convertible models allow users to tailor capacity based on room size, reducing energy waste and improving flexibility.

Through these innovations, Walton ensures efficient, eco-friendly air conditioning suited for modern, energy-conscious consumers.

TDS: How are you addressing changing consumer preferences, particularly regarding smart home integration and user-friendly features?

SMMA: We are well aware that consumers are not just opting for cooling—they're looking for intelligent, connected, and health-conscious solutions that fit effortlessly into modern lifestyles. That's why our air conditioners are developed with a deep focus on smart home integration, ease of use, and

personal comfort, along with modern technologies.

Among Walton air conditioners' cutting-edge features is the IoT-based smart control system, allowing users to operate their AC from anywhere in the world via mobile app. This app also provides real-time electricity consumption data. In addition,

Another industry-first is the introduction of a 6-inch TFT display on the AC unit, allowing users to view real-time and historical data, including energy usage and weather conditions.

To ensure year-round comfort, Walton offers Hot & Cool models, providing warmth in winter and

Walton ACs are designed to withstand extreme temperatures—capable of operating even at 55°C—and function efficiently across a wide voltage range. Aesthetic appeal has also been prioritised, with a variety of sleek and modern designs introduced across several series.

Through relentless innovation and a focus on user-centric features, Walton is transforming the air conditioning landscape in Bangladesh and setting new global benchmarks in technology, sustainability, and performance.

TDS: What steps are you taking to expand your market presence both in urban and emerging rural markets across Bangladesh?

SMMA: Walton always gives priority to meeting consumer preferences. As consumer demands evolve towards intelligent, convenient, and health-oriented products, Walton is proud to lead the transformation with technology that's not just advanced, but genuinely people-first. We have developed various technologies and features to expand our market presence in both domestic and global urban areas—such as smart apps, AI Doctor, offline voice control, and iconic display innovations.

We are working on making air conditioners more affordable and suitable for rural areas. Our ACs can operate across a wide voltage range, making them functional in rural settings. Additionally, we offer solar-hybrid ACs specifically for rural markets.

TOP OFFERS

➔ Walton AC customers are enjoying a one-year replacement warranty, up to 12 years' guarantee on the compressor, and a five-year warranty on the PCB. In addition, all Walton AC customers now enjoy a free installation facility.

➔ Under the AC Exchange Offer, customers can buy Walton's new model of air conditioners and receive a 25% discount in exchange for their used ACs of any brand.

Walton has introduced an "AI Doctor" feature, which automatically detects any malfunction and notifies the Walton service team—enabling proactive servicing even before the customer files a complaint.

In a groundbreaking move, Walton launched the world's first offline voice-controlled AC, supporting both Bengali and English commands.

cooling in summer. Our ACs are also equipped with advanced Nano Health Technologies such as Air Plasma, UV Care, and Ionisers to purify indoor air by eliminating germs and dust particles. Features like Baby Mode for sensitive users, Mould-Proof Technology, and 3-in-1 Convertible Capacity ensure a healthier and more customisable cooling experience.

CHILLING THE HEAT Inside Bangladesh's Booming AC Market

FROM PAGE J1

Beyond homes, ACs are appearing in unexpected places: village mosques, salons, convention centres—even kindergartens. Institutional installations are rising steadily, reflecting widespread adaptation.

Prices vary widely by brand: one and a half-ton inverter or non-inverter units range from 60,000 to 140,000 taka, while one-ton versions are priced between 40,000 and 90,000 taka. Lower-priced models, unsurprisingly, remain top sellers. Many retailers now offer easy instalment payment plans, making ownership even more feasible.

Mohammed Shafiqul Islam, Managing Director of Elite Hitech Industries Ltd, embodies this market transformation. "In 1990, I began by importing air conditioners. By 1996, I had a large showroom at Bangabandhu National Stadium. The real shift happened in 2003, when I partnered with Midea and became their Master

are now preferred by most buyers for their lower electricity bills.

Today's ACs aren't just about cooling. They're smarter, sleeker, and packed with features. "There was a time when people bought ACs just to cool their rooms," says Salim Ullah Salim, Director of Marketing at Jamuna Electronics and Automobiles Ltd. "Now they want air purifiers, UV and vitamin C filters, voice control, and smart displays."

Walton even introduced the world's first offline voice-controlled AC that understands both Bengali and English. Their models also feature a 6-inch TFT display showing real-time energy use and weather data.

Beyond homes, ACs are appearing in unexpected places: village mosques, salons, convention centres—even kindergartens. Institutional installations are rising steadily, reflecting widespread

KEY MARKET STATISTICS

Annual demand for ACs: between **600,000** and **700,000** units

Annual growth: **20-25%**

Market Share: Local vs Foreign Companies (in %)

Foreign: **30**
Local: **70**

Share of AC based on Inverter Technology (in %)

Non-inverter AC: **5**
Inverter AC: **95**

Distributor. In 2014, I launched Elite Hitech Industries in Cumilla and began local manufacturing," he recalls. "This reduced our dependency on imports and allowed us to design products tailored for Bangladesh needs."

Bangladeshi giant Walton is another example of local innovation. "Walton has developed the most energy-efficient air conditioner in Bangladesh, certified by BSTI," says Md. Tanvir Rahman, Chief Business Officer of Walton Air Conditioner. "It is the country's only 6-star rated AC. We also use environmentally friendly refrigerants like R-32 and R-290."

To compete, foreign brands have adapted. Companies like Gree and General, once reliant on imports, now assemble ACs in Bangladeshi warehouses, mirroring local strategies.

The demand is staggering: 600,000 to 700,000 units sold annually, with sales peaking between March and May. Eid seasons also see spikes. Inverter ACs

adaptation. Inverter ACs now make up 95 percent of the market.

Despite being pricier, their long-term energy savings have won over consumers.

Prices, however, are climbing. "We assemble locally, but all raw materials are imported," explains Salim. "Rising global prices, a strong US dollar, fuel costs, and transportation charges have all pushed prices up."

Yet Bangladesh is not just consuming—it's exporting. Walton recently signed a five-year global distributorship deal with Singapore-based Flair M&E Pte Ltd. Today, Walton exports to 67 countries, including the US, UK, Australia, Germany, India, and Nigeria.

From luxury to necessity, from import dependency to global export ambitions—Bangladesh's AC market is a story of transformation, resilience, and cool-headed innovation.

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SMART AC 101

A guide to modern cooling in Bangladesh

AI-integrated ACs learn your preferences over time. If you usually set the temperature to 26 degrees Celsius at night and 24 degrees Celsius in the afternoon, the AC can eventually begin to do it for you, automatically.

AYMAN ANIKA

Once upon a time, the most we expected from an air conditioner was cold air. However, in today's Bangladesh, where rising temperatures and unpredictable power supplies collide with fast-moving digital lifestyles, smart air conditioners are offering more than just cool comfort. They're offering control, efficiency, and even cleaner air.

So, what exactly makes an AC "smart"? And why should Bangladeshi households and businesses care? Let's break down the technology shaping the next generation of cooling.

Wi-Fi control: The power in your pocket

One of the most sought after smart features in air conditioners is Wi-Fi connectivity. A Wi-Fi-enabled AC allows users to control the unit via smartphone—from switching it on and adjusting the temperature to setting timers—whether they are stuck in traffic or simply too comfortable on the couch at home.

Smart models from all major AC brands in Bangladesh support mobile app control, offering flexibility and convenience. This is particularly valuable in Bangladesh, where load shedding and irregular work hours are common. Remote access helps reduce energy waste and ensures users return to a comfortably cooled home, not one that's freezing or overheated.

Energy monitoring: Track to save
Many smart ACs now come with built-in energy monitoring systems. These track your power usage in real-time and can even give suggestions to reduce your electricity bill. Some models

will notify you if the temperature setting is using more power than needed or if the compressor is working inefficiently.

For Bangladeshi households battling high utility costs, especially during peak summer, this feature is more



than just convenient; it's economically essential. In commercial settings, where multiple units run for long hours, smart tracking can lead to significant savings.

Walton has taken this further by integrating real-time electricity consumption data directly into their smart app. "Our customers can monitor how much power the AC is consuming—daily, weekly, or monthly—helping them make informed usage decisions," shares Engr. Ariful Islam, Head of Research & Innovation at Walton Residential Air Conditioner.

Your AC learns your habits
Artificial Intelligence may sound futuristic, but it's already here in many air conditioners. AI-integrated ACs learn your preferences over time. If you usually set the temperature to 26 degrees Celsius at night and 24 degrees Celsius in the afternoon, the AC can eventually begin to do it for you, automatically.

Some models go even further, adjusting cooling based on room occupancy. If you leave the room, the AC

will slow down or switch off. Return, and it resumes. That's smart comfort paired with energy conservation.

Jamuna AC's 5D AI Inverter with intelligent "Follow Me" zone control utilises AI to detect the

room temperature around the user and adjusts cooling accordingly, optimising both comfort and energy usage.

Voice control: "AC, turn on!"

For those using smart home systems like Google Home or Amazon Alexa, voice-controlled ACs are a seamless fit. Instead of fiddling with remotes or



apps, just speak to control temperature, change modes, or switch off the unit.

While still emerging in the Bangladeshi market, this feature is gaining popularity among tech-savvy users and in smart office setups.

Smart diagnostics and maintenance alerts

Smart ACs can detect internal issues—like a dirty filter, low refrigerant levels, or fan problems—and send an alert to your phone. Some brands even connect directly with service centres, allowing technicians to diagnose problems remotely before arriving.

This is particularly useful in Bangladesh, where AC servicing can be inconsistent. Early detection means fewer breakdowns in the middle of a heatwave.

Local adoption and availability

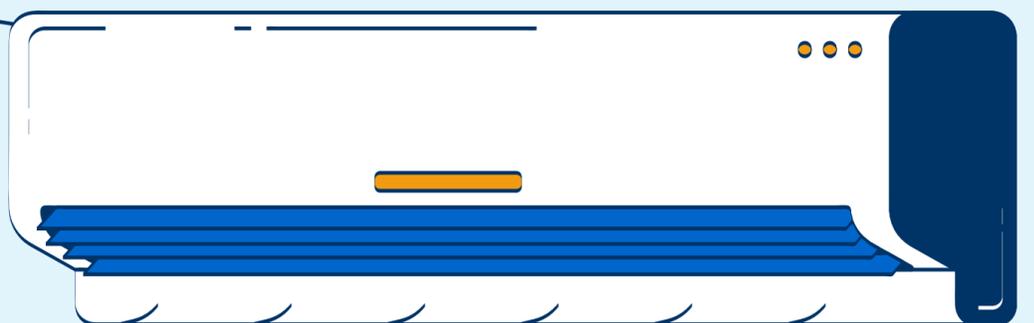
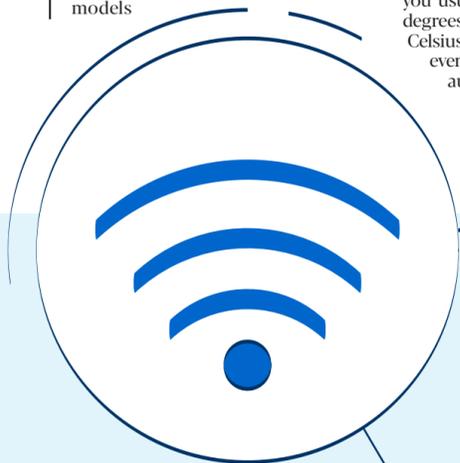
Brands like Walton, Gree, Jamuna, Singer, Samsung and Haier have already begun offering smart

AC models in the Bangladeshi market, with prices becoming more competitive. Local manufacturers such as Elite Hitech are also investing in R&D to make smart features accessible to a broader middle-class consumer base.

Retailers now bundle ACs with installation, servicing apps, and even smart home hubs. As the demand grows, especially in urban apartments and office spaces, smart ACs are no longer a luxury. They're fast becoming a practical necessity.

The takeaway

Smart air conditioners are doing more than cooling—they're connecting, learning, saving, and protecting. As climate challenges and energy demands grow in Bangladesh, smart cooling solutions are stepping in to make indoor life not just bearable, but better.



SMART FEATURES YOU SHOULD KNOW

» **Wi-Fi and App Control**

Operate your AC from anywhere—home, office, or even Dhaka traffic—using your phone.

» **Voice Activation**

Use Google Assistant or Alexa to control your AC hands-free.

» **Smart Scheduling and Geo-Fencing**

Set routines or let your AC auto-start when you're near home.

» **Self-Diagnosis Alerts**

AC detects issues like dirty filters or gas leaks and notifies you early.

» **Inverter Technology**

Adjusts compressor speed to

save energy, reduce noise, and cool consistently.

» **Smart Sensors**

Adjusts cooling based on humidity and room occupancy for better efficiency.

» **Air Filters and Ionisers**

Cleans indoor air by removing dust, allergens, and pollutants—vital for urban homes.



GREE AC Tops Global Rankings Since 2005

MD. NURUL AFSER, Deputy Managing Director, Electro Mart Group



Gree has developed the world's first G-Boost inverter compressor, known for its efficiency and energy-saving capabilities.

The Daily Star (TDS): How would you describe your company's current position and market share within the air conditioning industry?

Md. Nurul Afser (MNA): Gree dominates the air conditioner market, maintaining the top position in Bangladesh. Gree AC has retained the title of the number one air conditioner brand in the world for nineteen consecutive years since 2005. Gree received this recognition for its consistent performance, consumer trust, loyalty, and reliability—evaluated through four key business intelligence indicators: market analysis, retail sales volume, consumer insight, and global distribution of air conditioning products. Gree has also been awarded the Superbrand status in Bangladesh and has held the number one position in the country's electronics market for the last 27 years.

Bangladesh's air conditioner market is projected to generate a revenue of BDT 3,000 to 3,500 crore by 2025. This market is expected to grow at an annual rate of 10 to 12 percent. The demand for energy-efficient air conditioners is increasing in Bangladesh to promote sustainable living and reduce electricity consumption. Gree currently holds the number one position, capturing a significant share of the market.

TDS: What innovation and technology have you integrated in your products to enhance energy efficiency?

MNA: Gree ACs come with special features that set them apart, such as

efficient cold plasma technology for cleaner air, fully enclosed air guide louvers and top-mounted filters, auto self-cleaning, comfortable airflow with wide air supply, quiet design, AI intelligent control, Wi-Fi remote control, washable air purification filters, 60-second fast cooling, 3D airflow, four-way air swing, I-Feel technology, comfortable sleep mode, ideal temperature control, cold air prevention, turbo button, intelligent auto restart, LED display, self-diagnosis, healthy filters, energy-saving performance, golden fin coating, intelligent defrosting, compact design, low voltage start-up, automatic operation, and the use of environmentally friendly R32 gas. Additionally, Gree ensures easy installation and maintenance.

Gree provides a 10-year compressor warranty for inverter models, a 5-year spare parts warranty, and 2 years of free after-sales service.

Recently, Gree invented a solar-powered air conditioning system that is both practical and affordable. This system, soon to be available in Bangladesh, uses photovoltaic panels to power the cooling units directly, reducing energy costs significantly.

Gree has developed the world's first G-Boost inverter compressor, known for its efficiency and energy-saving capabilities. Gree air conditioners hold a high energy efficiency rating, significantly reducing electricity costs. Gree's proprietary G-Boost inverter technology can save up to 60% more energy than traditional

air conditioners. Furthermore, Gree ACs retain their functionality even when outdoor temperatures reach up to 65°C, thanks to this unique inverter technology—an exclusive and sophisticated innovation by Gree.

Gree ACs are also equipped with built-in inverter technology that is environmentally friendly. G-Tech, with

affordable prices. We do our utmost to deliver exactly that.

The boom in Bangladesh's air conditioner market is not just about escaping the heat—it's about embracing smarter living. With the Gree AC Wi-Fi system, users can control their air conditioners from long distances, experiencing superior

MNA: To expand our market presence in both urban and rural areas across Bangladesh, we are implementing strategies focused on strengthening our retail and distribution networks, leveraging digital marketing, and tailoring our products and services to local needs. We are also prioritising relationship-building with local

TOP OFFERS

Customers have the facility to purchase products through instalments/EMI for up to 18 months using all scheduled bank cards, and 6 to 12-month instalments through Sohaj Lavvo and Sohaj Kisti from our own outlets. As a responsible and committed company, Electro Mart is also ensuring installation and after-sales services. We have a leading retail and distribution network, allowing customers to access our products at over 2,500 locations, including nearby stores, flagship outlets, and partner showrooms.

five-level washing and water-electricity separation, ensures greater comfort and safety.

TDS: How are you addressing changing consumer preferences, particularly regarding smart home integration and user-friendly features?

MNA: Customer preferences and satisfaction are at the heart of everything we do. Today's consumers are informed, digitally savvy, and demand international standards at

comfort at all times. The market is expanding rapidly, and Gree is aligned with evolving consumer preferences for comfort, control, and clean air.

Air conditioning, once considered a luxury, has now become a necessity for many households and commercial spaces.

TDS: What steps are you taking to expand your market presence both in urban and emerging rural markets across Bangladesh?

communities and entrepreneurs, while embracing innovative marketing and communication methods.

Looking ahead, Gree aims to meet every challenge, open new pathways, embrace innovation, and lead industry development with a spirited and dynamic approach. We are committed to promoting high-quality development in air conditioning manufacturing and creating a better life for all.

Cool and careful

Mindful usage of AC for staying healthy

For individuals with certain heart or blood pressure conditions, abrupt temperature changes between cool indoors and hot outdoors can strain the cardiovascular system. Sudden cooling can affect blood vessel function and heart rate for people with cardiovascular issues.

SHAHIBULLAH AFSARI

While AC offers undeniable comfort and respite from sweltering heat and rising humidity, improper or excessive use of air conditioners can come at a cost, especially to our health.

As we continue to embrace urban living and modern conveniences, it's important to understand both

the benefits and drawbacks of air conditioning and how to use it wisely, particularly for individuals with special health conditions.

AC and your health

Air conditioners help regulate indoor temperature, reduce humidity, and improve air quality when maintained properly. But just like any appliance, the benefits hinge on responsible usage.

Pros
Relief from heat-related illnesses: AC can help prevent heat stroke, dehydration,

and fatigue during extreme temperatures.

Better sleep quality and productivity booster: A cool, consistent environment aids in more restful sleep, especially during hot, humid nights. Studies show that people perform better cognitively and physically in cool environments.

Improved air filtration: High-quality filters in AC systems can reduce allergens, dust, and pollutants, helpful for people with asthma or allergies.

Cons
Respiratory irritation: Overexposure to cold, dry air can lead to sore throat, nasal congestion, or aggravated asthma symptoms. "Babies and elderly people are more vulnerable to cold-related stress as their bodies

new technologies to address certain health concerns. In Singer's 4-in-1 filter and HEPA filter provide maximum purified air by trapping very small particles, including dust, pollen, mould spores, and even some bacteria and viruses. This helps create a healthy environment for those with allergies, asthma, or other respiratory conditions, as well as for newborns.

Dry skin and eyes: ACs reduce indoor humidity, which can dry out skin, eyes, and mucous membranes.

Circulatory problems: For individuals with certain heart or blood pressure conditions, abrupt temperature changes between cool indoors and hot outdoors can strain the cardiovascular system. Sudden cooling can affect blood vessel function and heart rate for people with cardiovascular issues.

Healthy AC habits

Using air conditioners wisely can significantly reduce health risks while keeping the comfort intact. Here's how:

Set the right temperature. Keep the thermostat between 24°C to 26°C. Extreme cold not only increases energy bills but also puts stress on the body.

Use a humidifier or keep a bowl of water nearby as this helps counteract the dryness caused by ACs, maintaining optimal moisture levels in the room.

Ventilate regularly by keeping windows open during cooler parts of the day to let in fresh air and avoid air stagnation.

Clean filters regularly because dirty filters can worsen allergies and introduce bacteria into the air. Clean or replace filters every three months, depending on use.



Tips	Why It Matters
Set AC to 24°C–26°C	Prevents cold stress and saves energy
Clean filters regularly	Keeps allergens and microbes at bay
Use humidifiers	Prevents dryness in skin and airways
Stay hydrated	Counters dehydration from dry air
Don't aim airflow directly at body	Prevents muscle and sinus problems
Use timers (if available)	Avoids unnecessary exposure and energy waste

are less able to regulate temperature. Asthma or COPD patients can experience constricted airways for sudden exposure to cold air," said Aysha Hasina, Paediatric consultant at a private hospital. She advised keeping the room mildly cool—not cold—and dressing babies in light, breathable clothes. For Asthma or COPD use HEPA filter equipped ACs. Avoid sudden temperature changes by gradually adjusting thermostat settings. Many AC manufacturers are introducing

Heart patients are advised not to move between extreme temperature zones abruptly. Wait indoors for a few minutes before stepping into the heat. **Infections and allergies:** Poorly maintained units can harbour mould, bacteria, and dust mites, triggering allergic reactions or respiratory infections.

While AC use affects everyone, certain individuals need to be more careful. Don't let the cool air blow directly on your knees or shoulders, as prolonged exposure to cold air may worsen joint stiffness or pain to arthritis patients. For joint pain use a thin blanket or shawl if you're in AC for extended periods.

Avoiding direct airflow is a thumb rule. Don't sleep or sit directly under the AC draft. It can cause muscle cramps, joint stiffness, or sinus issues.

Keep body hydrated. More cold, dry air dehydrates the body faster. Drink ample water to stay replenished.

Avoid running the AC all night. Use timers to shut it off a few hours into sleep or switch to energy-saving mode.

Air conditioners, when used with awareness and care, can be a boon, offering comfort, health benefits, and improved quality of life. But like all modern tools, their misuse can turn them into silent health saboteurs. Balancing convenience with caution is the crucial.



ELITE HITECH

A Vision of Affordable Comfort for Bangladesh

MOHAMMED SHAFIQU L ISLAM, Managing Director, Elite Hitech Industries Ltd.



We started with a simple idea: to reduce Bangladesh's reliance on imported products and create something that meets the needs of our people.

In the heart of Cumilla, where the humid heat of summer often feels unbearable, one company is quietly revolutionising the air conditioning industry in Bangladesh—Elite Hitech Industries Limited. The story of Elite Hitech is not just about manufacturing air conditioners; it is a tale of ambition, innovation, and a commitment to social good that transcends mere profits. The company is building a future where air conditioning is accessible to all Bangladeshis, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Building the Future of Affordable Cooling

Elite Hitech's journey is a tale of vision, determination, and strategic moves. I moved to Chattogram in 1977 with little capital but a strong drive to succeed. By 1984, I had secured a customs clearing licence, opening the door to international business opportunities. In 1990, air conditioner imports began, followed by the launch of a large showroom at Bangabandhu National Stadium in 1996. A major turning point came in 2003 with a partnership with Midea, leading to the role of Master Distributor in Bangladesh by 2005. That ambition culminated in 2014 with the founding of Elite Hitech Industries in Cumilla, marking a decisive shift to local manufacturing and setting the foundation for today's success.

This move reduced import dependency and allowed for the creation of products specifically tailored to the needs of the Bangladeshi

market, setting the foundation for today's success.

Our company's mission is to make air conditioning both affordable and locally produced. We started with a simple idea: to reduce Bangladesh's reliance on imported products and create something that meets the needs of our people. But our vision goes beyond business. It is about making life more comfortable for everyone, especially those who could not afford an air conditioner before.

Innovation for a Greener Tomorrow

The company's focus on innovation is one of its strongest pillars. Energy efficiency is not just a buzzword for us; it is a commitment to the environment and the consumer. Elite Hitech has led the charge in introducing eco-friendly refrigerants such as R290, a hydrocarbon refrigerant with zero ozone depletion potential. We are proud of our R290 models, which align with global environmental goals like the Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment. These models offer energy savings, superior cooling performance,

and quiet operation—qualities that matter to every household.

But it is not just about reducing environmental impact. Elite Hitech's air conditioners also come equipped with advanced inverter technology that adjusts power consumption based on room load, making them more energy-efficient and cost-effective in the long run. The company's commitment to energy efficiency has earned it certifications from ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001, underscoring its dedication to quality, environmental

management, and safety.

Making Air Conditioning Accessible to All

While high-end products cater to the affluent, Elite Hitech is keenly focused on making air conditioning affordable for the broader population. The company has a range of products that cater to various segments, from budget-friendly models like the Elite GOLD series to Midea Portable Air Conditioners for smaller homes. We want to ensure that even those in rural areas or those on a tight budget can enjoy the comfort of air conditioning. That is why we are constantly updating our offerings to address the needs of all demographics.

In fact, Elite Hitech is actively working on expanding its market presence across both urban and rural Bangladesh. The company's marketing strategies range from online social media campaigns to sponsoring events, newspaper advertising, and billboard placements, ensuring that its products reach as many people as possible.

Smart, User-Friendly Features for the Future

In response to changing consumer preferences, Elite Hitech is also integrating smart features into its air conditioners. Though the company is not yet fully equipped with voice assistants

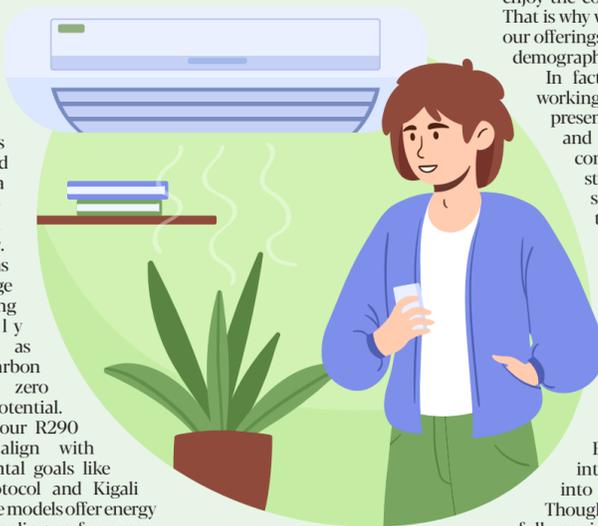
like Alexa or Google Home, we assure customers that these features are coming soon. We understand that the future is digital, and we are actively working on integrating these technologies to ensure our products stay ahead of the curve.

Additionally, the company is committed to improving user experience with simple and elegant designs, especially for elderly users and those in remote areas. Our ACs and remotes are user-friendly, and we are constantly updating them to ensure everyone can use them with ease. With a dedicated customer service team available through a toll-free number, the company ensures that every customer has easy access to support when needed.

Looking to the Future

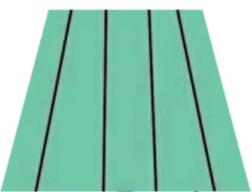
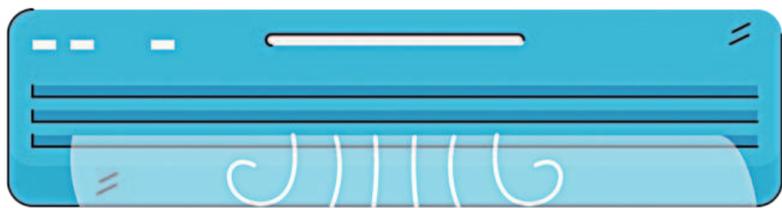
Looking ahead, Elite Hitech Industries Limited is focused on strengthening its position as a leader in the local air conditioning market. We are particularly excited about the potential of energy-efficient, eco-friendly products. We see this as just the beginning. The air conditioning market in Bangladesh is growing, and we are committed to playing a significant role in making it sustainable, affordable, and accessible to all.

Through innovation, a focus on energy efficiency, and a commitment to making life more comfortable for all, Elite Hitech Industries is setting the stage for a future where air conditioning is no longer a luxury, but a necessity that every Bangladeshi can enjoy.



STAYING COOL THE SMART WAY

What to Know Before Installing an AC



MUJIB RAHMAN

Air conditioners not only offer a cool retreat but also improve productivity and wellbeing. Yet, the comfort an air conditioner brings hinges not just on which model you buy—but how, where, and why you install it.

From choosing the correct capacity to integrating the unit seamlessly with your room design, smart installation can make all the difference. Here's how to get it right.

Sizing It Right: Matching Capacity with Space

One of the most common mistakes people make is selecting the wrong capacity for their room. An undersized air conditioner will struggle and consume more energy, while an oversized unit may cool the room too quickly—without properly removing humidity—leading to an uncomfortable, clammy environment.

Moztaba Nadim, Assistant Manager at Elite Hitech Industries Ltd., stresses that "room size alone isn't always enough."

While a 1-ton unit typically suits rooms up to 120 square feet, a 1.5-ton model fits up to 180 square feet, and 2 tons

work well for spaces up to 240 square feet, other factors must be considered.

"Sun exposure, floor level, ceiling height, and the purpose of the room—whether it's a hospital, a mosque, or a small bedroom—all play a role in determining the right AC," he explains. The smarter choice lies in custom assessment, not one-size-fits-all solutions.

Where You Place It Matters

Even the best air conditioners underperform when placed poorly. Strategic positioning of both indoor and outdoor units ensures better airflow, energy efficiency, and durability.

"Indoor units should always be installed high on the wall, away from direct sunlight and heat sources," says Salim Ullah Salim, Director of Marketing at Jamuna Electronics & Automobiles Ltd. This allows the cool air to circulate evenly while reducing energy wastage.

Outdoor units, he adds, require special care: "Keep them in well-ventilated, shaded areas with enough clearance. Overheating due to cramped or exposed locations can affect the compressor and shorten the AC's lifespan." It's a reminder that where you install your unit matters just as much as what you install.

Blending Cooling with Style

Gone are the days when air conditioners were an eyesore. Today's models are sleeker and smarter—but how they're incorporated into your interior still makes a huge difference.

Engr. Ariful Islam, Head of Research & Innovation at Walton Residential Air Conditioner, highlights the value of combining aesthetics with efficiency. "You don't want cold air blowing directly onto a bed or sofa," he notes. "Placement should consider comfort zones and visual balance."

From hiding cables within wall cavities to integrating indoor units within false ceilings, there are numerous design tricks. But he warns against overdoing it: "False enclosures must allow ventilation and access for servicing." It's all about harmonising cooling performance with your interior vision.

The Smart Way Forward

Installing an air conditioner is no longer just about plugging in a machine—it's about thoughtful planning. Choosing the right capacity, placing the units with care, and considering how they fit into your space all add up to a better, smarter cooling experience.

Whether you're outfitting a home, office, or specialised facility, a well-installed air conditioner doesn't just fight the heat—it works silently, efficiently, and stylishly in the background, becoming a quietly through every season.

25°C is the Magic Number

Set your AC between 24–26°C to cut your electricity bill by up to 30%.



Sleep Cool, Save More

Use the sleep timer or auto-restart to avoid running the AC all night. Schedule it to turn off at night or during cooler hours.



Let the Fan Help

Turn on the ceiling fan to circulate cool air and reduce AC load.



Block the Burn

Close curtains or hang thick sheets to keep the sunlight and heat out.



Filter the Flow

Dirty AC filters restrict airflow and make your AC work harder. Clean the filters monthly for smoother airflow and lower power use.



DIAL DOWN THE COSTS, NOT THE COMFORT

Service before the Sizzle

Have your AC serviced before summer to ensure peak performance and lower energy bills.



Seal the Chill In

Seal window gaps and door leaks to trap the cold air inside.



Go Inverter, Save Smarter

Opt for Inverter ACs, as they can save 30–60% more power than regular ones.



Install It Right

Avoid west-facing walls and direct sun, as heat from the sun will make your AC work harder and spike your bill.



Exit Smart

Turning off the AC 30 minutes before leaving the room can also help save power without sacrificing comfort.



TOP AC MAINTENANCE & TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS



Clean or Replace Filters Regularly

Dirty filters block airflow and reduce efficiency which can affect your AC in the long run. Clean or replace them every 1–2 months.

Wash the Coils

Dusty evaporator and condenser coils reduce cooling—clean them 2–3 times a year for better performance.



Check the Drain Line

A clogged drainage line can cause leaks and damage—flush it to prevent water buildup and mold.

Monitor Refrigerant Levels

Low refrigerant = weak cooling. Call a technician if your AC isn't cooling like it used to.



Schedule Annual Professional Servicing

Have a certified technician inspect and tune up your AC at least once a year for optimal function.

Listen for Unusual Noises

Rattling, buzzing, or grinding sounds can signal loose parts or mechanical issues—don't ignore them.

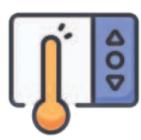


Check Airflow from Vents

Weak airflow might mean duct issues or a blocked filter—inspect and clean vents if needed.

Ensure Stable Power Supply

Fluctuating voltage can damage your AC—use a stabiliser or voltage protector for safety.



Calibrate the Thermostat

If your room never feels quite right, your thermostat may need recalibration or replacement.

Inspect for Refrigerant Leaks

If you hear hissing or see ice buildup, you might have a leak—shut off the unit and call a pro.



COMMON AC REMOTE FEATURES Explained Simply

Temperature Control

Increases or decreases the room temperature in 1°C increments.

Timer (On/Off)

Schedules the AC to start or stop after a set number of hours.

Sleep Mode

Automatically raises the temperature gradually to save energy during sleep.

Fan Speed

Adjusts the fan speed—Low, Medium, High, or Auto—for desired airflow.

Swing Mode

Controls the up-down or left-right movement of the air flap.

Mode Selector

Helps switch between modes like Cool, Dry, Fan, Heat, and Auto.

Dry Mode

Removes excess humidity without overcooling the room.

Turbo / Jet / Powerful Mode

Maximises cooling or heating in the shortest time.

Silent / Quiet Mode

Reduces internal fan noise for peaceful operation.

Display On/Off

Turns the remote or unit display light on or off, often for night use.

Auto Restart

Automatically resumes previous settings after a power outage.



SMART SPOTS FOR MAXIMUM COOL

Where you install your AC can make all the difference. Here are a few insights from an industry insider on how to get it right



Keep It Centered

It is best to place the AC in the middle of the room or near the ceiling. This allows the cool air to spread quickly.



Height Matters

The AC should be installed at least 8 feet above the floor of the room so that cold air can circulate well.



Give It Room to Breathe

The AC should be placed 15 to 20 centimeters (6 to 8 inches) away from the wall, so that air circulation is not obstructed.



Stay Out of the Sun

Installing ACs in direct sunlight should be avoided for more efficient cooling.



No Kitchen Proximity

Refrain from placing the AC near the kitchen, as the heat and fume generated by cooking can reduce the cooling efficiency.



NBR officials to continue their protests

B1



Trump reassures allies as Nato agrees spending hike

P5



Students protest waterlogging, poor facilities in Barishal

P8



25 years of Test cricket for Bangladesh

P11

CONSENSUS TALKS

Commission recasts the NCC proposal, drops pluralism

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission yesterday revised the structure and functions of the proposed National Constitutional Council.

It dropped "pluralism" from the proposed basic principles of the constitution as the BNP, Jamaat, and several other Islamic parties were against it.

The commission placed the revised proposals at yesterday's meeting with political parties at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital. It was the 6th day of the 2nd phase of the commission's dialogue with parties.

The proposed National Constitutional Council (NCC) has now been renamed the Committee for Appointments to Constitutional and Statutory Bodies, and it will not include the president and chief justice as members, said a member of the commission, requesting anonymity.

The changes had to be made because the BNP and like-minded parties were against giving the proposed NCC the power to appoint the chief adviser of caretaker governments, added the member.

Members of the committee will be the prime minister, speakers of both the lower and upper houses, the opposition leader, one representative from parties other than the main opposition, a president's representative whose qualifications will be determined by the law, and an Appellate Division judge nominated by the chief justice.

The speaker of the lower house will chair the committee meetings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Despite multiple initiatives, including canal digging, eviction drives, and raids on dyeing factories, the Karnaphuli river, which is considered the lifeline of Chattogram, continues to be polluted by toxic waste. The photo, taken from Mariners Road in Chattogram's Firingi Bazar yesterday, shows contaminated water seeping into the Karnaphuli river.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BNP agrees to 10yr PM cap, objects to NCC

Standing Committee meeting supports the change in stance

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

In a major shift in its stance, the BNP has agreed to a proposal to cap an individual's tenure as prime minister to a maximum of 10 years in a lifetime.

Party leaders said the decision was made to improve the BNP's image ahead of the next general election, as sticking to the previous stance was drawing criticisms.

"It is our national responsibility to stop the path to creating fascists, both constitutionally and in parliamentary practice. From that responsibility, we embrace this expectation of the nation."

Salahuddin Ahmed
BNP standing committee member



However, the BNP remains firmly opposed to another key proposal – forming a National Constitutional Council to oversee appointments to constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission.

The proposal aims to curb unilateral executive authority and ensure institutional checks and balances. But BNP leaders fear such a council would strip the prime minister of crucial powers.

The party's Standing Committee discussed the matters at a meeting on Tuesday night at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office, with acting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Hold local body polls before nat'l election

Jamaat tells EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday urged the Election Commission to hold local government polls under the interim government before the upcoming 13th national election.

During its meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, the party also called for a system of proportional representation in the general elections.

"The national election is approaching. Our demand is to hold the local government elections before that – not only this time, but in the future as well – under a non-partisan government, regardless of the form the interim government," Jamaat Assistant Secretary General AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad told reporters after its three-member delegation met the CEC at the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Success of US strikes on Iran faces scrutiny

Trump again says Iran nuclear programme set back 'decades'; leaked US intel claims strikes failed to destroy sites in Iran

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday insisted that US strikes led to the "total obliteration" of Iran's nuclear capabilities, contrary to a leaked US intelligence report that assessed those did not destroy the core components of the programme and likely only set it back by months.

Trump, who is in the Netherlands to attend a Nato summit, said the strikes set Iran's atomic programme back "decades", while Israel said it was still early to fully assess the damage.

However, foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei yesterday said the facilities were "badly damaged" in US and Israeli strikes.

"Our nuclear installations have been badly damaged, that's for sure, because it has come under repeated attacks by Israeli and American aggressors," Baqaei told al Jazeera.

However, on the ground, the Trump-announced ceasefire was holding yesterday as both sides reported no violations.

Analysts say the US strikes paved the way for Trump to end the 12-day

▶ Trump hints at talks with Iran next week

▶ Iran says nuclear sites 'badly damaged'

▶ Israel says too early to assess damage

▶ Report says Iran's centrifuges are largely 'intact'

▶ Trump raises hope for Gaza ceasefire

Iran-Israel conflict. Both Iran and Israel have claimed "victory" in the war and pledged to respect the truce if the other side keeps its promise.

Israel pounded Iranian nuclear and military sites while Iran launched waves of missiles at its foe during their

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Ex-CEC Kazi Habibul Awal arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, who oversaw last year's national election, was arrested yesterday on charges of poll irregularities and constitutional violations.

The Detective Branch of police arrested Awal at a flat in the capital's Moghbazar, said Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Awal, two other former chief election commissioners (CECs), and 22 others have been accused in a case filed by BNP Executive Committee member Salahuddin Khan with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on Sunday.

DMP Joint Commissioner Nasirul Islam told reporters that Awal went into hiding after the case was filed.

Earlier this week, KM Nurul Huda, who oversaw the 2018 national polls as the CEC, was arrested in the city's Uttara. Huda was assaulted by a mob before police took him into custody.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Mob justice a threat to humanity

Says Tarique



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has warned that "mob justice" has become a threat to humanity and now poses a grave threat to the environment needed for developing a democratic culture.

In a statement to mark the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – which is observed globally on June 26 – Tarique said the significance of this day is profound as it serves to honour and express solidarity with all those who have suffered

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Agitated students and locals block the entrance to the Khulna Metropolitan Police headquarters yesterday and set tyres ablaze during a protest against the release of Sub-Inspector Sukanta Das from custody. A day earlier, locals had handed Sukanta over to police alleging that he assaulted students and civilians during the July uprising in Khulna. The demonstrators ended their programme around 8:30pm but said they would be back at 3:00pm today. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

BDR MASSACRE

Result of 'long-term conspiracy'

Says probe commission, also blames intelligence failures and political involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 2009 BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) massacre was the result of a "long-term conspiracy" facilitated by gross negligence, failures of intelligence agencies and the involvement of some political figures, said the National Independent Investigation Commission.

The commission, which was formed to re-investigate the carnage, shared its findings at a press conference yesterday at the Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements (BRICM) in the capital's Science Lab area. This marked the commission's third media briefing since it began work 114 working days ago.

"Unnecessary delays in the name of political negotiation and inaction by the armed forces and law enforcement agencies allowed the mutineers to carry out killings and other crimes with impunity," said Commission Chairman ALM Fazlur Rahman in a written statement.

Officers and their families trapped inside the Pikhana headquarters repeatedly called for help from the morning of February 25, 2009, but no rescue operation was launched, he said.

The commission outlined the nature of the crimes committed inside Pikhana.

Testimonies from surviving officers and their families revealed a harrowing account of the events. Alongside the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

2 killed as train hits bike in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two bikers were killed as an intercity train hit their motorbike near a Nilphamari level crossing area yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Bhubesh Chandra Roy, 30, and Sontosh Chandra Roy, 45.

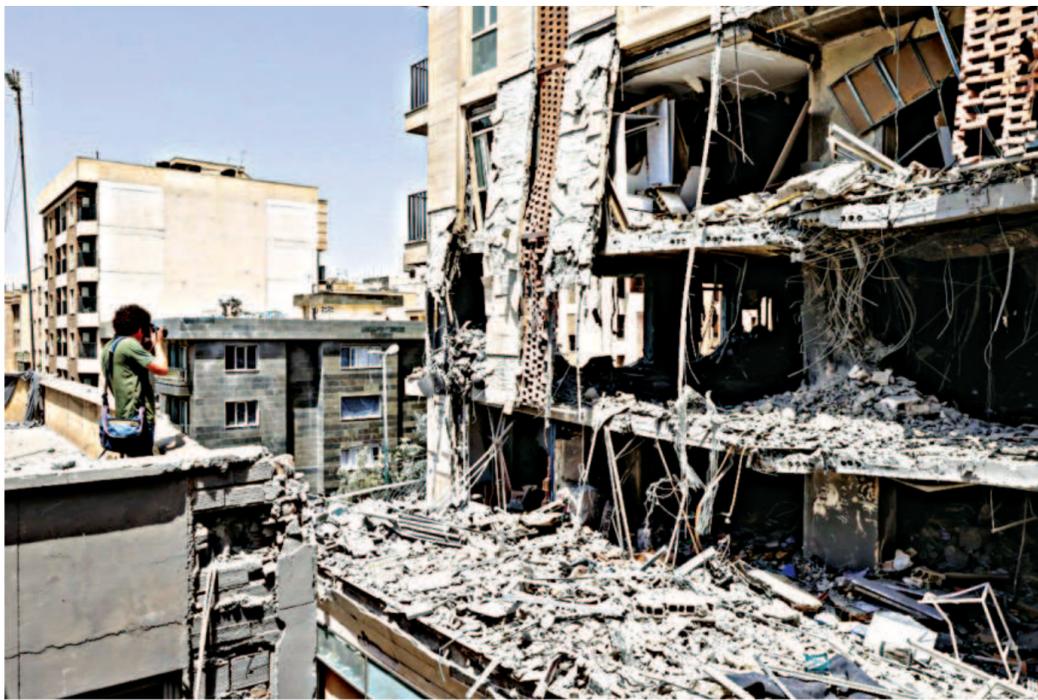
Both were from Chawra Borobasa Patowari Para village in Sadar upazila and worked as day labourers, said Officer in Charge of Saidpur Railway Police Mahamudunnabi.

According to railway police and eyewitnesses, the Chilahati bound train, Chilahati Express, coming from Dhaka, was approaching Nilphamari Railway Station around 6:30am. When the train neared the Arazi Polashbari Kanaikata rail crossing, it struck a motorbike carrying the two victims.

Both died on the spot. Locals said the rail crossing had no gate.

Nilphamari Station Master Mithun Roy confirmed the incident and said it occurred just minutes before the train was scheduled to arrive at the station.

The OC said process is underway to hand over the bodies to their families.



A photojournalist takes a picture of a residential building that was hit in an Israeli strike during the 12-day Iran-Israel war in Tehran yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Release them, they're innocent'

Family of Lalmonirhat father-son urge cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

"My husband and son are innocent," pleaded 65-year-old Gita Rani Shil, wife of Paresch Chandra Shil, to Rangpur Range's Additional DIG Mohammad Sharif Uddin during his visit to Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Gita Rani and her family broke down in tears, pleading for justice and release of Paresch Chandra Shil, 69, and his son Bishnu Chandra Shil, 35 – both barbers by profession – who were arrested on June 22 over allegations of hurting religious sentiment.

The two, from Saptana Nabintari in Lalmonirhat municipality, were beaten by a mob before being detained. Paresch has run a barbershop at Goshala Bazar for over five decades.

"They never insulted any religion. A group spread false rumours and instigated a mob to beat them before handing them over to police. My husband is ill and suffering in jail. Please help secure their release," she said to the police official, who met the family members at the Shri Shri Gourishankar Goshala Society premises in the town.

Her daughter-in-law Dipti Rani Shil, addressing the DIG, added, "Sir, my husband and father-in-law have done nothing wrong. Since the incident, I live in fear with my aged mother-in-law and two daughters. A proper investigation will reveal the truth."

DIG Sharif Uddin assured the family of a neutral investigation and said, "If anyone attempts to incite unrest in the name of religion, we'll take strict action."

"Police are investigating the case impartially and will submit the findings to court," he said.

Mob justice a threat to humanity

FROM PAGE 1

torture and oppression worldwide.

"A violent madness called 'mob justice' has become an enemy of humanity. This will endanger the environment for building a democratic culture. To prevent the return of a one-dimensional state, democracy must be kept dynamic and its continuity must be ensured."

Bangladesh had been turned into a totalitarian state during the Awami League rule, with all forms of civil liberties, including freedom of expression, suppressed, he said.

"The press was 'chained by old laws' and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was unjustly imprisoned in false cases and denied proper medical treatment.

During the past 16 years, "democracy has been imprisoned", with people of opposing views facing years of imprisonment, disappearances and even murders under the tyranny of the government.

He accused the authorities of fostering a culture of impunity, endangering the safety of ordinary citizens, including women and children.

He further said that "bloodthirstiness" continues to fuel violence and bloodshed around the world, with countless people killed, injured or left maimed due to repression by autocratic regimes.

Despite independence gained by many countries after World War II, violence and conflict persist, he said.

Tarique went on to call for the establishment of a society based on humanity, justice, the rule of law and free and fair elections.

He urged democratic forces to maintain unity in the fight against all forms of oppression, expressing sympathy for victims of torture worldwide.

Ex-CEC

FROM PAGE 1

The others accused in the case include ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, 11 former election commissioners, and top government and police officials. During the 2014 national election, Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad was the CEC.

According to the complaint, the accused violated the constitution, breached the electoral code of conduct, and falsely pronounced individuals as winners even though they did not receive the people's votes.

The Awal-led Election Commission held last year's national polls boycotted by the major opposition parties, including the BNP. In multiple places, the ruling Awami League leaders ran as independents against their party colleagues to make the election appear competitive.

The Huda-led commission held the December 2018 general election. Several political parties alleged that ballot boxes were stuffed the night before election day. The Jatiya Oikya Front in a complaint to the EC mentioned at the time that between 30 and 60 percent of the votes were cast the night before.

In January 2019, Transparency International Bangladesh in a study found that stamping of ballots took place the night before election day in more than one centre in 33 of the 50 surveyed constituencies.

Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad led the EC which held the "one-sided" 2014 national election, in which 153 lawmakers out of 300 were "elected" without needing any vote whatsoever because they were the only ones running for office in their constituencies.

The AL-led alliance won more than two-thirds majorities in the three national elections.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on June 16 ordered an investigation into the roles played by former ECs.

The Electoral Reform Commission in its report in February recommended introducing a mechanism to hold election commissioners accountable for failing to carry out their constitutional duties.

It also called for an investigation into the irregularities by former ECs.

Commission recasts the NCC proposal

FROM PAGE 1

The Constitution Reform Commission had earlier proposed equality, human dignity, social justice, democracy, and pluralism as the basic principles of the constitution.

The revised version has now replaced pluralism with religious freedom and communal harmony.

The reform commission originally proposed that the NCC would oversee appointments to the positions of chief adviser, attorney general, chiefs of the three armed forces, and other constitutional posts.

Parties that supported that proposal maintained that the NCC would help curb the excessive concentration of executive power in the hands of the prime minister.

Under the current constitution, the president is required to act on the prime minister's advice in most appointments, except in the cases of appointing the prime minister and the chief justice. This gives the executive branch significant control over such matters.

The Committee for Appointments to Constitutional and Statutory Bodies will not oversee appointments of the chief adviser, the attorney general and the chiefs of the three armed forces.

After the consensus commission meeting yesterday, its Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz told reporters that the process to appoint the chief adviser

would be discussed later.

The commission moved away from its earlier NCC framework due to the political parties' concerns.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss several matters but only the fundamental principles of the constitution and the NCC were discussed, he said.

"While some parties supported retaining the existing principles, others expressed differing views. As a result, no consensus has yet been reached," he said.

However, he noted that most parties expressed support for five principles: equality and human dignity, social justice, democracy, religious freedom and harmony, and impartiality.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters after the meeting that his party agreed in principle that an individual cannot be the prime minister for more than 10 years. "But if a body like the NCC interferes with executive functions, we will not support it. We will reject the [10-year] limit," he said.

The current laws that dictate the appointments to constitutional bodies need to be reformed, he said, proposing the formation of search committees through executive orders to ensure transparency and accountability.

"Checks and balances must come from institutional reforms, not simply

by limiting the executive power."

Regarding the principles, Salahuddin said the proposals should be left for the government which would be formed after the national election to implement.

He also called for the reinstatement of certain elements from the 5th Amendment to the constitution. However, he acknowledged that consensus on these matters has not yet been achieved.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Maulana Rafiqul Islam Khan said most political parties agreed to the proposal that no person should serve as prime minister for more than 10 years in their lifetime.

"Except for the BNP, most parties support this proposal. Now it's up to the commission to implement it," he said.

Rafiqul further said that parties had reached a consensus on including "complete faith and trust in Almighty Allah" in the fundamental principles.

The left-leaning parties objected to it.

He welcomed the proposal bringing changes to the NCC.

"This proposal aims to safeguard the country and its people from despotic or fascist rules," he added.

Gonosamhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki said no consensus had been reached regarding the fundamental principles of the state.

Success of US strikes on Iran faces scrutiny

FROM PAGE 1

deadliest-ever confrontation.

The United States joined the fray in support of its ally, hitting two nuclear facilities with massive bunker-buster bombs over the weekend, while a guided missile from a submarine struck a third.

But leaked US intelligence cast doubt on the damage caused by American strikes.

According to CNN, the early US intelligence assessment was produced by the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's intelligence arm.

The analysis of the damage to the sites and the impact of the strikes on Iran's nuclear ambitions is ongoing, and could change as more intelligence becomes available, according to the assessment.

But the early findings are at odds with Trump's repeated claims that the strikes "completely and totally obliterated" Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth also said on Sunday that Iran's nuclear ambitions "have been obliterated."

Two of the people familiar with the assessment said Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium was not destroyed. One of the people said the centrifuges are largely "intact." Another source said that the intelligence assessed enriched uranium was moved out of the sites prior to the US strikes.

It also said the strikes sealed off entrances to some facilities without

destroying underground buildings.

"So the (DIA) assessment is that the US set them back maybe a few months, tops," an official told CNN on condition of anonymity.

The White House acknowledged the existence of the assessment but said it disagreed with it.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told CNN in a statement: "This alleged assessment is flat-out wrong... The leaking of this alleged assessment is a clear attempt to demean President Trump and discredit the brave fighter pilots who conducted a perfectly executed mission to obliterate Iran's nuclear program. Everyone knows what happens when you drop fourteen 30,000-pound bombs perfectly on their targets: total obliteration."

Trump yesterday refuted the preliminary assessment and said Tehran's nuclear sites were "obliterated."

"They're not going to be building bombs for a long time," said Trump, adding that the strikes had set back the programme by "decades" and that the Iran-Israel ceasefire that he declared was going "very well".

Asked if the United States would strike again if Iran rebuilt its nuclear enrichment programme, Trump said: "Sure."

He later told reporters that Israel and Iran were "both tired, exhausted", going on to say that talks were planned with Iran "next week".

Hold local body polls before nat'l election

FROM PAGE 1

Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital.

The meeting was held a day after the party got back its electoral symbol – Daripalla (balance scale) – following a court directive.

Jamaat leader Hamidur said if the local body polls were held under an interim government, those would be much more neutral and credible.

Responding to a query whether Jamaat has confidence in the current EC, he said they were observing the government and the EC.

"We're observing. And when any work is done properly, we will acknowledge it. We must describe black as black and white as white. If

any deviation occurs, we will have to raise our voice... We are hopeful that they [EC] will act responsibly, keeping the public interest in mind."

In the meeting, the Jamaat delegation also discussed introducing the proportional representation system in the general election.

"This system is a good method for fair elections. We have also raised this demand before the EC through a formal meeting," Azad said.

Jamaat expressed its support for postal and online voting systems for expatriates. "We've suggested that the Election Commission can consider postal and online systems as viable options for expatriates' voting."

Regarding the registration of Jamaat, Azad said they regained their rights that were taken away unjustly.

"During the previous government's tenure, Jamaat's registration was unjustly cancelled, and the party symbol was taken away for political reasons," said the Jamaat leader.

Two other Jamaat delegation members were its assistant secretaries general Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair and Jashim Uddin Sarker.

Proportional representation is an electoral system in which the distribution of seats corresponds with the proportion of the total votes cast for each party.

BNP agrees to 10yr PM cap, objects to NCC

FROM PAGE 1

chairman Tarique Rahman joining virtually from London.

Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed presented a report on the party's ongoing reform talks with the National Consensus Commission. All members present supported the change in stance, meeting sources said.

"It is our national duty to stop the path to creating fascists, both constitutionally and in parliamentary practice. From that responsibility, we embrace this expectation of the nation. That is why we have accepted the proposal that no one can remain Prime Minister for more than 10 years," Salahuddin said.

Explaining his proposal, he said there is confusion about what constitutes a term as someone might serve a partial term that even don't add up to a year.

"That's why I proposed that we focus on the maximum number of years a person can serve as prime minister. Only then will it become a proper limit," Salahuddin added.

Party insiders said the BNP believes that its objection to limiting the PM's term was hurting its image and giving its political rivals an upper hand for further criticism.

They said the party feared that clinging to its earlier stance could erode public support at the ballot box.

A standing committee member who preferred anonymity told The Daily Star, "Public perception is very important. By disagreeing with this proposal, we were creating doubts in voters' minds. Even the Jamaat was using it against us."

Still, the party remains cautious about the proposal to establish a constitutional council. Leaders said if the PM's authority comes under threat, the BNP would revert to its 31-point reform outline, which

includes limiting the premiership to two consecutive terms.

One senior leader reportedly called the proposed council "dangerous" during internal discussions. Instead, the party is pushing for reforms to existing appointment laws or the enactment of new ones that ensure transparency without stripping executive authority.

Three months ago, the BNP had rejected a proposal to bar anyone from becoming prime minister more than twice, consecutive or not.

On March 23, in its reply to the consensus commission's call for the parties' opinions, the BNP suggested, "It would be better if no person can be prime minister for three consecutive terms."

At that point, the BNP maintained that a former prime minister could return to office after a break, even after serving two terms.

Now, the party says it is willing to accept the 10-year cap, even if it contradicts its "31-Point Outline for Structural Reforms in Bangladesh," announced on July 13, 2023.

Still, BNP leaders said they think the proposal to limit how long someone can be prime minister is like "tying the hands of politicians and stopping them from doing their work."

At Tuesday's meeting, the party also agreed to proposals to appoint the chief justice from among the two senior-most judges, reserve 100 parliamentary seats for women, and create a 100-member upper house.

The BNP said that any major changes to the constitution should be made by an elected parliament through debate.

Party leaders said they aim to conclude reform talks quickly so the consensus commission can publish its final "Charter of Reform" by July, paving the way for early elections.

Result of 'long-term conspiracy'

FROM PAGE 1

targeted killings of officers, their family members were subjected to inhumane torture.

"Women and children were beaten, threatened at gunpoint and their homes ransacked. Many were confined for hours in the quarter guard without food or water in appalling conditions. Both state and personal properties were destroyed, evidence was tampered with and acts of arson were carried out."

Evidence indicates some political leaders were involved in various capacities; their actions or inaction contributed to the escalation of the crisis, he said.

Both the armed forces command and law enforcement agencies failed to act decisively as the killings unfolded, he said, adding that no effective steps were taken to prevent the mutiny or the massacre.

"The information we have so far points to gross negligence and failure on the part of intelligence agencies."

Two earlier commissions had attempted to misdirect the investigation, according to Rahman.

"There was a deliberate effort to link the incident to militancy to divert its course."

The commission has received several victim and eyewitness accounts suggesting possible foreign involvement, which are now being verified.

"Based on evidence gathered so far,

we believe timely military intervention could have prevented the killings and other crimes," Rahman said.

CCTV footage from the time is being analysed. Travel bans have been imposed on 33 individuals in connection with the case.

The commission has so far interviewed 158 individuals, including 55 military and 20 civilian officials, six family members of slain officers, 15 survivors, 25 convicted BDR members, and 29 others who were later released. Testimonies from around 50 more individuals are still pending.

Eight political leaders also gave statements, some from jail or abroad. Awami League leaders Mirza Azam and Jahangir Kabir Nanak submitted testimonies via email.

Depositions were also taken from former armed forces and police officials as well as several journalists. Testimonies from key witnesses are still being recorded.

The commission is in communication with six foreign embassies and the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Dhaka to collect further information, which will take additional time.

A draft of the investigation report has been prepared and is now under review. Citing the case's complexity, the commission has requested an extension of its deadline to September 30.



Speakers at a roundtable, titled 'Shock Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action', at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Prioritise pre-disaster cash aid in flood-prone areas

Speakers say this will help reduce losses and damages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is crucial to identify the actual beneficiaries for pre-disaster cash support to reduce the loss and damage from natural calamities like floods, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They also called for changes to key government policy instruments to expand the scope of pre-disaster relief initiatives based on forecast warnings.

The roundtable, titled "Shock Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action", was organised by CARE, Concern Worldwide, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO), Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), Peoples Oriented Program Implementation (POPI), and the SKS Foundation, along with The Daily Star.

It was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

At the event, discussants shared findings from a pilot project titled

"Scaling up Forecast-based Action and Learning in Bangladesh (SUFAL II)," which showed that timely pre-disaster cash support helped households in some flood-prone districts last year protect valuable assets like livestock, poultry, and agricultural infrastructure.

Kaiser Rejve, director of

Discussants shared findings from a pilot project, which showed timely pre-disaster cash support helped households in some flood-prone districts last year protect valuable assets like livestock, poultry, and agricultural infrastructure.

humanitarian and resilient futures programme at CARE Bangladesh, said the main objective of SUFAL was to help people in flood-prone areas prepare ahead of disasters to reduce losses and damages.

However, he noted that there are certain challenges in the government's policy guidelines when implementing such anticipatory action.

In his presentation, Fazley Elahi Mahmud, a consultant on social protection, poverty reduction, and livelihood development, said the SUFAL project was based on forecasts from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

He pointed out that while the government has at least five relevant social safety net schemes, the Gratuitous Relief (GR) scheme under the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry is best suited for pre-disaster cash support.

He recommended amending the Humanitarian Assistance Programme Implementation Guidelines (2012-2013), which currently state that "humanitarian aid will be provided 'during and immediately after' a disaster," and restrict GR cash assistance to only "post-disaster" situations.

AKM Shahriar, project field

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



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Army warns against mob violence, 1 held 3 Swechhasebak Dal men get bail over assault on ex-CEC

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Army has arrested one person for his alleged involvement in the mob-violence in front of the residence of former Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda on June 22.

The arrested person was identified as Md Hanif and he was handed over to police after his arrest on June 23, reports BSS citing an ISPR press release yesterday.

"Bangladesh Army is committed to protecting law and order and it will continue all necessary action to check any repetition of mob-violence in the country," the release said.

The ISPR release said the army launched the drive against the perpetrators of mob-violence as the incident came to the knowledge of the army camp concerned. In continuation of the drive the army arrested one person on charge of his involvement with the violence.

Drive is going on to identify others involved in the incident and arrest them, the ISPR release said.

In another development, a Dhaka court yesterday

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Ishraque, Asif lock horns over mayoral deadlock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Ishraque Hossain has once again accused the government of violating the constitution by not administering his oath as the elected mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

He claimed a series of recent incidents were "orchestrated to divert attention" from this issue.

Speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Ishraque said, "In a private TV interview, Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud alleged that I am being instigated by a senior BNP leader and described me as 'misguided'. Such remarks are offensive -- not just to me but to the voters who elected me."

He demanded an unconditional public apology from the adviser.

Referring to Asif's claim that a BNP leader from Cumilla had given him financial and logistical support for the movement, Ishraque said, "If he has any evidence, he should present it to the nation. Otherwise, he must apologise."



He also warned against any retaliation against DSCC officials and employees involved in the protest, saying such actions would escalate demonstrations beyond Nagar Bhaban and onto the streets.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Govt firm on ending culture of abuse: Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has said the interim government is determined to end the culture of abuse.

"Indeed, the three elements of the interim government's mandate -- trying the abusers under the previous regime, reforms, and elections -- all aim to transform Bangladesh into a country in which all its citizens can live in security and dignity," he said.

The chief adviser made the remarks in a message marking UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture being observed today.

"Today, we stand in solidarity with all victims of torture, past and present. We recognise their suffering, we commit to justice, and we vow: never again," Prof Yunus said.

"Let this day mark a turning point -- for Bangladesh, and for all nations striving to reclaim

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Over 90% women work at informal sector: study

UNB, Dhaka

Over 90 percent of working women in Bangladesh are employed in the informal sector, which was particularly hard hit during the pandemic, a new study has found.

The findings were shared at a seminar titled "Strengthening Systems for Pandemic Preparedness among Working Women Living in Informal Settlements in Urban Bangladesh" yesterday.

It was jointly organised by icddr,b, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and SickKids, Canada, with funding support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

The event, held at the icddr,b in Dhaka, brought together key stakeholders to discuss the Women RISE study findings and their policy implications.

Led by Dr Sohana Shafique, the study assessed the experiences of working women in informal settlements and factories in Dhaka and Gazipur before and during the pandemic.

"I believe the results of this study will help all of us to prepare for any impending pandemic. We should be

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



A couple loads newly bought plants and flowers from the National Tree Fair 2025 into the boot of their car. The fair, which was inaugurated by the chief adviser yesterday, will continue till July 24 at the field next to Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ICT replaces counsel for Hasina in contempt case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday removed Advocate Md Aminul Ghani Titto as defence counsel for Sheikh Hasina in a contempt of court case filed against her.

The tribunal's decision came amid criticism over Aminul's appointment, following the resurfacing of a Facebook post he made on August 5 last year in which he called for Hasina's execution.

Advocate Md Amir Hossain has replaced Aminul Ghani, as per the ICT's prosecution. The tribunal passed the order on Tuesday regarding this matter.

Amir Hossain confirmed to The Daily Star that he received the appointment letter yesterday.

He previously served as the Special Public Prosecutor of Dhaka's Special Judge Court-8 for around 14 and a half years during the Awami League tenure.

The tribunal also deferred yesterday's scheduled hearing to July 2. Senior Supreme Court lawyer

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Prioritise pre-disaster

FROM PAGE 3
coordinator specialist at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Bangladesh, emphasised the importance of setting proper criteria to identify actual beneficiaries for anticipatory cash support.

Speaking as the chief guest, Sanzida Yesmin, deputy secretary of the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry, said the approval of upazila nirbahi officers is required for selecting beneficiaries and under different social safety net schemes, and their role will be crucial in anticipatory relief support as well.

Netai Chandra Dey Sarker, director (monitoring and information management)

at the Department of Disaster Management, said early warning is essential for the success of anticipatory action.

He said while Bangladesh has made progress in reducing loss and damage from seasonal floods and cyclones, more improvement is needed in addressing disasters like flash floods and lightning strikes.

Rahat Ara Sirajum Monir, a manager at World Vision Bangladesh, and Kazi Rabeya, a programme analyst at UN Women Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

The roundtable was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGOs and foreign missions at The Daily Star.



Ispahani Group's Mirzapore Tea Garden and Zareen Tea Garden received the Green Factory Award 2025 for worker-friendly and eco-conscious practices. The awards were presented at a ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka on June 24. Labour Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Dr M Sakawat Hossain and Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan handed over the awards to Ispahani Group Director Mirza Ahmed Ispahani. Among others, AKM Mainul Ahsan, GM of Ispahani Tea Estate; Selim Reza, deputy GM of Zareen Tea Garden; and Saiduzzaman, manager of Mirzapore Tea Garden were present at the event.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Over 90% women

FROM PAGE 3
careful now as Covid-19 cases are increasing again," said Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of icddr.

Health ministry additional secretary Mohammad Nora Alam Siddique said, "The ministry is committed to collaborating with the cross-sectional groups to improve the systems."

Dr Tahmina Shirin, director of IEDCR, stressed the importance of evidence-based collaboration to enhance pandemic resilience and social protection coverage for urban poor working women.

The research showed notable improvements

targeted interventions.

Knowledge regarding respiratory infection exposure routes increased by 29.59 percent overall, with a 36.28 percent rise among informal sector workers.

Preventive practice also improved by 15.95 percent overall, while knowledge of Social Safety Net Program registration increased by 16.26 percent among informal workers.

The research also showed dietary diversity among working women increased by 11.58 percent overall, with formal sector workers seeing a 22.30 percent rise.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
চীফ মেট্রোপলিটন ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট এর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
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যেহেতু নিম্ন তফসিলে উল্লেখিত আসামীর বিরুদ্ধে গ্রেফতারী পরোয়ানা জারী রহিয়াছে এবং যেহেতু ফৌজদারী কার্যবিধি ১৮৯৮ এর ৮৭ ধারা ও ৮৮ ধারার বিধান মোতাবেক উক্ত আসামীর বিরুদ্ধে কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছে। এবং অত্র আদালতে বিশ্বাস করিবার কারন রহিয়াছে যে, অত্র আদালতে বিচারার্থে উক্ত আসামীর সোপর্দ/শ্রোতার এরাবার জন্য পলাতক রহিয়াছে বা আত্মগোপন করিয়াছে এবং উক্ত আসামীর শীঘ্রই গ্রেফতার করিবার সম্ভাবনা নাই। এক্ষণে যেহেতু উক্ত কার্যবিধির ৩৩৯ বি (১) ধারার বিধান অনুযায়ী উক্ত আসামীর নিম্নে তফসিল তাহার নামের পার্শ্বে লিখিত মামলার বিচারের জন্য আদেশ জারী হইবার ১০ দিনের মধ্যে বিজ্ঞ এম.এম.কোর্ট- ৩২, ঢাকায় হাজির হইবার নির্দেশ দেওয়া যাইতেছে। অন্যথায় তাহার অনুপস্থিতিতেই বিচার কার্য সমাধা করা হইবে।

তফসিল

আসামীর নাম ও ঠিকানা	মামলার নম্বর ও ধারা
Mrs. Sweety Parvin Daughter of Abu Bakker Sikder and Halima Pervin, Wife of Md. Habibullah Permanent Address: Village: Baliadanga, Malonchi, P.O: Narikelbaria, P.S: Bagharpara, Dist: Jessore and Present Address: 82/12/A, Shopno Chura, Barontek, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206	সি.আর.মাঃ নং- ৭৪৮/২০২৪ ধারাঃ এন আই এক্ট এর ১৩৮

মেট্রোপলিটন ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট ও ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা (জে.এম. শাখা) ।

Army warns against mob violence

FROM PAGE 3
granted bail to three Swechchhasebak Dal activists in a case filed over the mob attack on former CEC.

Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sanullah accepted bail petitions of Mohammad Hanif, 38, member secretary of the Uttara West thana unit, Mozammel Haque Dhali, an activist, and

Mohammad Kaiyum, joint convener of the Uttara East thana unit of the pro-BNP organisation, court sources said.

Yesterday, Mozammel and Kaiyum surrendered before the court and sought bail, he added.

On June 22, a mob consisting mostly of local members of the Swechchhasebak Dal, gathered in front of the

former CEC's residence and assaulted him. They later handed him over to the police.

A video of the assault went viral on social media.

Following the incident, Sajib Hasan, a sub-inspector of Uttara West Police Station, on Tuesday filed a case accusing six leaders and activists of the Swechchhasebak Dal and some 15 to 20 unidentified people.

Ishraque, Asif lock

FROM PAGE 3
Later in the day, Asif Mahmud responded in a Facebook post, saying, "They hit my picture with shoes, called my father a 'rice thief' based on rumours, rejected the government's early efforts to resolve the issue with arrogance, and kept Nagar Bhaban shut - causing suffering to over one crore residents. Violent clashes broke out over its occupation, and I faced repeated personal attacks and defamation for decisions made collectively by the advisory council. Has anyone apologised for any of

this?"
"But I'm the one expected to apologise for saying the movement was instigated by a few leaders. I told the truth - he knows it, and he's admitted to several people I know that he was trapped and used for a 'better negotiation'."

He added, "Despite everything, I never crossed the line of decency - not once did I make personal attacks or speak in a derogatory way. I remained patient. But silence doesn't mean these wrongs will go unanswered - history gives everyone what they deserve."

Govt firm on ending

FROM PAGE 3
the moral centre of governance," he added.

"Torture is a grave violation of human rights and an affront to the dignity of a human being. It must never be tolerated under any circumstances," Yunus said.

One of the first

international treaties the interim government signed was the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, signifying the commitment to preventing and addressing enforced disappearances.

"The signing marks a crucial first step toward enacting domestic legislation - a process already underway - and ensuring justice. It reinforces our legal commitment to eradicate torture in all its forms," Yunus said.

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Direct Contact Address: Recruitment and Documentation Section (HRM), Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC., Chandra, Kaliakoir, Gazipur. Mobile: 01678-860701, Email: hrm-recruitment34@waltonplc.com.

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Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone: +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202
Email: procurement@northsouth.edu. Web: www.northsouth.edu

Employment Opportunity

KAFACO Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFACO) is an international joint venture leading Ammonia & Urea Fertilizer manufacturing company in Bangladesh. The plant is located at Rangadia, Anowara, Chattogram with its corporate office at Dhaka. KAFACO is inviting applications from eligible candidates against the below mentioned positions for the Plant Site at Chattogram.

Senior Teacher (Chemistry)

Requirements:

- B.Sc.(Hon.) & M.Sc. in Chemistry from any reputed University;
- At Least a CGPA 2.25 out of 4.00 or 2nd class in B.Sc. (Hons) and in M.Sc.;
- Minimum GPA 3.00 or 1st division in S.S.C. & in H.S.C. level;
- No 3rd Class/Division is allowable in any academic carrier;
- Having Minimum 2 years' teaching experience in Secondary Level;
- Strong Communication skills in Bangla and in English;
- Maximum 35 years of age as on 30th June, 2025 which may be relaxed for highly qualified candidates;

Instrument Technician

Requirements:

- Diploma in Electronics from any government approved Polytechnic Institute;
- Having minimum 2 years' hands on experience in Instrument Maintenance in any Fertilizer, Refinery, Chemical or similar industry;
- Knowledge on work safety;
- Candidates shall have to demonstrate their skills practically during selection process;
- Shall have to work directly in field with own hand;
- Maximum 32 years age as on 30th June 2025;

Medical Technologist (Lab)

Requirements:

- Diploma in Medical Technology (Lab) from any Government Institute of Health Technology under The State Medical Faculty of Bangladesh;
- Having Minimum Three years' hands on experience in renowned Pathological Laboratory excluding training period;
- Knowledge on work safety;
- Candidates shall have to demonstrate their skills practically during selection process;
- Maximum 35 years of age as on 30th June, 2025

Welder

- Education: Minimum Class Eight passed;
- Having minimum 2 years' hands on experience as a 5G/6G Welder in any renowned Workshop, Fertilizer, Refinery, Chemical or similar industry;
- Ability to read mechanical drawings & perform jobs accordingly;
- Knowledge on work safety;
- Candidates shall have to demonstrate their skills practically in workshop setup;
- Maximum 40 years of age as on 30th June, 2025;

Fire Truck Driver/Operator

- Education: Minimum Class Eight passed;
- Candidate must have valid Heavy Vehicle Driving License from BRTA and Minimum two years on job experience in driving heavy vehicles in any industry.
- Physical Fitness: Minimum Height: 5'4" (Five feet & four inch), Chest: 32" & Weight: 55 kg min. Must be physically fit without asthma, heart-diseases, height-phobia or any kind of physical defects;
- Candidates shall have to demonstrate their skills practically during selection process;
- Willing to work in rotational shift.
- Maximum 40 years of age as on 30th June, 2025;

Additional Requirements for all posts

- Sound health for industrial environment. The offer for job shall be subject to physically fit after medical examination by Company Medical Officer.
- Can work under pressure, self motivated, oriented with company goals.
- Shall have to work directly in field with own hand.
- Job Location - KAFACO Plant, Rangadia, Anowara, Chattogram.

Application Procedure

- Name of the post should be mentioned clearly on the envelope and on the CV.
- Candidate should send their CV, attested copies of all Academic Certificates & Mark Sheets and Experience Certificates, Copy of NID and a recent passport size photograph (These are mandatory document) to **HR Department, KAFACO, IDB Bhaban (13th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207** at the latest by 15th July, 2025.
- KAFACO reserves right to cancel the recruitment process at any stage.
- Candidates will be disqualified at any stage of recruitment process for submitting fake/forged document/statement.
- Short listed candidates will be called for interview.
- Candidates who applied for the post of welder and Fire Truck Driver previously need not apply again.

PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 26

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-17
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-57	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Iranians wary of what future holds

AGENCIES

People in Tehran said the hours of darkness before Trump's truce took hold were the most terrifying of the war as Israel intensified its bombardment.

"We felt jets flying so low above our apartment that the windows shook. The bombing intensified to a level I've never experienced before. People ran into the streets, terrified and panicking," said Mariam, 39, from Kordan, about 30 miles north-west of capital.

When residents ventured out in the streets after the sun rose on Tuesday, their first question was what kind of country the bombers had left in their wake. "There's

"We felt jets flying so low above our apartment that the windows shook."

a silence now, like a pause in breath before something worse," Mariam said.

Most of the Iranians the Guardian talked to were pessimistic, fearing the regime would use the war as a pretext for rolling back some of the liberties carved out by the female-led resistance of the past few years.

In Tajrish bazaar in north Tehran, everyone had their own opinion on whether the end to the fighting announced by Trump would last, reports AFP.



Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte and other heads of state and government from Nato member countries pose for a family photo during a summit in The Hague, Netherlands, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

Is Trump seeking a quick US exit?

AGENCIES

United States President Donald Trump is attempting a high-risk manoeuvre in bombing Iran and then quickly seeking to de-escalate tensions, analysts told Al Jazeera.

But it remains to be seen whether Washington can navigate a clean exit from the deadly imbroglio, which has the potential to erupt into a large-scale regional confrontation.

Even if Trump avoids a wider war, analysts say troubling questions remain over how worthwhile the US military intervention was.

Despite the rocky first hours after the ceasefire announcement, Israeli and Iranian leaders appear to have fallen in line with Trump's messaging about peace.

But experts warn that the talk of peace and diplomacy might conceal greater challenges ahead. Trita Parsi, the executive vice president of the Quincy Institute, a think tank, told Al Jazeera that Trump's harsh words for the latest attack reveal his increasingly public frustrations with Israel, a longtime US ally.

Sina Azodi, an assistant professor of Middle East politics

at George Washington University, noted that the US strikes appear to be less successful than the Trump administration has claimed. Evidence has surfaced that Iran relocated much of its uranium stockpile in the lead-up to the attack.

"In the long term, you can't bomb the knowledge. Iran's fissile material appears to have survived. And now Iranians have a lot of motive for withdrawing from the NPT," he said. That, he warned, would mean that "it would be impossible to monitor their nuclear programme".

Trump reassures Nato allies on security guarantees

AFP, The Hague

US President Donald Trump took a victory lap at Nato's Hague summit yesterday, joining leaders in reaffirming the "ironclad" commitment to protect each other after allies agreed to his demand to ramp up defence spending.

The unpredictable US leader appeared keen to take the plaudits as he secured a key foreign policy win by getting Nato's 32 countries to agree to meet his headline target of five percent of GDP on defence spending.

Trump signed off on a final leaders' declaration confirming "our ironclad commitment" to Nato's collective defence pledge. "It's a great victory for everybody, I think, and we will be equalised," Trump said.

Gaza ceasefire talks 'intensified'

Says Hamas; Israeli forces kill 20 Palestinians including six aid seekers

AGENCIES

A senior Hamas official told AFP yesterday that talks for a Gaza ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian group "intensified in recent hours" with mediator countries.

"Our communications with the brother mediators in Egypt and Qatar have not stopped and have intensified in recent hours," Taher al-Nunu said, adding that the group had "not yet received any new proposals" to bring an end to the war now in its 21st month.

The development followed a statement by President Trump yesterday, expressing his belief that "great progress" was being made toward ending the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli fire killed at least 20 people yesterday, including six who were waiting to collect food aid in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory. Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said the crowd was hit by Israeli "bullets and tank shells".



ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এডহক জাহানাবাদ মিলিটারি ড্রাইভিং স্কুল
জাহানাবাদ সেনানিবাস
এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আর্মি সার্ভিস কোর সেক্টর এবং স্কুল, জাহানাবাদ সেনানিবাস, খুলনার অধীনে বেসামরিক বাস্তবায়নের ড্রাইভিং প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য জাতীয় পর্যায়ে একটি ড্রাইভিং স্কুল স্থাপন করা হয়েছে...



MYANMAR CONFLICT
UN expert urges rejection of election 'fraud'

AFP, Geneva

Elections being planned by Myanmar's ruling junta are a ploy to feign legitimacy and should be rejected by the international community as a "fraud", a UN expert said yesterday.

Myanmar has been engulfed in a brutal conflict since February 2021, when Min Aung Hlaing's military wrested power from the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The military has said it is planning to hold "a free and fair multi-party democracy general election" around the end of this year or in early 2026.

But Tom Andrews, the United Nations' special rapporteur on the rights situation in Myanmar, said the suggestion that truly democratic elections could be held in a junta-controlled Myanmar was laughable.

"They want to find an exit ramp to the international pressure," he told journalists in Geneva.

Since the 2021 coup, trade sanctions have isolated Myanmar, making it increasingly dependent on China and Russia for economic and military support.

Min Aung Hlaing himself is under multiple global sanctions and the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor has sought an arrest warrant for him for alleged crimes against humanity committed against the country's Rohingya Muslims.

The junta, Andrews said, was "trying to create this mirage of an election exercise that will create a legitimate civilian government".

But "you cannot have an election when you imprison and torture and execute your opponents, when it is illegal to report the truth as a journalist, when it's illegal to speak out and criticise the junta," he said.

"It's really important that countries reject this idea of an election and not allow the military junta to attempt to get away with this fraud." Andrews, who is an independent expert mandated by the UN Human Rights Council but who does not speak on behalf of the United Nations itself, highlighted that more than 6,800 people had been killed in Myanmar since the military coup.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
ব্যবস্থাপক (তত্ত্বাব্ধি প্রকৌঃ) এর দপ্তর
চাপাইনবাবগঞ্জ ১০০ মেঃওঃ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র
বিউবো, চাপাইনবাবগঞ্জ
Email: manager.chapai100mw@gmail.com, মোবাইলঃ +৮৮০১৭০৮-১৪৯৪৯৫
Memo No. 27.11.7000.461.03.018.25-684 Date: 25/06/2025
e-Tender Notice (Re-tender)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following Procurements:

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ
ঢাকা মাস ট্রানজিট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
মেট্রোরেল ভবন, উত্তরা ডিপিও, সোনারগাঁও জনপথ
সেক্টর-১৬, দিয়াবাড়ি, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০
www.dmtcl.gov.bd
স্মারক নং: ৩৫.০৫.০০০০.০২২.০২৩.২৫-২৭৫ তারিখ: ২৫-০৬-২০২৫
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী
ঢাকা মাস ট্রানজিট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড এর আওতাধীন The Universal Ticketing System (UTS) for single Journey on Dhaka metro Rail Line-06 বাস্তবায়নের নিমিত্ত টিকিটকার নিয়োগের লক্ষে ২৬-০৫-২০২৫ তারিখের স্মারক নং ৩৫.০৫.০০০০.০২২.০২৩.২৫-২৭৫ এ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Family Planning
Logistics & Supply Unit
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1214
Ref. No: 59.11.0000.302.07.073.2025-1803 Date: 25/06/2025
Amendment/Corrigendum No. 2
The following amendment is hereby carried out against Tender Reference No. 59.11.0000.302.07.073.2025-1538; Date: 04.05.2025 [Package No: CCSDP/GR-23, Procurement of Implant (01 Stick), Tender ID: I103690].

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
হেড অফিস, ঢাকা
ইনভেস্টমেন্ট ব্যাংকিং ডিপার্টমেন্ট
জুন ২৫, ২০২৫
নোটিশ
বিষয়ঃ প্রথম বিএসআরএস মিউচুয়াল ফান্ডের অবলুপ্তি জনিত পে-অর্ডার সংগ্রহকরণ/নগদায়ন প্রসংগে।
এতদ্বারা অধুনালুপ্ত প্রথম বিএসআরএস মিউচুয়াল ফান্ড এর সম্মানিত ইউনিট হোল্ডারগণের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ৩১-১২-২০১৩ তারিখ ভিত্তিক ফান্ডের অবলুপ্তি জনিত পে-অর্ডার যে সকল ইউনিট হোল্ডারগণ এখনও সংগ্রহ/নগদায়ন করেননি, তাদেরকে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে সংগ্রহ/নগদায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

India must refrain from push-in drives

Its lack of response to Bangladesh's objections unacceptable

We are quite alarmed by the lack of response from India to concerns over the persistent push-in operations carried out by its Border Security Force (BSF). The latest incident, according to a report, saw 46 alleged "Bangladeshi nationals" pushed in through three border areas early Tuesday. For those following this development, this has become an all-too-familiar pattern that keeps repeating itself despite protests from Bangladesh. While exact figures are difficult to pin down because of the lack of official communication, the number of those pushed in—whom India often refers to as "infiltrators", despite many possessing Indian documentation—would be significant by now. As per an earlier report, between May 7 and 28, at least 1,053 were pushed in.

As we have noted before, the persistence of these incidents, even after objections raised through flag meetings and diplomatic channels, reflects a blatant disregard for international border protocols and bilateral agreements. We have repeatedly highlighted the danger of such operations, especially for the vulnerable individuals and families caught in these mass expulsions. Some of them were tied to empty plastic bottles and thrown into cross-border rivers, floating all night until rescued by locals. In some cases, entire families were picked up at random, stripped of their belongings, and herded to the border for push-in. And it is not just Bangladeshi nationals who have been targeted. According to Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, even Bangla-speaking people from BJP-ruled states in India were branded "Bangladeshis" and forcibly deported, despite their citizenship proof. Rohingya refugees registered with the UNHCR were not spared either.

On two separate occasions recently, Mamata criticised India's ruling BJP for its reckless deportation policy, thus supporting Bangladesh's cause—perhaps despite herself—against the push-in operations. Regardless of her political motive, the fact that a senior Indian leader has publicly acknowledged and criticised such actions should serve as a wake-up call for both governments. We don't want to comment on local politics in India, but India's deportation or push-in drives seem to be targeting only Muslims. Add the label "illegal Bangladeshis", and it seems to lend legitimacy to any expulsion operation, however arbitrary or illegal. These drives, experts say, gained momentum after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, where gunmen allegedly linked to Pakistan killed 26 people, triggering renewed anti-Muslim sentiment and creating a supportive environment for any crackdown on vulnerable Muslim groups.

While we recognise the right of a country to deal with undocumented migrants, such actions must be carried out in accordance with international law, bilateral agreements, and basic human rights standards. Arbitrary and communalised expulsions, especially those carried out through push-ins, only serve to erode trust between neighbouring countries. Given how long this has been happening, it is high time Bangladesh stepped up its diplomatic efforts and sought intervention from international forums such as the UN to ensure that India puts an immediate stop to these operations. As Bangladesh keeps reiterating, India must follow due process and coordinate through official channels while dealing with its repatriation issues.

Rule of law, or rule of mobs?

The government must choose

The intensification of mob violence over the past 10 months has cast a dark shadow over the state of law and order in the country. There is no denying that the state's failure to act swiftly and decisively has, to some extent, emboldened mobs and contributed to a climate in which vigilante justice is becoming increasingly commonplace. In several such cases, the inaction of security forces appeared to signal even implicit acceptance of these acts. In other instances, police intervention came too late to prevent harm, and only occurred after footage of the violence sparked outrage on social media. All of this is entirely unacceptable.

In a video clip that went viral recently, some individuals were seen placing a garland of shoes around the neck of former Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and striking him across the face with a shoe before handing him over to the police, who were present at the scene to arrest him in a case. As we have previously stated, there can be no justification for violating the rights of an arrestee or anyone involved in a case in this manner. Another incident took place in Lalmonirhat town, where a barber and his son were beaten by a mob and later detained by police, allegedly for hurting religious sentiment. Regardless of the accusations, both individuals deserve their day in court in any society that claims to uphold the rule of law.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra, since the fall of the Awami League regime, 179 people have been beaten to death by mobs. Add to that the long list of injuries and damaged properties courtesy of the marauding mobs. Moreover, if we examine yearly data on mob killings since 2015, there has been a marked increase since August 5, 2024. Although the interim government cannot be faulted for the mob violence that took place in the initial days after it took office—when security forces, particularly the police, were barely functional—it cannot shirk responsibility for the violence that has occurred over the past 10 months. There is no doubt that the government has failed to take meaningful action in many cases to curb mob violence, despite repeated assurances from various advisers.

A case in point is the home adviser's response when asked how many people had faced action for mob violence: "I don't know the exact number," he replied. Why is that the case? The home adviser should be the first to know the exact number if he and his government are serious about curbing mob violence. It is high time the government took this matter seriously and enforced the rule of law uniformly across the country.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Muhammad Ali retires

On this day in 1979, after almost 20 years of professional fights, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali announced his retirement from boxing.

Can Bangladesh deliver justice for the disappeared?



Barrister Khan Khalid Adnan is advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, fellow at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and head of the chamber at Khan Saifur Rahman and Associates in Dhaka.

KHAN KHALID ADNAN

The fall of the authoritarian Awami League regime in August 2024 marked not just a political transformation, but the beginning of a long-overdue reckoning with one of Bangladesh's darkest legacies: the widespread and systematic use of enforced disappearances. For over a decade, security forces, including RAB, DGFI, and the Detective Branch of Bangladesh Police, were implicated in abductions designed to silence opposition, intimidate dissenters, and instil fear. Victims were often held in clandestine sites like the now-notorious "Aynagar", hidden from the law, their families, and the public.

Following years of international concern over human rights abuses in Bangladesh, particularly enforced disappearances, the US sanctioned the RAB and several senior officials in 2021. The detailed fact-finding report published by the United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR) revealed that the former government weaponised the justice system and security forces to silence civil society, targeting activists, journalists, lawyers, and others through intimidation, enforced disappearances, and even killings (para. 326).

Despite repeated requests since 2013, the AL government barred the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) from entering the country. However, this changed after the regime's collapse following the July-August mass uprising in 2024. The interim government, led by Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, extended a formal invitation to WGEID, and in June 2025, a UN delegation visited Bangladesh. During their visit, the UN delegation met victims' families and examined systemic barriers to justice. Key discussions focused on locating missing persons, dismissing false charges, investigating evidence destruction, reforming the domestic legal system, and ensuring accountability for past abuses.

The interim government has also taken important steps to acknowledge past abuses and lay the foundation for justice. In a welcome move, Bangladesh ratified the United Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) in August 2024, and also established a Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury. The commission has already verified 1,350 cases of disappearance and

identified 16 secret detention centres used for torture. The evidence clearly indicates these were not isolated or accidental acts by rogue officers; instead, they formed part of a coordinated system under centralised command. This systemic nature underscores the gravity of the violations and the necessity of a robust legal framework to address them. Legal proceedings are underway, including against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other high-ranking officials. Televised hearings mark a historic shift in courtroom transparency, never before seen in Bangladesh's judicial history. And yet, the road to justice is fraught with legal, institutional, and moral challenges,



FILE VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

especially concerning the new draft Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Ordinance 2025.

While the draft law represents a groundbreaking attempt to codify and penalise enforced disappearance as a state crime, it risks falling short of international standards, as Human Rights Watch observes. In addition, Human Rights Watch has robustly condemned the draft ordinance for including a definition of enforced disappearance that does not align with international standards, yet it does not specify the exact shortcomings of the proposed definition. On closer analysis of the draft ordinance, several key flaws emerge.

Firstly, the draft refers to state complicity using the term "silent consent," which lacks recognition in international law. In contrast, established legal instruments like

the ICPPED and the Rome Statute use the term "acquiescence," which encompasses both passive and active forms of state tolerance. The use of "silent consent" introduces ambiguity and could inadvertently raise the evidentiary threshold, thereby offering undue protection to perpetrators.

Secondly, the draft confines responsibility to "government officials" or individuals formally acting under state authority, which narrows the scope of liability. This approach risks excluding informal actors such as militias, intelligence agents, or third-party contractors operating with state support. In contrast, international law adopts broader terms like "agents of the State" or even "political organisations," which more accurately reflect the complex dynamics of enforced disappearances in authoritarian regimes or conflict situations. Broadening the definition would strengthen the framework for accountability.

Thirdly, the ordinance requires that the act of disappearance must place the victim "outside the protection of the law," creating an unnecessary

shopping, or inconsistent verdicts—diluting justice for victims. Moreover, the inclusion of capital punishment in the draft has drawn criticism from the international community. In a justice system long plagued by impunity and flawed prosecutions, retaining the death penalty—an irreversible and historically discriminatory tool—undermines the very human rights

Legislative reform must be grounded in both credibility and consensus. Rushing to enact this ordinance by July 2025, as currently planned, risks sacrificing quality for speed. Victims and civil society groups must be consulted meaningfully. The law must be revised with input from international legal experts and forensic specialists.

standards the law seeks to uphold.

Despite these flaws, the proposed law contains vital progressive elements: it affirms that enforced disappearance cannot be justified under any circumstance, not even war or national emergency. It criminalises not just the act but also incitement, conspiracy, and attempts. It also mandates the creation of special tribunals and categorises the offence as non-bailable and non-compoundable. These are serious commitments that signal a break from the past.

Yet legislative reform must be grounded in both credibility and consensus. Rushing to enact this ordinance by July 2025, as currently planned, risks sacrificing quality for speed. Victims and civil society groups must be consulted meaningfully. The law must be revised with input from international legal experts and forensic specialists. Otherwise, Bangladesh risks repeating the very pattern of top-down, opaque governance that enabled enforced disappearances in the first place. To build a truly just future, the government must also reconsider its stance on the death penalty. Retaining it not only conflicts with international human rights law but also weakens the moral authority of the very institutions meant to protect life and liberty.

Bangladesh today stands at a crossroads. The choices it makes now will determine whether it turns the page on a history of impunity or merely edits its footnotes. The new legal framework must be clear, coherent, and compliant with international norms. Anything less would be a betrayal of the victims who vanished without a trace—and of the families still waiting for justice.

Audit reform requires effective institutions, not rivalries



Imran A. Hasan FCA is a member of ICAB and partner at A. Wahab & Co.

IMRAN A. HASAN

A recent article titled "Audit Gaps, National Traps," published in *The Daily Star* by the president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), has generated considerable reaction within the accounting and audit community. While it raises some legitimate concerns about audit coverage and governance gaps in Bangladesh, it unfortunately presents a somewhat fragmented and misleading narrative about the audit profession and the respective mandates of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and ICMAB.

Bangladesh's audit ecosystem, though in need of reform and expansion, should not be reduced to a turf war between professional bodies. The responsibility of audit is a public trust function, not a marketable commodity. Calling the current statutory audit system a "monopoly" ignores global and

local rationale for regulated entry, technical control, and accountability. Auditors are not vendors. They are fiduciaries accountable to the public, the regulator, and capital markets.

The claim that audit fees have "surged under monopoly control" is misleading. Audit quality, independence, and due diligence come with a cost. Regulatory frameworks worldwide purposefully restrict audit licensing to ensure quality and trust, not to promote competition like telecoms or ride-sharing apps.

Moreover, the article selectively compares Bangladesh with the UK, Canada, and Australia, where there are unified bodies like CPA Canada or Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to license auditors. But these institutions enforce rigorous audit training, peer review, and disciplinary regimes. Their structures cannot be casually cited to argue for audit eligibility without addressing

the compliance burden, enforcement infrastructure, or educational equivalence.

In Bangladesh, the Financial Reporting Act 2015 clearly distinguishes statutory audits from general financial reporting. It recognises both ICAB and ICMAB as professional accounting bodies, but it also vests the authority of

Instead of advocating for professional inclusion through conflict, the way forward is collaborative reform. Joint training initiatives, capacity building, technology integration, and expanding the scope of cost audit can create a stronger foundation.

statutory audit in line with Companies Act provisions and the Financial Reporting Council (FRC). ICAB members, through their articleship-based practical training and ongoing practice review, fulfil audit-specific experience mandated by global bodies like the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). While ICMAB members gain valuable managerial

experience, it is not a substitute for statutory audit competency.

Allowing CMA members to audit non-public interest entities (PIEs) or NGOs, as proposed, may appear pragmatic, but it risks fragmenting oversight, duplicating regulation, and confusing users of financial statements. Even in Pakistan, where CMAs have limited audit rights, the scope is tightly controlled and contextually distinct.

The suggestion that audits market entry should be widened solely to reduce fees or fill a numerical gap also misses the mark. Bangladesh has around 500 practising CAs, but the problem isn't a lack of professionals; it's the lack of regulatory enforcement, automation, and systemic transparency. Opening audit licenses without strengthening supervision could deepen compliance risks.

Instead of advocating for professional inclusion through conflict, the way forward is collaborative reform. Joint training initiatives, capacity building, technology integration, and expanding the scope of cost audit can create a stronger foundation. If there is a desire to revisit audit rights, it must be done institutionally, with FRC and parliament leading the debate.

Let us reform together Bangladesh's financial future, which depends on accountability.

The cost of marrying off girls too soon



Selim Jahan
is former director of the Human Development Report Office under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and lead author of the Human Development Report.

SELIM JAHAN

In Bangladesh, one in every two girls gets married before reaching the age of 18. This particular figure has been cited in a recently released UN report. Specifically, 51 percent of Bangladeshi girls are married before they turn 18. Any girl under 18 is a minor and a child. Therefore, this figure, in reality, refers to child marriage. Globally, Bangladesh ranks eighth in terms of child marriages and tops the list among South Asian countries. In this regard, other South Asian countries are doing much better—with child marriage rates at 10 percent in Sri Lanka, 18 percent in Pakistan, and 23 percent in India.

Child marriage is closely linked to high adolescent pregnancy rates. Girls under 18 have little control over their reproductive health and limited autonomy in making reproductive decisions. In Bangladesh, 53 percent of adolescent girls lack control over their reproductive health. One in every four married girls under 18 becomes pregnant. Last year, 28 percent of adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 experienced physical or sexual violence by their partners.

The drawbacks of child marriage are widely recognised. First, adolescent girls are not physically ready to bear children. As a result, early marriage and subsequent pregnancy pose significant health risks, including chronic illness and shortened life expectancy. Furthermore, the mother's ill health can be transmitted to her child, and an adolescent mother often lacks the maturity to raise a child properly.

Second, early marriage often disrupts education. Many talented girls, eager to continue their studies, are forced to leave school after marriage. In Bangladesh, the number of female school dropouts is double that of boys. Education opens the door to countless opportunities, and early marriage may close that door permanently. Moreover, educated mothers tend to contribute positively to their children's health, nutrition, and education. Girls married early, with their educational prospects cut short, are unable to play this role effectively.

Third, girls who marry young often hesitate to assert their rights, voice, or autonomy, and are excluded from household decision-making. Due to their age, their opinions are rarely taken seriously in economic matters within the family. In many cases, they also lack full control over decisions regarding their own reproductive health.

The fundamental question is: if the dangers of early marriage are well known and if there are laws against it, why does it persist in Bangladesh?

First, the answer lies in the structure of a patriarchal society where many aspects of women's lives are governed by the decisions and ideas of men. Early marriage is one such reality. In various social spheres, if men consider adolescence to be the ideal time for girls to marry, this belief becomes a social norm for women.

Second, poverty plays a major role. According to a 2023 World Bank survey, the likelihood of marrying before the age of 18 is three times higher among girls from the poorest quintile of households compared to those from the richest. Poverty, economic uncertainty, and vulnerability often push poorer families to marry off their daughters. It has also been observed that the districts in Bangladesh with the highest poverty rates are the same areas with the highest rates of adolescent marriage. When families cannot afford to educate their daughters or see no viable way out of the poverty cycle, marriage becomes a perceived solution—a way to relieve the family of the financial burden.

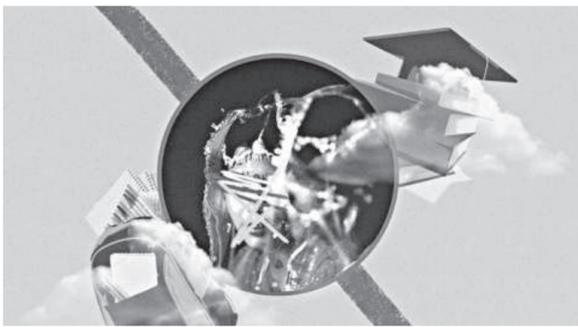
Third, deteriorating law and order, widespread lawlessness, political uncertainty, and violence

all these areas must be developed and pursued.

Social rules and cultural norms are shaped by entrenched ideas—for instance, that girls are a burden or that educating them is pointless since they will eventually marry and leave home. In many rural areas, early marriage is linked with family honour and social reputation. When girls elope with men of their choice, it is treated as a source of shame for the family. These beliefs must change. So too must the patriarchal mindset that consistently values sons over daughters. Society must understand that marriage is not the solution to every challenge in a woman's life.

However, social attitudes cannot be changed overnight. Work must be done at the grassroots level through awareness campaigns using print, broadcast, and social media. Religious leaders have an important role to play. So do local politicians, artists, cultural figures, and sports and media personalities. Tools such as short films, street plays, puppet shows, exhibitions, and videos can be used to influence public attitudes effectively.

On the legal side, the current framework must be strengthened.



FILE VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

contribute to insecurity for women and girls. Families often believe that marrying their daughters early will protect them. The perception is that married girls are safer in their husband's homes. In many cases, the state has failed to ensure safety for women. The increasing incidences of rape, abuse, and violence against women are clear indicators of this failure in Bangladesh.

Fourth, crises such as conflict, natural disasters, epidemics, and pandemics tend to accelerate early marriages. During these times, families often resort to marrying off daughters to alleviate economic stress. For instance, during the Covid pandemic, school closures made educational futures uncertain and removed the protective environment schools often provide. In such situations, early marriage was seen as a solution by many.

Finally, the issue of dowry plays a significant role. It is often argued that as girls grow older, they become less desirable, and dowry demands increase. Younger girls, by contrast, are associated with lower dowry costs. Thus, families may choose early marriage to avoid higher dowry expenses.

Given all this, the question becomes: what can be done to end early marriages in Bangladesh?

It must be acknowledged that some measures will be legal, others social or cultural, and some will relate to socio-economic policy. A comprehensive strategy addressing

Loopholes need to be closed, and implementation must be rigorous. The 2017 Child Marriage Restraint Act was widely criticised for allowing child marriage under "special circumstances." This provision has been widely exploited. The law must be revised. In many cases, child marriages were prevented by the intervention of Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) with police support. In some instances, a child marriage was stopped because the would-be bride called a government hotline.

Expanding girls' education can be a powerful tool in curbing early marriage. Educated women are more likely to delay marriage, have fewer children, and enjoy better health. Education also leads to empowerment. Educated women, particularly those with technical or vocational skills, and employment opportunities, can shift public perceptions and social norms.

In many cases, men are not involved in the movement against child marriage. That must change. Men should be engaged and participate in this struggle—there is no alternative. As long as men continue to shape the realities of women's lives, they must also be part of the solution.

Child marriage erases capabilities, destroys potential, and ends dreams. It is a major obstacle to human rights, personal development, and national progress. Its complete elimination is not only desirable, it is essential.

Epidemiological transition in South Asia



Barkat e-Khuda, PhD
is a former professor and chairman of the Department of Economics at Dhaka University. He can be reached at: barkatek@yahoo.com.

BARKAT E-KHUDA

South Asia's double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases

Developing countries have been experiencing several major changes simultaneously: demographic, epidemiological, and economic. The population growth rate is declining while the economy is witnessing rapid growth. Furthermore, remarkable improvements in life expectancy are occurring.

Many developing countries are witnessing a major epidemiological transition, with the prevalence of communicable diseases (CDs) declining and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and mental illness, rising. NCDs are rapidly becoming dominant causes of ill health in developing countries. Although CDs such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis continue to be major burdens, NCDs account for about half of all deaths in developing countries. According to the World Health Organization, the war against ill health in the 21st century will have to be fought simultaneously on both fronts: CDs and NCDs. Many developing countries are increasingly coming under greater attack from both CDs and NCDs while CDs remain undefeated. This double threat imposes the need for difficult decisions regarding the allocation of scarce resources to the health sector.

In Asia, the epidemiological transition is due to a shift from a dominance of CDs to a rise in NCDs, unlike in the West, where CDs declined before NCDs became prominent. With high rates of both CDs and NCDs, Asia accounts for a significant share of the global burden of disease.

South Asia, with a population of about 2.1 billion people, is home to around a quarter of the world's population. India, with a population of around 1.43 billion, accounts for over two-thirds of all the people living in the region, followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives.

Since 1970, the South Asian countries have witnessed population growth and increases in life expectancy that have, in the long run, outweighed the negative impact of catastrophic events, such as famines. In 1970, life expectancy in South Asian

countries ranged between the 50s to mid-60s. In 2024, it increased substantially, with most countries reaching mid to high 70s. Many South Asian countries have been experiencing a rapid rise in their elderly population (60-years-plus) because of longer life expectancy and falling birth rates. The region has been experiencing substantial economic growth as well.

The leading causes of illness and death in South Asian countries were the CDs like pneumonia and diarrhoea in 1970s. By 2024, the

Many developing countries are witnessing a major epidemiological transition, with the prevalence of communicable diseases (CDs) declining and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and mental illness, rising. NCDs are rapidly becoming dominant causes of ill health in developing countries.

South Asian region experienced a considerable epidemiological transition, with NCDs becoming more prominent.

Afghanistan is facing a double burden of disease. NCDs contribute heavily to mortality and morbidity, while CDs (malaria, TB, and HIV) continue to pose a considerable threat as well.

In Bangladesh, there has been a considerable decline in deaths from CDs, while NCDs' share of the total burden of disease more than doubled from around 30 percent in 1970 to around 67 percent in 2024. NCDs are now the leading causes of death here.

In Bhutan, NCDs represented a small fraction of deaths in 1970, but by 2024, they overtook CDs and accounted for over 70 percent of deaths.

In India, CDs were the dominant cause of death in 1970; however, there has been a shift towards NCDs, which are now the leading

cause of death, accounting for over three-fifths of all deaths.

In the Maldives, CDs accounted for a substantial portion of the causes of death in 1970; however, by 2015, there was a shift towards NCDs, which is now the leading cause of death, accounting for around 80 percent of all deaths in the Maldives.

In Nepal, CDs' share of the disease burden has declined considerably from around 70 percent in 1970 to around 20 percent, while the share of NCDs increased sharply to over 70 percent.

In Pakistan, CDs continue to be a major public health issue, although the share of NCDs has increased and accounted for around 60 percent of deaths in 2024.

In the 1970s, CDs were a major public health concern in Sri Lanka. However, in 2024, NCDs accounted for around 90 percent of the total disease burden.

This double burden of diseases in South Asian countries has serious implications, both on the individual, household, and national levels.

In South Asia, the healthcare delivery systems, both public and private, face various inefficiencies. The public sector programmes have inadequate infrastructure that hinders access to quality care, shortage of trained health care providers at different levels of service delivery, lack of essential equipment and medicines, inadequate funding, and weak implementation capacity. The private sector is largely unregulated. In addition, it charges exorbitant prices for services it offers. Most people seeking care from the private sector cannot afford such expensive care and treatment, and those who avail themselves of such services often have to bear expenses out of their savings and/or borrow money from others. The high out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses push many into deeper poverty, especially in the absence of sound social safety net programmes.

Although considerable progress has been achieved in reducing poverty in the South Asian countries, they contain a disproportionately large share of the world's poor. While South Asia is home to around one-quarter of the world's population, around two-fifths of the world's poor live in the region.

In these countries, diseases and morbidity have serious adverse effects on productivity and overall economic growth. NCDs and CDs result in lost workdays, reduced capacity of the workforce, thereby adversely affecting the country's human capital, and premature deaths that lead to huge economic losses.

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপব্যয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

Ref: 28.20.9153.142.14.010.25/7 Dated: 24-06-2025

e-Tender Notice

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

SL No.	Package No.	Description of Goods	Tender ID	Last Selling of Tender (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
1.	28.20.9153.142.14.010.25/7	Procurement of ASCO Explosionproof Low Power Solenoid Valve at Kailashilla MSTE Plant under Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.	1127859	16-Jul-2025 17:00 Hours	17-Jul-2025 12:00 Hours

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

(Md Atikur Rahman)
 Dy. General Manager (Procurement)
 E-mail: dgmpr@sgfl.org.bd

GD-1457

Sonali Bank PLC
Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No. HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase/ Date: 18/06/2025

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	1126123	Lot-1: Procurement of Hardware and Software Components for Microsoft CI Platform of Sonali Bank PLC.	20-Jul-2025 15:00	20-Jul-2025 15:30
2.	1126124	Lot-2: Procurement of Hardware and Software Components for RHEL HCI and CI Platform of Sonali Bank PLC.	20-Jul-2025 15:00	20-Jul-2025 15:30
3.	1126126	Lot-3: Procurement of Hardware for Physical Standalone Platform of Sonali Bank PLC.	20-Jul-2025 15:00	20-Jul-2025 15:30
4.	1108021	Lot-4: Procurement of Hardware and Software Components for Backup Solution Platform of Sonali Bank PLC.	20-Jul-2025 15:00	20-Jul-2025 15:30
5.	1126334	Lot-C: Procurement of Server & Storage for Network Management infrastructure for Sonali Bank PLC.	20-Jul-2025 15:00	20-Jul-2025 15:30

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

Sd/-
 Deputy General Manager

GD-1459

Woman, child electrocuted in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole*

A woman and her seven-month-old daughter were electrocuted while cooking rice in an electric cooker at their home in Magura's Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The incident occurred around 9:00am at the family's residence in Tilla village under Moghi union of the upazila.

The deceased were identified as Setu Khatun, 30, wife of Awal Molla of the village, and their daughter Anisha.

According to Setu's brother-in-law, Md Ripon Biswas, Setu was cooking rice using an electric cooker holding Anisha on her lap when they suddenly got electrocuted.

Family members rushed them to Magura District Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared them dead.

Dr Omar Faruk of the hospital's emergency department said, "They were brought dead to the hospital around 9:30am with signs of electric burns."

Md Ayub Ali, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station, said, "Police have visited the hospital and an investigation is underway. Legal steps will follow accordingly."

Part of illegal shipbreaking yard demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A part of an illegally established shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram was demolished yesterday.

A joint drive, led by four executive magistrates from the Chattogram district administration, was conducted in Kohinor Steel Shipbreaking Yard on Salimpur coast from 9:00am till 5:00pm with assistance of Rab, police, Ansar, Forest Department, and the Department of Environment.

During the drive, a newly constructed two-storey building inside the yard was knocked down.

Belayet Hossain, divisional forest officer in Chattogram, said, "The land belongs to the Forest Department. We had informed the district administration accordingly. After a lengthy official process, we were finally able to reclaim it today [yesterday]."

GOVT BROJOMOHUN COLLEGE

STUDENTS PROTEST

waterlogging, poor facilities



SUSHANTA GHOSH, *Barishal*

Students of Government Brojomohun College in Barishal blocked the road adjacent to the institution yesterday, demanding infrastructural development and improved facilities on campus.

Several hundred students staged the protest from 11:00am till around 2:00pm, halting traffic for nearly two hours to press home their five-point demand.

Their demands include construction of new hostels and academic buildings, a permanent drainage solution to mitigate waterlogging, recruitment of adequate teachers, establishment of a modern library, and provision of transport facilities at the 136-year-old institution.

Students said they have long been concerned over worsening waterlogging within the campus, especially during the monsoon.

Even a drizzle leads to water

accumulation in key areas of the college, submerging roads, walkways, and fields. During heavy rain, much of the campus remains underwater, they added.

The stagnant water has turned the campus into a mosquito breeding ground, raising concern over Aedes mosquito infestation and a possible dengue outbreak.

"To reach our hostels, we have to wade through knee-deep water. At night, movement becomes risky," said Meherab Hossain Rifat, a student.

"Many students are suffering from different diseases due to the current condition of the campus," said Syed Mehedi Hasan, another student.

Teachers said poor drainage and elevated roads are the main causes behind the worsening waterlogging.

"This isn't a new problem. Due to elevated roads and clogged drains, the rest of the campus—being at a lower level—gets flooded even after a short spell

of rain," said a senior faculty member, seeking anonymity.

Contacted, Prof Md Tajul Islam, principal of the college, requested students to allow three days' time to address at least one of their demands.

"I have contacted the education adviser and the Education Engineering Department multiple times in this regard, but no concrete action has been taken yet," he said.

"Around 30,000 students are accommodated within this 48 acre campus. There is a desperate need for upgrading the infrastructure. We have communicated with the Barishal City Corporation for modifying the drainage system to divert the accumulated water into nearby canals," he added.

Contacted, Md Rezaul Bari, chief executive officer of BCC, said, "This issue technically falls outside our jurisdiction. However, since it has been brought to our attention, we are reviewing it."



Locals suffer as culvert remains inaccessible

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A culvert built without approach road in Yusufpur village under Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila remains largely unusable, causing immense sufferings to over 700 families in the locality.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief constructed the 7.5-metre culvert at a cost of Tk 27.80 lakh to restore safe connectivity for villagers after the previous one collapsed.

It is located about two kilometres away from the Kalapara-Kuakata road near the Sonatala river bridge. The culvert was constructed around six months ago, said locals.

"There is no access road to use the culvert for movement. The existing road is in poor condition as well. People from Yusufpur and neighbouring Latifpur, including around 100 students of local schools and madrasas, use this route daily for commute amid much difficulty," said Marjina, a local resident.

Locals Jane Alam and Abdul Latif echoed her. Residents urged the authorities concerned to construct an approach road for the culvert to eliminate their miseries. The contractor for the culvert's construction could not be reached for comments as his phone was found switched off.

Moksedul Alam, project implementation officer in Kalapara upazila, said steps would soon be taken to build the approach road.

Two more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people died from dengue, while 326 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The DGHS data showed one fatality outside the city corporation areas in Rajshahi division and another within Dhaka South City Corporation.

With the new deaths, the country's dengue death toll this year has climbed to 36, including 16 from outside Dhaka. During the same period, the total number of reported dengue cases increased to 8,870.

Stop destroying nature

FROM PAGE 12

like the campaign for massive tree plantation across the country.

Yunus hoped that the new generation would be able to see pollution-free rivers and forests close to Dhaka.

"Young people inspired us to dream of a new Bangladesh. This young generation is the most powerful and creative in the world."

The chief adviser urged the young generation to play an effective role in addressing the challenges of climate change and protecting the environment from pollution.

He also urged all citizens to stop using single-use plastic products. "We must be free from self-destructive thinking processes. For economic benefit, the environment cannot be harmed."

Describing the growing dominance of plastic products, Yunus said the people will suffer a certain defeat against plastic if they do not want to change.

"There will be no question of avoiding use of plastic products if

their production is stopped. That's the root."

Yunus said humans are destroying nature, but they could not realise that nature also has a destructive mode.

He said plastic is accelerating climate crises, natural disasters, and biodiversity destruction.

The chief adviser said the country's waterbodies and biodiversity are being destroyed for a lack of proper plastic management.

About the longevity of plastic in nature, he said everything has a lifespan, but plastic is something that does not perish.

Green Bangladesh

Yunus later inaugurated the Environment Fair-2025 and the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair-2025 at the function.

He also distributed the National Environment Award, the National Wildlife Conservation Award, and the National Tree Plantation Award among the recipients in recognition of their outstanding contributions to protection of the environment and conservation of wildlife.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Environment Secretary Farhina Ahmed also spoke at the event.

The Environment Fair will continue from June 25 to June 27, while the Tree Fair will continue until July 24.

Both fairs will remain open for all from 9:00am to 9:00pm every day.

This year's theme for the Tree Plantation Campaign is: "Let's Plant in a Planned Way, Build a Green Bangladesh."

Earlier in a message marking the World Environment Day, the chief adviser urged all to come forward for the successful implementation of the government's initiative to protect St Martin's Island, the only coral island in Bangladesh.

He added that work is underway to formulate EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) guidelines under the "Solid Waste Management Rules, 2021", where producers will collect and manage plastic waste on their own.

Drug smuggling via air, land routes

FROM PAGE 12

from 1.12 lakh kgs.

Each bottle of Phensedyl is sold for Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,500 while cannabis costs Tk 64,000 a kg. Heroin prices range from Tk 20 lakh to Tk 25 lakh per kg, said local drug dealers.

Phensedyl and cannabis are smuggled from India, using private vehicles, motorbikes, and courier services. The drugs are then transported to urban centres, said DNC officials.

COCAINE SMUGGLING

International drug traffickers are using Bangladesh as a transit point for transporting cocaine to Europe and North America, according to police and DNC officials.

The seizure of a cocaine consignment in January 2023 led to the arrests of traffickers from Malawi, Cameroon and Nigeria, along with local drug dealers. The suspected ringleader—a Nigerian national—remains at large.

"Smugglers bring cocaine from Peru

and Colombia, and later transport the drug mainly to Europe," said Khorshid.

DNC Additional Director Badruddin said, "Cocaine is smuggled in only via air routes. Despite limited manpower and logistics, we're trying our best to arrest traffickers and seize consignments."

"Steps have been taken to install more detection tools, including body scanners, at airports and border checkpoints to better detect such consignments," he added.

FRESH LISTS OF NARCOS

The police headquarters have directed the superintendents of police in all districts to prepare fresh lists of drug dealers after a recent home ministry meeting acknowledged a rise in drug trafficking across the country.

They have been instructed to intensify operations to bust dens of narcotic traders, identify both new and long-time traffickers, and follow up on pending narcotics cases.

Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant

inspector general at the PHQ, said, "Vigilance has been heightened in border areas. We are coordinating with other agencies to curb drug trafficking."

DNC and police officials said the kingpins of several local syndicates are in direct contact with drug traffickers from Nigeria, Ghana, India and Myanmar. And drug traffickers are very active in at least 32 districts, including Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Cumilla, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi.

They also said some police personnel are complicit in the narcotics trade.

Requesting anonymity, a deputy inspector general of police admitted that there have been lapses in monitoring by law enforcers in recent months.

He said that police are now carrying out raids in different parts of the country to arrest drug dealers. Over a hundred suspected traffickers have already been identified in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and other regions.

Woman 'raped' in train toilet

FROM PAGE 12

Quoting the victim, Railway Police sources said the woman was heading home to Kurigram when Saiful confined her to the train toilet and raped her.

"Upon being informed, police took immediate action and apprehended the suspect. They were taken to Santahar Railway Police Station in Bogura as it was the nearest police station after the train started its journey," SP Farhat said.

A case will be filed at Dhaka Railway Police Station in Kamalapur, and further legal procedures will be completed there, he said.

Habibur Rahman, in charge of

Bogura's Santahar Railway Police Station, said police took both the victim and the accused off the Rangpur Express around 4:15pm.

Later, at 4:45pm, they were sent to Kamalapur on the Panchagarh Express under the supervision of Railway Police, he said.

Contacted, Jaynal Abedin, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said they were informed about the incident and were waiting for the victim to come.

A case will be filed with the Dhaka Railway Police Station in connection with the incident, he said.

[Our correspondents in Lalmonirhat and Bogura contributed to this report]

Govt declares 3 new days for nat'l observance

FROM PAGE 12

was shot dead by police during protests in the district.

The Cabinet Division issued three separate circulars announcing the observance of these days. All relevant ministries, divisions, and agencies have been asked to mark the occasions every year.

The July Mass Uprising Day has been included in the Cabinet Division's "Ka" category of national and international days, while the other two fall under the "Kha" category.

The categories determine the level of formality and resources allocated to each observance. "Ka" covers days of major national significance, often marked by extensive ceremonies, official participation, and possible government holidays. "Kha" includes other important days such as National Social Services Day and International Anti-Corruption Day, but these do not necessarily carry a public holiday.

In Bangla alphabetical order, "Ka" and "Kha" correspond to "A" and "B".

networks. If we fail to dismantle them, the supply chain will remain intact."

The adviser acknowledged that certain regions, including Cox's Bazar, have become "strategically important" for narcotics smuggling, and admitted to corruption in the process securing postings to these areas.

He also warned of a continued influx of Yaba from Myanmar, facilitated by armed groups dependent on the drug trade. "We have flagged this repeatedly. It is a transnational threat."

Jahangir noted the resurgence of cross-border Phensedyl smuggling as well. "It's not even being consumed in India anymore. It's being produced in their border areas solely to be smuggled into Bangladesh. It has become a cottage industry there."

Narcotics have infiltrated every level of society, from the affluent to the poor, he added. "When I visited a correctional facility, I saw children, students, professionals—all affected."

The government is currently spending Tk 1,400 crore to establish seven new state-run rehabilitation centres in seven divisions, in addition to the existing four. "But I sincerely hope no one ever needs to go to those centres. We must act before people end up in rehab. Prevention must be our top priority."

Also addressing the briefing,

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Director General Maruf Hasan described drug abuse as a deep-rooted social crisis fuelled by the complicity of individuals across all sectors, including DNC officials, media professionals, and other influential groups.

He also responded to questions about recent raids on shisha lounges and bars in upscale areas of Dhaka, where licensed establishments have allegedly been serving illegal alcohol with the approval of certain DNC officials.

"This is a social disease in Bangladesh. Yes, some of our officers are involved, as are people from the media and other sectors of society. This problem is sustained by collective complicity."

"We must act with integrity. Whenever we receive credible information, we take action. In Banani, we carried out two successive raids to shut down illegal operations, but faced resistance from powerful quarters residing there."

He noted that many bars were flouting the rule requiring alcohol to be sourced exclusively from the state-run Carew & Co warehouse.

"Illegal stocks are turning up everywhere. Shisha lounges are also mushrooming across Dhaka's elite neighbourhoods, attracting young people. These establishments remain under close surveillance."

Maruf acknowledged allegations that some DNC officials have accepted bribes or favours. "We have received such complaints. But this is not just a law enforcement issue; it is a societal problem. Everyone—law enforcers, the media, the public—must work together."

HSC, equivalent exams begin today

FROM PAGE 12

Board and head of the committee, all candidates and staff must wear masks, and hand sanitisers will be available at all entrances of the entrance of centres.

Centre authorities have been instructed to ensure cleanliness to help prevent the spread of dengue. Medical teams will be on standby at every centre in coordination with local health authorities.

Meanwhile, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board in a notification said that class XI students, who were admitted in the 2024-25 academic year and began classes in the second week of August last year, will sit for the HSC, Alim, and equivalent examinations in May-June 2026. The exams will cover the entire syllabus, including all subjects and the full marks structure.



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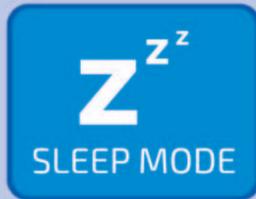
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CROSSWALK 2025

BIJOY BLUNDERS AGAIN

Bangladesh opener Anamul Haque Bijoy is not making things easy for himself. The right-hander's woes in international cricket deepened as the 32-year-old registered another duck despite benefitting from a reprieve while being on nought, playing one onto his stumps on a batting-friendly Colombo pitch during the first session on Day 1 of the second Test against Sri Lanka yesterday. Since his return to the national fold in April, Bijoy's only notable knock was a nervy 39 at home against Zimbabwe after which he registered scores of 0, 4, and 0, offering little to justify his place. After his failure on a similar batting-friendly surface in Galle in the first Test, many thought his short trip to international cricket was over. Yet he retained his spot in the second Test, only to disappoint again. A prolific run-scorer in the domestic circuit, and savvy on social media where he has a large following, Bijoy has repeatedly struggled to translate any of that reputation or pedigree into the international arena. And this time, he has failed to find any sort of compatibility with the big stage. If Galle didn't seal his fate, Colombo may well have unless he can find a way to turn his fortunes with something extraordinary in the second innings.

PHOTO: AFP



'Not Test class': India get bashed

AFP, New Delhi

Former players, including Sunil Gavaskar, tore into India on Wednesday, blaming lower-order batting failures, poor bowling, and sloppy fielding for the chastening first Test defeat against hosts England at Headingley.

A young India team, under new captain Shubman Gill and without the retired Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, went down by five wickets as England comfortably chased what should have been a daunting 371 to win on Tuesday's final day.

Five India batters, including Gill, scored hundreds, but two collapses -- from 430-3 to 471 all out in the first innings and 333-4 to 364 in the second -- kept England in the game.

India put down several catches, with Yashasvi Jaiswal dropping Ben Duckett on 97 on the final day -- and the opener went on to score 149 to set up victory.



"Full credit to England. Despite India having five centuries, they [England] seemed to have that confidence," Gavaskar said on Sony Sports.

"That is what made them take the final wickets. So that is where India also missed out because those extra runs could have made the difference," added the former captain.

"As far as the fielding was concerned, it's just not the catches, but the outfielding was pretty ordinary. Not Test class.

"Hopefully, lessons have been learned."

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah took 5-83 in the first innings, but was blunted by England during the winning chase and went wicketless.

Veteran left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja was expected to be a force on a wearing fifth-day wicket, but he took just 1-104 as Duckett mercilessly reverse-swept him for a series of boundaries, including one majestic six over deep cover.

"I'm going to be critical of Jadeja because this is a final-day pitch," former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar said.

"There was rough for him to play with, and in the end, I know there were a couple of chances there, but we have to expect more from Jadeja."



Bangladesh coach Peter Butler watches as his charges go through a gym session after reaching Yangon yesterday. The team will begin their AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign against Bahrain on June 29.

PHOTO: BFF

Mirpur to host all three Pak T20Is

STAR SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday announced the itinerary for the upcoming Pakistan series, and as expected, the three T20Is are scheduled to take place on July 20, 22, and 24.

Pakistan are set to arrive on July 16 before they depart on July 25.

The series will be played as part of the build-up to next year's World Cup, to be co-hosted in India and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan's tour will be a reciprocal one after they hosted Bangladesh for three T20Is in May-June this year, all won by the home team and played in Lahore.

All three T20Is will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur and begin at 6:00pm Bangladesh time.

From Bangladesh, Pakistan team will fly to the West Indies to play three T20Is and as many one-day internationals, the schedule of which will be announced later.



- 16 July - Pakistan men's team arrival
- 20 July - First T20I in Mirpur
- 22 July - Second T20I in Mirpur
- 24 July - Third T20I in Mirpur
- 25 July - Pakistan depart for West Indies

Batters fail to capitalise on starts and dropped catches

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh batters could not capitalise on their starts, nor did they take advantage of the dropped chances offered by Sri Lankan fielders on day one of the Colombo Test, which saw the hosts in the driving seat at Sinhalese Sports Club Ground yesterday.

Bangladesh ended a rain-interrupted day at 220 for eight, and the feeling was that things could have been much worse. Except for Anamul Haque Bijoy, who has failed to find his feet since his return to the Test side after a three-year gap through the Zimbabwe series earlier this year, the majority of the batters got starts and spent time at the crease.

But that was about it from the batters, as not even a single Bangladesh batter managed to hit fifty.

Bijoy was lucky when he got an edge that just fell short before being dropped by the wicketkeeper while still on nought. The right-handed batter would not see his score change, departing for a nought when pacer Asitha Fernando got the better of him with an in-dipper that took the inside edge and crashed onto the stumps.

More disappointing was the manner of the dismissals of experienced campaigners Mominul Haque and Mushfiqur Rahim. After an early wicket, Mominul and opener Shadman Islam were looking comfortable rebuilding from scratch. Mominul produced a nick that fell short, but the alarm bells still did not ring for the left-hander.

Although Mominul looked fluent



for a while, just like his two dismissals in the first Test in Galle earlier this week, a loss of concentration saw him get out to Dhananjaya de Silva by tamely pushing a wide delivery straight to the man at mid-off, departing for 21.

Last Test's twin centurion -- skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto -- bided some time at the crease during his 31-ball eight. But the batter fell prey to a nagging length from Vishwa Fernando, producing an edge that Kusal Mendis easily took behind the stumps.

Shadman looked solid during his 46, but when he slashed hard after Lunch, he

left Bangladesh in a spot of bother at 76 for four.

Both Litton Das and Mushfiqur survived dropped chances as they strung together a 67-run stand. With not much batting left after them, both were required to take Bangladesh out of danger on a sporting pitch that had something on offer for bowlers, while the ball also came onto the bat nicely.

Litton, having contributed 34, saw a sharp chance taken behind the stumps.

Mushfiqur had been dropped at square-leg once. He slashed another just away from the diving fielder at slip as the ball raced away for four. Yet, having managed to get in, he would pick out the only fielder manning the deep mid-on region, succumbing to his tendency for ill-timed sweeps.

Mushfiqur's departure for 35 meant Mehidy Hasan Miraz had to put up a rearguard resistance with Nayeem Hasan. Miraz would poke a Vishwa Fernando delivery to be caught at slip after a 37-run stand with the tailender.

Nayeem's gritty 25 before falling to a terrific delivery from Asitha Fernando saw Bangladesh end the day with two wickets in hand in their first innings, with Ebadot and Tajjul Islam at the crease.

The Sri Lankan bowlers had got the ball to zip off the surface with both pacers getting movement during particular phases. The spinners too operated well. The Lankans' plans worked well on a batting-friendly surface, and now the onus would be on the Bangladesh bowlers to execute their own plans if the Tigers are to get back into the game.

Raducanu shoulders Britain's Wimbledon hopes

REUTERS, London

Emma Raducanu reclaimed the British number one spot this month but still looks some way from rediscovering the spark that propelled her career into the stratosphere in 2021.

Yet, despite her lowered expectations, the 22-year-old remains one of Britain's most recognisable female athletes and will arrive at Wimbledon regarded as the country's main hope for a long-awaited women's singles champion.

Few players in the history of tennis have experienced such a rapid and unexpected breakthrough as Raducanu managed in 2021, when she claimed the US Open title and became the first qualifier to win a major in the Open Era (since 1968).

Propelled into the world's top 10 after her fairytale in New York, the Toronto-born player has since grappled with a series of injuries, fluctuating form and frequent coaching changes in her search for consistency.

That remarkable US Open title remains her only trophy, but recent signs -- a quarter-final in Miami, a last-16 finish in Rome, and a strong showing at Queen's Club -- suggest the world number 38 may be



on the right track.

Mark Petchey, the former British pro who once coached Andy Murray, summed up the burden Raducanu continues to carry. "I feel as though everybody's still living in 2021... Unfortunately for Emma, she's living her career in reverse," he said.

Having faced criticism over whether her commercial commitments after the breakthrough distracted her from the day-to-day grind, Raducanu has also had to contend with off-court challenges, including a stalker and a persistent back injury in the lead-up to Wimbledon, starting June 30.

Raducanu can also expect questions during Wimbledon about her friendship with men's champion Carlos Alcaraz, after their announcement that they would play together in a new US Open mixed doubles event fuelled romance rumours.

Yet, despite all the distractions, Raducanu has the game to worry the world's best and is clearly up for the fight as she bids to better her two runs to the fourth round.

Home fans will hope that when Raducanu walks through the Wimbledon gates, the shackles will be released and the carefree tennis she showed as a teenager will return.



Auckland City FC -- against the six-time South American champions Boca Juniors, the ear-splitting noise of the Xeneizes in the stands, and astronomical odds -- pulled off one of the biggest shocks on Tuesday at the Club World Cup in steamy Nashville, Tennessee, where the group game was suspended for nearly 50 minutes due to stormy weather. But not even inclement weather could deter a group of amateurs -- in fact, the only amateur side in the competition who were already eliminated after conceding 15 goals in the first two games. Christian Gray, a physical education teacher back in New Zealand, scored Auckland's only goal in the tournament, earning them a well-deserved 1-1 draw to deny Boca a shot at qualifying for the knockout stage.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SPORT



"In both countries, there is a third-world situation and, despite large populations, the number of high-quality cricketers coming through is relatively small. Bangladesh's population is besotted with the game. It makes my job easier because there's a cricket culture, and harder because expectations are incredibly high."

— Then Bangladesh director of cricket Eddie Barlow told The Electronic Telegraph after the country earned Test status, noting cricketing similarities between Bangladesh and his native South Africa.



TEST NATION AT 25

Greenidge's caution still echoes

ASHEFAQ-UL-ALAM

"There is no way that Bangladesh cricket, with the present system, can operate at the Test match level in less than 10 years. I give you that and I stand the challenge on that. To push forward will be suicidal as far as our cricket is concerned."

West Indies legend and Bangladesh's former director of coaching, Gordon Greenidge, had said this in an interview published in The Daily Star on July 25, 1998.

Fresh off the ICC Trophy triumph in the previous year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was then pushing for Test status, a move Greenidge was clearly against.

The BCB didn't heed to Greenidge's warning as 23 months after that interview, on June 26, 2000, Bangladesh became the 10th Test-playing nation in the world and the West Indian was back in Barbados, trying to implement the school cricket structure he had originally envisioned for Bangladesh.

A quarter of a century has passed since then, the euphoria of joining the big boys of cricket has subsided long ago, and has been replaced by memories of being the whipping boys in Tests for years.

Prior to all the ignominious defeats, attaining Test status was celebrated like a national achievement in Bangladesh. For a country starved for success and any positive global recognition, being granted as a full member of the ICC was a matter of national pride.

The sequence of milestones in Bangladesh cricket — winning the ICC Trophy in 1997, attaining ODI status the same year and then beating Scotland and Pakistan in the ICC ODI World Cup in 1999

— makes achieving Test status in 2000 as the next natural step, but that was hardly the case.

Winning an ICC Trophy does not necessarily catapult teams to Test status. The UAE (1994), Canada (2001) and Scotland (2005), won it once each but are still stuck in the backwaters.

Making a splash in World Cup also doesn't

perfectly: the BCB struck the iron while it was hot and had a few allies by their side to earn the full membership.

Getting to play Tests is just one of the many perks that comes with becoming a full member. The financial boost, from the ICC and local sponsors, that followed transformed BCB, which used to beg, borrow and steal, figuratively, to function, into the richest sporting body in the country.

But while cricket in Bangladesh has grown exponentially in scale, the Tigers are still miles behind the top sides in Tests as even 25 years after becoming a full member, Bangladesh has failed to develop a culture of first-class cricket.

As Bangladesh's maiden first-class competition, the National Cricket League (NCL), had begun in the 1999-2000 season, cricketers were only getting a taste of playing in three-day, four-day games before they were flung in the five-day format, pitted against countries that had been playing the format for decades.

This is exactly why Greenidge wanted at least a decade to prepare the cricketers for the struggles of Test cricket. But he never got that opportunity.

From BCB's point of view, however, had Bangladesh waited for its players to get ready, the window of opportunity to gain full membership could have passed them by, and that was a chance they could not take.

The perks that have come with the full membership have indeed turned cricket into Bangladesh's biggest sport, but failure to create a first-class culture has turned Bangladesh into the perpetual adolescent in the world of cricket, a cricket nation that refuses to grow up.



Dhaka celebrates



warrant a Test status as Kenya reached the semifinal in 2003 edition but have now almost faded away.

Even having a passionate fan base is not enough, case in point, Nepal, who, despite having legions of fans, are still some distance away from attaining Test status.

In Bangladesh's case, the stars had aligned

BANGLADESH'S JOURNEY TO TEST STATUS

● Bangladesh, yet to gain ODI status, first applied for Test status in the ICC in 1996.

● ICC Development Committee proposed Bangladesh for an ODI status in May 1997.

● In June 1997, Bangladesh's Test application was first discussed in the ICC Annual Conference. The ICC formed a four-member committee, headed by Nasimul Ghani, to assess Bangladesh's eligibility.

● The committee visited Bangladesh in 1998 and after its inspection laid out 14 points which the BCB had to address before being considered for a Test status. The points included: arranging three day and four-day matches, improving pitches etc.

● In 1999, the first vote on Bangladesh's Test status took place in the ICC. Bangladesh needed seven votes out of nine full members. Five

countries voted in Bangladesh's favour — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe — while England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa voted against.

● Another ICC committee comprising Nasimul Ghani, Graham Dowling and Andy Pycroft visited Bangladesh in March 2000. The committee gave a glowing report.

● BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque visited the countries that voted against them in a bid to change their decision.

● On June 25, 2000, the first voting took place in the executive board, in which all but England voted in favour of Bangladesh. The following day, on June 26, all nine members voted in favour in the general committee meeting and welcomed Bangladesh as the 10th full member of the ICC.

'We should've been ranked fifth or sixth by now'

On November 10, 2000, **Shahriar Hossain Biddut**, regarded as one of the finest openers of the country, etched his name in the history books when he faced the first ball for Bangladesh in their inaugural Test, played against India in Dhaka. On the occasion of Bangladesh's 25 years in Test cricket, Biddut spoke to *The Daily Star's* Samsul Arefin Khan. Following are the excerpts of the interview:

The Daily Star [DS]: How do you recall the moment Bangladesh gained Test status?

Shahriar Hossain Biddut [SHB]: It's every cricketer's dream to get a Test cap — whether you play one or 100 Tests, you're a Test player. I remember playing a three-day match against MCC [Marylebone Cricket Club] in early 2000 at the then Dhaka Stadium where I scored 133 and 121 not out. Soon after, we got Test status. India were our first opponents, and players like Tendulkar [Sachin] and [Sourav] Ganguly were like heroes to us. We were in a camp at BKSP, and I scored a hundred in the practice match. The next day, newspapers said my place was confirmed.

When I got the cap, it felt like I had achieved everything. I'm proud I faced Bangladesh's first ball in Test cricket.

DS: When did the dream of playing Tests feel real?

SHB: We had ODI status and played in the 1999 World Cup, but didn't expect Test status so soon. Ashraf [Syed Ashraf Haque] bhai and Saber [Saber Hossain Chowdhury] bhai played key roles at the board. Our performance against the MCC side, which included some England players, boosted our case. That's when we

truly believed it was possible.

DS: Some say we got Test status too early.

SHB: I think we got it at the right time. We scored 400 in our debut Test, Ashraf [Mohammad] became the youngest centurion, and we almost beat Pakistan in Multan. Then we beat Zimbabwe for our first win. Players like Ashraf, Mashrafe [Bin] [Mushfiq] [Mushfiqur] [Shakib] [Al] [Hasan], and Tamim [Iqbal] emerged quickly. We were capable, but didn't utilise the opportunity fully.

DS: Currently ranked ninth, are you satisfied with progress?

SHB: No. After 25 years, we should've been ranked five or six. We've had individual brilliance but lacked team consistency. Even now, we don't have a settled opening pair — not in Tests, not in ODIs. That's a failure.

DS: Your suggestions for improvement?

SHB: Team selection lacks consistency... Domestic cricket quality has dropped. The BPL excites people but doesn't build long-term cricket. We need more focus on longer-format cricket from U-15, U-16 levels like India... We're still recycling the same players instead of discovering new talent.



'ARE YOU MAD?' — Bangladesh's Test dream started with disbelief and determination

Syed Ashraf Haque is known as one of the key figures in Bangladesh's journey to attaining Test status. On the silver jubilee of realising the Test dream, the former Bangladesh Cricket Board and Asian Cricket Council official talked to *The Daily Star's* Samsul Arefin Khan about how they achieved the Test status. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): How did the process of gaining Test status begin?

Syed Ashraf Haque (SAH): Frankly speaking, when we applied for the Test status, we didn't feel that we would get it. In 1996, NSC appointed Saber Hossain Chowdhury as the cricket board's president. One day Saber said to me, "Ashraf bhai, let's apply for Test status." I replied to him laughingly, "Are you mad? We can't even play first-class cricket and you are talking about Test." He insisted I apply for it, saying that by doing so, we would at least be in the queue. Then I started the paperwork and in 1996, we applied to the ICC.

The ICC then formed a four-member committee regarding Bangladesh's Test status with one representative each from Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe. The committee visited Bangladesh in 1998 and gave us a checklist to fulfil. We started our work and they gave us feedback after going through it. In the meantime, in 1996-97, Jaggu da (Jagmohan Dalmiya) became the



ICC president. It was a very big help for us. In 1996, we won the ACC Trophy, in 1997, we won the ICC Trophy and we also hosted the mini World Cup in 1998. That's why we could strongly push every other full member by saying that we were the best side among the associate nations.

During an ICC Executive Board meeting in 1999, when the matter of Bangladesh's Test status came up, Pakistan formally proposed our Test status, with India seconding the

motion. The same year, West Indies A visited us. Ian Bishop was the manager of that team. He was very impressed because of the crowd support and his feedback gave us West Indies' vote. England, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand didn't vote for us in the first voting, where we won 5-4. But we needed at least two-thirds of the ICC full members' votes.

Then we started working on Australia and South Africa and discussed strategic

partnership with both cricket boards. We brought Eddie Barlow from South Africa as our national team head coach and he also helped us in obtaining Test status. In early 2000, the ICC sent another team for inspection and before leaving, they told me that they would recommend us.

On June 25, an Executive Board meeting took place in Morocco where our Test status issue was confirmed by 8-1 votes. Basically, we got the Test status on the evening of the 25th, but it had to be approved in the annual conference on the next day in London. On June 26, we finally received Test status unanimously as all full members and associate members voted in favour of us.

DS: What's the most memorable moment for you during this time frame?

SAH: The fact that we got Test status is the biggest achievement I thought. I would put it as number one in my organisational achievements.

DS: Which is the thing that disappointed you the most?

SAH: I'm disappointed to see the lack of development in the country's cricket. I wanted to see Bangladesh at No. 4 or 5 after 25 years in Test cricket and in a similar position in ODIs. I imagined we would have won a World Cup at least. My biggest disappointment is that we had the money and could have ensured all the facilities for our players all over the country.

The game united people of our country but we could not take advantage of it.

DS: How much of your dream with Bangladesh cricket has been fulfilled in those years?

SAH: For me, seeing Bangladesh playing Tests is enough. But I think we should have made a lot more progress. We are the number 9 team in the world and after being here for 25 years, it means we are a total failure. If we didn't have the money and popularity, that would be different... Sri Lanka got the Test status in 1981 and by 1996, they were world champions. It's embarrassing for us that still England and Australia don't want to host us. I find a lack of forward planning in this matter as we only play series by series. We are thinking only about the present, just to save our chairs.

DS: We have heard about a model of Eddie Barlow. Why couldn't it be implemented?

SAH: After his departure, we didn't implement it. He had a long-term plan because he came from a cricketing country which had the world's best players in his time. He knew how it should be done and he had a vision. He wanted to create a structure but we didn't take it because we preferred more of a stop-gap approach. We became too ambitious and since money was flowing, it started to corrupt people at the board.

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Stop destroying nature, plant trees instead

Urges Yunus at an event marking World Environment Day

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged all to avoid destroying nature and stop the production and use of single-use plastic products and come together to plant trees and create a beautiful environment for the generations to come.



"Plastic is poison. Not just for people, but for everything in this world. We are not taking it seriously because it's happening slowly and gradually. Let's solve it. Let's save us from this poison," he said.

Yunus made the remarks at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre while speaking as the chief guest at an event marking the "World Environment Day", which was on June 5.

The chief adviser said protecting the environment should be a citizen-led movement.

"It's my environment. I must protect it. There is no alternative to it," Yunus said, highlighting the importance of awareness at an individual level.

He said there should be a drive to stop tree cutting

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Vendors occupy not just the footpath, a large portion of the street between the BRTA office and Mirpur-10 roundabout, leaving little room for pedestrians and vehicles to pass. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt declares 3 new days for nat'l observance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday declared August 5 as "July Mass Uprising Day" to commemorate the student-led protests that toppled the Sheikh Hasina regime that day last year.

- July 16 - Shaheed Abu Sayed Day
- August 5 - July Mass Uprising Day
- August 8 - New Bangladesh Day

It also declared August 8 as "New Bangladesh Day", marking the formation of the interim government led by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, and July 16 as "Shaheed Abu Sayed Day" in memory of Abu Sayed, a student of Rangpur's Begum Rokya University who

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Help us bring drugs, graft under control

Home adviser urges the public

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two things the interim government could not bring under control are drugs and corruption, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said at a press briefing yesterday.

"I have never claimed that we brought narcotics under control... We need your [the public's] help to tackle both," he told reporters at the Secretariat, ahead of today's International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Calling for tougher action against affluent groups linked to the drug trade, Jahangir said, "Some upper-class individuals are heavily involved. If anyone is found complicit, they will face the law, regardless of their status."

He stressed that arresting small-time peddlers was not enough. "We must go after the godfathers behind these

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Drug smuggling via air, land routes on the rise

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Drug trafficking via airports and border areas in Bangladesh has seen a surge over the last couple of years, with Phensedyl and cannabis dominating the local narcotics trade.

Cocaine smuggling, especially via air routes, has gone up alarmingly in recent times as international syndicates are increasingly using the country as a transit point. The drug is not smuggled in for local consumption; rather, it is rerouted to multiple destinations across Europe and North America, said officials at the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC).

Last year, law enforcers seized 130kg of cocaine, up from 13kg in 2023, shows the Annual Drug Report 2024.

This grim picture emerges as Bangladesh, like other countries around the world, observes the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking today.

Many listed drug dealers are active especially in border areas and major cities. They are recruiting petty criminals, labourers, and rickshaw-pullers to transport narcotics, according to DNC officials.

Traffickers smuggle in Phensedyl, cannabis and also heroin through border areas in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jashore, Satkhira, Panchagarh, and

Dinajpur, indicating a shift in local drug trade that was dominated by Yaba from Myanmar for about two decades since 2005.

According to DNC officials, the supply and use of Yaba have been in decline over the last couple of years.

The DNC report shows that Phensedyl, heroin and cannabis are now dominating the local drug trade, partly due to unavailability of Yaba and other synthetic drugs in certain regions.

Last year, 2.28 crore Yaba pills were seized, down from 4.29 crore in 2023. The seizure of crystal meth also dropped to 110kg from 186kg.

Affirming the shift in drug trade, Mohammad Badruddin, additional director (intelligence) at the DNC, said, "The consignments are coming from India. We are aware of it. Several consignments, including that of heroin, were seized recently."

Khorshid Alam, deputy director (intelligence) at the DNC, also echoed him, saying the number of trafficking hotspots has gone up in recent times.

In 2024, law enforcers seized 5.72 lakh bottles of Phensedyl against 4.82 lakh bottles in 2023. The seizure of cannabis also rose to 1.14 lakh kgs

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



JULY UPRISING

Students lock KMP gate over freeing accused SI

Block road for hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students and locals locked the main gate of the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) headquarters for hours yesterday, protesting the release of Sub-Inspector Sukanta Das from police custody.

According to the protesters, locals caught SI Sukanta on Tuesday and handed him over to police "for brutally assaulting students and civilians during the July uprising in Khulna".

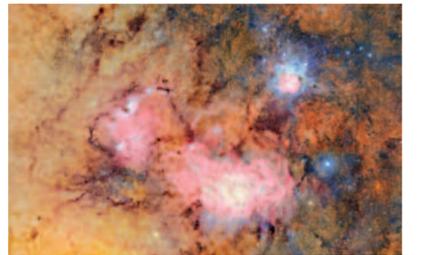
The protesters claimed that he was released the same night without being arrested even though he is accused in several cases.

The protest called by the Students Against Discrimination began around 2:00pm. The demonstrators blocked the road and burnt tyres in front of the KMP headquarters, cutting off the Rupsha area from the city.

They also called for the resignation of the KMP commissioner.

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Stunning shots of millions of galaxies released



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The first dazzling images have been released from the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy's Vera C. Rubin Observatory, capturing the night sky "like never before."

The snapshots reveal the stunning result of more than 10 hours of test observations, snapping the mysterious wonder of the cosmos. They include millions of stars and galaxies and thousands of asteroids in hues of ruby, sapphire, and gold inlaid against the inky blackness of our known universe.

Several thousand light-years away from Earth, the Trifid and Lagoon nebulas - vast clouds of gas and dust - exist. We see them here in flamingo pink.

The newly released pictures preview the observatory's upcoming 10-year scientific mission to help humans better understand our place on the pale blue dot known as Earth.

"NSF-DOE Rubin Observatory will capture more information about our Universe than all optical telescopes throughout history combined," Brian Stone, who is performing the duties of the National Science Foundation director, said in a statement.

Woman 'raped' in train toilet

Police detain outsourced railway employee

STAR REPORT

A female passenger was allegedly raped inside a toilet of the Rangpur Express train at Dhaka's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

Railway Police detained the suspect, Saiful Islam, 28, a public address announcer of the train, after the victim lodged a verbal complaint against him with the train officials, said Farhat Ahmed, superintendent of Syedpur Railway Police.

Motaher Ali, divisional signal and telecommunication engineer of Bangladesh Railway's Lalmonirhat Division, said Saiful has been working as an outsourced employee since February last year.

After learning about the incident through social media, Bangladesh Railway wrote to Rajat Enterprise, through which Saiful was hired, requesting legal action against him, Motaher told The Daily Star last night.

The incident reportedly took place between 8:45am and 9:15am when the train was stationed at the platform, he said.

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A man hands a bicycle to another across a broken stretch of the road from Pakuria Uttarpara to City Bypass in Rajshahi's Paba, where large portions have collapsed. Locals say the contractor took no measures to protect the road during the construction of a wall beside it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

HSC, equivalent exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations begins today, with 12,51,111 students scheduled to sit for the tests under different education boards.

Of them, about 10.55 lakh students are registered with the nine general education boards, around 86,000 with the Madrasa Education Board (Alim), and over 1.09 lakh with the technical education board.

The written examinations will run until August 10, while practical exams are scheduled from August 11 to 21. This year, the exams will be held at 2,797 centres nationwide.

Compared to last year, the number of examinees has fallen by 81,882.

To ensure fair and peaceful conduct of the exams, the Ministry of Education has directed all coaching centres across the country to remain closed until August 15.

Amid rising Covid-19 and dengue cases, the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee has issued health guidelines for all examination centres.

According to Prof Khandoker Ehsanul Kabir, chairman of the Dhaka Education

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