



"There is so much more work to do to keep 1.5 alive, as science demands."

UN climate chief Simon Stiell says ahead of COP30 in Brazil

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SECOND EDITION

DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 28, 2025



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 155

ASHAR 14, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 2, 1447 HIJRI

20 PAGES: Tk 15.00



Fading
away in
silence

WR1



Tree from which
Haribhanga
mango
originated

WR2



India seeks
solution to
border dispute
with China

P8



Muslin's
revival weaves
past into
present

WR4

IMF CONDITIONS Govt pledges to track graft in tax admin

33 requirements for next loan instalment

REJAU KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The government has pledged a series of sweeping reforms to meet International Monetary Fund conditions for the next instalment of its \$5.5 billion loan, including a public survey to measure corruption in tax administration and a phased reduction of subsidies on electricity, fertiliser, remittances and exports.

The survey will be conducted every two to three years to assess whether reforms are fostering citizens' trust in tax administration, according to the IMF's latest programme report released on Thursday.

"We will take several measures to enhance transparency and governance in tax administration," the report quoted the government as saying.

The IMF has set 33 conditions -- 21 prior and structural benchmarks and 12 performance and indicative targets -- for the next loan instalment. One key requirement is that

- Tk 30,000cr additional revenue by reducing tax exemptions in FY26
- 3-year roadmap by Sept to cut gap between power generation costs, prices
- Export incentives to be phased out completely in FY26
- Remittance subsidy to end by January 2027

the government generate Tk 30,000 crore in revenue by reducing VAT and income tax exemptions in the FY26 budget.

The government has also committed that the National Board of Revenue will publish a departmental code of ethics and professional conduct for tax officials by September, with all officers affirming compliance by December.

NBR staff will be required to undergo ethics training every two to three years and affirm their adherence annually. The board will also begin publicly reporting integrity statistics, including actions against officials for misconduct, delinquency and corruption, within six months of each fiscal year's end.

Since the programme began in January 2023, Bangladesh, having one of the world's lowest tax-to-GDP ratios, has consistently missed NBR revenue targets.

Against this backdrop, the NBR has been tasked with collecting Tk 443,530 crore by June 2025 and Tk 550,700 crore by June 2026 -- ambitious goals requiring sweeping reforms, improved compliance and reduced exemptions.

Earlier this month, Bangladesh sent a reform plan to IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, outlining steps in exchange rate policy, banking and financial sector reforms, revenue collection, and central bank autonomy.

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NEXT NAT'L POLLS
BNP urges CA, CEC to disclose what they discussed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will feel reassured if both the chief adviser and the chief election commissioner disclose to the nation what they discussed about the upcoming national polls during Thursday's meeting, the party's Standing Committee member Salauddin Ahmed said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at his home in Gulshan, the BNP leader said the party assumed that Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus asked the Election Commission to prepare for the parliamentary polls in the week before the start of Ramadan in February 2026.

"But this is only our assumption -- we don't know whether he communicated it or gave such instructions. If both sides clarify the matter

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A police impound lot just north of Postogola Bridge in the capital, where most vehicles confiscated for traffic violations are battery-run rickshaws. These vehicles were seized for operating on main roads. Left exposed to the elements for long periods, the conditions of these rickshaws are gradually deteriorating. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Technical education hit by teacher shortage, falling enrolment

ARAFAT RAHMAN

Bangladesh's technical education sector is facing a slow-burning crisis, shaped by a severe shortage of teachers, poor infrastructure, and steadily declining student interest.

Despite government ambitions to expand the country's skilled workforce, the system continues to suffer from years of neglect and underinvestment, say experts.

More than half of the 15,000 sanctioned teaching posts in government and private technical institutions were vacant as of May this year, according to Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB). In many polytechnic institutes, one teacher is tasked with teaching over 100 students across multiple shifts, a workload that undermines effective teaching.

The scale of the problem is starkly illustrated by the example of Faridpur Polytechnic Institute. With over 4,000 students enrolled

in six departments, the institute needs 201 teachers to function effectively but operates with only 55. There is also a shortage of technical support staff, as 54 out of 128 positions remain vacant.

The situation is similar at Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute, which has 113 teachers for 3,392 students.

Md Abu Hanif, principal of the institute, said that more than half of the 240 teaching positions remain vacant, putting additional burden on the existing faculty.

"But we have somewhat grown accustomed to this. The situation was even worse in the past. In January, 54 teachers joined the institute, easing the burden on the existing staff."

"Previously, a teacher had to conduct 50-60 classes per week. Now, the number has come down to 20-25," he added.

The crisis in the sector is compounded by a sharp drop in

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TEACHER CRISIS

TOTAL POSTS	VACANT POSTS
15,000	Around 7,500

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLMENT AGAINST AROUND 1.71 LAKH SEATS

ACADEMIC YEAR	ENROLLED STUDENTS
2019-20	81,000
2020-21	77,000
2021-22	73,000
2022-23	71,000
2023-24	69,000



An excavator removes piles of plastic and other waste from the heavily polluted Kalyanpur Canal in the capital's Gabtoli as part of a cleaning initiative titled "Khal Bachley, Bachbe Nagar" undertaken by the Dhaka North City Corporation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Shutdown and 'March to NBR' from today
Govt says follow-up meeting on Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The stalemate at the National Board of Revenue continued for yet another day as protesting officials remained firm about launching their previously announced programme today, refuting the finance ministry's claim that an agreement was reached.

In a statement yesterday evening, the finance ministry said NBR's protesting officials agreed to withdraw their shutdown and "March to NBR" following a meeting on Thursday.

Hours later, after 9:00pm, the NBR Reform Unity Council, the platform of protesting officials, said representatives of the council did not attend the meeting at the finance adviser's office as they were not invited.

The shutdown will be launched as planned, the council said in a statement. It added that only international passenger services will be allowed during the shutdown. The marches will be organised from the field offices of taxes, customs, excise, and VAT.

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SOCIAL BUSINESS DAY
Yunus calls for building better world for all

BSS, Dhaka



Focusing on the transformative power of social business to bring about a positive impact, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday voiced his desire to break free from the current gloom and create a beautiful and better world for everyone.

"We're not responsible for creating this gloomy world. We want to create a beautiful world, and we can do that."

He made the remarks at the inaugural session of the 15th edition of Social Business Day, jointly organised by the Yunus Centre and Grameen Group at Samajik Convention Centre at Zirabo in Savar.

This year's theme of the two-day event is "Social Business is the Most Effective Way to Ensure Healthcare for All."

Speaking as the chief guest and keynote speaker, Prof Yunus reminded all that the world is on the wrong path and only through selflessness, imagination, and social business can a just and sustainable future be achieved.

From championing "healthcare as a human right" to reimaging education that inspires "creators, not job

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End impunity, ensure genuine accountability

Says UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has called on Bangladesh to end the widespread impunity surrounding enforced disappearances and ensure genuine accountability from its military, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies.

In a report titled "Technical Advice on Bangladesh", published on June 25 following a four-day technical visit to the country, the Working Group expressed concern at the pattern of enforced disappearances and the lack of accountability for perpetrators.

The visit, held from June 15 to 18, was conducted by delegation members Grażyna Baranowska and Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez.

"The Working Group is deeply concerned by the continued widespread impunity for enforced disappearances. All security forces, including the army, DGFI, and Rab, should make a genuine commitment to accountability by cooperating fully with relevant mechanisms," the report stated.

It added, "The only way in which security institutions can regain the trust and legitimacy of victims and the population is through genuine accountability processes within these institutions."

The report emphasised that such accountability must begin with decisive and transparent actions.

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