

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 158

ASHAR 17, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 5, 1447 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE : TK 15.00

Police struggle as key top posts lie vacant

Sidelining, forced retirements of cops make matters worse

	AVAILABLE POSTS	VACANT POSTS
Additional IGP	29	9
Deputy IGP	152	34
Assistant SP	1,231	332

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police are grappling with operational challenges as more than 400 key posts have remained vacant over the past 10 months, impairing the force's ability to combat crime.

At least 424 vital positions, including nine of additional inspector general of police (IGP) and 34 of deputy inspector general (DIG), are vacant. Also among the vacancies are two positions of additional DIG, 47 of additional SP, and 332 of assistant SP, shows Police Headquarters data.

Besides, 119 top and mid-level officers, including DIGs, additional DIGs, and SPs, have been attached to various

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



People travel on the roof of a train disregarding rules and risking their lives. Despite incidents of deaths from riding on train roofs, many people continue the practice. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Mohakhali area. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Yunus, Rubio pledge to deepen economic ties

Will work towards a stable Indo-Pacific region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh and the United States yesterday pledged to deepen economic ties and reaffirmed commitment to a stable and peaceful Indo-Pacific region.

The issues came up during a 15-minute phone conversation between Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, according to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing.

The discussion was warm, cordial, and constructive, reflecting excellent bilateral engagement between the two nations, it added.

US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TRIPLE VIRAL THREAT Act now or hospitals may get overrun: experts

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

The simultaneous outbreak of three viral diseases -- Covid-19, dengue and chikungunya -- may overwhelm the country's healthcare system unless the authorities take swift and coordinated actions, warn experts.

At least 22 people died from Covid and 18 more from dengue over the last one month, with chikungunya resurfacing in the country after nearly eight years.

Covid-related deaths were reported mostly in Dhaka and Chattogram divisions, while the majority of dengue fatalities occurred in Dhaka and Barishal divisions. Chikungunya cases remain concentrated in the capital.

Health experts and officials said the next two to three months will be crucial, and the

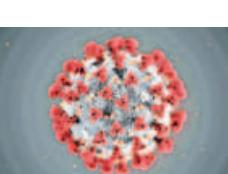
authorities should prepare a comprehensive, disease specific plan for the most affected areas.

SURGE IN COVID CASES

A total of 569 Covid cases have been detected since January 1. Of them, around 72 percent were reported last month, shows data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

All 22 Covid-related deaths, reported so far this year, occurred last month, and the first one was recorded on June 5.

The deaths follow a sharp rise in infection rate in May. Of the 1,409 samples tested that month, 9.51 percent were positive for Covid -- the highest since January 2023, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).



SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Nahid wants July charter, declaration by August 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after announcing that the National Citizen Party will unveil a "July Declaration" itself, its Convenor Nahid Islam yesterday hinted that the party still believes the government can prepare the document by August 5.

"We firmly want the July Declaration and the July Charter to be prepared by August 5, that is, the 36th of July. Let all parties make every concession necessary and extend their full cooperation to the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 1, 2024

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Though protests had already begun in response to a High Court verdict reinstating quotas in government jobs, it was on July 1, 2024, that the movement for reforms to the quota system truly took shape. That morning, a small but determined group of students gathered at Dhaka University's TSC, launching a demonstration that would mark the formal beginning of a new phase of mobilisation. One that would soon ripple across campuses nationwide.

The student protesters demanded the reinstatement of the 2018 government

The immediate background to the demonstration lay in a June 5 High Court verdict that declared illegal the government's 2018 decision to cancel the 30 percent quota for children of freedom fighters in recruitment to first and second-class government jobs.

circular that had abolished the quota system in public service recruitment and introduced a merit-based system.

Similar protests were reported from several other public universities across the country, including Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, and Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Groups of job seekers joined the students in these demonstrations.

The immediate background to the demonstration lay in a June 5 High Court verdict that declared illegal the government's 2018 decision to cancel the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

HOLEY ARTISAN CASE Justice may still be years away

Convicts' appeals pending with Appellate Division of SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The wait for justice is likely to grow longer in the case over the Holey Artisan militant attack that claimed the lives of 22 people, including 17 foreign nationals, nine years ago.

Six of the seven convicts, whose death sentence was commuted by the High Court to imprisonment until death, filed four leave-to-appeal petitions with the apex court in May this year, seeking acquittal from the charges in the case. It remains uncertain when the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will dispose of the petitions.

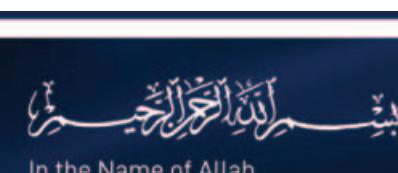
Advocate Md Nahidul Islam, a defence lawyer for the convicts, said it'll take at least six years for the SC to dispose of the petitions if it hears the petitions according to the chronological order of their filing.

But if the court holds hearing on an urgent basis, those can be settled within a year, he told The Daily Star.

Referring to the leave-to-appeal petitions, he said his six clients, now in Kashimpur High Security Jail, were in no way involved in the Holey Artisan Bakery attack.

They were sentenced based on their confessional statements extracted through torture in police custody, Nahidul said, adding that Aslam Hossain Rash, one of the seven convicts, was killed while trying to escape Kashimpur jail in August last year.

The six other convicts are Jahangir Hossain; Hadiur Rahman; Rakibul Hasan Regan; Md Abdus Sabur Khan; Shariful Islam Khaled; and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.



5th Death Anniversary of LATIFUR RAHMAN

28 August 1945 - 1 July 2020



Nine years have passed since you left us, and not a day has gone by that we haven't thought of you. You left us in grief when you chose to sacrifice your life to protect your friends. Yet you make us immensely proud when we witness your powerful legacy of courage, friendship, and humanity.

You are no longer just our Chotoo, today you are Bangladesh's, and you are the world's.

You live on as a symbol of courage and continue to serve as our moral compass to this day. Though you are no longer with us, your memory, and bravery live on.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love, and support. Please keep our beloved Faraaz in your prayers. May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

Shahnaz Rahman and Family

Five years since you left us, and you remain as our guiding light. Your strong values of ethics and integrity are still woven into every moment.

You were the pillar of our family and to all those around you. You remain a shining example of honesty, patriotism, and excellence in every sphere of life. We may miss your physical presence, but you live on in all our hearts. You live on in all your strength and as a symbol of ethics.

Though you are no longer with us, your memory, and glorious legacy continues.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love, and support. Please keep our beloved Latifur Rahman in your prayers. May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

Shahnaz Rahman and Family

ABU SAYED KILLING ICT-2 accepts the charges against 30

Arrest warrant issued for 26, including ex-BRU VC, police officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly a year after the killing of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed, a martyr of last year's uprising, the International Crimes Tribunal 2 has taken cognisance of charges against 30 individuals, including senior university and police officials, accusing them of murder and crimes against humanity.

The accused, including the former vice-chancellor of BRU Md Hasibur Rashid, former Rangpur Metropolitan Police commissioner Md Moniruzzaman and 28 others, face charges of murder, attempted murder, abetment, and complicity in crimes against humanity.

Sayed was shot dead on July 16 last year, in Rangpur, during a student-led protest against the quota system in government jobs. The defiance he showed against oppression before his death turned the protests into a mass uprising that eventually toppled Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5 last year.

This is the third case concerning the July-August 2024 crackdown in which the prosecution has filed formal charges, and the first to be accepted by ICT-2.

Apart from the former VC and RMP commissioner, university proctor Shariful Islam, RMP deputy commissioner Md Abu Maruf Hossain, additional deputy commissioner Md Shah Nur Alam Patwari, who was later promoted to superintendent of police, assistant commissioner Md Arifuzzaman (Kotwali zone), Tajhat

SEE PAGE 8 COL 7

ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR



Protesters under the banner of Students Against Discrimination bring out a procession on the Dhaka University campus on July 1, 2024, demanding reinstatement of the 2018 government circular that abolished the quota system in civil service.

Month of remembering, mourning begins today

Govt, parties take elaborate programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government, as well as major political parties -- including the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the newly formed National Citizen Party founded by the July protesters -- have announced separate month-long programmes to commemorate the first anniversary of the July uprising.

Students began their protest against the quota system in government jobs on July 1 of last year. The movement quickly gained momentum, fuelled by the government's harsh and brutal response.

What started as a demand for reform soon transformed into an all-out anti-government movement, calling for the resignation of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The mass uprising culminated in her ouster on August 5.

Around 1,400 people were killed during the uprising, according to a report of a United Nations fact-finding mission.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will inaugurate a "July Calendar", marking the month of the protest at his Tejgaon office this morning.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will inaugurate a "July Calendar", marking the month of the protest at his Tejgaon office this morning.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, during a briefing at the Chief Adviser's Office, said the government will construct monuments in all district headquarters to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives during the mass uprising, with their names inscribed on the monument of the respective district.

Later, the chief adviser's press wing also announced a 36-day commemorative programme titled "July Remembrance Celebration", which will begin today and continue till August 5.

As part of the programmes, prayers will be held for the martyrs at mosques, temples, pagodas, churches, and other places of worship today.

Also, a mass signature campaign will be launched on the same day, demanding justice for the martyrs and trials for those responsible for the killings.

A scholarship in memory of the July martyrs will also be introduced at the National University today.

Further events are scheduled for July 5, July 7, and July

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

The July that rocked Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

30 percent quota for children of freedom fighters in recruitment to first and second class government jobs.

In response to that ruling, protests had already started on various campuses. On June 9, a section of students identifying as Dhaka University students issued an ultimatum to the government,

asking it to reinstate the 2018 circular by June 30. Eid holidays contributed to the unusual length of the deadline.

With the expiry of the ultimatum, the July 1 protest marked a renewed phase of mobilisation.

The organisers announced a three-day programme, beginning on July 2 with a student rally starting from Dhaka University's Central Library. The following two days were to feature gatherings at the Raju Memorial Sculpture, bringing together students from Jagannath University, the seven DU-affiliated colleges, and institutions under

the National University.

They also declared a boycott of all classes and examinations at universities and colleges until July 4.

Interestingly, the earlier banner of "Dhaka University Students" was replaced with "Students Against Discrimination", signalling an attempt to broaden the scope of the movement.

However, as of July 1, students from private universities had not joined the demonstrations.

At the TSC event, student leaders placed four specific demands:

1. Reinstate the 2018 circular that abolished quotas in public service recruitment and introduce a merit-based system.

2. Establish a commission to review and eliminate unreasonable and discriminatory quotas in all grades of government jobs, with scope for considering only constitutionally

recognised backward communities.

3. Ensure that the quota facility cannot be used more than once in recruitment exams, and that unfilled quota posts are filled based on merit.

4. Take effective measures to ensure a corruption-free, impartial, and merit-based bureaucracy.

Though the first day saw a modest turnout, organisers remained confident that the momentum would build. In the days that followed, their expectations began to unfold on the streets.

The student agitation also unfolded against a backdrop of broader unrest in the public education sector. Thirty-five public universities across the country were already at a standstill due to strikes by teachers and staff who were protesting the newly introduced Prottoy Universal Pension Scheme. This existing disruption further amplified the sense of urgency and discontent on campuses.

Police struggle as key top posts lie vacant

FROM PAGE 1
units without specific responsibilities, meaning their main duty is to attend office and do paperwork.

The force has been weakened further by a spate of forced retirement following the fall of the Awami League government through a mass uprising that left over 1,400 people dead -- many of them in police shootings.

Many police officers have been accused of suppressing dissent through arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearance during the tenure of the past government.

In recent months, at least 40 officers with 25 years of service have been sent to forced retirement. Another 23 officers with the ranks of ASP and above have been arrested in cases related to the mass uprising. At least 57 officers -- from additional DIG to ASP -- have been absent from duty for over 60 days.

Asked, Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general at the PHQ, said promotions, postings, and filling of vacancies are part of a routine process.

Justice

FROM PAGE 1

The case over the Holey Artisan Bakery attack was filed with Gulshan Police Station by Sub-Inspector Ripon Kumar Das under the Anti-Terrorism Act three days after the incident.

On November 27, 2019, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Dhaka convicted and sentenced the seven accused to death for their involvement in the attack.

About four years later, the HC bench of Justice Shahidul Karim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman commuted their death sentence to imprisonment until death.

Considering the brutality of the murder, the overall cruel behaviour of the terrorists on the spot at the time of the incident and the tarnishing of the image of Bangladesh in the outside world, we think that justice will be ensured if each of them (seven convicts) is sentenced to life imprisonment (till natural death) in the case," the bench said in the full text of the verdict uploaded on the SC website on June 17 this year.

Asked whether the attorney general's office will challenge the HC verdict on behalf of the state, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman declined to comment.

On July 1, 2016, five militants with firearms, machetes, and grenades stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in the diplomatic zone in Gulshan and held the diners hostage before killing three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians, and one Indian.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation by army commandos. Two police officers and a chef of the cafe were also killed during the 12-hour stand-off. An injured employee of the restaurant died later.

The grisly attack followed a spate of targeted killings of bloggers, writers, and members of religious minorities over several years.

soon."

Echoing the officer's sentiment, an additional SP said, "The stress surrounding promotions and postings often outweighs concerns about public security and law enforcement strategies."

During recent visits to six police stations in Dhaka city, The Daily Star correspondents talked to locals and found that police officers often avoid reporting complaints unless a crime draws media or public attention.

On June 10, police recovered the body of 22-year-old Rakibul Hasan with multiple injury marks in the capital's Mirpur II. His hands were cuffed and legs tied with a scarf.

His mother, Rosina Begum, said local criminals had previously attacked him at a hospital. But when she tried to file a case at Pallabi Police Station, police only recorded a complaint and took no action. "My son would have been alive if police had taken action immediately after that attack."

Contacted, Sub-Inspector Hossain

Mubarak, who recorded her complaint, said he could not recall any details about it.

Earlier on May 31, two suspected criminals were beaten to death in Darus Salam. Locals alleged that the duo were involved in mugging.

"We called police, but no one came. So, locals took the law into their own hands," said a resident of the area.

However, Rakibul Islam, OC of Darus Salam Police Station, claimed they respond to all calls and regularly conduct drives.

Police have not been able to make any headway in scores of murder cases filed over the last 10 months.

One such example is the case filed over the killing of BNP leader Kamrul Ahsan Shadron. He was shot dead in the capital's Badda area on May 26, but no arrests have been made.

Earlier, the body of a five-year-old girl was found in a sack on May 14, a day after she had gone missing. Her mother filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station, but police are yet to make any arrests.

Referring to an "excellent" meeting held between National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau in Washington on Thursday, Yunus emphasised strengthening bilateral ties.

He also thanked President Donald Trump for responding positively to his request to suspend reciprocal tariff measures on Bangladesh for 90

days, adding, "We are working with your officials to finalise a package of measures to effectively respond to President Trump's trade agenda."

Seeking US support for the country's democratic transition, the chief adviser reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening economic ties between the United States and Bangladesh and to enhancing security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The CA's press wing said both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral trade, Bangladesh's ongoing process of transition to democracy, and aid for Rohingya refugees.

Rubio expressed his support for Bangladesh's reform agenda and its move to hold elections early next year.

Noting that the US is Bangladesh's largest export destination and the top source of remittances, both leaders expressed hope for concluding talks on tariffs soon, paving the way for increased bilateral trade, added the press wing statement.

Referring to an "excellent" meeting held between National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau in Washington on Thursday, Yunus emphasised strengthening bilateral ties.

He also thanked President Donald Trump for responding positively to his request to suspend reciprocal tariff measures on Bangladesh for 90

days, adding, "We are working with your officials to finalise a package of measures to effectively respond to President Trump's trade agenda."

Seeking US support for the country's democratic transition, the chief adviser reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening economic ties between the United States and Bangladesh and to enhancing security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The CA's press wing said both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral trade, Bangladesh's ongoing process of transition to democracy, and aid for Rohingya refugees.

Rubio expressed his support for Bangladesh's reform agenda and its move to hold elections early next year.

Noting that the US is Bangladesh's largest export destination and the top source of remittances, both leaders expressed hope for concluding talks on tariffs soon, paving the way for increased bilateral trade, added the press wing statement.

Referring to an "excellent" meeting held between National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau in Washington on Thursday, Yunus emphasised strengthening bilateral ties.

He also thanked President Donald Trump for responding positively to his request to suspend reciprocal tariff measures on Bangladesh for 90

days, adding, "We are working with your officials to finalise a package of measures to effectively respond to President Trump's trade agenda."

Seeking US support for the country's democratic transition, the chief adviser reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening economic ties between the United States and Bangladesh and to enhancing security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The CA's press wing said both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral trade, Bangladesh's ongoing process of transition to democracy, and aid for Rohingya refugees.

Rubio expressed his support for Bangladesh's reform agenda and its move to hold elections early next year.

Noting that the US is Bangladesh's largest export destination and the top source of remittances, both leaders expressed hope for concluding talks on tariffs soon, paving the way for increased bilateral trade, added the press wing statement.

Referring to an "excellent" meeting held between National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau in Washington on Thursday, Yunus emphasised strengthening bilateral ties.

He also thanked President Donald Trump for responding positively to his request to suspend reciprocal tariff measures on Bangladesh for 90

days, adding, "We are working with your officials to finalise a package of measures to effectively respond to President Trump's trade agenda."

Seeking US support for the country's democratic transition, the chief adviser reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening economic ties between the United States and Bangladesh and to enhancing security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The CA's press wing said both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral trade, Bangladesh's ongoing process of transition to democracy, and aid for Rohingya refugees.

Rubio expressed his support for Bangladesh's reform agenda and its move to hold elections early next year.

Noting that the US is Bangladesh's largest export destination and the top source of remittances, both leaders expressed hope for concluding talks on tariffs soon, paving the way for increased bilateral trade, added the press wing statement.

Referring to an "excellent" meeting held between National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau in Washington on Thursday, Yunus emphasised strengthening bilateral ties.

He also thanked President Donald Trump for responding positively to his request to suspend reciprocal tariff measures on Bangladesh for 90

days, adding, "We are working with your officials to finalise a package of measures to effectively respond to President Trump's trade agenda."

Seeking US support for the country's democratic transition, the chief adviser reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening economic ties between the United States and Bangladesh and to enhancing security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The CA's press wing said both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral trade, Bangladesh's ongoing process of transition to democracy, and aid for Rohingya refugees.

Rubio expressed his support for Bangladesh's reform agenda and its move to hold elections early next year.

Noting that the US is Bangladesh's largest export destination and the top source of remittances, both leaders expressed hope for concluding talks on tariffs soon, paving the way for increased bilateral trade, added the press wing statement.

Referring to an "excellent" meeting held between National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau in Washington on Thursday, Yunus emphasised strengthening bilateral ties.

He also thanked President Donald Trump for responding positively to his request to suspend reciprocal tariff measures on Bangladesh for 90

days, adding, "We are working with your officials to finalise a package of measures to effectively respond to President Trump's trade agenda."

Seeking US support for the country's democratic transition, the chief adviser reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening economic ties between the United States and Bangladesh and to enhancing security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The CA's press wing said both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including

Pubali Home Loan
just a **click** away

Apply online - instantly know your loan limit.
Your loan now at your fingertips.
• Flat • Office • Construction • Renovation
Scan QR code or <https://applyhomeloan.pubalibankbd.com>



Best Financial Institution
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.



ISO/IEC
27001:2022

Open your
Account
from anywhere



a Pubali Bank apps

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূর্বালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

BNP to consider China's Teesta offer if elected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP would consider China's proposal on the Teesta issue positively if it came to power through elections, said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"We explained our needs and requirements regarding this project, and they responded positively -- they are working on it," Fakhrul told reporters at a briefing at the BNP chairperson's office following a five-day tour of China.

A high level nine member BNP delegation, led by Fakhrul, went to China on June 22 at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The BNP delegation held meetings with senior CPC leaders and discussed bilateral issues and ways to strengthen ties between the CPC and the BNP.

China has expressed its willingness to work with Bangladesh's next elected government "with even greater sincerity, steadfastness, love and affection," he said.

The BNP delegation also urged China to play a more effective role in ensuring the safe, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to their homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

3 FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL

Police suspect foul play, await autopsy results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police suspect foul play in the deaths of a couple and their son, whose bodies were found at a hotel in Dhaka's Moghbazar on Sunday.

"Initial findings and doctors' observations suggest that poison caused their deaths. But we need to determine whether it was food poisoning or if someone deliberately mixed poison into their food," Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division, told The Daily Star yesterday.

A murder case will be filed and further investigation and viscera report will reveal what actually happened, the DC said.

Zakia Tasnim, a doctor at the forensic medicine department at Dhaka Medical College, who performed the postmortem, said, "Police mentioned that the death might be caused by food poisoning, and initial symptoms are making us think the same. Blood and viscera has been collected from the bodies and been sent for further tests. Once we have those reports, we will know the actual reason behind the deaths."

Talking to The Daily Star, a police official said they suspect "foul play" in the deaths, as no other complaints have

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



A street vendor selling surgical and face masks in the capital's Mohammadpur area. With Covid-19 cases on the rise, face masks are regaining popularity as a precautionary measure. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Years of neglect haunt JU Medical Centre

Budget constraint, staff shortage cripple services

SAKIB AHMED



On Sunday, June 22, Zubayer Hossain, a third-year student of Anthropology department at Jahangirnagar University, died reportedly after being denied timely ambulance support. He had long suffered from haemophilia.

Earlier, on November 20 last year, Afsana Rachi, a first-year student of JU's Marketing department, died after being hit by a battery-run rickshaw on the campus and allegedly denied proper treatment at the JU Medical Centre.

The tragedies further exposed the dire condition of JU's medical support system, which has long been plagued by myriads of limitations such as negligence, budget constraint, and an acute shortage of manpower.

Students have long been complaining about inadequate

Budget remains stagnant at Tk 45 lakh

No new doctor recruited since 2005

9 doctors for over 12,500 students

Medical Centre lacks specialists, assistants, support staff

medical facilities at the JU Medical Centre -- providing substandard facilities, lacking basic emergency preparedness, and failing to address urgent needs.

According to documents obtained by this correspondent, the centre's budget allocations have failed to keep up with the growing demands of the university's student population and rising medical costs.

Between 2022-23 and 2025-26 fiscal years, the overall budget for healthcare facilities has remained stagnant at Tk 45 lakh.

In FY 2020-21, the centre received a mere Tk 14.78 lakh for purchasing medicine and dressing equipment. Although the allocation rose to Tk 30.48 lakh during the pandemic in FY 2021-22, it dropped again to Tk 24 lakh in FY 2022-23 and remained so till FY 2024-25, even as prices of essential medicines rose by 30-40 percent meanwhile.

Similarly, allocations for pathology kits have remained unchanged at Tk 21 lakh since

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Abul Mansur
Ahmad speech
competition
announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second Abdul Mansur Ahmad National Speech Competition has been announced by Abdul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad and Tarkaala to honour the legacy of the renowned journalist, politician and litterateur.

This year, the contest invites participants to address the theme, "Bangladesh's Culture in the Post Uprising Era," organisers said.

To participate,
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Form JS upper house based on proportional representation
Urge 60 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty eminent citizens yesterday urged political parties to reach a consensus on forming the proposed upper house of the Jatiya Sangsad through a proportional representation (PR) system.

In a statement sent to the media, they said if the upper house is constituted based on party seats in the lower house, it will not bring any qualitative changes in the state operations.

On the other hand, if upper house members are elected proportionately based on the total votes received by political parties in the lower house election, then the new upper house will be able to play a vital role in ensuring "checks and balances" and government accountability, it added.

The signatories include economists, teachers, lawyers, rights activists, engineers, physicians, entrepreneurs, organisers, researchers, and authors.

In the statement, they said the country's political parties have already reached a consensus on forming a 100-seat upper house in parliament.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

DU's 104th founding anniv today

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today marks the 104th founding anniversary of Dhaka University. To commemorate the day, the university will hold colourful processions and discussions on campus.

According to the DU Public Relations Office, teachers, students, officials, and staff will gather at Smriti Chirantan Chatter around 9:30am and join a rally led by VC Prof Md Niaz Ahmed Khan around 9:45am.

At 10:00am, the national flag, university flag, and hall flags will be hoisted, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony in front of the Teacher-Student Centre.

A discussion titled "Dhaka University in Building an Equitable and Inclusive Society" will be held at 10:30am at the TSC auditorium, where UGC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Dengue cases cross 10,000 mark this year

DGHS sending team to tackle situation in Barguna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 429 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning, a single day record for this year, as the total number of dengue cases crossed 10,000.

Currently, 1,167 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals, including 853 from outside Dhaka, according to the DGHS. The total number of deaths so far this year is 42 while the caseload rose to 10,296.

Experts have warned that immediate action is needed nationwide, particularly outside the capital, to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said the government must prioritise eliminating mosquito breeding sources instead of focusing on fogging. Bashar recommended using Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs), which remain effective for up to three months.

"These should be used along with larvicides. In places where chemicals aren't needed, people must clean and overturn water containers to stop breeding."

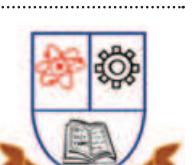
SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



As dark clouds roll in over Khulna's Batiaghata, workers at a rice mill rush to gather the Boro paddy they had laid out to dry earlier under the scorching sun. Fearing the grain might be spoiled by sudden rain, they work quickly to cover and protect the harvest. The photo was taken recently.

JnU allocates Tk 56cr as housing allowances
Okays Tk 297.82cr budget for FY 2025-26

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JnU



Jagannath University has approved a Tk 297.82 crore budget for 2025-26.

The budget was approved yesterday during the university's 102nd (special) Syndicate meeting, presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Rezaul Karim.

Of the budget, Tk 56 crore (18.80 percent) has been earmarked for supplementary scholarship category, intended primarily as housing allowances for students, Tk 128.60 crore for salaries and allowances, Tk 84.31 crore for goods and services, Tk 58.21 crore for miscellaneous grants, Tk 8.03 crore for research, Tk 4.92 crore for equipment, Tk 3 crore for transportation, Tk 1.70 crore for ICT, Tk 80 lakh for other capital expenditures, and Tk 25 lakh for primary healthcare.

"Tk 56 crore has been allocated for supplementary student grants, and Tk 24.90 crore has been kept for temporary hall construction," said the VC.

INTERNATIONAL

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 1, 2025

ASHAR 17, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

5

UN chief urges aid surge in world of 'conflicts'

AFP, Seville

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the world to "rev up the engine of development" at an aid conference in Spain yesterday at a time when US-led cuts are jeopardising the fight against poverty and climate change.

Dozens of world leaders and over 4,000 representatives from businesses, civil society and financial institutions are gathering in the city of Seville for the June 30 July 3 conference to seek fresh impetus for the aid sector.

But the US is snubbing the biggest such talks in a decade, underlining the erosion of international cooperation on combating hunger and climate change.

Guterres said that two-thirds of UN's sustainable development goals set for 2030 were "lagging" and over \$4.0 trillion of annual investment would be needed to achieve them.

58 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza

Four schools sheltering displaced Palestinians bombed

AGENCIES

Israeli strikes killed at least 58 people across Gaza yesterday as residents in the enclave's north reported one of the heaviest bombardments in weeks, while Israeli officials were due in Washington for a new ceasefire push by the Trump administration.

A day after US President Donald Trump urged an end to the 20-month-old war, a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran, and possible wider regional diplomatic deals.

But on the ground in the Palestinian enclave, there was no sign of fighting letting up. The Israeli military yesterday issued evacuation orders to residents in large districts in the northern Gaza Strip, forcing a new wave of displacement, reports Reuters.

"Explosions never stopped; they bombed schools and homes. It felt like earthquakes," said Salah, 60, a father of five children, from Gaza City. "In the news we hear a ceasefire is near, on the ground we see death and we hear explosions."



Migrants attempt to board a smuggler's boat in an effort to cross the English Channel off the beach of Equihen, northern France, yesterday. Almost 37,000 people crossed the Channel in small boats in 2024 but the highest figures were for 2022, when 45,755 people arrived.

PHOTO: AFP

US not offering Iran 'anything': Trump

Tehran says US must rule out more strikes before new talks

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he was not speaking to Iran and was not offering the country "anything", and he reiterated his assertion that the United States had "totally OBLITERATED" Tehran's nuclear facilities.

Trump's comments, posted to Truth Social, followed reports that his administration had discussed possibly helping Iran access as much as \$30bn to build a civilian energy-producing nuclear programme.

The statement comes as Iran's deputy foreign minister told the BBC that talks between Washington and Tehran cannot resume unless the US rules out further strikes on Iran.

Majid Takht Ravanchi told the British broadcaster that the US had signalled it wants to return to the negotiating table, a week after it struck three Iranian nuclear facilities.

- Iran slams Trump's shifting stance on lifting sanctions
- France, Germany, UK condemn 'threats' against IAEA head
- Iran's nuke enrichment 'will never stop', says its UN envoy
- Over 900 killed in Iran during 12-day war: report

"We have not agreed to any date, we have not agreed to the modality," said Takht Ravanchi. "Right now we are seeking an answer to this question. Are we going to see a repetition of an act of aggression while we are engaging in dialogue?"

The US needs to be "quite clear on this very important question", he said.

Iran also criticised Trump's shifting stance on whether to lift economic sanctions against Tehran as "games" that were not aimed at solving the problems between the two countries.

"These [statements by Trump] should be viewed more in the context of psychological and media games than as a serious expression in favour of dialogue or problem solving," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei told a press conference yesterday.

Baghaei also said Iran could not be expected to guarantee the safety of IAEA inspectors. "How can they expect us to ensure the safety and security of the agency's inspectors when Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities were attacked a few days ago?" he said.

Fifth death anniv of Latifur Rahman today

FROM PAGE 12

Poignantly, his passing coincided with the death anniversary of his beloved grandson, Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain. Faraaz, a student at Emory University in Atlanta, US, was brutally killed during the terrorist attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan on July 1, 2016 -- an attack that deeply shook the nation.

Latifur was also a pioneering figure in Bangladesh's media landscape. He was the founding director of Mediaworld, the company that owns The Daily Star, and the chairman of Mediastar, the owning company of Prothom Alo. The newspapers are the leading English and Bangla dailies in Bangladesh.

A respected name in the global business community, Latifur built one of the largest and most admired business empires in the country through sheer hard work, perseverance, entrepreneurial skills, and unwavering principles.

Born in Jalgajuri on August 28, 1945, he began his education at St Francis School and then went to St Edmund's School, Shillong, in 1956. He also studied at St Xavier's College in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

After coming to Dhaka, he started as a trainee at his family-owned jute mill -- W Rahman Jute Mills in Chandpur -- in 1966. The jute mill was the first to be owned by a Bangalee in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

He became an executive and worked there until 1971. But the government nationalised industries in 1972 and Latifur found himself in a very difficult situation. The family also owned some tea estates in northeastern Bangladesh, but after independence the price of produce

was less than production cost.

Yet he did not give up hope. The same year, Latifur came across a Swiss company and started a trading business. There was no looking back after that.

In 1981, he established the Transcom Group. It is now one of the country's largest conglomerates, with operations in the areas of manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, electronics, beverages, media, food, and insurance.

Latifur was a member of executive board of ICC-Paris, VP of ICC-Bangladesh and member of BRAC's governing body. He was a member of the Bangladesh Better Business Forum and Advisory Committee on World Trade Organisation.

He was also the president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, for seven terms and of Bangladesh Employers' Federation.

Latifur was also the chairman of the Bangladesh government's Trade Body Reforms Committee and a member of Bangladesh Bank's executive board.

The business icon was an honouree of "Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012" and was awarded Business Executive of the Year 2001 by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh. He was also honoured with the "Saarc Outstanding Leader" award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Latifur got married to Shahnaz Rahman, who is the current chairperson of Transcom Group. They have three daughters -- Simeen Rahman, CEO of Transcom Group, Shahzehn Huq, (late) Shahzene Rahman, and a son (late) Arshad Walur Rahman.

Faraaz's message of embracing humanity

FROM PAGE 12

his friends? Would he have got married and begun one of the most significant stages of his life?

All these questions, no doubt, agonise his loved ones as they grapple with the reality that those will never be answered.

But there was a lot more to Faraaz than just the predictable aspirations of a young person. He wanted to bring change to the world and work for people, especially those who were vulnerable and disempowered. In his brief life of 20 years, he truly lived up to the attributes surrounding his name -- "someone full of love" and one who "creates balance and harmony for anyone lucky enough to be called his friend", according to a website. In Persian Faraaz means "exalted" and "elevating". Could his parents even imagine how much his name would reflect his legacy or determine his destiny?

Throughout his precious life, Faraaz was known for going out of his way to help a friend. He was a natural leader among his peers and popular for his inherent kindness to others. He lived a life of privilege but was full of humility. A class valedictorian from high school, he was an all-rounder, excelling in athletics and volleyball while being a straight A student.

Even at Emory University, Atlanta, where he studied, he was an ace student. His brother Zafar Ayaat Hossain was his best friend.

He wanted to be like his Nana Bhai, Latifur Rahman, the founder and chairman of Transcom Group, who left the world, by strange coincidence, also on July 1, four years later, heartbroken to have lost his beloved grandson, Chotoo. His grandmother Shahnaz Rahman (current chairman of Transcom Group) doted on him. His mother, who was his hero, told me shortly after his death that it was difficult to find a flaw in such a good-natured child.

Thus, it was no surprise to anyone who knew him that he would refuse to leave his two friends, both women, one of a different faith than his, in the face of certain death.

Faraaz was brutally murdered along with 22 other hostages in the terror attack in Holy Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016. The murderous group that descended upon innocents that day had apparently

decided to spare those who could prove they were Muslims. Among the slain foreigners were seven Japanese, nine Indians, and one Indian, all of them deeply connected to Bangladesh. But they didn't spare Faraaz, a practicing Muslim who was well-versed in the holy Quran. It was because he did not leave his two school friends Abinta Kabir and Tarishi Jain, also promising young university students with dreams to bring about change in the world. When his mother got the news that "the terrorists were letting the Bangladeshis go" her heart went cold. According to her, she knew he would not be coming back to her. Because she knew her son. He would never abandon his friends, no matter what. Faraaz had shown the world what loyalty, friendship, and integrity could look like in the face of terror. Ishrat Akhond, a young Bangladeshi woman who had reportedly defied the terrorists, was also murdered.

Faraaz, a devoted believer of Islam, who prayed and fasted and had performed Umrah many times, who celebrated cultural diversity, and believed in equality regardless of faith, race or gender and embraced humanity with open arms, just did not fit the stereotype of the violent, inflexible, backward face of Islam that dominates the mainstream Western narrative. Instead, he represented a progressive, accepting, and peaceful face of Islam. As the news of Faraaz's act of courage spread, people around the world applauded him with the loftiest tributes -- the Mother Teresa International Award (2016), recognition by the Garden of the Righteous Worldwide, and the Faraaz Courage Award 2016 to recognise exceptional acts of courage to encourage empathy and the spirit of bravery among young Bangladeshis.

We are living in a world that is gravely wounded by misogyny, bigotry and a frenzy of "othering". It is a world where empathy is disappearing fast and divisiveness rules. In this era of unbridled and well documented brutality, Faraaz's love for humanity that took precedence over everything else offers a profound message of hope, harmony and sanity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Satkhira

www.lged.gov.bd
Tel. No. 0471-63413, Fax: 0471-62818

Date: 30-06-2025

Reference No. 46.02.8700.001.99.001.23-1135

e-Tender Notice No. 56/2024-25 [OTM]

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No. & name of works	Tender closing date & time
1	1129165	KBS-RIDP/SAT/VR-100.9/24-25 Part-A Improvement of Bolampura Registered Primary School Bagmara Bazar Via Sahapara Road by BC from Ch. 00-1000m. (Road ID No. 287905189). Salvage amount: 809237.00 BDT. Part-B Improvement of Nehalpur Chara Bot-Tola - Tanapur House Road by BC from Ch. 594-1239m. (Road ID No. 287905072). Salvage amount: 591862.00 BDT. Part-C Improvement of Omorpur-Manikhar Road by BC From Ch. 2000-3160m. (Road ID No. 287904065). Salvage amount: 221325.00 BDT under Tala Upazila, District-Satkhira.	24-Jul-2025 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<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 bank's branches up to **17.00pm, Date: 23-July-2025**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer
LGED, Satkhira
E-mail: xen.satkhira@lged.gov.bd

GD-1492



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়
নির্বাচন ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.ecs.gov.bd

তারিখ:

১৬ আষাঢ় ১৪৩২

৩০ জুন ২০২৫

ই-জিপি পুন:দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয় কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) এ নির্বাচিত দরপত্রসমূহ আহ্বান করা হলো:

ক্রমিক	ই-জিপি দরপত্র আইডি	দরপত্র পক্ষতি	তারিখ ও সময় (২৪ ঘণ্টা ধরে)		
			দরপত্র প্রকাশ	দরপত্র বিত্তি শেষ	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ
১	1129233	NCT, OTM	৩০ জুন ২০২৫ সময়: ১৭:০০	১৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ সময়: ১৭:০০	১৪ জুলাই ২০২৫ সময়: ১৮:০০

বিস্তারিত জানতে আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণ www.eprocure.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে ভিজিট করুন। শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে

নির্বাচিত দরদাতাগণ এ দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন এবং অফলাইনে অথবা হার্ড কপিতে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

(রাষ্ট্রসূল ইসলাম)

উপ সচিব (নি. প-১)

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

Cumilla rape case exposes deeper failures

A justice system that responds only to outrage is no justice at all

We are shocked and outraged by the heinous treatment of a woman in Muradnagar, Cumilla. The woman—in her twenties and a mother of two—was not only subjected to rape but was further victimised when she was beaten, had her clothes torn off, and filmed by some local men. These individuals, at least four of whom have been subsequently identified and apprehended, uploaded the video online, sparking widespread outrage on social media. To some extent, it is this outrage that may have accelerated the authorities' response in apprehending the rapist, who reportedly had a history of stalking the victim. If visibility or outcry is the deciding factor here, one cannot help but wonder how many incidents of rape and torture go unnoticed and unresolved, with victims ultimately receiving no justice as public attention shifts elsewhere.

In the Muradnagar case, alongside the public outcry, we have also witnessed a most distasteful barrage of mudslinging and slander against the victim—another, sadly familiar, response. Such vilification often silences victims across the country while the perpetrators, who really should be the ones feeling the heat, walk away scot-free. We have also seen various political factions attempt to weaponise the suffering of the woman, who belongs to a minority community, for their own petty gains. Their lack of empathy or even concern for the victim of an egregious crime, trying instead to find justifications for it, is shocking. Trying to find out the details of a crime is one thing, but having no regard for a victim and her right to justice, or worse, trying to justify the crime itself, is another. This was evident in the revealing of the Muradnagar woman's identity and the treatment she was subjected to afterwards. It sheds a troubling light on certain sections of our society, especially their attitude towards women.

We welcome the statements issued by the government, condemning the crimes committed against her and promising swift justice. The High Court's directives for the government to ensure her safety, to remove all videos, audios, and photos related to the incident from digital platforms, and for the relevant authorities to submit a compliance report within 15 days must be enforced strictly. Moreover, the court rightly issued a rule asking relevant departments why their failure to prevent the disclosure of the victim's identity, video, and audio on social media should not be declared illegal.

However, what we must also ask is, why does there have to be an outcry every time before such necessary actions are taken? Why can't victims receive the justice they deserve without being dragged through the mud, their privacy destroyed, and their character questioned in the court of public opinion? Is this how a proper, humane justice system should function? We demand that the Muradnagar victim be provided with the justice, protection, and respect that society and the justice system owed her all along, but have so far failed to deliver.

Logistics sector needs an overhaul

Its high costs are hindering progress

At a time when Bangladesh is preparing for graduation from the group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) and working towards ensuring sustainable economic growth, high logistics costs are hindering its progress. According to the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), logistics costs in Bangladesh remain excessively high, estimated at 15 to 20 percent of GDP, far above the global average of 8 to 10 percent. The sector has also been grappling with various challenges including high transport costs, poor infrastructure, and policy gaps, which could jeopardise the country's export ambitions and overall development. Securing long-term financing for logistics infrastructure development has also been a major challenge. Bangladesh, therefore, must improve the performance of this sector to sustain growth and remain competitive in the post-LDC era.

Bangladesh's economic growth is facing significant challenges due to its dependence on the ready-made garment industry and narrow range of export destinations. To safeguard the economy, it is crucial to broaden the variety of export goods and tap into new international markets. Competing globally will also require stronger trade partnerships and more efficient logistics systems. Notably, a 25 percent reduction in logistical expenses could increase exports by 20 percent, as experts say, while even a modest one percent cut in transport costs might lead to a 7.4 percent rise in export levels. Experts have proposed some key reforms—such as digital platforms to connect shippers and transporters, warehouse automation, seamless multimodal transport networks, modernised ports, digital customs solutions, and greener logistical practices—to improve the overall performance of the sector.

By 2030, Bangladesh's seaport capacity, including the Matarbari deep seaport, is projected to reach 10 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). To fully leverage this expanded infrastructure, the private sector must significantly ramp up import and export activities. Achieving this goal requires greater efficiency in the logistics sector as well. Last year, the country introduced its first logistics policy, aimed at reducing costs and delays by streamlining operations across production, storage, transportation, and distribution. The policy also envisioned an integrated cargo transport system connecting all major transport modes. Unfortunately, it remains unimplemented. Revisiting this policy is essential to revitalise the underperforming logistics sector.

Experts have emphasised the need for a 50-year master plan and the establishment of a dedicated logistics ministry or authority. Moreover, constructing a specialised expressway exclusively for trucks and lorries from the Chattogram port to Sitakunda could bring positive outcomes in the transportation of import and export goods. Additionally, securing long-term financing is essential to support the sustainable development of the logistics infrastructure.

EDITORIAL

How long will victims of torture wait for justice?



Barrister Priya Ahsan Chowdhury is advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, associate at Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates, and consultant at Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

PRIYA AHSAN CHOWDHURY

On June 26, the world observed the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, signifying the devastating impacts of torture and the need for justice and accountability for victims. As Bangladesh is on board with transitional justice, this day holds particular significance for all of us in the country to reflect on how to finally take action regarding the many allegations of custodial torture, abuse, and deaths by law enforcement agencies over the decades.

Bangladesh is party to the core international human rights instruments which expressly prohibit torture and degrading treatment, including the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). As such, Bangladesh has committed to uphold the rights of detainees and protect individuals from suffering torture or any form of cruel, degrading or humiliating treatment. However, the reality on the ground is that justice for victims remains elusive, and perpetrators are rarely held accountable for their actions.

A poignant example of such custodial abuse is the case of Md Limon Hossain. In March 2011, when Limon was a 16-year-old school student, his life was permanently changed. Limon was shot by an officer of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) while returning home after grazing a cow in a field near his home, having apparently been mistaken for a "criminal." The shooting and its aftermath, including the loss of his left leg, was a gross violation of his rights.

After the shooting, Limon was unlawfully detained. No information was given to his family about his whereabouts for over two days, until his mother located him in a town in another district. Shockingly, he had been falsely implicated in two criminal cases (these were—but only after several years—finally withdrawn by the prosecution). Three separate probe committees were established (under the home ministry, Rab Headquarters, and the local Rab unit in Jhalakathi). The High Court also asked the home ministry, inspector general of police, Rab director general, and commander-in-chief of Rab-8 in Barishal to explain why they should not be ordered to investigate Limon's shooting and to hold the responsible persons accountable. None of these reports have been made publicly

available to date.

In contrast to Limon's case and those of others that remain under investigation, there is one example of some progress in seeking justice for torture victims. Ishitaque Hossain Jonny and his brother, Imtiaz Hossain Rocky, were both subjected to brutal torture by police in Dhaka in February 2014 after being arrested from a wedding ceremony in Pallabi, where they were trying to stop harassment of a young woman. Jonny died following the severe torture he suffered in police custody. When police refused to



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

register a case, Rocky initiated legal action directly before a court under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

In 2020, the court gave a milestone judgment, and the first convictions under the custodial torture law. Three police officers were sentenced to life imprisonment, while two police informants received seven years each for their role in Jonny's death. The court also ordered the officers to pay compensation to Jonny's family. However, Rocky has to date not received even one taka in compensation as appeals filed by the convicted officers are still pending hearing in the High Court.

Legal safeguards and limitations

Bangladesh's constitution guarantees fundamental rights which expressly prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment, although this will not affect any punishment under the existing laws; death penalty remains the maximum sentence provided by various laws. It further guarantees equality before the law, to be treated in accordance with

the law, protection of life and personal liberty, and safeguards against arrest and detention.

As both Limon and Jonny's cases show, our laws still fall short in addressing custodial abuse. Pre-eminent among these is the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, which was enacted to criminalise torture and custodial deaths. Other laws that criminalise acts amounting to torture include the Penal Code, 1860, Police Act, 1861, and the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court also issued landmark guidelines in 2016 for magistrates and police officers to observe certain legal safeguards regarding arrest and detention, including in police remand. Despite these laws and judgments, torture continue to occur behind the closed doors of detention facilities.

National accountability mechanisms are weak, and the implementation of safeguards remains woefully inadequate. Detainees often remain



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

uninformed of charges, are denied access to legal counsel, family or adequate medical examination, and are not promptly produced before a court.

Allegations of torture are frequently ignored, with magistrates failing to document such claims and law enforcement rarely held accountable, while a lack of adequate victim and witness protection leaves many to abandon their pursuit of justice.

Some of these limitations have been acknowledged by the Bangladesh government. For example, when the country ratified UNCAT, it did so subject to a declaration limiting the application of Article 14 (1), which mandates compensation, redress, and rehabilitation for torture victims, to what is provided under national laws. This means compensation is restricted to the amounts set under the 2013 act: Tk 2 lakh for deaths in custody, and Tk 25,000 for injuries from custodial torture. Under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, compensation amounts may be Tk 50,000 or more for rape in custody. While victims can seek a higher amount in compensation by proving a

violation of their constitutional rights, Bangladesh's declaration means it is not bound to provide more under international law.

Similarly, Bangladesh's reservation to Article 14(3)(d) of the ICCPR, which guarantees the right to legal assistance and accused's presence during trial, allows trials in absentia, limiting the full application of international fair trial protections. While the constitution guarantees the right to legal representation during detention, this reservation effectively narrows the scope of Bangladesh's international obligations.

The Istanbul Protocol, an international guideline for investigating and documenting torture and conducting medical assessments of victims is not yet widely recognised or implemented in Bangladesh.

In 2019, the UN Committee Against Torture reviewed Bangladesh's compliance with its treaty obligations (to prevent and provide protection against torture), and raised several concerns: widespread torture, inadequate investigations, unacknowledged detentions, and extrajudicial actions by Rab. The committee recommended that Bangladesh strengthen its legal framework and improve the monitoring of detention facilities. To date, the country has not submitted a follow-up report to the committee as required.

Given the aforementioned gaps in the national legal framework, there are two significant steps the government can take.

First, Bangladesh can accept three key provisions of UNCAT (Articles 20, 21, and 22). If these become applicable to Bangladesh, they would allow for international inquiries into systemic torture, facilitate inter-state complaints, and enable individuals to make communications directly to the relevant UN body.

Second, Bangladesh can ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which requires establishing a national prevent mechanism for independent inspections of detention facilities.

It has been over 5,000 days since Limon was shot by a Rab officer, losing a limb for life, and over 4,000 days since Jonny died from police custodial torture. Yet, both continue to wait for justice. These cases symbolise the broader failure of Bangladesh's justice system to protect victims of custodial torture. Despite international commitments and national laws, law enforcement continues to operate with impunity, leaving victims and their families without real accountability or meaningful redress. In pursuit of transitional justice, Bangladesh must confront the gap between its obligations and actions reflecting on stakeholder recommendations, adopting all key international treaties without reservations, ensuring that no one has to suffer in silence, waiting for justice indefinitely.

What should be the legal approach to cross-border digital crimes?



Tanvir Hassan Zoha is a cybercrime specialist, legal practitioner at the International Crimes Tribunal, and managing director at Backdoor Private Ltd.

TANVIR HASSAN ZOHA

The digital space in Bangladesh has evolved from a symbol of progress into an unregulated arena increasingly exploited for transnational criminal activity. While the government's push towards digitalisation—across governance, commerce, and infrastructure—is commendable, its rapid implementation, lacking adequate policy oversight, is inadvertently facilitating a darker reality: cross-border cybercrime, digital trafficking of classified materials, child sexual abuse content, and narcotics trading via the dark web.

What is more alarming is the systemic incapacity of our legal and judicial framework to effectively prosecute such offences—particularly when they transcend geographical borders and are concealed behind layers of anonymising technologies such as VPNs, onion routing, and cloud masking. This gap between the legal borders of the state and the borderless

nature of the internet has become a national security concern that warrants immediate judicial and legislative introspection.

The cross-border judicial dilemma

The judiciary in Bangladesh operates under a sovereignty-dependent framework. It has jurisdiction within national boundaries but limited authority once the trail of evidence or perpetrators extends beyond borders. This limitation is further compounded in cases of digital crime, which rarely begin and end within a single jurisdiction. A child sexual abuse video—circulated from a server in Eastern Europe, consumed in Dhaka, and paid for via cryptocurrency through a VPN-obscured wallet—could involve five jurisdictions and still evade prosecution due to legal ambiguity.

International instruments such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, although ratified by many countries, remain outside Bangladesh's

legal framework. The country has yet to sign or domesticate this treaty, leaving it without a cooperative mechanism for mutual legal assistance, joint investigation teams, or timely data exchange with other nations. Consequently, even when Bangladeshi law enforcement identifies an offender using foreign hosting or anonymisation services, the digital forensic trail is often obstructed by procedural red tape and diplomatic inertia.

The emerging crime patron:

Anonymous, scalable, and monetised

Today's digital offender is no longer a lone hacker in isolation. Rather, he is a node within a global "crime-as-a-service" ecosystem. Tools for DDoS attacks, zero-day exploits, ransomware kits, and access to stolen databases are now openly traded in underground forums on the dark web. VPNs, bulletproof hosting, and anonymising browsers render apprehension nearly impossible without sophisticated, internationally coordinated forensic strategies.

In Bangladesh, content related to child sexual abuse material, dark web drug transactions, and leaks of classified national security documents has been identified through open-source intelligence (OSINT) channels. Yet such cases are seldom prosecuted to their logical conclusion, due to a combination of jurisdictional deadlocks, the absence

of legal frameworks for digital evidence admissibility, and insufficient technical expertise within the judiciary.

What must be done

The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime must be ratified and localised. We need to create a national digital justice task force, introduce legislation on digital evidence and admissibility, formulate a forensic data localisation policy. Additionally, we must develop a judicial training academy on digital crimes, establish bilateral cybercrime memoranda of understanding (MoU) with key countries, and strengthen public-private surveillance collaborations.

The scale, sophistication, and international reach of digital crime in Bangladesh is no longer a distant threat; it is a pressing emergency. Our judicial and legislative systems can no longer afford to remain reactive when adversaries operate through real-time encryption, anonymised currencies, and zero-trace infrastructures. Without immediate policy action, our sovereignty in cyberspace risks becoming purely symbolic.

Bangladesh now stands at a digital crossroads. The decision to build a cyber-resilient judiciary, with international reach and forensic agility, must be taken urgently. Otherwise, the next crime will go unpunished, and the next victim unheard.

A roadmap to restore banking sector stability



Sadiq Ahmed
is the vice chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh. He can be reached at sadiqahmed1952@gmail.com.

SADIQ AHMED

I have been writing about the danger of non-performing loans (NPLs) and the related threat to the stability of the banking sector since 2012. Some 13 years later, the problem has escalated astronomically with little signs of reversal. The problem was somewhat muted between FY2012 and FY2020, but has gotten out of hand since then. The total value of NPL surged from a low of Tk 22,700 crore in FY2012 to a peak of Tk 4,20,300 crore in FY2025. In terms of share of the total loan portfolio, gross NPLs surged from six percent in FY2011 to 24 percent in FY2025.

The underlying factors for this rapid deterioration in the quality of the banking portfolio are well-known. Poor banking sector governance such as corruption in bank management, poor lending and loan recovery practices, especially in public banks, large scale thefts often aided by political intervention, ineffective banking sector supervision, and dual banking oversight arrangement under which the public banks are managed by the government while private banks are supervised by the Bangladesh Bank (BB), are such factors.

With the induction of the interim government, it was expected that there would be a sea change in the management, regulation and supervision of the banking sector that would usher in visible positive outcomes.

Indeed, starting in mid-August of 2024, some swift actions were taken by the BB to restore the financial health of the 14 weakest-performing private banks. These included board and management changes, injection of new liquidity, and tighter supervision. To improve transparency, asset classification norms were modified to comply with Basel III norms. Banks were instructed to pursue vigorously the

recovery of NPLs. A Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, which allows BB to take swift actions against any financial institution to protect the stability of the sector, was adopted in May 2025. Several task forces were established to comprehensively address the ills. These include a task force to strengthen the independence of the Bangladesh Bank, another to develop specific resolution strategies for handling the problematic banks, and another to pursue asset recovery options at both home and abroad.

Many of the banking problems and solutions are long term in nature. Yet, some visible signs of progress have emerged. Most prominently, the bleeding of the banks through outright theft has stopped. The liquidity situation of several problematic banks has improved, enabling them to service the deposits of their customers, thereby preventing a threat to the rundown on deposits. Lending decisions are now more professionally managed. The supervision oversight of BB has been strengthened. The progress with asset recovery, however, has been very limited.

What then explains the near doubling of NPLs between FY2024 and FY2025? BB argues that this reflects the application of internationally accepted asset classification norms. Previously, the true value of NPL was hidden through manipulation of the accounting norms, and now we have a correct picture of the problem at hand.

While there is no doubt that the true picture of NPL was hidden previously through accounting gimmicks, it is nevertheless important to do a holistic diagnosis of the NPL problem and changes over the past 10 months. The economy has been going downhill, with GDP growth sliding to four percent or less in FY2025. Businesses have been complaining

regularly about cost escalation and weak profitability, especially in the manufacturing sector. It is hard to imagine that these factors had no impact on the banking portfolio, and the near doubling of NPL is all explained by a change in accounting norms.

A comprehensive resolution of the NPL problem will require two

climate, including establishing the rule of law, improvements in trade logistics and energy supply, acceleration of ITC adoption, and investment in critical skills are recommended. The government must understand that not all banking problems are necessarily due to theft and corruption. A significant part may be related to the downturn in

amount of new financing required to restore the banks that are rescueable and can be put back in the market on a profitable basis. Once this amount is known, a financing strategy needs to be developed. This, arguably, will pose the biggest challenge to the banking reforms.

The financing can be a combination of additional financing

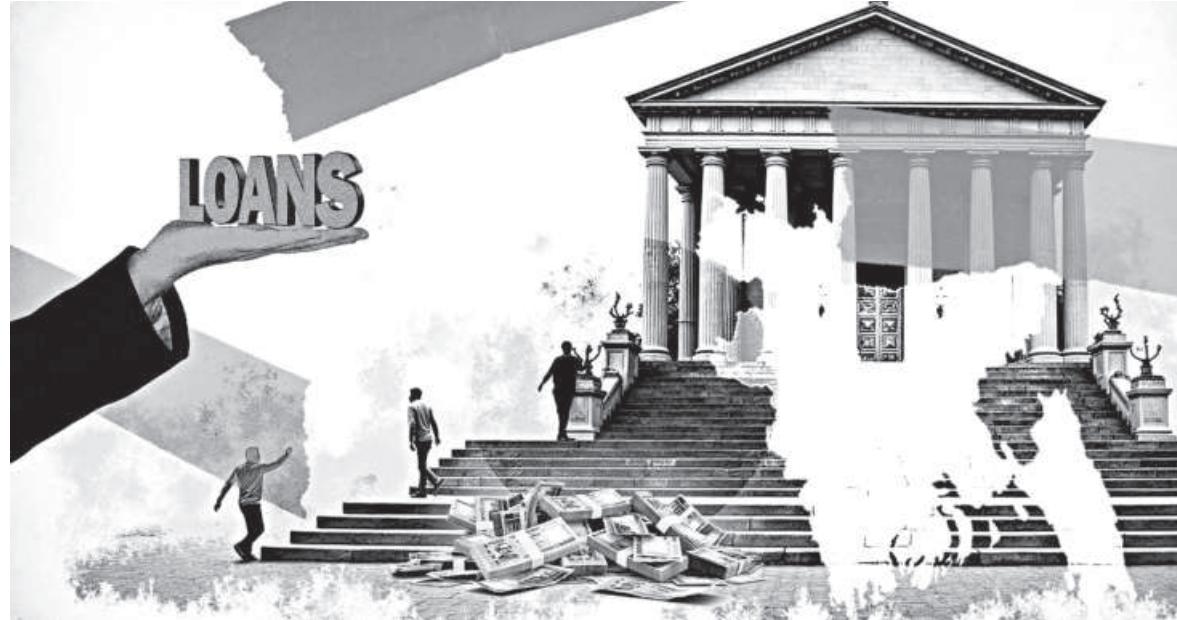
done. This requires comprehensive banking reforms including sharp improvements in bank management, quality staffing and IT systems, strengthening financial accounting and auditing standards to international norms, strong internal mechanisms for loan supervision and recovery, strong internal controls and risk assessment, and sound outcome-based BB supervision.

Some banks are simply non-viable and suffer from inherent governance problems. These typically belong to the public sector. Even though the lending share of public banks has fallen to 25 percent of total loans, these banks present a huge fiscal risk.

Policy options include: privatisation of all except the Sonali Bank that will only pursue treasury functions; full corporatisation and stock market divestment with management control to private shareholders; and converting the four large public banks into narrow banks that allow deposit holding and investment in treasury bills but excludes lending, while closing down the two small banks—Basic Bank and the Bangladesh Development Bank.

Some private problem banks are also candidates for closure unless owners are willing to invest new capital to restore financial solvency and readiness to face the market with full compliance with Basel-III prudential norms.

Finally, there is an urgent need to strengthen the banking crisis prevention mechanisms. The most important policy reform is the need to sharply enhance the deposit insurance scheme. The US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is a good example of how a strong deposit insurance scheme can prevent a large-scale banking crisis. A second built-in mechanism is to increase the share of equity by increasing the tier-1 capital requirements beyond Basel-III minimum standards to provide an incentive to bank owners against undue risks. A third reform is the strict implementation of Basel-III supervision norms for all banks with no exceptions. A fourth crisis prevention action would be to establish a system of bank-risk ratings based on independent credit agencies. This information should be publicly available.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

types of interventions: policies that address the flow of new NPLs, and policies that address the outstanding stock based on the adoption of Basel III loan classification norms for all banks, including public banks.

Regarding new NPL flows, first and foremost, the actions already taken by BB to stop the bleeding in the problem private banks must be extended to public banks as well. The system of dual banking supervision, where public banks are supervised by the Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance, must be stopped. All banks, public or private, must be regulated and supervised by the BB with full application of Basel-III norms.

Secondly, to the extent that the surge in NPL reflects the underlying economic downturn, swift policy actions are needed to reverse these trends. With the implementation of comprehensive reforms in fiscal policy, trade policy, investment

the economy and has to be addressed accordingly.

Regarding the stock of NPL, the steps taken by BB are in the right direction, but they have to be substantially strengthened, and implementation must be stepped up. The necessary comprehensive approaches are: restoring the financial solvency of the distressed banks; ensuring the profitability of the rescued banks; closing the inherently unprofitable banks down; and strengthening built-in mechanisms for preventing future banking crises.

Restoring the financial solvency of distressed banks is relatively easy when the number of problem banks is limited, recovery prospects for outstanding loans are good, and there is adequate fiscal space. On all three counts, Bangladesh seems to be in a very difficult situation. BB will need to do a full workout of the

from the treasury, additional funding from BB, new financing from current owners, and money raised from the capital market by new shareholders. Given the dire fiscal situation and the inflationary risk from BB financing, much of it will have to come from current and future owners. The government may also seek financial support from multilateral development financing institutions like the World Bank. Where public financing is involved, new capital must be injected only into potentially viable banks that can be restored with adequate operational reforms to earn profits from future operations.

Furthermore, steps have to be taken to ensure that the treasury/BB has first claim on profits of the restructured banks to fully recover injected funds. International experience shows that ensuring the profitability of rescued banks is easier said than

Greater synergy between media and civil society a must for energy transition

Kuntal Roy
is a climate and energy communications specialist.

KUNTAL ROY

The global transition to clean energy is widely recognised as an unstoppable phenomenon, with the critical question being how soon it will occur. For Bangladesh, navigating the energy transition involves more than simply overcoming technological or financial challenges. It also requires addressing social issues, such as health and economic inequalities, and pursuing justice for future generations. A sustainable energy transition demands a greater collective effort from all corners of society, and stronger collaboration between the media and civil society organisations (CSOs) is a key aspect.

In Bangladesh, civil society has demonstrated a renewed commitment to promoting clean energy since early 2020. Many local think tanks, campaigners, and academics have begun to explore the nation's journey towards clean energy, producing a remarkable amount of data and evidence that was previously unavailable, thereby increasing media discussions. Over the last three years, the number of thorough and analytical media reports on the clean energy transition has increased, according to MRDI, a leading media development organisation in the country. This increase suggests a more mature stage of reporting; however, event-driven reporting remains the most common approach. MRDI's media monitoring has identified key areas where media performance needs improvement, including the allocation of resources to data-driven investigative journalism that

engages the public.

Nonetheless, both the media and civil society have played an important role in shaping the national narrative around energy security. They have challenged the previous government's misleading concept of energy security—focused narrowly on high power generation capacity—by introducing a broader perspective that emphasises affordability, reliability, and sustainability. Through extensive reporting, the media have exposed details of controversial undertakings such as capacity

the media or organising events such as press conferences. Rather than relying solely on press releases, CSOs could proactively pitch story ideas to journalists and offer support through expert analyses, data interpretation, and contextualisation. However, many CSOs struggle with slow response times and rarely produce timely, focused content beyond expert commentary. To better meet media needs, CSOs should strengthen their capacity to respond quickly to breaking news with relevant data, fact sheets, or concise analyses.

For CSOs, building credibility by being transparent about funding and operations, and ensuring visible accountability mechanisms, is key for their data and evidence to earn the trust of the media and the public. While challenges such as a lack of political will, bureaucratic inertia, and corporate or foreign influence persist, deeper collaboration between the media and civil society could create an enabling environment to mitigate these challenges.

payments, as well as the associated financial burdens and corruption. In-depth reporting, expert analyses (often sourced from CSOs), and data-driven narratives have helped debunk myths about renewable energy, increased public awareness, influenced policy debates, and advocated for greater transparency. Local expert voices contributing to this discourse now include economists, scientists, technical specialists, financial analysts, and human rights activists—extending far beyond traditional energy-sector professionals.

Despite these contributions and collaborations, the current relationship between the media and CSOs still has some notable gaps. Engagement is primarily limited to CSOs sharing branded communication materials with

Traditional engagements, such as training sessions or roundtables, are valuable, but they may have a limited scope. Roundtables may sometimes overlook critical journalistic aspects or fail to represent diverse perspectives effectively. We don't usually see a lot of investigative reporting about the fossil fuel lobbies and major energy market players. However, investigations into serious government irregularities or collusive contracting are examples of the tremendous journalistic capacity we have. The prevalence of event-based, straightforward reporting continues across the media, often failing to explore underlying issues. The media should, therefore, strive to turn event-based reports into more critical and analytical stories, and CSOs should capitalise on such moments to provide timely and

relevant materials. Both the media and CSOs need to consistently frame the energy transition as a public interest issue, focusing on its broad societal implications.

To advance beyond these limitations and effectively promote the sustainable energy transition, a deeper, more collaborative relationship is required, shifting from a transactional approach to a genuine partnership. Undertaking joint investigations and data storytelling could be potential avenues for collaboration. Combining the in-depth knowledge

and connections of CSOs with journalists' investigative skills can reveal unknown information, such as potential corruption in the power and energy sector or the influence of fossil fuel lobbies. In addition, exploring the establishment of a CSO media collaborative data repository for the energy transition could enhance data storytelling.

For CSOs, building credibility by being transparent about funding and operations, and ensuring visible accountability mechanisms, is key for their data and evidence to earn

the trust of the media and the public. While challenges such as a lack of political will, bureaucratic inertia, and corporate or foreign influence persist, deeper collaboration between the media and civil society could create an enabling environment to mitigate these challenges. Moving beyond conventional interactions towards genuine partnerships in investigation, data sharing and narrative building provides a powerful pathway to create the necessary public discourse and pressure to accelerate Bangladesh's sustainable energy transition.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়

সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট

ফোনঃ ০২৯৯-৬৬৩২৪৭৮

E-mail: esyl@rhd.gov.bd/erhdsylhet@mail.com

তারিখঃ ৩০/০৬/২০২৫

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকায়িত লাইসেন্স নথায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগ কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রক্রিয়ামেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর আওতারে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিকারের পরিবেশ (যাজক) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) অভ্যন্তরীণ কার্য (NCT-Work) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের জন্য সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকায়িত পদ্ধতির কার্য আবেদন করতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সর্বাধিক ৩০/০৬/২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে অবশ্য অন্যান্য কার্যে অবস্থান করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদন কর্ম সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদন কর্ম সঠিকভাবে পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ৩১/০৭/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অবস্থান করার জন্য অদ্যুক্ত প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে প্রযোজন করার জন্য আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	ঠিকাদার পরিমাণ	জমাদারের সময়
০১	বিনা জরিমানায়	২০০০ + ১৫% ভাটি	জুলাই/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত
০২	৫০% জরিমানায়	৩০০০ + ১৫% ভাটি	আগস্ট/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত
০৩	১০০% জরিমানায়	৪০০০ + ১৫% ভাটি	সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত

অধিকারী

পরিচিতি নং-৬০২০২৫

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট

Chanchal Chowdhury returns to Tollywood with 'Tridhara'

Chanchal Chowdhury is set to appear in Amitabh Bhattacharya's upcoming film *Tridhara*, marking his first on screen collaboration with Rituparna Sengupta.

Veteran actor Kaushik Ganguly will also join cast. The narrative unfolds as a love from 25 years ago suddenly resurfaces, disrupting their present and forcing the characters to confront their past and navigate unexpected emotional turmoil.

While Chanchal and Rituparna confirmed initial discussions, both noted that plans are not yet finalised. This project signals renewed cross border collaboration following recent political tensions.

During Eid-ul-Azha, Chanchal earned acclaim for his roles in *Utsob* and *Insaaif*, with his limited screen time leaving a strong impact. His active theatre promotions signal a powerful post protest comeback.



Jagorony Theatre to premiere 'KADAMATI'



Jagorony Theatre will premiere its 21st production, *Kadamati*, on July 4 at the Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mohila Samity.

Written by Aniket Pal and directed by Debasish Ghosh, the solo performance stars Smaran Saha and explores themes of displacement, identity, and longing.

The inaugural show will be attended by Professor Abdus Selim, President of IITI



Bangladesh, along with Babul Biswas and Abdul Kader Talukdar.

Director Ghosh describes the play as a reflection on uprooting—how the search for comfort often leads to isolation and loss of self.

Set and light design is by Palash Hendry Sen, with contributions from Ramiz Razu, Shahanah Jahan Siddiqua, Sajid Ahmed Rony, Shreya Saha Swarna, and Azim Uddin as production director.



Bankim's 'Devi Chaudhurani' reimagined in landmark Indo-UK film

Devi Chaudhurani, the much-awaited Indo-UK co production, is set to bring Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's legendary novel to cinemas during *Durga Puja* this year.

Directed by Subhrajit Mitra, this historical drama explores the life of the iconic bandit turned revolutionary, Devi Chaudhurani, a pivotal figure in Bengal's anti-colonial struggle during the *Sannyasi Fakir* Rebellion.

The film stars Srabanti Chatterjee as the fierce Devi Chaudhurani, with Prosenjit Chatterjee portraying her mentor Bhavani Pathak.

Their performances are supported by a talented ensemble including Bibriti Chatterjee and Darshana Banik. Bollywood's renowned action director Sham Kaushal choreographs the film's combat sequences, while the musical score is composed by Bickram Ghosh.

Brad Pitt's 'F1' delivers Apple's first box office win

Brad Pitt's racing drama *F1* has debuted with \$55.6 million domestically and \$88.4 million internationally, totaling \$144 million worldwide in its opening weekend.

The film, directed by Joseph Kosinski and co produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and Lewis Hamilton, marks Apple's first theatrical success. *F1* follows a retired Formula One driver mentoring a young racer and was praised for its realism, with Pitt driving on actual circuits.

Imax and premium formats accounted for 55% of domestic sales. Apple, which lacks a distribution arm, partnered with Warner Bros. for theatrical release.

With an "A" CinemaScore and strong audience turnout, *F1* sets a new benchmark for original Apple films in today's franchise driven box office.

Brad Pitt's racing drama *F1* has debuted with \$55.6 million domestically and \$88.4 million internationally, totaling \$144 million worldwide in its opening weekend.

The film, directed by Joseph Kosinski and co produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and Lewis Hamilton, marks Apple's first theatrical success. *F1* follows a retired Formula One driver mentoring a young racer and was praised for its realism, with Pitt driving on actual circuits.

Imax and premium formats accounted for 55% of domestic sales. Apple, which lacks a distribution arm, partnered with Warner Bros. for theatrical release.

With an "A" CinemaScore and strong audience turnout, *F1* sets a new benchmark for original Apple films in today's franchise driven box office.

ICT-2 accepts the charges

Hasina to suppress the anti-discrimination movement and was relayed through the home minister, the inspector general of police, and subsequently to field-level commanders," he told the tribunal.

Tajul also read out selected portions of the 109-page formal charge.

"The way students and the masses took to the streets during the July uprising was unparalleled in the political history of this country. The brutality inflicted upon them constitutes crimes against humanity, committed across all 56,000 square miles of the nation," he told the court.

Those accused include eight police officers, four BRU faculty members, university staff, a physician, and activists of the ruling Awami League and its affiliates.

Among the 30 people charged, four — Shariful, Amir, Sujan, and Imran Akash — are currently in jail custody.

The tribunal, led by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, issued arrest warrants for the 26 absconding accused and ordered the police chief to produce them on July 10. The court also asked jail authorities to present the four in their custody on that date.

While pressing the charges, Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam said the former VC, proctor, RMP commissioner and his deputy bear the command responsibility and used their authority to coordinate the attack that killed Abu Sayed and injured four others.

He said they jointly issued directives to their subordinates, including ASI Amir and constable Sujan, to carry out the shooting and later altered forensic reports to obscure the truth.

He said the other accused, from their respective positions, actively took part or assisted in this killing, attack, and torture. They also compelled or facilitated the alteration of the inquest and post-mortem report of Sayed.

Describing the crimes during the uprising as both widespread and systematic, Tajul told the court that the use of lethal force against protesters had been ordered from the highest level of the then government.

"The instruction came directly from Sheikh

He told the court, "These incidents are not isolated—the crimes against humanity committed during the July 2024 uprising are a continuation of this pattern of criminal conduct."

The prosecution also submitted witness statements, 13 videos, two audios, and other supporting documents to the tribunal supporting the charges brought against the accused.

In the formal charge, 46 persons have been made witnesses.

NEWS

App to help detect arsenic

FROM PAGE 12

Backed by a scientific model trained on millions of historical arsenic test results, the app delivers instant assessments, flagging wells as safe or unsafe based on observed indicators, not lab analysis.

The official launching ceremony for the iArsenic app is scheduled to be held at the DPHE auditorium from 3:00pm to 4:00pm today.

Arsenic poisoning from contaminated groundwater has remained one of Bangladesh's most persistent public health crises.

While tubewells were originally installed to prevent cholera and other waterborne diseases, many now draw water from arsenic-rich aquifers, causing slow but severe damage to health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that long-term exposure to arsenic concentrations above 10 micrograms per litre

can lead to skin lesions, cancers, developmental effects in children, and cardiovascular diseases. Yet around 20 million, often unknowingly, continue to drink water from contaminated wells.

What makes the iArsenic app so powerful is its combination of science and simplicity. The interface is available in both English and Bangla, ensuring that rural communities, those most at risk, can use it without technical barriers.

A simple green-red indicator shows the arsenic status of each well. Green means likely safe. Red means potentially unsafe.

Accessible from anywhere with an internet connection, iArsenic bridges the gap between government screening and household-level awareness. Anyone who knows a tubewell's depth, location, and staining colour can use the app to assess its risk.

"iArsenic is not a replacement for chemical testing but a public tool for

early screening," said Dr Md Hoque, lead researcher from the University of Portsmouth. "No single option will solve arsenic exposure for the 20 million people still at risk. We need coordinated action from schools, mosques, health workers, and tools like this app working together to raise awareness and support safer choices."

Developed by an international team including scientists from the University of Portsmouth, Curtin University (Australia), University of Dhaka, Imperial College London, and others, the app has been validated against field data and shows 84 percent accuracy in identifying high-risk wells.

The platform is especially valuable in areas where health services are limited. By identifying risky wells, families can take timely action such as switching to a safe well nearby, installing a safe well, or contacting

authorities for further information.

The research team has also developed a three-tier classification system to guide action, identifying nearly 18,000 Tier 1 villages and urban wards where arsenic risk is high and safe water options are limited.

"These are priority hotspots," said Dr Ashraf Dewan of Curtin University.

"We urgently need coordinated investment in these Tier 1 areas, combining digital tools like iArsenic with targeted government interventions, social mobilisation, and stronger community awareness. That's how we turn data into protection."

The official noted that it typically takes a DC about six months to become familiar with a district's social, political, cultural, and geographical dynamics.

"In addition, it takes another three months [for the authorities concerned] to evaluate whether the newly appointed DCs can perform their duties impartially."

A joint secretary at the Cabinet Division, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "If DCs are appointed well ahead of the polls, the government will have enough time to evaluate their performance. If any changes are needed, there would still be room to make adjustments six months before the election."

Sources at the Chief

authorities for further information.

Polling centres cannot be set up in establishments owned by anyone with political affiliations. Priority should be given to setting up centres in government establishments. Besides educational institutions, the centres can be in community centres, cyclone shelters, and other office buildings of government, semi-government, and autonomous organisations.

Meanwhile, the EC on June 17 wrote to four ministries and two directorates to take necessary measures and submit progress reports within a month on minor repairs at educational institutions likely to be used as polling centres.

The letter further said that these institutions should undergo minor renovations using funds from the respective ministries or divisions.

Govt indecision stalls DC transfer

FROM PAGE 12

he said, preferring anonymity.

"This election is expected to be particularly challenging, and ideally, the DCs who need to be replaced should have been transferred by June."

The official noted that it typically takes a DC about six months to become familiar with a district's social, political, cultural, and geographical dynamics.

"In addition, it takes another three months [for the authorities concerned] to evaluate whether the newly appointed DCs can perform their duties impartially."

A joint secretary at the Cabinet Division, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "If DCs are appointed well ahead of the polls, the government will have enough time to evaluate their performance. If any changes are needed, there would still be room to make adjustments six months before the election."

Sources at the Chief

Adviser's Office said a section of government officials was initially reluctant to appoint DCs from the 28th batch for the upcoming election period, preferring officers from the 25th and 27th batches to manage field administration.

There have already been at least four rounds of DC appointments from these two batches under both the previous and current governments. But after evaluations, it was found that a significant number of officers lacked competency.

As a result, the decision was made to prepare a DC fit list from among 160 officers of the 28th batch.

On June 21, 37 officers took oral tests, and the remaining candidates are expected to complete the process by July. New DC appointments are likely in August, according to officials familiar with the proceedings.

The responsibility for transfers and postings of DCs and other senior officials lies with a

four-member public administration advisory committee led by the finance adviser, though the chief adviser makes the final decision on appointments.

Sources said the committee has not been meeting frequently enough to process transfers and postings, causing delays.

According to a senior official, a list of 25 officers from the current DC fit list was submitted to the committee, but no decision has been made yet.

"The committee appears indecisive and reluctant, at least for now, to withdraw officers of the 24th BCS batch from field administration," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Public administration expert Firoz Mia said the success or failure of the government during the election period will largely depend on field administration.

"Those who will serve as DCs during the polls should be appointed eight to nine months in advance so that

their performance can be evaluated and weaknesses addressed.

"While no decision will ever be perfect, early appointments give the government time to replace any officer who proves problematic," he told this newspaper.

Contacted, Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary of the Public Administration Ministry, said, "We're exercising extra caution in selecting officers as they will be responsible for conducting election duties. That's why the process is taking longer."

The previous government left the administration in such a state that we are now struggling to find competent officers... There have been instances where, after selecting someone for an important position, background checks revealed various issues with the officer. In some cases, we even had to cancel appointments right after making them."

Worker beaten to death

FROM PAGE 12

people tried to make him stand up. But Hridoy was unable to stand up properly.

According to the case statement, when Hridoy did not return home after work, his brother and mother went to the factory on Saturday afternoon.

There, they saw the workers protesting outside the factory and learnt that Hridoy had been killed on suspicion of theft. The protesters later blocked the highway nearby.

The family later went to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital and identified Hridoy's body.

Talking to The Daily Star, some workers of the factory

said Hridoy was tortured to death by security guards after being accused of theft.

Following the incident, hundreds of outraged workers protested by blocking the highway for several hours. Law enforcement later intervened to restore order. The factory has since been shut down indefinitely.

Contacted Md Salah Uddin, officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station, said the incident came to light as the factory authorities tried to cover up the incident.

"We first got information that a thief got injured by falling while trying to intrude into the factory by leaping over the wall, and he was sent to hospital.

Later, we came to know from the hospital that the man was brought dead to the hospital.

"Later, we heard the details from locals. Then, we collected CCTV footage and other evidence. At one stage, we confirmed that it was a killing."

"We have arrested a suspect. A district court sent him to jail," he added.

Authorities at Greenland Limited could not be contacted over the phone.

Contacted, Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the matter warrants a proper investigation to unearth the truth.

11 more banks to face asset quality review

FROM PAGE 12

Hussain Khan confirmed the matter to The Daily Star, but he did not disclose the names of the banks.

Central bank officials, seeking anonymity, said the eleven banks are Islami Bank Bangladesh, Al-Arafah Islami Bank, National Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, United Commercial Bank, IFIC Bank, AB Bank, Premier Bank, NRB Commercial Bank, NRB Bank, and Meghna Bank.

The banking sector reform task force made the decision to conduct the review at a meeting yesterday at the central bank headquarters.

The World Bank will provide support for the review.

The newly formed Bank Restructuring & Resolution Unit is now working on this issue.

To ensure a proper audit, Bangladesh Bank has assigned a dedicated official as a focal point for each bank, BB officials said, adding that each audit firm will also have a designated official responsible for the task.

Central bank officials said that the issues to be included in the AQR process have been specified. These include financial policies, asset risk and valuation, internal control policies, loan classification,

Years of neglect haunt

FROM PAGE 3
FY2022-23, despite a sharp increase in reagent prices due to import costs and rising dollar rates.

Officials at the JU Medical Centre said the budget falls far short of actual needs.

"We require at least 80 lakh takas annually for medicines and dressing equipment alone, and 75 lakh takas more to sustain pathology services," Dr Shamshur Rahman, JU's chief medical officer, told The Daily Star recently.

The crisis only extends further. The medical centre currently operates with only nine doctors -- six male and three female -- to serve more than 12,500 students, as well as faculty members and staffers.

No new doctor has been recruited since 2005.

The centre currently has no specialist doctor, no medical assistant or physiotherapist. It has only six pharmacists, two aid nurses, and two male nurses working night shifts. All of them are frequently assigned to field duties, limiting their hospital presence.

Of the centre's five ambulances, one is permanently reserved for the vice-chancellor, leaving four to serve thousands of students. There are seven drivers.

Only some basic diagnostic tools -- including an ultrasound machine, an X-ray machine, and an echocardiogram machine -- are available at the medical centre.

"We urgently need at least four specialist doctors and 12 medical officers. Additionally, we require at least 10 beds, six more nurses, eight ward boys, three female assistants, three wet cleaners, two more pharmacists, two phlebotomists, two pathology writers, four more drivers, two office

assistants, one assistant storekeeper, four security guards, one gardener, two additional ambulances, and a mini-ambulance for 24-hour service," said Dr Shamshur Rahman.

"Medicine allocations must increase to provide proper treatment. Pathology services need urgent upgrades to improve diagnosis. Without more doctors, nurses, and support staff, the centre cannot meet rising demands. Infrastructure renovations are also overdue," he added.

Students demanded immediate improvements to the medical centre's services.

"We have long demanded better healthcare facilities and the renovation of the JU Medical Centre, but the authorities never listened. How many more students must suffer before action is taken?" said Rubel Hossain, a student leader.

Contacted, JU's Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Dr Sohel Ahmed said the administration would assess the need for recruitments in different posts and take necessary steps accordingly.

He, however, opined that the medical centre's officials have failed to provide adequate services even with the resources and budget currently available to them.

"We will form a committee to review the quality of medicines, diagnostic procedures, and treatments provided to students over the years," he said.

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 1
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Police suspect foul play

FROM PAGE 3
been received from customers of the restaurant that supplied the food to the three.

Police are questioning a distant uncle of Monir, who is the caretaker of the victims' house in Keraniganj, as he was the one who had brought the food from a nearby restaurant.

The victims -- Monir Hossain, 48, a Saudi expat; his wife Nasrin Akter Swapna, 38, and their son Nasim Hossain, 18, who had physical disabilities -- had travelled to Dhaka from Ramganj in Laxmipur on Saturday for the boy's medical treatment.

The couple had two more younger children, who stayed back home in Laxmipur with other family members, said police. Failing to consult a doctor, they checked into a hotel in Moghbazar later that day and were found dead the following day.

According to police, the family members became ill at the hotel, hours after having dinner brought in from a nearby restaurant.

They were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

Talking to The Daily Star, Anwarul Islam, assistant manager of the hotel, said the uncle was with the three victims when they checked in and he brought food to them around 5:00pm.

A hotel staff member went to the victims' room around 10:00pm for room service and found them well.

The next morning, the uncle arrived at the hotel and took the victims, one after the other, to a nearby hospital as they fell ill.

Contacted, MA Hannan, manager of the restaurant from where the food was brought in, said the meal in question was cooked at 4:00pm on Saturday. The

victims' caretaker collected the food about an hour later.

"About 100 people ate from that same lot until 10:00pm. If the food had been poisonous, others would have fallen sick. But no one else reported any issues," he said.

He said police visited the restaurant around 4:00pm on Sunday and conducted an inspection.

"They took three staff members in for questioning, but released them around 10:00pm," he added.

The DC said, "We are talking to the uncle to know what happened. We collected CCTV camera footages from the hotel and restaurant and are analysing it. Many aspects of the incident appear suspicious to us, and we are actively investigating them."

According to DC Masud Alam, Monir, who arrived in Bangladesh before Eid-ul-Azha, had assets in Bangladesh including two houses in Keraniganj and some long route buses on the Dhaka-Cox's Bazar route.

"We are also investigating whether there was any enmity over his property," the DC said.

Zakir Hossain, a cousin of Monir, said, "We want justice."

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 4

"It is an absolute honour to lead the new UK DRI Parkinson's Research Centre in partnership with Parkinson's UK," Muqit said.

He said his vision was to build a centre fully integrated with people with Parkinson's, which will become a leading centre for discovery science and translation that will deliver new ideas for better diagnosing and treating Parkinson's in the future.

Form JS upper house based

FROM PAGE 3

However, there are still differences among the parties over how the upper house will be constituted, they said.

The vote-wise PR method would also give smaller political parties, which may not win a seat in the lower house despite receiving sizeable votes across the country, an opportunity to have representation in the upper house, they added.

This way, the opposition bench can play an effective role against any anti-people or undemocratic moves by the treasury bench in parliament, the statement said.

At the same time, the eminent citizens stated that the powers of the upper house should be limited to avoid hampering the day-to-day activities of the executive branch.

Specifically, the PR upper house should not have veto power over any bill except those related to constitutional amendments and declarations of war.

They noted that democracy in the country has repeatedly suffered due to a political culture of "winner-takes-all", in which the ruling party rarely considers opposition views, while the opposition often responds with destructive protests that jeopardise national security.

The signatories include Irene Khan, Shahidul Alam, Asif Mohammad Shaham, Manzur Al Matin, Fahim Mashroor, Jyoti Rahman, Zia Hasan, Farah Kabir, Rushad Faridi, Umama Fatema, Ashraf Kaiser, Atou Rabbi, Mahrulk Mohiuddin, Imran Matin, Mirza Hasan, Ananya Raihan, Zafar Sobhan, Shafiqur Rahman, Rezaul Karim Rony, and Rumi Ahmed.

BNP to consider

FROM PAGE 3

"China is working on this matter with great interest and sincerity. They are trying to persuade the Myanmar government so that this expectation is fulfilled swiftly."

Fakhrul also stressed China's interest in regional cooperation, saying, "China is quite interested in us maintaining good relations with our neighbours."

Reiterating the BNP's support for the "One China" policy, he said, "We have never deviated from the One China policy. A trade centre from Taiwan was set up here for a few days. It was later removed. We have never moved away from this stance. We reiterated it."

In the meetings, the BNP made its position clear on "pursuing balanced development and fostering closer ties with all key regional neighbours and development partners", Fakhrul said.

এসেন্সিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭ তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা,
ঢাকা-১২০৮।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাহিত্য জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলনোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করছে:-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৫/২৪১ তারিখ ৩০/০৬/২০২৫	০৪ (চার) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড অ্যালু বিস্টার ফলো { ০৪ (four) Kinds of printed Alu. blister Foil} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৯৫০ কেজি
	২.৫%	১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা) মাত্র প্রতি সেট	১৪/০৭/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২-০০ টাট্টিকা

সকল কার্যনির্দেশ অফিস চলাকলিন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হাইতে শৰ্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহারের ভ্যাটা রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অঞ্চল্যান করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিতরণ করা হাবে না।

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট (চলিত দারিদ্র্য)
পক্ষেও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।

ক) পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি <http://dcdhaka.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন।

আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নলিপি:

i) Online এ আবেদনপত্র জমানার স্থে তারিখ ও সময় ০১/০৭/২০২৫ইং

ii) Online এ আবেদনপত্র জমানার স্থে তারিখ ও সময় ০১/০৭/২০২৫ইং উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে user id গ্রহণ প্রার্থীগণ online-এ আবেদনপত্র submit এর সময় থেকে প্রযোজ্য।

৩) Online এ আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার বাস্তুর (সৈর্পথ ৩০০ * প্রশ্ন ৮০ pixel) এ রঙিন ছবি (সৈর্পথ ৩০০* প্রশ্ন ১০০ pixel) ক্ষয়ান করে পরিবর্তন স্থানে upload করবেন।

৪) online আবেদনপত্রে পূর্ণকৃত তথ্যই মেহেরে প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেরু Online এ আবেদনপত্র submit করার পূর্ণেই পূর্ণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সংক্রান্ত প্রযোজ্যতা নিজে নিশ্চিত হবে।

৫) প্রার্থী online এ পূর্ণকৃত আবেদনপত্রে একটি প্রিন্ট কপি প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

৬) sms প্রেরণের পূর্ণকৃত তথ্যই মেহেরে প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

৭) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্যতা নিজে নিশ্চিত করে download প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

৮) প্রার্থী online এ আবেদনপত্রের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

৯) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১০) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১১) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১২) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৩) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৪) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৫) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৬) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৭) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৮) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

১৯) প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র স্থানের প্রযোজ্য কর্তৃত সকল কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহ



Supply chain revolution expanding Bangladesh's access to global retail markets

Many ventures have tried to export Bangladeshi goods to the global market till now but have been undone by the most important issue of international and continental business, supply chain management. For instance, Aadi shop BD was a popular name for getting Bangladeshi products worldwide.

AKM FAHIM MASHROOR

With fertile lands and a rich agricultural heritage, Bangladesh produces food products like rice, lentils, oil seeds, spices, tropical fruits, and ready-to-consume snacks. Historically, much of this produce has been consumed domestically, with limited processed exports. The biggest setback Bangladeshi producers and exporters have faced is the same old supply chain issue. Lack of knowledge, unfriendly government authorities and policies have been holding back entrepreneurs from reaching out to the global market with our homegrown commodities.

With the help of structured, reliable export channels, Bangladesh has the opportunity to scale up its agricultural exports, creating value for farmers, entrepreneurs, and the economy at large. Government figures show that Bangladesh wastes over 3.7 million tonnes of food yearly due to poor storage, transportation, and distribution. Redirecting even a fraction of this wastage into export channels through integrated platforms could yield significant foreign exchange and reduce domestic market pressure.

For instance, the Gulf region, home to millions of South Asian expatriates and a rapidly diversifying consumer base presents a lucrative and largely untapped opportunity.

Demand for regional food and other commodities is growing in countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, driven by both the diaspora and local consumers' eagerness to explore diverse cuisines. Reflecting this growing demand, Bangladeshi firms secured \$34.5 million in confirmed orders and held discussions for an additional \$29.1 million in potential exports at the recent Gulf Food Fair, held in Dubai, last February. This highlights the region's strong appetite for Bangladeshi products.

Many ventures have tried to export Bangladeshi goods to the global market till now but have been undone by the most important issue of international and continental business, supply chain management. For instance, Aadi shop BD was a popular name for getting Bangladeshi products worldwide. This business became popular during the COVID-19 era but fell short of gaining traction due to third-party suppliers like FedEx and restrictions made during the pandemic. For these reasons, getting products from self-motivated exporters with an internally managed supply chain is the last resort for non-resident Bangladeshis.

In this context, ShopUp is connecting small retailers directly with farmers, mills, and manufacturers, helping to streamline supply chains and improve domestic distribution

efficiency. The distribution network and supply chain management employ more than seven thousand people and serve over 3.1 crore people across Bangladesh. The recent merger with Saudi Arabia's B2B platform Sary to form SILQ aims to expand into the fast-growing Gulf region, which features high income levels, a young population, and strong smartphone usage.

As part of this merger, a direct distribution channel to the Saudi market has been created, allowing Bangladeshi goods to reach retail shelves directly, beyond just arriving at ports. SILQ aims to boost cross-border trade by linking Bangladeshi producers with other Gulf and South Asian markets too by removing export barriers such as bureaucratic delays and pricing challenges. This initiative is designed to support the global growth of small and medium-sized businesses and build a modern, transparent, and efficient international trade ecosystem.

The impact of these types of ventures can be significantly effective. One such story is that of Halifur Rahman, a Bangladeshi expatriate entrepreneur who used the platform to export muri (puffed rice) to Saudi Arabia. Halifur has created a puffed rice brand named "Anas", named after his elder son and successfully established it in

Saudi Arabia. Currently, this brand is very popular among Bangladeshi migrants and already competing with other major puffed rice brands in the Saudi market.

This story shows how Bangladeshi producers, no matter how small, can now look beyond borders and sell directly to international markets with the help of digital platforms and streamlined distribution. It also breaks the stereotype that exports require massive capital or access to elite networks. With more platforms like this, products and businesses will go international based on product quality and demand rather than political or bureaucratic influence.

However, to fully realise this potential, it's important to acknowledge the regulatory hurdles, quality control issues, and export readiness challenges that many small producers still face. With the enthusiasm of entrepreneurial Bangladeshi youth, anything can be achievable if the right policy support is done. A collaborative framework between government agencies, business platforms, and international partners could dramatically accelerate Bangladesh's emergence as a competitive agricultural and industrial exporter.

The author is the Founder and CEO of BDjobs.com.

Nvidia insiders sold over \$1 bln in stock amid surge: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Nvidia insiders have sold more than \$1 billion worth of company stock over the past year, with over half of those sales occurring in June as the chipmaker's shares reached record highs, according to a recent Financial Times report. The selling activity comes as Nvidia's market valuation recently surpassed Microsoft to become the world's most valuable company.

CEO Jensen Huang began selling shares this week for the first time since September, regulatory filings show, according to a Reuters report on the matter. The sales coincide with Nvidia's stock rebounding more than 60% from its April low, when markets reacted to global tariff announcements. The chipmaker's shares hit an all-time high last Wednesday after analysts predicted the company would benefit from a "golden wave" of artificial intelligence adoption.

While insider sales are common, the scale and timing of these transactions highlight how Nvidia executives are capitalising on the AI investment boom that has driven the company's valuation to historic levels, suggests the Reuters report. The stock's recovery reflects renewed market optimism that potential trade deals may mitigate earlier tariff concerns.

Time management essentials for new employees

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

Starting a new job brings excitement and nerves in equal measure, often accompanied by that nagging question: "How will I get everything done?" Effective time management isn't about working harder - it's about working smarter. Here's how to hit the ground running without running yourself ragged.

Work with your body clock

Your brain isn't wired for peak performance all day long. Each of us has natural energy highs and lows - maybe you're razor sharp first thing in the morning, or perhaps your best ideas flow after lunch. The key is to identify these personal productivity peaks and schedule your most demanding work during these golden hours while saving routine tasks for when your energy dips.

Research supports this approach - a Harvard Business Review study found that employees who strategically align tasks with their natural rhythms can reclaim up to 20% of their workweek (that's nearly an entire day) by focusing on high-value work during peak performance windows. It's not about working longer hours but working smarter by respecting your body's natural ebb and flow.

Master the art of prioritisation

Not all tasks are created equal. Use the Eisenhower Matrix to sort your workload: urgent/important tasks demand immediate attention; important but not urgent tasks go on your calendar; urgent but unimportant tasks should be delegated when possible; and anything that's neither can likely be dropped entirely. This simple system can reduce work stress by 30% while ensuring you're always focusing on what truly moves the needle.

Control your inbox

Constant email checking fracture concentration. Try checking messages just three times daily - morning, after lunch, and before leaving. Turn off notifications when focusing. You should be able to save up to 90 minutes daily by doing

this. Think of your email like scheduled office hours - you wouldn't let colleagues interrupt you randomly all day, so why let your inbox?

Take proper breaks

Resist the temptation to power through without stopping. The Pomodoro Technique (25 minutes work, 5 minutes rest) improves focus, especially when learning new information. Always take a proper lunch break - it boosts afternoon productivity by 30%.

Set healthy boundaries

While eager to impress, overcommitting leads to burnout. Instead of tackling everything at once, try: "I want to do this justice - could we revisit next week?" Employees who set healthy boundaries early not only protect their well-being but are more likely to receive promotions within the first two years. Remember, saying no to the wrong opportunities is how you ultimately say yes to the right ones.

Use existing tools well

Before chasing shiny new apps, master the tools you already have. Your company's calendar system is a hidden productivity powerhouse - learn to block focus time like a pro, colour-code different work streams, and set smart reminders for deadlines. Think of it like learning to drive a car properly before worrying about the stereo system.

Weekly reflection

Before wrapping up each week, invest just 15 minutes to review your progress. Ask yourself: Which tasks took longer than expected? When was I most productive? This simple habit - what productivity experts call the "weekly review" - not only accelerates your professional growth but also helps you better prepare for the coming week.

Remember, no one expects perfection from day one. Time management is a learned skill - what matters is showing consistent improvement. Implement these strategies gradually, and you'll soon find your rhythm at work. By focusing on these fundamentals, you'll transition from an overwhelmed newcomer to a valued team member with impressive efficiency.



Meta poaches more OpenAI researchers: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, is reportedly hiring four additional artificial intelligence researchers from OpenAI, according to a Saturday report by The Information. The latest recruits - Shengjia Zhao, Jiahui Yu, Shuchao Bi, and Hongyu Ren - will join Meta's AI division as the company expands its artificial intelligence capabilities.

The move follows Meta's recent hiring of three other OpenAI Zurich-based researchers - Lucas Beyer, Alexander Kolesnikov, and Xiaohua Zhai - as first

reported by The Wall Street Journal earlier last week. These personnel changes come as Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg prioritises building advanced AI systems, including his recently announced "superintelligence" initiative, suggests a report by Reuters on the matter.

The Information cited an unnamed source familiar with the matter, though Reuters could not independently verify the report. If confirmed, these hires would represent a significant expansion of Meta's AI research team as the company seeks to compete with OpenAI and other leaders in artificial intelligence development.

BIDA launches redesigned investor-centric website

The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) launched a redesigned version of its official website on June 28, aiming to enhance investor experience and strengthen the country's investment narrative.

According to a press release by BIDA, the upgraded platform includes detailed insights into high-potential sectors identified through BIDA's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Heatmap. It also offers improved navigation to key services, policy guidance, and designated focal points across ministries and agencies - serving both prospective and



existing investors. As part of the institutional refresh, BIDA has also introduced a revamped logo reflecting its renewed focus on its modern investor-oriented vision.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Banglalink

Business Development Manager, Toffee



Deadline: July 3

Eligibility:

② BBA/ BSc and/ or MBA/ MS/ Arts from a reputed university with majors in Marketing/ Finance/ Computer Science/ Business Policy & Strategy.

Minimum experience: 5-7 years

BRAC-Aarong

Officer, Capacity Building, Social Compliance and Producer Development



Deadline: July 3

Eligibility:

② Bachelor's degree from a reputed university (preferably in BBA with a concentration in HRM, Marketing, Accounting, or Finance)

Minimum experience: 1-2 years

Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd.



System Admin, MIS

Deadline: July 5

Eligibility:

② BSc in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) or any equivalent degree from a reputed university with prior experience in a similar role.

Minimum experience: 3 years

Helen Keller Int'l. Bangladesh



MEAL Officer

Deadline: July 6

Eligibility:

② Master's degree preferably in Statistics, Business Administration, or Development Studies. Having a Masters in Public Health is an advantage.

Minimum experience: 5 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



“

Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning.”

- BILL GATES

Photo: Bill Gates



Bangladesh forwards Sauravi Akanda Prity (3L), Mosammam Sultana (R), and others -- not part of the starting eleven in Sunday's 7-0 rout of Bahrain in Yangon -- pose during a light recovery session that began with a refreshing swim yesterday. With a much tougher opponents Myanmar up next, the fringe players will be keen to make an impact after watching the established stars dominate a side ranked 36 places higher in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
Zimbabwe vs South Africa
1st Test, Day 4
Live from 2:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 1 AND 2
Wimbledon
Live from 4:00 pm

DAZN WEBSITE AND APP
Club World Cup
Man City vs Al Hilal
Live from 7:00 am
Real Madrid vs Juventus
Live from 1:00 am
(Wednesday)

'I can't work under syndicates'

Syed Ashraful Haque, a veteran cricket administrator and key architect behind Bangladesh's Test status, has expressed a strong desire to become BCB president -- but only if there is no government interference and a truly free and fair election. In an interview with The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan, he vowed to decentralise cricket, reform the club-centric board structure and ensure financial transparency if given the chance. Ashraful also discussed constitutional amendments, term limits for directors and improving facilities nationwide, emphasising the need for proper grounds rather than just stadiums. He challenged those who have been on the board for years to explain their achievements, criticising the Dhaka-centric, syndicate-dominated system and stressing the need for shared power. In his twilight years, he hopes to give back to cricket through genuine, lasting reforms.

Read the full interview on *The Daily Star* online.

SHORT CORNER

Gambhir faces growing pressure ahead of Edgbaston Test

Gautam Gambhir is under growing pressure ahead of the second Test against England after India's loss at Headingley made it seven defeats in 11 red-ball matches since he became coach last year. The 43-year-old is facing flak from some quarters for his selections, man management and how he carries himself in press conferences.

England unchanged for second India Test

England named an unchanged team for the second Test against India starting at Edgbaston on Wednesday, as Jofra Archer was made to wait for his return. Archer has not played Test cricket since February 2021 but had been called into action after bowling for Sussex last week.

Ritu's golazo for late little brother lights up Yangon

As the scoreboard flashed 7-0 in Yangon on Sunday, it was easy to lose sight of the human stories behind Bangladesh's breathtaking win over Bahrain in the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers. Once such instance was Ritu Porna Chakma's thunderbolt from distance. From the Thuwunna Stadium, it was a message sent skyward, three years to the day since she lost her younger brother to a tragic electrocution accident.

Wimbledon sizzles: Fans face the heatwave with humour

Tennis devotees armed themselves with hats, sun cream, mini-fans and a sense of humour for the first day of Wimbledon Monday, as the tournament provisionally recorded its hottest ever opener.

**Read *The Daily Star* website for full stories.

Expats' trial ends in festive mood

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day trial organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation, titled "BFF next global star", concluded at the National Stadium in Dhaka in a festive atmosphere.

The trial ended with two matches of one-hour duration each -- one for the under-19 level and the other for the under-23 level -- as the game's local governing body looks for talented Bangladeshi-origin footballers from across the world to strengthen its pipeline.

Following the second match, 49 players, who had come from 14 countries of the world with their families of their own expenditure, received certificates and souvenirs from the BFF high-ups. And then the national stadium turned into a farewell for those budding talents -- swarmed by scores of fans -- happy to take home memories of bonds they had forged with their peers over the last few days.

Most of them had come to Dhaka seeing the likes of Hamza Choudhury and Shamit Shome don the Bangladeshi jersey in recent months as the BFF expedited the process of bloodling the national team with expat footballers. Nabil Nasir, a winger from the USA, said he arrived in Sylhet a month ago and trained by himself with the aim of getting selected.

"My favourite Bangladeshi are Hamza and Shamit. Among the locals, I like Rakib," Nasir told reporters,



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

adding that he would definitely like to play in Bangladesh's local league if he gets a call-up from the local clubs.

Ashiqur Rahman, another midfielder at the trial for the under-23s, said he would be going back to London and work hard, with an aim of getting called up for the camp for next month for AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

However, there was no information divulged from the BFF regarding whether there will be any results announced regarding selection anytime soon. When asked over phone, one of the panel coaches of the trial said: "I can't talk about this. We have been asked not to speak to media on this issue."

While there was expectation and goodwill among the footballers, the event produced a bit of embarrassment for the BFF as the national team's head coach, Javier Cabrera, was booted off after the proceedings by a few hundred fans who were allowed free entry in the galleries.

Miraz's moment BY VISION, OR VACANCY?

ASHFAQ-UL ALAM

In the midst of the commotion surrounding Najmul Hossain Shanto's sudden removal as ODI captain just before the Sri Lanka tour, Mehidy Hasan Miraz's elevation to the role quietly slipped under the radar.

Miraz was earmarked for captaincy since his days in age-level cricket, having led Bangladesh in the 2016 ICC Under-19 World Cup at home, a tournament where Bangladesh finished third and Miraz emerged as the player of the tournament.

In that sense, Miraz officially receiving the captaincy baton almost nine years after debuting for the Tigers may seem like the outcome of a well-thought-out plan of grooming the all-rounder for the role.

But in reality, the nature of his ascension was slapdash, as is the case for most captains in Bangladesh, and he was chosen for the role less for being the most deserving candidate but more for being the only viable option.

Miraz is set to officially begin his captaincy tenure in the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, starting in Colombo tomorrow.

The manner in which Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sacked Shanto, with no warning and right before a tour, was questionable; though from a result-oriented approach, it did make some sense.

Under his leadership, Bangladesh returned empty-handed from the Champions Trophy campaign in Pakistan, suffering heavy defeats



against India and New Zealand. That followed a 3-0 whitewash in the West Indies and a 2-1 series loss against Afghanistan in Sharjah.

A format which once used to be Bangladesh's strong suit turned into their weakness during Shanto's tenure, with the Tigers losing eight of their last ten matches and slipping to 10th in the ICC rankings last month.

Putting the blame for this downfall squarely on Shanto seems hardly fair, but in cricket, someone usually has to take the fall in bad times and often it ends up being the leader of the side.

Having already decided that Shanto had to be replaced, the next point of action for the management was to decide who would replace him -- and they went for Miraz.

At 27, Miraz is one of the more renowned names in the side and a key figure in the ODI setup. Since 2022, he has been Bangladesh's

fifth-highest run-scorer in ODIs with 1,191 runs, averaging 32.18, often batting at No. 7 or 8. With the ball, he has been even more crucial, taking 55 wickets -- second only to Taskin Ahmed in that period.

Miraz's recent ODI record establishes him as a consistent performer, which makes him a good captaincy candidate as he could lead by example. His pedigree as a leader, however, is not as impressive.

Miraz has led the ODI side as a stand-in skipper on four occasions and all of those matches have ended in defeats for the Tigers.

Not only that, all of those defeats have taken place in 2024, meaning four of the eight defeats Bangladesh have conceded in their last 10 ODIs have come under Miraz.

Still, the board kept their faith in Miraz over another candidate in the recently appointed T20 captain Litton Das.

While under Miraz, Bangladesh got clean swept 3-0 last year in the Caribbean, Litton led Bangladesh to a 3-0 sweep in the T20s with astute captaincy.

But Litton's unpredictable form, which cost him his place in the Champions Trophy, coupled with the recent T20 series defeats against the UAE and Pakistan, worked against him -- leaving Miraz as the only option to replace Shanto.

But uncertainty looms -- both about team dynamics following Shanto's sacking and Miraz's role in the batting order. The bigger question now is whether Miraz can calm the storm or be swept away by it.

PSG's 'historic season' faces Bayern challenge

AGENCIES

Paris Saint-Germain's pursuit of footballing immortality remains firmly on track.

Fresh from a commanding 4-0 win over Inter Miami in the Club World Cup last 16, the French giants are now bracing for their biggest test yet -- a high-stakes quarterfinal against Bayern Munich, who downed Flamengo 4-2 thanks to a Harry Kane double.

For PSG manager Luis Enrique, the objective is clear: continue writing history.

"This is clearly a historic season for our club, and we intend to continue making history in this competition," Enrique declared after Sunday's win.

With Ligue 1, the French Cup and the Champions League already in the bag, PSG are chasing a clean sweep -- a perfect season few clubs have ever achieved.

The win over Miami, emotionally tinged by Enrique's reunion with former Barcelona proteges Lionel Messi and Javier Mascherano, was also a reminder of PSG's cold efficiency.

"It was a special game," Enrique said. "But we didn't allow sentiment to cloud our focus. The first half was where we really imposed ourselves -- we didn't give them a single chance."

Now comes Bayern -- a familiar and formidable foe and perhaps the only team standing between PSG and an unprecedented haul.

With the match looming, Enrique's message was sharp and unwavering. "We have to stay focused," he said. "Holidays and next season can wait. The next 90 minutes are all that matter."



Real Madrid face Juventus in Orlando tonight (01:00am Wednesday, Bangladesh Time) in the Club World Cup, hoping to reach the quarterfinals. They are set to be boosted by the return of superstar striker Kylian Mbappe, who missed all three group games and was even hospitalised with acute gastroenteritis, but has been training normally for several days.



Top seed Aryna Sabalenka overcame Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine on a sweltering Court One to get her quest for a first Wimbledon title up and running with a 6-1 7-5 win yesterday. The three-time Grand Slam champion, who has never been beyond the semifinals in the competition, will be looking to ease the pain of losing in the finals of the Australian Open and the French Open this year.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**THE BEST QUALITY
EVERY TIME GUARANTEED
BSRM**

**HAT-TRICK OF
Superbrands
AWARD**

Worker beaten to death inside Gazipur factory

STAFF REPORT

A worker was tied up and beaten to death at a garment factory in Konabari, Gazipur city, early Saturday, police said yesterday.

The deceased, Hridoy, 19, of Tangail's Ghatal upazila, used to work as a mechanic at the factory.

Police arrested Hasan Mahmud Mithun, 28, a security guard of the same factory, on Sunday after Hridoy's elder brother, Liton Miah, filed a murder case with Konabari Police Station against unidentified individuals.

The incident took place at a factory named Greenland Limited, which was declared closed for indefinite period after a video of the beating went viral on social media.

This video showed a shirtless Hridoy tied to the window of a room inside the factory. He was writhing in pain. Blood was seen dripping from Hridoy's mouth and nose. His jeans were also stained with blood. At one point, some people around him could be heard saying, "He's been beaten so much, [still] nothing happened, he's not dead."

In another part of the video, some people could be seen dragging Hridoy out of a room with his hands and feet tied. One of the men had a wooden stick in his hand. Some

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



The Adi (old) channel of the Buriganga river has once again been rendered unnavigable thanks to a lack of upkeep by authorities and mindless dumping of garbage by locals. There was an attempt to revive the waterway through partial excavation and eviction of illegal structures along its bank a couple of years ago. This photo was taken yesterday in Kamrangirchar area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Govt indecision stalls DC transfer in 30 districts Officials warn delay may hamper polls preparation

BAHARAM KHAN

Despite the next election being planned for February 2026, the government is yet to appoint new deputy commissioners (DCs) in around half of all districts due to the public administration ministry's indecision.

The DCs serve as returning officers during polls, and their timely appointment is essential for mobilising field administration and ensuring a conducive atmosphere.

Generally, deputy secretaries serve as DCs.

According to the Cabinet Division, 26 of the currently appointed 63 DCs are from the 24th batch of the civil service, 25 from the 25th batch, and 12 from the 27th batch.

However, the government promoted 21 DCs -- all from the 24th batch -- to joint secretaries on March 23. Officers at this level are typically not allowed to continue serving as DCs. The remaining five are awaiting transfers for various reasons. As a result, all 26 DCs from the batch must be replaced, according to officials.

Additionally, several current DCs face various allegations, and their replacements too have not been finalised.

Officials warned that election preparations could be delayed if the DCs are not appointed in time, raising concerns over the government's commitment to ensuring a free and fair election.

A senior official, who has served as both a divisional commissioner and a DC, said deputy commissioners should ideally be appointed at least nine to 10 months before a parliamentary election to ensure effective administration.

"Early appointment gives them [the DCs] sufficient time to prepare for the enormous challenges ahead,"

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

EC regains power to pick polling stations

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Election Commission officials got back their authority to select polling centres for the next parliamentary election.

Prior to the last general polls in January 2024, this responsibility was delegated to field level administration and police officials by the then EC.

However, before that election, it was the EC officials who were traditionally responsible for choosing the polling stations.

The guidelines, which were issued in June 2023, for selecting polling centres for the national elections, had a provision of forming a seven-member committee at the district level with the deputy commissioner as its convener to prepare the draft list of polling centres. And a five-member committee at the upazila level with the upazila nirbahi officer as its convener carried out the same responsibility.

The committees were comprised of police officials, local administration officials, and field-level election officials.

The commission finalised the polling stations and issued a gazette notification at least 25 days ahead of the election day.

The current EC on Thursday issued new guidelines for picking polling centres for the upcoming national election, removing the previous system of using committees to make the selection.

Election Commission Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that the commission adopted the guidelines.

"The Election Commission removed the previous system of using committees to choose the polling centres, as it has found the committees unnecessary," he has found the committees unnecessary," he

"The Election Commission removed the previous system of using committees to choose the polling centres, as it has found the committees unnecessary."

Election Commission Secretary Akhtar Ahmed

said without any elaboration.

In the last general election, held on January 7, 2024, there were 42,000 polling centres and over 2,60,000 polling booths.

The EC is yet to say anything officially about when the next general polls will be held. But Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on June 13 said the next general election could be held in the week before the start of Ramadan in 2026 if all preparations are completed.

Yunus made the remarks when BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, during a meeting with the chief adviser in London, suggested that the election take place before Ramadan.

According to the new guidelines, a polling centre will be for about 3,000 voters. The distance between two polling centres should not be more than 3km, and those should be set up considering the voters' convenience.

However, the conditions may be

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

11 more banks to face asset quality review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven more banks that were hit by irregularities and scams during the Awami League government's tenure are set to undergo an asset quality review (AQR) by global audit firms.

Bangladesh Bank Executive Director and spokesperson Arif

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Faraaz's message of embracing humanity

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN



If his life had not been so cruelly cut short, Faraaz Ayaz Hossain would have been a young man just waiting to enter his 30s. Would he, like his brother Zaraif, be working in his grandfather's business alongside his mother Simeen Rahman, the current CEO of Transcom Group, who has had to live these nine years with the worst burden any parent could carry? Would he have pursued his passion for athletics and volleyball? Would he have still been a diehard fan of Man Utd and continue to play pranks on

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি

(পেট্রোবাল্লার একটি কোম্পানি)

কলম্বেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬

গ্যাসের চুলা জালানোর কম্পক্ষে ২০ মিনিট পূর্বে
মাল্লাঘরের দরজা-জালানা চুলে দিন, নিরাম ধাতুর

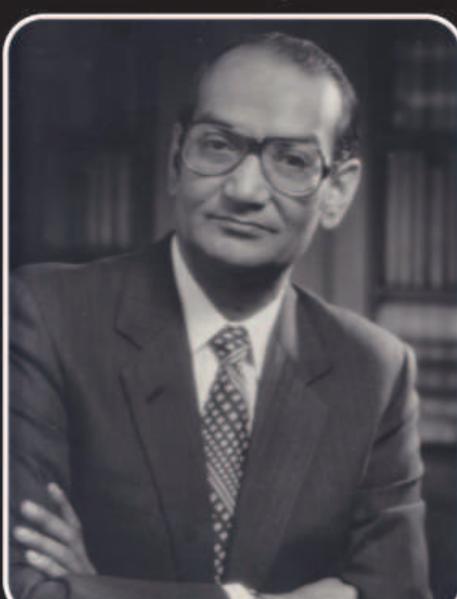
জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড-এর এস.আর.ও. নং-১৫৭-আইন/আয়কর-১২/২০২৫, তারিখ: ২৬ মে ২০২৫ খ্রি. অনুযায়ী গ্যাস বিতরণে নিযুক্ত তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি এর গ্রাহক পর্যায়ে, আগামী ১ জুলাই ২০২৫ খ্রি. হতে যে কোন পরিমাণ গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধকালে বিলের বিপরীতে উৎসে আয়কর কর্তৃনের হার ২% এর পরিবর্তে ০.৬% হারে নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক জারিকৃত প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুযায়ী, ১ জুলাই ২০২৫ খ্রি. হতে গ্রাহক কর্তৃক গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধকালে গ্যাস বিল হতে ভ্যাট বাদ দিয়ে অবশিষ্ট অর্থের উপর ০.৬% হারে উৎস কর কর্তৃন করে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা প্রদান পূর্বক অবশিষ্ট অর্থ কোম্পানির ব্যাংক হিসাবে জমা প্রদানের জন্য কোম্পানির সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

We fondly remember our founder partner



Mr. Rezaur Rahman FCA
(24 July 1929 - 01 July 2015)

From all at



Rahman Rahman Huq
Chartered Accountants

App to help detect arsenic in tubewells 'iArsenic' launches today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a country where millions depend on tubewells for their daily drinking water, a silent killer continues to flow through the pipes – arsenic.

But now there is hope, as a simple web-based app called iArsenic is empowering users to instantly assess whether their water is safe or potentially toxic.

Short for "instant arsenic", the tool provides rapid screening based on observable well features without requiring lab testing.

The initiative supported by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), iArsenic.com, is accessible via smartphones and computers, allowing anyone to check arsenic contamination risks of local tubewells by inputting basic details such as location, depth, and signs of staining on the well platform.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা

www.ecs.gov.bd

নং- ১৭.০০.০০০০.০২৫.২২.০৯১.২৪-১৭৭

তারিখ: ১৬ আগস্ট ১৪৩২

৩০ জুন ২০২৫

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়: রাজনৈতিক দল ও প্রার্থীর আচরণ বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ এর খসড়া চূড়ান্তকরণের লক্ষ্যে নাগরিকগণের সুচিহিত মতামত প্রসংগে।

সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গণপ্রতিনিধিত্ব আদেশ, ১৯৭২ এর সংশ্লিষ্ট অনুচ্ছেদ, যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংশোধন সাপেক্ষে, Representation of the People Order, 1972 (P.O. No.155 of 1972) এর Article 91B এর আলোকে 'রাজনৈতিক দল ও প্রার্থীর আচরণ বিধিমালা, ২০২৫'- এর খসড়া নির্বাচন কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট (www.ecs.gov.bd) এ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। রাজনৈতিক দল ও প্রার্থীর আচরণ বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ এর বিষয়ে যৌক্তিকতাসহ মতামত আগামী ১০ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে সিনিয়র সচিব, নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয় এর [ই-মেইল](mailto:opinion@ecs.gov.bd) (opinion@ecs.gov.bd) ঠিকানায় প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

নির্বাচন কমিশনের আদেশক্রমে,

বিজ্ঞপ্তি কর্তৃপক্ষ

(আখতার আহমেদ)

সিনিয়র সচিব

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়