

MURADNAGAR RAPE Hounded by media, survivor forced to leave father's home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The survivor of the June 26 Muradnagar rape left her father's home yesterday following relentless harassment by media workers and YouTubers.

"The family is no longer at the house," confirmed Zahidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Muradnagar Police Station. "Since the incident, people from different backgrounds had been visiting the house every day. The woman's life became unbearable due to constant pressure to give interviews to media workers and YouTubers. Amid this distress, she chose to leave."

On June 26, the survivor was raped by one Fajar Ali, and a video of hers was also recorded and later circulated on social media.

She later filed two cases under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and the Pornography Control Act. Police later arrested Fajar and three others.

Muradnagar resident Abdur Rob Member said the woman left yesterday afternoon with her two children, saying she was returning to her husband's home. Law enforcers assisted with her relocation at her request.

Her parents and other family members also vacated the house later in the day. None of them could be reached over the phone for comments.

According to police, crowds gathered daily at the home, invading her privacy. "Many ignored legal guidelines and published videos revealing her face, causing her further distress."

Inspector Md Sadekur Rahman of Cumilla Court Police told Prothom Alo that a seven day remand prayer was submitted yesterday for the four currently in jail in connection with the cases.

Judge Mominul Haque of Cumilla Senior Judicial Magistrate Court has scheduled the remand hearing for Thursday.

Sadekur added that the mobile phones of the arrestees have been seized and will be sent to the Criminal

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ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR



Students block the Shahbagh intersection on July 2, 2024, demanding the reinstatement of the 2018 government circular that abolished the quota system in civil service recruitment and the introduction of a merit-based system. FILE PHOTO

Protesters brave rain, warning

FROM PAGE 1

medha medha" (Merit, not quota) and "Boishomyer biruddhe, direct action" (Direct action against discrimination). By the time they reached Shahbagh, a heavy police presence had already taken position. Students, undeterred, shouted "Bhau bhau" (fake, fake) at the law enforcement agency. No clash occurred, and the police eventually stepped aside.

"This movement is not just about students or job seekers – it's about the kind of state we want to build," said Nahid Islam, coordinator of the movement, addressing the gathering. "The spirit of the Liberation War is not a hereditary privilege; it is a national ideal. We, the youth, are upholding that spirit by standing against discrimination."

He announced that the protests would continue the next day with a sit-in at 2:30pm in front of the Dhaka University library and urged students across all universities and colleges in the country to join the movement simultaneously under a united banner.

For nearly an hour, the protesters held their ground at Shahbagh before lifting the blockade around 4:45 pm.

From there, they marched towards the vice chancellor's residence of Dhaka University, where they demanded the reopening of the university library, which had remained shut for two days.

Teachers, officials, and staffers of public universities have been abstaining from work since July 1 in protest against the government's Universal Pension Scheme, prolonging the stalemate in the activities of higher educational institutions across the country.

While Dhaka University became the epicentre of the day's protests, similar demonstrations unfolded across other campuses as well. At Jahangirnagar University, a group of students blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway around 3:00pm, demanding the cancellation of the reinstated quota system along with three other demands. The blockade lasted for about 20 minutes and resulted in a two-kilometre traffic snarl in both directions. Earlier, the students had held a protest rally from the base of the Shangshaptak sculpture near the university's central library.

The protesters had also announced plans to enforce a two-hour highway blockade again on July 3, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm – further intensifying the spread of the movement beyond the capital.

Students from Barishal University, Jagannath University, Chittagong University, and Islamic University in Kushtia also organised processions and rallies, occupying campus roads and entry points.

Earlier in the day, around 10:30am, members of the pro-government organisation Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sontan Sangsad gathered in front of the Raju Sculpture at Dhaka University, opposing the anti-quota protests and advocating for the preservation of the 30 percent quota for children of freedom fighters.

By its second day, the anti-quota protest showed no signs of slowing down. With swelling participation, coordinated action, and a powerful moral claim, the movement was rapidly transforming into a nationwide youth uprising – challenging not just a single policy but the deeply rooted structures of privilege and inequality.

'Rights abuses persist under this govt too' Says JSS report on CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Even after 11 months in power, the interim government has failed to bring about any fundamental changes or progress in the situation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Parbatya Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) has alleged.

There has been no initiative to end the ongoing human rights violations in the CHT, said a half-yearly report signed by Sajib Chakma, assistant information and publicity secretary of the PCJSS.

The organisation also bemoaned a lack of progress in implementing the peace accord, noting that two thirds of its provisions remain unfulfilled even after 27 years.

The report claimed that 103 incidents of rights violations occurred across the region between January and June this year.

As per the report, security and law enforcement forces, along with settler groups, religious extremists, and land grabbers, were allegedly involved in the incidents.

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LAWYER ALIF MURDER Charges pressed against Chinmoy, 37 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police pressed charges against 38 people yesterday, including Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a former ISKCON leader, in connection with the murder case of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif, who was hacked to death on November 26 last year.



Mahfuzur Rahman, assistant commissioner (AC) of Kotwali zone, also the investigating officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the metropolitan court's prosecution section this evening.

Confirming the charge sheet submission, AC Mahfuzur told The Daily Star, "I submitted the charge sheet implicating 38 persons, including Chinmoy Krishna Das. The murder took place following the instigation and provocation by Chinmoy."

Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Advocate Rajuan Wazed Chowdhury of the Metropolitan Court said, "The charge sheet was submitted to the court's prosecution section, and the hearing on the charge sheet will be held on the next scheduled date of the murder case."

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'Seize the moment to anchor democracy'

FROM PAGE 1

She was speaking on the first day of BNP's 36 day programme marking the 2024 July uprising.

"It must be ensured that the bloodshed and the tears of grieving mothers are not in vain. Unity must be maintained," she told the event at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre via a video link.

The party will organise the rest of the programme in different places across the country.

Khaleda stressed the need for generating employment and ensuring people's security. "Above all, we must safeguard Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty at any cost."

Family members of those who lost their lives in political movements, including last year's mass uprising, spoke at the event.

Khaleda said there should be a comprehensive list of the victims of abduction, murder, and extrajudicial killings.

"Arrangements for swift justice and state recognition must be ensured. There must be a dignified rehabilitation and secure future for every family."

For 16 years, the fascists tried to establish a one party regime forever, she said. "The Awami League regime sought to destroy democracy through repression, torture, arrest, killing, enforced disappearance, and murder."

A prayer was offered seeking peace for the departed souls. The participants also stood in silence for a minute in honour of the martyrs.

While the family members of the martyred and victims of enforced disappearance spoke, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, who joined the event from London, and many others in the audience were seen wiping away tears.

While inaugurating the event Tarique said unity was more important than ever and urged political parties to carefully consider whether the proportional representation system was suitable for Bangladesh.

"A proportional representation electoral system might divide the society," he said, urging political parties to reconsider their position.

Some political parties demand a proportional representation system, which is practiced in certain countries. "I urge everyone to carefully consider how suitable, or whether it is suitable at all, for Bangladesh at this moment, given the reality and the country's geographical-political context."

"We must seriously consider whether, in the name of a proportional electoral system, we are unknowingly opening the door for the return of the fallen, defeated, and fugitive evils into the country's politics."

If the parties keep on raising new issues one after another, the conspirators will get a chance to rise again, he added.

"The political parties have given reform proposals after thoughtful consideration. I firmly believe that each

party has presented what they consider to be the best for the country," he said.

If the interim government is busy with the reform issues, it might prevent the people from accessing their political and economic rights, he added.

"Even if there is no consensus among political parties on every issue, consensus in the national interest is essential."

"In the upcoming national election, if the BNP receives the people's mandate to govern the state, it will form a national government and make the utmost effort to implement every development programme for the country and its people."

Now is the time to repay the debt to the martyrs by building a justice-based democratic and humane Bangladesh, he said.

As political parties have different views and programmes, it might seem like anti-fascist forces are not united, but for national interest, we are all united."

To establish Bangladesh on a strong democratic foundation, Tarique said the country must be freed from

the demands of all walks of life who participated in the uprising and held the spirit of democracy high.

Students began protests against the quota system in government jobs on July 1 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.

Yunus said one year ago, in this month, the movement initiated by the students sparked an unprecedented mass uprising that gave all a taste of liberation. July uprising became a powerful call in the struggle to restore democracy, a moment of public awakening.

The core message of that movement was to abolish fascism and return the state to the people. The uprising carried a much greater dream – to rebuild the state anew and create a new Bangladesh.

At the programme, the chief adviser remembered the courage and sacrifices of

Remember July to resist fascism

FROM PAGE 1

"We will do it [commemorate this uprising] every year so that autocracy cannot rise again in any form."

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The main goal of the programmes is to raise public awareness about democratic rights, demand political accountability, and ensure that the chances of having reforms earned through blood are not lost.

The road ahead is difficult, but it holds immense possibilities. History bears witness that when the people rise, no force can stand in their way. With this belief, I call upon you all let us turn this month of July into a month of public awakening, a month of unity," Yunus said.

On this occasion, the chief adviser unveiled the QR code of the programme. He also handed over scholarship cheques to three National University students.

Education Adviser CR Abrar and Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki also spoke at the event.

At the programme, the chief adviser remembered the courage and sacrifices of

This year, National University is providing "July Shaheed Smriti Brity" to 2,040 students of the university. A total of 32 National University students were killed during July uprising, according to a statement of chief adviser's press wing.

The government is holding a 36 day commemorative programme titled "July Remembrance Celebration", which began yesterday and will continue until August 5.

As part of the programmes, prayers were held for the martyrs at mosques, temples, pagodas, churches, and other places of worship on the day.

The government will also hold different programmes until August 5.

The events are scheduled for July 5, July 7, and July 14. A memorial programme will be held at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, marking the death anniversary of Abu Sayed on July 16.

The final day of the programme, August 5, which is referred to as the "36th of July" in the official schedule, will feature the launching of a video titled "36 July", floral tributes at July Martyrs' Memorials in 36 districts, a meeting between the chief adviser and the families of the martyrs, a "Victory Procession" towards Manik Mia Avenue, an air show, a concert, and a drone show.

ICT-1 begins hearing on charge framing

FROM PAGE 1

CCTV footage, audio clips of telephone conversations, forensic reports of digital evidence, confessional statements, photographs and videos on social media and news outlets, reports from national and international organisations, and official documents from state agencies.

Tajul Islam said Hasina was driven by a desire to cling to power at all costs, and in the process, incited violence, as well as ordered the use of lethal weapons, including from helicopters, to quell last year's protests.

"The atrocities were widespread and systematic," he told the tribunal.

Some 305,311 rounds of ammunition were fired, and more than 1,500 civilians were killed and over 25,000 wounded during last year's protests in July and August, Tajul said in a packed courtroom amid pin-drop silence.

On June 1, the tribunal took cognisance of the charges brought by prosecutors against the three, accusing them of crimes against humanity because of their superior command responsibility, conspiracy, incitement, instigation, facilitation, abetment, complicity, failure to prevent crimes.

The day, the prosecutors also produced 8,747 pages of documents and testimonies from 81 witnesses, along with 135 pages detailing the formal charges.

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He also called for greater attention to the families of those injured during the movement.

Evidence also includes drone and

court that he would not present his arguments at this stage.

This is the second hearing on charge framing in connection with crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

The proceeding was telecast live on BTV.

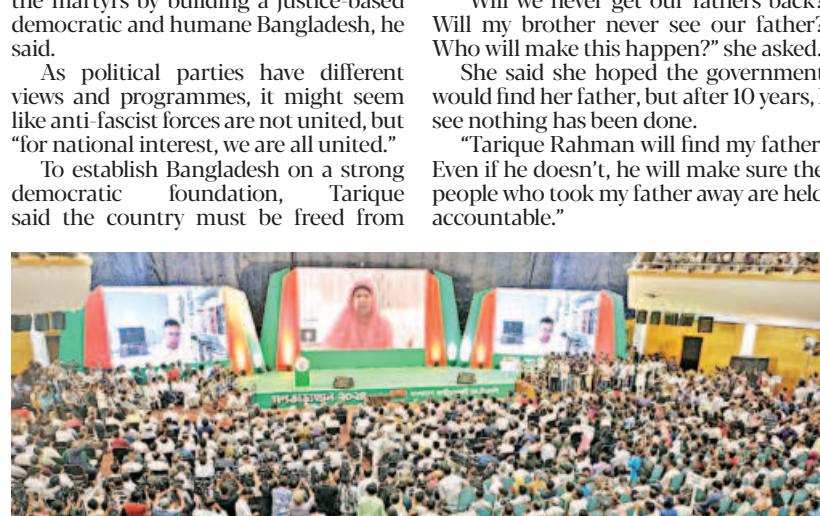
In charge 1, the three are accused of murder, torture, and inhuman acts for aiding, abetting, and failing to prevent violent attacks by law enforcement and Awami League cadres on unarmed student protesters.

According to charge 2, they have been accused of ordering the use of lethal weapons (including helicopters and drones) to subdue student protesters. The accused are allegedly guilty of superior command responsibility, complicity, facilitation and conspiracy.

According to charge 3, the accused issued orders, incited, abetted, facilitated, conspired and were complicit in the killing of Abu Sayed on July 16.

The fourth charge accuses them of orchestrating the murder of six student protesters in Chankharpur, Dhaka, on August 5 by direct order, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy.

In charge 5, the defendants are accused of the shooting of six student protesters, five of whom were killed and burned, while the sixth was reportedly set on fire while still alive, in Ashulia on August 5 last year.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses the event via a video link. PHOTO: STAR</p

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FIVE GRAFT CASES

Summon
Rehana, 24
others thru
gazette

Court issues order

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the government to issue five gazette notifications summoning 25 individuals, including Sheikh Rehana, sister of the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, to appear before it on July 20 in five cases over alleged irregularities in plot allocation under the Purbachal New Town project.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain Galib of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court gave the order after police submitted reports on previously issued arrest warrants, said court sources.

The list of accused also includes Hasina's son Sajeeb

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PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

Riverbank erosion along the Meghna in Bhola has intensified due to upstream water pressure and illegal sand extraction, according to locals. Several homes, croplands, and markets have already been lost to the river. In rural Bangladesh, such erosion continues to threaten the lives and livelihoods of communities living near waterbodies. The photo was taken recently.

Nearly 50 trees felled without approval at JU



SAKIB AHMED

Nearly 50 trees have been felled on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus without prior permission, sparking outrage among students and environmental activists.

The trees were felled on Monday morning using an excavator in front of the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) building to make way for an extension under the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

The work is part of the university's Tk 1,445 crore "Further Development Project."

However, the action appears to violate earlier commitments made by the JU administration, which assured that no construction involving tree felling would proceed without a visible development of a campus masterplan.

"We didn't give permission to cut these trees. The construction company did this without our approval," said Md Nasir Uddin, director of the Further Development Project.

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Kuet shutdown drags on for 133rd day

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The suspension of academic activities at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) entered its 133rd day today, following violent clashes involving students and teachers on February 18.

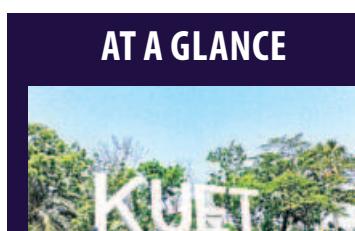
In response to the unrest, the Ministry of Education removed then vice-chancellor Prof Muhammad Masud and pro-VC Prof Shariful Alam on April 25, appointing Prof Md Hazrat Ali of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology as interim VC on May 1.

However, he resigned on May 22, citing pressure and lack of support from the Kuet Teachers' Association.

Since then, both the VC and pro-VC posts have remained vacant, paralysing the university's administrative functions, including salary disbursements, project payments, and academic decisions, as the VC's signature is mandatory for all official transactions.

Despite a directive from the education ministry to resume academic activities from May 4, the teachers' association has boycotted all academic and administrative responsibilities.

Prof Md Faruq Hossain, the association's general secretary, said, "Our previous stance remains unchanged. We've discussed



AT A GLANCE

VC, pro-VC posts remain vacant since May

Teachers continue boycott, demand VC appointment

7,565 students affected, academic activities suspended

First-year classes yet to begin, scheduled since April 24

Over Tk 600cr in dev projects stalled

More than 1,100 staff members unpaid since May

in detail how academic and administrative decisions cannot be made without a VC. In his absence, it is not possible to overcome the ongoing crisis. Therefore, we urge the government to immediately appoint a new VC to resolve the stalemate at Kuet. Until then,

classes will not resume."

The teachers have also reiterated their demand for justice, calling for disciplinary action against some students and "outsiders", who allegedly harassed faculty members during the earlier unrest.

The stalemate has left the academic future of 7,565 students in limbo, with all classes and examinations suspended. Newly enrolled first year students, scheduled to begin classes on April 24, are yet to commence their academic journey.

"We are lagging behind in studies due to the prolonged shutdown. We prayed to our teachers to resume classes but they did not respond," said Rahatul Islam, a student of the Civil Engineering department.

Meanwhile, administrative and financial functions remain stalled due to the vacant top positions. The paralysis threatens infrastructure projects worth over Tk 600 crore, including a 10-storey academic building, separate 10-storey dormitories for male and female students, a five-storey foreign student and visiting faculty dormitory, residential quarters for staff and faculty, roads, substations, solar systems, green boundary walls, and drainage systems.

Since Ramadan, contractor

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

MAGURA RAPE, MURDER
HC stays fine on death-row convict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday admitted the appeal filed by death-row convict Hitu Sheikh against the lower court verdict in the rape and murder case of an eight-year-old girl in Magura.

The HC also stayed the part of the verdict that fined Hitu Sheikh Tk 1 lakh.

The bench of Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman and Justice Md Sagir Hossain passed the order after a brief hearing.

Hitu's lawyer, Md Abbas Uddin, told The Daily Star that the HC will hold a full hearing on the appeal later.

On May 17, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Magura sentenced the prime accused, Hitu Sheikh, to death for the brutal rape and murder.

His wife, Jaheda Begum, 38, and sons Ratul Sheikh, 18, and Sajib Sheikh, 20, were acquitted as the charges against them could not be proven.

Judge M Zahid Hasan delivered the verdict 70 days after the case was filed on March 8. The trial was completed in 11 working days, according to the prosecution.

Hitu Sheikh, 44, is the father-in-law of the victim's sister, and Sajib is the victim's brother-in-law.

According to case documents, the child went to visit her

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

DEATHS AT HOTEL
Murder case filed, one arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was arrested in a murder case filed yesterday over the death of a couple and their son in a hotel in Dhaka's Moghbazar on Sunday morning.

The arrested is Rafiqul Islam, a distant uncle of Monir Hossain, one of the victims, said Golam Faruk, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station.

Rafiqul was the caretaker of the victims' house in Keraniganj.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court granted a two-day remand for him when he was produced before it with a seven-day remand prayer, court sources said.

Police had detained him for questioning shortly after the incident as he was the one who brought the food from the nearby restaurant on the evening before their death.

The OC said they will interrogate him thoroughly during remand.

Nurul Amin Manik, brother of one

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



Mango stalls in Chattogram are seeing high footfall as a bumper harvest brings popular varieties like Himsagar, Langra, Amrapali, and Haribhanga to the market. Prices are lower than last year, ranging from Tk 25 to Tk 100 per kg depending on size and variety. The photo was taken in the Kadamtali area of Chattogram recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Three arrested over worker's murder in Konabari factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Three people have so far been arrested in connection with the murder of a garment factory worker in Konabari, Gazipur city.

The arrestees are Hasan Mahmud Mithun, 28; Shafiqul Islam, 30; and Belal Hossain, 43.

They are all staffers at Greenland Garments Ltd, the factory where Hridoy, 19, a mechanic, was beaten to death on Saturday, said police.

Of them, Belal was arrested yesterday, Shafiqul on Monday and Mithun on Sunday, said Md Salah Uddin, officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station.

"Mithun is a security guard, and Shafiqul's name appeared on the duty roster at the time of the incident. We believe they may possess crucial information regarding the murder."

"Belal was seen tying the victim's hands in CCTV footage of the incident," said Helal Miah, a sub-inspector at Konabari Police Station and investigating officer of the case.

Of the trio, court sent Mithun and Shafiqul to jail, and Belal will be produced before a court today, said police.

Hridoy was tied up and beaten to death early Saturday inside the factory premises.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Man sent to jail over sexually harassing 6-yr-old in Netrokona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

A Netrokona court yesterday sent a 60-year-old grocery shopkeeper to jail for allegedly sexually harassing a six-year-old girl in the district's Khalajuri upazila.

Police arrested the accused, Zafar Ali, from his home on Monday evening after the child's father filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Khalajuri Police Station.

Around 4:00pm yesterday, Zafar was produced before the judicial magistrate court in Netrokona, which ordered him to be sent to jail, said Khalajuri Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Mokbul Hossain.

According to the case statement, the child went to a nearby grocery shop to buy chips on Monday afternoon.

The shop is located right in front of Zafar's house.

Finding no one else around at the time, Zafar lured the child into his house with the promise of chocolate and sexually harassed her.

Hearing the child's screams, locals rushed to the scene, prompting Zafar to flee. Later, the child told her family about the incident.

KALIA UPAZILA IN NARAIL Staff shortage renders maternity centre ineffective



PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

An acute shortage of doctors and staff has left the 10 bed Parali Mother and Child Welfare Centre in Khairyia of Narail's Kalia upazila largely non-functional.

As a result, at least 40,000 people across Parali, Paingram, and Singasholpur unions in the upazila are being deprived of essential health services.

Built at a cost of Tk 4.62 crore and inaugurated in 2020, the maternity centre comprises two three-storey buildings -- one for the hospital and the other for staff quarters. It features two five-bed wards, 10 private cabins, and a modern surgical theatre.

During a recent visit to the centre, this correspondent found no doctor present, and all patients were being turned away.

Rafiqul Islam, the lone office assistant present, said only a pharmacist and a family welfare inspector are assigned full-time to the centre, while one doctor is temporarily attached.

"Each of them visits only twice a week. Today, the doctor is on leave. That's why patients are being turned away," he said.

"I came to consult for an urgent issue, but there's no doctor, no medicine. It's frustrating to return without receiving any help," said Poly Akter, a student from a nearby village.

Another local, Saima Akter, said, "The doctor is often not present. Medicines are rarely available. Still, we come because this is the only place where poor people like us can hope for free care."

According to the local health office, the centre has 10 approved posts, including two medical officers, one lab technologist, one pharmacist, four family welfare inspectors, and two administrative staff. However, since its inauguration, most of these posts have remained vacant.

"Though officially posted here, I am also required to work at three other places. So, I can only attend two days a week. With no permanent staff and no medicines available, patient numbers are dropping," said Geeta Rani Biswas, the assigned family welfare inspector.

Contacted, Alif Nur, deputy director of the District Family Planning Office in Narail, said, "Our department has recently taken steps for recruitment, and we hope the crisis will be resolved soon."

Three killed as balcony collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two engineers and a worker were killed as a balcony of an under-construction building collapsed in Jashore's Circuit House Para area yesterday.

The deceased are Mizanur Rahman, 35, Azizul Islam, 36, and Nur Mia, 45.

A local, Fardin Hossain, said the incident took place while the three were working on the balcony of the fifth floor. Suddenly, a section of the balcony collapsed, he said.

Mujibur Rahman, who was working there, said the three suffered injuries. They were declared dead at Jashore General Hospital. Abul Hasanath, officer-in-charge of Jashore Kotwali Model Police Station, said the bodies were kept at the hospital morgue.

BRAHMAPUTRA One dead, 2 missing as boat capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A student died and two others went missing as a boat carrying nine students capsized in the Brahmaputra river in Kishoreganj yesterday morning.

The incident took place at around 9:30am when the students of Biru Dakhil Madrasa were going to attend their class on a boat. The three drowned as their boat ran aground near Dutta's Bazar area, while six other students managed to swim ashore.

The body of Shapla Akhtar, 14, was later

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Two canals recovered from encroachment

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The local administrations have recovered two important canals from illegal encroachment after decades in Tangail.

The Bhauapur upazila administration recovered the Pashchim Bhauapur-Shialkhola canal, the only means of drainage for Bhauapur Municipality, after being illegally occupied 50 years.

The move is expected to mitigate the town's waterlogging woes by improving drainage during monsoon.

"The canal used to connect to the Lauhajang river and flow through Pashchim [west] Bhauapur through Biramdi to Shialkhola market, which was once a busy commercial river port. Goods used to be transported to the market through large cargo boats navigating the canal. However, illegal encroachment on both banks and construction of numerous establishments on the canal's land over the decades shrank the canal, leaving its waterway no longer viable for navigation," said Ashraf Ali, 75, a local resident.

"As a result, during minor floods or heavy rains, several neighborhoods in the town suffered from waterlogging, especially Ghatandi, Faslandi, and Bhauapur Bazar areas," he added.

Local environmentalists have long alleged political involvement behind the unchecked encroachment of the canal.

Recently, the Bhauapur Upazila Administration took the initiative to recover the canal from encroachment. Sharifa Haque, deputy commissioner of Tangail, officially inaugurated excavation of the canal on June 2.

Meanwhile, Ghatail Upazila Administration recovered a 1.5km canal connecting the Chittai river in Panjana village of Deulabari union from illegal grabbing after around 20 years.

Some unscrupulous residents grabbed the canal for long and filled it up for their use, choking its flow, adversely affecting the irrigation of arable lands in the area, local fisheries, as well as its ability to drain away excess water during the monsoon.

As a result, about 800 people on both sides were affected, said locals.

Enamul Haque, project implementation officer in Ghatail upazila, said with the cooperation of the upazila administration, necessary arrangements were made to excavate the canal to restore its water flow.

Rahima Begum, 70, from Panjana village said reviving the canal has solved the longstanding irrigation problem.

Ghatail Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Abu Sayeed said legal action will be taken if anyone tries to occupy the canal again.

Tangail DC Sharifa Haque said such development work will continue.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মহাপরিচালকের কার্যালয়
পরিবহন ও বাণিজ্যিক বিভাগ
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, রেলভোর্ন, ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের "পরেটসম্যান" পদে নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার চূড়ান্ত ফলাফল ঘৰাণ্ডিত হয়েছে। প্রকাশিত ফলাফল বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে ও টেলিটেক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.railway.gov.bd & www.teletalk.com.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

মোঃ ময়মুন ইসলাম
উপ-প্রধান পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, রেলভোর্ন, ঢাকা
ও সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি

GD-1503

FACULTY SEARCH: FALL 2025

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY Center of Excellence in Higher Education The First Private University in Bangladesh

FACULTY POSITION

Applications are invited for faculty member positions in the following areas:



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS (SBE)

- Accounting (PhD only)
- Finance (PhD only)
- Data Science (Master's/PhD)
- Business Analytics (PhD only)
- AI in Business (PhD only)
- Business Intelligence (PhD only)
- Management Information System (PhD only)
- Supply Chain Management (PhD only)
- Business Statistics (PhD only)
- Operations Management (PhD only)
- Engineering Management (PhD only)
- Business Math (PhD only)
- Economics (PhD only)

SCHOOL OF HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES (SHLS)

- Biostatistics (PhD only)
- Microbiology (PhD only)
- Biochemistry (PhD only)
- Epidemiology (Master's/PhD)
- Environmental Health (Master's/PhD)
- Environmental Epidemiology (Master's/PhD)
- Environmental Modeling/Applied Statistics/Systems Ecology (Master's/PhD)
- Forestry/Natural Resource Management/Forest Ecology/Landscape Ecology (PhD only)
- Environmental Sociology/Environmental Communication/Political Ecology/Social Psychology (Master's/PhD)

Required Qualifications: Candidates will be considered eligible if they have obtained their degrees from globally reputed universities. A Master's degree is required for Lecturer and Senior Lecturer positions, while a Ph.D. or higher qualification is required for Assistant Professor and above positions. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Benefits: NSU offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes 50% house rent allowance based on the basic salary, medical allowance, festival bonuses, leave encashment, transport allowance, gratuity, provident fund, and insurance coverage. Salary packages are negotiable for outstanding candidates.

Application Process: Interested applicants are requested to visit the NSU website and submit their applications by the deadline of Sunday, 20th July 2025, through the following link for faculty positions in the relevant academic field or area. Link: <https://jobs.northsouth.edu/>

Vice-Chancellor
North South University
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
www.northsouth.edu

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Jamalpur www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.3900.000.07.001.25-2267

Date:-01/07/25

e-Tender Notice No-01/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of works details in table:

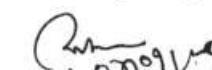
Tender ID	Tender Reference No	Name of work	Tender Publication Date & Time and Tender Opening Date & Time
I129401	GSID-2/JML/DW-274	Improvement of Konabari West Para Baitun Nurjame Mosjid Under Pourashava Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur [Latitude: 24.61004 Longitude: 89.85290].	03-Jul-2025 11:00 and 20-Jul-2025 12:30
I129402	GSID-2/JML/DW-275	Improvement of Vatara Uttar Moddopara Alaka Word Samajik Graveyard Under Vatara Union. Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur [Latitude: 24.81906 Longitude: 89.85491].	
I129403	GSID-2/JML/DW-276	Improvement of Kuralia Potol Dakkhinpara H/Q Member Bari (Toga Member) Jame Mosjid Under Aouna Union. Upazila: Sarishabari, Dist: Jamalpur [Latitude: 24.75082 Longitude: 89.96169].	
I129404	GSID-2/JML/DW-277	Improvement of Narikelai Uttarpara Jame Mosjid Under Kendua Union Upazila: Sadar, Dist: Jamalpur [Latitude: 24.867287 Longitude: 89.945786].	
I129405	GSID-2/JML/DW-278	Improvement of Uttar Chokpara Old Jame Mosjid Under Dighait Union Upazila: Sadar Dist: Jamalpur [Latitude: 24.781991 Longitude: 89.94065].	

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. Only e-GP registered tenderer under LGED, Jamalpur District are eligible.

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 form the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to 11:00 on 20-Jul-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

Local Govt. Engineering Department
Jamalpur.
Tel. No: 0981-63698
Email: xen.jamalpur@lged.gov.bd

World must adapt to rising heat

Says WMO as Europe roasts in high temperatures

AFP, Geneva

The world will have to learn to live with heatwaves, the United Nations' weather and climate agency said yesterday, as much of Europe roasts in high summer temperatures.

The World Meteorological Organization said that in future, people could expect heatwaves to occur more often and be more intense because of human-induced climate change.

WMO spokeswoman Clare Nullis said July was traditionally the hottest month of the year in the northern hemisphere, but it was exceptional to have episodes of extreme heat this early in the summer.

She said extreme heat was "widely called the silent killer", with the death toll often under reflected in statistics, compared to, for example, a tropical cyclone.



An injured Palestinian boy stands among mourners at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah, in central Gaza, yesterday, following overnight Israeli strikes.

PHOTO: AFP

LEAKED HUN SEN CALL Thai court suspends PM from duty

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand's Constitutional Court yesterday suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from duty pending a case seeking her dismissal, in a major setback for a government under fire on multiple fronts and fighting for its survival.

The court accepted a petition from 36 senators accusing Paetongtarn of dishonesty and breaching ethical standards, based on a leak of a sensitive telephone call with Cambodia's influential former leader Hun Sen that was intended to de-escalate a territorial row and tense troop buildup at their border.

The leaked June 15 call triggered domestic fury and has left Paetongtarn's coalition with a razor-thin majority after a big party abandoned the alliance and accused her of undermining sovereignty, as protest groups threaten more demonstrations to demand a new government.

Deputy PM Juangroongruangkit takes over as caretaker premier while court decides the case against Paetongtarn, who has 15 days to respond and will stay in the cabinet as the new culture minister following a reshuffle.

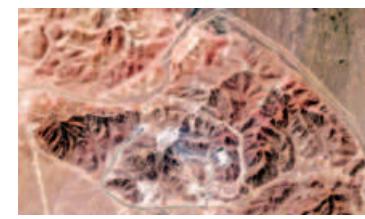
CNN ONLINE

New satellite images show continuing work at Iran's Fordow nuclear enrichment plant, which was struck by US B-2 bombers just over a week ago.

The imagery was collected by Maxar Technologies on Sunday. Maxar said it "reveals ongoing activity at and near the ventilation shafts and holes caused by last week's airstrikes on the Fordow fuel enrichment complex."

The pictures show "an excavator and several personnel are positioned immediately next to the northern shaft on the ridge above the underground complex. The crane appears to be operating at the entrance to the shaft/hole."

According to Maxar, several additional vehicles are also seen



below the ridge and are parked along the path that was built to access the site.

Earlier this month, American B 2 bombers dropped more than a dozen bunker-buster bombs on Iran's Fordow and Natanz nuclear sites, while Tomahawk missiles launched from a US submarine hit the Isfahan site in central Iran.

The US Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) bombs targeted the two ventilation shafts at Fordow, the two ventilation shafts at

according to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Dan Caine.

He told a Pentagon briefing last week that most of the bombs dropped at Fordow "were tasked to enter the main shaft, move down into the complex at greater than 1,000 feet per second, and explode in the mission space."

Former nuclear inspector David Albright said that imagery from Fordow on Saturday showed "the Iranians are actively working at the two MOP impact sites penetrating the ventilation shafts" at the plant.

Albright assessed that the activity "may include backfilling the craters, as well as conducting engineering damage assessments and likely radiological sampling. The craters above the main shafts remain open."

Declare July Charter or face public wrath

FROM PAGE 1
March to Rebuild the Nation".

The march that started with a visit to Abu Sayed's grave, is set to go through all 64 districts.

Nahid said, "Today, we have launched our July march. Martyrs like Abu Sayed continue to inspire our struggle to dismantle fascist systems. For

generations to come, the people of Bangladesh will revere Abu Sayed, Mugdha, Wasim, and all other martyrs and wounded fighters."

Yesterday marked the beginning of the first anniversary of the July uprising. Exactly one year ago, on this day, a movement began under the

banner of Students Against Discrimination.

"That quota reform movement transformed into a mass uprising and brought down the authoritarian fascist government. The death of Abu Sayed played a vital role in that downfall."

"We are calling the July march: 'A March to Build the Nation'."

While visiting Abu Sayed's grave, Nahid also paid tribute to all martyrs and injured fighters of July on behalf of the NCP, and all students and citizens who took part in the uprising.

"From here, we once again reiterate our three core demands: justice, reform, and a new

constitution. To build a new Bangladesh, we must pursue justice and reform and move towards a new constitution through an elected constituent assembly."

After visiting Abu Sayed's grave, the march moved on to Gaibandha town, where the NCP held another rally on the Shaheed Minar premises at 3:00pm.

Nahid said people did not take part in the mass uprising and shed their blood on the streets just so one party could replace another.

"The movement shattered fear and taught us to speak without hesitation. The movement

brought about a new country, but the nation has not yet been built. We've taken to the streets to build a new country where people of all religions and ethnicities can express their opinions and claim their rights without fear."

Nahid was accompanied by NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen, Senior Joint Convenor Samanta Shermeen, Senior Joint Member Secretary Dr Tasnim Zara, Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, and Chief Organiser (Southern Region) Hasnat Abdullah, among others.

[Our correspondent from Bogura contributed to this report.]

Trump signs order lifting sanctions on Syria

Says White House; rockets fired at Iraq airport

AFP, Kirkuk

President Donald Trump on Monday formally dismantled US sanctions against Syria, hoping to reintegrate the war-battered country into the global economy as Israel eyes ties with its new leadership.

Trump lifted most sanctions against Syria in May, responding to appeals from Saudi Arabia and Turkey after former Islamist guerrilla Ahmed al-Sharaa ended a half-century of rule by the Assad family.

Meanwhile, two rockets struck the military section of Kirkuk airport in northern Iraq late on Monday, slightly wounding two security personnel, a senior security said.

Monitoring Committee, no sincere effort has been visible. Though six months have passed since the reconstitution of the committee, no meeting took place.

PCJSS alleged the government is pursuing a "fascist" approach to the CHT crisis through widespread deployment of security forces rather than implementing the peace accord.

The report further alleged that private entities and influential individuals initiated rubber plantation, horticulture, and tourism ventures in parts of Bandarban, including Lama, Alikadam, and Naikongchhari, resulting in the eviction and harassment of local indigenous communities.

PCJSS also documented 21 incidents allegedly carried out by settler

groups, involving 79 victims -- including the aforementioned 30 children -- and the seizure of approximately 300 acres of land.

Fifteen cases of violence against indigenous women and children were recorded during the same period.

According to the report, no justice has been delivered in these cases, and perpetrators are reportedly enjoying impunity. The organisation warned of a rise in sexual violence against indigenous women as a result.

The report called for urgent government action to reverse the deteriorating human rights situation and fully implement the peace accord.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the claims made in the report.

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Trump suggests slashing Tesla subsidies

Elon Musk says 'cut it all'

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday suggested the government efficiency department should review the subsidies to Tesla CEO Elon Musk's companies to save money, reigniting a war of words between the world's most powerful person and its richest.

Trump's remarks came after Musk, a Republican mega-donor, renewed his criticism of the sweeping tax cut and spending bill and vowed to unseat lawmakers who supported it despite campaigning on limiting government spending.

"Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa," Trump said in a Truth Social post, referring to the Department of Government Efficiency.

"No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!"

In response, Musk said on his own social media platform X, "I am literally saying CUT IT ALL. Now."

Trump said Musk was upset because he lost the EV mandate in the recent tax and spending bill and warned the Tesla CEO "could lose a lot more than that".

TACKLING AIR POLLUTION Delhi bans fuel for old cars

AFP, New Delhi

India's capital New Delhi banned fuel sales to ageing vehicles yesterday as authorities try to tackle the sprawling megacity's hazardous air pollution.

The city is regularly ranked one of the most polluted capitals globally with acrid smog blanketing its skyline every winter.

At the peak of the smog, levels of PM2.5 pollutants -- dangerous cancer-causing microparticles small enough to enter the bloodstream through the lungs -- surge to more than 60 times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum. Petrol cars older than 15 years, and diesel vehicles older than 10, were already banned from operating on New Delhi's roads by a 2018 Supreme Court ruling.



চাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

সম্পত্তি বিভাগ

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

আমাদের চাকা
আমাদের ঐতিহ্য

তারিখ: ০১/০৭/২০২৫

ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি



স্মারক নং-৪৬, ২০৭, ১০০, ১৩, ০২, ৩২৫/২০২৫

স্মারক নং-৪৬, ২০৭, ১০০, ১৩, ০২, ৩২৫/২০২৫

১। মুক্তালয় ও বিভাগ

২। সহস্ত্র নাম

৩। দরপত্র আহবানকাৰী বিভাগ

৪। ত্রুটি প্রতি

৫। ইজারা দেয়াল

৬। দরদাতাৰ মোগ্যতা

৭। সিডিউল কোরে কোর্ট পৰিবহন

৮। দরপত্র বিভাগ

৯। দরপত্র জমা দেয়াল

১০। দরপত্র দোলাৰ ছান

১১। সিডিউল কোরে তারিখ, দরপত্র জমা দেওয়াৰ তাৰিখ ও দোলাৰ সময় নিৰ্দলিত

দরপত্র আহবানেৰ পত্ৰালি

১। পৰ্যায় ২২/০৭/২০২৫

২। পৰ্যায় ০৭/০৮/২০২৫

৩। পৰ্যায় ২০/০৮/২০২৫

৪। পৰ্যায় ১৩/০৯/২০২৫

৫। পৰ্যায় ২৬/০৯/২০২৫

৬। পৰ্যায় ১৩/১০/২০২৫

৭। পৰ্যায় ২০/১০/২০২৫

৮। পৰ্যায় ২৩/১০/২০২৫

৯। পৰ্যায় ২৬/১০/২০২৫

১০। পৰ্যায় ২৯/১০/২০২৫

১১। পৰ্যায় ৩১/১০/২০২৫

১২। কাজেৰ বিবৰণ

১। ইজারা বিবৰণী

২। সরকাৰী মূল্য

৩। সিডিউল মূল্য

৪। মুক্তা

৫। বিষয়ে যাবতীয় শৰ্ক ও নিয়মাবলী নথিৰ ভৱনে

৬। বিষয়ে যাবতীয় শৰ্ক ও নিয়মাবলী নথিৰ ভৱনে

৭। বিষয়ে যাবতীয় শৰ্ক ও নিয়মাবলী নথিৰ ভৱনে

Reinforce the police without delay

Prolonged vacancies, personnel issues in the force must be addressed

It is disheartening to learn that more than 400 key posts in the police force remain vacant or effectively non-functional, thus hindering its operational effectiveness and overall capacity to combat crime. Among the vacancies are at least 424 vital positions, including nine for additional inspector general of police (IGP) and 34 for deputy inspector general (DIG). There are also two vacancies for additional DIG, 47 for additional superintendent of police (ASP), and 332 for assistant SP. Besides, 119 top and mid-level officers—including DIGs, additional DIGs, and SPs—have been “attached” to various units without specific responsibilities, limiting their duties to office attendance and routine paperwork.

Police have been further weakened by a wave of forced retirements following the 2024 uprising that left over 1,400 people dead, many in police shootings. This was more or less expected, as the interim administration sought to hold accountable those involved in the brutalities. In fact, such disciplinary measures have long been overdue given the force's widespread involvement in corruption and excessive use of force during Awami League's 15-year rule, when police were routinely used to suppress dissent through arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, etc. By one estimate, at least 40 police officers with 25 years of service have been sent into forced retirement in recent months, while 23 officers with the ranks of ASP and above have been arrested in cases related to the uprising. There have also been notable instances of absenteeism.

The police force stands weakened by the cumulative effects of all these factors. Although it has performed relatively well in maintaining security during the recent Eid and puja festivals, any sense of complacency would be misplaced. The statement given by a top officer—that police are “ready and capable of facing any situation”—seems more a PR exercise than a reflection of reality, especially when seen against the backdrop of rising crime rates in general, the growing list of unresolved murders, or the lack of pre-emptive interventions. During recent visits to six police stations by our correspondents, locals have complained that officers often delay interventions and avoid recording complaints unless a crime draws public attention. Clearly, there is a need for urgent reinforcements and recalibrations. And existing bottlenecks are only hindering the progress.

Unfortunately, the problem of delaying key postings and promotions is not limited to the police force alone. The government, according to a report by this daily, has yet to appoint new deputy commissioners (DC) in around half the districts across the country, thus delaying critical field-level governance and electoral preparations ahead of the February election. As DCs serve as returning officers, any prolonged delay in their appointment could have serious implications for election management. Security and election preparations are also intrinsically related.

It is, therefore, important that the government acts swiftly both to reinforce the police force and to fill key administrative positions, before the combined effects of these delays start to threaten national stability and public confidence. The police headquarters, in particular, must resolve the personnel issues without delay.

JU's crippled medical centre

Authorities must end culture of neglect, improve its services

We are concerned about the deplorable state of Jahangirnagar University's medical centre that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate and emergency healthcare to students, faculty, and staff. The centre has long been plagued by various challenges including underfunding, staff shortages, and mismanagement. These issues have once again come to the fore after the recent death of Zubayer Hossain, a third year student at the Department of Anthropology. Zubayer, who suffered from haemophilia, reportedly did not receive timely ambulance support from the medical centre, which allegedly worsened his condition and ultimately led to his death. Students have repeatedly voiced their concerns about the substandard services at the centre, citing poor quality of care, lack of emergency preparedness, and failure to respond to critical situations. Yet, their grievances have been largely ignored.

Reportedly, the centre lacks specialists, medical assistants, and support staff. It currently has only nine doctors for over 12,500 students. No new doctor has been recruited since 2005. The centre's budget has also failed to keep pace with the growing demands of students and rising costs of medical services. The JU administration's apathy towards the healthcare needs of students and staff is also evident in its recently announced budget, where the allocation for medical services stands at Tk 45 lakh, or just 0.14 percent of the total budget. Medical allocations have hovered around this paltry percentage for the past few years. Despite the rising prices of essential medicines and pathology kits, allocations have not increased. According to JU's chief medical officer, the current budget falls far short of actual needs, as at least Tk 80 lakh is required annually for medicines and dressing equipment, along with an additional Tk 75 lakh to maintain pathology services. Therefore, increasing the health budget is imperative. Recruiting more doctors and medical staff will also require increased budgetary allocations.

JU students have long been demanding improvements to the medical services. Their demands include increasing the number of ambulances, recruiting experienced doctors, nurses, and support staff, ensuring a consistent supply of essential medicines, adding necessary diagnostic equipment, enhancing emergency services, upgrading the medical centre into a full-fledged hospital, implementing health insurance for students, etc. We think these demands deserve serious consideration. Students need proper medical care and reliable emergency services on their campus.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

US Civil Rights Act signed

On this day in 1964, US President Lyndon B Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, perhaps the most important US law on civil rights since Reconstruction (1865-77) and a hallmark of the American civil rights movement.

Bangladesh must change to protect its women



Naziba Basher
is a journalist at The Daily Star.

NAZIBA BASHER

How many more times do we have to write this?

Another rape, another woman brutalised, another family silenced, another round of outrage. Another case of the government assuring us that they will ensure justice. Yet, it keeps happening.

This is the brutal truth women in Bangladesh face today. This country has become no less than a battlefield for women—one on which we are losing because, let's face it, we hardly have anyone on our side.

Whether it's an alley, a classroom, or a rice field, almost every corner of this land seems to be a reminder of how vulnerable women are in Bangladesh.

When it comes to the deplorable Muradnagar incident, please don't pretend this has not happened before; don't feign your shock and ask, “How could people do this?” Because then I ask, “How could you forget the woman in Subarnachar from 2018?”

The Muradnagar survivor's trauma is unimaginable. Her fate, though? Predictable. Because here, sexual violence is no longer an anomaly, it is a day-to-day activity for some—a recurring headline, a twisted ritual that seems to have gotten stitched into the fabric of our society. And yet, we show no shame. The predators know it. They know the system; they know the silence of those in power.

Within days of the rape in Muradnagar, a sixth-grader was raped in Mymensingh. Another was almost raped in a madrasa dormitory, by the director of the institution. Days before, a woman was raped in a train toilet. On Sunday, another 10-year-old was raped.

These were just the cases that were reported. Remember, our victims don't like to report being assaulted because they know the level of impunity our legal system grants rapists and sexual abusers. The Muradnagar survivor has been dragged through the mud just because she dared to file a case against her rapist.

And if you think these are isolated tragedies, look at the data.

From January to May 2025 alone, 383 rape incidents were recorded. Seventy-one of those cases could

not even be traced to formal police reports—nearly one in five survivors whose trauma was ignored and erased.

And even when women do report, the system makes them pay for it all over again. Our justice process is designed not to protect women, but to exhaust them, humiliate them, and ultimately silence them. We force survivors to prove their violation, to surrender their bodies again for immediate DNA evidence before they have even had a moment to breathe. My colleague, during a *Viewsroom* episode I recently hosted, laid it bare,



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

“Right after rape, women need to choose between healing and justice, and that is not fair.”

The legal system piles indignity upon indignity, while survivors endure trials that drag on for years, sometimes decades. Many survivors simply give up, unable to withstand the endless character assassinations, public scrutiny, and procedural hurdles.

Worse still, many have to prove in court that they were “good enough” to not deserve rape.

Meanwhile, we see in Facebook

comments how there are so many men who think almost all women deserve to be raped, just because they are women, proving once again that rape is not borne out of sexual attraction but is a form of powerplay.

Imagine surviving the worst violation of your life, and being told in court that your own behaviour, your choices, your so-called “character” are on trial, but not the man who destroyed you.

In the case of the Muradnagar rape, the court did not even have to go so far. We had our own “esteemed” journalists crowding the traumatised victim, asking her, “What was your relationship with the man who raped you?” Trying to prove she had something to do with the crime she's a victim of. How much we love shaming our women is evident just by this.

Even recent legal reforms, like the 2020 High Court guidelines on rape trials, remain ineffective due to poor implementation. Comprehensive

They have all done the same to us: political influence protecting predators, silencing survivors, portraying the destruction of a woman's life as a temporary scandal.

We are a country that flaunts its female leaders and boasts of women's “empowerment” at global forums. Scratch beneath the glossy veneer, and the rot is impossible to ignore.

We raise girls to believe education will liberate them. But what liberation exists when you can be raped on your way to school? What protection exists when even infants are not spared or where every rape is followed by victim blaming, legal loopholes, and deafening silence from those in power?

Let's stop pretending. Bangladesh needs to change, urgently, to protect its women, in all its corners.

Like many of you, I too am only left with the soul-crushing knowledge that until this country stops treating

women's bodies as battlegrounds, until the powerful stop shielding monsters, until justice becomes more than a televised performance, until our society learns and we teach our boys that rape is always wrong no matter who the victim is, we will have to keep writing these headlines. We will continue to cry while they keep making false promises of “safety for all women under our government.”

Until then, this so-called nation of progress will keep failing us.

The silent revolt that no one talks about



Maruf Ahmed
is an architect and a lecturer at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET).

MARUF AHMED

There is a building in Dhaka that most of us pass by without a second glance. It doesn't scream for attention. It doesn't compete with the shiny towers of our neoliberal skylines. It stands quietly, almost shyly, under the canopy of trees at Dhaka University. But what it holds inside—historically, symbolically, psychologically—is nothing less than a revolt. Not with banners or bullets, but with brick and silence. I'm speaking, of course, of the Institute of Fine Arts, designed by Muzharul Islam and completed in 1956. In a time when East Pakistan was caught in the tightening grip of West Pakistan's ideologies, this building emerged, not as a reaction, but as a radical proposition.

Most people at the time didn't fully grasp what had happened. The building was “just architecture,” a place for artists to study, to paint, to sculpt. It looked clean, modest, and rational. But it was anything but ordinary. At a time when architecture echoed the imperial leftovers of British neoclassicism—with their hierarchical axes, pompous symmetry, and enclosed monumental facades—the fine arts institute did something radical: it opened itself to the courtyard, to the sky, to trees

and human movement. It brought life into the plan. No grand staircase, no ceremonial façade, no temple-like portico, no restriction on walking around the place. Instead, a shaded walkway, porous boundaries, a humble yet dignified spatial democracy.

Psychologically, this space broke with authority. Where colonial architecture was designed to intimidate—to control through verticality, scale, and detachment—this building offered a horizontal intimacy. It invited people to linger, not march. You could enter from multiple sides; it had no “official” front. The courtyard was not ornamental; it was simultaneously a spatial breathing room and a studio, evoking a distinctly Bangladeshi sense of openness and collective presence. It signalled, subtly but unmistakably, a return to ourselves. It was, quite literally, an architecture of freedom.

Philosopher and social theorist Henri Lefebvre argues that liberation manifests through two interdependent media: the linguistic and the spatial (*The Production of Space*, 1991). The 1952 Language Movement was our linguistic revolt—bloody, visible,

undeniable. But what followed just four years later was our spatial revolt. The fine arts institute did for space what the Language Movement did for speech: it returned us to ourselves. It reminded us, silently, that we were not what the colonial powers—first British, then Pakistani—tried to make us. It reminded us that we had a consciousness before we had a country, and that consciousness needed space where to live, breathe, and become.

The genius of Muzharul Islam was not in spectacle, but in restraint. He didn't reach for arches, Mughal motifs or colonial symmetry. Instead, he turned to local materials: handmade brick, indigenous proportions, shaded verandas, *jaali*-like wall perforations. Yet, these elements were not nostalgic—they were transformed, modernised, made metaphysically new. He constructed a space that felt ancient without looking backwards, and felt modern without betraying its roots. In doing so, he performed an act of resistance that was both spatial and civilisational.

This, I argue, was our mnemonic rupture—a moment where memory became form. Before we gained territorial independence in 1971, we had already begun to liberate our psyche. The fine arts institute was not just a building, it was a premonition. It knew, before we did, that to become a nation, we had to reclaim more than our land; we had to reclaim our spatial consciousness, and our cultural and existential memory. We had to unlearn colonial monumentality and

reimagine ourselves not as subjects of empire, but as carriers of a humanist legacy deeper and older than any imposed state ideology.

In my ongoing work, *How Architecture in Bangladesh Became Metaphysically Modern*, I argue that this building marks the first real postcolonial reorientation of space in our context. It didn't just import modernism from the West. It translated it into a local metaphysics, a way of being that was simultaneously forward-looking and deeply grounded. It answered Muzharul Islam's timeless question, “How do we enter the 21st century?” A question that, as Kazi Khalef Ashraf observes, carries within it a quiet hesitation: what must we take with us? What must we abandon? What memories, what shadows, what principles still matter?

Today, too often, we associate liberation only with war, politics, and slogans. But the fine arts institute reminds us that liberation also happens in silence, in shadow, in slow-burning wisdom. It teaches us that architecture is not passive. It can fight, it can remember, it can restore. Before we picked up rifles, we built this. Before our maps changed, our minds had already begun to transform.

So perhaps it's time we ask: what other revolutions have we forgotten? What other sacred beginnings have we walked past without knowing? The Institute of Fine Arts does not demand to be remembered. It simply stands as proof that space can speak, and sometimes, silence is the loudest revolt of all.

Bangladesh and India's new strategic dilemma



Zillur Rahman
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ZILLUR RAHMAN

A new phase of distancing between Bangladesh and India has been brought on by recent changes in bilateral trade along their shared border. Although India has traditionally viewed Bangladesh as a significant ally in South Asia, its current steps appear more severe, even punitive. Its displeasure with Dhaka's political shift has been demonstrated by Delhi's employing a range of strategies, including sudden trade restrictions, public demonstrations, and heightened strategic posturing.

India appears to be unhappy about the collapse of the Awami League government and the emergence of an interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus, despite it being a domestic issue. Delhi now faces a less predictable opponent after years of supporting the previous government. Border pressure, a diplomatic freeze, and trade retaliation seem to be more reactive than proactive.

Since May 7, India's border force is said to have pushed more than 1,600 individuals into Bangladesh, including Indian citizens and the displaced Rohingya. Such actions are against international norms. During a vulnerable time of political transition, these unannounced arrivals have placed strain on Bangladesh's internal security and the local government. This has also led to public discontent and instability. When pressure is put on Bangladesh's security forces to react, there is a greater chance that the situation

may escalate. The tactic fits into what some argue is a broader pattern in India's regional playbook that disseminates political concepts through strategic pressure.

The issue is exacerbated by India's aggressive efforts to upgrade its infrastructure. Over the past decade, India has effectively encircled Bangladesh with an extensive network of rivers, trains, and roads, connecting the northeast to the mainland. India possesses significant logistical capabilities, thanks to projects such as the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit via Myanmar and transportation corridors through Bangladesh.

Dr Yunus's statement that "Bangladesh is their sole path to the sea" was viewed as a strategic issue in Delhi due to the "landlocked" nature of the northeastern Indian provinces. In response, India has resumed military preparations around key locations and reactivated the airbase in Kailashahar, Tripura.

Delhi is even more uneasy about Bangladesh's decision to revive Lalmonirhat airport, given its proximity to the Siliguri Corridor.

Critical supply networks for Bangladeshi exports, which primarily include processed foods, apparel, and home goods, have been impacted by India's sudden restrictions. Order delays and stopped shipments are affecting small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those that supply to northeastern India.

This move, which is sometimes interpreted

as a response to Bangladesh's ban on importing Indian yarn, highlights the significant trade imbalance. In FY2023-24, Bangladesh exported less than \$1.6 billion worth of goods to India, but imported approximately \$9 billion worth of goods from there. Indian traders are also facing shortages and higher prices in West Bengal and the northeast. Electricity is another weakness. Approximately 2,500MW, or 17 percent of Bangladesh's total electricity

Not to be overlooked are Dhaka's recent diplomatic engagements with Pakistan and China. Proposals for a humanitarian channel/corridor to Myanmar's Rakhine state and preliminary talks on infrastructure cooperation between the three countries have heightened Indian concerns. Delhi is concerned about a shift in the strategic centre of the Bay of Bengal as it may diminish India's long-standing influence over the region.

Bangladesh and India have a complex and multifaceted connection. Bangladesh provides India with essential access to its northeast, and India remains Bangladesh's most significant regional business partner. However, the relationship is unbalanced. Bangladesh's heavy reliance on Indian energy, trade, and transportation puts it at risk. Given their proximity and shared history, Dhaka should treat Delhi strategically.

Can Bangladesh and India put aside temporary solutions and create a cooperative, long-term partnership? This important topic has been brought to light by the current tensions.

Dialogue must be the first step in resolving the problem. Bangladesh should initiate high-level talks with partners in both public and private sectors. For managing border and trade challenges, a collaborative framework is essential. Countermeasures or retaliation would not work.

Dhaka must also increase its diplomatic, energy, and commercial alternatives. One way to reduce an excessive dependence on any one source country is to participate in the forums of ASEAN partners, such as SAFTA and BIMSTEC.

At the same time, accepting the new political realities in Dhaka without seeing them as threats is the best course of action for India.

There are other ties between the two countries besides trade and treaties. Historical events, waterways, and cultural relations are all comparable. However, both sides now need to be mature enough to sustain this relationship. The current circumstance is a test of vision, strategy, and diplomacy. The choices made in Dhaka and Delhi will have an impact not only on their bilateral relationship but also on the larger South Asian regional order.

Instead of writing provocatively, let us write the next chapter cooperatively and practically.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

supply, is sourced from imports from India. Any disruption in this may cause serious problems for the urban and industrial sectors in Bangladesh.

When evaluating India's current position, it is essential to consider broader geopolitical developments. Delhi is now on the defensive due to the Modi government's return with a smaller mandate and growing international criticism, particularly from the US, on issues of religious freedom and democratic backsliding.

Employed initially as a catchphrase supporting democratic rebirth, the term "New Bangladesh" has come to be seen by Indian observers as a rejection of India's long-standing role in Bangladesh. The diplomatic situation has become more complex as a result of this shift in narrative. Back-channel communication has deteriorated, and high-level visits have slowed. In response to Dhaka's repeated requests for cooperation based on respect for each other's sovereignty, India has, at best, been reticent.

Operation Rising Lion and its wider fallout in Israel-Iran conflict



Dr Sayeed Ahmed
is a consulting engineer and CEO of Bayside Analytics, a technology-focused strategy and management consulting organisation.

SAYEED AHMED

It all began with a simple business deal. In 2022, BAC Consulting, a small Hungarian management firm housed in a plain two-storey building in Budapest, reached out to Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese electronics manufacturer, to license its brand name for producing pagers. The request appeared straightforward—a European distributor seeking to manufacture communication devices for the Middle Eastern market. What Gold Apollo didn't realise was that BAC was secretly redesigning these pagers with a deadly twist: tiny amounts of explosives concealed inside what looked like ordinary, low-tech devices. These were then sold to unsuspecting Hezbollah members in Lebanon. Between 3:30pm and 4:30pm on September 17, 2024, thousands of the pagers detonated, killing at least 12 people, including eight Hezbollah fighters. This intricate deception is now considered one of the most sophisticated intelligence operations

in recent history.

A small quantity of PETN (pentaerythritol tetranitrate), a highly explosive compound, was placed in the batteries of the devices. They were detonated by remotely raising the battery temperature via radio signal—another novel design feature. Ironically, Hezbollah preferred these simple pagers precisely because they lacked advanced features, thus appearing safer from Israeli surveillance.

Few realised that BAC Consulting was a front for Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency. The operation revealed Israel's strategic shift from traditional methods to a new era of advanced, tech-based intelligence warfare. Analysts now refer to this as "ungentlemanly warfare": the integration of cyber capabilities, miniaturised explosives, and supply chain infiltration. The execution of Operation Rising Lion marks a significant milestone in this evolving doctrine.

Israel's regional challenges over recent decades have exposed the limitations of conventional military tactics. In Lebanon, Hezbollah's asymmetric warfare repeatedly frustrated the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Gaza posed similar challenges, with Hamas's tunnel networks and urban guerrilla strategies. The Houthis in Yemen forced Washington

asymmetric tactics, exploiting local terrain, and mobilising civilian support. They operated within complex political landscapes that rendered conventional warfare increasingly ineffective. This prompted a reassessment of Israel's strategic toolkit—an evolution that culminated in Operation Rising Lion.

The latest component of this

with Israeli aircraft operating almost unhindered in Iranian airspace. The mission involved around 200 combat aircraft—including F-15I, F-16I and F-35I jets—striking more than a hundred high-value targets deep inside Iran. It was the most significant assault on the country since the 1980-89 Iran-Iraq War.

The operation's success relied heavily on extensive espionage networks inside Iran, painstakingly built over many years. Apple TV's *Tehran* (TV series, 2020-) offers a glimpse into how such infiltration might have been executed. The first clear warning to Iran came in July 2024, when Israel assassinated Ismail Haniyeh—Hamas's top political leader and a guest of the Islamic Republic—in central Tehran, revealing Mossad's reach within the country's most secure zones. The September pincer explosions in Lebanon served as a second warning. It is no surprise, then, that Israeli operations have consistently demonstrated deep knowledge of personnel movements, security protocols, and infrastructure vulnerabilities.

The timeline of events reflects long-term strategic planning, not merely reactive measures. Rather than treating each regional challenge in isolation, Israel adopted a unified doctrine, viewing its adversaries as interconnected components of a broader regional threat landscape. Hamas's attack on Israel in October



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS
Operation Rising Lion's success relied heavily on extensive espionage networks inside Iran, painstakingly built over many years.

into negotiations as military operations failed to contain them. Meanwhile, Iranian influence in post-American Iraq underscored the limits of foreign military intervention.

These diverse experiences shared key traits: adversaries employing

campaign began in the early hours of June 13 this year. Swarms of small explosive drones, smuggled into Iran months earlier by Israeli commandos, first neutralised the country's air defence systems. This was followed by waves of air strikes,

2023 presented an opportunity for the IDF to launch an extensive campaign in Gaza, significantly weakening the group.

In 2024, Israel turned its attention to Hezbollah, assassinating its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, in air strikes near Beirut in September. The following month, Iran retaliated by launching around 180 ballistic missiles at Israel—most of which were intercepted, though a few did strike their targets. Later in October, Israel responded by destroying Iran's S-400 air defence systems that had been acquired from Russia. The stage was thus set for Operation Rising Lion.

Despite some criticism, Operation Rising Lion appears to have achieved its immediate goals. It reaffirmed Israel's conventional military superiority over Iran and underscored the importance of intelligence, surprise, and integrated air and missile defences. However, its impact on Iran's nuclear programme remains unclear.

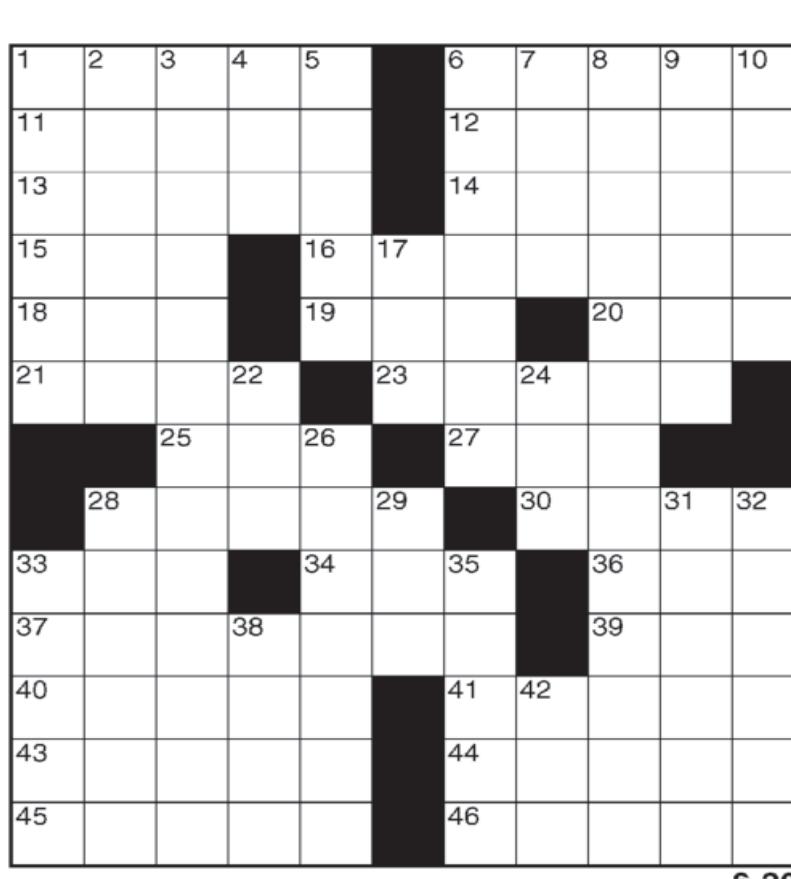
The operation's long-term success is also uncertain, as many variables—some still unknown—will shape its effectiveness. Nonetheless, Israel's shift from tactical stalemates to strategic assertiveness signals a broader transformation in the regional conflict landscape. How its adversaries adapt to this new reality may well determine the course of Middle Eastern security in the years to come.

MONDAY'S ANSWERS

B	A	R	S		D	O	G	M	A
A	T	O	P	R	O	P	E	I	N
E	T	T	E	A	N	T	O	N	Y
Z	U	C	C	H	I	N	I		
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D	E	S	I	R	E	A	L	A	N
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E	D	G	E	S		A	X	E	S

Write for us. Send us your opinion pieces to
dsopinion@gmail.com

ACROSS
1 Cut's counterpart
6 Buttes' cousins
11 Mink's cousin
12 Chosen few
13 Window cover
14 Supple
15 High rating
16 Table protector
18 Complete
19 Bauxite product
20 They hold power
21 Speaker's stand
23 Property claims
25 Decrepit horse
27 Chick holder
28 Radiant
30 Chooses
33 Billboards, e.g.
34 Film noir classic
36 Go bad
37 Bullfight hero
39 Mess up
40 Nimble
41 Loosen, as laces
43 Rural sights
44 Quick snacks



Sabina Yasmin returns with patriotic anthem 'Praner Bangladesh'

Veteran singer Sabina Yasmin marks her return with a new patriotic song titled *Praner Bangladesh*, composed and written by Arif Hossain Babu, with musical arrangement by Rohan Raj.



Blending modern tones with national sentiment, the track will soon be released on Orin Multimedia's YouTube channel. The songstress, who recently recovered from a health setback after collapsing on stage in January, called the composition "modern, yet rooted".

Babu expressed fulfilment in having his song voiced by the National Award winning icon. Earlier, Yasmin's duet *Amar Potaka Lal-Shobuje Anka* with Asif Akbar received wide appreciation.

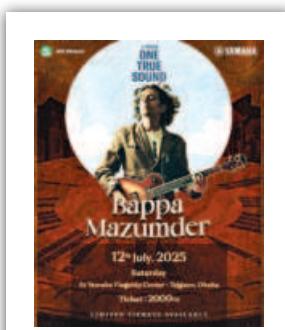
Bappa Mazumder to star in intimate solo concert

Renowned musician Bappa Mazumder is set to perform a solo concert on July 22 as part of the *Yamaha on True Sound* series at the Yamaha Flagship Centre in Dhaka.

The evening will feature reimagined versions of his popular songs with fresh arrangements. "A solo show is pivotal for any artiste," said Bappa, emphasising the importance of such intimate performances.

Tickets are priced at Tk 2,000 and available via Get Set Rock, with the concert starting at 8pm and gates opening at 6pm.

This marks his first solo show since *Bappa Mazumder's Odyssey* in 2023. He is also preparing to release a new single, *Agamikal*, and planning a US tour for September–October.



SHARMIN JOYA

Elahi Towfique's film *Neelpodmo (The Blue Lotus)*, featuring Runa Khan in the lead role, was recently awarded Best Feature Film at this year's Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival.

Elated by the success, the actress, who is currently on holiday with her family, spoke to The Daily Star from Istanbul, Turkey. "Our film first premiered at the 23rd Dhaka International Film

Festival and received acclaim from both critics and audiences. Now that it was recognised as the Best Feature Film in Japan, I'm definitely happy and honoured. I'm truly grateful to the entire team for believing in the project," she shared.

The film's director, Elahi Towfique, a university professor, conducted extensive research, studying the history of the Daulatdia brothel in depth, before making the film.

"To the best of my knowledge, it's one of the largest brothels in Asia. And *Neelpodmo* is a

documentation of the lives of the women living there."

"Bringing their stories to the screen is a significant achievement in my career. Interestingly, the story is woven in a way that the audience can relate to many untold and hidden narratives of those who reside in that place," explained the *Halda* actress.

She further noted that this project stands out because of its deep research, something rarely seen in the industry. "Stories like this aren't told very often. While I played the lead role, it was a great challenge for me as an artiste. I learned various new information about the lives of women and girls we know as sex workers."

She added, "From the outside, we only see their vibrant clothes and colourful



PHOTO: COLLECTED

makeup, but we rarely consider what goes on in their minds—lives marked by trauma and betrayal. Very few dare to explore that side of their existence."

Runa pointed out that many of these women once had 'normal' lives but were forced into sex work. "Only a few choose this path willingly. Most are trapped—brought here through betrayal, victims of trafficking, or even born into it."

Reflecting on her role, Runa said it was her director's vision that helped her truly embody the character. "We shot across real locations, and the people whose stories we portrayed were extremely supportive. We're deeply grateful to them."

Runa, after visiting four states in the USA, is currently visiting Turkey.

She is also awaiting the release of three other projects: Masud Pothik's *Bok*, Kaushik Sankar Das's *Dafon*, Zahid Hossain's *Neelamonthon*, and a short film by Sohel Rana Boyati.

Bangladeshi short film headed to South Africa



Bangladeshi short film *Untongue*, directed by Golam Rabbani, has been officially selected for the Waterloo Film Festival (WFF), scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa, from July 4 to 6.

The film, exploring themes of the right to expression, will represent Bangladesh among 82 global entries and 16 musical films.

Untongue has already received an Honourable Mention at the Venice Intercultural Film Festival and has been screened at numerous local and international events, including BUFT Film Fest and the BSA Film Festival.

Featuring a cast including Mizanur Rahman and Prosun Azad, the film follows Rabbani's earlier acclaimed work *Chhurat*. His upcoming projects *Stitch Life* and *Nishi* are awaiting release.

BTS to release first-ever live album this month



Global pop sensation BTS will release their first-ever live album, *Permission to Dance on Stage - Live*, on July 18.

The album includes 22 tracks from their world tour, capturing stadium shows in Seoul, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas. Launched online in October 2021, the tour drew over four million fans globally.

Live versions of hits like *Dynamite*, *Butter*, *On*, and *Boy With Luv* will be officially released for the first time. Moreover, the album mirrors the full concert setlist, allowing fans to relive or newly discover the tour's highlights.

Also included is a 141-minute concert video titled *Permission to Dance on Stage - Seoul*, and a 92-page photobook with exclusive interviews, behind-the-scenes moments, and reflections from the members.

NEWS

Charges pressed against Chinmoy

FROM PAGE 2

Ex-ISKCON leader Chinmoy – also the spokesperson for Sammilita Sanatan Jagaran Jote – was shown arrested in the Alif murder case by a court on May 5 following a police application.

On October 31 last year, Firoz Khan, former general secretary of Chattogram's Mohora Ward BNP, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station, accusing Chinmoy and 18 others of disrespecting the national flag during a rally of the Hindu community on October 25 in the port city's New Market area.

On November 26 last year, Chinmoy was sent to jail after a Chattogram court rejected his bail plea in the

sedition case.

Following the bail rejection, his supporters blocked the police prison van on its way to jail and staged a demonstration demanding Chinmoy's immediate release.

Police later charged with batons to disperse the agitating supporters, triggering a clash in the court building area that afternoon.

Advocate Alif, a lawyer of the Chattogram Court, was brutally beaten and hacked to death outside the court premises during triangular clashes between Chinmoy's supporters, police, and a group of lawyers.

In connection with the vandalism, attacks, and clashes, police filed three

cases – for assault on police, vandalism, and obstructing law enforcement from performing official duties – accusing 79 named individuals and around 1,400 unidentified ones.

Alif's father, Jamal, filed a murder case against 31 individuals, while his brother Khan-e-Alam filed another case accusing 115 persons, including 70 lawyers, with Kotwali Police Station.

Police held 10 accused, mostly cleaners by profession, after their presence was detected in CCTV footage, police said.

Among the accused, Chandan Das, Ripon Das, and Rajib Bhattacharya gave confessional statements before the court involving their roles in the murder.

In connection with the vandalism, attacks, and clashes, police filed three

US aid cuts may force millions more from homes

Says Danish NGO

AFP, Copenhagen

Cuts to global aid budgets spearheaded by the United States could nearly double the number of people forced to flee their homes this year, the Danish Refugee Council warned yesterday.

US President Donald Trump has cut 83 percent of funding for overseas programmes run by development agency USAID, with France, Germany and Britain also slashing their aid commitments.

The Danish NGO warned that development programmes directly targeted the issues that force people to flee their homes – conflict, rights violations, the effects of climate change, and economic crises.

"When funding is suddenly cut, lifelines are cut: The vital services that protect vulnerable communities from poverty, hunger, and displacement abruptly disappear, leading to tragic consequences," the group's Secretary General Charlotte Slente said in a statement.

If US funding is fully withdrawn and other donors also decrease aid, the council said, it could lead to a "staggering" 7.85 million people being displaced this year.

and abroad.

In January this year, nearly a decade later, the anti-graft body reopened the case and formed a high power committee to reinvestigate it.

Since then, officials say fresh documents have surfaced, including files linked to then-Bridge Division secretary Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan.

The ACC boss said, "Evidence of graft have already emerged. If anyone's involvement is proven, they will be held accountable, no matter how powerful they are."

Woman raped

FROM PAGE 2

The husband said he had returned to his village home in Tajumuddin about two weeks ago. On Friday night, his third wife – now under arrest – called and lured him to her house, where her associates tied him up, demanded Tk 1.8 lakh, and physically assaulted him over two days.

Upon hearing about the incident, his first wife arrived at the scene on Sunday to rescue him but was also beaten up. She then tried to contact her father-in-law to help acquire the money demanded.

The husband further alleged that he was later taken outside and held captive, while the accused confined his first wife in another room and raped her. They reportedly threatened them with dire consequences if they disclosed the incident.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, in a press release signed by its President Iqbal Hossain Liton and General Secretary Mohammad Selim, announced that accused Farid Uddin has been expelled from the party due

to "serious breach of party discipline and unethical conduct".

Omar Sharif Rintu, member secretary of Tajumuddin upazila BNP, confirmed the expulsion to The Daily Star. "Farid Uddin has been expelled from the party for his alleged involvement in the case. However, the allegation regarding Chhatra Dal leader Russell's involvement is inaccurate. The Russell accused in the case is a different individual."

Shortly after the rape, a video went viral online through several digital news portals, which police have clarified is not a footage of the incident in question.

In a Facebook post, Bholi district police stated, "A manipulated video is being circulated on social media through Ajker Kantha and several other online platforms, falsely claiming it to be an incident from Tajumuddin Police Station area of Bholi district."

Further clarifying, SP Shariful said, "We are investigating the rape allegation. However, the video being spread online is not related to this incident."

Ex-CEC Huda blames govt

FROM PAGE 2

approximately three and a half hours.

"Nurul Huda said in his statement that night-time voting was done without his knowledge, keeping him in the dark. He learned about it later, but by then, there was nothing he could do," a PBI official told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

"He [Nurul Huda] also said the government officials responsible for overseeing the election acted overzealously," he said.

The magistrate sent Nurul Huda to jail after recording his statements.

Around 6:10pm, he was escorted to the lockup of the CMM Court.

Earlier, the defence filed a petition seeking his bail. But it was not heard.

The hearing on the bail petition is scheduled today, said Touhidul Islam, a defence lawyer.

Contacted, Enayet Hossain Mannan, additional DIG of Dhaka Metropolitan (North) PBI, acknowledged that the former CEC gave a confessional statement admitting his responsibility and clarifying the irregularities.

In the police forwarding report submitted to the court, Sajedur said that Nurul Huda voluntarily agreed to give a confessional statement

regarding the 2018 elections during four days of interrogation.

The 11th parliamentary elections were held under the Nurul Huda-led Election Commission on December 30, 2018. The Awami League secured another landslide victory in the polls, which is widely considered by opposition parties and election observers to be rigged.

According to the forwarding report, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, along with the election commissioners, deprived the people of their right to vote by allowing law enforcement personnel and election officials to stuff ballot boxes with votes cast the night before the polling day in 2018.

Nurul Huda was arrested on June 22 after a top BNP leader filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, naming 24 individuals, including former CECs Kazi Habibul Awal, Nurul Huda, and Kazi Habibul Awal.

He was handed over to police after being assaulted by a mob at his residence in Dhaka's Uttara.

The next day, he was placed on a four-day remand.

On June 27, a court granted police another four-day remand for further interrogation.

Hounded by media

FROM PAGE 2

Investigation Department's lab for forensic examination.

Meanwhile, rights groups have called for the immediate recording of the survivor's statement before an executive magistrate under Section 22 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, along with the formation of a medical board.

OC Zahidur said recording her statement under Section 22 was not required as she is the complainant. "If any directive comes from higher authorities regarding a medical board, we will comply."

EC working on Feb, Apr polls timeline

FROM PAGE 2

the national election. We are moving forward with preparations based on that commitment."

When it comes to ensuring that the election is acceptable, fair and neutral, the government and the Election Commission are on the same page, he said.

"During the courtesy meeting that day, he [Yunus] gave such an indication and asked whether we were prepared for it."

In response, Nasir said that the EC's preparation is progressing in full gear.

When asked about the National Party's demand for reconstitution of the Election Commission, Nasir said: "I don't want to make any comment. Political parties are free to express their views."

Asked about the recent arrest of two former CECs, KM Nurul Huda and Kazi Habibul Awal, over their involvement in election irregularities, Nasir declined to make a comment as it is a sub judice matter.

'Won't accept polls without reforms'

FROM PAGE 2

Making an oblique reference to the BNP, Taher said, "Those who claim they will win 280 seats and declare their plans to form a single-party government are the ones who will obstruct a free and fair election. In reality, they want a questionable election."

"Those who do not support the efforts to block the path of fascism today are the very ones who want to establish fascism again."

Leaders of the party, including Abdus Sabur Fakir, Shafiqul Islam Masud, Helal Uddin, and Delwar Hossain, spoke at the event.

HC stays

FROM PAGE 3
elder sister's home in the Nijanduali Mathpara area of Magura Sadar on March 1 this year.

She was raped there in the early hours of March 6.

On the same day, she was taken to the Magura 250-bed District Hospital in a critical condition and later transferred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

From Faridpur, she was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state on that day and put on life support the next night.

When her condition deteriorated, the child was transferred to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka on March 8. She died at the CMH on March 13.

On March 8, her mother filed the case with Magura Sadar Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, accusing Hitu, Jaheda, Sajib and Ratul.

Kuet shutdown hits 133rd day

FROM PAGE 3
payments have been halted due to the lack of a VC's signature.

Dr Zulfiqar Hossain, director of Kuet's Infrastructure and Academic Expansion Project, warned that all development work may come to a halt unless a new VC is appointed soon.

More than 1,100 teachers, officers, and staff

have not received their salaries since May.

The education ministry issued a circular on June 4 inviting applications for the VC's post. The deadline ended on June 26, leaving little time for resolution before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. If the university fails to utilise its allocated revenue budget by then, it risks forfeiting the funds.

On June 22, officers and staff leaders sent a letter to the education adviser requesting interim measures to allow salary disbursement and continuation of administrative activities.

Earlier, registrar Engineer Md Anisur Rahman Bhuiyan wrote to the ministry on May 29 regarding the matter, but no directive has been issued so far.

Three arrested over worker's

FROM PAGE 4
The incident came to light after a video of the torture went viral on social media.

Following the incident, hundreds of enraged workers staged protests, blocking a highway for several hours on Saturday.

The factory has since been shut down indefinitely.

The victim's elder brother, Md Liton Miah,

36, filed the murder case with Konabari Police Station on Saturday night, accusing several unidentified people.

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 learned

that Hridoy had been killed on suspicion of theft.

Yesterday afternoon, the Bangladesh Garments and Sweater Workers' Trade Union Centre formed a human chain in front of the Gazipur deputy commissioner's office at 1:00pm, demanding immediate trial and exemplary punishment for those involved in the killing.

Nearly 50 trees felled

FROM PAGE 3
Vice-Chancellor Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan visited the site around noon and expressed shock over the incident.

"I wasn't informed about the removal of so many trees. This was done without my consent. I don't understand how the project director claims he was unaware," he said.

Reiterating the administration's earlier commitment, the VC added, "We had clearly said no construction would proceed without the visual development of a masterplan. That process is still ongoing. We will soon invite a tender for it."

When students questioned how an excavator could enter the campus and destroy dozens of trees without either the VC or the project director noticing, the VC said, "This appears to be a conspiracy against the university. We will call an urgent administrative meeting to investigate the matter and ensure those responsible face appropriate consequences."

Students, however, expressed disappointment and criticised what they called the administration's "hypocrisy".

Many pointed out that members of the current administration -- including the VC -- had previously opposed similar construction projects involving tree felling under past administrations.

"The current administration is repeating the same heinous work as the previous one. The VC himself promised that no construction would take place without a visual development of the masterplan. Now, after the trees have been felled, he claims he had no idea," said Imran Hossain Shuvo, an undergraduate student from the Anthropology department.

"With no biodiversity assessment conducted beforehand, the administration ignored the wildlife living in this area. This has dealt a massive blow to campus biodiversity. We demand a fair investigation and exemplary punishment for those responsible," he added.

Aurito Sattar, a wildlife photographer and Environmental Sciences student, said, "Even two months ago, foxes were seen raising their young in this area in front of the CSE building. Rare species like jungle cats and fishing cats were also spotted. In a city as crowded as this, such green spaces are vital for wildlife. Now, that refuge is gone."

The trees were reportedly uprooted by workers from the contractor firm Mahbub Brothers. Speaking to The

We stand firm in fight

FROM PAGE 3
secretary added.

Most of the victims were foreign nationals living in or visiting the Gulshan-Baridhara diplomatic zone.

Recalling the loss of nine Italian citizens in the attack, Ambassador Alessandro stressed the need for continued vigilance to prevent such violence. "Terrorism seeks to divide, but our friendship and partnership have only grown stronger," he said.

Luigi Vignali, director general for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, echoed the sentiment. "We must never forget the brave souls who lost their lives and must remain alert against terrorism wherever it may arise."

A minute of silence was observed in memory of the victims.

US Charge d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson, Japanese Ambassador Saida Shinichi, Indian High

Tribunal in Dhaka convicted and sentenced the seven accused to death over the attack.

About four years later, the High Court commuted their death sentence to imprisonment until death.

One dead

FROM PAGE 4
recovered from the river at around 12:00noon by a diving team of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Kishoreganj, while Abir Hossain, 7, and Md Zubayer, 6, remained missing. All of them hailed from Char Algi village under the upazila.

Md Billal Hossain, upazila nirbahi officer of Pakundia, also confirmed incident.

"Divers are working to rescue the two missing students," said Kishoreganj Fire Service Deputy Assistant Director Mofazzal Hossain, deputy assistant director of Kishoreganj fire service.

Daily Star over the phone recently, the firm's manager, Abdul Aziz, said, "Yesterday [Sunday] afternoon, Abu Rumman, a student of the Mathematics Department and the Vice President of the Mathematics Students' Council, came with around 50 students and said that all issues had been resolved, and we could now send our workers to begin construction. Based on that, we sent our workers today [Monday]."

When asked whether the work had begun without approval from the project director or the university vice-chancellor, he replied, "We gave importance to what the students of the Mathematics Department said."

Regarding the matter, Abu Rumman said, "Our department is facing a severe shortage of classrooms and labs. Teachers don't even have proper office space, and there's not enough room for students to move around. A new academic building is essential to keep our academic activities running smoothly."

"We've had several meetings with the administration, but no effective solution has come from those discussions. In a meeting held on March 23, the vice-chancellor verbally gave consent to begin the work. So, having no other option, yesterday afternoon, we met with the manager of Mahbub Brothers along with about 400 students and requested him to start the construction."

Many pointed out that members of the current administration -- including the VC -- had previously opposed similar construction projects involving tree felling under past administrations.

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The trees were reportedly uprooted by workers from the contractor firm Mahbub Brothers. Speaking to The

Summon Rehana, 24 others thru gazette

FROM PAGE 3

Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and several current and former officials of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

In the reports, police stated that they visited the addresses of the accused, but they were not found

at their houses. So, they failed to arrest them.

The court said if the accused do not appear, the trial will proceed in their absence.

On June 17, the same court ordered the government to issue a gazette notice summoning 12 individuals, including 27

people, including Hasina, Rehana, Joy, Putul, Tulip, Azmina, and Radwan, to appear by today in a

separate case related to the same project.

after taking cognisance of charges in six cases.

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted the charge sheets on March 25, naming Hasina as a common accused in all six cases. All accused have been listed as fugitives.

The cases were filed by the ACC on January 12 with its Dhaka Integrated District Office.

Murder case filed, one arrested

FROM PAGE 3

of the deceased, Monir Hossain, filed the case earlier in the day with Ramna Police Station.

In the case statement, Manik claimed that unknown persons mixed poison or something poisonous with the food supplied to Monir, his wife, and son in an attempt to embezzle their property by killing them.

The victims -- Monir Hossain, 48, an expatriate; his wife Nasrin Akter Swapna, 38; and their son Nayeem Hossain, 18, who had physical disabilities -- had travelled to Dhaka from Ramganj in Lakshmipur on Saturday afternoon for the boy's medical treatment.

Failing to consult a doctor, they checked into a hotel in Moghbazar later that day and were found dead the following morning.

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

Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division, on Monday said, "Initial findings and doctors' observations suggest that poison caused

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Dated: 29/06/2025

"e-Tender Notice (OTM)"

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Sl	Tender ID, Tender Package No. and Reference No.	Name of Tender	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time	Tender Method
01	Tender ID: 1128727 Tender Package No: 19/2024-25, Reference No. GM/BAR/Prosha-07/Computer/OTM/eGP/2024-2025/3212	Supply of Personal Computer for BKB, Barishal Division.	Date: 20-07-2025 Time: 16:00 pm	Date: 21-07-2025 Time: 12:00 pm	OTM
02	Tender ID: 1128745 Tender Package No: 20/2024-2025, Reference No. GM/BAR/Prosha-07/Computer/OTM/eGP/2024-2025/3213	Supply of Offline UPS (650 VA) for BKB, Barishal Division.	Date: 22-07-2025 Time: 16:00 pm	Date: 23-07-2025 Time: 12:00 pm	OTM
03	Tender ID: 1128737 Tender Package No: 21/2024-2025, Reference No. GM/BAR/Prosha-07/Computer/OTM/eGP/2024-2025/3214	Supply and Installation of Online UPS (1 KVA) for BKB, Barishal Division.	Date: 28-07-2025 Time: 16:00 pm	Date: 29-07-2025 Time: 12:00 pm	OTM
04	Tender ID: 1128751 Tender Package No: 22/2024-2025, Reference No. GM/BAR/Prosha-07/Computer/OTM/eGP/2024-2025/3215	Supply of Laser Printer (Simplex) for BKB, Barishal Division.	Date: 03-08-2025 Time: 16:00 pm	Date: 04-08-2025 Time: 12:00 pm	OTM
05	Tender ID: 1128753 Tender Package No: 23/2024-2025, Reference No. GM/BAR/Prosha-07/Computer/OTM/eGP/2024-2025/3211	Supply of Flatted Scanner for BKB, Barishal Division.	Date: 06-08-2025 Time: 16:00 pm	Date: 07-08-2025 Time: 12:00 pm	OTM

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(Sanjay Kumar Datta)

General Manager

Bangladesh Krishi Bank

Divisional Office, Barishal.

GD-1505

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালীর কার্যালয়, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, নীলফামারী

টেলিফোনঃ ০২৫৮৭৯৮২১৫৫

Email: rhndil@gmail.com

১৭ আষাঢ় ১৪৩২

১ জুলাই ২০২৫

স্মারক নং ৩০.০১.৭৬৬৮.৮৫৬.০৭.০১৩.২৪-১২৯৪

তারিখঃ

১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা অবেদনপত্র প্রস্তুত নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালী সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, নীলফামারী অধ্যাদুল উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রক্রিয়ালীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, নীলফামারী/সাহেবারী প্রক্রিয়ালীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, ১ম সারি কার্যালয় উপ-বিভাগ, নীলফামারী/সাহেবারী প্রক্রিয়ালীর কার্যালয়, সও



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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ****সড়ক বিভাগ, গোপালগঞ্জ**

টেলিফোন: ০২৪৭৯৯৯৬১৬৭৮

ইমেইল: eegopal@rhd.gov.bd / rhdgopal@gmail.com

স্মারক নং: ০৫.০১.৩৫০০.৪২৮.০৭.০০২.২৫-১৬০৬

তারিখ: ৩০/০৬/২০২৫

সীমিত দরপত্র পঞ্জতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নথায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গোপালগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগের আওতায় ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে সীমিত দরপত্র পঞ্জতিতে পৃষ্ঠাকাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নির্বাহী সময়সূচি মোতাবেক ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/তালিকাভুক্তি নথায়ন করা হবে। সিপিটিই কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম গোপালগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তালিকাভুক্তি/তালিকাভুক্তি নথায়ন প্রক্রিয়া অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

হৃক-১: নথায়ন

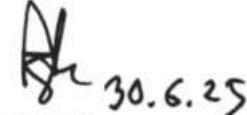
বিবরণ	নথায়ন ক্ষি	ভ্যাট	বিনা জরিমানায় নথায়নের সময়সীমা	১০০% জরিমানায় নথায়নের সময়সীমা	১০০% জরিমানায় নথায়নের সময়সীমা
তালিকাভুক্তি নথায়ন	২০০০.০০	৩০০.০০	০১/০৭/২০২৫ থেকে ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত	০১/০৯/২০২৫ হতে ০১/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত	০১/০৯/২০২৫ হতে ০১/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত

হৃক-২: নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি

বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরমের মূল্য	তালিকাভুক্তি ফি	ভ্যাট ১৫%	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০.০০	৫০০.০০	৭৫০.০০	০১/০৭/২০২৫ হতে ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত

শর্তাবলী:

১. ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের লাইসেন্স নথায়ন এবং তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ফি ও ভ্যাট জমা প্রদান পূর্বক রাশিদ গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
২. ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ১০০০.০০ টাকা মূল্যের তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ পূর্বক ফরমে উন্নোভিত সকল শর্তাবলী পূর্বে দাখিল করতে হবে। তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম কর্তৃত কর্তৃক যাচাই-বাছাই অন্তে উন্নোভিত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্তি ফি গ্রহণ পূর্বে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে।
৩. নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোনোরূপ নথায়ন/তালিকাভুক্তির ফি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
৪. ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি নথায়নের ক্ষেত্রে সিকাঁতই চূড়ান্ত বল গ্রহণ হবে।
৫. ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে নথায়নের ক্ষেত্রে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে হালনাগাদকৃত তালিকাভুক্তি ঠিকাদারগণকেই বিবেচনা করা হবে।
৬. সীমিত দরপত্র পঞ্জতিতে প্রযোগের ক্ষেত্রে প্রক্রিয়ামুক্ত বিহিমালা ২০০৮ এর বিষি ৬৩ ও ৬৪ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদান করে না।



30.6.25

(মোঃ আজহারুল ইসলাম)
পরিচিতি নং: ৬০২৩০৬
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চ.ব.), সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, গোপালগঞ্জ।

GD-1506

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ এর কার্যালয়****সড়ক বিভাগ, টাঙ্গাইল।**

ঠ: ০৯২১-৬৪০৪৩

E-mail : eetan@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং: ৪৭৯.০৭.০০১.২৫-২৩৪২

তারিখ: ৩০-০৬-২০২৫ঠি:

সীমিত দরপত্র পঞ্জতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নথায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, টাঙ্গাইল সড়ক বিভাগের আওতায় ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে সীমিত দরপত্র পঞ্জতিতে পৃষ্ঠাকাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নির্বাহী সময়সূচি মোতাবেক ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/তালিকাভুক্তি নথায়ন করা হবে। সিপিটিই কর্তৃপক্ষ নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম কর্তৃপক্ষের কার্যালয়ে প্রক্রিয়া অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

হৃক-১: নথায়ন

বিবরণ	নথায়ন ক্ষি	ভ্যাট	বিনা জরিমানায় নথায়নের সময়সীমা	১০০% জরিমানায় নথায়নের সময়সীমা
তালিকাভুক্তি নথায়ন	১০০০.০০	৩০০.০০	০১/০৭/২০২৫ থেকে ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত	০১/০৯/২০২৫ থেকে ০১/০৯/২০২৫ তি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত

হৃক-২: নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি

বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরমের মূল্য	তালিকাভুক্তি ফি	ভ্যাট ১৫%	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০/-	৩০০/-	৭৫০/-	০১/০৭/২০২৫ থেকে ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত

শর্তাবলী:

১. ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের লাইসেন্স নথায়ন এবং তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ফি ও ভ্যাট জমা প্রদান পূর্বক মানি রাশিদ গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
২. ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ১০০০/- টাকা মূল্যের তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম এ অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ পূর্বক ফরমে উন্নোভিত সকল শর্তাবলী পূর্বে দাখিল করতে হবে। তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম কর্তৃত কর্তৃক যাচাই-বাছাই অন্তে উন্নোভিত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্তি ফি গ্রহণ পূর্বে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে।
৩. নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোনোর

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 2, 2025, ASHAR 18, 1432 BS

Bangladesh's decisive Myanmar test today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's football team players exuded confidence ahead of potentially the most crucial match in the team's history as they face Myanmar for a maiden berth in Women's Asian Cup today.

The women in red and green have never played in the continent's top completion, and in the two previous qualifying campaigns they had lost all five of their matches, conceding 25 goals without scoring any.

But the current Bangladesh team are a different prospect altogether as they have already thrashed 36-place higher Bahrain 7-0 in their opening group fixture.

Now they face the group's top-ranked Myanmar (55) at their own backyard in a fixture which could potentially decide the one team to progress.

The match will get underway at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 3:30pm Bangladeshi time.

This will be a rematch of the 2018 meeting between the two sides in an Olympic Qualifier at the same venue where the hosts had inflicted a 5-0 defeat on a vastly inferior Bangladesh team.

That was the only time these two teams had faced at this level, but Bangladesh have grown from strength to strength in the intervening years, conquering the SAFF region twice and challenging teams beyond South Asia -- teams that are far above them in FIFA rankings.

The hosts, too, have started the campaign with a bang, handing Turkmenistan, the lowest-ranked side in the group, an 8-0 defeat.

Bangladesh coach Peter Butler knows Myanmar will be a different challenge altogether.

"I do believe Myanmar will present a completely different challenge. They're more technically gifted. They'll have a partisan crowd behind them. But we'll be ready for them," the Englishman said after



Sunday's victory.

Butler's charges would definitely want to grab at least one point from this fixture, if not three, which would keep them in the race, especially given that Bangladesh would get to play the last match of the group against Turkmenistan, knowing the equation they would need to achieve to progress.

The players, though, are looking to get all three points.

"We're all focused and are concentrating on the big match tomorrow. The coach will inform us about his game plan in the evening's team meeting. We hope to have a good game and come out with a victory," midfielder Sapna Rani Mondal, who had an impactful outing in the first match, said after yesterday morning's training session.

Forward Shaheda Akter Ripa said: "We are all ready for a competitive match tomorrow. Our target will be to win so that we can qualify."

While Myanmar will be favourites on paper, Bangladesh's dominant display against a physically stronger Bahrain side showed they are no pushovers.

A similar performance against Myanmar could well script another memorable chapter in Bangladesh women's football.

Tigers start from scratch at Premadasa



PHOTO: SLC

Almost 10 years since captaining the Under-19 sides of their respective teams, Mehidy Hasan Miraz of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka are set to lead their national sides in a three-match ODI series, beginning at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo today.

Bangladesh have never won an ODI series in Sri Lanka.

Out of 57 ODIs between the two sides, Sri Lanka have won 43, Bangladesh 12, with two no results.

In Sri Lanka, Bangladesh have won just two of 24 ODIs against the hosts, losing 20, with two no results. The Tigers are winless in 10 matches at the Premadasa Stadium.

Among current squad members, Najmul Hossain Shanto is the top scorer against Sri Lanka, with 342 runs in five ODIs at an average of 85.50, including two centuries and a fifty.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh head into the first of three ODIs against Sri Lanka in Colombo today, without any of the 'Big Five' who have defined the team for over a decade.

With Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad taking their bows from the 50-over set-up -- the latter having retired from international cricket -- the series is a new frontier for the Tigers.

The last time Bangladesh played without any of Mahmudullah, Mushfiqur, Shakib Al Hasan, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Tamim Iqbal in an ODI match was on September 5, 2005, incidentally against Sri Lanka.

New captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz finds himself in the hot seat, facing a challenging start. He must navigate a dressing room still uneasy after Najmul Hossain Shanto was abruptly removed from captaincy just before the team's departure for the Test leg of the tour.

There is also the difficult task of attributing roles to certain key players -- even seniors.

With Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah gone, restructuring the middle order is inevitable. Bangladesh also come into this series on the back of six consecutive ODI losses -- hardly ideal for a team seeking to start afresh.

The middle order must now find new stabilisers. Towhid Hridoy, Litton Das, Jaker Ali and possibly Miraz himself will be tasked

with keeping things steady. They have often struggled to accelerate during the middle overs, and any reshuffling could determine their fate in this series.

At the top of the order, Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Parvez Hossain Emon are likely to form a new-look opening partnership. Their role will be crucial in offsetting the uncertainty that follows. Mohammad Naim Sheikh, also in the squad, will hope to redeem himself if given the chance -- especially at the R. Premadasa Stadium, the venue where his ODI career took a hit.

Shanto, despite losing the armband, boasts a superb record against Sri Lanka in this format, averaging 85.50 in five ODIs. His contributions could again prove vital in resolving team's recurring batting issues.

Moreover, pace spearhead Taskin Ahmed's return adds firepower to the bowling attack after a period of absence from the T20I and Test sides.

The home side, meanwhile, appear more settled in the 50-over format. Their spin duo, Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana, have been particularly effective against Bangladesh in recent encounters.

Although the Tigers won their last ODI series against Sri Lanka at home (2-1), their record in Sri Lanka paints a bleak picture.

Bangladesh have played 10 ODIs at the Premadasa -- and lost every one of them. They now head into today's game still searching for a maiden ODI series win on Lankan soil.

Rankings often lie, just ask WOMEN'S TEAM

KHALID HOSSAIN

If FIFA rankings were the only yardstick to measure footballing pedigree, Bangladesh's 7-0 demolition of Bahrain in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers would be filed under "upset." However, Sunday's result felt more like a long-overdue statement than a shock.

Much of the local media reaction leaned into that disparity, painting the result as a massive upset.

But here's the catch: the scoreline flattered Bahrain more than it exaggerated Bangladesh's brilliance. It was a polished performance -- fast, fluid, and familiar -- from a side whose fans have come to expect this brand of football, especially after two successive SAFF titles.

This is a team that have recently held Jordan (75th ranked) and Indonesia (95) away from home. This is a team that have won back-to-back SAFF titles, beating Nepal (100) on their home turf both times. And this is a team that, despite the popular narratives, went toe-to-toe with India (70) in tense, physical, high-stakes matches -- and emerged as the better side when it mattered.

Ten months of being idle while the rest of the continent moved forward. Ten months where Bangladesh Football Federation failed to build on the biggest achievement in the team's history.

Olympic qualifiers were missed. No high-profile friendlies. The reason? "Budget issues," according to the federation.

In a ranking system that rewards

Yet they are ranked 128th. Why? The answer, as frustrating as it is familiar, lies in the calendar -- or rather, the absence of one.

After winning their maiden SAFF Championship in September 2022, the girls of Bangladesh didn't play a single international game for nearly ten months.

After winning their maiden SAFF Championship in September 2022, the girls of Bangladesh didn't play a single international game for nearly ten months.

frequency as much as results, the stagnation was predictable. While neighbours like India and Nepal stayed active on the international stage, Bangladesh slipped into obscurity on paper. Not in spirit, not in talent, but in numbers.

But numbers don't always tell the truth.

Ask coach Peter Butler. The Englishman who had guided the team in their SAFF Championship title defence last year, believes that Indonesia, despite being ranked lower, were a tougher test than Jordan. Ask the players, who have shown time and again that they don't need to be ranked higher to outperform the names above them.

And ask anyone who watched them against Bahrain (92).

Myanmar will be a different kind of challenge, though. Ranked 55th, experienced in five Asian Cups, with players honing their skills in elite AFC club competitions -- they represent the next tier that Bangladesh are trying to reach.

But if anything, today's match will offer another chance to highlight the same point: that Bangladesh have outgrown their ranking. The numbers just haven't caught up yet.

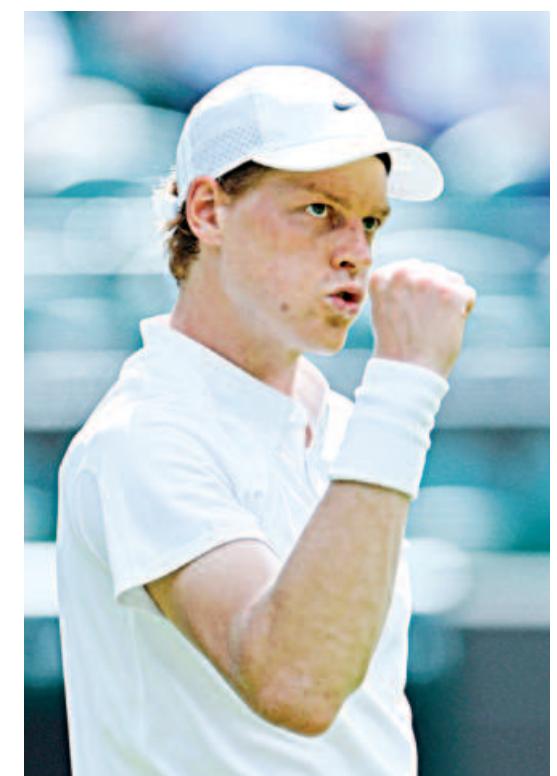


PHOTO: REUTERS
World number one Jannik Sinner eased effortlessly into the second round at Wimbledon, as neither the stifling heat nor fellow Italian Luca Nardi could knock him out of his comfort zone in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 victory on Tuesday. Returning to the Grand Slam stage for the first time since his epic French Open final defeat by Carlos Alcaraz, the three-time major winner had a much less testing workout against world number 95 Nardi.



Kalidou Koulibaly celebrates scoring a header during Saudi Pro League outfit Al-Hilal's stunning 4-3 win over Premier League giants Manchester City in a round of 16 Club World Cup game in Orlando on Monday. City took the lead in the game, but still were the ones to get ousted from the tournament as Al-Hilal set up a quarterfinal against Brazil's Fluminense, who shocked Champions League finalist Inter Milan in the other game of the day.

PHOTO: REUTERS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh

1st ODI

Live from 3:00 pm

STAR SPORTS 1

England vs India

2nd Test

Live from 4:00 pm

SONY SPORTS 1 AND 2

Wimbledon

Live from 4:00 pm

DAZN WEBSITE AND APP

Club World Cup

Dortmund vs Monterrey

Live from 7:00 am

Stokes relishing Pant battle

AFP, Birmingham

England captain Ben Stokes said Tuesday he "absolutely loves" watching Rishabh Pant play cricket even when he's on the receiving end of the India star's outrageous stroke play.

Pant became only the second wicketkeeper in Test history to score hundreds in both innings of a match against England at Headingly, although his heroics were unable to prevent a five-wicket defeat last week that left the hosts 1-0 up in a five-match contest.

Pant went on to produce an array of extraordinary strokes, including over-the-shoulder ramp shots off fast bowlers.

Stokes, well capable of aggressive batting himself, expects more fireworks from Pant, even if he hopes to limit the Indian's runs after scores of 134 and 118.

"Even though he's my opposition, I absolutely love watching Rishabh play cricket," said Stokes during a press conference on the eve of the second Test at Edgbaston starting Wednesday.

"Credit to him, two hundreds in the game, (but) we know we're going to get our chances with the way Rishabh plays. On a different day, it could

have looked a little bit different if one of those had gone straight to hand.

"He's a very dangerous player. We know what he brings to the Indian team, but I really enjoy watching Rishabh play cricket."

A relatively youthful India team, with new captain Shubman Gill leading from the front with a century, were competitive for much of the time at Headingly in a match England won after pulling off the tenth-highest chase in Test history by scoring 371.



most populous nation.

"I think it's pretty clear that there's always pressure on the shoulders of international sportsmen," said Stokes. "But playing for India, especially in cricket, there's probably a bit more of it than any other nation. But we don't take anything for granted from last week."

NATIONAL ELECTION EC working on both Feb, Apr timelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No discussion took place on the election date during the meeting with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

The Friday meeting between the CEC and the chief adviser was the first since June 13, when Yunus suggested that the next national election could be held in the week before the start of Ramadan in 2026, if all preparations are completed.

Yunus made the remark during a meeting in London where BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman suggested that the election be held before Ramadan.

"February [as an election timeframe] has arisen [following] the London [meeting], and April has also surfaced. We are proceeding with preparations for polls based on those two timeframes," Nasir told reporters at the Election Commission office.

The EC's current focus is on the general election and not the local elections.

The promise he is making to the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



A long queue of vehicles at the toll plaza of Khulna Khan Jahan Ali bridge yesterday afternoon as students and locals imposed a blockade as part of their ongoing protest demanding the removal of Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Zulfikar Ali Haider.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

2018 NIGHTTIME VOTING Ex-CEC Huda blames govt officials

Tells court, 'I was kept in the dark'

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday told a court that he had been "kept in the dark" about the nighttime voting during the 2018 national election and blamed overenthusiastic government officials for the irregularities.

According to an official, the former CEC made the statement in a confessional deposition before Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziadur Rahman in his chamber.

Investigating officer Syed Sajedur Rahman, an inspector at the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), filed a petition with the court to record his confessional statement after Nurul Huda was brought to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court around 11:30am.

Later, he was taken to the magistrate's private chamber, where he remained for several hours.

Around 2:30pm, he began giving his statement, which continued for



SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

'Won't accept polls without reforms'

Says Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday declared that it would not accept any election before the state reforms are implemented.

"We'll ensure that reforms are carried out first and compel the interim government to give in to this demand of ours," Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said at a discussion organised by Jamaat's Dhaka South City unit.

Bangladesh will face a difficult situation if the next election is not free and fair, he said at the event held in memory of those killed and injured during the July uprising.

If a government is formed that does not reflect the people's expectations, it could pave the way for a resurgence of fascism, he said.

"People will lose their freedom of expression and fall victim to state oppression."

There is no alternative to a proportional representation (PR) system for a proper and fair election, Taher said.

"Some fear elections under the PR system because it will leave no room for vote rigging. That is why they do not support elections under this system."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

'PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT' Ex-ACC top brass forcibly closed probe Says current ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen yesterday said the ACC's own leadership in 2014 closed the investigation into the Padma Bridge graft allegations without giving any clear explanation.

According to Momen, it raises serious questions about the integrity of the decision.

"This is no longer just about corruption in a mega project. We are now also investigating whether the former ACC leadership intentionally shielded those involved," he said.

The ACC has found primary evidence of irregularities in the appointment of consultants for the Padma Bridge project, reviving a corruption case that had remained dormant for over a decade, said the ACC chairman.

Speaking to reporters at the ACC headquarters in the capital, Momen said, "The case was closed through

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Woman raped after husband bound and beaten

One held, 6 other accused on the run

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A woman was raped after her husband was beaten and tied up in Bhola's Tajumuddin upazila on Sunday.

Police have so far arrested one in this connection.

Mohabbat Khan, officer-in-charge of Tajumuddin Police Station, said the husband filed a case on Monday, naming seven individuals, one of whom was arrested the same day in a village under Chandpur union, where the incident occurred.

"Efforts are underway to arrest the remaining accused," he added.

Mohammad Shariful Huq, superintendent of Bhola police, said, "We are attaching utmost importance to this case. The arrestee [third wife of the survivor's husband] was one of the main accomplices, and the incident occurred at her house."

Speaking to reporters yesterday, the complainant said the seven people he accused include Mohammad Farid Uddin, joint general secretary of Bhola Sramik Dal; Mohammad Alauddin, a Jubo Dal activist; and one Mohammad Russel Ahmed.

OC Mohabbat, also the investigating officer, however, would not comment on the political affiliations of the accused.

"An accused is an accused. We do not consider which political party they belong to. One person has been arrested and we are trying to arrest the others involved. It's taking time as they have gone into hiding."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Govt slashes interest rates on savings certificates

	OLD INTEREST RATE (UP TO TK 7.5 LAKH)	NEW INTEREST RATE (UP TO TK 7.5 LAKH)	OLD INTEREST RATE (ABOVE TK 7.5 LAKH)	NEW INTEREST RATE (ABOVE TK 7.5 LAKH)
5-yr saving certificate	12.40%	11.83%	12.37%	11.80%
3-month profit bearing certificates	12.30%	11.82%	12.25%	11.77%
Family saving certificates	12.50%	11.93%	12.37%	11.80%

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has slashed the interest rates on all major National Savings Certificates (NSCs) by 47 to 57 basis points after six months, as part of a move towards a market-driven interest rate system.

The revised rates will apply only to NSCs issued on or after July 1, said the finance ministry notice yesterday.

For certificates issued before July 1, the original rates will remain valid throughout the investment tenure, as per the notification. For reinvestments, the applicable interest rate will be the

rate in effect on the date of reinvestment. The latest rate reductions are steeper than the pre-January rates.

The government introduced a market-based interest rate mechanism in January under which NSC rates are reviewed and potentially adjusted every six months based on treasury bond yields.

When setting the NSC rates, a premium of up to 50 basis points is added to the weighted average yields of five-year and two-year treasury bonds.

The five-year Bangladesh Savings Certificate will now yield 11.83 percent

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY Center of Excellence in Higher Education



Aziz Al Kaiser

Mr. Aziz Al Kaiser, Chairman of The City Bank and Partex Star Group, an eminent industrialist and a renowned philanthropist, has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of The North South University Trust and The North South Foundation for Education and Research.

We hope that under his dynamic leadership, North South University will reach greater heights in pursuit of excellence in higher education around the world. We wish him every success.

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