



## CONSENSUS TALKS

# Parties differ on how to appoint chief adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties yesterday reached a consensus on reinstating the caretaker government system but remained divided over its jurisdiction and the method of appointing the chief adviser.

On the eighth day of the second round of talks with the National Consensus Commission, the parties also agreed to form a specialised committee to assist the Election Commission in demarcating electoral constituencies.

The BNP and its allied parties, and the National Citizen Party (NCP), opposed involving the judiciary in the appointment of the chief adviser.

The Jamaat-e-Islami supported a role for the judiciary during the discussions at the Foreign Service Academy.

The NCP and several other parties strongly opposed the idea of the president assuming the role of chief adviser under any circumstances. The BNP did not clearly state its

**“The commission does not wish to push any single idea [about CA’s appointment], but rather seeks a durable, organic solution through consensus.”**



PROF ALI RIAZ  
vice-president, consensus commission

position on this issue.

The NCP proposed that the chief adviser be appointed by an All-Party Parliamentary Committee comprising members from both the treasury and opposition benches. The Jamaat and NCP also proposed that local government elections be held under the caretaker government, which the BNP, its like-minded parties, and leftist groups opposed.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Prof. Ali Riaz, vice-president of the consensus commission, said the parties agreed on restoring the caretaker government system and forming a committee to assist in redrawing parliamentary boundaries.

“Various opinions were shared, and discussions also took place on the process of appointing the chief adviser. Political parties are now very close in their positions. The discussions have been very positive,” Riaz said.

The commission floated discussions on redrawing electoral boundaries and the president’s power of clemency, but the latter was not addressed yesterday.

For the chief adviser’s appointment, three options were proposed. The first is following the procedure outlined in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. The others are appointment through parliament, or through a National Constitutional Council.

Riaz mentioned two proposals on the caretaker  
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Bangladesh women’s football team’s poster girl Ritu Porna Chakma is joined by Monika Chakma (L) and Maria Manda, two of the mainstays of the national team, during their celebration following one of the two goals in a historic 2-1 win against Myanmar in their AFC Women’s Asian Cup Qualifiers in Yangon yesterday. The victory ensured a first-ever berth for Bangladesh in the Women’s Asian Cup, to be held in Australia in March next year.

PHOTO: BFF

## Women’s football scales new height

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women’s team’s fairytale journey in international football took a giant leap at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday as Ritu Porna Chakma’s stunning brace earned them a 2-1 win against Myanmar, eventually helping the team qualify for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup for the very first time, set to be held in Australia in March next year.

The win put the women in red and green top of Group C with six points from two games, with pre-campaign favourites Myanmar in second position with three points, followed by Bahrain and Turkmenistan, who have a point each after playing out a 2-2 draw in a match held later in the day.

The result of the day’s  
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## CONTEMPT OF COURT

# Hasina jailed for 6 months

### In its first verdict against the ex-PM, ICT observes she intimidated July victims, prosecutors, judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to six months’ simple imprisonment for contempt of court over remarks she made during a phone conversation with a local leader, which the tribunal deemed obstruction to justice.

A three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, handed down the verdict after hearing arguments from the prosecution, defence, and amicus curiae.

Shakil Akanda Bulbul, the local leader, was sentenced to two months in prison for his role in the conversation with Hasina.

The sentence will take effect once the convicts surrender before the court or are arrested by law enforcers.

Since Hasina fled the country, this was the first punishment handed down against her.



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## Help counter fake news, uphold ethics

Yunus urges UN

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the United Nations to establish an effective mechanism to combat disinformation and to support the media in upholding ethical standards.

He made the call when Susan Vize, head of office and UNESCO representative to Bangladesh, and Mehdi Bencheleh, senior  
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## THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 3, 2024

## Anti-quota protests spill beyond campuses

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

The student movement against the reinstatement of the quota system in public service recruitment escalated on July 3, 2024, as demonstrations expanded beyond university campuses to major highways and key city intersections, mounting pressure on the government.

At Dhaka University, students began gathering in front of the Central Library from around 1:30pm. By 2:30pm, under the banner of Boishommo Birodhi Chhatra Andolon (Anti-Discrimination Student Movement), they launched their protest march, chanting slogans like “Jegechhe re jegechhe, chhatrasamaj jegechhe” and “Quota na medha, medha medha.” The procession passed through Shikha Chirantan, TSC, and Doyel Chatar before reaching the Shahbagh intersection at 3:45pm.

There, they blocked the key junction for the second straight day. A heavy police presence was observed in and around Shahbagh ahead of the protesters’ arrival, though no clashes were reported.

Hasib Al Islam, one of the protest organisers, stated, “The High Court recently declared the 2018 circular cancelling the quota system illegal. The government has filed a writ petition, and a verdict

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Vehicles remain stranded as activists of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) block the Cox’s Bazar-Chattoogram highway yesterday, demanding the removal of the Patiya Police Station officer-in-charge. The protest followed Tuesday night’s clashes between SAD activists and police. The photo was taken at Indropole in Chattogram’s Patiya upazila around 5:00pm.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## Four top NBR officials sent into retirement

### They reportedly supported NBR protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry yesterday sent four top officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) into retirement on ‘public interest’.

The officials are Hossain Ahmed, member for customs policy and ICT; Md Alamgir Hossain, member; Md Abdur Rouf, member for VAT policy; and Md Shabbir Ahmed, commissioner of taxes of Barishal.

The four had completed 25 years of service and the government considered it necessary to send them into retirement in public interest, said the internal resources division in four separate notifications.

The development comes a day after it suspended Md Zakir Hossain, commissioner of Chattogram Custom House, for allegedly disrupting official activities by participating in the recent shutdown observed by NBR officials.

The four officials reportedly supported the recent protest by the NBR  
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## CLASH AT PATIYA

# NCP, SAD block Ctg-Cox’s Bazar highway for 8hrs

### Patiya OC withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the National Citizen Party (NCP) and Students Against Discrimination (SAD) yesterday withdrew their eight-hour blockade on the Cox’s Bazar-Chattoogram highway following police assurance that the officer-in-charge (OC) of Patiya Police Station would be withdrawn.

The protest was sparked by a  
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## Civil servant Tapasi fired

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has dismissed admin officer Tapasi Tabassum Urmi for making objectionable remarks about the head of government, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, and the interim government on social media.

A gazette notification, signed by Public Administration Ministry Senior Secretary Mokhles Ur Rahman, yesterday dismissed her from service in a departmental case.

On October 6 last year, she was made an Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

The following day, the ministry issued a notification suspending her.

According to the notification issued yesterday, she was found guilty in a departmental case under Rule 3(b) of the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2018, for misconduct, leading to her dismissal.

At the time of her Facebook post, Tapasi was serving as assistant commissioner at the office of the deputy commissioner of Lalmonirhat.

According to the notification, Tapasi was served with two show-cause notices, to which she submitted written replies. However, she said it would not be possible for her to attend hearings in person.

As per service rules, the decision to sack Tapasi from service was referred to the Public Service Commission (PSC) by the public administration ministry for its opinion. The PSC concurred with the decision, following which the dismissal order was issued with the approval of the president.

When asked for comments, an officer of the ministry's discipline wing told The Daily Star that since Tapasi was serving on probation, such a lengthy process was not required to impose punishment. The matter could have been settled at the level of the public administration ministry secretary. Even so, the government followed all procedures at every stage to implement the punishment in her case.

## Help counter fake news, uphold ethics

FROM PAGE 1  
project officer, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section, UNESCO, met him at his official residence, Jamuna.

The UNESCO officials called on Yunus ahead of the launch of a report titled 'An Assessment of Bangladesh's Media Landscape: Focusing on Free, Independent and Pluralistic Media', jointly prepared by UNDP and UNESCO.

"We are really looking forward to the report," Yunus said, according to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

"Our main problem is disinformation, fake news .... Some of this disinformation is spread by people living outside; some local people are involved. It's a continuous bombardment," he said.

The statement said the regular media are also a source of much disinformation alongside digital platforms. The chief adviser sought a UN role in the fight against it and said, "You just don't talk to the government; you also talk to media."

He said that independent regulation is necessary, adding that if a media outlet continues to spread disinformation, it should be reminded that it is not trustworthy.

"You are the UN. Your words are very important .... We need your support," he said.

UNESCO Representative Vize said the report, scheduled to be released today, would highlight the issue of self-regulation, among other things, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said in a statement.

"The report is about what is working, what is not working, and the assessment holds important recommendations aligned with international standards. There would be a need to train officials, law enforcers, and the judiciary to better align their practices with this standard," she said.

Senior Project Officer Bencheloh said the report would also make some recommendations about journalists' working conditions, which is a global concern, and the safety of female journalists in newsrooms.

Key government action can have a huge influence in these matters, he said.

The report has been prepared under the framework of UNDP's Strengthening Institutions, Policies and Services project and in alignment with UNESCO's mandate to promote freedom of expression and media development, said the officials.

## ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR



Thousands of university students gathered at Dhaka's Shahbagh intersection on July 3, 2024, for a second straight day, protesting the reinstatement of the quota system in government recruitment.

PHOTO: FILE/ANISUR RAHMAN

## Anti-quota protests spill beyond campuses

FROM PAGE 1  
is expected tomorrow. If the quota system is reinstated, we will escalate our movement."

Elsewhere in the capital, students of Jagannath University held a procession from their campus to the Taantibazar intersection, blocking the road towards Jatrabari and halting incoming vehicles for about an hour.

At Jahangirnagar University, several hundred students marched from the Central Library to the Dhaka-Aricha highway, blocking it at around 3:15pm. The blockade lasted until they were persuaded to withdraw by university authorities and the police.

Protests were not confined to Dhaka. In Chattogram, students of Chittagong University began demonstrating at their Shaheed Minar at 11:00am before marching to the main gate. There, they blocked the Chattogram-Khagrachhari highway for around 40 minutes. Similar demonstrations occurred across the country: Students of Barisal University blocked the Barisal-Kuakata highway, bringing passenger and cargo vehicles to a standstill. In Mymensingh, students of Bangladesh Agricultural

University stopped train services along the Dhaka-Mymensingh route for over an hour. In Rangpur, students of Begum Rokeya University barricaded the Dhaka-Rangpur highway, joining the nationwide chorus against what they deemed a discriminatory recruitment system. In Rajshahi, protests continued for the third day at the University of Rajshahi.

Across campuses, protesters issued chants such as "Atharor hathiyar, gorje uthho arekbar," "Kota bebostha nipat jak, medhabira mukti pak," and "Medhabider kanna, ar na, ar na," reflecting their demand for a merit-based system and their frustration with the perceived injustice of reinstating quotas.

Meanwhile, the student platform Muktijoddha Quota Reinstatement Movement held a rally in support of the quota system at Shahbagh, before marching to the Raju Memorial Sculpture at DU. They demanded the enforcement of the High Court verdict and the issuance of a new circular reflecting it. Their seven-point demand included preserving the quotas for the descendants of freedom fighters.

In Rajshahi, members of Muktijoddha

Sontan O Projonmo formed a human chain at Rajshahi University, condemning what they called disrespectful remarks about the Liberation War and families of freedom fighters. Their placards read: "Those who made the country independent - why should they be insulted?" and "Quota system does not create discrimination, it ensures equality."

Adding to the political resonance of the protests, GM Quader, then opposition leader and chairman of the Jatiya Party, sharply criticised the reinstatement of the quota system during his closing speech in the 2024-25 national budget session. He remarked, "Creating a permanent and disproportionate quota in the name of the spirit of the Liberation War destroys the original objective of our independence - to build a society based on justice and free from discrimination."

As the day drew to a close, it became clear that the movement was beginning to extend beyond campus boundaries, with signs that it could soon evolve into a broader, nationwide mobilisation. With a crucial court verdict expected the next day, the stage was set for the agitation to enter a new phase.

## Israel intercepts missile launched from Yemen

REUTERS

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed to retaliate against Iran-aligned Houthis after his country's military intercepted a missile launched from Yemen toward Israeli territory.

"The fate of Yemen is the same as that of Tehran," Katz said in a statement, referring to last month's 12-day conflict during which Israel targeted Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.

"After striking the head of the snake in Tehran, we will also strike the Houthis in Yemen. Whoever raises a hand against Israel - that hand will be cut off," the statement said.

Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement released late on Tuesday.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group carried out four operations targeting an airport and other "sensitive" Israeli targets.

Israel has threatened Yemen's Houthi movement - which has been attacking Israel in what it says is solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza - with a naval and air blockade if its attacks on Israel persist.

Since the start of Israel's offensive in Gaza in October 2023, the Houthis, who control most of Yemen, have been firing at Israel and at shipping in the Red Sea, disrupting global trade.

## Four top NBR officials

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officials under the banner of the NBR Reform Unity Council, which observed a countrywide complete shutdown on June 28 and 29 to press home several demands, disrupting exports and imports.

Their demands included the removal of the NBR chairman, the inclusion of their representatives in an NBR formed panel to recommend tax reform measures and an end to what they termed "vengeful transfers".

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission has launched investigations into 11 NBR officials over corruption allegations in two phases. Among them are two NBR members and Hasan Muhammad Tarek Rikabdar, president of the NBR Reform Unity Council.

The protest was initially triggered by a government ordinance issued on May 12 that dissolved the NBR and the Internal Resources Division.

In their place, the Revenue Policy Division and the Revenue Management Division were created.

The demonstration peaked on June 28 and 29, when all customs houses, VAT offices and income tax offices across the country were shut down except for international passenger services at airports.

In response, the government declared customs and bond commissionerates as essential services and warned of tough action.

The protesting officials called off the strike on the evening of June 29 amid pressure from the government and the business community.

## Hasina jailed for 6 months

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In the audio clip, Hasina is allegedly heard telling former Gobindaganj upazila chairman Shakil Akanda Bulbul, "I have had 227 cases filed against me, so I have received a licence to kill 227 people."

The tribunal said such a comment from a former prime minister and leader of a major political party could intimidate victims, investigators, prosecutors, judges, and staff of the tribunal and witnesses of cases of crimes against humanity committed during last year's July uprising.

The former premier is facing at least three cases at the ICT-1. She and her two top aides have already been charged with five counts of crimes against humanity for murder, attempted murder, torture, and use of lethal weapons, superior command responsibility, among others.

"This is a clear threat, and it prejudices the case," the tribunal noted in its order.

During the hearing, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told the tribunal that the audio clip was forensically examined and authenticated. The conversation between Hasina and Shakil lasted about 40 minutes.

## Women's football scales new height

FROM PAGE 1  
second match ensured that Bangladesh will go through as the lone qualifier from the group as they would edge Myanmar on head-to-head criteria even if they lose their last match against Turkmenistan on Saturday and the hosts beat Bahrain.

On the ranking parameter only, it was supposed to be a battle between David and Goliath as Bangladesh are currently ranked 128th while Myanmar, the top ranked side of the group, stand way above on 55th.

However, FIFA rankings could often be very deceptive, which Bangladesh have proved with their recent draws against Indonesia and Jordan in two FIFA friendlies.

But the 7-0 routing of 72-ranked Bahrain in the opening match of the group on Sunday gave Peter Butler's charges the confidence to attain a much bigger and more significant victory against the hosts, who were much more physical, egged on by a partisan crowd yesterday afternoon.

Butler's tactics were perfectly executed by the team, unchanged from the previous match, as Bangladesh played an impressive brand of attacking football, with three centre-backs marshalling a high-line defence.

While Bangladesh were the more dominant side from the get-go, the hosts had found a way past the

At one stage of the hearing, the audio call recording featuring Hasina was played in the court.

Justice Shofiul Alam Mahmood asked whether the accused said anything specifically targeting tribunal officials?

In response, Tajul said there were three kinds of threats evident in the conversation: against the complainants of July's uprising cases; against investigators of the tribunal; and against witnesses of cases.

Investigators told the tribunal that the call was recorded and circulated via a Facebook group called "A-Team," which was reportedly used by Hasina to coordinate with leaders at the grassroots level. One of the group admins allegedly sent the audio clip to a local journalist in Gaibandha via WhatsApp, leading to its eventual publication in the media.

Tajul said the source, content, participants, and phone numbers involved in the call were all verified, and the accused never denied the authenticity of the conversation.

During the hearing, state-appointed defence counsel Md Amir Hossain argued that the allegations were "unfounded".

"If experts conducted a forensic

test of the audio clip, they must come before the court and confirm that they signed and authenticated the report. Otherwise, how can we be sure of its authenticity?" he said.

The tribunal then heard submissions from senior High Court lawyer AY Masihuzzama, who said, "If someone is found prejudicing the administration of justice, it is your lordship who will decide what action to take."

In his final remarks, tribunal Chairman Justice Golam Mortuza said, "If the words of the accused create fear among victims, witnesses, prosecutors, or judges, especially when the accused is a former prime minister and leader of a major party, it qualifies as a clear threat and prejudice the cases."

He then passed the order, sentencing Hasina and Shakil.

After the verdict, lawyer Amir Hossain told journalists, "I'm not satisfied with the sentence and will take the next course of action after getting the order copy."

On April 30, the prosecution brought the matter before the tribunal, describing the conversation as an attempt to intimidate victims and witnesses in the ongoing trials.

to dominate age-group football in South Asia. BFF's Talent Hunt and the Bangamata Gold Cup proved fruitful as talented footballers started to come through from different pockets of the country, Kalshindur in Mymensingh a prime example.

Once the South Asian dominance was confirmed, the young Bangladeshi girls started making waves in age-level Asian women's football, making it to the final eight twice with Monika Chakma and Maria Manda, two of the mainstays of this team - showcasing the full repertoire of their skills at a very early stage.

With consecutive SAFF titles in 2022 and 2024 in the bag, Bangladesh, coached by Peter Butler, turned their focus to the continental level, determined to break into the top Asian bracket at the senior level, and they have done that with a show of great authority and conviction.

The Asian Cup berth not only gives Bangladesh an opportunity to rub shoulders against the top II teams of the continent, it also opens up their path to the qualifiers for the Women's World Cup in 2027 and the Los Angeles Olympics the following year.

Those campaigns will be a big step-up for Butler's charges and they would need to pull up their socks and start working again, but for now, it's time for Ritu Porna and Co to celebrate.

## Parties differ on how to appoint chief adviser

FROM PAGE 1  
duration: the government's Constitutional Reform Commission suggested 90 days, while the Electoral Reform Commission recommended 120 days.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Riaz said, "We have kept all proposals on the table. The commission does not wish to push any single idea, but rather seeks a durable, organic solution through consensus."

According to the 13th amendment, the immediate past chief justice should serve as chief adviser. If he or she is unavailable or unwilling, the president may select from among former chief justices. In case none of them are available, the chief adviser is supposed to be picked from retired Appellate Division judges. If all options are exhausted, the president may, in consultation with major parties, appoint a qualified citizen, or, as a last resort, assume the role himself.

The caretaker government system was introduced after the fall of the Ershad regime in 1990. It became a permanent feature following Awami League led protests in 1996 and was used until 2007-08, when a military-backed caretaker government took power. Then president Iajuddin Ahmed controversially served as chief adviser from October 2006 to January 2007.

In 2011, the Awami League abolished the system through the 15th amendment, despite opposition calls to retain it.

In December last year, the High Court struck down part of the amendment that had scrapped the non-partisan caretaker government system.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said that all parties had broadly agreed on restoring the system and that the BNP had proposed reforms to avoid past controversies.

"Specifically, the BNP does not support judicial figures being appointed as chief advisers and instead wants a new, inclusive mechanism to be developed with political consensus," he said.

The BNP proposed limiting the caretaker government's tenure to 90 days, with a one-month extension in emergencies such as Act of God. It opposed including local government elections under the interim administration, arguing they would require too much time.

NCP Joint Convener Javed Rasin said the party proposed forming an 11 member All-Party Parliamentary Committee, with each party nominating three candidates. A candidate with an 8-3 majority would be appointed chief adviser.

"If consensus fails, the matter would go to an upper house formed through proportional representation, which could use instant run-off voting to select a chief adviser from among the proposed names," he said.

Rasin stressed that the judiciary should not be involved in the process. "Bangladesh's past experience shows that transitions often lead to violent confrontations. To prevent this, we

proposed a democratic mechanism," he said.

Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher proposed that the immediate past chief justice serve as chief adviser. If no retired chief justice is available, the next most senior retired justice could be considered. If no consensus is reached, the president should appoint a mutually agreed-upon individual in consultation with parliamentary parties, as was done in the appointment of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in 1991.

Taher rejected the proposal that the president lead the caretaker government in the absence of consensus, warning it could trigger a repeat of a past crisis. Jamaat also proposed holding both national and local government elections under the caretaker government and supported a four-month term for the interim government, extendable by two months if needed.

Ali Riaz hoped that a consensus on these issues could be reached "very soon". And with the cooperation of the political parties, the commission would be able to prepare the July Charter, a document that will outline reforms agreed upon by them, within this month, he said.

The political parties will sign the charter, and whoever comes to power, the future government will be bound to carry on the reforms.

**'HIGHEST SUPPORT'**  
While talking about a perception that the BNP was not agreeing with the majority of reform proposals, Salahuddin said the party has so far extended the highest level of cooperation in the efforts to build a national consensus.

"We have agreed to most of the proposals. If we had to agree to 100 percent of the proposals, then there would be no need for discussion at all," he said.

The party has agreed to 46 out of 47 recommendations made by the Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission, 127 out of 208 recommendations made by the Administrative Reform Commission, he said.

Salahuddin also said that the BNP directly agreed to 62 of the Judicial Reform Commission's 89 recommendations. Of the 243 recommendations made by the Electoral Reform Commission, the BNP agreed to more than 140.

The BNP leader said his party agreed that opposition MPs will chair at least four key parliamentary standing committees, and another proposal to allow MPs to vote against party lines, except on no-confidence motions and money bills.

Regarding the chief justice's appointment process, parties have agreed that the president should appoint the chief justice from among the two most senior judges of the Appellate Division.

Salahuddin said the BNP also agreed to a proposal to slap a 10-year cap on any person to serve as prime minister in their lifetime.

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## Fifth accused held in Bhola rape case

### Survivor's family accuses police of inaction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Another accused has been arrested in connection with the rape of a woman in Bhola's Tajumuddin upazila on Sunday.

Rab-8 arrested Md Manik, 30, the fifth accused in the case, yesterday afternoon from the Elisha Launch Terminal area.

Lt Shahriar Rifat Abhi, company commander of Rab-8 Bhola camp, said Manik had initially fled to Dhaka after the incident. He returned yesterday and was planning to escape to a remote char area when Rab arrested him by tracking his mobile phone.

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## RIYA GOPE'S DEATH

### Police file case after 11 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police have filed a case in connection with the death of Riya Gope, 6, around 11 months after the incident in Narayanganj during the anti-discrimination student protests in July last year.

Abu Raihan, a sub-inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, filed the case on Tuesday night, accusing some 150-200 unnamed individuals.

OC Nasir Ahmed of the station, said, "The case was supposed to be filed by the victim's family, but since that did not happen even after a long time, police took the initiative."

On July 19 last year, Riya was playing on the rooftop of a four-storey building in Nayamati area. Hearing gunfire nearby and sensing danger, her father Deepak Kumar Gope went to bring her down. Just as he lifted her into his arms, a bullet struck Riya in the head.

She later died while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

## 696 killed in road accidents in June

### 37.15% of crashes involve bikes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 696 people were killed and 1,867 injured in 689 road crashes across Bangladesh in June, according to Road Safety Foundation.

Among them, 228 people died in 256 motorcycle crashes, accounting for 32.75 percent of the total fatalities while motorcycles were involved in 37.15 percent of the total crashes, the foundation said in a report yesterday.

At least 120 pedestrians were killed, which is 17.24 percent of the total deaths while 106 drivers and their assistants lost their lives, making up 15.22 percent of the fatalities.

Road Safety Foundation prepared the report from nine national dailies, seven online news portals, electronic media, and its own data.

The report estimated the economic loss from human resource casualties in road accidents at around Tk 2,463.20 crore.

## Reform proposals have become BNP-centric

### Says IAB ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) Ameer Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim yesterday said reform proposals have become BNP-centric, especially after the meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman in London.

He said proposals that BNP disagrees with are not moving forward.

"The enthusiasm and commitment with which the government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus began its work now appears to be fading."

He made these remarks in a statement issued on the occasion of the first anniversary of the July mass uprising.

Without mentioning BNP by name, Rezaul Karim said although most

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A woman motions a car to stop as she crosses a road amid oncoming traffic in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday. Such risky jaywalking not only endangers pedestrians' lives but also poses risks to motorists.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Goal behind fall of 'fascist regime' yet to be achieved

Says BNP leader Nazrul Islam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said the goal behind the "fall of the fascist regime" in Bangladesh has still not been "achieved".

"The people have not yet been able to elect their government by using their right to vote," Nazrul said.

He made the remarks after paying tribute at the grave of the party's founder Ziaur Rahman in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Nazrul said to build a democratic, progressive, and modern Bangladesh, it is necessary to establish the rule of the people.

"That is only possible through elections," he added.

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## BURNING BODIES OF 6 PROTESTERS IN ASHULIA

# Ex-MP, 14 cops charged with crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five protesters were already dead and one was barely alive when police, acting on orders from senior officers and political leaders, piled their bodies and set them on fire in Dhaka's Ashulia on August 5 during the July uprising.

Before that, police shot them.

The six men, including the lone survivor, were first thrown onto a rickshaw van and later onto a police pickup truck. A cop then poured

a flammable substance over their bodies and lit a matchstick, setting them ablaze as the only man still alive moved his hands while the fire caught.

Another officer, who was smoking, threw his burning cigarette onto the flames, while a third one added a wooden bench to the fire, intensifying

the inferno that reduced the six to ashes.

These horrifying details emerged before the International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday, as the prosecution formally charged 16 individuals, including former MP Muhammad Saiful Islam and ex-Dhaka Range DIG Syed Nurul Islam, both of whom are absconding, with murder, torture, and attempting to erase evidence - classified as inhuman acts under the relevant law.

The victims were identified as Sajjad Hossain (Sajal), AS Sabur, Tanjil Mahmud Sujoy, Bayezid Bostami, Abul Hossain, and one unidentified man.

The 16 accused, 14 policemen and two civilians, have been charged with superior command responsibility, conspiracy, incitement, facilitation,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

**"The attacks were widespread, systematic, and aimed at targeted killings."**

## Dengue cases cross 11,000

### DNCC launches anti-mosquito drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 416 new dengue cases reported yesterday, the total number of cases this year has crossed the 11,000 mark, painting an increasingly alarming picture of the outbreak.

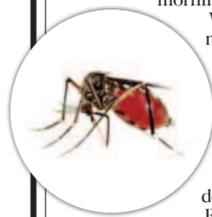
According to the DGHS, one more dengue patient died in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, while 416 were hospitalised.

With the latest figures, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 44, and the total number of cases reached 11,098.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation launched a three-day special integrated mosquito control campaign yesterday in wards identified as high-risk for dengue infection.

Earlier, the DGHS and the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) identified wards 2, 8, 12, 13, 22, and 34 as high-risk due to high concentrations of Aedes mosquito larvae.

The campaign, organised by the DNCC's Health and Sanitation Department, was inaugurated at Mirpur-1, Paikpara Government Officers and Staff Quarters.



The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) has honoured Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiuur Rahman for receiving the prestigious INMA Global Media Award 2025. The felicitation ceremony was held on Tuesday at the Times Media Building in Dhaka's Tejaan. Among those present were NOAB President AK Azad and Vice-President Shahidullah Khan Badal; Director of Jugantor and Jamuna Television Shamim Islam; Financial Express Editor Shamsul Huq Zahid; Bonik Barta Editor and Publisher Dewan Hanif Mahmud; Samakal Editor Shahed Muhammad Ali; and Counterpoint weekly Editor Zafar Sobhan.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Journos facing unprecedented repression'

### Claim 88 expats in statement, slam govt for 'inaction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighty-eight expatriate Bangladeshis yesterday condemned and expressed deep concern over the "continued torture of journalists and suppression of free speech" in Bangladesh, saying such incidents have "frustrated and disheartened" them.

In a joint statement, the signatories - including journalists, writers, teachers, researchers, and cultural and rights activists - said repression of journalists has persisted since the August 5 uprising last year, which saw the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government and the consequent assuming of power by an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

They alleged that attempts are on in present-day Bangladesh to gag freedom of speech by "imposing various official and unofficial controls" on mass and social media - steps they described as "shameful and repulsive".

They claimed that as per information gathered by them, in the past 11 months, at least 412 journalists have been implicated in various harassing cases, including murder charges.

Meanwhile, 39 journalists were arrested, and over 300 have had travel restrictions imposed against them. Bank accounts of more than 100 journalists were frozen, and corruption cases were filed against several by the Anti-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Ex-CEC Nurul Huda denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday denied bail to former chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda in a case filed over alleged irregularities and bias during the past national elections.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sefatullah passed the order, Obydul Islam, a defence lawyer, told The Daily Star.

Huda was arrested on June 22 after being assaulted by a mob at his Uttara residence and handed over to police. The following day, the court granted a four-day remand.

On June 27, the court put him on another four-day remand.

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.

## RMG WORKER'S MURDER

### Arrest culprits, ensure justice Demand protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers yesterday demonstrated in Gazipur protesting the killing of a ready-made garment worker and demanding exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

They held a rally in front of the Gazipur Deputy Commissioner's Office at 1:00pm to press home their demands. Hridoy, 19, a mechanic at the factory of Greenland Garments Ltd in Gazipur, was beaten to death on Saturday, said police.

Shafiul Alam, president of Gazipur unit of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation, said, "The owner of Greenland Garments Ltd cannot escape responsibility for Hridoy's murder. We demand arrest of all those involved, within 24 hours, and maximum punishment for them. Hridoy's family must be compensated and the closed factory should be reopened quickly."



Rain turns joyful as two young friends share an umbrella on their walk to school, turning a slippery journey into a moment of togetherness and laughter. The photo was taken in front of Mujarghuta Government Primary School in Khulna's Dumuria area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Ex-MP Durjoy held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Naimur Rahman Durjoy, the former lawmaker from Manikganj-1 constituency, was arrested from his residence in Dhaka's Lalmatia yesterday night.

He was detained during a drive conducted by Manikganj district police and the Detective Branch.

Confirming the arrest, Additional Superintendent of Manikganj District Police Intiaj Mahbub told The Daily Star, "He [Durjoy] is an accused in cases filed with Sadar and Daulatpur police stations in Manikganj."

## Six held over 'staged' foreign currency robbery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of individuals looted around five lakh Saudi riyals from an employee of a money exchange trader in Dhaka's Tejgaon on Tuesday night.

However, detectives suspect that the robbery was orchestrated by the employee himself while he was on his way to Uttara from the Baitul Mukarram area in a private car to make payments on behalf of a currency trader.

Six people, including the employee, have been detained over the incident and 2.79 lakh riyals have been recovered from their possession, said Detective Branch Joint Commissioner (North) Rabiul Islam Bhuiyan yesterday.

The employee, identified as Tuhin, had initially claimed that a gang of criminals on three motorcycles intercepted the car near Tejgaon Polytechnic

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

## Fifth accused held in Bhola rape

FROM PAGE 3

So far, two accused have been arrested. However, the main suspects — Mohammad Farid Uddin, joint general secretary of Bhola Sramik Dal, and Mohammad Alauddin, a Jubo Dal activist — are still on the run.

Meanwhile, the survivor's family has alleged police inaction.

Rubel, the complainant and husband of the survivor, said, "The main

accused are influential. Police are not arresting them despite knowing their whereabouts. We believe they are hiding in Bhola, but due to political influence, no action is being taken."

Tajumuddin Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohabbat Khan denied the allegation. "We are making every effort to arrest the prime accused. Multiple teams have been deployed and operations are ongoing

in remote areas," he said.

Contacted, Golam Nabi Alamgir, president of the Bhola district BNP, said, "We condemn the incident. No one is above the law. If anyone from our party is guilty, they must face justice."

## Goal behind fall

FROM PAGE 3

He also accused a group of trying to "obstruct unity", saying, "We believe that the people know very well who are autocratic and who are democratic. Who established autocracy in this country, who supported autocracy directly or indirectly, and who were persecuted for persistently fighting for democracy."

"Thousands of people from a certain party have been forcibly disappeared, murdered, and millions of cases have been filed against them. The people know this, the people have seen this. They also know who has remained uncompromising in the fight for democracy. So, we do not believe that any

other political party can say something and that the people will accept it."

In response to a question about accountability within his own party, he said if any BNP leader is found guilty of a crime, they will face organisational action.

If the law takes its course, BNP will not stand in the way and would instead welcome the legal process, he added.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
JULY 3

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**STATUTORY NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO-1079 of 2025

An application under Section-81(2) and Section-85(3) & 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.  
Istiaq Ahmed .....Petitioner.  
VERSUS  
Nuron Technologies Limited and another ..... Respondents

Take Notice that an application U/S-81(2), 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the year 2022 to 2024 of Nuron Technologies Limited. Upon hearing of the application on 30.06.2025 Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has been pleased to admit said application. In the said order, the Honorable Justice directed to publish advertisements in the newspaper, and submit affidavits-in-compliance.

If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the under mentioned advocate on payment.  
Askar Rahman Soorav  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
SS Bhaban (Ground Floor), 70D Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 01917399246

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
In The Supreme Court Of Bangladesh  
High Court Division (Statutory original Jurisdiction)

Matter No. 1009 Of 2025

Iskander Meer, Managing Director, Pantheon Consultancy services Ltd  
Road No. 13, House No. 08(A1), Dhanmodi R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
.....Petitioner

Versus  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms, Dhaka and another  
.....Respondents

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of the Company was moved before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the supreme court of Bangladesh on behalf of the petitioner and upon preliminary hearing on 19.06.2025 Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the said application. Any one desirous of opposing the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through his advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment necessary costs.

Md. Abu Kawser  
Advocate Supreme Court of Bangladesh,  
Room No. 4042 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Annex Bhaban, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban,  
Dhaka-1000, Cell:01711 985698

### Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

**RFP No. LRPS-2025-9198276: Construction of the National Dry Store for Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in Dhaka.**

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting potential construction companies with a proven track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services.

- Download the electronic copy of Bid documents from UNGM  
<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/270859>

- Alternatively, vendors may request the bid documents via email at 'supplybangladesh@unicef.org' by 7 July 2025.

Deadline for submission of the proposal: **Time 11am (BST: GMT +6) Thursday, 24 July 2025**

**Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.**

[www.unicef.org/bangladesh](http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh)

unicef for every child

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Noakhali Road Division, Noakhali  
☎ 02334433670  
E-mail: [eehoa@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eehoa@rhd.gov.bd)

Reference No. 35.01.7500.457.11.004.20-1151

Date: 01.07.2025

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Noakhali for the Procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01	1129533	NRD/ADP/OTM/SKCD/PW-04/2024-2025 (Re-Tender)	Installation of Directional Sign (Mounted Overhead), Double Side Cantilever, Chevron With Sign Post (B13), Reflecting Road Studs, Road Marking, Guide Post Branding, Guard Rail, Concrete Guide Post, Traffic Sign and Sign post with ancillary works at 1st KM (P) to 29th KM (P) (Ch. 00+110 to 30+000) of Sonapur-Kabirhat-Companiganj (Basurhat)-Dagonbhuiyan Regional Highway (R-148) under Noakhali & Feni Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	20/07/2025 up to 4:00pm	21/07/2025 12:00pm	21/07/2025 12:00pm
02	1127205	NRD/e-GP/OTM/PM P-Bridge/2024-2025/06	PMP Works for Repairing of Damaged Choto Feni Nodi bridge (Noakhali End) Scour Protection at 6th Km. of Sonagazi-Olamabazar-Chardarbeshpur-Companigonj Road (Z-1434) under Noakhali Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	29/07/2025 5 up to 4:00pm	30/07/2025 12:15pm	30/07/2025 12:15pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any Member of Scheduled Banks branches up to **4:00pm on 20.07.2025 & 29-07-2025.**

  
Sowmya Talukder  
ID No. 602316  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Noakhali

GD-1521

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director  
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project  
Directorate of Technical Education  
Plot -F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
[www.asset-dte.gov.bd](http://www.asset-dte.gov.bd)

Memo No. 57.03.0000.000.07.132.23-2213

Date: 02 July, 2025

### e-Tender Notice No. 09/2024-25

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package description	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time
1129977	G69	Supply of Training Materials for Short-course providing Institutes under Framework contract	03-Aug-2025 17:00	04-Aug-2025 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

The fees for the e-Tender document price have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 5:00pm of one day before the Closing Date. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
Mir Zahid Hasan  
Project Director (Additional Secretary)  
ASSET Project  
Telephone: 880-02-41024953  
E-mail: [pd@asset-dte.gov.bd](mailto:pd@asset-dte.gov.bd)

GD-1516



### বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)

প্রধান কার্যালয়

মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়  
ইমেইল: [info.bsccs@bb.org.bd](mailto:info.bsccs@bb.org.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৬৫/২০২৫

তারিখঃ ১৮ আষাঢ় ১৪৩২  
০২ জুলাই ২০২৫

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের সদস্যসূক্ত ০৫টি ব্যাংক-এ ২০২২ সালভিত্তিক 'অফিসার (কাশ)/অফিসার (টেলার)' (১০ম গ্রেড) (Job ID-10203) এর ৭৮৭টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য প্রিলিমিনারি (MCQ) পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি ও কেন্দ্রতালিকা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে ০৫টি ব্যাংক-এ ২০২২ সালভিত্তিক 'অফিসার (কাশ)/অফিসার (টেলার)' (১০ম গ্রেড) (JOB ID-10203) এর ৭৮৭টি শূন্য পদে সমন্বিতভাবে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে এ সচিবালয়ের ২১/১২/২০২৩ তারিখের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৩৪/২০২৩ এর প্রেক্ষিতে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের মধ্য হতে যোগ্য বিবেচিত ৯৯,০৪৩ জন প্রার্থীর ০১ ঘন্টাব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের MCQ Test আগামী ১১/০৭/২০২৫ তারিখ শুক্রবার সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা উত্তর ও ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন ২৯টি কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্রের তালিকা সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৫-১৬৭৭  
তারিখঃ ০২/০৭/২০২৫

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
মিজানুর রহমান আকন  
পরিচালক (বিএসসিএস)

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে যুরাদির শিকার হলে কিংবা  
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

জিটি-১৫১৮

সদস্য-সচিব  
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি

Iran formally suspends its co-op with IAEA: report

REUTERS

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian yesterday put into effect a law passed by parliament last week to suspend cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, Iranian state media reported.

Iran has threatened to halt cooperation with the IAEA, accusing it of siding with Western countries and providing a justification for Israel's air strikes, which began a day after the IAEA board voted to declare Iran in violation of obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The law stipulates that any future inspection of Iran's nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency needs approval by Tehran's Supreme National Security Council.

"We are aware of these reports."

US sources say Tehran made preparations to mine the Strait of Hormuz last month

The IAEA is awaiting further official information from Iran," the IAEA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, two US officials said the Iranian military loaded naval mines onto vessels in the Persian Gulf last month, a move that intensified concerns in Washington that Tehran was gearing up to blockade the Strait of Hormuz following Israel's strikes on sites across Iran.

The previously unreported preparations, which were detected by US intelligence, occurred sometime after Israel launched its initial missile attack against Iran on June 13, said the officials, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence matters.



A group of migrants boards an inflatable dinghy in an attempt to cross the English Channel from the beach of Petit-Fort-Philippe in Gravelines, near Calais, France, yesterday. Nearly 20,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Britain on small boats so far in 2025, setting a record for the first half of the year.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Quad ministers condemn April attack in Indian Kashmir

Pledge mineral co-operation

REUTERS, Washington

The Quad grouping of the United States, India, Japan and Australia called on Tuesday for the perpetrators of an attack that killed 26 in India-administered Kashmir to be brought to justice without delay.

The April 22 attack sparked heavy fighting between nuclear armed India and Pakistan in the latest escalation of a decades-old rivalry as India blamed it on Pakistan, which denied responsibility while calling for a neutral investigation.

The US State Department issued a joint statement by the foreign ministers of the grouping, who met in Washington, but stopped short of naming Pakistan or blaming Islamabad.

"The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border

Rubio called the Quad countries important strategic partners and said it was time to "deliver action" on specific issues.

terrorism," the ministers said in the statement. They called on all members of the United Nations to cooperate actively with "all relevant authorities" in delivering justice to the "perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act", without any delay.

The US also announced the launch of a critical minerals initiative with Australia, India and Japan as part of efforts to counter China, although ties between the partners have been strained by trade frictions and other disagreements.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said on X the meeting had been "very productive." In welcoming his counterparts, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the Quad countries important strategic partners and said it was time to "deliver action" on specific issues.

US halts some missile shipments to Ukraine

LOW STOCKPILES

AGENCIES

The Pentagon has halted some shipments of air defense missiles and other precision munitions to Ukraine over concerns that US stockpiles are too low, two people familiar with the decision said.

The slowing of some weapons shipments promised to Kyiv by former President Joe Biden's administration came in recent days, they said, adding that air defense interceptors to help knock down Russian drones and projectiles were among the items delayed. In recent weeks Russia has intensified

air attacks on Ukraine's cities, on several nights launching hundreds of drones and missiles at a time, leading to widespread damage and an increase in civilian casualties.

Ukraine summoned the deputy chief of the US embassy in Kyiv to a meeting yesterday and warned him any delays in US military aid to Ukraine would "encourage" Russia, Kyiv's foreign ministry said.

The Kremlin welcomed the move, saying reducing the flow of weapons to Kyiv will help end the conflict faster.

"In any case, the fewer the number of weapons that are delivered to Ukraine,

the closer the end of the special military operation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in response to a question by AFP.

Since US President Donald Trump took office in January, he has softened Washington's position toward Russia, seeking a diplomatic solution to the war and raising doubts about future US military support for Kyiv's war effort.

Fedir Venislavskyi, a member of the Ukrainian parliament's national security and defense committee, called the decision to halt the shipments "very unpleasant for us", reports Reuters.



EUROPEAN HEATWAVE Two die in Spain wildfire; 2 others killed in France

REUTERS, London

Wildfires have killed two people in Spain and two others have died in France because of a heatwave that has gripped Europe and forced the closure of a nuclear reactor at a Swiss power plant.

With scorching temperatures again yesterday, Spanish officials said a wildfire in Catalonia had killed two people a day earlier and France's energy minister reported two deaths with a direct link to the heatwave, with 300 others taken to hospital.

Italy issued red alerts for 18 cities because of the extreme heat and Turkey has been tackling wildfires in what meteorologists say is an "exceptional" heatwave because it has come so early in Europe's summer.

The blaze in Torrefleta in the Catalonia region of Spain destroyed several farms and affected an area stretching for about 40 km. It was largely contained though more wind and thunder storms were expected yesterday. Authorities in Barcelona said they were also looking into whether the death of a sweeper at the weekend was heat-related.

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR Mamdani officially secures nomination

REUTERS, New York

The New York City Election board on Tuesday confirmed a stunning victory by mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani in the Democratic primary, clearing the way for the political upstart to be the party's nominee for the November mayoral election.

The ranked-choice voting results released on Tuesday showed Mamdani, who started his campaign as little-known New York state assembly member, clinched 56 percent of votes in the third round of the voting, where over 50 percent of votes are required for a winner.

As the Democratic nominee, Mamdani will face current mayor Eric Adams in the general election. Adams is running as an independent candidate after his indictment on corruption charges and the subsequent decision by the Department of Justice to drop the case.



Office of the Executive Engineer Chattogram PWD Division-1. e-Tender Notice. RCC work for Construction of 2nd floor for Vertical extension of 20 storied foundation Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Head Quarter, Chattogram.

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয় বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০। ই-কিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ. National Electronic Government Procurement Portal.

PADMA OIL PLC (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) Strand Road, Shadarghat, Chattogram. Corrigendum Notice FOR Procurement of 3 Nos x Jet A-1 Hydrant dispenser for POCL Aviation Refuelling Facilities at Shah Jalal International Airport, Dhaka.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয় চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ সড়ক বিভাগ, দোহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম. E-mail: eectgsouth@rhd.gov.bd

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Bhola rape continues cycle of impunity

Authorities must take strict steps to reverse this disturbing trend

We are extremely concerned about the rape incidents being reported across the country. The frequency, brutality, and increasingly multifaceted nature of these incidents reflect not only the deepening breakdown in law and order but also a dangerous erosion of moral values. Just the other day, we talked about the horrific treatment of a woman in Cumilla's Muradnagar that showed the pitfalls of widespread exposure, triggering both outrage and unnecessary controversies. And now, we are again forced to process an incident in Bhola that shows the failings of political safeguards against crimes. The fact is, rape incidents are becoming too frequent for us to treat them as isolated occurrences or mere law enforcement failures.

These incidents underscore broader social, political, and institutional dysfunctions that allow such crimes to recur. In the latest case, the victim found herself in a situation that, like the Cumilla incident, may appear complicated on the surface, but none of that should overshadow the fact that a woman was raped—this alone should demand the full weight of justice. According to our report, the incident occurred on Sunday after the victim's husband was "lured" to the house of his third wife, where he was held captive and tortured for two days apparently for separation money. The third wife, now under arrest, allegedly orchestrated the incident with the help of her associates, who belong to the local units of three BNP-affiliated organisations. And on Sunday, the victim arrived at the scene to rescue her husband, only to be locked inside at one point and gang-raped.

Regardless of the surrounding personal or relational dynamics, the crime remains as unacceptable as any other. What is notable in this case is the involvement of criminals attached to BNP-affiliated organisations, namely Sramik Dal, Chatra Dal, and Jubo Dal. It is no secret that the culture of impunity that enables repeated rape incidents in the country has long been fuelled by such political affiliations and protections. While it is a welcome step that Sramik Dal and Chatra Dal have expelled the accused concerned, these actions are reactive and often driven by public pressure rather than a genuine commitment to prevent crimes. We have seen similar reactions during Awami League's tenure as well, but rarely have they given way to effective intra-party disciplinary action to deter crimes by errant activists. Another pressing concern is the menace of misinformation and viral content on social media that often distracts from the real cases, as seen after both the Bhola and Cumilla incidents.

These issues demand as much scrutiny as the crimes themselves. Going forward, we urge the authorities to take strict measures that can effectively prevent rape incidents. If we really want to reverse the current trend, political parties also must take genuine preventive steps, while the justice system must deliver timely punishments. The state, political parties, and society at large must recognise that, without collective action to address these crimes, the cycle of violence against women will only continue.

## End the persistent KUET stalemate

Appoint VC, resume classes without further delay

We are deeply concerned by the continuing stalemate at the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), where academic activities have remained suspended for about four and a half months now. As one may recall, on February 18, two student groups—Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chatradal (JCD) and Students Against Discrimination (SAD)—clashed over demands to ban student politics on the campus. In the aftermath of the violence, students demanded the resignation of the then VC, pro-VC, and director of students' welfare. The prolonged protests, including a hunger strike by students, eventually led to the removal of the VC and pro-VC. Although a new VC was appointed on May 1, he resigned on May 22, citing pressure and a lack of support from the KUET Teachers' Association. Despite a directive from the Ministry of Education to resume academic activities from May 4, the teachers' association has continued to boycott all academic and administrative responsibilities. Amid such a situation, it is the students who are suffering the most.

Since the 2024 July uprising, campuses across the country have witnessed recurring unrest, where students, teachers, and administrators clashed over various grievances but meaningful solutions were rarely achieved. KUET has become a major example of this. The academic future of its 7,565 students now remains in limbo, and the newly enrolled first-year students—originally scheduled to begin classes on April 24—have yet to start their academic journey. However, the teachers' association has clearly stated that without the appointment of a new VC, the current stalemate cannot be resolved. They reiterated their demand for disciplinary action against certain students and "outsiders" who allegedly harassed faculty members during the earlier unrest.

Meanwhile, with both the VC and pro-VC positions remaining vacant, the university's administrative and financial operations—including salary disbursements, project payments, and academic decisions—have come to a standstill. Reportedly, more than 1,100 teachers, officers, and staff members have not received their salaries since May. In addition, all infrastructure development projects may soon come to a halt unless a new VC is appointed. Furthermore, if the university fails to utilise its allocated revenue budget, there is a risk that the funds will be forfeited. This situation is deeply worrying.

We urge the government to immediately resolve KUET's prolonged crisis by appointing a VC and pro-VC through proper procedures. It should listen to the concerns of both teachers and students and take initiatives to solve the underlying issues through meaningful dialogue. Most importantly, the government must ensure that all academic activities, including classes and examinations, resume without any further delay.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Mohamed Morsi removed

On this day in 2013, following massive demonstrations against his rule, Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was removed from office by military action.

# Bangladesh needs pragmatic gradualism in nation-building



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RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

A state is not a debating society; it is a ship that needs a steady hand at the wheel. But a captain who ignores the compass (the law) and silences the crew (the people) will eventually run aground. In this spirit, institutional reform in nations like Bangladesh is a complex journey.

Formal institutions often give way to deeply entrenched informal practices. Given how resistant these informal ways are to change and the political challenges, pragmatic gradualism is the optimal way for achieving lasting reforms. This requires addressing criticisms that small steps might be undone by larger, interconnected problems, which some believe demand a "big push."

The max-min principle, where the maximum number of parties agree on a minimum set of urgent measures, tackles institutional "stickiness." The approach can realistically lead to a Common Minimum Reform Programme (CMRP). This process reduces overt resistance and makes reforms politically viable.

Yet, putting CMRP or the July Charter, as has been dubbed by the National Consensus Commission, into action requires a strong executive to translate it into reality by navigating political complexities, bureaucratic hurdles, and vested interest clutch. Crucially, for gradual reforms to succeed, a strong executive is essential.

The July uprising highlights the urgent need for new norms that go beyond simple management fixes, paving the way for ensuring power that truly serves the people.

**Why gradualism is essential**  
In Bangladesh, vertically and horizontally linked informal institutions like patronage networks often control how formal institutions actually work. These informal structures are incredibly resilient and tend to revert to their original state. A radical overhaul, despite its appeal, risks severe backlash, instability, or a failure.

South Korea in the 1960s-80s carefully sequenced reforms—first building export industries, then slowly liberalising finance—while maintaining state oversight to prevent shocks. Botswana combined gradual economic diversification with steady institutional strengthening, avoiding "resource curse" of states

such as Nigeria that affected nations with more radical approaches.

Conversely, Russia's 1990s "shock therapy"—rapid privatisation and market opening—led to economic collapse and oligarchic control, showing the dangers of big-bang reforms without strong institutions and capable leadership. Ad hoc incrementalism—piecemeal reforms

Bangladesh. Yet, without robust checks, power inevitably corrupts.

India's "Licence Raj" showed how weak executives allowed bureaucrats to stifle the economy. The "Bureaucratic Trap" shows that without a decisive executive, unelected officials become the real rulers, delaying or sabotaging policies. Pakistan is a case in point.

History offers examples of strong executives fostering development, strengthened by checks. Lee Kuan Yew ruled Singapore firmly, fighting corruption and achieving growth. He also kept courts clean and let technocrats work freely, not as rivals but as state tools. His power was centralised for action, crucial for pragmatic gradualism, yet not arbitrary. It operated

and speeding up decisions—actions vital for gradual reforms.

Second, executive strength must be countered by the imperative to "keep courts and parliament alive." Their role is to check corruption, abuse of power, and violation of rights. Finally, the "stealth state" problems—arising from opaque power of unelected bureaucracy, businesses and NGOs—undermine democracy through shifting power to shadowy interests.

Recent discussions about "direct democracy," "deliberative democracy," and "countervailing citizen power," etc are important. These valuable concepts, however, might risk becoming mere administrative fixes rather than empowering the people as the source



FILE VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

without a long-term vision—results in policy reversals and stagnation in many developing countries.

Critics rightly point out that interconnected problems might hinder incremental reforms. For example, anti-corruption efforts might fail without judicial independence. This echoes the "big push" theory, which argues for simultaneous, coordinated reforms across many areas to avoid bottlenecks. The classic argument, nevertheless, remains relevant that, as Albert Hirschman stated, if developing countries had the capacity for a "big push," they would not be underdeveloped. Pragmatic gradualism, instead, encourages endogenous reforms.

**Why strong executives are crucial for reform**

A strong, commanding executive is vital for driving development, especially in countries like

within a framework of meritocracy and integrity that enhanced his effectiveness.

Bangladesh's own history confirms this. The 2006-2008 caretaker crisis showed the dangers of a weak executive. This lack of strong executive leadership prevents structured, pragmatic reform.

While a strong executive is necessary for reform, power, like a tiger, must be strong enough to hunt, but kept in a cage so it doesn't eat the zookeeper. Many "democracies" have superficial checks. Mexico under PRI rule had elections, but bureaucrats ran everything. Egypt today has courts and parliaments, but real power stays with generals. This is the worst of both worlds.

To navigate this, Bangladesh needs decisive executive command with genuine guardrails. First, "let the executive lead" means cutting red tape, empowering elected leaders to remove obstructive bureaucrats,

of power.

**Steering the ship towards nation-building**

Reform is a marathon, not a sprint. The big-bang overreach risks collapse or reversal, as history shows. Bangladesh's age-old wisdom proves that the tortoise often wins the race. Pragmatic gradualism is thus a necessity in Bangladesh's complex reform landscape. It also requires a strong, decisive executive who can act, but whose power is rigorously guarded by independent judicial, parliamentary and media oversight.

Just as a ship needs a captain with a steady hand to navigate turbulent waters, guiding it with command while respecting the compass of the law and the voice of the crew, Bangladesh requires an executive that can act decisively towards a future where the people are the true navigators of their own destiny.

# The law we need to protect our children



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SIDRATUL MUNTAHA

Paedophilia and the grooming of children are yet not covered by any law in Bangladesh, which is a serious issue as children across the nation remain vulnerable to predators both in person and online. The country still lags behind many others that have enacted strict laws to prevent child exploitation and sexual grooming.

Grooming is the process through which an adult establishes a connection with an underage individual to win their trust, with the eventual aim of sexually abusing or exploiting them. While grooming is a risky step towards abuse, it is not abuse in and of itself. Since it is the first step towards potentially harming a child, many countries have declared it illegal.

Paedophilia, recognised as a mental illness, occurs when an adult or older adolescent develops a strong sexual attraction to children, usually those under the age of 13. Paedophilia

targets children who have not yet reached puberty. If left unchecked, this condition may lead to grooming and long-term abuse.

In Dhaka, a shocking incident was revealed in February this year. An 11-year-old girl, allegedly "in love" with a 19-year-old man, went away with him when her family reported her missing. Police later dismissed it as a romantic issue. But this, in fact, was a case of sexual exploitation, not romance. Predators usually don't go straight to abuse; instead, they will gradually build a bond through "grooming." This could be as simple as offering the child chocolate, compliments, conversations, or even gifts. The goal is to gain the child's trust and convince them that inappropriate adult actions are acceptable, even though they are deeply wrong. Weeks, months, or even years may pass during such process. Even in the absence of physical abuse, such practices are considered crimes

in countries like the US, UK, India, Germany, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. However, Bangladesh is unable to penalise child grooming in cases where there is no physical abuse involved.

Existing laws in Bangladesh, such as the Penal Code, 1860, punish the crimes of rape under Sections 375 and 376, and certain kinds of exploitation of children under Sections 366A and 373. Meanwhile, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000, discusses the sexual abuse of children but does not address grooming. The Children Act, 2013 protects children from violence, but it does not have a distinct section on grooming either. Even the recently passed Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025 does not focus on identifying and criminalising online grooming.

Online grooming is particularly dangerous. Through social media sites, adults pretend to befriend children, sending compliments, gifts, and sometimes even hinting at meeting up in real life. All these steps lead towards a long-term plan to sexually exploit the child. Since these crimes are difficult to spot in the first place, it becomes harder to punish them if appropriate laws are not in place.

Children are getting access to smartphones at a younger age

than before, often with little to no supervision. While these devices offer access to education and entertainment, they also open the door to the threat of paedophilic grooming. Online predators target children through social media, messaging apps, and gaming platforms. Without legislative safeguards to identify and prosecute these early stages of abuse, children continue to be easy targets, and predators continue to operate in the shadows.

Earlier in May, the government issued a gazette of the Cyber Security Ordinance to identify, prevent, suppress, and subsequently try the crimes committed in cyberspace. We must also introduce explicit legal provisions defining and criminalising online grooming. But beyond that, we need comprehensive legislation criminalising grooming in both the cyber world and physical space. The law must cover all forms of preparation for sexual abuse of children.

Law enforcement personnel need training to identify and treat grooming seriously. In the absence of such a law, our children are at risk. Combating paedophilia and grooming requires a strong and effective law. Protecting children from abuse must begin years before abuse can start. A law that acknowledges grooming as a crime is the first step towards that protection.

# Why we need an effective zila parishad system



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MOHAMMAD TARIKUL ISLAM

In Bangladesh, the functionality of zila parishad, or district council, within the local government structure has been under question for some time. As outlined in the Local Government Ordinance, 1976, the zila parishad used to have 97 functions, divided into mandatory and optional categories. It was also tasked with coordinating the activities of local entities such as police stations, unions, and municipalities. However, the Local Government (Zila Parishad) Act, 1988 reduced the number of functions to 12 mandatory and 69 optional. In practice, these functions have not been effectively implemented. With the advent of the upazila parishad, the rise in the number of municipalities, and the strengthening of the union parishad, the zila parishad's direct involvement in development work has diminished considerably. The challenge, therefore, now lies in reviving this parishad, not by narrowing its scope but by redefining its role and finding new areas where it can be

of upazila parishad, union parishad, and municipalities. It would be counterproductive and ultimately unfeasible to restrict these local councils' work by over-involvement from the zila parishad. For this reason, many argue that re-establishing the zila parishad as a local government institution is not the solution. However, abolishing it without proper strengthening would be a regrettable decision as well.

To transform the zila parishad into a democratic, participatory, and accountable institution, we must adopt the electoral changes suggested by the Local Government Reform Commission. At present, only elected representatives from the upazila, municipality, and union parishad within a zila vote in the zila parishad election. If a city corporation exists within a district, its elected representatives also have the right to vote. The commission's proposal suggests direct voting for zila parishad members. In this new system, upazilas will be divided

The commission has also proposed that elections for all local government institutions in a given area should take place on the same day. This change aims to reduce election costs and streamline the process. Elections would be staggered across different areas of the country but held on the same day within each locality. For instance, voters would simultaneously elect members of the zila parishad, upazila parishad, and union

The zila parishad's role would be to coordinate these plans, ensure technical support, and monitor progress. The district plan would include critical infrastructure projects such as the construction and maintenance of inter-upazila roads, educational buildings, and water control structures, ensuring their proper implementation. The zila parishad would also supervise the functioning of secondary

incorporated into the zila parishad's fund. With the collaboration of relevant departments, the zila parishad would draw up a comprehensive development plan that aligns with the available budget. This would offer a transparent overview of government spending at the district level, ensuring better financial management and accountability. Officials from various ministries would continue to serve under their respective departments, but their work would be coordinated under the zila parishad's direction. The chairman would be responsible for preparing the annual activity report of all heads of departments.

Additionally, while other departments may continue operating under their own ministries, they must submit their plans and projects to the zila parishad, ensuring these align with the broader district development strategy. The zila parishad would be tasked with reviewing the feasibility, quality, and progress of these projects, as well as coordinating inter-agency efforts.

To ensure efficient coordination and planning, the zila parishad would establish a dedicated planning unit. This unit, headed by the chief executive of the zila parishad, would consist of the district planner, the district statistical officer, and representatives from the Ministry of Planning and the Department of Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation. Officers from these departments would be deputed to the district level to strengthen the unit's capacity.

While not all functions can be transferred to the zila parishad, those that remain under the control of the government would be classified as reserved subjects. However, the government will formulate a general rule for coordinating development plans, reviewing activities, and other matters related to the reserved subjects. Under this rule, the district-level officers for all reserved subjects will coordinate their activities with the zila parishad. The full management of the government departments transferred to the zila parishad will be vested in the zila parishad.

Political will is essential to implement the reform proposals put forward by the Local Government Reform Commission. By modifying the electoral system, planning, and functioning of the zila parishads, we can aspire to create a truly democratic, effective, and accountable local government system in Bangladesh.



FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**To transform the zila parishad into a democratic and accountable institution, we must adopt the electoral changes suggested by the Local Government Reform Commission.**

parishad or municipality. In areas with a city corporation, voters should also select ward councillors alongside zila parishad members.

The 1997 Local Government Commission report suggested limiting zila parishad activities to just nine areas, rendering the previous system of mandatory and optional functions ineffective. Under the new reforms, the zila parishad could follow a model similar to that of the upazila parishad, with government activities categorised as transferred or reserved. The reform proposals also advocate for the creation of a comprehensive district development plan that integrates projects from local councils, government departments, and NGOs, reducing duplication and inefficiency.

schools and colleges within its jurisdiction, establish governance councils in educational institutions, and improve quality control in public health services.

The zila parishad should also review law and order in the region, working with the police to address security concerns. It would contribute to the creation of a conducive environment for industrial and commercial growth, while fostering development in education, culture, and sports. Furthermore, the zila parishad would monitor the work of various government ministries at the district level, providing feedback and suggesting improvements where necessary.

The revenue and service budgets for all transferred departments should be

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of use. Rather than directly implementing projects, the zila parishad can be successful if it focuses on coordination and oversight. This includes ensuring accountability, coordinating the activities of government departments, and supporting the work

into three to five wards, with larger upazilas having five. For example, in a zila with 10 upazilas, the zila parishad will have a minimum of 30 directly elected members, who will then vote to elect the chairman of the zila parishad. Only elected members will be eligible to run for the chairmanship.

## KHILKHET EVICTION

# What is illegal and what is just?



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H. M. NAZMUL ALAM

The images that recently emerged from Khilkhet, Dhaka have been stark and unsettling: broken concrete walls, twisted tin roofs, and uprooted bamboo poles lying scattered under the newly built elevated expressway. In a matter of hours, what had become a familiar sight for locals—a cluster of shops, a string of semi-permanent offices of political parties, and a small, makeshift Durga Puja mandap—was reduced to debris by excavators dispatched under a drive to clear “illegal establishments” from Bangladesh Railway's land.

At the site, about half a kilometre from Khilkhet rail gate to the playground before the entrance of Purbachal 300-Foot Road, the railway authorities carried out their eviction campaign claiming that none of these structures were authorised. That claim, in a strictly legal sense, appears accurate. Whatever their purpose—commerce, politics, or worship—these establishments did not have a legal right to occupy public land. In the eyes of the state, the law does not distinguish between a shop, a party office, or a religious establishment if none possesses valid approvals. And in principle, this is not an unreasonable position. The law must be neutral and uniformly enforced. If the government selectively tolerates certain illegal encroachments because of their political or religious affiliations, it sets a dangerous precedent where everyone claims exceptional status and public land is gradually usurped by private interests.

Yet, the principle of legality alone does not account for the complexities and sensitivities of our

society. In Bangladesh, communal tensions have sometimes led to violence. When the demolition of a temporary place of worship occurs, the optics of the state's action become more fraught with significance. And when religious symbols are demolished, no matter how temporary or unauthorised, the emotional trauma inflicted on the community may outweigh the material damage.

The authorities argue that the

One cannot ignore that this incident did not occur in a vacuum. Bangladesh has, in recent years, witnessed some communal tensions. Reports of attacks on the homes of some communities have left deep scars in the national consciousness. Against that backdrop, the demolition of a religious structure—temporary or not—assumes a gravity that a purely legalistic reasoning cannot dilute. That gravity was evident in the reaction of the Bangladesh Pujja Udjapan Parishad and the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, both of which expressed outrage and demanded accountability. Meanwhile, the government reiterated the country's commitment to equality and inclusion.

For many ordinary Bangladeshis

**The principle of legality alone does not account for the complexities and sensitivities of our society. In Bangladesh, communal tensions have sometimes led to violence. When the demolition of a temporary place of worship occurs, the optics of the state's action become more fraught with significance.**

eviction drive was routine, that they acted equally against all illegal structures, and that even verbal notifications were issued before enforcement. The problem lies not in the assertion that illegal is illegal, but in how that principle is applied in practice and communicated to the public. The same law that empowers the government to reclaim public land also obliges it to protect religious harmony. If eviction is implemented in a way that could even be made to appear to validate communalism, even inadvertently, it risks sowing deeper divisions. And if the authorities are unable to distinguish between a business that sells tea and a pavilion used for worship, then they fail in their obligation to balance enforcement with social cohesion.

who are neither religious leaders nor legal experts, the question remains: could this eviction have been conducted differently? The answer is almost certainly yes. Even if the railway authorities believed the pavilion was an unauthorised structure, they could have issued a public notice and engaged with the temple committee in writing, so there was no confusion about the expectations or deadlines. They could have provided for the safe relocation of the temple materials, instead of inviting outrage on social media.

That is not to say that law should be suspended for religious structures. It is to say that when people's faith is involved, the same legal process must be carried out with more transparency, more

patience, and more tact. Whether it be a madrasa, a church, or a political party office, the same logic applies to any encroachment. How the law is enforced determines whether it earns public trust or fear. This is not only a matter of sensitivity but also of

strategic governance.

The Khilkhet incident also highlights the plight of the poor Bangladeshis. For many small vendors whose shops were demolished, this eviction is a question of survival. While the authorities insist on verbal

notification being enough, common sense suggests that when people's livelihoods are at stake, a written notice, a timeline for compliance, and arrangements for rehabilitation are not luxuries; they are obligations of a humane government.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
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তারিখঃ ০১.০৭.২০২৫খ্রিঃ।

**সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বরগুনা সড়ক বিভাগ, বরগুনা কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (সড়ক) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে অভ্যন্তরীণ ক্রয়কার্য (NCT Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, বরগুনা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা অকেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাকট/ম্যানি রিসিট এর মাধ্যমে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরগুনা এর দপ্তরে জমা প্রদান করত: আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পূরণ পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ বর্ণিত (স্ক-ক) সময়ের মধ্যে বরগুনা সড়ক বিভাগে জমা প্রদান করার অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ ও ৬৪ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ, দরপত্র আহ্বান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিপূর্বে অত্র দপ্তরে তালিকাভুক্তি ঠিকাদারগণ ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরে লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ফি নিম্নের স্ক-খ অনুযায়ী অত্র দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখায় মানি রশিদের মাধ্যমে জমা পূর্বক লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

স্ক-ক	
বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরমের মূল্য
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০/-
তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা	
	৩১.০৭.২০২৫খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা

স্ক-খ			
বিবরণ	নবায়ন ফি	বিনা ছরিনামায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা	৫০% ছরিনামায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার লাইসেন্স	২০০০/- টাকা+১৫% ভ্যাট	৩১.০৭.২০২৫খ্রিঃ	০১.০৮.২০২৫খ্রিঃ
			৩১.০৮.২০২৫খ্রিঃ
			১.০৯.২০২৫খ্রিঃ
			৩০.০৯.২০২৫খ্রিঃ

(স্বাক্ষর) ০৭.০৭.২০২৫  
(কুমারেশ বিহারী)  
পরিচিতি নং ৬০২০৪৩  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চরণা), সড়ক  
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরগুনা।

GD-1511

## I appreciate that this award includes technicians

### SARIKA SABAH

Following three successful editions, the *Blenders Choice- The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards* is returning this year to celebrate the efforts of the artistes in the OTT industry who work both on and off screen.

Rising starlet **Sarika Sabah**, who recently made her appearance in OTT with the much-anticipated web series *Gulmohor*, shared her thoughts on the award ceremony.

"We look up to this award, as this is the only private award that, besides appreciating the efforts of the people who work on the screens, also recognises the hard work of those who are responsible for making a project to its best. Those who work behind the camera often remain unnoticed, and for the past three years—



and now in its fourth year—The Daily Star has recognised these people."

While sharing her happiness, Sarika also added that the technicians and crews are the reason their work becomes easier. "The audience sees us on the screen, and somehow, they can relate to our efforts and hard work. Meanwhile, those who work behind the camera—for instance, the cinematographer, editor, makeup artiste, or be it the costume designer—without their creativity or effort, it would not be possible to make a great project. Since it is teamwork, everyone in the team should be recognised. I appreciate that The Daily Star is hosting a show that honours us all. I am looking forward to this year's award show."



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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## NEWS

### Trump's push for Gaza truce raises hope

FROM PAGE 12

A Hamas official declined immediate comment on Trump's statement. Meanwhile, Hamas is reviewing new ceasefire proposals from mediators, according to a statement released yesterday.

At the end of May, Hamas had said it was seeking amendments to a US-backed ceasefire proposal, which Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff said was "totally unacceptable."

That proposal had involved a

60-day ceasefire and the release of half the hostages held by Hamas in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and the remains of other Palestinians; Hamas would release the remaining hostages as part of a deal that guarantees the end of the offensive.

The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks in Gaza since yesterday dawn has risen to 43, hospital sources told Al Jazeera. Nearly 600 Palestinians have been killed in five weeks, 250 of them in

the past 48 hours.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's military assault has killed more than 56,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to the Gaza health ministry, displaced almost the whole 2.3 million population and plunged the enclave into a humanitarian crisis.

More than 80 percent of the territory is now an Israeli-militarized zone or under displacement orders, according to the UN.

### Beware of plots against polls

FROM PAGE 12

"If you do something that people dislike, every leader and activist, even the party itself, will have to bear its negative impact. That's why I urge every leader and activist in all 64 districts of Bangladesh not to indulge in any activities that may cause public resentment against us," Tarique said.

He directed party leaders and workers at all levels to win public trust through their good work and positive behaviour.

"Why should any of our colleagues do anything that may harm the party? If you see any of your colleagues doing something that could damage the party's image or erode public trust, it is your duty not to let it happen," the BNP leader said.

As members or leaders of the country's largest political party, he said, everyone must act responsibly and live up to people's expectations.

Tarique said it is the responsibility of every BNP member not only

to strengthen the foundation of democracy but also to ensure that neither they nor any of their colleagues do anything that could damage the party's reputation.

"Everyone must keep this in mind. Today, I give every leader and activist of the party this sacred responsibility. It is everyone's duty to protect the party's reputation at any cost. Those who damage the party's image must not be given any kind of indulgence or protection," he said.

### NCP, SAD block Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway

FROM PAGE 1

clash at the station the night before, which left at least 10 people injured, including four cops. Protesters alleged that police assaulted their activists after they brought in a now-banned Chhatra League leader of Rangamati and demanded he be arrested.

Demonstrators also blocked Zakir Hossain Road in front of the DIG's office in the port city's Khulshi area later yesterday evening. They withdrew from both spots after Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ahsan Habib Palash assured them that OC Abu Jayed Nazmun Nur would be withdrawn.

Later last night, the OC was withdrawn from the police station and attached to the Range DIG office. DIG Ahsan said a three-member

committee had been formed to investigate the incident.

"Action will be taken against those found responsible, based on the probe committee's findings," said Sanjoy Sarkar, additional DIG of Chattogram Range.

The blockades caused severe traffic congestion, stranding hundreds of vehicles. Many passengers were seen walking with their belongings. Protesters burned tyres but allowed ambulances and examination candidates to pass.

The protest began around noon at the Bypass intersection near Patiya Police Station, with demonstrators also demanding action against the Chattogram district superintendent of police and the additional SP of Patiya Circle for allegedly defending the OC.

Around 4:00pm, another group blocked Zakir Hossain Road outside the Khulshi Police Station near the DIG's office.

Emon Mohammad, organiser of the Bangladesh Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad, the NCP's student wing, said the blockades have been withdrawn till 10:00am today.

"If our demands are not met, we'll take to the streets again," he added.

Contacted by The Daily Star, OC Zayed Nur said, "They came in a procession and beat the BCL member inside the station. Police took him into custody. They raised slogans against the police and later got locked in a scuffle. Then, we had to drive them out."

He added that police filed a general diary over the incident.

### Won't accept any implementation delay

FROM PAGE 12

remains intact. Mafia control, land grabbing, and political terrorism continue. NCP aims to dismantle this old order and build a fair, equitable Bangladesh."

Around 12:30pm, the NCP's "Desh Gorte July Podojatra" (July March to Build the Nation) entered Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila from Rangpur. After a stop at Trimohoni Bazar, the march reached Ghoshpara around 2:00pm, where thousands of party activists

joined a brief rally.

Addressing another rally at Rajarhat, Nahid announced that the NCP would unveil its manifesto for the reconstruction of Bangladesh at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on August 3.

"We vow to resist those who are conspiring to derail the people's uprising," he said.

Hasnat Abdullah, chief coordinator (south) of NCP, addressed the police and said, "Dear brothers in the police

force, do not become BNP's police. The Awami League government once tried to turn the police into its own, and you saw the consequences of that. We urge you not to align with any political party. Instead, stand for Bangladesh."

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, its chief coordinator (north) Sarjis Alam, joint chief coordinator Abdul Hannan Masud and member secretary Akhtar Hossain, among others, addressed the rally.

### Navy to run New Mooring terminal

FROM PAGE 12

Saif Powertec, which has 16-17 years' experience in port operations, will also cooperate with them.

"No jobs will be lost. Everyone will retain their positions regardless of who runs the terminal."

On whether DP World would be taking over the operations, Sakhawat said a foreign operator is likely after six months.

"It is too early to confirm details but the process is ongoing."

If an international firm is interested, they are studying whether it benefits Bangladesh.

"Appointing an external operator does not mean handing over the port to them. If today it is the Navy, tomorrow it could be someone else. But before any appointment, we will examine whether it is good for us or not."

Addressing concerns about employment and recruitment under DP World, Sakhawat said the company was told that if it requires additional staff, it cannot recruit personnel from the sub-continent.

"They must recruit from Bangladesh and provide necessary training," he said, adding that DP World plans to make

significant investment, including the rental of existing equipment and the procurement of modern replacements.

DP World operates 85 ports globally, including in Europe and the US.

"Have they ever taken over a country's port? Some local actors have vested interests. DP World's arrival might jeopardise those interests."

A deal with DP World would improve Bangladesh's trade relationship with the UAE, he said.

"We have 1.4 million Bangladeshis in Dubai. They have said they will hire another 400 engineers from here."

### BNP leader shot, then hacked to death

FROM PAGE 12

the OC said.

Quoting locals, Prothom Alo reported that at least five young men riding two motorbikes carried out the killing of Harunur and fled the scene after the attack.

According to several witnesses and residents, Harunur was walking along the embankment road near the Padma river near Dhoair Bazar around 6:00am when assailants approached him from behind. They shot him several times.

As Harunur collapsed on the ground, the attackers stabbed him at least three times to ensure his death before fleeing the scene.

Later, locals took him to Dohar Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police said they have yet to identify anyone behind the killing and are investigating the possible motives.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Harunur's younger brother Abdul Mannan said he suspected multiple motives behind the killing, including political rivalries.

"After the August 5 political changeover, Harunur was preparing to run for chairman in the upcoming union parishad elections from Nayabari. He lost his BNP post two to three months ago due to internal party feuds.

"He [Harunur] also stood firmly against the illegal activities of some local sand traders. A vested group killed him in a planned attack," he alleged.

Harunur's wife, Nahida Parvin, a schoolteacher, demanded justice.

"He paid the price for speaking out against injustices," she told Prothom Alo.

Dohar OC Hasan said that alongside the police, members of Rab and multiple intelligence agencies are working to track down the perpetrators.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

### Govt makes August 5 public holiday

FROM PAGE 12

government holidays.

"Kha" includes other important days such as National Social Services Day and International Anti-Corruption Day, but these do not necessarily carry a public holiday.

## Malaysia may recruit up to 40k workers

FROM PAGE 3  
agreement with Malaysia under which they agreed to provide a list of recruiting agencies, and Malaysia would select from them. This is a formal agreement between the two parties -- what we call a 'syndicate'. Now that we've taken over, everyone is saying the syndicate system must be abolished," said the adviser.

"But to do that, we need to amend the agreement. We can't force Malaysia to change it. If they refuse, we have two options: follow their terms and send workers through 25, 50, or 100 agencies, or stop sending workers altogether," he said.

"If I send workers through the existing syndicate, I'll be accused

of being a part of it. But if I don't send anyone, 40,000 workers will miss out, and Malaysia will remember that. This could affect up to two lakh families in the long run," he added.

### JAPAN LABOUR MARKET

Speaking about Japan, the adviser said there is a strong demand for workers, but Bangladesh currently lacks the skilled workforce to meet that demand.

"We have unskilled workers, many of whom are learning Japanese, but they are not yet fully prepared. The solution is to upskill them according to Japan's needs," he said.

"We have established a 'Japan Cell' with plans for a dedicated website," he

added. "In the case of Japan, we are removing all intermediary processes on our end. We are also considering public-private partnerships to train workers," said Nazrul.

"We're asking Japanese entrepreneurs to take over our Technical Training Centers (TTCs) -- bring their experts and train our workers. We're ready to hand over entire TTCs. We've already handed over the Manohardi TTC to be redesigned according to their requirements," he said, adding that another model involves working with different non-government organisations.

**FAKE DOCUMENTS CAUSING VISA ISSUES**  
At the event, Lutfor

Siddique, chief adviser's special envoy on international affairs, said fake certificates and bank statements are a major reason behind visa complications for Bangladeshi migrants.

"Many of our workers think going abroad is the only goal, even if it means using fake documents and lacking proper skills. This mindset is creating visa issues in many countries," he said.

"Getting a visa appointment for Japan is now extremely difficult, largely due to the submission of forged certificates and fake bank statements. There must be legal consequences for such actions," Siddique added.

## Ex-MP, 14 cops charged with crimes

FROM PAGE 3  
abatement, complicity, and failure to prevent or punish the crimes.

This is the fourth case of crimes against humanity during the July uprising for which the prosecution has pressed formal charges before the ICT.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, set July 13 for the next hearing and ordered the arrest of the absconding accused.

The other absconding accused are former OC of Ashulia Police Station AFM Sayed alias Rony, former police inspectors Md Masudur Rahman and Nirmal Kumar Das, ASI Bishwajit Saha, and Jubo League leader Rony Bhuiyan. Former SP Abdullah Hil

Kafi, former additional SP of Savar Circle Shahidul Islam, inspector Arafat Hossain Arzu, former ASIs Sheikh Alzalul Haque, Kamrul Hasan, and former constable Mukul Chokder are in custody.

During yesterday's proceedings, all those in custody except Alzalul were produced before the court.

Reading from the 173-page formal charge, prosecutor Mizanul Islam told the tribunal that during the July-August 2024 movement, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and leaders of the Awami League and 14-party alliance made a political decision to crush the protests.

"Drones were deployed to mark protester positions,

and then lethal force was used nationwide. Over 1,500 people were killed. Weapons were even fired from helicopters," he said. "The attacks were widespread, systematic, and aimed at targeted killings."

He called for the Awami League to be declared a criminal organisation.

He cited AL general secretary Obaidul Quader, who reportedly said shoot-on-sight orders had been given. A core committee, led by then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, and intelligence chiefs, held regular meetings to plan the crackdown, he alleged.

The formal charge includes 313 pages of witness statements, 168 pages of seizure lists, 20 video clips,

and two audio recordings. Three harrowing videos were played in court yesterday, as the courtroom fell silent.

## Six held over

FROM PAGE 4  
Institute and snatched a bag containing foreign currency worth over Tk 1.5 crore.

He said he was heading to Uttara to make payments on behalf of a currency trader.

"During interrogation, Tuhin admitted that the robbery had been staged with the help of his associates," Mohammad Ibne Mizan, DC of Tejgaon Division said.

A drive is still ongoing to arrest the remaining perpetrators and recover the rest of the money, said police.



## Savar Paurashava

Savar, Dhaka

(www.savarmunicipality.gov.bd)

E-mail: mayor.savarmunicipality@gmail.com

Phone: 02-7741813

Memo No. sps/prok/2025-2026/01

Date: 01.07.2025

### e-Tender Notice No. 01/2025-2026 (LTM)

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

Package No.	Tender ID No.	Description of the works	Last selling date & time	Last date and time for tender security	Closing & opening date & time
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-01	1129114	(i) Upgrading of Existing BFS & Earthen Road by Uni-block from Uttor Jamsing Alal Bapari Saw Mills to Abdul Karim house via ABM Nurul Haque house, Ch.0+00-0+200m, in Ward No. 01, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (ii) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab Starting from Pacchim Chyabithi C-Block Mohammad Qamruzzaman Himu house to Md. Nurunnabu Sharif house, Ch.0+00-0+215m, in Ward No. 01, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (iii) Construction of RCC Drain with slab and Improvement of Existing Earthen Road by RCC starting from Raribari Chyabithi Road (Angina Residential Area, B Block, Road#8) Engr. Mozammel Haque house to Main Road Ten Brothers Bhaban, Ch: 0.00-95.00m at Ward No. 01 under Savar Paurashava, Dhaka. (iv) Construction of RCC Drain with slab and Improvement of Existing Earthen Road by RCC starting from Rari Bari Chyabithi Road (Angina Residential Area, B Block, Road#2) Mohon Miah house to Sohiful Islam house, Ch.0+00-0+050m, in Ward No. 01, Savar Paurashava Savar, Dhaka. (v) Improvement of C.C Road starting from Jamsing Society Road Muhibur Rahman House to Akter Hossain House Ward No. 01 under Savar Pourashava, Savar, Dhaka. (Ch. 0.00-100.00m)	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-02	1129113	(i) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab from Shobhanbagh South side of Teachers Garden to Jalashor 16/1 Feroza Begem house, Ch.0+00-0+351m, with Link: 30m, in Ward No. 03, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (ii) Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC from Shobhanbagh South side of Teachers Garden to Jalashor 16/1 Feroza Begem house, Ch.0+00-0+348m, with Link: 30m, in Ward No. 03, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (iii) Construction of SS Railing around Khorshed Councilor Pond (Ch: 0.00-110.00m) at Ward No. 03, under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka. (vi) Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC at Savar Thana Muktiyoddha Residential Project, Ch. 0.00-0+136m, in Ward No. 04, under Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-03	1129112	(i) Construction of RCC Drain Starting from Bank Colony Madrasa Masjid Road H/O Jamal Uddin to H/O Kofil Saheb Via Bank Colony Laboratory School (Ch:0.00m-108.00m) at Ward No. 05 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka (ii) Construction of RCC Road Starting from Bank Colony Madrasa Masjid Road H/O Jamal Uddin to H/O Kofil Saheb Via Bank Colony Laboratory School (Ch: 0.00m-108.00m) at Ward No. 05 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka (iii) Construction of Bricks Drain and Upgrading of Existing CC Road Starting from Bank Colony, G-Block, near Ased School-2, Mrs. Rahela Khan house to Md. Abdul Quayum house Ch.0+00-0+027m, in Ward No. 05, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (iv) Construction of Brick Pit with Slab on different chainage from Dhaka Aricha Highway Habib Tower Road to Bank Colony Hawa Villa at Ward No. 05 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka. (v) Improvement of Road by RCC Starting from Dhaka Aricha Highway Habib Tower Road to Bank Colony Hawa Villa (Ch: 0.00m-340.00m) with RCC Drain (Ch: 40.00m-75.00m) at Ward No. 05 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-04	1129111	(i) Construction of RCC Drain from Dhaka Aricha R&H Main road to Savar Upazila Complex Boundary Wall (Via Talbag Graveyard Uttor Gate), Ch: 0.00-440.00.00 in Ward No. 06, under Savar Paurashava, Dhaka (ii) Improvement of Existing BC Road by DC start from Dhaka Aricha R&H Main road to Savar Upazila Complex Boundary Wall (Via Talbag Graveyard Uttor Gate), Ch: 0.00-440.00.00 in Ward No. 06, under Savar Paurashava, Dhaka. (iii) Improvement of Road by RCC Starting from Vagalpur Jame Masjid to H/O Professor Faruk (Ch:0.00m-190.00m) at Ward No. 06 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka. (iv) Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC starting from Vagalpur Poltan Matbar house to Ponditpara Shamsul Islam Babu house, Ch.0.00-0+106m, in Ward No. 06, under Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-05	1129110	(i) Construction of RCC Drain Starting from Chapain Road H/O Sohiful Islam to H/O Kawsar Sarder (Ch: 0.00-220.00m) & Link- H/O Saiful to Masjid Ar Rahman (L=45m) (Total Road Length=265m) at Ward No. 07 under Savar Pourashava, Savar, Dhaka (ii) Construction of RCC Road Starting from Chapain Road H/O Sohiful Islam to H/O Kawsar Sarder (Ch: 0.00-220.00m) & Link- H/O Saiful to Masjid Ar Rahman (L=45m) (Total Road Length=265m) at Ward No. 07 under Savar Pourashava, Savar, Dhaka. (iii) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab and Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC Starting from Dagomora Savar Udon Academy to Md. Aman Ullah Patoary house, Ch.0+00-0+060m, in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (iv) Upgrading of Existing BFS & Earthen Road by CC from Mazidpur Digirpar Md. Raza Khan house to Mazidpur Graveyard with also Connected towards Md. Ali & Saidur Rahman house, Ch.0+00-0+155m, in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:2 Road). (v) Construction of Bricks Drain Starting from Mazidpur Digirpar Md. Raza Khan house to Nurul Huda BDR Via Mazidpur Graveyard, Ch.0+00-0+115m, in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:1 Drain)	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00

Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-06	1129109	(i) Construction of RCC Drain with slab at starting from Imandipur Primary School Road Khokon Pharmacy to H/O Hashem BDR (Ch. 0.00-205.00m) Link H/O Alauddin to H/O Ataur (Length=35.00m) in Ward No. 07 under Savar Pourashava, Savar, Dhaka. (Total Length=240.00m) (ii) Construction of RCC Road starting from Imandipur Primary School Road Khokon Pharmacy to H/O Hashem BDR (Ch. 0.00-205.00m) Link H/O Alauddin to H/O Ataur (Length=35.00m) in Ward No. 07 under Savar Pourashava, Savar, Dhaka. (Total Length=240.00m) (iii) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab Starting from Birulia Road Pachim Shahibagh Bari Malik Kollan Samity Md. Hossain Ali house to Md. Abdul Aziz Khan house also Connected Md. Razu Ahmed house to Md. Rafiqulla house, Ch.0+00-0+205m, in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:1 Drain) (iv) Upgrading of Existing BFS & Earthen Road by CC Starting from Birulia Road Pachim Shahibagh Bari Malik Kollan Samity Md. Hossain Ali house to Md. Abdul Aziz Khan house also Connected Md. Razu Ahmed house to Md. Rafiqulla house, Ch. 0+00-0+205m, in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:2 Road)	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-07	1129108	(i) Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by Uni-Block Start from Imandipur Graveyard Road Block-E, H/O Mokhles to H/O Ali Hossain (Ch. 0.00-85.00m) in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka. (ii) Construction of RCC Drain with slab and upgrading of existing Earthen Road by Uniblock Paver starting from Near Sufia Bekari More Dakkhin Rajason Abdur Rahman Mollah House to Jalal Uddin house via Kazi Lutfor Rahman house, Ch: 0+00-0+195.00m, in Ward No. 07, under Savar Paurashava, Savar Dhaka. (iii) Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by Uni-block from Dakkhin Rajashawn Md. Kamal house to Gazi Aminul Islam house, Ch. 0+00-0+035m, in Ward No. 08, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (iv) Upgrading of Existing BFS & Earthen Road by CC from Anandopur AKM Shahinur Rahman Khan house to Maksudur Rahman Khan house with also Connected towards Nurjahan Begam, Ch. 0+00-0+176m, in Ward No. 09, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part: 2 Road) (v) Construction of Brick Drain with Cover Slab Starting from Anandopur AKM Shahinur Rahman Khan house to Maksudur Rahman Khan house with also Connected towards Nurjahan Begam, Ch. 0+00-0+176m, in Ward No. 09, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:1 Drain) (vi) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab and Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC Starting from Anandopur Mamun Sarkar house to Iqbal Mahmud Tara house with also Connected Hasan house to Existing CC Road Ch. 0+00-0+105m, in Ward No. 09, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (vii) Construction of Brick Drain with Cover Slab and Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC starting from Dogomora Masjid Road Rashed Police house to Moshir Rahman Mukul House, Ch.0+00-0+075m, in Ward No. 07, Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-08	1129107	(i) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab and Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC Starting from Dhaka-Aricha main Road Tia Bari Filling Station to Purbovhanipur Md. Nazimuddin house, Ch.0+00-0+163m, in Ward No. 09, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (ii) Construction of RCC Drain Starting from Sofia Bekary Mor Sohel Enterprise Shop to Mondolpara Masjid Via Al Modina Super Shop (Ch:0.00m-305.00m) at Ward No 08 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka. (iii) Construction of RCC Road Starting from Sofia Bekary Mor Sohel Enterprise Shop to Mondolpara Masjid Via Al Modina Super Shop (Ch: 0.00m-305.00m) at Ward No. 08 under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-09	1129106	(i) Construction of CC Drain and Improvement of C.C Road starting from Tiyabari Road Mazid Miya House to Al Muslim Garments Gate-03 via Tiyabari Masjid in Ward No. 09 under Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka. (Ch. 0.00-285.00m). (ii) Construction of RCC Drain (Ch.95.00-215.00m) and Improvement of C.C Road starting from Tiyabari Abu Mia Cement Shop to H/O Johura Khatun via H/O Jahangir Mollah (Ch. 0.00-210.00m) in Ward No. 09 under Savar Pourashava, Savar, Dhaka. (iii) Construction of Brick Drain with Cover Slab starting from Genda Bahadur Market Road Chan Mia House to Rozi Akter House, Ch. 0+00-0+150m in Ward No. 09 under Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-10	1129104	(i) Construction of RCC Drain with Cover Slab Starting from Namaganda, Madrasa More to Md. Moslem Uddin house Via Quamruzzaman house (Sangbadik Sarak), Ch. 0+00-0+290m, in Ward No. 09, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:1 Drain) (ii) Upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by Uni-block from Namaganda, Madrasa (Moila) More to Sangbadik Sarak Md. Lutfor Rahman Khan house Ch. 0+00-0+130m, in Ward No. 09, under Savar Paurashava, District: Dhaka. (Part:2 Road) (iii) Construction of RCC Cover Slab, Brick Work with necessary works at different Place in Saver Paurashava all Ward Savar Paurashava, Savar, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-11	1129103	(i) Construction of RCC Drain Starting from Dogomora CRP Road Ma-Moni Mor to Bismillah Bedding Store (Ch: 0.00m-386.00m) at Ward No. 07, under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka. (ii) Construction of RCC Road starting from Dogomora CRP Hospital Gate to Bismillah Bedding Store (Ch: 0.00m-215.00m) at Ward No. 07, under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00
Package No: SPS/e-GP/11/24-25/W-12	1129102	Construction of Bricks Drain and upgrading of Existing Earthen Road by CC starting from Rajabari Baladil Amin Jama Mosque to Mokbul Hossain house (Ch: 0.00m-102.00m) at Ward No. 06, under Savar Pourashava, Dhaka.	16-Jul-2025 17:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00	17-Jul-2025 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The Tender Notice also uploaded in the Savar Paurashava website [www.savarmunicipality.gov.bd](http://www.savarmunicipality.gov.bd)

Md. Amzad Hossain  
Executive Engineer  
Savar Paurashava, Dhaka

BOOK REVIEW: POETRY

# Shards of beauty: POEMS OF A LIFETIME

Review of 'Yardstick of Life: And Other Poems' (Amazon, 2024) by M. Shahid Alam

**I do not remember how the variations unfolded, nor do I know if the poem was among the 50 Alam supposedly destroyed—or among others mysteriously lost. But it's more than likely that a few of the poems in the sheaf I glanced at are here: the poet's Preface informs us that the collection includes work from his late teens to his seventies, i.e. from the late sixties till the book's publication last year.**

KAISER HAQ

Shahid Alam and I go back a long way, though we had both half-forgotten it until recently. He was two years senior to me at St. Gregory's High School. I didn't know him personally, as I did several of his classmates. At Dhaka University he studied Economics, like many of my schoolmates, and I'd see him bustling about in connection with the departmental rag, titled *Optima*, that he edited. My friend Taqi Sudderuddin assisted him in the venture, rather lackadaisically, if I remember rightly, but he was full of admiration for Alam's dedication and discipline. The two became friends, and, I suspect, talked more about their shared interest in literature and philosophy than about economics. Indeed, both had taken it up somewhat reluctantly, Alam under parental pressure, for economics had a certain cachet among the Social Sciences. Once he had bowed to his parents' wishes, he didn't stint in his commitment to his academic discipline, and came out First in the First Class in the BA Honours examination of 1970.

He was active in the departmental student body as well, successfully contesting for General Secretary on a Leftist student party ticket. He was halfway through his MA when his life was sadly disrupted by the military crackdown. His family had moved from Calcutta to Dhaka in 1947, his birth year; now, he had to relocate in Karachi to finish his studies and take up a university position. He'd take a PhD from a Canadian university and, in the late eighties, move to the US, where he had a distinguished career at Northeastern University, and is now an emeritus professor.

His poetic pursuits continued throughout, on the side, but for that reason with no little seriousness; his Gregorian classmate (Professor) Shawkat Hussain, an English Literature student in the late 60s, recalls visiting his home in Mohammadpur and being shown samples of his translations of Ghalib; these efforts found eventual fruition in the publication of *Intimations of Ghalib* (Orison Books, 2018), reviewed by Ahrar Ahmed in *The Daily Star* of June 8, 2019.

Taqi showed me a sheaf of Alam's original poems that the poet had given him to read when they had met, ostensibly to talk about the departmental magazine. "Shahid Bhai quickly took care of magazine matters



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

and began Pounding away," Taqi reported in his characteristic humorous conversational manner, punning alluding to Alam's enthusiasm for the poetry of Ezra Pound. It made an impression on me, for Pound was part of my bedside reading. I had a quick look at Alam's poems too. There's little I can recall after 55 odd years except that the poems were short and carefully crafted, like Pound's early poems. One poem, perhaps the very first one, remains etched in my memory because of its peculiar blend of passion and playfulness. All in lowercase (if I remember rightly), it repeated a one-line statement a dozen or so times, each time with slight changes in the configuration of words and letters. The opening, signature line, went (I'm sure) thus:

go tell her i love her  
I do not remember how the variations unfolded, nor do I know if the poem was among the 50 Alam supposedly destroyed—or among others mysteriously lost. But it's more than likely that a few of the poems in the sheaf I glanced at are here: the poet's Preface informs us that the collection includes work from his late teens to his seventies, i.e. from the late sixties till the book's publication last year.

Of more moment is the aesthetics expounded in the Preface. In Urdu and Persian, there exist in distinguished

profusion both long and short poetic forms. Allama Iqbal's *Asrar-i-Khudi* (1915) is a well-known example of a long philosophical poem in Persian; Hali's *Musaddas-e-Hali* of a long narrative poem in Urdu. But the most popular and impactful form is undoubtedly the relatively short Ghazal, which is typically between five and a maximum of 15 couplets in length. Alam models his poetry on the Ghazal, whose distinctive traits are highlighted in the Preface: the self-contained character of each couplet, and of each of the poems, which are arranged with no reference to the date of composition, but rather in the alphabetical order of the repeated phrase called the *radef*.

These are not mere dry technical details, though. Each *shehr* or couplet is an epigrammatic unity wittily blending observation, emotion, and ratiocination, and in consequence achieves the unified sensibility that Eliot identifies in Metaphysical poetry and upholds as a desideratum for the modern poet. The Ghazal also transcends another kind of dissociation of sensibility that F. R. Leavis diagnoses in modern culture as a consequence of the divergence of highbrow and popular taste; the Ghazal appeals to the sophisticate as well as the common man.

13 of the poems in this volume are labelled "Ghazals", though Alam

takes liberties with the form. Some have only four couplets, and not all are rounded off with the *Takhallus* or poet's name or *nom-de-plume*, which is a convention also seen in Bengali as the *Bhanita* in Vaishnava and *Bawool* lyrics. Poets naming themselves before concluding add a touch of personal drama, heightening overall impact. The final couplet of the first ghazal resonantly alludes to Sura Al-Alaq, and reveals a deeply felt religious vision:

Shahid, you were a clot.  
Remember and recite.

Alam's declared aim is to capture "precious moments", which may be equated with the Joycean concept of the epiphany, a cornerstone of modernist aesthetics. Alam ends the poem, "Goldenrods", by charmingly conflating the natural and the aesthetic realms:

In the bee, beauty  
makes honey: in man  
it becomes epiphany.

But modern man's hunger for beauty is fed by corruption—a somewhat Baudelairean corruption, as in the "Circe":

Men thrown here by rare  
Mischance, delight in her  
Incurably, interrogating her  
Icy flesh & marble bones  
For shards of beauty.

Precious moments do not preclude pain; his departed son Junaid,

the book's dedicatee, is movingly memorialised in "Uncommon Care" and "Mary".

Alam is sensitive to the poetic potential of everyday domestic settings and events, like William Carlos Williams, whose poem "This is Just to Say" is called to mind by "Birthday", which deserves to be quoted in full:

Happy birthday!  
I fixed the light switch  
inside the fridge.  
Sorry, I took  
so long to fix this.  
I would not do it  
on any ordinary day.

The collection has a Foreword by Guy Rotella, emeritus professor of English literature at Northeastern University. Generally speaking, I regard introductory pieces in poetry collections by anyone other than the poet as excrescences, but not in this case. Professor Rotella not only gives a useful overview of Alam's work but highlights an aspect that readers might overlook; for Alam is a committed postcolonial intellectual and activist, and "in three overtly political poems," "Genghiz Khan", "America's Past", and "Holding the Center", he exposes "the tricks by which rulers or nations reify their hegemony as if it were inevitable and natural."

The thought has crossed my mind that Alam writes Urdu poems through the medium of English. Even if the reader agrees, I'd hasten to add that the poems are no less successful as English poems. Steeped in the traditions of Urdu and Sufi poetry, Alam successfully infuses the sensibility they embody into English verse. No wonder the poem "Translation" meditates on the importance of cross-cultural transactions:

All poetry translates  
from buried scrolls, from  
vanished hieroglyphs, from  
the concerto of feelings  
to the poetics of discovery.  
Translation is not treachery.

Alam is a translingual and transnational poet whose life has been divided between Dhaka, Karachi, and North America. He can therefore be claimed by Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the South Asian diaspora in America.

**Kaiser Haq is a Bangladeshi poet, translator, essayist, critic and academic. He is the Dean of the School of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).**

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

# Acknowledging the lesser-known

Review of 'Ateet Theke Adhuna: Women Writer of Bangladesh' (Panjeree Publications Limited, 2024)

edited by Niaz Zaman

MAEESHA WAJID

Aptly named *Ateet Theke Adhuna: Bangladesher Naari Lekhok*, this collection is unlike a conventional anthology. Starting with Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, the list of writers includes an impressive 66 great authors. To imagine that such a large number of women who have written and have been writing in Bangladesh for 100 years has flown under the radar is indeed humbling and, frankly, disconcerting; I call acquiring knowledge of this unsettling matter because it sheds light on yet another glaring example of the age-long undermining of women's capabilities. It is also sad to note that before these eight women, no man had considered paying homage to those who "once wrote", and even those who "couldn't speak up or write". The dedication reads "To the women artists, both known and unknown, who once wrote, and to those who couldn't speak up or write...".

Traversing this veritable history of a 100 years of Bengali women's writing, the book offers readers a much-needed look into the numerous trials that women, to begin with, have had to overcome to learn to read and write, let alone write to publish. With the overt expressions of patriarchy being rampant during the 80s, and mid-to-late 90s, women of those times had to fight tooth and nail to step out of their houses to demand and act to receive their basic right to education. Braving chastisements, threats of and eventual ostracisation, these 66 women relentlessly and single-mindedly pursued their dreams. The tribulations they suffered and the indignity that was freely



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

doled out to them by the unfair norms and conventions designed by the patriarchy led them to make note of the injustices happening around them—to the weak, to the poor, and to the very country itself. This observation led them to include in their writing stories where the demeaned had voices that spoke not only for themselves but also for the nation they so dearly loved. And love the country they did (even

though it had not done much in the way of making these women's contributions widely known), as evidenced by their spontaneous and fearless participation both on the field and off it during the war for liberation. From writing fiery essays, invigorating poems and stories, to designing a plan to blow up the national power grid and hiding and ferrying arms to the freedom fighters, these women, even in the face of certain danger to their

persons and their families, shed the demure persona and, in dismissal of societal norms, came to their motherland's aid in whichever capacity they could.

Aside from the stories about biased traditions and characters whose lives mirrored their own, the fictional pieces created by these women also reflected the experiences of womanhood in all their variety. Narrated in an intimate tone, these

stories explored the vast emotional range of women and delved deeply into their innermost feelings about love, loss, grief, and death. Some of the texts and poems also broke convention and portrayed women characters who were morally ambiguous and open about their needs and desires.

If this compilation shows that women can and will break through barriers to realise their dreams, then it also makes apparent that, in the journey to reach their goals, women need their support systems just as much as men do. In all these women writers' backgrounds, the help and encouragement that these families have given them have stood out as common elements; if not for the staunch support that was unrestrainedly extended to them by a father, a mother, a brother, and/or a husband, their creative expressions would never have found their place on paper. In the current climate of gendered divisiveness, it was especially heartening to read about the gift of writing paraphernalia conspiratorially given by a brother to a sister; the morale-boosting declarations of approval made by a father to a daughter; and the loving espousal of and the eager prods to action initiated by a husband for his wife in their journey to bring their thoughts to life. The truth that none can exist as an island was further cemented by the inclusion of these facts about the writers having accepted the help that was offered to them by those closest to them.

**This is an excerpt from the review. Find the full article on *The Daily Star* and *Star Books and Literature's* websites.**

**Maeesha Wajid is a lecturer of English at Southeast University.**



## Breaking barriers with boldness and brilliance

KHALID HOSSAIN

In the heart of Yangon, under the weight of history and the roar of a partisan crowd, Bangladesh women's team paid a tribute to the beautiful game by being tactically astute, fearless in execution, and united in belief.

With a 2-1 victory over hosts Myanmar yesterday, the two-time SAFF champions shattered the regional ceiling to qualify for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 in Australia -- the first time the women's team reached the continent's top tier.

The qualification was confirmed after the day's second Group C fixture between Bahrain and Turkmenistan ended in a 2-2 draw. This will be only the second time Bangladesh take part in Asia's showpiece football tournament, following the men's appearance 45 years ago.

It is also the crowning moment for a women's side that, after a 19-year drought, reclaimed SAFF supremacy with a title-winning run in 2022.

Against a side ranked 73 places higher in FIFA rankings and with World Cup ambitions of their own, Bangladesh dominated both the scoreboard and the story. And they did it their way: with a brand of football that was world

class in its philosophy and thrilling in execution.

What Peter Butler's side produced at the Thuwunna Stadium was a showcase of identity in all its evolving glory.

A high-risk, high-reward 3-4-3 formation packed the midfield with intelligent ball-players. From the first whistle, the women in red and green pressed high, rotated smartly, and dictated the tempo with confidence.

At the back, a three-player defensive line -- all long-haired and braided -- operated with poise: experienced Shamsunnahar, Sheuli Azim, and captain Afeida Khandokar. Defensive midfielder Kohati Kisku dropped deep during transitions to form a temporary back four, while goalkeeper Rupna Chakma played as a sweeper -- alert, composed, and instrumental in maintaining shape.

Even after Myanmar pulled one back in the 89th minute, there was no panic. The backline held their nerves, avoiding unnecessary clearances and trusting their structure.

In midfield, Sapna Rani -- sporting a top knot -- and Maria Manda provided both muscle and metronome; like two knights on a chess board. Monika Chakma, the left-footed creative fulcrum, popped up between the lines, pulled defenders out of shape, and switched flanks with intelligence.

Her interplay with forward Tohura Khatun -- unmistakable in her military-style boy cut and operating as a fluid false nine -- allowed the front line to keep Myanmar constantly guessing.

And the face of the collective belief was 21-year-old Ritu Porna Chakma, the flamboyant winger who scored both goals -- a curling rebound and a sumptuous lob -- on either side of the interval.

Ritu, Shamsunnahar Jr, and Tohura interchanged fluently up front, pressing relentlessly -- never frantic, always calculated and collective.

Butler, who took charge after restoring SAFF supremacy in 2024, had made bold calls -- none bigger than sidelining long-time talisman Sabina Khatun to evolve the team's style. And yesterday, that evolution bore fruit for all to see.

From the 7-0 demolition of Bahrain to this watershed moment, Bangladesh's transformation has been as psychological as it has been tactical.

With qualification sealed, Bangladesh face Turkmenistan on Saturday: a dead rubber on paper, but another chance to build momentum.

This breakthrough could open new doors: high-level exposure; investment; and a growing fan base.

On the pitch, this team have already shown they belong on Asia's grandest stage. And how did they get there!

## Taskin makes grand return but Tigers falter

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's most experienced pacer Taskin Ahmed made a grand return to competitive cricket yesterday, finishing with figures of 4-47, but it was all for naught as Bangladesh suffered a 77-run defeat against Sri Lanka in the first ODI of the three-match series at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Chasing 245, Bangladesh went from 100-1 to 105-8 in a horrendous collapse orchestrated by spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (4-10) and Kamindu Mendis (3-19) and in the end were bundled out for 167 in 35.5 overs.

But before the disappointing batting, Bangladesh had done well in the bowling department with the leader of the attack Taskin making an impressive come back.

Taskin was out of competitive cricket from March due to an injury in his Achilles tendon. He returned to the side for the Sri Lanka ODIs after a long rehab which began following consultations from different medical experts in England in April.

The 30-year-old had to fight against time to satisfy both the BCB's medical team and the selectors to get picked in the ODI side.

Bangladesh badly missed the service of Taskin, a three-format player for the Tigers, in all of their recent assignments



— a home Test series against Zimbabwe, T20I series in the UAE and Pakistan and Test series in Sri Lanka.

Taskin could do nothing but watch from the sidelines as the Tigers suffered defeats to teams like Zimbabwe and UAE, as at that time, he was undergoing a comprehensive rehabilitation programme which was formulated and implemented under BCB's supervision.

The seasoned campaigner made his presence felt immediately in his return when he opened the bowling for Bangladesh yesterday. With a fantastic opening spell, he gave much-needed



momentum to the side, who had lost their last six matches in this format and are currently reeling at number 10 in the ICC rankings.

In his first spell, Taskin, in his usual manner, hit the deck hard and extracted movement from the pitch and didn't need to wait too long for success as he got rid of Nishan Madushka (six) and Kamindu Mendis (0). He bowled 24 dot balls in the five-over spell, which included two maidens, and only went for only 14 runs.

In the next spell, Taskin was a bit costly as he leaked 26 runs in three overs but when he returned for his final two overs

during the slog overs against centurion Charith Asalanka and dangerous-looking Wanindu Hasaranga, the pacer showcased his mettle once again.

Taskin made great use of the slower delivery, deceiving the set Hasaranga (22) and tail-ender Maheesh Theekshana (one) to remove both in the 46th over, which went for just two runs, and put the brakes in Sri Lanka's innings.

He then gave away just five runs in the penultimate over, playing a vital role in ensuring Sri Lanka did not go past the 250-run mark in a challenging track in Colombo. But his efforts were undone by the batters as the Tigers suffered their seventh straight defeat in ODIs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**Sri Lanka: 244 all out in 49.2 overs (Kusal Mendis 45, Asalanka 106; Taskin 4-47, Sakib 3-45)**  
**Bangladesh: 167 all out in 35.5 overs (Tanvir 62, Shanto 23, Jaker 51; Hasaranga 4-10, Kamindu 3-19)**

**Player of the match: Asalanka**  
**Result: Sri Lanka won by 77 runs.**

## U-18 hockey team eye winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's youth hockey team are looking for a positive start to their U-18 Asia Cup campaign today when they take on Hong Kong in the first match of Pool A in Dazhou, China today.

The match will begin at 6:30am Bangladesh time.

With the top two teams from the pool slated to qualify for the semifinals, Bangladesh coach feels they cannot slip up in the opening two fixtures -- against Hong Kong and Sri Lanka -- as the group stage will get more competitive towards the business end, where Bangladesh will face China before wrapping up against top-ranked Pakistan.

Bangladesh, runners-up of last edition held in Dhaka nine years ago, had a 30-minute practice match against Kazakhstan, coming out with a 4-0 win after having landed in the northeastern city of China on the previous day.

Bangladesh coach Moududur Rahman Shuvo, speaking to The Daily Star from Dazhou yesterday afternoon, said that all the players are fit and that the weather is similar to that of Dhaka's.

"The practice game was more of getting accustomed to the conditions and the turf here. We are comfortable and looking forward to a positive start," said Shuvo, whose charges feature 16 running BKSP students and two who have already graduated from the sports institute.

"We can't take any chances. We will have to win the first two matches because things will get tougher from thereon. We want to start with a victory, no matter what the scoreline is," added Shuvo, who had guided the under-21 team to their first-ever World Cup qualification last year.



In a game in which Juventus goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio was in inspired form, Real Madrid youngster Gonzalo Garcia headed home the only goal to help Los Blancos to a 1-0 win over the Italian side in the Club World Cup round of 16 in Miami on Tuesday. Garcia's third goal in four appearances in the tournament saw Real extend their unbeaten run under new coach Xabi Alonso, as they set up a quarterfinal clash against Borussia Dortmund, who edged Mexican side Monterrey 2-1 later in the day.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sabalenka praying for no more Wimbledon upsets

AFP, London

World number one Aryna Sabalenka said she hopes there are "no more upsets" at Wimbledon after reaching the third round with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 win over Marie Bouzkova on Wednesday.

Several stars suffered shock first round exits from the All England Club, including second seed Coco Gauff, third seed Jessica Pegula and fifth seed Zheng Qinwen.

Top seed Sabalenka was pushed hard by Bouzkova in Wednesday's opening match on Centre Court as her Czech opponent matched fire with fire in a bruising encounter.

But she eventually had too much in her locker for her 48th-ranked opponent, firing an impressive 41 winners in a match lasting one hour and 35 minutes.

The Belarusian said after her win she was aware of the seeds who had crashed out but planned to focus on her own game.

"Honestly it's very sad to see so many

top players losing in the first round but you better focus on yourself and stay away from the results," she said.

"I mean of course you're going to know the overall picture but it's better to take it one step at a time and do your best every time you're out here competing and I'm trying to stay away."



"I hope it's no upsets anymore in this tournament, if you know what I mean!"

The first set went with serve until Sabalenka doubled-faulted in the 11th game to hand Bouzkova the chance to serve for the set.

But the Belarusian broke back with a searing backhand down the line and came out on top in the tie-break to establish a foothold in the match.

Sabalenka broke again in the fifth game of the second set to move within sight of victory and closed out the match with little fuss.

She will face 2021 US Open winner Emma Raducanu or former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova in the third round on Friday.



India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates reaching his 11th Test fifty on Day 1 of their second Test against hosts England at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Wednesday. Even though Jaiswal could not get to the three-figure mark, the left-handed batter's 87-run knock helped India get off to a strong start as they accumulated 182 for three in 53 overs at Tea.

PHOTO: REUTERS

