



Grateful to the captain for giving me confidence after I leaked 22 runs in the first two overs.

TANVIR ISLAM
Bangladesh spinner

The Daily Star

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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Inside the 3-year plan to fix banks

Govt agrees to raft of new laws, deep-dive asset reviews and a crisis management framework

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has committed to a sweeping overhaul of its troubled financial sector, outlining a detailed three-year roadmap as part of its latest agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The reform plan, also backed by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, is built on a package of legislative, supervisory, and institutional changes designed to restore stability, aggressively pursue bad loans, and protect taxpayers from future bank failures.

Under the plan, Bangladesh will establish a government-wide strategy for the banking sector. This will clarify the roles of Bangladesh Bank and the finance ministry in managing crises and define the conditions for any potential state support for ailing lenders.



Lying on a hospital bed with a saline drip in her hand, seven-year-old Raisa watches cartoons on a mobile screen -- a small comfort amid her battle with dengue fever. She has been undergoing treatment at Mugda Medical College Hospital for the past three days. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

REFORMS

- Crisis Management Council to coordinate reforms
- Bankruptcy Act to be amended in early 2026
- Money Loan Court Act to be amended in 2026
- Deposit Protection Ordinance in July
- Bank Company Act to be amended by Dec
- A platform for trading NPLs by 2025

A new Banking Sector Crisis Management Council (BCCM) will be constituted to oversee the process and coordinate responses. The government said the goal is to ensure banks are financially sound and to end the long-standing practice of granting "regulatory forbearance" to weaker institutions.

At the heart of Bangladesh's financial sector reform is a legal overhaul to strengthen recovery mechanisms, modernise insolvency procedures and give regulators the tools needed to intervene decisively in troubled banks.

With non-performing loans and governance lapses weighing on the sector, the reform package represents the strongest policy signal in years. The IMF has linked future disbursements under its \$5.5 billion programme to the implementation of these reforms.

LEGAL BLITZ

The government has committed to enacting or amending a series of laws by the first quarter of FY2026, laying the legal foundation for a more resilient financial system:

Bankruptcy Act: A new corporate insolvency framework will be introduced to allow for the early restructuring of viable but distressed companies, aiming to keep them out of lengthy liquidation proceedings and align Bangladesh with international standards.

Money Loan Court Act: The law governing loan recovery will be amended by the first quarter of fiscal 2026 to clear bottlenecks. In the interim, Dhaka has pledged to boost staffing and resources for the courts to tackle case backlogs and enforce verdicts more quickly. The system has long been plagued by understaffing and delays.

Distressed Asset Management Act: This law will create a framework for licensing private asset management companies. This is intended to

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50% of bank directors to be independent

BB Governor Ahsan Mansur tells *Star*

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The interim government is set to amend the Bank Company Act by reducing the board members from a single family, while at least 50 percent of the directors will be independent, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur.

Three from the same family can serve as bank directors, as per the Bank Company (Amendment) Act, 2023. Previously, the number was higher.

The number of independent directors could exceed 50 percent, Mansur told *The Daily Star* in an interview recently.

"We will form a panel from which the independent directors must be selected. If someone outside the panel is to be appointed, it must be a highly distinguished and qualified individual,

MORE ON BI



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Political parties with phantom addresses queue for EC nod

AHMED DEEPTO

In its application for registration with the Election Commission, Janatar Bangladesh Party has said its central office is located on the 12th floor of Darus Salam Arcade near the capital's Paltan intersection.

However, a visit to the 14-storey building on June 25 found no sign of its office there. The 12th floor houses five travel agencies and eight law chambers.

Staff from two of the travel agencies said no political party by that name had any office in the building.

Contacted, Safiqul Islam Sabuj Khan, the chairman of the party, claimed that they no longer use the building.

"We have rented a new office on Box Culvert Road. We will have it ready for use within a few days."

He, however, didn't give the address of the new office.

Janatar Bangladesh Party is among 147 political parties that applied to the EC between March 10 and June 22 to get registered with it ahead of the upcoming national election. The EC on June 24 published a list of the parties.

Many of these parties exist on paper only. In the last week of June, *The Daily Star* visited the addresses of 13 parties in Paltan area that they mentioned in their applications to the EC. It found that nine had no central offices or even signboards at those locations, while four parties had offices on the same rooftop of a 15-storey building.

To get registered with the EC, a political party must meet at least one of three criteria that include having a functional central office,

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To get registered with the EC, a party must meet at least one of three criteria that include having a functional central office.



THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 6, 2024

'Bangla Blockade' announced

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

The streets of Dhaka and cities across Bangladesh fill with chants, placards, and determination as the student movement enters its sixth consecutive day. Today marks a turning point – protesters declare a countrywide "Bangla Blockade", vowing to bring life to a standstill until their demands are met.

At the heart of the capital, Shahbagh intersection – the symbolic ground zero of student uprisings – is once again blocked. By mid-afternoon, several thousand students pour into the streets, weaving through Dhaka University, BUET, and Eden College campuses before converging on Shahbagh. They raise slogans: "Dofa ek, dabi ek; quota not come back!", "Quota na medha – medha, medha!"

Nahid Islam, a Dhaka University student and key organiser, announces that the "Bangla Blockade" will now take place daily from 3:00pm at key intersections in the capital as well as highways across the country.

"We will not return to classrooms until our demands are met," he declares to a cheering crowd, urging parents to join the movement and accusing the ruling party's student activists of attempting to disrupt the protests. As the hours stretch on, police presence looms nearby, while the

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The *Daily Star* offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Holy Ashura. There will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, we will be available online during the holiday.

Dhaka seeks identities of 36 arrested in KL

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has formally requested the identities of the 36 Bangladeshis arrested by Malaysian authorities for their alleged involvement in a radical militant movement, said the foreign ministry yesterday.

Last week, the Malaysian authorities announced the arrest of 36 Bangladeshi men aged between 25 and 35 years in security operations carried out in three phases between April 24 and June 21, according to the Malaysian daily *The Star*.

Of the arrested/detained individuals, formal charges have been filed against five in Malaysian courts.

Of those arrested, 15 have been handed over to the Immigration Department and 16 remain under investigation under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012.

"The government of Bangladesh is closely monitoring the developments and the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur is in close communication with the relevant Malaysian authorities," the foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The High Commission will extend necessary support to the expatriate Bangladeshis wherever needed, it said.

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Bangladesh players celebrate one of their goals during a 7-0 victory against Turkmenistan in their last Group C fixture of the Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. The big win saw Peter Butler's charges, who had already clinched a historic Asian Cup berth, end the qualifiers as group winners with a hundred percent record.

PHOTO: AFC

Mother raped while child held at knifepoint Four arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A 28-year-old woman was raped while her one-and-a-half-year-old son was held at knifepoint in Panchagarh Sadar upazila on Friday night, according to a case filed yesterday.

The survivor was found unconscious with her child beside her near a roadside bush yesterday, said Abdullah Hil Zaman, officer-in-charge of Panchagarh Sadar Police Station.

She later filed the case, accusing four named and two to three unnamed individuals.

Police have so far arrested four: Jony Islam, 27; Biplob Hossain, 25; Moksedul Islam, 32; and Sadekul Islam, 32.

Speaking to reporters at a hospital, the survivor said, "As my husband left me some months ago, I moved to a place a few kilometers away from my parents' house to search for a job. As my son fell ill that night, I was taking him to my parents. We were travelling on a three-wheeler. On the way, I noticed another easy bike following us."

When they reached Tinmille area on the Panchagarh-Jagdral Road around 11:00pm, the vehicle following them caught up and stopped them.

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