

CONSENSUS COMMISSION Fresh caretaker models on the table now

Parties agree on CJ pick,
limiting emergency powers

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission, BNP, and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami have each proposed separate methods for appointing the chief adviser to caretaker government.

On the 12th day of the second phase of reform talks at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday, the commission proposed forming a 13-member search committee, comprising representatives from the three major parties across both parliamentary chambers.

The BNP proposed that the president appoint the chief adviser from among qualified citizens, following consultations with all major political parties in the lower house.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami recommended a search committee with five members from the ruling party, five from the main opposition, and two from smaller parties or independents.

**The commission
has asked all
parties to submit
full written
proposals, if they have
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the caretaker government leadership
model scheduled for further
deliberation in the coming days.**



PROF ALI RIAZ
Vice-chairman of the National Consensus Commission

Meanwhile, the National Citizen Party opposed the judiciary's involvement in the caretaker government. NCP leader Javed Rasin said, "We reject the politicisation of the judiciary."

The party, however, did not make any new proposals yesterday for caretaker government framework or the appointment of the chief adviser.

Earlier on July 2, it proposed forming an 11 member All Party Parliamentary Committee, with each party nominating three candidates in the lower house. If one candidate secures an eight to three majority, they would be appointed chief adviser.

If consensus still cannot be reached, the upper house could appoint the chief adviser from those ranking highest among proposed candidates, the NCP said.

This is the third time the consensus commission has submitted a proposal on the matter, as consensus remains elusive.

Earlier, it had proposed that a National Constitutional Council picks a retired chief justice for appointment as chief adviser, in line with the 13th amendment to the constitution.

During the talks on July 9, it also proposed forming a seven-member Chief Adviser Selection Committee.

The commission has now asked all parties to submit full written proposals, if they have any, by 10:00am today, with the caretaker government leadership model

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Trishna Rani Sarkar celebrates with teammates after scoring the winning goal in Bangladesh's 3-2 victory over Nepal in a feisty encounter of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Bashundhara Kings Arena on Sunday. In a game that saw both Bangladesh and Nepal get a red card each, substitute Trishna sealed the fate of the game with the final kick.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

US sends list of items, seeking zero duty

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The US has demanded zero duty facility for a large number of its products from Bangladesh.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said the United States Trade Representative (USTR) sent a list of these products to him yesterday via email.

He spoke to The Daily Star over the phone last night upon his return from the US after participating in the talks in Washington, DC. Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin also returned to Dhaka after the talks with the chief trade negotiation body of the American government.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Govt launches combing operation

Cites social instability, intolerance, moral decline

RAFIUL ISLAM

The government has launched a combing operation "to root out crime and restore public order" amid a spate of criminal activities across the country.

So far this July, over 1,500 people on average have been arrested daily.

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury made the announcement yesterday after a meeting of the advisory committee on law and order following a series of violent crimes, including the brutal killing of a trader in Old Dhaka.

4.2 lakh arrested since
interim govt took
charge

75,000 individuals are
currently in prisons

“Due to social instability, intolerance, and moral decline, the tendency to commit crimes is rising day by day. It is the responsibility of all of us, including law enforcement body, to combat these crimes. The government is taking necessary steps to ensure law and order in the country,” said Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Tigers
thrash Sri
Lanka by
record 83
runs to level
T20I series
P11

Waiter killed for 'delay in serving tea'

SUSPECT HELD

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A restaurant staffer was stabbed to death allegedly following an altercation over delay in serving tea at Kazirbazar in Sylhet city yesterday.

The victim has been identified as Dinar Ahmed Roman, 22, of Shabdulpur village in Sylhet's Dakshin Surma upazila.

Police arrested the suspect, Abbas Mia, 50, of Topkhana area in the city, last evening, said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Ziaul Haque.

Earlier, Roman's brother Reju Miah filed a murder case with the police station, accusing five people, including two three unnamed individuals.

Quoting witnesses, the OC said a young man entered the eatery in the fish market area yesterday morning to have tea and got into a heated argument with Roman allegedly over a delay in serving tea.

At the time, bystanders and the restaurant owner intervened to calm the situation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



সতর্কিরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ই-কমার্স প্রতিষ্ঠান, অনলাইন এবং অফলাইনে পরিচালিত
ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং Crowdfunding এর মাধ্যমে
অতি মুনাফা প্রদানকারী ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিষয়ে
জনসাধারণকে সতর্ক থাকা প্রসঙ্গে।

সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কতিপয় প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক
সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমসহ নানাবিধ অনলাইন এবং অফলাইন মাধ্যম
ব্যবহার করে অস্বাভাবিক রিটার্নের প্রয়োজনে ঘাহকদের নানাভাবে
প্রলুক্ষ করার মাধ্যমে প্রত্যারিত করা হচ্ছে। কোনো কোনো ক্ষেত্রে OTP
(One Time Password) শেয়ার এর মাধ্যমে সোশ্যাল সেফটি নেট এর
টাকা, জেল এর টাকা ফেরতের প্রয়োজনসহ নানাবিধ ভাতা সংক্রান্ত টাকা
হাতিয়ে নেয়া হচ্ছে। এতে করে দেশের আপামর জনগোষ্ঠী আর্থিকভাবে
প্রতিনিয়ত ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে।

এ ধরনের প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের সাথে কোনো রকমের আর্থিক লেনদেন করা
থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য দেশের সকল জনসাধারণকে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।
যদি কোনো ঘাহক এ সকল অনলাইন এবং অফলাইন প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে
যেকোনো মাধ্যমে কোনোরূপ আর্থিক লেনদেন করেন সেক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট
আর্থিক লেনদেনের ফলে কোনোরূপ ক্ষয়-ক্ষতির সম্মুখীন হলে তার
দায়াভাব সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির উপর বর্তাবে। এছাড়া, পরিশোধ ও নিষ্পত্তি ব্যবস্থা
আইন, ২০২৪ এর ধারা ৪ এবং ধারা ১৫ এর কোনোরূপ লংঘন না করার
জন্য উত্ত ধারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে নির্দেশনা প্রদান করা যাচ্ছে।

জনস্বার্থে পরিশোধ ও নিষ্পত্তি ব্যবস্থা আইন, ২০২৪ এর ধারা ১৮(৪)
এ প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে এ নির্দেশনা জারি করা হলো।

জনস্বার্থে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

Polls possible in this state of law and order CEC tells BBC Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding elections under the current state of law and order is challenging



Nasir Uddin

but possible, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin told BBC Bangla in an interview that was published yesterday.

Claiming that law and order has improved since August 8 last year, the CEC said, "By the time the election is held, you will see everything is calm. There will be

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

নিয়মিত প্রতিদিন
জমা পানি ফেলে দিন

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নগর ভবন, ৫ ফিনিক্স রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা।

গৃহবিজ্ঞপ্তি

* এডিস মশা ডেঙ্গু রোগের বাহক। এডিস মশার বিস্তার রোধে বাড়ির ভেতর, বাহির, ছাদ ও আনাচ-কানাচে পড়ে থাকা অপ্রয়োজনীয় পাত্র/প্যাকেটসমূহ ডাস্টবিনে ফেলে দিন এবং বাড়ির আঙিনা পরিষ্কার রাখুন।
* অব্যবহৃত গাড়ির টায়ার, নির্মান কাজে ব্যবহৃত চৌবাচ্চা, পরিত্যক্ত টিনের কোটা, কাঁচ/প্লাস্টিকের বোতল/ক্যান, বিস্কুট বা চিপস এর প্যাকেট, গাছের কোটা, ভাঙ্গা হাড়ি, ডাবের খোসা ইত্যাদিতে ৩ (তিনি) দিনের বেশি যেন পানি জমে না থাকে সেদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখুন এবং অপসারণ করুন।
* বর্ষাকালে ছাদ বাগানের কোন টবে যেন পানি জমতে না পারে তা নিশ্চিত করুন।
* বাড়ির বেজমেন্ট ও গ্যারেজে জমে থাকা পানি নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার করুন।
* দুই বাড়ির মধ্যবর্তী অব্যবহৃত সংকীর্ণ স্থানে বিবিধ ময়লা আবর্জনা নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার করুন।
* নির্মাণাধীন বাড়ি এডিস মশার অন্যতম বৎশ বিস্তারের স্থান। এ ব্যাপারে নির্মাণ শ্রমিকদের সচেতন ও নির্দেশনা প্রদান করুন।
* শরীরের বেশিরভাগ অংশ এবং হাত, পা ঢাকা থাকে এমন কাপড় পরিধান করুন।
* দিনে এবং রাতে বিশ্রাম অথবা ঘুমানোর সময় অবশ্যই মশার ব্যবহার করুন।
* আগমান বাড়ির আঙিনা/স্থাপনা/প্রতিষ্ঠানে এডিস মশার লার্ভা পাওয়া গেলে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নির্বাহী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের সহযোগিতায় মোবাইল কোর্টের মাধ্যমে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে।
* ডেঙ্গু মৌসুমে জর হলে ডাক্তারের পরামর্শ অনুযায়ী রক্ত পরীক্ষা করুন ও চিকিৎসা গ্রহণ করুন।
* ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের তৃতীয় হাসপাতাল, যথা- ঢাকা মহানগর জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা মহানগর শিশু হাসপাতাল ও নাজিরা বাজার মাতৃসন্দেশ বিনামূল্যে ডেঙ্গু পরীক্ষা করুন।
* এডিস মশার উৎস/প্রজনন স্থল বিষয়ে তথ্য প্রদান করতে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নিয়ন্ত্রণ কক্ষের ফোন নম্বরে কল করুন- ০১৭০৯-৯০০৮৮৮।

নিজ আঙিনা পরিষ্কার রাখি, সবাই মিলে সুস্থ থাকি

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

GD-1573



MY DHAKA

A taste of the world at Moghbazar

Dhaka's newest culinary hangout

RBR

The latest go-to place in Dhaka is "At the Table", a food court at the crossroads of Moghbazar Mor and Eskaton, towards Bangla Motor. This intersection is one of the most chaotic and busiest in the city, making it an unlikely place for an upmarket food court.

Yet the gamble, that is opting for a swanky food court in that location, worked well. The area has always been a neighbourhood for the culturally inclined middle-income population, for whom a trip to Gulshan, Banani or even Dhanmondi is too much of a traffic hassle to brave.

The food court, which started operations in February 2025, has already gained a loyal following. It offers a good food option, a luxurious ambience, and an accessible approach, despite heavy traffic. The young crowd of Bailey Road and genteel Eskaton has given this food plaza the much-needed business traction.

Dhaka's eating out once upon a time meant only the 4 o'clock cha-shingaras or the occasional Chinese dinners. And today, the city's palate has evolved so much that it is regarded as one of the up-and-coming multi-cultural cuisine hubs. And food halls like these only add to the diverse options.

At the Table is an indoor plaza with a lofty second floor and adjoining outdoor seating options. The food counters offer Japanese, Mexican, Middle Eastern,



Indian, and popular local menus, as well as fusion selections. Besides the usual favourites like nachos, burgers, pizzas, and ice-cream, this venue has an interesting tea counter that sells Bangkok-style Thai Cha or tea.

Cha Thai & Ta is a cute tea place that brings you the famous Thai tea lattes, Matcha lattes, along with the popular Thai sweet and savoury toast snacks. Deshi tea menu, with tandoori cha, is also on offer. Run by a charming couple, where the lady is of Thai origin and the man has his roots in Bangladesh; their pairing has given the stall its distinctive character, where you get popular Thai and deshi tea menu.

Arshan Sufi, a teenager who lives right around the corner, vouches for their iced lattes. "The chilled, rich creaminess, and a unique sweetness of their Matcha latte is addictive, it gives me the much-needed sugar rush after classes." His mother prefers the refreshing Jasmine Honey and Lemon Tea without sugar though. "It is our mother-son regular place to wind down after the day's work," he says.

"A Thai cha is blending a sweet and spicy deliciousness that is served hot or cold. A classic and popular

choice in the Thai tea scene is the ChaTraMue brand's black tea. The lattes are made with loose tea steeped in cinnamon, ginger, lemongrass, star anise, cardamom, and condensed or evaporated milk and served iced or hot. This tea has its signature vibrant orange hue, exactly like Thai street drink," says the couple.

Another recent food court addition that is making waves is the Chef's Table on the 5th floor of Centrepoint, near Dhaka Airport in Uttara. Unlike the other congested food halls, the one at Centrepoint is spacious, with multiple food kiosks and a spacious seating configuration.

Food courts in the city are aplenty, but keeping it spic and span, and maintaining cleanliness raises questions. However, both these new additions stand out as one of the finest food courts in Dhaka, ideal for hosting gatherings of family and friends, and the fun kids' zone makes it a great place to host play dates or birthday parties. They also have roomy parking facilities.

As Dhaka's culinary landscape continues to evolve, food courts like At the Table and Chef's Table are redefining how the city eats out -- making quality food, comfort, and a bit of flair more accessible to everyday diners.



PHOTO: STAR

SOHAG MURDER

Police identify 3 suspects from CCTV footage

Seven arrested so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have identified three men in the CCTV footage of the brutal killing of scrap trader Lal Chand alias Sohag with concrete chunks in Old Dhaka.

One has been arrested and two others are on the run, an official of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Lalbagh Division told The Daily Star yesterday.

In a further development, law enforcers held two more suspects, Sajib Bepari, 27, and Rajib Bepari, 25, from Netrakona early yesterday.

So far, seven people have been detained in connection with the murder, said Jasim Uddin, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division Police.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed two arrestees, Mohammad Alamgir and Monir alias "Chhoto" Monir, on a four-day remand.

Of them, Monir is seen beating Sohag with concrete chunks in the footage, according to investigators.

The killing took place in broad daylight on Wednesday, when Sohag was forcibly dragged out of his shop in Old Dhaka and beaten to death with concrete blocks near the gate of Mitford Hospital.

Sohag's sister filed a murder case against 19 people with Kotwali Police Station. Police collected surveillance footage from the area and launched drives, leading to multiple arrests.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the government was taking the murder with utmost seriousness. Out of the accused, seven have already been detained.

If more are found involved during investigation, they will also be brought under the law, he said.

"No one is being or will be spared on the basis of political or any other identity," he told reporters at the Secretariat.

The adviser said a thorough investigation would be carried out to determine whether there was any negligence on the part of the administration or law enforcement agencies in the incident.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Fresh caretaker models on the table now

FROM PAGE 1

scheduled for further deliberation in the coming days, Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, told The Daily Star.

He added that discussions on the caretaker model will continue tomorrow (July 15), and expressed hope that a draft of the national charter will be ready by the end of the month.

In the first round of talks, almost all political parties agreed to revive the caretaker government system.

The non-partisan caretaker system was introduced in 1990 after dictator HMErshad's fall, with then chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed overseeing a neutral transition. Though informal at the time, the system ensured a free and fair election in 1991.

Political tensions, however, rose after the opposition boycotted the controversial February 1996 election, ultimately leading to the 13th amendment, which formalised the caretaker system.

In 2006, a dispute over who would head the interim government saw then president Iajuddin Ahmed assume the additional role of chief adviser. This triggered a crisis that led to a military-backed caretaker government in 2007-08.

The Awami League abolished the system in 2011 through the 15th amendment.

In December last year, about five months after the ouster of the AL regime, the High Court annulled part of the 15th amendment that had scrapped the caretaker system.

COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

According to the commission's new proposal, a 13-member Chief Adviser Search Committee will be formed 30 days before the end of the parliament's term.

It will include the prime minister, treasury bench leader, or the leader of the ruling party; the opposition leader; the speaker and deputy speaker of the lower house (the latter from the opposition); the deputy leader or chief whip of the lower house; one representative from the third largest party in the lower house;

the speaker and deputy speaker of the upper house; the leader of the largest party and the leader of a minority party in the upper house; one member of the upper house nominated by the president; and a representative from the third largest party in that chamber.

Within 48 hours of its formation, the committee will convene to select the chief adviser, who will serve for 90 to 120 days following the dissolution of parliament.

The proposal adds that if this process fails, the ruling coalition and the main opposition will each propose five eligible candidates, while other parties represented in both chambers will jointly propose four more.

The search committee will then hold a hearing in the lower house within five days, with upper house members present, to review all 14 nominees.

After the hearing, the ruling and opposition blocs will each select one candidate from the other's list. They will also choose one nominee from the smaller parties' list. Additionally, the third largest party will select one from the 10 candidates proposed by the ruling and opposition parties.

In this version, the president would cast a tie-breaking vote if needed.

A third proposed format offered broader representation: in addition to the prime minister, opposition leader, and speaker, one representative from each of the opposition parties – excluding the largest – that secured at least five percent of the national vote would be included. The president would retain voting rights in this format as well.

If none of these approaches yield consensus, the BNP proposed reverting to the caretaker government model introduced under the 13th amendment.

In such a case, the nomination committee could propose a retired chief justice, provided the individual is under the age of 75.

The commission clarified that if the upper house is not yet formed, the search committee will be reduced to seven members from the lower house only. The same selection process will apply.

BNP'S PROPOSAL

The BNP's proposal emphasised multiparty consultation, limits on presidential authority, and the possible revival of the 13th amendment to the constitution, said Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed at the meeting.

It stated that the president would appoint the chief adviser from among

citizens eligible under article 58(Ga), following consultations with all major political parties in parliament.

The party also proposed forming a nomination committee chaired by the president, which would include the prime minister, the opposition leader, the speaker of the lower house, and the deputy speaker from the opposition. In this setup, the president would not have voting rights in the selection process.

An alternative committee structure was also proposed, comprising the prime minister, the opposition leader, the speaker and deputy speaker of the lower house, and one representative from the third largest party.

In this version, the president would cast a tie-breaking vote if needed.

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As a final fallback, the BNP suggested that the president himself assume the role of chief adviser.

JAMAAT'S PROPOSAL

Nayeb-e-Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher said his party verbally proposed a new process for selecting the caretaker chief.

It moved away from relying on the senior-most retired chief justice or involving the president directly. Instead, Jamaat recommended forming a 12-member bipartisan search committee composed entirely of elected representatives.

This committee would include five members from the ruling party, five

from the main opposition, and two from smaller parties or independents.

The committee would publicly call for nominations, conduct interviews, and follow a formal selection process to recommend a candidate for chief adviser.

Taher added that Jamaat also floated an informal alternative: a three-member committee comprising the sitting prime minister, the opposition leader, and the chief justice. However, he clarified that this idea has not been formally submitted.

CONSENSUS ON CJ PICK, EMERGENCY

During yesterday's talks, the parties reached consensus on the appointment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, as well as safeguards against the misuse of emergency powers.

They agreed that the most senior judge of the Appellate Division, based on service length, would be appointed as the next chief justice, unless a political party pledges in its manifesto to choose one of the top two senior judges and secures a mandate to do so.

The parties also decided to amend article 141 of the constitution to prevent the political misuse of emergency declarations.

As per the proposed revision to article 141A(I), the president may declare a state of emergency for a period not exceeding 90 days if convinced that Bangladesh's security or economic stability is threatened by war, external aggression, or natural calamity.

However, prior written approval from the cabinet, in the presence of the opposition leader, would be required.

Currently, the constitution allows emergency declarations for up to 120 days with only the prime minister's signature.

To ensure protection of fundamental rights during emergencies, the proposed amendment to article 47(3) ensures that no citizen's right to life, or protection from torture or from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, may be suspended or violated.

a business in Pallabi reportedly for the owner's refusal to pay Tk 5 crore extortion. The same day, a former Jubo Dal leader was killed in Khulna. He was shot and his tendons were severed. In Chandpur, a 75-year-old mosque Khatib was hacked with a machete after Juma prayers.

The home adviser yesterday said the government took the brutal murder in Old Dhaka with "utmost seriousness". Out of the 19 FIR named accused, seven have already been detained.

If more people are found involved during the investigation, they will also be brought under the law, he said.

"No one is being spared on the basis of political or other identity and will not be spared in the future. The police will not spare any criminal," he added.

The home adviser also said a thorough investigation will be carried out to determine whether there was any negligence or leniency on the part of the administration or law enforcement agencies in the incident.

On Friday, armed men attacked



Hundreds of students pour out from Dhaka University dormitories around 11:00pm on July 14, 2024, to protest a "disparaging comment" by then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina regarding quotas in government jobs.

FILE PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PM's remark ignites

FROM PAGE 1

Similar protests erupted across other public universities, including Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, and Comilla University. Around 11:00pm, DU students gathered on campuses and took out processions, chanting:

"Tumi ke? Ami ke? Razakar, Razakar! [Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar!]

Earlier in the day, in response to a journalist's question, Hasina had remarked, "Why do they have so much resentment towards the freedom fighters? If the grandchildren of the freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?"

At Dhaka University, students marched from various halls and converged in front of the Raju Bhaskar. Among the participating protesters were students from Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Shamsun Nahar Hall, and Rukayyah Hall. They chanted: "Chaita gelam odhikar, hoye gelam Razakar [Asked for rights and became a Razakar]."

Meanwhile, activists of the now-banned Chhatra League, some wielding sticks, gathered at various points across the campus, including Madhur Canteen and the Shahbagh and Sheraton intersections. Some protesters were also seen carrying sticks.

Police maintained a strong presence in and around Shahbagh, Chankharpool, and Nilkhet.

The protesting students began dispersing around 1:45am, and by 2:30am, most had returned to their halls.

At Chittagong University, students also took to the streets, where they came under attack from Chhatra

Waiter killed for 'delay in serving tea'

FROM PAGE 1

The youth returned shortly afterward with several others and stabbed Roman in the restaurant, OC Ziaul said.

Locals rushed Roman to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, he said.

Police were conducting a drive to apprehend the other suspects, he added.

Niru Miah, owner of the restaurant, said, "We settled the issue after the youth had an altercation with Roman over a delay in serving tea. But the youth returned with others and stabbed Roman."

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

Feni floodwaters recede, leave trails of destruction

ANWAR HAIDER, Noakhali

Floodwaters have begun to recede from most areas in Feni, where continuous rainfall and hilly run-off since June 8 caused embankments to collapse at 12 points along the Muhuri, Kahua, and Silonia rivers, inundating large parts of Parshuram, Phulgazi, and Feni Sadar upazilas.

As of yesterday, residents have started returning to their homes from shelters, although the damage to agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and infrastructure across the affected areas is extensive.

According to district officials, the flood affected six upazilas in total, with Parshuram, Phulgazi, and Feni Sadar among the hardest hit.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Ismail Hossain said since July 8, around 110 villages in Parshuram, Phulgazi, Chhaglaiya, Feni Sadar, and Daganbhuiyan upazilas -- bordering the Indian state of Tripura -- had been flooded.

"While the overall flood situation has significantly improved, some areas remain waterlogged," he added.

Md Atik Ullah, district agriculture officer, said crops on 2,371 hectares of land have been destroyed. The losses



Flood scars remain visible along the Silonia riverbank and in Uttar Daulatpur area of Kulagachhi upazila in Feni, where homes, farmland, and roads were submerged. Although water levels have receded, the aftermath reveals the extent of damage and suffering endured by locals.

PHOTO: STAR

ICT-2 chair questions pace of July uprising cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-2, Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, yesterday asked the prosecution whether they were going slow in handling cases filed over crimes committed during last year's July uprising.

During a court session, he asked prosecutor Abdus Sobhan Tarafder, "Mr Tarafder, are you going slow?" In response, Tarafder, the senior-most among the prosecutors present at the tribunal, replied, "No, no. If we were moving slowly, then the frequency of those cases wouldn't have been scheduled so early. The earlier deadline was set for July 10, and today [yesterday] was already scheduled for this case."

Justice Chowdhury then remarked, "But, you are not coming up with new cases..."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

All 64 districts at risk as dengue spreads

Say experts; urge community-level efforts, awareness campaigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Death toll 56

Total number of patients 14,880

1,240 still undergoing treatment

420 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

CNG drivers block Banani road for hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers blocked the road in front of the BRTA office in Banani for several hours yesterday, bringing traffic on the Uttara-Mohakhali route to a standstill and causing immense suffering for commuters.

The drivers, mostly from the outskirts of the city, were demanding permission to operate within Dhaka, where they are currently barred.

Russel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star that a group of drivers from outside Dhaka gathered in front of the BRTA office in the morning and blocked the road. Vehicular movement in both directions -- from Uttara to Mohakhali and Mohakhali to Uttara -- was halted.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

'Tunda Babu' behind bars, but fear still haunts

Many residents flee Haddipatti in Darus Salam fearing retaliation



SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

(Rab). According to Rab, he has long been involved in extortion, mugging, land grabbing, drug dealing, and armed robbery in Mohammadpur and surrounding areas.

He operated under the command of Kobzikata Group's ringleader, Anwar alias Kobzikata Anwar, one of Mohammadpur's most feared criminals, Rab added.

Haddipatti, a canal-side neighbourhood somewhat detached

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Gripped by fear, many residents of Haddipatti in Dhaka's Darus Salam area have fled their homes, even after the arrest of a notorious gang leader, Babu Khan -- locally known as "Tunda Babu".

Locals say the arrest has done little to ease their fears, as the threat of retaliation still looms.

Babu was arrested on July 2 in Narail by the Rapid Action Battalion

ACCESS TO SECRETARIAT Govt forms Press Accreditation Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has finally formed the Press Accreditation Committee for journalists, more than four and a half months after introducing the relevant policy.

The information ministry yesterday issued an official order through its Press-2 wing announcing the formation of the 11-member committee. Earlier, on February 26, the ministry had issued a gazette notification for the "Press Accreditation Policy 2025".

The newly formed committee is headed by the principal information officer, five government officials and five journalists. It will oversee the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Global Rohingya leaders launch political body

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rohingya leaders from around the world have officially launched a political body -- Arakan Rohingya National Council (ARNC) -- marking a major step forward in the community's struggle for rights, recognition, and political representation.

The council was formed following nearly two years of strategic consultations involving Rohingya political figures, activists, community leaders, and representatives from refugee camps and diaspora organisations.

"The ARNC stands as the most inclusive and unified platform ever formed to represent Rohingya communities -- inside Myanmar, in the refugee camps, and globally," said the council in a

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Take action against those who supported 'July crackdown' Demand DU's pro-BNP teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

The pro-BNP teachers of Dhaka University's "White Panel" called for disciplinary action against those teachers who allegedly supported the crackdown during last year's July uprising.

They also called for the trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The calls were made during a human chain formed by the white panel teachers yesterday morning on the campus.

Professor Morshed Hasan Khan and Prof Md Abul Kalam Sarkar, convener and joint convener of the panel respectively, spoke at the event, among others.



Workers dismantling the "Projonmo Chattar" structure at the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday. The Dhaka South City Corporation began the demolition late Saturday night following instructions from the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. Officials said a new "July Monument" will be built at the site as part of a government plan to construct such monuments in all 64 districts.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Indian army killed leaders in Myanmar strikes Says India rebel group

AFP, NEW Delhi

Separatist militants in northeastern India said the Indian army carried out cross-border drone strikes on the group's camps in neighbouring Myanmar yesterday, killing three of its leaders.

Some rebel groups in northeastern India have ethnic, linguistic and cultural ties with minorities across the border in Myanmar and maintain a presence there.

A top commander of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) was killed and 19 others wounded in a drone attack in Myanmar near the border, the separatist group said.

"Two more senior commanders were killed" in subsequent strikes, ULFA said, adding: "Several other members and civilians were also wounded."

Several hurt in anti-migrant unrest in Spanish town

AFP, Madrid

Several people were hurt in a second night of anti-migrant unrest in the Spanish town of Torre Pacheco after a pensioner was beaten up, authorities said yesterday.

Despite a major police presence, groups armed with batons roamed the streets looking for foreign-origin people, regional newspaper La Opinion de Murcia reported.

The regional government did not say how many people were injured but stated that at least one person had been arrested for the violence.

The unrest erupted after a 68 year old man told Spanish media he was beaten up in the street on Wednesday by three youths of North African origin.

The attack was filmed and put on social media.

The town hall organised a demonstration on Friday that was intended to be peaceful but where far-right elements shouted anti-migrant slogans.

One group, named "Deport Them Now", posted a message on social media calling for attacks against people of North African origin.

Spanish authorities launched an appeal for calm yesterday in the town of 36,000 people.



People gather around the Freedom Flotilla ship "Handala" ahead of the boat's departure for Gaza in Syracuse, Sicily, southern Italy, yesterday. "The vessel will carry life-saving humanitarian aid and a message of solidarity from people around the world refusing to stay silent as Gaza is starved, bombed, and buried under rubble," The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) said in a statement.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel increased Rafah demolition

Aims to transfer entire population of Gaza to 'humanitarian city' in the south

AGENCIES

Demolition operations being conducted by Israel in Gaza's southern Rafah Governorate have been stepped up sharply, an investigation by Al Jazeera's Sanad investigations unit has found.

Israel's defence ministry has announced a plan to relocate 600,000 people into what observers say would be "concentration camps" in the area in southern Gaza, with plans to expand this to the Strip's entire population.

Sanad's analysis of satellite imagery up to July 4, 2025, shows the number of demolished buildings in Rafah rising to about 28,600, up from 15,800 on April 4, 2025, according to data from the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT).

This means that approximately 12,800 buildings were destroyed between early April and early July alone – a marked acceleration in demolitions that has coincided with Israel's new push into Rafah launched in late March 2025.

Israel's defence minister, Israel Katz, told reporters last Monday that an initial 600,000 Palestinians living in the coastal al-Mawasi area would be transferred to Rafah, the location for what he called a new "humanitarian city" for Palestinians, within 60 days of any agreed ceasefire deal.

According to Katz, the entire civilian population of Gaza –



more than 2 million people – will eventually be relocated to this southern city.

A proposal seen by Reuters carrying the name of the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) detailed plans for a "Humanitarian Transit Area" in which Gaza residents would "temporarily reside, deradicalise, re-integrate and prepare to relocate if they wish to do so".

The minister said Israel hopes to encourage Palestinians to "voluntarily emigrate" from the Gaza Strip to other countries, adding that this plan "should be fulfilled".

He also stressed that the plan would not be run by the Israeli army, but by international bodies, without specifying which organisations would be implementing it.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) – which has been banned by Israel – warned against the latest mass forced displacement plan.

"This would do farce create massive concentration camps at the border with Egypt for the Palestinians, displaced over and over across generations," he said, adding that it would "deprive Palestinians of any prospects of a better future in their homeland".

Israeli political commentator Ori Goldberg told Al Jazeera that the plan was "for all facts and purposes a concentration camp" for Palestinians in southern Gaza, meaning that Israel is committing "what is an overt crime against humanity under international humanitarian law".

Australia defence ties repaired after submarine row

Says France

AFP, Sydney

France's defence relations with Australia have recovered after their 2021 bust-up over a major submarine contract, the country's ambassador said yesterday.

Paris expressed its "strong regrets" when Australia tore up a multibillion-dollar deal to buy a fleet of diesel-powered submarines from France, Ambassador Pierre-Andre Imbert said.

Since the 2022 election of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, however, the defence relationship had been "restarted", he said.

"Now, the first pillar of our cooperation is defence and security, so we have a very good level of cooperation," the ambassador told AFP as French forces joined major military drills around Australia.

When Australia ditched the French deal, it opted instead to acquire nuclear-powered vessels in a new three-way AUKUS pact with the US and Britain.

But a US defence official last month revealed that a review of AUKUS was underway to ensure it "aligned with the President's America First agenda" and that the US defence industrial base was "meeting our needs".

TIBET'S DALAI LAMA Succession issue a 'thorn' in ties with India: China

REUTERS, New Delhi

The succession of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, is a thorn in China-India relations, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi said yesterday, as India's foreign minister prepares to visit China for the first time since deadly border clashes in 2020.

Ahead of celebrations this month for his 90th birthday that were attended by senior Indian ministers, the head of Tibetan Buddhists riled China again by saying it had no role in his succession. Tibetans believe the soul of any senior Buddhist monk is reincarnated after his death, but China says the Dalai Lama's succession will also have to be approved by its leaders.

The Dalai Lama has been living in exile in India since 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, and Indian foreign relations experts say his presence gives New Delhi leverage against China. India is also home to about 70,000 Tibetans and a Tibetan government in exile.

Yu Jing, a Chinese embassy spokesperson, said on social media app X that some people from strategic and academic communities in India had made "improper remarks" on the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

Yu did not name anyone but in recent days, Indian strategic affairs analysts and a government minister backed the Dalai Lama's remarks on his succession.

ISRAELI STRIKE Iranian president lightly hurt during war last month

ANADOLU AGENCY

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian sustained minor leg injuries during an Israeli strike that targeted a meeting of Iran's Supreme National Security Council during the war between both countries last month, the Fars News Agency reported.

According to the report on Saturday, the missile attack occurred on June 17 as top Iranian leaders, including the heads of the three branches of government, were meeting in a secure lower level of a building in western Tehran.

The strike involved six projectiles that hit the entrances and exits of the building, an approach similar to an assassination operation on Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Fars said.

Officials managed to evacuate using a pre-planned emergency hatch, the agency reported, noting that Pezeshkian was "injured during the evacuation but was able to exit safely".

The report also said Iranian authorities suspect a possible internal leak, citing the accuracy of the strike.

Fars criticised Western and Israeli-affiliated media outlets for ignoring a "blatant act of state terrorism" while condemning Iranian leaders' religious rulings against figures like US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A 12 day armed conflict between Israel and Iran erupted on June 13 after Tel Aviv launched airstrikes on Iranian military, nuclear and civilian sites, killing at least 606 people and injuring 5,332, according to Iran's Health Ministry.

Polls possible in this state of law and order

FROM PAGE 1
no difficulty. If the public stands with you, then no mob or law and order disruption will be able to harm you."

When asked whether the current law and order situation would be an obstacle, he replied, "The kind of election we're preparing for -- a free, fair, and credible election -- I believe the law and order situation will not be a problem."

Regarding the election date, he said, "It's very difficult for me to respond, because I myself don't know the exact date. It's being discussed for the first half of April. That kind of thing will be communicated to us with some idea like, 'please go ahead, this is the range.'"

He clarified, "According to our RPO (Representation of the People Order), we must announce the schedule at least two months before polling day."

Because the activities required between announcement and voting day take, on average, not

less than two months, he added.

About his meeting with the chief adviser, Nasir Uddin said, "The election obviously came up in conversation. The chief adviser asked about the state of our preparation."

"I informed him in detail about what I've already done, what I'm currently doing, what's pending, what our timeline is, and when we expect to complete preparations," he added.

Asked whether such a meeting was unusual in Bangladesh, the CEC said, "... The chief adviser doesn't have a party of his own. He is not aligned with any political group. He is neutral... I did not see any problem in meeting him."

Asked if the EC is ready for a February election, he said, "We are fully ready."

On EC's neutrality, Nasir Uddin said, "Absolutely neutral. It is a commitment given to the nation."

"Some may raise questions about the Election Commission – again, that's political rhetoric. As our work

grows and they observe us functioning impartially, they will eventually realise this commission is impartial."

Responding to allegations about possible ties to BNP, he said, "I'm not a BNP member, nor a leader. Anyone may say we have some bias – that's a political statement. You hear such things. Some even call me Jamaat. Everyone has their own interpretation. These are political statements."

He stressed his commitment to equal opportunity and a level playing field for everyone.

On Awami League's position and participation, Nasir Uddin said, "All their activities have been banned until the legal proceedings conclude. They cannot carry out political activities. That's why we've suspended their registration."

Asked whether their exclusion could raise questions about election inclusiveness, he said, "Such questions may very well arise; that's natural. Our concern is the voters."

We want the election to be participatory. A participatory election is to include the voters as much as possible."

On proposals to hold local elections before the national vote, he said, "From our experience, those elections tend to be violent. Sometimes candidates from the same household contest against each other – it leads to conflict, even killings."

He said Bangladesh has already been providing zero duty benefit to many American goods over many years. For instance, the import of cotton, wheat, soybean seeds and oil and other agricultural products from the US is free of duty.

But adding more products to the list does not solely depend on the commerce

if done in phases, the process takes 10 months to a year. We don't have that kind of time before the national elections."

On the controversy over NCP's request to use "Shapla" (water lily) as their election symbol, he said, "We've considered the matter very seriously."

Two parties asked for it. "...We've decided not to include Shapla as a symbol. No one is getting it."

US sends list of items, seeking zero duty

FROM PAGE 1

"Both the countries have agreed on almost all the issues, except a few things during the negotiations with the US in Washington, DC," he said.

On proposals to hold local elections before the national vote, he said, "From our experience, those elections tend to be violent. Sometimes candidates from the same household contest against each other – it leads to conflict, even killings."

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Two parties asked for it. "...We've decided not to include Shapla as a symbol. No one is getting it."

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as a public interest litigation, praying to the High Court to order

the authorities concerned to arrest those responsible for the killing and to provide adequate compensation to the victim's family.

In another development, Ansar Director General Major General Abdul Motaleb Sazzad Mahmud

yesterday

at the Ansar headquarters, he said that no Ansar personnel were on duty at the scene during the time of the incident. He clarified that Ansar members work in shifts, and no one was assigned at the gate after 2:00pm when the murder took place.

Students of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (Mitford Hospital) declared

a "shutdown" yesterday, protesting lax campus security following Sohag's murder nearby.

At a rally on the campus, they demanded immediate action, warning of continued class boycotts unless steps are taken.

Intern doctors also observed a one-day work stoppage in protest of the prevailing security concerns.

We all must do more to curb crimes

The nature of some recent crimes has shocked people

Nearly a year into the interim government's tenure, and with election preparations planned to be completed by December, one would have expected things to cool down significantly by now. But things seem to be only getting worse. This is not just due to rising crime. The data on crimes, while an important indicator, cannot capture the full extent of the tensions simmering beneath the surface. As well as the daily disruptions still being caused by unresolved political issues and unmet grievances, the public at large have been particularly perturbed by the shocking nature of crimes. Be it rape, mob violence, or murder, the brazenness with which some of the crimes have been carried out—often caught on camera and shared widely on social media—has left citizens reeling.

The latest shocker was the gruesome murder of scrap metal trader Lal Chand alias Sohag in Mitford by men linked with various affiliated organisations of BNP. Earlier, it was the heinous treatment of a woman in Cumilla's Muradnagar who was tortured, raped, and then filmed while disrobed. Or think of the attack on a police station in Lalmonirhat by a mob that snatched away two convicts. The manner in which these crimes were committed has left citizens wondering what could possibly embolden criminals like that. We are told that seven of the 19 accused in the Mitford case have been arrested, but citizens will need much more to again trust in the law enforcement process. Even the home adviser, while briefing the media about the launch of a special combing operation to restore law and order before the polls, has admitted rising crimes.

According to data from the Police Headquarters, in the first six months of this year, at least 1,336 cases of dacoity and robbery were reported, while police recorded 1,930 murder cases (over 400 of them filed over incidents that occurred in previous years). Meanwhile, there were 11,008 cases related to violence against women and children and 515 kidnapping cases. At least 89 people were killed in mob attacks between January and June, according to another estimate. Such incidents have continued despite repeated protests and warnings. Worryingly still, the political safeguards against crimes seem to have totally failed, with 349 incidents of political violence reported over the past 11 months claiming 87 lives, according to Ain o Salish Kendra. BNP alone was linked to 323 of these incidents.

The BNP general secretary, while conveniently distancing the party from crimes committed by party rank and file, claims that the uptick in crimes is due to the absence of an election. While that may be true to some extent, the crimes committed by political activists actually offer a critical window into what awaits us post-election should internal accountability and democracy within our parties continue to be resisted. We, therefore, urge both the government and political parties to take sterner measures from their respective positions to curb crimes. We must also address the internal political dysfunctions that continue to create a climate of impunity. With the polls approaching fast, ensuring public safety must be a top priority.

Take measures to build flood resilience

Govt must provide support to farmers, rein in potential food price hikes

We are concerned about the aftermath of the heavy rain-triggered flooding in 21 districts of the Barishal, Khulna, Chittagong, and Dhaka divisions. According to the district offices of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Fisheries, and Department of Livestock Services (DLS), the full extent of the loss suffered by farmers and fish, poultry, and livestock owners could not be assessed yet, as the floodwater has not completely receded in many areas.

However, floodwater had initially submerged 1.36 lakh hectares of croplands including paddy fields, Aman seedbeds, jute and vegetable fields, and fruit orchards. Similarly, the initial estimate by DLS mentions Tk 98 crore loss in livestock. While the flood impacts individual farmers directly, the entire nation will have to bear consequences too. The price of vegetables has already increased in many affected areas, and the loss of Aush and Aman crops is likely to put strain on our food security. Therefore, the government must urgently provide farmers not just with relief materials but also support to recover their losses and rebuild their lives.

Among the most affected areas are Feni and Noakhali, which had yet to fully recover from last year's devastating flood when fresh floods hit them early this month. In Feni, locals have complained about the lack of a sturdy embankment. The existing 122-kilometre earthen dam, built between 2006 and 2010 at a cost of Tk 151 crore, has developed cracks in about 20 places this year. Last year's flood breached 99 spots of the embankment, which were repaired at a cost of Tk 19 crore. But the work was allegedly inadequate, as breaches occurred in some of the same places which were mended. A new embankment that can last 30 years with little need for constant repair has, clearly, become an urgent requirement. Although such an undertaking has been planned, it is currently awaiting approval. We urge the disaster management and relief adviser to kickstart the project at the earliest, since the severity of monsoon rains and flooding will only worsen in the coming years.

It is crucial that disaster preparedness is prioritised in our fight against climate change. Flooding during monsoon being an expected phenomenon, necessary steps should have been taken before the rainy season. These include reclaiming floodplains of rivers, re-excavating natural canals, revamping drainage systems of urban areas, etc. Such pre-emptive measures can help mitigate losses and build the resilience of communities in the future.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Bastille stormed by Paris mob

On this day in 1789, a mob advanced on the Bastille in Paris, demanding the arms and munitions stored there, but when the guards resisted, the crowd captured the prison, an act that symbolised the end of the *ancien régime*.



The economics behind Trump's tariff war

AN OPEN SKY

Dr Birupaksha Paul
is professor of economics at the State
University of New York in Cortland, US

BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

The US has long been looking to put a brake on China's trade dominance that has greatly overtaken the future of manufacturing in many developed countries since it was granted accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. It has also been long overdue for the US to put a brake on the growing fiscal and trade deficits that threaten the sustainability of American debt management. The tariff war, despite its various criticisms, has turned out to be inevitable for the Trump regime to check both China and the growing deficits. This piece is not an attempt to justify the Trumpian tariff wall that most open market economists oppose, but it is an attempt to see which economics drives President Donald Trump to resort to massively using tariff hikes across the board.

China embarked on opening its economy in the late 1970s. It was the 10th largest economy in 1981 and sixth in 2001. The next decade was magical for China, which became the second largest economy in the early 2010s, securing almost an \$8 trillion economy while the US economy was then almost \$16 trillion. In the following 10 years, China kept chasing the largest economy in the world. By 2021, China's GDP worth nearly \$18 trillion became 75 percent of the US economy, which was valued at around \$24 trillion. If one can videotape this comparative race, the US has every reason to fear China's pace since it is likely to outsize the US GDP soon.

The vital channel of China's rapid growth has been trade, where the country is accused of using predatory prices and keeping its currency value artificially low enough to gain faster export growth to restrain import growth. In 1986, China ranked only 15th in the volume of exports to the US. It was able to elevate itself to the 10th position within two years, and to the fifth position within three years after that. However, it took China 10 years from 1991 to 2001 to become the fourth largest exporter to the US. Only Canada, Mexico, and Japan were ahead of China at that time. China beat Japan and became the third

largest exporter to the US by 2002, the second largest by beating Mexico by 2003, and finally seized the top position in 2007. Trump's tariff war is a deliberate way to put a lid on this export expansion by China.

There is a notable quote by Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the US, "Rather go to bed without dinner than to rise in debt." And that was the economic philosophy most American leaders believed in. But now the amount of debt is more than \$36 trillion for a nearly \$30 trillion economy, raising the debt-GDP ratio to as high as 121 percent—which was just 31 percent in 1981 and 54 percent in 2001. Although the debt-GDP ratio for countries like Japan is as high as 256 percent, the US does not want to be like Japan, which kept losing its global dominance since the country began to plunge into debts in the 1990s.

Debt is like the level of water in a bucket while deficits are the drops of water that fall into the bucket from a faucet. Debt is a concept of "stock" while deficits are akin to "flow." Repayments of debt are akin to "flow" too. Say, there is a leak in the bucket which is like repayments of debt.

have benchmarks for inflation, unemployment, and many other macro aspects, the determination of a safe threshold for debt is still undecided in macroeconomics. However, exceeding 100 percent is seen as a sign of potential danger, which the US touched in 2012, and global agencies began to downgrade its country ratings ever since.

The above-mentioned analogy clarifies that reducing debt entails two steps: 1) reduce fiscal deficits; and 2) increase debt repayments. When the second one is tough, the regime can concentrate on raising revenue collection. The equation of macro balances unveils that a growing trade deficit has often been associated with a growing fiscal deficit. Say, the government has taken a project to make a big bridge. The authority issues a bond to borrow the money, which we call deficit financing. Now the government imports steel and equipment more than what it can export, registering a trade deficit.

The emergence of these two types of deficits is often termed as the "twin deficits," which the US experienced in the 1980s following the tax cut by the Reagan administration. President

Trump's tariffs are an attempt to address the twin deficits as well. US trade deficits have reached almost \$800 billion while fiscal deficits have touched \$1.83 trillion in 2024. Trade deficits can be reduced by two policy tools: 1) the exchange rate depreciation; and 2) tariff hikes. For a country like the US where the government has no control over its currency's value, since

it is fully market determined, the first option is blunt. That is why the US has moved to the second option of raising tariffs to discourage imports and thus improve the trade balance.

Collecting tariffs is an effective way to increase revenue and dampen fiscal deficits. Thus, tariffs reduce the twin deficits, although higher tariffs are likely to reduce GDP growth as well. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent recently said the country could collect \$300 billion in tariff revenue this year. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the tariff income will total about \$2.8 trillion over the next 10 years—more than double the usual figures. Revenue collection has been 111 percent higher than last year's collection up to early July. The increase will more than double when tariffs on all countries begin to be effective from August this year.

Based on the deeper economics of Trump's tariff war—related to China's trade expansion and the US's incredible debt burden—there is little chance that simply dialogues between statesmen will be able to convince Washington to bring their tariffs down.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

The night Sheikh Hasina's fear shield crumbled



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SIBBIR AHMAD

For over 15 years, Sheikh Hasina reigned over Bangladesh with a grip so tight that even whispers of dissent were drenched in caution. Protests came and went, including the quota reform movement, the road safety movement, and protests against corruption, money laundering, the Digital Security Act, ecological destruction, and injustice. But the target was always indirect. Ministers were blamed, advisers were criticised, and the ruling party's student wing was held responsible. Yet one remained above reproach: Hasina herself.

It was not just fear. It was political choreography. Protesters had to ensure their allegiance to the Liberation War and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They often stated that the prime minister must have been "misled" rather than complicit. It was understood, even accepted, that corruption plagued her government and party, that her allies looted banks, grabbed land, and repressed dissent. Few dared to accuse her directly. To do so meant legal hurdles, if not worse. Hasina wasn't just the prime minister—she had become an untouchable myth.



The myth of Sheikh Hasina's invincibility ended when ordinary students dared to speak the truth in the face of power.

FILE PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

That myth shattered on the night of July 14, 2024.

Following her return from a diplomatic tour to China amidst a nationwide student uprising against a controversial quota system, Hasina

held a press conference. Instead of showing empathy or offering reform, she hurled slurs. Saying that the quota system is not for the "children and grandchildren of razakars," she taunted the students with the loaded insult historically used to brand enemies of the state. It was a calculated tactic, used for over a decade to shut down dissent by equating criticism of

(Who am I? Who are you? Razakar! Razakar!)

It was not a slogan aimed at history. It was aimed at her.

For the first time in a decade and a half, the youth of Bangladesh publicly rejected the foundational myth that had shielded Hasina. They turned her own weapon, the language of liberation, against her. The chant was not just defiant. It was revolutionary. It stripped the regime of its so-called ideological armour and laid bare the raw authoritarianism beneath.

The courageous acts of that night set off a chain reaction. In the following days, slogans grew bolder. Protesters replaced euphemism with clarity. The people who used to say, "Her advisers misled her," now shouted, "Hasina is the fascist, Hasina is the looter-in-chief." Where they once begged for mercy, they now demanded justice.

Within 20 days, amid surging protests, Sheikh Hasina fled the country, seeking refuge in India, the very nation she had long courted as an ally.

The fall of the authoritarian ruler in Bangladesh began with a chant.

July 14 will be remembered not just as the day students were insulted, but as the night they stopped being afraid. It was the moment a generation found its voice, and used it not to ask for mercy, but to demand accountability.

The myth of invincibility ended when ordinary students dared to speak the truth in the face of power.

And when that truth arrived, it arrived loudly.

Red is the colour of July



MIND THE GAP

Barrister Noshin Nawal is an activist, feminist, and a columnist for The Daily Star. She can be reached at noshin.nawal@gmail.com.

NOSHIN NAWAL

The calendar insists that July is a monsoon month, the time that replenishes and revitalises nature. But in Bangladesh, the seventh page of 2025 has turned into a ledger of blood once again. Last July, it was Abu Sayed, shot in the chest on July 16 while demanding a future beyond grovelling for a government job. This July, it is Md Sohag, hacked, beaten and stoned to death in broad daylight near a gate of Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, allegedly over an extortion-related issue. At this rate, the almanac should come with a health warning: red weather ahead, keep your hopes indoors.

Since Sheikh Hasina's fall in August last year, at least 114 lynchings have been documented, including 41 mob beatings in June alone. Multiple crimes against minorities have been recorded, along with many more instances of theft, robbery and other serious crimes. That is only what has been reported. The state's defenders claim the law is robust, yet try lodging a case against a mob or a criminal with connections and watch your complaint fold like origami in the local police station. The machinery of justice moves like an ageing pachyderm, while the machinery of rage strikes like a bullet. The result is a grotesque efficiency: violence arrives in minutes, while verdicts take decades, if they come at all.

Why July? Perhaps because the monsoon sky is an accomplice—clouds gather like witnesses refusing to testify. Perhaps because parliament is usually in recess, leaving the

want them to. We dismantled one dynasty, congratulated ourselves on the novelty of an interim government, then forgot to dismantle the habits that kept the old tyranny alive. Power abhors a vacuum, where mobs and criminals rush in. When the justice system fails, the mob fills the gap. When law enforcers fail to act, criminals take over. And when the state tolerates this, it becomes complicit.

and the same voices that preached reform now issue hollow condemnations. We are learning that toppling a regime is far easier than uprooting the culture of impunity that sustained it. You can change the faces at the top; rewiring a nation takes generations.

There are solutions: fast-track courts, witness protection, forensic training for police, and civic education teaching the



BUET students protest the murder of Md Sohag at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the Dhaka University premises on July 11, 2025.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

country under the watch of cafeteria staff and bored sub-inspectors. Or perhaps July is simply an annual reminder that nothing really has changed as much as we would

Last year, Abu Sayed's death sparked promises of revolution and reform. One year later, the slate is dirty again, stained with fresh blood and lazy slogans. Md Sohag dies,

difference between a writ petition and a witch hunt. But solutions demand money, patience, and political courage—three things in shorter supply than electricity on a summer evening.

Instead, we settle for the theatre of outrage: candlelit vigils, viral graphics, think pieces like this, skinned between coffee sips before fading away.

And so, July will return. The clouds will bruise the sky, the rivers will swell, and somewhere a rumour will hatch evil wings. Extortionists will continue to run rampant. Another name will be shouted, another body will fall, and the crowd will applaud brittle applause. We will update the statistics, tug on our collars, and promise to remember, until memory becomes too heavy to bear.

When the guardians of law step aside, the lawless step in. When justice becomes a labyrinth, vengeance is a straight path. And when July turns crimson repeatedly, you don't need a commission of inquiry to recognise a pattern. You need a mirror.

The same police who monitor political protests with drones and rubber bullets cannot stop public lynching in broad daylight. The government wants credit for steady the ship after a dictatorship was brought down, but refuses to admit it governs a country where a lack of justice and widespread criminality is the default operating system. You can remove faces at the top, but if the police hesitate to act, courts delay trials, citizens believe Facebook rumours are enough reason to kill, and extortionists believe they can murder in broad daylight and get away with it, what has actually changed?

In Bangladesh, July is no longer just a month. It's a ritual. A body. A bystander. A brief moment of noise. Then silence. We wait for the next victim. The next blurry video. The death of Abu Sayed was supposed to mark the start of a new Bangladesh. The death of Md Sohag proves it has yet to arrive, showing that you cannot reform a system by simply changing some logos.

Are state owned enterprises truly performing?



Dr Md Main Uddin is professor and former chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance, University of Dhaka. He can be reached at mainuddin@du.ac.bd.

MD MAIN UDDIN

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) and autonomous bodies (ABs) play a significant role in Bangladesh's economy. As they are funded by public money, it is essential that they deliver services efficiently and become financially sustainable.

The Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance, through its Monitoring Cell, has been working towards "Strengthening State-owned Enterprises' Governance" under the "Strengthening Public Financial Management Programme to Enable Service Delivery." As part of this initiative, an Independent Performance Evaluation Committee was formed to assess the performance of SOEs and ABs, following a guideline prepared by the ministry. I served as a member of this committee.

The evaluation was introduced in 2024, assessing 20 organisations based on their audited financial statements for FY2022-23. The grading scale included five categories: Excellent (91-100 percent), Very Good (81-90 percent), Good (71-80 percent), Fair (41-70 percent), and Underperforming (0-40 percent), with corresponding scores of 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0, respectively. This initiative is commendable, as it encourages competition and better service delivery. However,

there are notable loopholes, weaknesses, and inconsistencies in the evaluation methodology that must be addressed.

For example, the Bangladesh Bridge Authority recorded government grants as income in its profit and loss account. Similarly, the Rajshahi Water Supply and Sewerage Authority recorded government donations in its income statement. These are significant violations of accounting principles, as such capital support should appear on the balance sheet, not the income statement. Such misclassifications artificially inflate profits and can portray loss-making institutions as profitable.

Operating profit reflects a company's core business performance and should ideally exceed non-operating income. However, the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC), Khulna Development Authority, Chittagong Port Authority and Bangladesh Shipping Corporation reported disproportionately high non-operating income, suggesting a deviation from their core operational focus and masking poor performance.

A strategic plan outlines an organisation's future direction, goals, and actions to achieve those goals. Institutions with sound

strategic plans are expected to be profitable in the long run. For example, the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) performed well, with weighted scores of 3.25 and 3.19, respectively, reflecting the impact of their strong strategic plans.

In contrast, the Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) also had an "Excellent" strategic plan and effective

governance practices, yet reported a negative net income growth of 83 percent and an overall score of 2.58. Likewise, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority reported a negative income growth, contradicting its high scores in strategic planning, corporate governance, and transparency.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation was awarded an "Excellent" grade for its strategic plan, despite experiencing negative net income growth, which was not even numerically disclosed. Bangladesh Power Development Board, also rated "Excellent" in strategic planning and governance, ended with negative income growth and an

alarmingly high cost of services (105 percent). Similarly, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh PLC had strong ratings in strategic planning, governance, and policy implementation, but reported a negative net income growth of nearly 84 percent, which significantly undermines the credibility of its high rating.

Short-term fund management efficiency is measured by accounts receivable and payable periods. These should ideally not exceed 60 days. However, the accounts receivable period was 140 days for Chittagong Port Authority and a staggering 1,816 days—nearly five years—for CAAB.

The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) demonstrated inefficiency in managing short-term assets, with receivable and payable periods of 648 and 650 days, respectively. Similarly, KGDCL's receivable and payable periods stood at 360 and 365 days. Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited, BSCIC, and BFIDC had data on receivables and payables, but these were not included in their financial performance assessments.

Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) reflect how efficiently a firm uses its resources to generate returns. For BPC, the threshold for an "Excellent" grade was set at a mere 0.10 percent, suggesting a return of just one taka per 1,000 taka of assets or equity—an unreasonably low standard. In contrast, the thresholds were 3.5 percent for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, 3 percent for BSCIC, and 5 percent for CAAB—still low, but more realistic.

Some entities failed to follow International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), let alone the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) meant for public sector

entities. Furthermore, the performance evaluation relied solely on income statements and balance sheets, omitting cash flow statements—despite the latter offering a more accurate picture by overcoming the limitations of accrual accounting.

Several methodological issues also undermine the evaluation process. For instance, merely possessing a strategic plan was often enough to earn an "Excellent" grade, regardless of the plan's effectiveness. As a result, several poorly performing institutions were still rated highly in this category.

In some cases, the average performance over the past five years was used as the "Excellent" benchmark for the following year—a flawed approach. Additionally, the score range for the "Fair" grade spanned 30 percentage points (41-70 percent), while other grades spanned just 10 points, making comparisons inconsistent.

The guidelines combined qualitative and quantitative indicators, but excessive subjectivity was applied to qualitative measures. This is evident in the grades awarded—qualitative factors often received higher scores than their quantitative counterparts. A better balance must be struck.

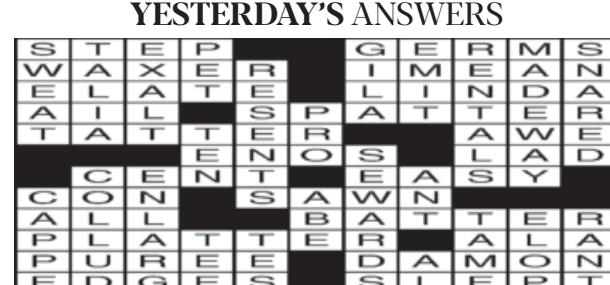
The performance evaluation focused entirely on the supply side, and the results highlight that most of the SOEs and ABs failed to provide better services to their customers. For instance, while BREB and CAAB received "Very Good" grades, the validity of these assessments can only be confirmed through service recipient surveys, and if such surveys yield similar results, only then the findings will hold. Otherwise, the reliability of the evaluation remains questionable.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	40 Till bills
1	Diplomatic skill
5	Speed
9	Love affair
11	By the way
13	Fencing move
14	Singer Travis
15	Snaky shape
16	"The Faerie Queen" poet
18	Some sofas
20	Eastern "way"
21	Gave out cards
22	That woman's
23	Music's — Nas X
24	Negative link
25	Toy store buy
27	Football plays
29	Greek vowel
30	Bests
32	Club layer
34	Half of hex-
35	Homer classic
36	Korean or Thai
38	Incline
39	Avignon's river
40	Till bills
41	Terminates
DOWN	1 Yarns
2	Tickled
3	Perseus, for one
4	Gentle pull
5	Trims
6	Arkin of "Argo"
7	Dismay
8	Make beloved
10	Flip
12	Pita sandwiches
17	Sulky state
19	Kite part
22	Hockey's Gordie
24	"Don't worry"
25	Sub shops
26	Verdi opera
27	Last mo.
28	Leave high and dry
30	Dandies
31	Some curves
33	Packing need
37	That woman



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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Department of Public Health Engineering

Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj District, Manikganj

Date: 07.07.2025

Invitation for e-Tender Notice

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

SL No.	e-Tender ID	Work name	Opening & closing date
1	1130507	Construction for piped water supply scheme with 02 Nos. Test Tubewell, 02 Nos. Production well, 01 No. Pump House, 01 No. R.C.C Over Head Water Tank, Mechanical works, Electrical Works, Pipe Line/water distribution Networks, etc. in Manikganj Sadar upazila at Manikganj district under Safe Water Supply Through Out The Country Project.	29-Jul-2025 15:30 & 29-Jul-2025 15:30

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

07.07.25
Gazi Fatima Ferdous
Executive Engineer

Department of Public Health Engineering
Manikganj District, Manikganj

GD-1568



OTT is the new stage for Bengali songs

ADITI RAHMAN DOLA

Seasoned singer Aditi Rahman Dola took the nation by storm this year since voicing *Chand Mama*, alongside Pritom Hasan, for the hit Shakib Khan starrer *Borbaad*. A lawyer and full-time High Court practitioner, she made waves again last month by lending her voice to the brand-new rendition of the beloved song *Shopno Jabe Bari*, originally composed by Habib Wahid and rearranged by Emon Chowdhury.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

When she attended the press conference of *Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards* a

few weeks ago, Dola articulated the hopes of many artistes who've waited for their rightful place in the spotlight of the music scene.

"I believe all of us artistes are tremendously excited about the fourth round of The Daily Star's OTT & Digital Content Awards, where we are all properly appreciated. If I were to talk about the other existing award shows in the country, only singers tend to get recognised. But The Daily Star honours the people behind the different components of a song, including composers, lyricists, and so on," she expressed.

"This is the kind of attention we musicians have often called for. By including broad music award categories, The Daily Star persistently takes a meaningful step, and I truly commend them for embracing the music community," she added.

Referring to the creation of new music for OOT-based projects, the vocalist claimed, "The new music pouring in through and because of the OTT platforms has furthermore become a new scope for musical artistes to gear up and get to work."

"Somewhere along the way, not too long ago, our people's interest in new Bengali songs began to wane, as they became more drawn to music from other countries. However, the rise and growing popularity of our OTT platforms have helped bring Bengali songs back into the spotlight. In recent years, we've also seen a steady stream of fresh, high-quality Bengali music, which has offered meaningful encouragement to our musicians."

Aditi Rahman Dola stands as yet another voice in both music and advocacy, bridging her artistry and insight to uplift the industry. As fresh Bengali music finds new life through OTT platforms, her journey—from voicing popular advertisement jingles to now being part of chart-topping tracks—reflects the evolving landscape, one where talent, tradition, and recognition finally come together in harmony.

I believe all of us artistes are tremendously excited about the fourth round of The Daily Star's OTT & Digital Content Awards, where we are all properly appreciated.

NEWS

Plot afoot to oust Tarique from politics

FROM PAGE 12

ways. This is very alarming," he added.

He also said BNP is under "cyberattack", which appears to be a deliberate effort to discredit and break down the party.

"BNP cannot be blown away with the snap of a finger. BNP has proven again and again, BNP knows how to rise from the rubble... For 15 years, it was said at every moment that the BNP was finished. Rising above greed and temptation, our BNP leaders remained united," he said.

While in prison, BNP leaders were offered money, but none of them responded — which, he said, is the

party's strength.

Fakhrul said that false campaigns against the BNP must be responded to immediately.

"I have said this repeatedly within the party, but it hasn't been given enough importance. The media landscape is changing now. It's not just newspapers or electronic media influencing us anymore — social media is having a massive impact on people. Along with that, there is a war in the cyber world."

"I have repeatedly spoken about the need to prepare for that war. In that area, we are quite weak. This side needs to be strengthened," he added.

Fakhrul urged the youth to come

forward and respond to these threats immediately.

Highlighting BNP's major weakness, Fakhrul said, "One of our biggest weaknesses is that we don't like to read. I don't know whether you will admit it or not, but studying is not something we take seriously. This needs to change. All of us have to read."

"The better we study, the stronger we can fight...."

The book "Tarique Rahman: The Hope of Bangladesh" highlights the political journey, visionary leadership, experiences during the 1/11 crackdown, political struggles, and state-building vision of Tarique.

Sinner the new king of Wimbledon

FROM PAGE 12

back before hitting a spectacular return at full stretch to wrap up the opening set and he celebrated by cupping his ear and soaking up the cheers.

Sinner was gifted a break in the opening game of next set and he let out a rare yell of "Let's go" after winning a point en route to holding in a tight game before surging ahead 3-1 after a brief interruption when a champagne cork flew from the stands and landed on Centre Court.

The top seed shrugged off the distraction and hit a running crosscourt winner to take the second set, before tightening his grip on the contest by unleashing a superb volley at the net to break for 5-4 and then holding in the next game to seal the third set with minimum fuss.

With shadows drifting across the main showcourt that had basked in bright sunshine, Sinner wheeled away to a 3-1 lead in the fourth set as Alcaraz began to display the smallest signs of dejection, and the monk-like world number one held firm from there to complete a famous victory.

There was to be no Roland Garros-like resurrection for Alcaraz, who fought back from three match-points down in the Paris finale just 35 days ago, as the Spaniard's bid to claim three successive All England Club titles was extinguished.

Man held in Savar

FROM PAGE 12

Foyal also claimed that Engineer Imran Haider played a central role in recruiting and motivating Bangladeshi youths for TTP. He and several other suspects, including Rezaul, Asif, Zakaria, and Sanaf, were also reportedly involved in spreading TTP ideology online and "preparing for jihad".

The Daily Star could not independently verify these claims.

Contacted, Inspector Mannan declined to comment on the case.

Barrister Mahbujul Alam Russel, special superintendent (Media and Awareness) of the ATU, said, "A youth named Foyal was arrested on charges of being involved with the TTP under CrPC on July 2, before a regular case was filed on July 5."

He said Foyal has been in jail since July 3. "We have not sought his remand yet as we are busy with the Malaysian incident."

Last month, Malaysian police detained 36 Bangladeshi nationals on charges of links to a "militant" network, according to Malaysian outlet New Straits Times.

Meanwhile, an official of the Special Branch, also involved in the investigation into TTP activities, told this newspaper that 54 TTP members were killed by the Pakistan army on April 27 in Wazirabad. Among them was Jubair, a Bangladeshi passport holder from Savar's Arapara area.

The official claimed that Jubair and Foyal met an aeronautical engineer named Imran Haider in Afghanistan and joined training with other foreign fighters.

Officer in Charge of Savar Model Police Station Mohammad Jewel Mia said Foyal had been detained for questioning earlier last month but was released due to a lack of evidence. ATU later filed the case and arrested him after confirming his involvement."

Set up by the Bangladesh Police in September 2017, the ATU is an intelligence-led, technology-based specialised unit mandated to counter terrorism.

Extortionists will have to leave

FROM PAGE 12

The NCP chief said they did not want the return of the corrupt-ridden old system, but their struggle has been for building a discrimination-free society and eliminating all religious, social, and economic inequalities.

Demanding the speedy announcement of the "July Declaration" and "July Charter", he said they would hold a rally on August 3 on the Central Shaheed Minar to press home their demand.

The rally will also address pressing issues like problems in the education and health sectors as well as river erosion, he added.

Hesaid they wanted to build Bangladesh

NCP firm on getting 'Shapla'

FROM PAGE 12

Secretary Zahirul Islam Musa, and Joint Convener Khalid Saifullah.

Besides NCP, Nagarik Oikya earlier sought the "Shapla" as its electoral symbol in place of its previous one, the kettie.

On July 9, the EC has decided not to include "Shapla" as an election symbol under the Election Conduct Rules.

As the "Shapla" is the national emblem of Bangladesh, the commission, led by the CEC, made the decision.

Speaking to reporters after yesterday's meeting, NCP leader Nasiruddin said, "We have no alternative to the shapla. We have seen there is no legal bar to getting this symbol. If it is denied, we will fight politically."

"The EC must be reconstituted before the polls, and the law under which it was formed needs to be amended."

He added that the current commission could keep those election officials who demonstrated competence in the past.

Ahead of the upcoming election, the EC has already increased the number of electoral symbols from the current 69 to at least 115 for registered parties and independent candidates.

The EC started reserving electoral symbols for registered political parties

Malnutrition in Gaza rises since March

FROM PAGE 12

including six children near a water distribution point.

The attacks came with apparent deadlock in a week of indirect talks in Qatar between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas for a ceasefire in the territory.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that Gaza City was hit by several strikes overnight and in the early morning, killing eight, "including women and children" and wounding others.

An Israeli air strike hit a family home near the Nuseirat refugee camp, south of Gaza City, resulting in 10 martyrs and several injured", Bassal said.

In central Gaza, six children were among eight people killed when a drone "hit a potable water distribution point in an area for displaced people" in the Nuseirat camp, he added. Several other people were wounded, he said.

In the territory's south, three people were killed when Israeli jets hit a tent sheltering displaced Palestinians in the coastal Al-Mawasi area, according to the civil defence spokesman.

On Saturday, the military said fighter jets had hit more than 35 "Hamas terror targets" around Beit Hanun in northern Gaza.

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has called for US President Donald Trump to face criminal prosecution for complicity in genocide for his support of the GHF aid distribution mechanism in Gaza.

In a statement, the Geneva-based organisation urged international bodies to hold Trump accountable for supporting GHF in Gaza, which operates sites where hundreds of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces over the past weeks.

There was a suggestion from the US envoy Steve Witkoff for the Israeli and Palestinian sides to put aside the outstanding issues, the stumbling blocks, and talk about details on ceasefire.

But that's not going to work because talking about implementing a ceasefire without agreeing on the framework of that ceasefire, which is where the ceasefire talks are at, really defeats the purpose, reports Al Jazeera online.

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Erosion threat looms over 80 spots in Barishal



SUSHANTA GHOSH

Continuous rain and strong tidal currents have left residents in panic as more than 80 spots in Barishal district face the threat of severe river erosion.

Although some immediate steps have been taken to tackle erosion at different points, the problem resurfaces every monsoon.

The vulnerable areas include educational institutions, markets, roads, croplands, and residential homes.

Executive Engineer of WDB Barishal, Javed Iqbal, said several major rivers flow through the district, making erosion a serious

and recurring problem during the rainy season.

He said more than 80 locations along the 11.5 kilometres of riverbanks of the Meghna, Kirtankhola, Sandhya, Sugandha, Tetulia, and Arial Khan have been marked as erosion-prone.

Erosion typically begins when the river water level rises due to heavy rainfall and tidal surges. Around 500 metres of road in Dakshin Aicha village of Shayestabad union in Barishal Sadar upazila have already been washed away by the Arial Khan River.

Hamiduzzaman, a farmer from the village, said the roads were eroded a week ago. "Many families are



being evacuated. Now we have to find new land," he said.

The Kirtankhola is currently eroding Lamchhari village in Charbaria union, located next to Dakshin Aicha.

Local Abdul Malek said, "We have changed our residence twice. The river has made us destitute."

Erosion is also taking place at the Babuganj section of the Arial Khan, near the Shikarpur Bridge on the Barishal-Dhaka highway, placing the bridge at serious risk.

More than 400 families have been displaced as a 3.5-kilometre area from Veduria to Ghulighat in Salipur union under Muladi upazila has been submerged under the riverbed. In the same upazila,

erosion has affected the Joyanti River in Mridharhat, Sholaghara, Batamara, and Alimabad areas of Hizla upazila.

Erosion has also occurred in ten unions along the Sandhya River in Banaripara and Wazirpur upazilas, and in four unions along the Karkhana River in Bakerganj upazila.

WDB officials said project proposals worth about Tk 60 crore have been sent to the authorities to fund preventive measures. Of the 80 identified erosion-prone spots, work has begun at 35.

"No allocation has been received for the remaining 45 places. Work will start soon if allocation is received," said Javed Iqbal.

Feni floodwaters recede, leave trails

include 934 hectares of Aman seedbeds, 7 hectares of ginger, 855 hectares of Aus paddy, 557 hectares of summer vegetables, 14 hectares of chilli, 3.5 hectares of turmeric, and 3,670 sacks of cultivated ginger.

District Fisheries Officer Aminul Islam said fish from 2,300 ponds were washed away, resulting in



submerged.

Akkas Uddin, a farmer from Paschim Alka village in Parshuram upazila, said, "I couldn't cultivate any crops after last year's flood. This year, my 10 kg of Aman seedlings were submerged and destroyed. I won't be able to cultivate Aman rice this year."

Farmers Shah Jahan,

Abul Kashem, and Ali Akbar from Chitholia echoed similar concerns.

Mamun Hossain, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver from ward 2 in Parshuram Municipality, said he had taken shelter with his family during the flood.

"When I returned, I found all our bedding and furniture destroyed. We

don't have money to repair our home and are living in miserable conditions," he said.

Md Mahmud Al Faruque, executive engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department in Feni, said 125 kilometres of roads have been damaged, including 100 km in Fulgazi and 20 km in Parshuram upazilas.

Approximately 20-25 percent of these roads are still under water, and the extent of the damage may increase further, he added.

Mozammel Haque, livestock officer of Feni district, confirmed the death of 2-4 livestock animals, with additional losses amounting to Tk 20-30 lakh, including damage to poultry farms.

Residents said Babu and his gang returned after his release, vandalised shops, and broke CCTV cameras.

Faridul Islam, manager of a three-storey building, told this correspondent earlier this month that they had 40 families there, but now only eight remain.

"About 10 days ago, Tunda Babu came with his gang and said the locals had caused him losses. He told us, 'I'm giving you a chance -- you'll have to pay me back,'" he said.

"The locals are terrified," said Morjina Begum, a resident of 13 years. "A few days ago, they held a knife to a grocer's throat, demanding to know who handed their men to police and who killed Babu's associates."

"It's a relief he's in jail now, but even when he was in jail before, his gang kept spreading terror. We're afraid they'll take revenge," she added.

Rab said Babu admitted

during initial interrogation that he worked closely with Kobzikata Anwar and operated under his orders, using teenage gang members for various crimes.

Anwar is now behind bars.

Over 10 cases -- including murder, attempted murder, robbery, mugging, and theft -- have been filed against him at several police stations in Dhaka.

Speaking to The Daily Star recently, Lt Col Khalidul Haq Hawlader, commanding officer of Rab 2, said, "Babu's gang reigned through fear. We've handed him over to the police and requested that he be kept in detention for a long time."

When asked about locals fleeing the area out of fear, he said, "The situation has improved since Babu's arrest... We expect the residents will return to the locality soon."

3 children

FROM PAGE 4

The statement said the Arakan Army (AA), which has taken control of much of Arakan, continues such practices, targeting Rohingya civilians through widespread violence, mass killings, and destruction.

The Council said it aims to reclaim and protect their indigenous identity and citizenship in Arakan State, advocate for their safe and just return, and engage in dialogue on Myanmar's future federal structure with all stakeholders.

It also plans to represent the Rohingya in international forums, including the UN, OIC, ASEAN, European Union, and others.

Executive Committee (CEC) members and 60 Central Committee (CC) members, ensuring broad-based participation and grassroots legitimacy. Delegates come from nearly every township of Arakan.

While other Rohingya political bodies exist, this is the most inclusive and unified one to date, said Nay San Lwin, co-chair of the ARNC's board of chairpersons, speaking to The Daily Star.

The ARNC brings together a broad coalition of Rohingya stakeholders, including representatives from inside Myanmar, the majority of leaders from refugee camps, and most members of the global diaspora.

It comprises 40 Central

media statement yesterday.

U Tun Khin has been appointed chairperson of the ARNC.

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It comprises 40 Central

WDB launches eviction drive in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

CNG drivers block

Plaza routes.

The elevated expressway remained open for outbound travel and was also accessible for vehicles moving from Uttara to Tejgaon or Hatirjheel. Additional police forces were deployed in the area to manage the situation and ensure public safety.

The OC said protesters freed the road around 6:30pm.

Abhoynagar

FROM PAGE 4

been raising the issue for years, but no one listens. If the embankment breaks, my fields and fish enclosures will be lost."

Locals have attempted makeshift repairs using bamboo, brushwood, and soil, but these measures have proven ineffective in the long run.

"Unless immediate action is taken, a disaster is

inevitable," said local union parishad member Bishwajit Biswas. "Homes, fish farms, and croplands will all go under water."

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Partha Pratim Shil said, "We are treating the matter with urgency. The Water Development Board has been informed, and repair work on the damaged embankment will begin shortly."

Where hope walks on four legs

FROM PAGE 4

"In Bangladesh, canine cancer has long been an invisible crisis," said Sinha, also chairperson of the foundation.

The inauguration was attended by veterinarians, animal welfare advocates, local officials, and members of the public. Attendees were given a tour of the newly built facility and

introduced to the centre's first patients -- rescued dogs who have already begun receiving treatment.

The centre offers advanced diagnostics, chemotherapy, pain management, and post-treatment care -- services that have never before been accessible in such a specialised setting for dogs in Bangladesh. It also

aims to become a space for learning, where veterinary students and professionals can receive hands-on training in canine oncology.

"This centre is the beginning of something we've needed for far too long," said Shakil Ahmed Siddique, general secretary of Furry Friends Foundation.

যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি অস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান)

যমুনা ভবন, আরাবাদ বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম-৪১০০।

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তারিখ: ১৩-০৭-২০২৫

বিষয়: যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী।

বিপত্তি ২৯-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখে দেনিক কালের কঠি, দেনিক নয়া দিগন্ত, দি ডেইলি স্টার, দেনিক আজানি পত্রিকায় যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকাশিত "নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি" এর প্রেক্ষিতে আইনিক, ঢাকা এবং বুয়েট এর তত্ত্বাবধানে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীর লিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৩-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখে পুরকোশল ভবন, বুয়েট ক্যাম্পাস, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর ঢাকায় লিয়াকেটি অফিসে (বিট্রিএসি ভবন-১১তম তলা, ৭-৯ কারওয়ান বাজার বায়/এ, ঢাকা) নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি মোতাবেক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

ক) আইনিক হতে প্রাপ্ত ফলাফল অনুসারে (মন-টেকনিক্যাল ১৪ (টেক্স)টি পদে):

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	রোল নম্বর	মোট উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীর সংখ্যা	তারিখ	সময়
০১	লিমিটেড অফিসার (সেলস)	০৩	১১০০০২৬, ১১০০০২৯, ১১০০০৬০, ১১০০০৬৭, ১১০০০৭৫, ১১০০০৭৭, ১১০০১১৩, ১১০০১৯৭, ১১০০২১২, ১১০০২২৫।	১৩ জন	২৫/০৭/২০২৫, ক্যাম্বার	সকাল: ১০:০০ ঘটিকা মুঠুর: ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় পর্যবেক্ষণ
০২	সিমিয়ার অফিসার (পিলিং)	০১	১২০০০০৯, ১২০০০১৩, ১২০০০১৫।	০৩ জন	২৫/০৭/২০২৫, ক্যাম্বার	দুপুর: ২:০০ ঘটিকা হতে পুর
০৩	সিমিয়ার অফিসার (পোরচেজ)	০১	১৩০০০১৮, ১৩০০০২৮, ১৩০০০৪৮, ১৩০০০৪৯।	০৪ জন	২৫/০৭/২০২৫, ক্যাম্বার	দুপুর: ২:০০ ঘটিকা হতে পুর
০৪	অফিসার (কোরে)	০১	১৭০০০০২, ১৭০০০১৫, ১৭০০০১৯। ১৮০০০০২, ১৮০০০০৬, ১৮০০০০১, ১৮০০০০৪, ১৮০০০০৫, ১৮০০০০৭। ১৮০০০০৯, ১৮০০০০৯, ১৮০০০০৯০, ১৮০০০০৯			



Cover of the Chetana Manifesto.

COURTESY: SAIF UL HAQUE

13TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MUZHARUL ISLAM

Muzharul Islam and Chetana Movement

SAIF UL HAQUE

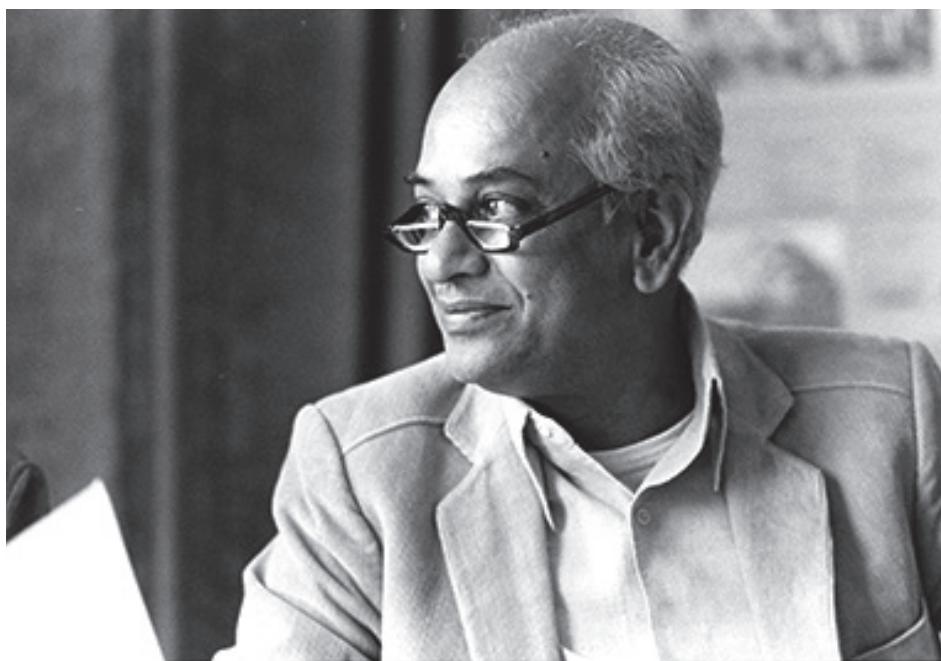
"If properly planned, even now, Dhaka can be transformed into a very decent, liveable city. We can take advantage of the river, the *khals*, the lowlands, and the richness of the soil for the growth of trees and plants. But this presupposes that there should be a pride in our capital city, with the people participating consciously in the growth process." — Muzharul Islam, 1983

Cities around the world experienced phenomenal growth during the 20th century and became an important topic of architectural discourse. Visionary thinking by leading architects of this period contributed to the development of ideas about the urban future of the world. Bangladesh, being a densely populated country, experienced rapid urban growth in the last quarter of the 20th century after it emerged as an independent state. This was largely because the country had remained predominantly agrarian during both the colonial period and the postcolonial period under Pakistan. On the other hand, architecture in Bangladesh had a brilliant start immediately after the end of British

development of architectural discourse that provided new direction to the architectural culture of Bangladesh in the 1980s and 1990s. To gain a comprehensive understanding of this role, it is important to recount the origins and activities of Chetana.

Chetana began as an initiative of a small group of young architects who gathered around Muzharul Islam—the well-known architect of Bangladesh at the time—with the simple objective of learning from him. At first, the group had no name; the naming of the group as Chetana occurred much later. The formation of Chetana emerged from a simple but important realisation by its members: that Islam, while being an accomplished architect with an illustrious career, was absent from architectural education in the country. It was indeed puzzling to them that Muzharul Islam remained distant from the only architecture school in the country. Another incomprehensible fact was that his practice was almost without any work at that critical juncture in his career. The young architects found it difficult to reconcile these facts with the stature of Muzharul Islam.

The group of young architects who



COURTESY: AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE

Muzharul Islam at the Master Jury of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, 1980.

specific context of Bangladesh. The eminent personalities who gave lectures at that time included Academician Kabir Chowdhury, Artist Quamrul Hassan, Archaeologist Nazimuddin Ahmed, Cultural Activist Wahidul Haque, Historian Muntassir Mamoon, Educationist Mohammed Moniruzzaman, Historian Momtazur Rahman Tarafdar, Historian Perween Hassan, and Thespian Aly Zaker.

The success of those programmes led the group towards an organisational structure and the naming of the group. After careful scrutiny of names suggested by the members, the group chose the Bangla word "Chetana" as the name. *Chetana* in Bangla means consciousness or awareness—a word quite appropriate to the group's aspiration to fill the gaps in their knowledge. The naming led to the group's formal emergence, which took place in an event with a presentation of a manifesto and declaration. While manifestoes and declarations abound in modern architecture movements in the West, and also among political parties in the country, for an architectural group from Bangladesh, this was a unique initiative. This was surely a sign of directing the activities towards a movement. Drafted jointly by the members, the manifesto called for an architecture firmly rooted in place as well as connected to universal aspirations. The manifesto was not only signed by the architect members but also by noted personalities of the country, including poets, writers, painters, thespians, musicians, historians, and archaeologists.

An important opportunity to connect with the international architectural scene opened up for the group through the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, initiated in 1977, via Muzharul Islam, who was a member of the first jury of the award. Islam's involvement facilitated conversations and connections with architects, architectural historians, and leading thinkers from different parts of the world, and as a consequence of this contact,



Muzharul Islam with Balkrishna Doshi in Dhaka, 1987.

the Aga Khan Award for Architecture proposed holding a regional seminar in Dhaka involving both regional and international architects.

This led to the seminar "Regionalism in Architecture" in Dhaka in December 1985, which was a major event for architecture in Bangladesh. Leading architects, architectural historians, and thinkers of the region and other parts of the world participated in this landmark event, and for the members of Chetana, this was a significant occasion as they were able to listen to historians like Kenneth Frampton and William Curtis, and architects like Paul Rudolph, Charles Correa, and Geoffrey Bawa, among others. Muzharul Islam, Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, and

a formal entity of a registered society, and the name changed to *Chetana Sthapatya Unnyon Society* (Chetana Architecture Development Society), with a shorter version as *Chetana Society*. While the work on the documentation project required considerable involvement from the group, the activities of lectures and discussions continued in parallel. In 1996, a major seminar on architecture entitled "Dialogue on Design" was organised by Chetana, which brought together established and emerging practices to share their work with architects, students, and the general public.

In December 1997, the documentation programme titled *Sthapatya Bangladesh* (Architecture Bangladesh) culminated in the holding of the exhibition *Pundranagar to Sherebanglanagar: Architecture in Bangladesh*. The exhibition venue was the National Museum in Dhaka, which drew visitors from all corners of the country, and a book with the same title was published on the same occasion. The exhibition received extensive coverage from radio, television, and the print media. While the exhibition was a momentous occasion for Chetana, an unexpected and tragic event befell the group with the untimely death of Razul Ahsan, the General Secretary of the society, in a car accident. Ahsan's sudden death was a huge loss for the society, which was by then well positioned to undertake greater responsibilities towards the development of architecture in Bangladesh. The work of the *Sthapatya Bangladesh* project was a strenuous one for the society, and the death of Razul Ahsan created a vacuum that was difficult to fill, and the society was showing signs of slowing down.

Even in that challenging situation, a few programmes were undertaken. A workshop on the historic riverfront of Dhaka and another on heritage photography took place in 1999, but by the year 2000, it became clear that the society had lost much of its organisational capability to continue with further programmes. Muzharul Islam was nearing the age of eighty, and many of the founding members were occupied with their careers. By 2001, the society had become largely inactive. The nearly two decades of its dynamic existence merit being considered as a movement in architecture in Bangladesh that brought vitality to a lacklustre architectural scene—like activating a moribund river with flow. Although Chetana ceased to continue, the vision of an architecture that it nurtured was to find its way into the architectural scene of Bangladesh and beyond, through works, writings, and discussions.

Beyond Chetana

The impact of the Chetana movement is visible in the works of many architects active in practice as well as in teaching. The body of works and writings coming into existence is indicative of a new beginning in architecture in Bangladesh. Chetana and the significance of architecture in Bangladesh are receiving recognition both within and outside the country. In December 2017, a major exhibition on architecture in Bangladesh opened at the Swiss Architecture Museum in Basel, which later travelled to Bordeaux in France and Frankfurt in Germany, and the story of Chetana is a prominent part of that exhibition. The history of architecture is a history of many developments in many different locations and times. The emergence of the Chetana Society in Bangladesh and its efforts towards new architectural thinking in the context of Bangladesh constitute one such development and an architectural movement. A movement depends on the gathering of forces with the will for change at a particular juncture in time. For the Chetana movement, the gathering of young architects with their student compatriots and Muzharul Islam was that force at the juncture of the 1980s.

At that time, there were around 200 architects and one school of architecture in a country with a population of around 80 million. Today, Bangladesh has over 5,000 architects, nearly 30 schools of architecture, and a population of around 170 million people. Although the ratio of architects to population has improved, the reach of architects remains confined to a very select group of people. The increasing number of architects and schools of architecture are positive changes, but to make architecture accessible to the vast majority of people and to address existing and emerging challenges, a far greater movement is required—a movement for revolutionary change in the way we learn and produce architecture.

SAIF UL HAQUE is an architect practising in Dhaka.

colonial rule, thanks to a Bengali named Muzharul Islam, who was initially trained as a civil engineer but chose to become an architect.

Muzharul Islam singlehandedly contributed to the development of a vibrant architectural scene for over five decades since the end of British colonial rule in 1947 in this part of the world. His architectural works exemplify a search for a place-specific modern architecture, and his activism records his pursuit of establishing a modern and progressive culture of nation-building, using architecture and physical planning as key tools. From the early 1950s to the mid-1970s, Muzharul Islam actively responded to the demands of his professional practice as well as his commitments to nation-building. The tragic event of the assassination of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 1975, brought an abrupt end to his efforts, and after a break of almost five years, he was able to return to his work, though not with the same vibrancy as before.

In 1975, he was in his early 50s, and it was a great loss for Bangladesh that the exceptional intellectual and creative ability of Muzharul Islam could not be fully utilised in the post-1975 period due to his political beliefs. Thanks to a few well-wishers, he was able to maintain a skeletal practice during this unfavourable time in his life. This was, without doubt, meagre for a person of his calibre, but it nonetheless allowed him to continue, albeit on a much-reduced scale. On the other hand, an important development in the early 1980s—namely, the formation of an architectural society called Chetana—kept him actively engaged with architecture and urbanism, providing a much-needed impetus for continuing with his ideals. In fact, this engagement significantly impacted the development of architectural culture in Bangladesh in the years that followed.

Chetana Movement
The formation of Chetana in the early 1980s was a unique event in the context of the postcolonial and post-independence architectural history of Bangladesh. Chetana played a prominent and crucial role in the



Poster of a workshop organised by Chetana in Dhaka, 1987.

presses. Another important development during this period was the dissemination of information abroad on architecture in Bangladesh. A cover story on Bangladesh's architecture featured in the Indian magazine *Architecture plus Design* in 1988, written and compiled by Saif Ul Haque, and an essay by Kazi Khaleed Ashraf was published in *Mimar* in 1989 from Singapore. The group by that time had gained sufficient confidence to embark on programmes of far greater ambition, and in 1989, it launched a programme to document the principal monuments of Bangladesh with the objective of creating materials for the study of architecture in the country.

To undertake this task, the group transformed its organisational structure into

Star SPORT

DHAKA M TUESDAY 14, 2025, ASHAR 30, 1432 BS

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:
177-7 in 20 overs
(Litton 76, Hridoy
31, Shamim 48;
Fernando 3-31)

Sri Lanka: 94 all
out in 15.2 overs
(Nissanka 32,
Shanaka 20; Shoriful
2-12, Saifuddin 2-21,
Mustafizur 1-14,
Mehidy 1-26, Rishad
3-18)

Result: Bangladesh
won by 83 runs.

**Player-of-the-
match:** Litton Das



what to WATCH

T Sports

T20 Tri-series
Zimbabwe vs South Africa
1st T20I
Live from 5:00 pm
West Indies vs Australia

3rd Test, Day 3
Live from 12:30 am (Tuesday)
Sony Sports 1
England vs India
3rd Test, Day 5
Live from 4:00 pm

Last-gasp Trishna decides thrilling contest

SPORTS REPORTER

A stoppage-time strike from Trishna Rani Sarkar helped defending champions Bangladesh maintain their winning run in the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship with a dramatic 3-2 victory over title-rivals Nepal at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

The thrilling contest reached its climax when, in the dying seconds of stoppage time, substitute Umehla Marma launched a counter-attack down the right flank. She entered the box and delivered a precise cut-back for fellow substitute Trishna, who calmly slotted the ball into the far post from just outside the six-yard box, sparking wild celebrations in the stands.

Bangladesh, the tournament favourites, had taken a comfortable 2-0 lead in the first half with goals from Sinha Jahan Shikha and Mosammat Sagorika. Their slick passing, quick transitions, and intelligent positioning initially overwhelmed the Nepali defence, much like their 9-1 win over Sri Lanka in the tournament opener.



However, the tide turned in the second half as Nepal piled on the pressure and capitalised on Bangladesh's defensive lapses. Within a span of nine minutes – from the 77th to the 86th minute – they levelled the scoreline through well-taken goals by Anisha Rai and Meena Deuba.

The match also saw a major flashpoint just 11 minutes into the second half when Sagorika and Nepal's Simran Rai were both shown red cards following a scuffle.

Despite losing their two-goal cushion and being reduced to 10 players, the young charges of Peter Butler did not back down. Instead, they regrouped, fought back, and ultimately found the decisive goal in the final moments of the game.

The victory lifted Bangladesh to the top of the four-team standings with six points from two matches – three points ahead of Nepal and Bhutan. Earlier in the day, Bhutan boosted their campaign with an emphatic 5-0 win over Sri Lanka.



Bangladesh players jump for joy after beating Kazakhstan 6-2 in a place-deciding match to finish third in the Women's U-18 Asia Cup in their maiden appearance in Dazhou, China yesterday. The men's team, meanwhile, finished fourth following a 5-2 defeat against Malaysia in a place-deciding match.

Clinical Tigers outplay Lions

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Bangladesh provided a complete performance to clinch a record 83-run win over Sri Lanka in the second T20I to level the three-match series 1-1 at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium yesterday.

After suffering a seven-wicket defeat in the series opener in Pallekele on Thursday, the Tigers staged a quick turnaround, folding the hosts for just 94 runs in 15.2 overs while defending a total of 177-7.

Apart from the openers not clicking, Bangladesh ticked all the boxes in the second game – a very rare occurrence in the recent past across formats.

Captain Litton Das was under the scanner ahead of the second game for his underwhelming form with the bat and for the side's string of losses in the format, as the Tigers had six out of their last seven matches since he officially received the T20I captaincy.

After a long while, Litton played an impactful knock in the white-ball format, making a 50-ball 76 and putting up two crucial stands of 69 and 77 runs with Tawhid Hridoy (31 off 25 balls) and Shamim Hossain (48 off 27 balls) respectively.

Luck also favoured Litton, as Sri Lanka missed a stumping chance when he was on 30 and he was also dropped on 56. Still, he deserves plaudits for his planned approach, as he rotated the strike really well alongside hitting five sixes and one four.

If Litton's innings brought stability after Bangladesh was two down for seven, it was



Shamim's blazing knock that gave them a strong finish.

The flashy left-hander hit five fours and a couple of sixes to help Bangladesh, who were at 80-4 after 12 overs, score 97 runs in the last eight overs to reach a competitive total.

Shamim made further impact in the game with his electric fielding, dismissing in-form Kusal Mendis (eight) with a direct throw in the second over before pacers Shoriful Islam (2-12), Mohammad Saifuddin (2-21) and Mustafizur Rahman (1-14) dismantled the Sri Lankan batting order.

"Credit goes to Shamim, the way he batted, it was amazing... That run-out by Shamim to remove Kusal Mendis was very

important," Litton, who was adjudged player-of-the-match, said in the post-match presentation.

Leg spinner Rishad Hossain also played his part, striking twice in the 11th over to break the 41-run fifth wicket stand between Pathum Nissanka (32) and Dasun Shanaka (20), all but sealing the fate of the match.

Rishad dismissed Binura Fernando to wrapped up the contest, finishing with 3-18.

The fate of the series will be decided on Wednesday in Colombo but for now Bangladesh can heave a sigh of relief after ending their losing streak by notching up their second largest victory by runs in T20Is.

'Hope to finish with 350 Test wickets'

Despite being in the international scene for nearly seven years, off-spinner Nayeem Hasan hasn't played much for Bangladesh, being considered mostly as a backup option to the likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and Mehidy Hasan Miraz. For the first time in his career, the 25 year-old featured in back-to-back away Tests recently in Sri Lanka. Nayeem recently talked to The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan about the Sri Lanka tour, his preparation and goals. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): In Sri Lanka, you finally got to bowl in an away Test for Bangladesh. In your first innings with the ball, you claimed a fifer, and finished the series with nine wickets. Are you satisfied with your performance in Sri Lanka?

Nayeem Hasan (NH): Alhamdulillah, I'm happy with my performance. If we could have won any matches, I would have felt happier. The most satisfying thing for me is to contribute to a winning cause.

DS: Did bowling in an away Test for the first time feel any different?

NH: Everyone was saying that it was my first match [abroad]. But I never thought of that because I had toured with the 'A' team, the Under-19 team and the Emerging team before. It's true that it feels different when you play after a long time. Before going to Sri Lanka, I played against New Zealand 'A' team and I think it helped me a lot.

I think I had a good preparation for the Sri Lanka series.

DS: How do you prepare yourself when you play matches after a long gap?

NH: I don't have anything else to do other than play. I practice regularly and follow my routine to improve myself. We have regular camps for Bangla Tigers. I always try to be ready and wait for my opportunities.

Sometimes, performance is not in your hands. But I need to work hard and keep faith in Allah.

DS: In your career so far, do you feel different when you play after a long time?

NH: I don't think of myself as the third or fourth option. It's true

that sometimes I feel bad when I don't get to play. But for me, the team always comes first. I always think that whenever I get the opportunity to play, I have to fulfil my role and help the team win. If I see myself as the third or fourth spin-bowling option, I won't have the same hunger.

DS: Having played only 14 Tests in seven years, do you consider yourself unlucky?

NH: I don't feel like that. When Harbhajan Singh was in the Indian side, Ashwin [Ravichandran] made it into their playing XI. He finished his career with more than 500 [537] Test wickets. When I was with the Bangladesh U-19 side, I got the opportunity to play for the national team. Most of the players get into the national side

at the age of 24 or 25. But when I was only 17 and a half years old, I got into the national side. For this, I consider myself lucky. Everyone thinks that I'm unlucky but I want to think positively and consider myself lucky in this aspect. I have learnt a lot of things in these seven years and I hope it will help me in future.

DS: You bat reasonably well in domestic matches. Do you think you could have cemented your place in the playing XI if you had concentrated more on your batting?

NH: I have been working on my batting. I also got starts in Sri Lanka but couldn't bat longer in both matches. Hopefully, I will not make the same mistake next time.

DS: Age is in your favour as you are just 25. What's your goal by the end of your career?

NH: I hope to finish my career with 350 Test wickets.



England pacer Brydon Carse celebrates after getting the prized wicket of India captain Shubman Gill late in the last session on Day 4 of the third Test at Lord's on Sunday. After being set a target of 193, India were reduced to 58-4 at the close of play, with three of their top four back in the hut. Speedster Archer dismissed Yashasvi Jaiswal for nought before Carse trapped Karun Nair lbw and followed up with Gill's dismissal. England skipper Ben Stokes castled nightwatchman Akash Deep, leaving India 135 more runs to get on the final day.

PHOTO: AFP

Plot afoot to oust Tarique from politics: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said that the propaganda against the party is part of a conspiracy to destroy nationalist forces in the country.

He also said there is a conspiracy to eliminate the party's acting chairman, Tarique Rahman, from politics.

"One thing must be kept in mind... the ongoing propaganda and smear campaign are driven by a very specific plot. That plot is to destroy the nationalist forces in Bangladesh. That conspiracy is to eliminate and defame the rising and potential leader [Tarique Rahman]," Fakhrul said at an event.

The event was organised on the unveiling of the book 'Tarique Rahman: The Hope of Bangladesh.'

"For the first time, our leader Tarique Rahman has come under attack. He has been targeted by name, and attempts have been made to malign him in various

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Traffic on Airport Road comes to a standstill yesterday as a group of CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers block the road in front of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) headquarters in the capital's Banani, demanding proper route allocation for their vehicles in the Dhaka metropolitan area. The demonstration lasted from morning until evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Extortionists will have to leave, like Hasina

Says Nahid in Jhalakathi

STAR REPORT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said those who want to "do politics of extortion" will have to leave, like the fallen prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

"A man was stoned to death in Dhaka for extortion. Those who want to indulge in politics of grabbing, extortion, snatching, and getting commission, the people of Bangladesh will oust them just as they did with Hasina," he said while speaking at a rally in Jhalakathi town.

The NCP leader said the people would not accept a national election without trials and reforms, alleging that those who were thinking of polls without those were involved in a conspiracy.

Earlier at a rally on the Pirojpur Central Shaheed Minar premises, Nahid said some political parties wanted the polls to be held in no time and grip power as reforms were seemingly not an important agenda to them, reports our Pirojpur correspondent.

"If there is no one for reforms, we, who took to the streets during the July uprising, have the responsibility to those who took to the streets at our call and sacrificed their lives. We cannot retreat from the streets," he said.

Nahid said they demanded reforms, a new constitution, and trial of those in the fallen Awami League government.

"Through this, we will rebuild the country and restructure the economy and culture," he said.

Expressing grief over the brutal Old Dhaka murder, Nahid said they would not let the country turn into a haven for extortionists and looters.

NCP leaders and activists are on the streets. They will remain vigilant to free the country from the hands of extortionists, corrupt individuals, and land grabbers, he added.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Rainwater has pooled in Lalmatia Triangular Park's skating area due to the lack of a drainage system. The stagnant water leaves the space unusable and makes it a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ex-IGP Mamun's pardon depends on disclosure of truth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The clemency of Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, the former police chief accused of crimes against humanity during the July uprising, depends on the condition that he will fully disclose the truth and the whole of the circumstances.

He will remain segregated in jail for his safety and security, as per the order passed by the International Crimes Tribunal last Thursday and published yesterday.

The order states that the Mamun would be called for cross-examination later.

It also said the tribunal deems it appropriate to tender pardon to him under the facts and circumstances following his petition to become a witness for the prosecution.

"... accordingly pardon has been tendered to him on condition that he will make a full and true disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within his knowledge relative to the alleged offences and to every other person concerned, either as principal or abettor," read the order.

"... he accepted the pardon subject to such condition and as such the Tribunal shall call him for being examined as witness in the trial at a convenient date," it added.

Originally set up to try those responsible for war crimes committed

during the 1971 Liberation War, the tribunal is currently hearing the cases filed on charges of crimes against humanity during the 2024 uprising.

Mamun stands accused of murder, attempted murder, torture, and use of lethal weapons, among others, along with deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

The three-member tribunal formally framed charges against Hasina, Kamal, and Mamun in the case last Thursday.

The trio is charged with crimes against humanity for their "superior command responsibility, conspiracy, incitement, instigation, facilitation, abetment, complicity, failure to punish, failure to prevent crimes."

In a first, the former inspector general of police pleaded guilty to the charges against him when asked in court on Thursday. He also petitioned the tribunal to be made an "approver" — a witness for the prosecution. Under the law, an approver may be granted a pardon if their testimony is found to have revealed the full truth.

ASM Ruhul Emran, registrar of the ICT, told The Daily Star that the order on Mamun's pardon was issued as Order No 07 in ICT-BD Case No 02 of 2025.

"A copy of the order has already been sent to the jail authorities," he added.

NCP firm on getting 'Shapla' as polls symbol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party leaders yesterday said they want the "Shapla" (water lily) as the party's electoral symbol, with no alternative.

They also demanded the removal of "Boat" symbol from the list of electoral symbols and vowed that they would fight politically if they did not get "Shapla" as their party's symbol.

The NCP also asked for the reconstitution of the current Election Commission when its five-member delegation met Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasiruddin at the EC headquarters.

The five are NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, Chief Organiser (south) Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Organiser (north) Sarjis Alam, Joint Member

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Man held in Savar for alleged links to Tehrik-e-Taliban

ATU sues 5 others on same charges

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

The Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) has arrested a man from Savar for his alleged involvement with Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a Pakistan-based banned militant outfit.

An ATU team arrested Md Foyal, 33, from his shop - Bhai Brothers Telecom - near the Savar upazila health complex on July 2, based on intelligence regarding his involvement with TTP. He was produced before a Dhaka court the following day under section 54 of the CrPC, and then sent to jail.

On July 5, Inspector Abdul Mannan of the ATU's intelligence branch filed a case under Anti-Terrorism Act against Foyal and five others with Savar Model Police Station. The other accused are Al Imran alias Engineer Imran Haider, Rezaul Karim Abrar, Asif Adnan, Zakaria Masud, and Md Sanaf Hasan.

The Daily Star has seen a copy of the case statement, which details Foyal's reported confession that he was inspired by TTP's ideology and had traveled to Afghanistan via Pakistan in October last year. He said he was accompanied by Ahmed Jubair alias Yuvraj, 23, who was later killed in a Pakistan army operation in Waziristan.

Foyal also reportedly said that he and Jubair left Dhaka on October 18 last year, traveled to Pakistan on October 29, and entered Afghanistan through the Torkham border on November 6. While Foyal returned to Bangladesh via Dubai on November 16, Jubair stayed back and was killed in a border strike by the Pakistan army.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অ্যাধিকার

Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

স্মারক নম্বর: ২৮.০২.০০০০.০১.২৬.০০১৬.২৫.৮০৮

তারিখ: ১৩.০৭.২০২৫

নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণপূর্বক জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সম্প্রতি একটি অসাধু চক্র কর্তৃক বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও খনিজসম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা) এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের নাম, ঠিকানা এবং ভূয়া স্মারক নম্বর ও স্বাক্ষর ব্যবহার করে সাদা কাগজে প্রতারণামূলকভাবে ভূয়া নিয়োগপত্র ইস্যু করে প্রত্যারিত করার চেষ্টার বিষয়টি পেট্রোবাংলা কর্তৃপক্ষের দৃষ্টিগোচর হয়েছে।

উল্লেখ্য, পেট্রোবাংলার সকল নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত কার্যক্রম অনলাইনে সম্পন্ন হয়ে থাকে। বর্তমানে পেট্রোবাংলা ও এর অধীনস্থ কোম্পানিসমূহের কেন্দ্রীয় নিয়োগে প্রাথমিকভাবে সুপারিশকৃত প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগের বিষয়টি প্রক্রিয়াধীন রয়েছে। উক্ত প্রক্রিয়া শেষে প্রার্থীদের অনুকূলে চূড়ান্ত নিয়োগপত্র জারী করা হলে তা পেট্রোবাংলার ওয়েবসাইটে (www.petrobangla.org.bd) বিজ্ঞপ্তি আকারে এবং প্রার্থীদের মোবাইল এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে অবহিত করা হবে। প্রতারক চক্রের এ সকল ভূয়া নিয়োগপত্রে অনুকূল হয়ে কোন প্রকার আর্থিক লেনদেন না করার বিষয়ে সকলকে সতর্ক করা হলো। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো তথ্যের প্রয়োজন হলে পেট্রোবাংলার ওয়েবসাইট বা প্রধান কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে নির্দেশক্রমে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)

GD-1570