



CONSENSUS COMMISSION Talks stall over women's seats, upper house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission has proposed establishing an upper house comprising elected representatives from each district and city corporation, and suggested abolishing the current system of reserved seats for women in parliament.

The proposals were presented on the 13th day of the second phase of dialogues with political parties at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

Earlier, the commission had proposed forming the 100 member chamber through a proportional representation (PR) system based on votes in the lower house election.

In its newly proposed model, the upper house would consist of 76 members: one representative from each of the 64 administrative districts and one from each of the 12 city corporations.

Elections to both the lower house and the proposed upper house would be held simultaneously.



A drone show illuminates the night sky with an image of students demanding justice for those killed in last year's July uprising. The event was held at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday commemorating the first anniversary of the uprising.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 15, 2024

Chhatra League attacks quota protesters

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Brutal violence descended on July 15, 2024, as activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League launched coordinated attacks on students protesting for reforms in the public service quota system.

The most harrowing scenes unfolded on the Dhaka University campus, where pitched battles between helmet-clad BCL activists and unarmed demonstrators raged for nearly five hours, leaving over 300 people injured, mostly protesters, including women, but also several BCL activists.

Armed with sticks and iron rods, hundreds of BCL activists, many reportedly brought in from outside the university, swept across campus, beating demonstrators wherever they found them. Even female students were not spared, as attackers were seen hitting them with sticks in full view of onlookers. Many injured students, bleeding and terrified, ran for their lives through the streets littered with brick chunks from the clashes.

At one point, the protesters retaliated, throwing bricks and beating back some BCL activists. But the violence was far from

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"BNP backs raising the reserved seats for women from 50 to 100 but believes those should be filled through the existing mechanism, not through direct election."



SALAHUDDIN AHMED
BNP standing committee member

Under the PR system, parties receive seats proportionate to their vote share. For instance, a party winning 30 percent of the vote would get 30 percent of the seats.

The commission tabled this fresh proposal as parties remained divided over how to form the upper house, even by the sixth day of discussions on the issue yesterday.

While BNP supported forming the house based on the number of seats won in the lower house, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, and some other parties favoured the PR-based method.

Meanwhile, instead of the current system of reserved seats for women, the commission recommended that parties contesting at least 25 constituencies nominate women for one-third of their candidacies under the first-past-the-post system, where the highest vote-getter wins. Parties were also divided on this issue, which has been

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Dhaka gears up for 3rd round of talks to avert US tariff shock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will launch the third round of negotiations with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) next week, aiming to secure a more "rational" tariff structure before the August 1 deadline, said Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the Commerce Ministry in Dhaka, the adviser said that a "rational tariff" would mean zero-duty access for Bangladeshi goods in US markets, a condition the government hopes will be met ahead of August 1. He was accompanied by Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman.

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Govt at it again, plans to promote retirees

At least 400 non-admin cadres now being scrutinised

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is set to implement another round of retrospective promotions, this time to several hundred retired officials from non-administration cadres who will receive additional financial benefits at the taxpayers' expense without serving even for a day.

In December last year, 764 retired officials, including 119 secretaries, from the administration cadre were given retrospective promotions -- a decision that drew criticism from many former bureaucrats and public admin experts. The government has now initiated

a similar process for retired officials from non-administration cadres. To facilitate the move, it has extended the tenure of a committee headed by former finance secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan until July 30.

The committee, formed on September 16 last year, has been tasked with reviewing applications from retired officials of non-administration cadres (Grade-III and above), who were allegedly deprived of promotions over the last 15 years.

A list of around 400 retired officials is currently under review though it remains unclear how many of them will

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Even light rain causes significant waterlogging on this road in the Hussaini Dalan area of Old Dhaka, thanks to the absence of an effective drainage system. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

WATERLOGGING IN DHAKA SOUTH

Another year, another spell of suffering

DIPAN NANDY

With the monsoon setting in, southern part of Dhaka city braces for a fresh spell of waterlogging, as the city corporation has yet to take effective measures to mitigate the perennial problem despite identifying 30

strategy.

The waterlogging-prone areas include Paltan, Shantinagar, Bailey Road, Kakrail, Gopibagh, Kamalapur, Tikatuli, Agha Sadeq Road, Agamasi Lane, Abdul Hadi Lane, Eskaton Road, a part of Bangabandhu Avenue, the Secretariat, New Market, Bata Signal, Dhanmondi Eidgah Road, Jigatola, Green Road, Nazimuddin Road, Nawabganj Park, Azimpur, RK Mission Road, Abhoy Das Lane, and several parts of Old Dhaka.

In late May, consecutive days of rain inundated several areas in the city's south, including Paltan, Fakirapool, Bangshal, Malibagh, and Shantinagar. In some locations, water remained stagnant for up to 20 hours. DSCC deployed pumps to drain the water, but the effort did little to ease the residents' suffering.

highly vulnerable areas nearly two years ago. Since the detection of these spots in September 2023, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has relied on temporary solutions such as using water pumps instead of adopting a sustainable, long-term drainage

With the Met office forecasting a rise in precipitation this month, experts warn that several parts in the city's south may again face severe waterlogging if it rains heavily for several days in a row.

Dhaka city has a drainage network spanning

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Under former mayor Taposh, Tk 360 crore spent on drainage system cleaning

Waterbody coverage dropped to 2.9% by 2023 from 20.57% in 1995

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Check fuel switches on Boeing jets

India orders its airlines

REUTERS, New Delhi

India yesterday ordered its airlines to examine fuel switches on several Boeing models, while South Korea said it would order a similar measure, as scrutiny intensified of fuel switch locks at the centre of an investigation into a deadly Air India crash.

The moves by India and South Korea came despite the planemaker and the US Federal Aviation Administration telling airlines and regulators in recent days that the fuel switch locks on Boeing jets are safe.



The locks have come under scrutiny following last month's crash of an Air India jet, which killed 260 people. A preliminary report found that the switches had almost simultaneously flipped from run position to cutoff shortly after takeoff.

The report noted a 2018 advisory from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which recommended, but did not mandate, operators of several Boeing models including the 787 to inspect the locking feature of fuel cutoff switches to ensure they could not be moved accidentally.

India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it had issued an order to investigate locks on several Boeing models including 787s and 737s, after several Indian and international airlines began making their own inspections of fuel switches.

ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR

Chhatra League attacks quota protesters

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confined to the campus.

Later in the evening, a group of BCL activists stormed the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where injured protesters were receiving treatment. Their presence sparked panic among doctors, nurses, patients, and attendants. Medical services were severely disrupted.

According to police sources, 297 people were treated at DMCH and six more at the Sarkari Karmachari Hospital.

"We don't know the exact figure, but we estimate that over 200 of our fellow demonstrators were injured, and many are in serious condition," said Nahid Islam, one of the movement's coordinators.

The wave of violence extended far beyond the capital. Students from Jagannath University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, and Eden Mohila College also came under attack by BCL activists during quota reform protests. The attacks came just hours after Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader warned of a "fitting reply" to student leaders who referred to themselves as Razakars.

At a government function earlier in the day, then prime minister Sheikh Hasina also expressed outrage at the protesters' slogans. "They don't know how the Pakistan occupation forces and Razakar Bahini tortured people. So, they don't feel ashamed to call themselves Razakars," she said at the signing ceremony of Annual Performance Agreements for FY 2024-25.

On the Jahangirnagar University campus, members of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement began a march around 6:30pm. By 7:00pm, at least 50 students



PHOTO: FILE

Students carrying an injured female student to safety after Chhatra League activists attacked quota reform protesters on Dhaka University campus on July 15, 2024.

were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by BCL activists from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall. Twenty of the injured required referral to private hospitals due to their worsening condition.

That evening, students staged a sit-in in front of the vice-chancellor's residence. Around midnight, BCL activists began hurling brick chunks at the protesters. Some students scaled the wall of the compound and opened the gates to allow others inside for safety.

In Chattogram, violence erupted around 3:30pm near the Sholashahar Railway Station after BCL activists attacked quota reform activists. Earlier, they had seized the key to the Chittagong University shuttle

train and halted it. Talat Mahmud, a student leader, was beaten up and forcibly taken to the proctor's office.

Meanwhile, 20 students of Jagannath University who had joined the protest at DU were injured and treated at DMCH. "We were peacefully protesting when BCL activists attacked us with weapons and sticks," said JnU student Junayed Islam.

At Eden Mohila College, four students were reportedly beaten up by BCL activists around 11:30pm.

At Rajshahi University, at least four students were injured in an attack by BCL activists around 6:20pm. "They started beating us and ordered us to go back to our halls. I barely escaped," said one student, Nasim.

'BNP now a protector of Mujibism'

Says Nahid in Patuakhali



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party, yesterday accused the BNP of becoming a "protector of Mujibism", aligning themselves with what he called a "fallen fascist regime".

Speaking at a rally organised by the NCP on Circuit House Road in Patuakhali in the afternoon, Nahid said, "BNP is now protecting the ideology of Mujibism like the previous government. They are involved in corruption, extortion, and criminal activities just like the previous government."

He added, "In July last year, we did not only fight against Sheikh Hasina -- we fought to uproot extortion, terrorism, and corruption. We cannot unite with those who stand in the way of building a new Bangladesh free from these evils."

Highlighting internal threats, Nahid said, "Earlier, we believed our enemies were outside the country. Now, we see that the enemies are within. There's a conspiracy against us because we are speaking against this ongoing system. There's an effort to keep us divided so we cannot unite. But with public support, we will respond to

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Talks stall over women's seats, upper house

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repeatedly during the reform talks.

Initially, the commission had proposed increasing the number of reserved seats for women from 50 to 100 and suggested direct elections to those seats.

Facing disagreement over that plan, the commission floated the new model.

The commission's Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz said that despite prolonged discussions on women's representation and the formation of a bicameral legislature, consensus had not been reached.

"These two issues have been discussed multiple times. While there has been some support initially, procedural disagreements have prevented all from reaching a consensus."

He said the commission had previously proposed

forming a 400-seat lower house and a 100-seat upper house. "Nearly two-thirds of political parties supported this idea ... Disagreement persists over how the upper house would be constituted."

"We want to continue the discussions and hope to agree on an acceptable mechanism," said Riaz, adding that these two topics will remain on the agenda for today's meeting as well.

ROLE OF UPPER HOUSE
The commission's proposal also detailed the role of the upper house.

It said the upper house would not have authority to initiate new legislation. However, all bills passed by the lower house -- except money bills -- must be placed before both houses.

The commission proposed that the upper house review and analyse

the talks, BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed said his party supports increasing women's representation in parliament.

While backing the commission's earlier proposal to raise reserved seats from 50 to 100, BNP believes these should be filled through the existing mechanism rather than direct elections.

After independence, the 1972 constitution initially reserved 15 seats in parliament for women. Over time, this number gradually rose to 50.

These seats are currently allocated to political parties in proportion to their share of the 300 general seats. "Designating or delimiting 100 new constituencies specifically for directly elected women's seats is not realistic," he argued.

WHAT PARTIES SAY
At a press briefing following

the commission's suggestion for nominating women in 33 percent of parliamentary seats, Salahuddin said parties have yet to implement the existing Representation of the People Order provision of 33 percent women in their own committees.

"The reality is, due to religious and social factors, many women in our society are still hesitant to engage in politics. Therefore, we prefer a gradual increase in women's participation over a sudden revolutionary shift."

On the upper house formation, he said BNP had already included its suggestions in its 31-point reform proposal.

He criticised the idea of directly electing upper house members from 64 districts and 12 city corporations, comparing

it to a district council or provincial government system.

Jamaat's Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said they presented two key points. "One is raising women's seats in parliament to 100, and the other is adopting the PR system for upper house formation."

He added that his party also supports using the PR system to elect 100 women MPs. "In our social reality, it is nearly impossible for a woman to contest directly in a large constituency formed by merging three parliamentary seats ... Our women still adhere to religious principles, social contexts, and cultural traditions."

About the upper house, Taher said, "If the upper house simply mirrors the lower house, it will serve no purpose. Without PR, it

cannot ensure a system of checks and balances."

He also dismissed the idea of electing members from 64 districts and 12 city corporations. "This proposal is not even worthy of discussion. It is misleading and could derail the main dialogue."

National Citizen Party Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain said they too proposed the direct election of 100 women MPs, aligning with the commission's suggestion.

He added that his party supports the PR system for allocating upper house seats and does not endorse electing members from all districts and city corporations. "We've noticed in some proposals a tendency to weaken the upper house... We want a structure where even a party receiving just one percent of votes can still

secure representation."

Meanwhile, leftist parties like the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, and Biplobi Workers Party rejected the proposal to abolish reserved seats for women.

CPB General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said they support raising the number of reserved seats to 100 from the existing 50, with all members elected through direct vote, and rejected the idea of a bicameral parliament, calling it unnecessary.

Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque also called the abolishment of reserved seats "unjust" and said his party supports increasing the number to 100 with direct elections.

He too favoured the PR system for upper house formation.

Dhaka gears up for 3rd round

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The development came after the US last Monday announced a plan to impose a 35 percent trade tariff on Bangladeshi imports, a slight reduction from the 37 percent rate initially proposed. The tariffs are expected to come into effect on August 1.

Adviser Bashir described the previous two rounds of talks with USTR, as well as meetings with economists, exporters, and business leaders, as "constructive and encouraging."

USTR is the chief trade negotiation body for the US government.

However, both the adviser and the secretary refrained from answering journalists' queries on the details of the talks, citing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) signed between Bangladesh and the USA in May to protect sensitive information related to the negotiations.

For example, the adviser did not respond to a question about whether a framework agreement would be signed with the USA before the negotiations conclude. He also declined to disclose the demands made by the USA during the ongoing negotiations.

Former Bangladesh ambassador to the US M Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star that a framework agreement outlines the basic principles of bilateral relations, based on which more specific agreements may follow. However, he noted that it would be

difficult for Bangladesh to sign such an agreement in a short period without thorough consultations ahead of the August 1 tariff implementation.

Adviser Bashir Uddin expressed optimism about a positive outcome, saying the local exporters have been doing business with the USA at competitive prices for many years.

Before the press conference, the adviser held a consultation meeting with economists and trade body leaders to gather opinions and plan the next steps. He added that more stakeholder meetings would take place before the third round of negotiations with the USTR.

He also said the government would not hire lobbyist groups to negotiate tariff rates with the Trump administration, despite earlier demands from private sector entrepreneurs.

On behalf of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), its president Mohammad Hatem said businesses are satisfied with the government's handling of the tariff issue.

The commerce secretary clarified that the draft tariff agreement does not include a 40 percent value addition requirement, as claimed by some reports. It also does not mandate reducing dependence on China for industrial raw materials as a condition for securing lower tariffs from the USA.

In his introductory remarks, the secretary

acknowledged that the reciprocal tariff would negatively impact Bangladesh's exports to the USA. He said the government is committed to minimising these effects by negotiating a reduced tariff rate.

Mohammad Abdur Razaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development; Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh; Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling; and Mostafa Abid Khan, a former member of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, participated in the consultation meeting with the adviser.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association; Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Leathersgoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh; Kamran T Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Md Hafizur Rahman, administrator to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries; A Matin Chowdhury, former president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA); and Razeed Haider, director of BTMA, were among others who participated in the consultation meeting.

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2,211 kilometres, with 961km lying in the south. During the tenure of ex-mayor Sheikh Fazole Noor Taposh, DSCC spent Tk 360 crore to tackle waterlogging. Of the amount, around Tk 100 crore was invested in drainage system for Shantinagar and its surrounding areas, yet severe waterlogging occurs there.

Contacted, Air Commodore Md Mahabubur Rahman Talukder, chief waste management officer of DSCC, said, "We are aware of all the vulnerable areas... Drains, box culverts, and sewerage lines are being

cleaned under a project." The project was launched during Taposh's tenure. No new projects have been taken up since the change in DSCC leadership in August last year.

Talukder said around 35 percent of the ongoing project has been completed, and they hope to finish the rest by November. DSCC has blamed the persistent waterlogging in New Market on the new structures built in Pikhana area, blocking drainage lines. Waterlogging on Green Road has been attributed to the construction of the elevated expressway,

which disrupted part of the Hatirjheel drainage system. Asked about the DSCC's initiatives, Talukder said, "It will require around Tk 250 crore to address waterlogging in New Market area alone. It's not possible to spend such a big amount immediately."

He further said DSCC is preparing a project proposal involving Tk 700-800 crore for inclusion in the Annual Development Programme. "We will submit the Development Project Proposal to the authorities concerned as early as possible."

"At this moment, it's not possible to implement

mean officials are granted new rank and increased salaries effective from past dates, regardless of whether they are in service. Retired officials receiving such promotions are awarded financial benefits from public funds without serving a single day in the promoted roles.

According to Finance Division data, the government is incurring an additional expenditure of Tk 42 crore to cover the benefits of 764 officers promoted retrospectively last December. They will also receive enhanced pensions for the rest of their lives.

"A political government may use such promotions as a tool to create sycophant bureaucrats.

But why is this government following that path? Such decisions weaken the administration," said a former official from the information cadre on the condition of anonymity.

"It's unbelievable how former cadre officials are being promoted. This interim government is outdoing even the past political regimes in terms of retrospective promotions," said an official from the Cabinet Division.

Echoing the official's opinion, a senior assistant secretary said, "The move to promote a large number of former officials is unjustifiable. Offering such benefits exclusively to cadre officials does not serve public interest. This kind of decision will only deepen

people's mistrust of cadre officials."

Former secretary and writer Abdul Awal Mazumder said that if the previous government had deprived competent and qualified officials, then it's obvious that many unqualified people were promoted.

"Has this government taken any steps to demote those unqualified individuals? If they are demoted and public money they received as benefits is recovered, only then retrospective promotions can be considered," he told The Daily Star.

"In the past, governments occasionally allowed retrospective promotions for one or two individuals. But the current government is

turning that exception into practice. This will stand as an extremely bad and controversial precedent for the future."

Responding to a query, Mazumder said the term "public interest" should not be cited in a government gazette to justify retrospective promotions, as such decisions have nothing to do with public interest.

Contacted, Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary at the public administration ministry, said, "During the past government's tenure, many deserving officials were deprived of promotions while unqualified ones were promoted. This government is considering retrospective promotions to address that injustice."

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JCD protests mob incitement by 'secret group'

STAR REPORT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a BNP-backed student body, demonstrated across the country yesterday, protesting the activities of a "long-operating underground group" and their attempt to incite mobs, disrupt academic environments, and worsen the law and order situation in educational institutions.

In Dhaka, as part of the central programme, thousands of JCD activists blocked the Shahbagh intersection, bringing traffic to a standstill.

Many commuters were forced to walk to their destinations.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said the roads were blocked around 4:45pm, and the blockade ended around 5:30pm.

Based on their previously announced schedule, JCD activists began gathering in the Nayapalton area in the afternoon. Later they marched towards Shahbagh via Jatiya Press Club, according to witnesses.

JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir alleged that a covert student organisation, which has long engaged in "covert operations", is trying to disrupt the academic atmosphere.

He said although several murders occurred in the past week, the "secretive organisation" remained silent on those but was trying to mislead general students over the Mitford incident.

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Hospital authorities have placed dengue awareness posters in a ward at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. The posters provide information about how dengue spreads and measures to curb the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes. As dengue cases continue to rise across the country, small measures such as these help inform people about how to manage the spread of the disease. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dengue cases cross 15,000 mark

2 more die, 330
hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 330 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, one is from Chattogram division while the other is from Dhaka North City Corporation, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the latest data, the total number of deaths rose to 58 while the number of cases reached 15,210.

Among the total cases, a total of 13,969 dengue patients were released, of whom 11,074 were from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,183 patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, 816 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

SOHAG MURDER

Fear grips traders in Old Dhaka

They issue 7-day ultimatum,
demand arrest of culprits

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Traders in Old Dhaka yesterday said they are living in constant fear following the brutal murder of a fellow businessman in the Mitford area.

They demanded effective action by law enforcers to ensure the security of traders and residents in the old part of the capital.

At a press conference held at the Moulvibazar Business Association office in Old Dhaka, the traders issued a seven-day ultimatum demanding the arrest of those involved in the recent murder in Chawkbazar.

They warned of protests if their demand is not met. "We are conducting our business in fear. The way Sohag was killed in broad daylight has shocked us all," said Jafor Ahmed, general secretary of the Chattogram Traders' Welfare Association in Dhaka.

"Our trust in the police is fading. We are demanding the immediate deployment of an army camp in the area," he said, adding, "If those involved in the murder are not arrested within seven days, we will be compelled to take to the streets." On July 9, Sohag was dragged out of his shop and beaten to death near the gate of Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital.

His body was crushed with large chunks of concrete. Later, his battered and broken body was left on the street as onlookers watched in horror.

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Over 74,000 cases pending in family courts

Chief justice says reforms in place to make
legal system more efficient, citizen-focused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite over 74,000 pending cases in family courts across the country, the judiciary is witnessing a decisive shift towards efficiency and citizen-centric service, said Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed yesterday.

As of March 31, 2025, there were 74,259 pending cases in family courts, with 5,034 of these pending for over five years -- a "sobering figure", he acknowledged.

The system delivered 10,089 case disposals in the first quarter of 2025 alone, said the chief justice.

"This is not coincidence; it is consequence. It is the result of judges taking initiative, bar leaders acting responsibly, and our institutional focus shifting from process to people," he said.

He made the remarks while addressing the National Workshop on "Addressing the Procedural Bottlenecks in Family Courts for Timely Justice", organised by

BRAC's Social Empowerment and Legal Protection (SELP) Programme at the BRAC Centre Auditorium in Dhaka.

The chief justice said Bangladesh's legal landscape is undergoing a profound transformation.



"Recent legal and procedural reforms aim not just to modernise the justice system, but to make it more efficient, accountable, and focused on serving citizens," he said.

He pointed to the amendment of the Legal Aid Act, which now requires mandatory mediation

before filing a case.

This, he said, marks a major shift from traditional litigation to resolving disputes through mutual agreement, helping settle cases earlier and reducing pressure on the courts.

Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code have reduced procedural stages, integrated execution proceedings within the original case framework, and imposed stricter limits on adjournments to address longstanding delays, he added.

He further emphasised the need for administrative autonomy, stating, "No justice system can manage timeliness, workloads, or personnel without autonomy over its own administrative structure."

Structural independence, he added, is essential for sustaining reforms within the judiciary and across broader governance systems.

Highlighting digital innovations,

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Govt to list the women activists of July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will prepare a list of women activists who took part in the July mass uprising, Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen Murshid said yesterday.

She was addressing a press conference on various programmes marking the July mass uprising renaissance events at Gono Bhaban, the former official residence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, now being converted into the "July Revolution Memorial Museum".

Sharmeen said many women activists were not coming forward, and some were feeling depressed due to cyber bullying and other reasons.

The ministry will also preserve and showcase the bravery of these women and provide necessary counselling to those who are feeling depressed, she added.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki said they had organised a film screening, performance of July songs, and a drone show to highlight the role of women in the uprising.

He said the museum at Gono Bhaban will be inaugurated on August 5, although it will be opened to visitors at a later date.

The adviser said a visitor to the museum should be able to understand why the July Revolution happened, the misrule of the Awami League, and the memories of the uprising.

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Prothom Alo celebrates INMA awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its recent international recognition, Bangla daily Prothom Alo hosted a reception on Sunday for its readers, supporters, and well-wishers.

The event, held at a Dhaka hotel, was attended by members of civil society, cultural figures, and government advisers.

Earlier this year, Prothom Alo received three prestigious awards from the International News Media Association (INMA), the world's largest media organisation.

These honours recognised the newspaper's bold and innovative journalism, particularly during the July uprising in Bangladesh.

Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif opened the event by welcoming guests and reflecting on the newspaper's journey.

A short documentary highlighting INMA's role and Prothom Alo's recent initiatives was also screened.

At the celebratory event, the newspaper's Editor Matiur Rahman shared personal reflections on the achievement. He also

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From left, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, lawyer Manzur Al Matin, actor Afzal Hossain, NOAB President AK Azad, Professor Parveen Hasan, ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, Pubali Bank Managing Director Mohammad Ali, ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir, and Apex Footwear Managing Director Syed Nasim Manzur at a reception hosted by Prothom Alo at a Dhaka hotel. Prothom Alo organised the celebratory event on Sunday as it received awards from International News Media Association (INMA) recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Trial of Tarique, Zubaida was not held impartially

HC observes in full text of
verdict in graft case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court in the full text of a verdict has observed that the trial of a corruption case, in which BNP acting chairman



Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman were convicted and sentenced to different jail terms in 2023, was not held impartially.

"It appears from the records that the testimonies of witnesses were recorded within two months and four days, and the judgment was pronounced immediately after eight days of the completion of recording depositions. The progress and conclusion of the trial at such a high speed created a widespread belief that it was not held impartially," said the HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman in the 52-page full judgment released yesterday.

Earlier on May 28 this year, the bench acquitted Tarique and Zubaida in the corruption case and scrapped the trial court verdict that handed down nine years' imprisonment to Tarique and three years to Zubaida.

The HC delivered the verdict following an appeal filed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Jahanara Rahman passes away

CITY DESK
Jahanara Rahman, wife of the late Dr Mujibar Rahman, passed away yesterday morning at her residence in Gulshan.



She was 103. She had been suffering from age-related illnesses.

A noted social worker, Jahanara was actively involved with various social and women's organisations.

She was also the mother-in-law of the late Dr Akbar Ali Khan.

She is survived by her son, Dr Ehsanur Rahman, and her grandchildren. Her daughter, Hamim Rahman, passed away several years ago.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Gulshan Azad Mosque after Jhr prayers today. She will be laid to rest at Azimpur Graveyard.



Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid and Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter lead a rickshaw rally through the Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday. The rally is part of a programme honouring the July martyrs, organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SHISHU HOSPITAL Probe into recruitment of 65 doctors launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has launched an investigation into the recruitment of 65 doctors at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, allegedly made without publishing any official circular.

"Like you, we also came to know about it. We have already sought an explanation from the hospital authorities, and they have responded. Now, we are investigating the matter," Health Adviser

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

'Resist extortionists'

Law adviser urges all; first July Memorial unveiled in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday called on all to stand up against extortionists, stating that the administration would support such efforts.

He made the remarks while inaugurating the country's first July Memorial in Narayanganj, commemorating those killed and injured in last year's student movement.

"Various forms of lawlessness, chaos, brutal killings, and extortion continue at the local level. During July, you united to defeat a powerful fascist force. If you remain united, you can resist extortionists. The government will play its part, and the administration will assist you," he said.

He also assured that there

would be no shortcomings in the trial of the mass killings during the uprising.

Nazrul said investigations into other cases linked to the movement, outside the purview of the International Crimes Tribunal, were also being expedited.



The adviser also instructed local authorities to ensure the safety of complainants in July-related cases.

Environmental Adviser Syeda

Rizwana Hasan said 56 people were martyred in Narayanganj during the movement. "They did not die in vain. Their sacrifice was for a clear purpose. Together, we will build a just and beautiful Bangladesh," she said.

Housing and Public Works Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan announced plans to convert the Gono Bhaban into an anti-fascist museum.

"We hope to inaugurate it on August 5. It will serve as a preserved site showing how fascism oppressed people..." he said.

Education Adviser CR Abrar and Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan were also present at the event.

The July Memorial has been installed on railway land in Hajiganj area of Narayanganj.

CLIMATE REFUGEE Rehabilitation list for 4,409 in Cox's Bazar cancelled

BSS, Dhaka

A list of 4,409 people selected for rehabilitation under the Cox's Bazar Climate Refugee Rehabilitation Project (Khurushkul) has been cancelled.

A notification signed yesterday by Mohammad Mohibul Hasan, director at the chief adviser's office, said the list was cancelled as it was "flawed, questionable, and biased".

The list was originally prepared in 2011 under the "Beneficiary Selection, Government Flat Handover and Maintenance Policy for Multi-Storey Buildings Constructed in Cox's Bazar Climate Refugee Rehabilitation Project".

Another held over murder of Khulna Jubo Dal leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police have arrested another suspect in connection with the recent murder of Mahbub Molla, former vice president of Jubo Dal's Daulatpur unit in Khulna.

The suspect, Alauddin, 22, of Paschim Maheshwarpasha, was arrested early yesterday from the same area.

Earlier, on Saturday night, police arrested Md Sajal, who is now on a two-day remand at Daulatpur Police Station. With Alauddin's arrest, the number of suspects in custody has risen to two.

Daulatpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mir Atahar Ali said Alauddin was arrested based on a statement given by Sajal. Both were reportedly present at the scene and passed information to the attackers.

A senior police official, speaking anonymously, said they are investigating several angles, including political rivalries, extortion, drug trafficking, and extremist links.

Mahbub, a resident of Paschim Maheshwarpasha, was attacked on Friday by three men on a motorcycle. He was shot by gunmen while cleaning his car in front of his house.

The attackers then slit the tendons in both his legs before fleeing.

Take steps to confiscate foreign assets of Benazir

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the ACC to take steps for freezing and confiscating foreign assets owned by former IGP Benazir Ahmed.

The order was given in relation to a case filed over the accumulation of assets worth Tk 9.44 crore beyond his known income and concealed assets worth Tk 2.62 crore.

The assets include two bank accounts, one residential apartment and one commercial apartment in USA and two bank accounts in Malaysia.

2 killed in Jashore road crash



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two people were killed in a road accident in Jashore's Monirampur upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Raju Ahmed, 47, a truck driver, and his assistant Erfan Ali, 33.

According to police, the accident occurred around 9:30am near a gas station.

A fish-laden truck heading towards Satkhira from Jashore lost control and hit a stationary truck from behind. The impact of the collision left both the driver and his assistant dead on the spot, said OC Babulur Rahman Khan of Monirampur Police Station. A case was filed.

Govt to list the women Trial of Tarique

FROM PAGE 3
A legal framework will be established to operate the museum, he noted.

According to sources, the museum will feature photographs of the July movement, various memorabilia, items and clothing of martyrs, letters, important documents, newspaper clippings from that time, and audio-visual materials.

Additionally, a special

section will depict the scene of Hasina fleeing.

Asked about the total expenditure of the programmes marking one year of the July uprising, Farooki said it will be disclosed later as different ministries are organising various events.

"But I want to say that all ministries are spending money from their own budget. No additional money was allocated for the programme," he said.

FROM PAGE 3
by Zubaida, who challenged the trial court judgment upon her return to Bangladesh on May 6 from London after 17 years.

In the full text, the HC observed that the charge framed against the convict appellant, Zubaida, was seriously defective.

The judge said, "This judgment also applies to co-convict Mr Tarique Rahman, who did not prefer any appeal. He is also acquitted of the charges levelled against him. The trial court is directed to release the confiscated property valued at Tk 2,74,93,087.00 to Mr Tarique Rahman at once.

The appellant is relieved of her bail bond. Recall the committal warrant issued against Mr Tarique Rahman at once."

The Anti Corruption Commission filed the case with Kafilur Police Station against the couple and Zubaida's mother, Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu, on September 26, 2007, on charges of amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through "illegal" means and concealing information of Tk 2.16 crore in their wealth statements.

A Dhaka court sentenced Tarique to nine years and Zubaida to three years on August 2, 2023.

Fear grips traders

FROM PAGE 3
Syed Md Bashir Uddin, president of the Moulvibazar Business Association,

said traders in Old Dhaka contribute significantly to national revenue, but their safety is not ensured. "The administration is failing to protect us," he said.

"We must now ensure

our own protection. We urge the authorities to allow each shop to keep sticks for self-defence. Otherwise, just like Sohag, anyone could be killed next," he said.

He also called on traders to unite and form resistance against extortionists.

The traders' other demands include a proper investigation into Sohag's murder, action against juvenile gangs, and the elimination of extortion, drugs, and crime from Old Dhaka's commercial areas.

They said they had hoped for a safer, more disciplined business environment following the July uprising. But instead, extortion, drug abuse, and violence have been on the rise again, they added.

They called on the government to take urgent steps to restore law and order and create a secure, business friendly environment in Old Dhaka.



Demand for jackfruit has recently surged in Khulna. Depending on size, a jackfruit is selling for anywhere between Tk 100 and Tk 500. The photo was taken yesterday at Power House intersection in Khulna Sadar.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Three to die for killing man in Sitakunda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced three people to death in connection with the 2021 murder of a man in Chattogram's Sitakunda.

The convicts are Rima Akter, Shahadat Hossain, and Abdul Kaum.

Rima is the wife of the victim, Zainal Abedin.

HM Shafiqul Islam, judge of the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court of Chattogram, delivered the verdict after examining

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

রেজিস্ট্রার
গোপালগঞ্জ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
স্বাক্ষরক-স্বাক্ষর/স্বাক্ষর/২০২৫/২৬-২৮/১২১৫ তারিখ ১১/০৭/২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
গোপালগঞ্জ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, এন্ট্রান্সোলজি, এন্ট্রান্সোলজি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ইন্ডিয়ান ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ফুড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, অর্গানিক কেমিস্ট্রি, পলিমার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, পলিমার বিজ্ঞান, পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ও ম্যুজিয়াম স্টাডিজ, ফার্মেসী, ম্যাক্রোবায়োলজি এন্ড মলিকুলার বায়োলজি, মনোবিজ্ঞান, উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞান, ম্যাক্রোটিক্স, ট্রান্সক্রিপশন এন্ড হেপটোসিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট, অর্থনীতি, আঞ্চলিক সম্পর্ক, ইতিহাস, দ্বি-পার্শ্বিক এন্ড সেরিন ম্যানেজমেন্ট এন্ড এনালিসিস সায়েন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগসমূহে সহকারী অধ্যাপক ও প্রজ্ঞাপন পূর্বে শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

অবেদন ফর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও নিয়োগের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট www.gpu.edu.bd থেকে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
অবেদনকার পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ১০০x১০০mm-এর নিকট ০৩.০০ টা।

রেজিস্ট্রার
(মো: এনামউজজামান)
গোপালগঞ্জ, গোপালগঞ্জ

GD-1578

BMRC
Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)
BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Research Grants for Post Graduate Medical Students
FY: 2025-2026

Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) invites application for research grants (thesis/dissertation) from post graduate medical students. Eligible candidates are requested to submit their protocol according to PP-03 through proper channel (letter of supervisor/guide and approval letter from local IRB) with relevant documents. Four (04) copies of the Protocol (with Questionnaire & Consent Form) along with a soft copy (word documents) to be submitted with application mentioning the undersigned from 15th July to 19th August, 12:00 Noon, 2025. (except holidays).

Director, BMRC
Tel: +88 02 222298396 | Fax: +88 02 222263820
Email: info@bmrcbd.org | Web: www.bmrcbd.org

GD-1577

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

TENDER NOTICE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD - UNHCR RFP 1461	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF A SOLAR-GRID POWERED PUMPING SYSTEM AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN TEKNAF, COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/271811>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
Please confirm your participation for BGD - UNHCR RFP 1461 by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

It is very important to subscribe to an ongoing negotiation that you wish to participate in as this is the only way to receive automatic email notifications with information on any changes related to this negotiation.

Instruction to Bidders:
UNHCR will organize a **site visit** to Teknaf Shalbagan Water Treatment Plant on 21 July 2025 at 10:00 AM hrs BST. Participation in the site visit is **mandatory** given the complexity of the requirements.
UNHCR will organize an online supplier **pre-bid conference** on **22/07/2025 at 10:00 am hrs BST** via Microsoft teams. Bidders may also join the meeting through the following link:
Join Meeting Now - BGD-UNHCR RFP 1461

To register as a prospective supplier and submission of bids, please follow the guideline: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to login with your email address and password. Do not create a new profile if you are already registered. If you have forgotten your password, click on Forgot Password link to reset your password.

Bid submission deadline: Tuesday, 19 August 2025 - 23:59 hrs BST Bangladesh time.

Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer to be submitted only through Cloud ERP portal.

Scan above QR Code to join

Pakistan to create new paramilitary force

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan said yesterday it was creating a national paramilitary force, prompting concern among opposition parties and human rights groups that it could be used as a tool of political repression.

The move turns an existing paramilitary force deployed on Pakistan's northwestern border with Afghanistan into a national security force that will be called the Federal Constabulary, State Minister for the Interior Talal Chaudhry told a press conference in the eastern city of Faisalabad.

Its new duties will include internal security, riot control and counter-terrorism, according to a copy of the amended law reported by Dunya News TV. The announcement came after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party said it would stage nationwide protests starting on August 5.



French President Emmanuel Macron, Chief of the Defence Staff General Thierry Bukhard, and Military Governor of Paris Loic Mizon review troops from a command car during the annual Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Élysées Avenue in Paris yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

SECTARIAN CLASH Over 89 killed in Syria's Druze city of Sweida

REUTERS, Amman

More than 89 people were killed and dozens injured in armed clashes in Syria's predominantly Druze city of Sweida, the Syrian interior ministry said early yesterday, in the latest bout of sectarian clashes.

The violence erupted after a wave of kidnappings, including the abduction of a Druze merchant on Friday on the highway linking Damascus to Sweida, witnesses said.

This is the first time sectarian fighting has erupted inside the city of Sweida itself, the provincial capital of the mostly Druze province.

Last April saw clashes between Sunni fighters and armed Druze residents of Jaramana, southeast of Damascus, which later spread to another district near the provincial capital.

"This cycle of violence has exploded in a terrifying way and if it doesn't end we are heading toward a bloodbath," said Rayan Marouf, a Druze researcher based in Sweida. The clashes involving Bedouin tribal fighters and Druze militias were centered in Maqwas neighborhood east of Sweida.

Israeli warplanes strike Gaza over 100 times

23 Palestinians killed; criticism grows of Israeli plans for camps in Rafah

AGENCIES

The Israeli army said yesterday its warplanes attacked Gaza more than 100 times in the past 24 hours, claiming "terrorist organisations" are the targets, Al Jazeera reports.

The attacks left 23 Palestinians dead since dawn, medical sources said. Israeli army added that ground advances are also continuing across the besieged enclave, especially in the north.

It also said fighting is ongoing in the mostly destroyed Shujayea and Zeitoun neighbourhoods of Gaza City and in Beit Hanoon and Jabalia in the North Gaza governorate.

Criticisms of Israel's plan to set up an internment camp in Gaza are growing, with Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid saying it would amount to a "concentration camp" if Palestinians there are not allowed to leave.

"It is a concentration camp. I am sorry," former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert told the Guardian newspaper.

"If they [Palestinians] will

be deported into the new 'humanitarian city', then you can say that this is part of an ethnic cleansing. It hasn't yet happened," Olmert said.

"When they build a camp where they [plan to] 'clean' more than half of Gaza, then the inevitable understanding of the strategy of this [is that] it is not to save [Palestinians]. It is to deport

malnutrition in the Strip on Sunday.

"Only 150,000 litres of fuel have been allowed in over the past few days - an amount that covers less than one day's needs," the head of the Palestinian NGOs Network in Gaza, Amjad Shawa, told AFP on Sunday.

"We require 275,000 litres of fuel per day to meet basic needs."

Meanwhile, US President Donald



Eight UN agencies warn Gaza operations may halt due to fuel shortage

Trump says he hopes for ceasefire deal within a week

Death toll in Gaza rises to 58,026

them, to push them and to throw them away. There is no other understanding that I have at least," he added.

Eight United Nations agencies in Gaza said they may have to stop their operations in Gaza entirely "without adequate fuel" as UNRWA said another infant has died of

Trump said Sunday evening that he hoped talks for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas will be "straightened out" this week.

The US is backing a 60-day ceasefire with a phased release of hostages, Israeli troop withdrawals from parts of Gaza and talks to end the conflict.

'Inexcusable' lapses cited in Trump shooting

Says probe report

AFP, Washington

A congressional inquiry into the attempt to assassinate US President Donald Trump at a campaign rally a year ago on Sunday lamented "inexcusable" failures in the Secret Service's operations and response, and called for more serious disciplinary action.

On July 13, 2024, a gunman shot the then-Republican presidential candidate during a campaign rally in Butler, grazing his ear.

One bystander was killed and two other people in addition to Trump were wounded before a sniper killed the gunman.

Iran to respond to reimposition of UN sanctions

Says ministry spokesperson on its nuclear programme

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran will react to any reimposition of United Nations sanctions over its nuclear programme, the country's foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday, without elaborating on what actions Tehran might take.

A French diplomatic source told Reuters last week that European powers would have to restore UN sanctions on Iran under the so-called "snapback mechanism" if there were no nuclear deal that guaranteed European security interests.

The "snapback mechanism" is a process that would reimpose UN sanctions on Iran under a 2015 nuclear deal that lifted the measures in return for restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme.

"The threat to use the snapback mechanism lacks legal and political basis and will be met with an appropriate and proportionate response from the Islamic Republic of Iran," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei told a press conference, without giving further details.

The 2015 deal with Britain, Germany, France, the US, Russia and China - known as JCPOA - states that if the parties cannot resolve accusations of "significant non-performance" by Iran, the "snapback mechanism" process can be triggered by the 15-member UN Security Council.

China, India should work towards 'win-win' co-operation

Says Chinese FM Wang Yi

AFP, Beijing



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday that Beijing and New Delhi should work towards mutual trust and "win-win" cooperation, after talks with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, state news agency Xinhua reported.

China and India should "adhere to the direction of good-neighborliness and friendship" and "find a way for mutual respect and trust, peaceful coexistence, common development and win-win cooperation", Wang said, according to Xinhua.

The two foreign ministers met in Beijing yesterday as the two rivals seek to repair ties following a 2020 clash on their border.

The world's two most populous nations are intense rivals competing for strategic influence across South Asia, and their 3,500 kilometre (2,200-mile) frontier has been a perennial source of tension.

The 2020 clash between their troops led to a four-year military standoff they agreed in October on patrols in disputed areas.

Office of the Director
Noakhali Science & Technology University
Noakhali-3814
e-Tender Notice: W/2024-25

Memo No- NSTU/PD/25/463 Re /5358 Date: 13-07-2025

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of Works	Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
Re-Tendered ID: 1126269 e-Tendered ID: 1131274 Published on: 14-Jul-2025 15:00	Repair and Maintenance work of the central Student Cafeteria at NSTU.	29-Jul-2025 11:00 29-Jul-2025 12:00

বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কার্য দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branch.

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

Director (Additional charge) (PD & W)
Noakhali Science & Technology University
E-mail: dpdw@office.nstu.edu.bd

GD-1579

Bangladesh Open University
Engineering & Estate Division
Gazipur-1705, Bangladesh
Website: www.bou.ac.bd

বাউবির দীক্ষা: সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত কর্মমুখী, গণমুখী ও জীবনব্যাপী শিক্ষা

Ref. No. BOU/E&E/28(432)/2025/181 Dated: 14/07/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders is invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by University Engineer, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705 for the procurement of work, which will be available at e-GP website from 16.07.2025, on 10.00am.

SI No.	Tender ID, Ref. No. & Package No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time date
1	Tender ID: 1131008 Ref. No. BOU/E&E/Fur./05/2025-2026. Package No. 05	Supply of Training Table & Chair for Training Room (2nd Floor, Guest House) at BOU Campus, Gazipur-1705.	Date: 30/07/2025 Time up to 14.00pm	Date: 31/07/2025 Time at 14.00pm

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents can be deposited online through any bank's branches as per tender notice.

Sd/-
Engr. Md. Shahriar Sahan
University Engineer
Bangladesh Open University
Phone: 02996691121

GD-1582


Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)
BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

RESEARCH GRANTS
FY: 2025-2026

Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) invites Research Projects on the following research areas: 1. Basic Medical Science 2. Epidemiology 3. Clinical and interventional studies 4. Infection prevention & Control (Including healthcare workers' protection) 5. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) 6. Women's Health 7. Child Health 8. Social & Behavioural Science 9. Primary Health Care 10. Health Education 11. Health System & Informatics 12. Environment & Climate Change (related to human health) 13. IT & Digital Health 14. Genetics & Molecular Biology (Those selected are instructed to conduct their activities in NCMRC under terms & conditions).

Duration of the Project will be six months. The guidelines and prescribed Project Proforma-01 (Master copy & Reviewer's copy) are available at BMRC website. One (01) master copy & Three (03) Reviewer's copies of the completed Project Protocol along with a soft copy (Word document) & data bank folder are to be submitted to the undersigned from 15th July to 17th August, 12:00 Noon, 2025. (except holidays)

N.B: If selected, Ethical approval for these projects must be obtained from National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) of BMRC by following existing rules & procedures.

Director, BMRC
Tel: +88 02 222298396 | Fax: +88 02 222263820
Email: info@bmrcbd.org | Web: www.bmrcbd.org

GD-1576

Holding fair polls

FROM PAGE 12

Dr Kamal's remarks came at a commemorative programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, in Dhaka, organised by Gonoforum in memory of its late president Mostafa Mohsin Montu, who passed away on June 15 at the age of 80.

Due to illness, Dr Kamal refrained from delivering the speech but attended and chaired the event. His written statement was read out by Gonoforum General Secretary Mizanur Rahman, who also moderated the programme.

Dr Kamal said the country is facing political instability, and the only way to overcome it is through political unity.

"The foundation of this unity lies in our national consciousness, shaped by the Language Movement of 1952, the Liberation War of 1971, the Constitution of 1972, and the mass uprising of 2024," he said.

Addressing the event, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir said his party has extended full support to the interim government's reform efforts.

"Unfortunately, a vested quarter is falsely accusing the BNP of not supporting reform," he said, warning

that a conspiracy is underway to delay the elections.

BNP Standing Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said the country is going through a "crucial time" and warned that any misstep now could have serious consequences. He said the interim government's 11-month tenure has created a valuable opportunity for the nation, but a vested quarter is trying to derail the process.

Khasru also warned that delaying the national election could push the country into deeper uncertainty, as no nation can function sustainably without an elected parliament and government.

Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the country needs to find a clear path forward through consensus to ensure a democratic transition and avoid future uncertainty.

Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said one of the main aspirations of the July uprising is to restore democracy and ensure a credible election.

Straighten out the NBFIs crisis

Reforms urgently needed to save both banking and non-banking institutions

That non-performing loans (NPLs) have become a headache not just for banks but also non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) should not surprise us. What's alarming, however, is the scale of trouble NBFIs find themselves in and how little attention they have received from the authorities, unlike the crisis-ridden banks. According to a report by this daily, as many as 20 NBFIs—out of a total of 35 currently registered to operate under the Bangladesh Bank—have been put on the “red list” for giving out loans more than three times larger than the value of collateral they hold. And now the majority of these loans have turned bad. This needs urgent intervention.

According to our report, as of December 2024, the NBFIs in question disbursed Tk 25,808 crore in loans against collateral worth Tk 6,899 crore—26.73 percent of the loan amount. To make matters worse, 83.16 percent of these loans—or Tk 21,462 crore—have now been classified as NPLs. As the central bank has discovered, many of the loans were approved without adhering to due diligence: no proper assessment of the loan-seekers' repayment ability, no independent verification of collateral information. These NBFIs are now drowning in a crippling liquidity crisis, unable to pay off their depositors.

This crisis has long been in the making, as irregularities and mismanagement have been ailing both banks and NBFIs for a long time, particularly during the tenure of the Awami League regime that all but decimated the financial sector. However, troubles in the banks have always overshadowed problems in the NBFIs, owing to the sheer scale of the crisis in the former. An NBFIs sector leader pointed out that they had been raising the issues debilitating the sector with the authorities over the last several years, yet no action was taken to prevent its slide. Even after the August 5, 2024 political changeover, the central bank undertook a number of reform initiatives to straighten out the banking sector, but no visible steps were taken to restore the NBFIs.

This imbalanced approach to resolving our financial crisis needs to change. While we appreciate the central bank's belated assessment of the NBFIs' current state and the measures taken so far to sort out the mess, a lot more needs to be done, and urgently. Reform initiatives must focus on the entire financial sector, which means troubles gripping the NBFIs must be given due attention. The Bangladesh Bank and the government must take their fair share of responsibility, too: they must not only employ stringent policies and strict regulatory oversight for the NBFIs to operate under, but also work with them to figure out a plan to recover the money they lost to bad loans so depositors can be paid back. Most importantly, actions must be taken to restore the confidence that people have lost in the NBFIs due to the persistent problems.

Contain dengue spread outside Dhaka

Experts have warned of a severe outbreak in all districts

The dengue situation seems to be taking a critical turn as we pass through the monsoon season. In the first 12 days of July, 14 people reportedly died from the disease, bringing the total number of deaths this year to 56. While Dhaka was the hardest hit in previous years, this year all 64 districts are reportedly at risk of a major outbreak. As of July 14, the total number of dengue cases in the country stands at 14,880. Of them, more than 11,000 patients are from outside Dhaka. As dengue spreads across the country, it will be even more difficult to contain transmission, ensure proper treatment, and prevent further loss of life.

Reportedly, the cases outside Dhaka are increasing rapidly. For example, in Cumilla's Daudkandi, 65 new cases of dengue were reported in 24 hours from July 13 to July 14. Between June 18 and July 14, blood samples of a total of 11,708 people were tested in the upazila, and out of these, 3,294 were diagnosed with dengue. The situation in Chattogram and Barishal is similarly worrying, with more and more people being diagnosed with the virus as days go by. The situation in other districts is also deteriorating fast.

At this point, the authorities need to make targeted interventions to avert a potential nationwide crisis. While immediate steps should include managing the hotspots, entomologists have suggested prioritising larviciding and elimination of breeding sources over widespread fogging, since fogging has largely proven ineffective. Along with this, community-level efforts are needed to eliminate breeding grounds at the household level. For that, the government must undertake large-scale awareness campaigns. Particular interventions are also needed for the flood-affected districts to prevent people from catching dengue, with a special focus on coastal regions, as people there often store rainwater in poorly covered containers that may create an ideal breeding ground for Aedes.

Furthermore, dengue should be declared a reportable disease. Currently, we do not know the real picture of the spread outside Dhaka, since not all hospitals and diagnostic centres submit reports of dengue cases to the respective district civil surgeon's office. Reporting should thus be made mandatory. Lastly, all hospitals and health complexes at the district and upazila levels must be properly equipped to provide essential care, so that critically ill patients do not have to be rushed to Dhaka at the last moment.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Mariner 4 sends Mars photos

On this day in 1965, Mariner 4, an uncrewed space probe launched by NASA in 1964, flew by Mars and returned close-up pictures of its surface. The pictures were proof that the planet's rumoured canals were actually illusions.

AGAINST LAW AND HUMANITY

Why India's push-ins must stop



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KALLOL MUSTAFA

Despite repeated protests by the Bangladesh government and human rights groups in both countries, India's controversial practice of forcibly pushing people into Bangladeshi territory—known as “push-in”—continues without legal or diplomatic justification. These push-ins involve a wide range of individuals, including alleged undocumented migrants who crossed over to India from Bangladesh years ago, Rohingya refugees registered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in India, and even Bangla-speaking Indian Muslims from various states.

A BBC investigation has highlighted that many Assamese Muslims, despite holding valid documents and living in India for generations, have been rounded up and pushed across the border into Bangladesh. Similarly, *The Hindu* reported incidents where Bangla-speaking workers from West Bengal, employed in cities like Mumbai, were forcibly deported into Bangladesh by India's Border Security Force (BSF). More than 200 Rohingya have so far been pushed into Bangladesh from India, including over 100 who were registered with the UNHCR in India.

If a citizen of one country illegally enters another country, they must be deported in accordance with bilateral agreements and international law. But the way India pushed these people into Bangladesh without following due process is completely illegal and against human rights and international norms.

This kind of push ins by India was last observed around 2002-2003, when the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was in power. For example, on February 2, 2003, *Prothom Alo* reported that around 200 Bangla-speaking individuals, including women and children, were forcibly sent across the Meherpur border at gunpoint by BSF personnel. Thousands more were reportedly gathered in areas such as Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri for similar operations.

Although such actions subsided for a period, they have now resumed. This resurgence appears to be politically calculated, rather than a response to irregular migration. Some argue that, on the one hand, it reflects the BJP's Hindutva agenda, which seeks to portray Muslims as outsiders and security threats. On the other hand, it seems to be a strategic pressure tactic directed at Bangladesh, especially after the fall of the Awami League regime, which was overly subservient to India, through a mass uprising.

Bangladesh has not retaliated or suspended India's access to transit routes and ports in response, nor has it

revoked trade or security cooperation. In contrast, India has recently withdrawn certain transit privileges unilaterally, restricted imports from Bangladesh through land ports and, most alarmingly, continued cross-border shootings that result in the



Media investigations revealed that the Indian authorities rounded up many Indian Muslims, holding valid documents and living in India for generations, and pushed them across the border into Bangladesh. PHOTO: REUTERS

deaths of Bangladeshi civilians by the Indian BSF.

Push-ins, therefore, could be seen as part of a broader pattern of pressuring diplomacy and unilateralism. If India were genuinely concerned about illegal migration, it would have opted for dialogue, verification, and repatriation under international law. Instead, individuals—often blindfolded, abused, and left without food—are being dumped across the border in an inhumane manner. This has nothing to do with border security; it is a deliberate effort to unsettle, embarrass, and pressure a sovereign neighbour.

Bangladesh and India have formal agreements to manage border issues cooperatively. These include the 1975 Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for border authorities of the two countries and the 2011 Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP). Through dialogue under these protocols, it is possible to

resolve all kinds of border problems, including human trafficking and undocumented migration. For example, the CBMP has designated responsible officers (nodal officers) from India's BSF and Bangladesh's BGB to resolve issues such as illegal infiltration and human trafficking. Their job is to take initiatives to resolve any disputes regarding border management peacefully through dialogue and, if necessary, to inform higher authorities. Unilateral actions like mass push ins, therefore, violate these standing agreements. They undermine trust and erode the institutional mechanisms that were built over decades to handle precisely

these sorts of situations. India's actions also constitute a clear breach of international law. Article 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) stipulates that no lawfully residing individual may be expelled from a country without due legal process. Article 12(4) of the same covenant asserts that no one can be arbitrarily denied the right to enter their own country.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has interpreted these provisions to extend protections not only to legal citizens but also to long term residents who may lack documentation. Both Bangladesh and India are parties to the ICCPR, and thus legally bound by its terms. So, India is directly violating this international agreement by pushing its Bangla-speaking citizens and long term residents into Bangladesh.

Furthermore, Article 22 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant

Workers and Members of Their Families clearly prohibits collective expulsions and requires that each case be individually assessed under due legal procedure.

Other international instruments that echo the same principle, include Article 4 of Protocol No 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights; Article 22(9) of the American Convention on Human Rights; Article 12(5) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; and Article 26(1) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

So, India is clearly violating numerous international laws, customs, and conventions by pushing

Bangla-speaking people, who have been living in that country for a long time, and Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh en masse.

India's approach to border management has long been hawkish, often violent. The extrajudicial killings of Bangladeshi civilians by BSF have drawn global condemnation. Now, with the added dimension of large-scale push-ins, India is escalating its disregard for bilateral and international norms.

The Bangladesh government must act with resolve. While diplomatic channels should remain open, the issue must also be internationalised. The UN and relevant international bodies should be engaged to mediate and document these violations. If Bangladesh, even under the leadership of the internationally recognised Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, fails to bring this issue to the global stage, it would be doing a disservice to both national sovereignty and human dignity.

The environmental cost of food delivery in Bangladesh



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MD. ZIAUL HOQUE

Over the last couple of years, cities in Bangladesh have seen a rapid growth in online food delivery services. From local catering houses to global fast food chains, everything is a matter of a tap away. However, the unchecked use of single-use plastic in food delivery is a matter of concern.

Multiple layers of plastic, including containers, cutlery, sauce sachets, and plastic bags, are used in packaging during the delivery of the meals. In Dhaka, thousands of orders for daily meals are a usual scenario. Food packed in plastic package contributes to worsening environmental degradation. According to Somoy TV, 30,000 tonnes of solid waste are generated on a daily basis in the

country, where 10 percent is single-use plastic.

The business model of food delivery platforms primarily relies on the use of plastic, particularly cheap plastic containers, to minimise costs. Few businesses have experimented with eco-friendly paper boxes or biodegradable packaging, which are associated with high production costs and limited suppliers. Moreover, the current business regulations in the country do not include special incentives for entrepreneurs who offer food in eco-friendly paper boxes or biodegradable packaging.

If we look at the global lesson, we see that India and Indonesia have already piloted the “Green Delivery”

business model for food delivery with biodegradable packaging. In contrast, Bangladesh has made very little progress in regulating single-use plastic in the digital food economy. The country declared a complete ban on using polybags in 2002. However, single-use plastic was not included in the ban. The legal vacuum encouraged the growth of the single-use plastic sector.

However, can biodegradable alternatives cover the demand? Some socially responsible businesspeople have started using biodegradable packaging made from jute, bagasse, and cornstarch. This initiative is considered an emerging market in Bangladesh, but scaling up is a challenge due to prices that are several times higher than traditional plastic packaging. There is also a lack of government subsidies, tax relief, and public-private partnerships.

The government, private sector, and consumers altogether need to put a coordinated effort to address this issue. The government can review the existing laws and regulations. It should also create accountability for

businesses by imposing mandatory reporting to the relevant departments. Incentives and lower taxation can promote biodegradable packaging in food delivery. Food delivery platforms should introduce themselves as socially responsible businesses by providing biodegradable packaging and educating other franchisees about sustainable practices. People's consumption habits need to be shifted towards green delivery. The Bangladesh Bank nowadays encourages start-up businesses targeting the young generations. They can provide incubation and investment support for affordable biodegradable packaging.

The food delivery in our cities reflects the digital food economy progress as well as the urban transformation. It is now high time to check the growth of the single-use plastic sector to avoid environmental degradation and promote public health. The path is not easy, but redefining sustainability is crucial, considering that it is an integral part of how we eat, deliver, and live.

Strategies we can employ in tariff talks with the US



Selim Jahan
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SELIM JAHAN

The United States has announced that as of August 1, 2025, it will impose an additional tariff of 35 percent on goods imported from Bangladesh. The US President Donald Trump has communicated this decision in a letter to the chief adviser of the interim government, Prof Muhammad Yunus. This happened while the Bangladesh-US tariff negotiations were still on. The letter hinted that if Bangladesh further opens up its markets to US goods and services by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, the US may reconsider some of the issues raised in the letter. The recently announced tariff rate of 35 percent is lower than the originally announced 37 percent. However, given that the existing average tariff for Bangladesh is already 15 percent, with a 35 percent increase, the effective tariff rate for Bangladesh will be 50 percent.

Such a high US tariff on products from Bangladesh will significantly impact the Bangladesh economy. The US is the single largest market for goods exported from Bangladesh. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, Bangladesh exported \$8.4 billion worth of goods to the US market, which represents 18 percent of the total Bangladeshi goods exports. About 2,377 manufacturing houses were associated with export to the US market. The US announcement of a tariff increase may put more than 800 exporting units under serious existential risk. It is feared that the announced tariff increase by the US may adversely impact Bangladesh's macroeconomy significantly.

In Bangladesh, more than 87 percent of the goods exports are RMG, and about 1,821 manufacturing units export these goods. It is a major source of foreign exchange earnings for the country. Bangladesh has been earning more than \$4 billion from RMG exports every year since 2000. The sector employs more than four million workers, 80 percent of whom are women. Therefore, with the announced



VISUAL: MAHIYA TABASSUM

tariff hikes, foreign exchange earnings from RMG exports may go down. It may also lead to job cuts in the RMG sector, as some of the production units will face closures. It goes without saying that the smaller factories will bear the brunt of the adverse impacts of the tariff hikes, and the female workers may be the worst victims of factory closure. The latter will have wider socio-economic and cultural dimensions.

about since last April. What could Bangladesh have done to lower the tariff rate to the level of that of Vietnam? Did we not understand the importance of the issue, or did we not have enough preparations to tackle it? Also, did we fail to foresee that such things could happen?

Different quarters have diverse views on these questions, from which five strands of thought can be synthesised. One, the government did not approach the problem

with the importance or with the level of consideration this multidimensional issue deserves. There was also a lack of strategic thinking. Many observed that government officials were engaged in the process in isolated manners, and coordinated efforts were absent. Two, the private sector was allegedly kept in the dark and was not included in the process of negotiations. Similarly, lobbyists, who often play a critical

additional benefits from the US. However, there is still time for further negotiations, and if that opportunity is used efficiently and effectively, some additional benefits may be realised in the context of the increased US tariffs. Some points are important in that respect.

First, Bangladesh must understand the US position. For example, we must realise that the new US administration will no longer accept the structure of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and respect the accepted rules and regulations of international trade. Therefore, to raise those issues in trade negotiations with the US is meaningless. Bangladesh must assess what the real outlook and motives of the US are and formulate its trade negotiations strategy accordingly.

Second, since the US has been talking about reducing its trade deficits, Bangladesh may explore which US products we can potentially import in higher quantities. The country has already put some proposals in that respect, which may be re-evaluated. The mutual negotiations must also focus on the potential tariff benefits that Bangladesh may get if it provides some trade benefits to the US. Lobbyists may be employed to move this agenda forward.

Third, we must realise that the US has started the tariff war with a political agenda. We must find out that, in the context of that agenda, what considerations and outlook the US holds for Bangladesh. Those issues must be brought to the discussion table, as politics plays a role along with trade benefits. Both Cambodia and Vietnam have used it to get tariff exemptions.

Fourth, in trade negotiations, the importance of alliances with other countries can hardly be overemphasised. Negotiations may be bilateral, but positions taken must be collective.

Finally, more Bangladeshis, who have expertise in international negotiations and are familiar with the processes of trade deals, should be brought to the negotiation table. Such discussions and negotiations have a particular verbal and body language. Familiarity with those and using them in the Bangladesh-US tariff and trade negotiations is essential. Efficient and effective use of these trade negotiation strategies is likely to help Bangladesh realise additional benefits in tariff talks with the US.

Sohag's murder was not an anomaly, it was a warning



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MD KAWSAR UDDIN

When Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian regime finally fell, millions across Bangladesh heaved a collective sigh of relief. The country had suffered years of political repression, corruption, and institutional decay. People hoped that with the dawn of the interim government, peace would return, justice would prevail, and power would shift back to the people. There was widespread anticipation that this change would bring not just a new administration but a new moral compass for the nation. Sadly, that optimism is beginning to feel increasingly more naïve.

The truth is difficult to ignore: the way the interim government is handling law and order raises serious concerns. Bit by bit, certain political groups seem to be asserting control, while individuals with political backing are terrorising ordinary people without fear of consequence. Given these developments, it's not unreasonable to say the government is

beginning to lose its grip, not because it lacks public support or opportunity, but because it appears either unable or unwilling to confront the deeply rooted alliance between crime and politics that has long corroded this country.

Instead of actively confronting the crimes committed by politically affiliated individuals, the government seems to be relying on some kind of moral awakening within party leaderships, as if things will somehow sort themselves out. But that's not how justice works. What we hoped would be a clean break from a violent, corrupt past is now starting to look like a quiet handover from one set of enforcers to another.

Nothing illustrates this breakdown more horrifically than the recent lynching near Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka. A businessman named Sohag was murdered in broad daylight, his head

and body crushed with bricks and chunks of concrete. His bloodied, lifeless body was dragged and stomped on in front of hundreds of silent onlookers. Not one person intervened. Not a single voice protested. The cruelty was not committed in a dark alley or behind closed doors. It was an open performance of power, a terrifying declaration that: "we are above the law."

And why did no one resist? Because people knew, those eight or 10 killers were not alone. They had powerful backers, politically connected patrons who would shield them from consequences. The citizens were not silent because they lacked morality; they were silent because they lacked protection. In a country where criminals enjoy political sponsorship, to protest is to risk your life.

This is not a new story. What usually follows when a politically affiliated person commits a heinous crime and the public outcry becomes too loud to ignore is that the party in question swiftly distances itself. A press note is issued. A statement is read aloud condemning the act and disowning the perpetrator. The party claims it had no idea, and the person acted independently. But let us ask: is it really possible that such criminals, capable of instilling fear across neighbourhoods, committed their first crime "after" joining the party? Or is it more likely that they were already known thugs, embraced by political circles precisely because of their capacity for

intimidation and extortion?

The political ecosystem in Bangladesh has, for too long, depended on these enforcers, fundraisers, and vote-riggers. Parties need muscles to dominate local areas, silence dissent, and keep money flowing. As long as these criminals serve a purpose, they are protected. When they become liabilities, they are thrown under the bus, not for justice, but for damage control.

The interim government had a once-in-a-generation chance to break this cycle. With overwhelming public support, they could have launched a full-scale cleansing of the political-criminal nexus. They had the mandate. They had the moral high ground. They had the people, the police, the army, and the intelligence agencies. Instead, they chose half measures. Did the power vacuum left by the previous regime fill with backroom deals and political compromises instead of justice?

And this raises urgent concerns for the future.

If the interim government cannot stop extortion and mob violence today, how will it ensure free and fair elections tomorrow? What guarantee do we have that the upcoming polls will not be hijacked by the same muscle power we just witnessed near Mitford? How can qualified, honest leaders contest elections if the streets remain ruled by terror?

This is not just about political power, it's

about our survival as a democratic society. If violence becomes the language of political competition, then integrity becomes obsolete, and the ballot becomes meaningless.

We, the people, are watching. We did not rise merely to replace one set of oppressors with another. We rose to reclaim the soul of this country. But that soul is bleeding on the streets of Dhaka.

The gruesome killing of Sohag is not an isolated incident; it is a mirror. A reflection of what we have allowed to grow in our neighbourhoods, in our parties, and our institutions. It is also a warning. If we do not act now, if we do not demand accountability, we will all remain hostages to a system that thrives on fear.

So let us be clear. There is no place in Bangladesh for political parties that harbour criminals. There is no room for law enforcement agencies that look away. And there is no excuse for a government, interim or elected, that fails to act.

This is not about left or right, old or new. This is about civilisation versus chaos. We must stand together to dismantle the machinery of political violence, no matter who benefits from it. We must uproot not just the thugs on the streets but also those in suits who give them orders from the shadows.

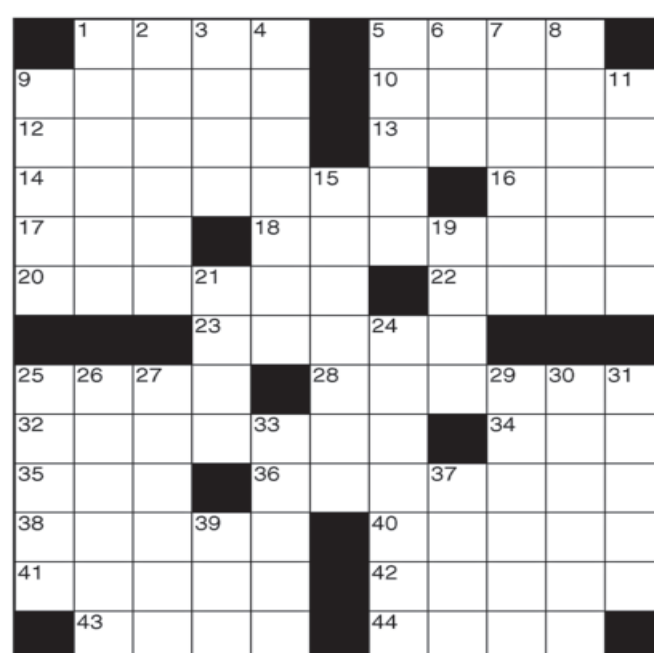
Sohag is gone. Tomorrow, it could be you. Or me. Let this be the revolution we finish, not the one we abandon.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Green stone
5 Calls on
9 Tinseltown setting
10 Fabric bundles
12 Cover words
13 Admit (to)
14 West Indies island
16 Wedding words
17 Original
18 Composer Salieri
20 Inundates
22 Day divider
23 Moral code
25 Fencing weapon
28 "Hold on ..."
32 Stag's pride
34 Mess up

- 35 School setting
36 Insect feature
38 Mah-jongg pieces
40 John of Plymouth
41 Pizzeria buy
42 Racket
43 Falls back
44 Color
- DOWN**
1 Door frame maker
2 Play part
3 Famed surrealist
4 Swanky
5 Wolf pack member
6 Scatter seeds
7 Weather-changing current

- 8 Painter's place
9 Flea market unit
11 Tea stirrer
15 Like the strong Samson
19 Formerly
21 Healthy
24 Blink of an eye
25 Extreme diets
26 "The Iceman Cometh" playwright
27 Roma's land
29 Remit
30 Composer Bloch
31 Origami bird
33 Lets up
37 "The Time Machine" tribe
39 Heart chart, for short



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



AAMIR KHAN returns to playback singing after 27 years

Aamir Khan is returning to playback singing after 27 years, since his iconic *Aati Kya Khandala* from *Ghulam* (1998). In his upcoming untitled comedy film, Aamir will sing two songs, having undergone formal vocal training under Sucheta Bhattacharjee.

The film's music is composed by Ram Sampath. Although Aamir plays only a cameo, he emphasised the role's significance and described the film as a lighthearted, feel-good comedy inspired by Basu Chatterjee and Hrishikesh Mukherjee.

Reflecting on his musical journey, Aamir fondly remembered Lata Mangeshkar, saying her songs still start his day. While the film's title and release date remain undisclosed, Aamir's return to singing brings a nostalgic charm to this much-anticipated Bollywood project.



I was excited to work with Mahde: MOSTAFA MONWAR

SHARMIN JOYA

Mahde Hasan's debut feature *Balur Nagorite*, internationally titled *Sand City*, has won the prestigious Proxima Grand Prix at the 59th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival—marking another proud achievement for the country. The film stars Mostafa Monwar and Victoria Chakma in lead roles, with Monwar portraying the character of Hasan. Speaking to The Daily Star from the festival, the actor shared his reactions, insights into the filmmaking process, and behind-the-scenes stories.

Let's start with your first reaction — what drew you to the script of 'Sand City'?

Back in 2018, while I was working on Rubaiyat Hossain's film *Shimu*, I first met Mahde Hasan on set. During our conversations, he mentioned that he was planning to make a film. He shared the idea with me—a story built around two parallel characters whose journeys, though separate, mirror each other in a deeply metaphorical way. *Sand*, he said, would serve as a powerful narrative element, subtly binding their worlds together.

Mahde's storytelling was riveting, and I couldn't say no. I was immediately drawn to the story, particularly the character of Hasan, who works in a glass factory. At first glance, he appears peculiar and unconventional, but beneath that odd exterior lies a deeply



complex individual, shaped by darkness and inner turmoil. What fascinated me even more was Hasan's childlike side—a vulnerability that surfaces when he's under extreme mental pressure. It's a rare and layered role, and portraying such a character is both challenging and incredibly rewarding for an actor.

'Sand City' won big at Karlovy Vary. How does it feel to have a Bangladeshi film recognised on such a global scale?

This festival is not commercial; it caters to passionate cinephiles, especially those who appreciate independent films. As one of the oldest film festivals in the world, established just after World War II, it holds a special place in the central

and eastern European region. It's a proud moment that Bangladeshi films, after receiving acclaim at Cannes and many other prestigious festivals, are now reaching new regions and connecting with fresh audiences.

How did it feel to receive the highest-ranked prize at the festival?

There's actually a funny story behind this. I asked Mahde if we were going to win any prize, and he said no—if there was, the festival team would have given us a hint. We arrived on July 6 and stayed in Karlovy Vary until July 10 before heading to Prague. Mahde planned to visit London afterward, and I was set to go to Switzerland. We were simply happy that our film had been selected and figured the festival was over, so we carried on with our plans. While visiting Friedhof Praha (Franz Kafka's grave), we suddenly got a call from the festival asking us to return immediately. By then, Victoria and our sound engineer had already gone back to Bangladesh. The festival covered all the travel expenses and arranged a car for us. At the award ceremony, we were stunned to learn we had won the top prize. It's a moment we'll never forget.

When are you returning, and what's next audience can look forward to?

I'll be returning on July 17. Meanwhile, my film *Saba* is set for release, and I'm currently in discussions for several new projects, including one in India.



Oni Hasan returns with all-star concert and masterclass

Celebrated guitarist Oni Hasan is set to return to the Dhaka stage with a special solo concert titled *Let's Vibe with Oni Hasan ft All Stars* on July 18 at Aloki Convention Centre.

Organised by Dhaka Broadcast, the event will run from 3pm to 10pm and include performances by leading figures in the local rock scene, such as Mizan Rahman (former Warfaze), Jamshed Chowdhury (Powersurge), and AvoidRafa. A guitar masterclass led by Oni will be held earlier in the day, featuring guest instructors Zubair Hasan (Indalo) and Tawakir Tajammul. Known for his work with Vibe and Warfaze, the singer now lives in China and is preparing for a US tour this autumn.



Charlize Theron slams Hollywood's bias against female-led action films

Charlize Theron has called out Hollywood's persistent bias against female-led action films, criticising studios for treating such projects as financial risks.

In an interview with The New York Times, the Oscar winner, currently promoting her Netflix sequel *The Old Guard 2* with Uma Thurman, said studios are far less likely to green-light action films with women at the centre.

She also pointed to double standards, noting that male actors often get repeated chances despite box office failures, while women rarely get a second opportunity.


Both Theron and Thurman are acclaimed for their action roles, with *Mad Max: Fury Road* and *Kill Bill* cementing their places in the genre despite ongoing industry challenges.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Exhibition: 'Ten Shades'

Ten Shades brings together ten Bangladeshi artists in a powerful exhibition exploring identity, memory, and heritage. Through abstraction, calligraphy, and folklore, the works reflect diverse personal narratives and contemporary expression. The exhibition offers a compelling journey through layered visuals and cultural introspection, inviting viewers to engage deeply with each story.

DATE: FRIDAY-MONDAY | JULY 11-21, 2025
TIME: 3-9PM
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA, DHANMONDI



NEWS

BNP now a protector FROM PAGE 2

He further criticised the BNP, saying, "Previously one party was involved in corruption and extortion, and now another party continues the same practices. We fought against fascism, and we won't let it re-emerge in any form."

Nahid further declared, "We will force the government to accept the 'July Charter' by August 3."

Among others, Chief Organiser (South) Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Organiser (North) Sarjis Alam, Joint Secretary Momtaz Sarwar Niva, Joint Convener Mujahidul Islam Shaheen, joint member secretaries Zahurul Islam Musa, Mushfiqur Rahman Johan, and Tamim Ahmed, and Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara and Senior Joint Convener Samanta Shermeen were present.

Earlier in the day, central and local NCP leaders joined a procession that began near the Circuit House and marched through key streets of the town before ending at the rally venue.

Woman, 2 children found murdered FROM PAGE 12

against unnamed persons with Bhaluka Police Station in the evening.

Kazi Akhtar Ul Alam, superintendent of police in Mymensingh, who visited the scene after the incident, said Rafiqul Islam was taken into custody for questioning.

Quoting Rafiqul, the SP said Nazrul was an accused in a murder case filed in Gazipur and had spent more than two years in jail. "Rafiqul had borrowed Tk 40,000 on interest to secure Nazrul's release on bail two and a half months ago."

OC Humayun said the bodies were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy. "We've launched an investigation and are looking into several possible motives. The autopsy report will help us determine more details."

He added that police are conducting drives to arrest Nazrul, who is currently the prime suspect.

No arrests were made till the filing of this report at 7:00pm.

Charges framed against ex-DMP chief FROM PAGE 12

The four produced before the tribunal are former inspector of Shahbagh Police Station Arshad Hossain; and constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam.

Shahriar Khan Anas, Sheikh Mahdi Hasan Junayed, Mohammad Yakub, Rakib Hawlader, Ismamul Haque, and Manik Mia were killed as police allegedly opened fire with lethal weapons on unarmed protesters in the capital's Chankharpool on August 5, 2024, when tens of thousands of protesters marched in Dhaka, ultimately toppling the Sheikh Hasina-led administration and forcing her to flee to India.

Justice Shofiul read the arguments placed by the defence and prosecution. While the four present before the tribunal had their own counsels, the absconding officials were represented by a state-appointed counsel.

"After carefully scrutinising

everything, we have found prima facie elements about the alleged involvement of the accused in the commissioning of the crime, which was widespread and systematic. There is sufficient and substantial evidence before the tribunal to frame charges against the accused," he said.

"You, Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman ordered subordinates through wireless to fire upon unarmed protesters to subdue a peaceful protest on August 5 (last year) in Chankharpool area.

"Acting on the order, you, Sudip Kumar Chakrabarty, monitored, controlled, and supervised and ordered to open fire on the innocent protesters. You, Shah Alam Md Akhtarul Islam and Imrul Hossain, along with 40-45 armed policemen, went to the spot and ordered to shoot indiscriminately with lethal weapons — Chinese rifles, shotguns.

Sohag murder being exploited for political FROM PAGE 12

"We strongly protest and condemn the use of obscene and indecent remarks against him in public.

"Protests against a political party and its top leaders, who are not in power, and use of indecent remarks targeting them raise the question whether we are once again being taken back to an era of fascism..." he added.

Fakhrul said those named in the police complaint, though not directly involved or present at the scene, were expelled from the party.

"Despite such a firm party stance, a group is deliberately showing the audacity to tarnish the image of our party and top leadership."

Fakhrul asked whether the voices of protest over the killing of a Jubo Dal leader in Khulna were equally strong from all sides.

Referring to the Sohag murder, Fakhrul alleged that the events of July 9 were deliberately spread online on 11 July during the "prime time" after Juma prayers.

Certain social media accounts and pages began sharing pre-prepared photo cards in a planned way.

"This suggests that propaganda materials had been prepared in advance, indicating a planned campaign to spread fake information

online," said Fakhrul.

Fakhrul hoped that all responsible political parties will be aware of the current deteriorating political situation in the country.

If the path to democratic transition is obstructed through activities that violate political decency, those involved must bear the responsibility, he added.

Speaking at a Nayapaltna rally yesterday, Fakhrul accused certain political quarters of plotting to disrupt the election process by using the Mitford murder incident.

"Our only goal is to ensure that the national election is held in February 2026. There will be no exception to this."

He alleged that a vested quarter have lost their mind following the announcement of the election timeframe after the London meeting between Tarique and the chief adviser.

Fakhrul urged party members to stay calm and not be drawn by provocation.

At the event, BNP Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas yesterday alleged that "a party" was taking money from Bashundhara Group, City Group, and other groups.

"There is another party that, apart from talking big, does nothing except

"You, Arshad, implemented superior commanders' instructions and ordered to open fire, lob sound grenades, and teargas shells on the protesters. You, constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, Emon, and Nasirul Islam, participated and opened targeted fire with Chinese rifles and shotguns under the command of those accused and killed six protesters," Justice Shofiul read out.

"Therefore, you all eight [mentioned names, designations, and addresses] have been indicted under the International Crimes [Tribunals] Act," he added.

After reading out the charges in English, Justice Shofiul explained in Bangla to the four in the dock and asked each by turn whether they understood the charges against them.

All four denied the charges, claiming innocence, and demanded justice.

cleverly collect donations and cleverly take 'hadia'."

The BNP leader said, "During the Ershad's time, they leaned on Ershad's shoulder; during the Awami League's time, they leaned on the Awami League's shoulder; during the BNP's time, they leaned on the BNP's shoulder."

"Now BNP is their only headache. If they can eliminate the BNP, then they think they will be able to rule. Whether or not they can tolerate Tarique Rahman, he will take the country forward with his capable leadership."

Referring to another party, he said, "There's something I must say, a one-man party... I don't want to mention his name. That man and his party are chanting slogans — the Awami League has gone down a path, and the BNP will follow the same path."

"Is it that easy?... That man and his group can no longer tolerate the BNP, but they had no problem tolerating the Awami League."

Recalling the 2013 Shapla Chattar incident, Abbas said, "When the Hefazat-e-Islam rally was attacked, where was the Pir of Charmonai? Did he stand up for the Muslims? He did not. Who stood up? The BNP."

Population policy updated FROM PAGE 12

Talking about the updated policy, Sarwar Bari, secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, said the updated policy set six objectives.

The first objective is to attain the demographic dividend by transforming the population into a skilled human capital through ensuring quality and accessible healthcare and nutrition services, demand-based quality education, and social protection for all population groups.

The second object is to reduce the unmet need for family planning methods, preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths, as well as child marriage and all other harmful practices.

Other objectives include adopting plans to expand and manage technology to the benefits of the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions; ensure equal opportunities between urban and rural areas by guaranteeing citizen services; ensure gender equality and achieve gender dividends; and take effective measures to tackle natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, the secretary said.

He said 29 ministries would be involved in implementing the policy.

Ashrafi Ahmad, director general of the Directorate General of the Family Planning, told The Daily Star that policy would come into effect once the strategy, which is now under development, is approved.

Referring to the theme of this year's population day — "empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world" — the health adviser told the

event that theme highlights youth empowerment.

In her view, the prerequisite for empowerment is achieving economic self-reliance and when a young person is financially capable, the path to empowerment becomes much easier.

Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, emphasised the need to prepare our population to cope with the development of technology, including artificial intelligence and robotics.

Saidur Rahman, secretary of the Health Services Division; Prof Abu Jafor, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services; Prof Nazmul Hosain, director general of the Directorate General of Medical Education; Ashrafi Ahmad; Catherine Breen Kamkong, representative for UNFPA Bangladesh; and Jobaida Begum, additional secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, spoke on the occasion.

Four 'ARA men' FROM PAGE 12

to be transferred to Camp 8 (East), under Nabi's control.

Nabi, who entered Bangladesh illegally from Myanmar's Chakmakata-Tambru area in 2023, is a commander of the ARA. He is accused of conducting armed training for group members, who are then deployed to border areas. He is also accused of trafficking arms and yaba, as well as smuggling.

Nabi has illegally constructed a 60-foot-long, 20-foot-wide concrete house inside Camp 8 (East), defying camp rules, the release added.

German doctor goes on trial for 15 murders

AFP, Berlin

A German doctor yesterday went on trial accused of killing 15 patients with lethal injections and acting as "master of life and death" over those in his care.

The 40-year-old palliative care specialist, named by German media

as Johannes M., is alleged to have killed 12 women and three men between September 2021 and July 2024 while working in Berlin.

The doctor is accused of injecting the victims, aged between 25 and 94, with deadly cocktails of sedatives and in some cases setting fire to their homes in a bid to cover up his crimes.



Workers of the Roads and Highways Department repair damaged portions of the Barishal-Kuakata highway. Following heavy rainfall last week, potholes have developed along the route, leaving it in a hazardous state. The photo was taken in Jhalakathi's Jurkathi area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Over 74,000 cases

FROM PAGE 3
he said digitised cause lists, adjournment tracking, and SMS-based summons notifications have already shown positive results in pilot districts and will soon be extended to family courts. Appellate Division Judge Justice Farah Mahbub said, "When a child's custody is left undecided for years, when a destitute woman's claim for maintenance remains unresolved, and when parties are left entangled in prolonged litigation, the social cost is profound and may be irreversible."

She reiterated that justice in family courts is not about winning or losing – it is about healing. She proposed key measures to strengthen family justice, including establishing specialised family courts with concurrent civil and criminal authority in each jurisdiction to ensure procedural coherence and reduce fragmentation.

Justice Mahbub also stressed the need for support from psychologists and social workers in sensitive cases, along with mandatory trauma-informed training for judges and lawyers.

BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh said a just and equitable society is only possible when every woman and girl is free to realise her potential, unshackled by harmful socio-cultural norms.

He noted that BRAC's approach – encompassing community mobilisation, capacity building, and policy advocacy – aims to dismantle structural barriers

that keep justice out of reach for many, particularly women and marginalised groups.

In response to procedural bottlenecks in family courts, BRAC organised five workshops earlier this year, bringing together 117 judges and 10 lawyers from 51 districts to identify practical solutions to delays.

Recommendations from the workshops included making pre-trial alternative dispute resolution mandatory and legally binding, involving local authorities in the summons process, and digitalising marriage registration to prevent disputes over marital status.

Other proposals included requiring a 50 percent deposit to file appeals to discourage frivolous cases, setting fixed timeframes for case disposal, expanding the jurisdiction of family courts to cover inheritance, domestic violence, and dowry-related matters, and codifying Hindu family laws with mandatory registration of Hindu marriages.

In her welcome remarks, Shashwatee Biplob, associate director of BRAC's SELP and Gender Justice and Diversity Programme, said these

collective efforts are a meaningful step toward restoring public trust in the justice system, upholding the dignity of survivors, and building a more just, inclusive, and equitable society.

The event was moderated by ATM Morshed Alam, lead of Legal Aid and Policy Advocacy at SELP.

Probe into recruitment

FROM PAGE 4
Nurjahan Begum said yesterday. "We will take necessary legal action upon completion of the investigation," she added.

She made the remarks while responding to a reporter's question after attending a programme

marking World Population Day at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

According to media reports, the hospital authorities appointed 65 doctors on an ad hoc basis for six months, allegedly without publishing any circular in newspapers.

Three to die

FROM PAGE 4
case records and evidence.

"All the convicts were present in court when the verdict was pronounced," said Public Prosecutor Afsar Uddin.

According to court sources, the murder took place on April 10, 2021.

Zainal was killed inside his house in the Telipara area of Barabkunda union.

To conceal the crime, the perpetrators dumped

his body parts in a nearby pond.

Following the incident, Zainal's brother filed a case with Sitakunda Police Station, naming his sister-in-law and two others as accused.

After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against Rima and her two accomplices. A total of 11 witnesses testified in the case during the trial.

JCD protests mob

FROM PAGE 3
"They are even spreading propaganda using the name of BNP's acting chairman," Nasir alleged.

He said the protest was held to resist these activities and clarify the stance of JCD. "But we have no intention of creating any sort of unrest," he added.

In Manikganj, the district unit of JCD brought out a procession from the Law College premises around noon.

At the rally, Manikganj JCD President Abdul Khalek Shuvo said, "We are on the streets to counter the conspiracy against students. Innocent

students are being used to form mobs and destabilise educational institutions."

In Pirojpur, the JCD district unit brought out a procession to resist "conspiracy and propaganda" against BNP. The march began in front of the district stadium and ended with a rally at the Gopal Krishna Town Club premises.

Similar protests took place in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Barishal, Bogura, Lalmonirhat, Cumilla, Habiganj, Satkhira, Gaibandha, Jashore, Cox's Bazar, Shariatpur, Mymensingh, Chandpur, Bagerhat and other districts.

Prothom Alo celebrates INMA awards

FROM PAGE 3
expressed deep gratitude to the guests, readers, advertisers, and especially to the martyrs and injured of the July uprising.

Prothom Alo won first prize in the "Best Idea to Encourage Reader Engagement" (National Brand) category and third prize in "Best Use of an Event to Build a News Brand" (National Brand).

It also received INMA's "Best in South Asia" award. Six initiatives from six global regions were chosen for this title, with Prothom Alo selected from South Asia.

The awards were presented on May 22 at the

World Congress of News Media in New York, USA.

Among the guests present were interim government advisers: Energy Adviser Mohammad Fauzul Kabir Khan, Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain, and Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki also joined the event later.

Other guests included Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh; Professor Parveen Hasan; AK Azad, president of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh


(NOAB); Mohammad Ali, managing director of Pubali Bank; Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh; Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Ltd; actor Afzal Hossain; and lawyer and media commentator Manzur Al Matin.


Also present were Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Professor Ainun Nishat, artist Rafiqun Nabi, Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque, and Women's Affairs Reform Commission Chairperson Shireen Huq.

Simeen Rahman, CEO of Transcom Group; Tapan Chowdhury, managing

director of Square Pharmaceuticals; Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of BGMEA; Moinuddin Hasan Rashid, chairman of United Group; Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman of PRAN-RFL Group; FR Khan, managing director of bti; and Asif Saleh, executive director of BRAC, also attended the event.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor of The Daily Star; Devan Hanif Mahmud, editor of Bonik Barta; and Shahed Mohammad Ali, editor of Samakal, were also among the distinguished guests.

 Bangladesh Bank Information and Communication Technology Department Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Website: www.bb.org.bd	
EOI Ref. No. ICTD-2(3)/207(R)/2025	Date: 15 July 2025
Re-Expressions of Interest (R-EOI) for Selection of a Consulting Firm/Company for SWIFT Customer Security Program (CSP) 2025 Assessment for Bangladesh Bank	
BANGLADESH BANK, HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA	
1 Ministry/Division	Not applicable
2 Agency	Bangladesh Bank
3 Name of procuring entity	Information and Communication Technology Department, Bangladesh Bank
4 Title of Service	Selection of a Consulting Firm/Company for SWIFT Customer Security Program (CSP) 2025 Assessment for Bangladesh Bank
5 Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6 Expression of Interest for Selection of	A Consulting Firm or Company
7 EOI Ref No.	ICTD-2(3)/207(R)/2025
8 Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15 July 2025
KEY INFORMATION	
9 Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10 Budget and source funds	Own source
11 Development partner (if applicable)	Not applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12 Project/programme code (if applicable)	
13 Project/programme name (if applicable)	
14 EOI closing date and time	29 July 2025, 03:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time Receiving Document: two (02) sets of Hard Copy document is mandatory
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
15 Minimum qualification and evaluation criteria	<p>1. The bidder or its Headquarters a) Must be listed in the SWIFT CSP Certified Assessors Directory and have at least 03 certified SWIFT CSP Assessors.</p> <p>b) They should have a track record of global SWIFT audits with at least 100 SWIFT CSP records globally. They should also have extensive experience in CSP assessment validation of SWIFT architecture configurations as well as remediation plans to ensure compliance with SWIFT CSP framework guidelines and security control requirements.</p> <p>2. The bidder must have at least 05 years of experience in IT security-related audits covering at least 5 Banks/Financial Institutions locally.</p> <p>3. The bidder must be able to deploy certified experts on site and conduct, monitor, and report on the assessment closely. Among them, there should be at least one CSP Certified Assessor who has conducted at least 03 full-stack/large complex architecture assessments abroad.</p> <p>4. The bidder must demonstrate a deep understanding of the SWIFT Customer Security Control Framework (CSCF) including the technical and security aspects of SWIFT interfaces and infrastructure.</p> <p>5. The bidder should provide a structured assessment approach, including risk evaluation, remediation strategies, and real-time security monitoring. They must be able to assess, validate, and verify SWIFT architecture configurations against compliance standards while ensuring continuous security improvement and knowledge sharing with the client's IT security team.</p> <p>6. The bidder must ensure post-assessment support and guidance for SWIFT compliance improvements. They should also be able to work within an aggressive timeline allowing for flexibility in changes while ensuring all Statement of Work (SOW) deliverables are met.</p> <p>7. The bidder shall be required to submit certified photocopies of the latest documents related to valid Trade License, TIN Certificate, Income Tax Certificate, and VAT Registration Certificate as proof of taxation compliance. Failure to provide these documents may result in the quotation being considered non-responsive.</p>
16 Term of Reference (TOR) of CSP Assessor	<p>Post Implementation Review on separate Alliance Infrastructure</p> <p>a) Test environment at its existing Data Centre (DC) premises.</p> <p>b) Production environment at its existing Data Centre (DC) premises.</p> <p>c) Disaster Recovery (DR) environment at its existing DR premises.</p> <p>Area of SWIFT Post-Implementation Review</p> <p>Objectives and Scope: Review the original objectives and scope of the project to ensure they have been met.</p> <p>System Performance: Evaluate the performance of the SWIFT system to ensure that it is functioning as expected and meeting the performance requirements.</p> <p>System Availability: Review the system's availability to ensure that it is available as required by the business.</p> <p>System Security: Evaluate the security of the SWIFT system to ensure that it is secure and complies with the BB's security policies and Swift Customer Security Controls Framework (CSCF) 2025.</p> <p>User Acceptance: Review user feedback to ensure that the SWIFT system is being accepted and used by its intended users.</p> <p>Compliance: Review the system's compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, Swift Customer Security Controls Framework (CSCF) 2025 including data privacy and security regulations.</p> <p>Risk Management: Evaluate the risk management process to ensure that Bangladesh Bank is adequately managing risk associated with the SWIFT system.</p> <p>Data Accuracy: Review the accuracy of the data being processed by the SWIFT system to ensure that it is accurate and reliable.</p> <p>Integration: Evaluate the integration of the SWIFT system with other systems to ensure that it is properly integrated and functioning as expected.</p> <p>Documentation: Ensure that all documentation related to the SWIFT system is up-to-date and complete.</p> <p>Training: Review the training process to ensure that users have been adequately trained on how to use the SWIFT system.</p> <p>Future Development: Identify opportunities for future development and improvement of the SWIFT system.</p> <p>Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery: Need to ensure that the SWIFT system is designed with business continuity and disaster recovery in mind, and that it includes appropriate security controls to protect against potential security threats. This can help to ensure that the system remains available and functional in the event of a hardware or software failure, natural disaster, or cyber attack.</p>
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
17 Name of the official inviting EOI	Md. Amir Hossain Pathan.
18 Designation of the official inviting EOI	Director (ICT).
19 Address of the official inviting EOI	Information and Communication Technology Department, Bangladesh Bank, 28th Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.
20 Contact details of the official inviting EOI	Tel:+88029530161 Fax:+88029530481 E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd website: www.bb.org.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.	
sd/- Md. Amir Hossain Pathan Director (ICT), ICTD, Bangladesh Bank Phone: +88029530161, E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd	
DCP: 48/2025-1779	
Date: 14-07-2025	
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GD-1584	

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স্মারক: ১২.০০.০০০০.০২০.০৭.০৩২১.২৫-৯১৯	তারিখ: ৩০ আষাঢ় ১৪৩২ ১৪ জুলাই ২০২৫
সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
<p>পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর ৬৩ ও ৬৪ বিধি অনুসারে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থ বছরে বিভিন্ন পণ্য সামগ্রী (পণ্য তালিকা) ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:</p> <p>পণ্য তালিকা: কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক (ডেস্কটপ কম্পিউটার, মনিটর, প্রিন্টার, স্ক্যানার ইত্যাদি), ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন, কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী (টোনার, কিবোর্ড, মাউস, মাউসপ্যাড, মাউসগ্লাভ এবং পেনড্রাইভ ইত্যাদি) ষ্টেশনারী সামগ্রী, ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী, মুদ্রণ ও বাধাই, সীল, অটো সীল, বই পত্র, টোনার কালি, আসবাবপত্র সামগ্রী, কার্পেট, প্যাম্পা ইত্যাদি পণ্য সামগ্রী।</p> <p>শর্তাবলি:</p> <p>১। আবেদনের জন্য নির্ধারিত 'ফরম' আগামী ১৫/০৭/২০২৫ হতে ২৭/০৭/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন প্রশাসন-২ অধিশাখা, কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয় (কক্ষ নং- ৪৩৪, ভবন নং- ৪, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়), বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এবং বিভাগীয় কমিশনার অফিস, ঢাকা বিভাগ, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা থেকে প্রতি সেট ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মূল্যমানের (নেগদ/পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পোস্টাল অর্ডার অফেরতযোগ্য) মাধ্যমে ক্রয় করা যাবে। আগামী ২৭/০৭/২০২৫ তারিখের পর কোনো 'ফরম' বিক্রয় করা হবে না।</p> <p>২। আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত হালনাগাদ তথ্যাদিসহ সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে;</p> <p>ক) দুই কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি।</p> <p>খ) Affidavit of the Fram.</p> <p>গ) উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-২ অধিশাখা) এর অনুকূলে ৫০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা নতুন করে তালিকাভুক্ত এবং ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা পূর্বের তালিকাভুক্ত হালনাগাদকরণের জন্য (পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/মিডাক ড্রাফট) জমা দিতে হবে (অফেরতযোগ্য), তবে তালিকাভুক্তি হতে না পারলে ফেরতযোগ্য।</p> <p>ঘ) ২০২৫-২৬ পর্যন্ত বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে;</p> <p>ঙ) ২০২৪-২৫ পর্যন্ত আয়কর প্রদানের সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে;</p> <p>চ) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে;</p> <p>ছ) ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে;</p> <p>জ) পণ্য সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা:- বিগত তিন বছরে সর্বোচ্চ ২টি চুক্তির আওতায় ২০ লক্ষ টাকার বিভিন্ন ধরনের পণ্য সরবরাহের কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে (সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের স্বাক্ষরের হতে হবে)।</p> <p>৩। আবেদনপত্রসমূহ যাচাই-বাছাইপূর্বক যোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকা প্রস্তুত করে প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে তালিকাভুক্ত/তালিকা হালনাগাদ করা হবে।</p> <p>৪। তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য মনোনীত করার পূর্বে প্রয়োজনে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান সরেজমিন পরিদর্শন করা হবে।</p> <p>৫। চাহিদাকৃত সকল কাগজপত্রসহ নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আগামী ২৮/০৭/২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন প্রশাসন-২ অধিশাখা, কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয় (কক্ষ নং-৪৩৪, ভবন নং-৪), বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাগে অথবা বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়ের দর্শনাথী গেটেই রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাগে গ্রহণ করা হবে। এ ছাড়া ডাকযোগে উপসচিব, প্রশাসন-২ অধিশাখা, কক্ষ নং-৪৩৪, ভবন নং-৪, কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করা যাবে; তবে তা ২৮/০৭/২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে অবশ্যই পৌঁছাতে হবে। বিলম্বে প্রাপ্তি কোন আবেদন মূল্যায়ন করা হবে না।</p> <p>৬। কোনোরূপ কারণ দর্শনাে বাতিরেকে যে কোনো অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র বাতিল অথবা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।</p>	
 ড. মো: হাতিম আলী উপসচিব ফোন: ৫৫২০০১২৬ e-mail: admin2@moa.gov.bd	
GD-1583	

BUILDING TOMORROW'S INTERNET

Zaheduzzaman Sarker on Bangladesh's digital blind spot



MOHAMMAD KAWSAR UDDIN

As protocols evolve and networks transform, Bangladesh's absence from global standards development could cost the nation its digital future.

In an exclusive interview, ANM Zaheduzzaman Sarker, Principal Standardisation Lead and Chief Architect for Transport Networks at Nokia, discusses his journey from Bangladesh to becoming a key figure in global internet standards development. As chair of two Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) working groups and a former Transport Area Director, Sarker offers unique insights into how internet protocols are shaped and why Bangladesh's limited participation in these crucial conversations could hamper the nation's digital ambitions.

Can you share the journey that led you to your current role at Nokia?

Zaheduzzaman Sarker: I started my career at Ericsson Research 18 years ago, working on different projects and standardisation efforts. I've always tried to keep myself hands-on—whether coding, designing, or simulating. I gained expertise in different protocol layers within 3GPP and Internet architecture while holding leadership positions both internally and at the IETF. My diversity of knowledge and determination to take on challenges led me to join Nokia as Chief Architect.

How do you see the evolution of transport protocols shaping the future of the Internet and telecom networks?

Zaheduzzaman: Transport protocols have undergone significant evolution. The major shift came in 2016 with QUIC, which involved the entire Internet industry—service providers, browser vendors, OS designers, and telcos working together. QUIC reduces dependency on kernel implementation and fights network ossification while providing the best user experience.

We've also seen technologies like

L4S (Low Latency, Low Loss, Scalable throughput), invented at Nokia Bell Labs and standardised at IETF, becoming tools for real-time applications. These evolutions can help replace outdated protocols and provide a more cloud-friendly protocol stack, a simplified and performant architecture that will have a profound impact on future telecom networks.

What motivated you to get involved in the IETF, and how has your experience evolved?

Zaheduzzaman: My primary motivation was getting standards for technologies deployed on the Internet. I started with WebRTC and ECN standardisation. What attracted me was the IETF's inclusiveness and belief in running code, which suits me well.

Initially, the experience was overwhelming. Meeting legends and those who write code and run Internet services was eye-opening. The diverse participants had diverse pain points, but they shared the same goal: making the Internet even better. This helped me grow and extend my capabilities. When the TAPS chair position was offered, I took it despite the challenges. The AD role later showed me how critical it is to lead by organisational practices while allowing changes to achieve the goals of a large SDO like the IETF.

What are the main goals of the TIPTOP and TSVWG working groups today?

Zaheduzzaman: TIPTOP aims to bring IP-based communication to space communications—bonding networks on celestial bodies with orbiting equipment and Earth's Internet. We're defining key characteristics, use cases, and requirements for space communication, and configuring protocols like QUIC for this purpose.

The TSVWG deals with generic protocol evolution and serves as a home for transport protocol topics that lack dedicated working groups. It's currently

focusing on L4S deployment, SCTP extensions, and DSCP code points.

What do you think are the most misunderstood aspects of IETF standards development?

Zaheduzzaman: The most misunderstood aspect is the fear of engaging with big companies and industry legends. The IETF requires an email address and internet connectivity to participate, which is different from other SDOs, where company affiliations are typically required. Although the IETF operates on a meritocracy, you can achieve recognition by participating in discussions, reviews, and contributing to drafts. If you have a genuine problem to solve that will improve the Internet, consider joining a working group mailing list or emailing IESG members for assistance.

Bangladesh has very low participation in the IETF. What challenges do you see?

Zaheduzzaman: That's correct and very unfortunate. The challenges are multi-fold. First, universities teach networking using books that describe IETF protocols but don't introduce IETF as a source. Students remain unaware of the standardisation process. Universities should collaborate with local ISPs or mobile operators to identify protocol issues and propose solutions.

Second, ISPs and mobile operators using IETF protocols show little interest in improving them. While this takes time and money, they gain early insights into improved protocols. They can develop solutions tailored to their specific problems, ultimately resulting in more efficient and secure networks with reduced operational expenses.

Third, the government lacks initiatives to be involved in SDOs. Bangladesh has vast numbers of Internet users, so understanding these technologies would help shape regulations for socio-economic growth. The government should establish

policies to send participants to SDOs, such as the IETF.

What is your view on policymakers and non-technical participants engaging in the IETF?

Zaheduzzaman: The internet has become crucial for socio-economic growth. To build efficient and secure network infrastructure and Internet governance, policymakers need to understand technology and standardisation developments. IETF is a melting pot for industry, academia, and research—a place to update knowledge and network with stakeholders.

Some countries have bodies that track standard changes and give recommendations on network features for national safety and security. They send representatives to the IETF. EU commission units also engage with the IETF for protocol and technology views. Policymakers must attend IETF meetings to identify technical issues that can be addressed and make informed decisions about efficient network building and Internet governance.

How do you see the role of open standards evolving in an increasingly fragmented global Internet landscape?

Zaheduzzaman: I disagree that there's an increasingly fragmented global Internet landscape, not yet. While geopolitics impacts technology and protocol standards, open standards serve as the glue that holds the Internet together, especially IETF protocols.

The IETF develops protocols based on service requirements, which can then be used to achieve various services. Having open standards for basic Internet building blocks allows for a focus on usage rather than the expense and time required to create regional standards. This is an even better motivation for why policymakers should engage with the IETF and the IETF should be consulted before approving policies.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Square Pharmaceuticals PLC.



Executive, Regulatory Affairs Department
Deadline: July 19

Eligibility:
• M. Pharm/M. SC in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology/Biotechnology, with prior relevant experience.
Minimum experience: 2-4 years

Prime Bank

Prime Bank PLC
Relationship Manager - Priority Banking
Deadline: July 23

Eligibility:
• Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a UCG-approved local or reputed foreign university.
Minimum experience: 2 years

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

Beacon Pharmaceuticals PLC

Executive/Sr. Executive - Training (Oncology/Biotech/Palliative Care)
Deadline: July 19

Eligibility:
• MBBS from a reputed medical institution, with prior experience in the relevant field being preferable.
Minimum experience: 1-2 years

Aldi Services Asia Limited



Specialist, Sourcing
Deadline: August 8

Eligibility:
• Tertiary education with prior relevant working experience, preferably gained in sourcing/buying offices, working with consumer products.
Minimum experience: 5 years

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



THE BOSSMAN BY E. RAZA RONNY



Job sites axe 1,300 roles due to AI

NEXT STEP DESK

Indeed and Glassdoor, two popular job searching platforms, are laying off around 1,300 employees as their parent company, Japan's Recruit Holdings, accelerates its shift towards artificial intelligence (AI). The job cuts, representing about 6% of the company's global workforce, were announced in an internal email sent to staff on July 10. In the memo, Recruit Holdings CEO Hisayuki "Deko" Idekoba stated, "AI is changing the world," and emphasised that the company must

adapt accordingly.

Teams affected by the layoffs include research and development, as well as "people & sustainability" departments in the United States, though other regions and divisions will also likely see reductions. Recruit Holdings said the move is part of a broader strategy to use AI to reshape the hiring process, both for job seekers



and employers. As part of that plan, Glassdoor will be absorbed into Indeed, with Glassdoor CEO Christian Sutherland-Wong stepping down, states the report.

The announcement arrives amid growing tension between enthusiasm for AI's efficiency and concerns over its economic fallout. However, some executives think that AI will help in skill development rather than unemployment.

AI-POWERED CODING? Study finds it may take more time than it saves

NEXT STEP DESK

A new study published by METR, a non-profit AI research organisation, has found that using AI-powered coding tools may actually slow down experienced developers despite expectations that such tools would speed up software development.

METR conducted a randomised controlled trial involving 16 experienced open-source developers who completed 246 real tasks drawn from large codebases they regularly contribute to. Each developer was randomly assigned tasks either with or without permission to use AI coding tools.

According to the study, before beginning the tasks, developers estimated that AI would reduce their completion time by 24%. However, research shows that allowing AI actually increases completion time by 19% which means developers are slower when using AI tools.

While nearly all participants had prior experience using web-based AI tools in coding, only 56% had used



Cursor, the main tool tested in the study. METR stated that they did provide training to ensure developers were familiar with the tool's features before the trial.

The researchers suggest several reasons why AI tools might have slowed down performance. Developers often spent more time formulating prompts and waiting for AI responses than writing code

themselves. The tools also struggled to navigate the complexities of the large codebases used in the study.

Despite the findings, the researchers cautioned against drawing broad conclusions. They do not claim that AI coding tools fail to improve productivity across the board. In fact, other large-scale studies have shown efficiency gains in various software engineering contexts.

Huawei announces winners of Seeds for the Future Bangladesh 2025



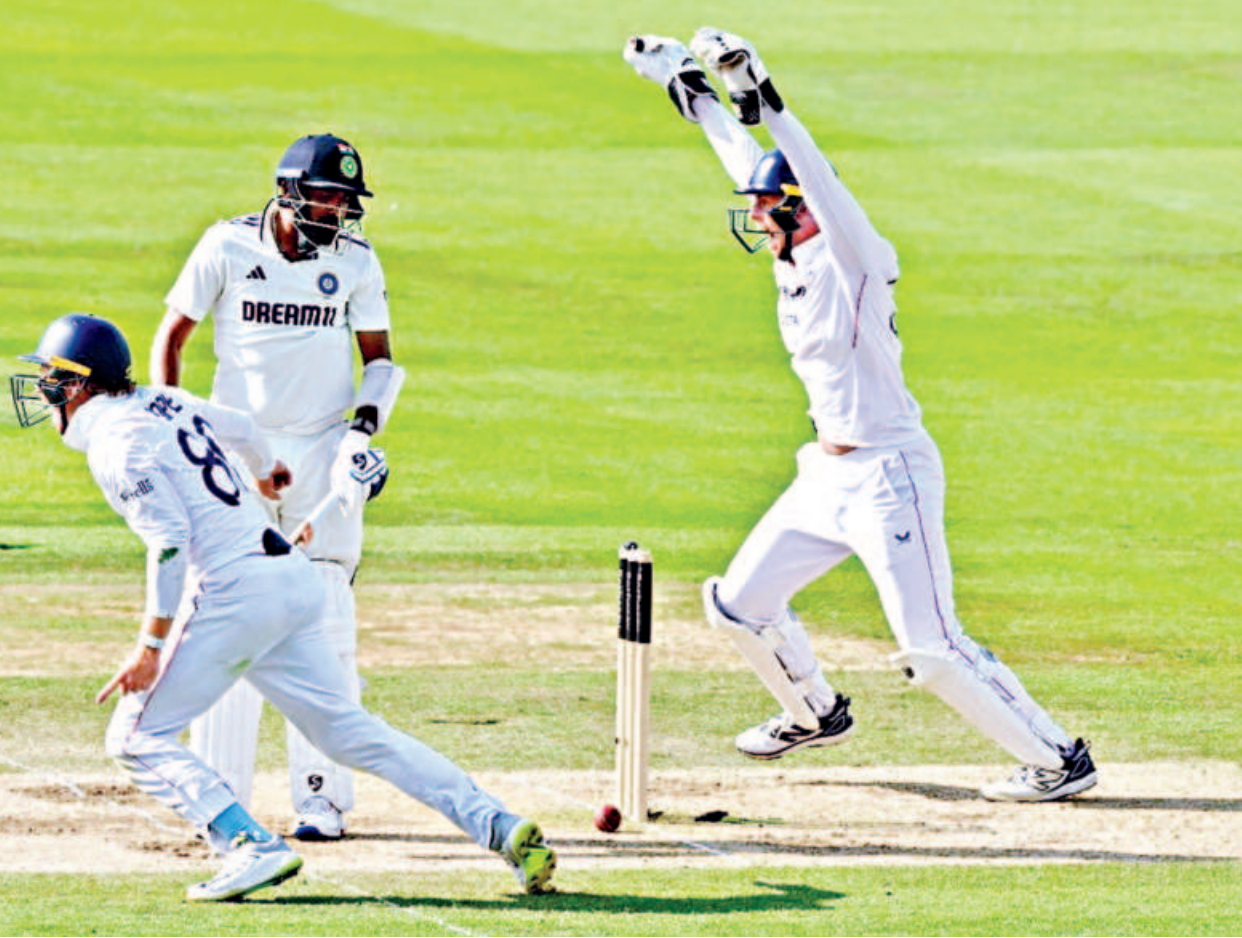
Huawei has named eight Bangladeshi university students as winners of its Seeds for the Future 2025 programme who will travel to China later this year for further training and competition.

The 2025 cohort comprises Syed Atif Ryhan of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB); Farisa Zaynah Zaman of North South University (NSU); Nafim Karim Khan of BRAC University; Md Rezwana Ullah of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET); Tasnia Hifat of the University of Dhaka (DU); Md Safius Sifat of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET); and Nufsat Farooque and Wasif Uddin of Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

According to a press release, this year's competition began with a review of around 3,000 applications. 60 candidates were invited to a boot camp that covered subjects such as 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, digital power and business strategy. Following written examinations, presentations and team assignments, 21 students advanced to a final round in which they devised technology-driven business proposals aimed at socio-economic impact.

England win nail-biter at Lord's

Mohammad Siraj looks on in disbelief as the delivery from off-spinner Shoab Bashir overspins from the pitch after he defended it and nudges the leg stump just enough to dislodge the ball, ending India's chase on 170 and handing hosts England a 22-run win in the third Test at Lord's. In an enthralling final day, England, defending 193, had reduced India to 112-8 before Ravindra Jadeja's valiant 61 got the tourists close to pulling off a famous victory. But in the end, Jadeja remained unbeaten as England won the match and took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. PHOTO: AFP



Aminul hopeful of timely BCB elections

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam Bulbul insisted that they have no plans of changing the schedule of the upcoming board election which is supposed to be held before the end of October this year.

During the reign of the previous BCB president Faruque Ahmed, there were few developments regarding the polls but since Aminul replaced him on May 30, the election has seemingly taken a backseat with no visible progress.

"We will not shift the scheduled date of the BCB election. We will hold it on time," Aminul told reporters in Paltan after the opening ceremony of the 39th National Badminton Championship on Monday.

The BCB boss was also asked if all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan could be brought back into the Bangladesh side. He left that decision up to the national selectors and also clarified that he is yet to speak with Shakib in this regard.

"Shakib is an available player. He is yet to retire from all formats. I will speak to him and after that, we can take a decision about him... His selection depends completely on the Bangladesh team selectors."

Aminul also announced several initiatives for local coaches starting next month and confirmed that Dhaka will host the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on July 24.

"We will hold a level 3 coaching course at the end of August from where we can identify coaches who can work with different teams in Bangladesh. We will organise a coaching summit in September so that we can get specialised coaches for batting, fast bowling, spin bowling, wicketkeeping and fielding," he said.

"On July 23rd, we will host an official dinner and on the 24th, we will host ACC's AGM in Dhaka. Almost all the member nations will participate in the programme," he added.



Bangladesh forward Mst Sagorika and midfielder Munki Akhter share a light-hearted moment during a swimming and light gym session yesterday. Fresh from a 3-2 win over Nepal in their second match, the Bangladesh women's team take on Bhutan today at 3pm at the Bashundhara Kings Arena in their third SAFF U-20 Championship clash. The hosts had earlier launched their campaign in style with a 9-0 win against Sri Lanka. PHOTO: BFF

Blues blueprint silences the noise

SHABAB CHOWDHURY

People riding the Paris Saint Germain wave were far from prepared for what transpired on Sunday night.

It was uncomfortable, and even perhaps upsetting, for all who have been entranced by Luis Enrique's revived PSG project centred around youth, as Chelsea rocked the world and put an end to the Parisians' incredible run this season – a marauding campaign that saw them win every competition they have been in up until the just concluded inaugural FIFA Club World Cup.

English starboy Cole Palmer came in like an industrial air conditioner, too cold for comfort for his opponents in the sweltering New Jersey heat at the MetLife Stadium, arresting all PSG's hopes with two similarly identical left-footed goals before setting one up for Joao Pedro in the first half to essentially put the game to bed.

European champions PSG came into the contest as the best team in the world; as the poster boys of a new era built around a fearless, youthful core that has swept aside all challengers. So what this emphatic victory has provided is not only validation that Chelsea's very own youth-driven project under American ownership Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital is gathering steam, but also a statement that they are heading in the right direction, following a Conference League triumph.

And what better team to gauge this notion than against PSG. And as for the owners, it could not have come on a better occasion.

Very few, except for Chelsea loyalists



Chelsea finished as top scorers in the tournament with 17 goals; one more than PSG, Man City and Bayern who were all on 16.

PSG conceded their first goals since Igor Jesus scored for Botafogo in a 1-0 win.

Chelsea are the fifth team, and first from England, to win multiple FIFA Club World Cup titles (including previous formats).

and the players themselves, could see past the jamboree surrounding PSG and their football and comprehend that the rationale behind plotting to disarm the most explosive attack in the global event was not an unreasonable one.

Eventually, Chelsea not only defused the opposition's attack but also initiated a kill-switch to shut down the PSG system.

Head coach Enzo Maresca did a number on Enrique by going long to beat the daunting press, which had bamboozled Real Madrid in the semi-finals. He got rid

of his insistence to play out from the back and had goalkeeper Robert Sanchez ping long balls to players wide and higher up on the field. This worked to great advantage, as the Blues could bypass the press as well as the congested midfield compressed by high lines from both sides.

They scored in the 22nd minute after Sanchez floated a ball down the right wing to Malo Gusto, who capitalised on a stumble by left-back Nuno Mendes to run free in behind and set up Palmer. For the second, Levi Colwill looped one

behind after a turnover for a sprinting Palmer, who continued his run into the box and froze Vitinha and centre-back Lucas Beraldo with a series of quick fake shots before beating goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma again for a 2-0 advantage in the 30th minute.

To neutralise arguably the best attack in the world at this moment – comprising Desire Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, and likely Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele – Maresca employed an aggressive counter-press when they lost possession high up the field and dropped into a back five and defended in number when PSG tried to typically cut loose through the dangerous trio.

"The idea was to go man-to-man because if you leave spaces to PSG, they will kill you," Maresca said. "So we tried to be very aggressive and suffocate them early on."

Maresca said Chelsea won the match in the first 10 minutes with their intense tempo. The midfield duo of Moises Caicedo and Reece James stood firm behind the first line of press and mopped up anything that squeezed past it. This forced PSG's midfield to often look sideways. Pass master Vitinha had a hard time initiating attacks from the base of midfield, which in turn flustered the likes of Fabian Ruiz and Joao Neves playing higher up.

"The message before the game was to make them understand that we are here to win the game," Maresca said.

And win they did. It was clinical and had Chelsea's characteristic imprint written all over it.

Backing Shamim's 'rare' flair begins to pay off

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Not many lower-middle-order batters in Bangladesh have a penchant for playing the more forbidden strokes quite like Shamim Hossain Patwary, the batter who was the catalyst for Bangladesh's acceleration in the middle overs on Sunday in the second T20I against Sri Lanka in Dambulla, paving the way for an 83-run victory – a national record in the format.

For all the flair on offer, consistency has remained not only an issue for Shamim but for most Bangladesh batters over the years. However, rather than clip his wings, coaches have instead tried to harness his natural instincts.

Shamim appears to be a one-off in Bangladesh's T20I circuit: a batter who keeps playing those shots as long as he stays in the crease.

Yet, when it comes to consistency, despite an impactful series in the West Indies last year, he also had a run of six games where he only managed single-digit scores.

Coaches – Mizanur Rahman Babul and Sohel Islam, for instance, who work with him in the Bangladesh Tigers programme – understood the challenge was not to limit his game but to shape it.

"He usually bats for five-six overs, so actually his playing style is to bat at a high strike rate, which also is demanded in those situations where he bats," Mizanur told The Daily Star.

"We need to give him more assurances, since these kinds of batters are rare here. If we restrict him or try to tell him to stop playing shots, his skill will be ruined. Then he would be playing selfish cricket and fall into a block. We must equip him so he can be more comfortable," he added.



"Equipping" Shamim was about more than just working on his mentality.

"He is very good at playing those scoops or those shots over fine leg, but he wasn't playing through mid-off, for instance," coach Babul observed.

"If he always plays those scoops, fielders are in place for that. If he plays straight at times, it would see the field change, and you can see now that he uses those unconventional shots much less.

"The Tigers programme works on honing players' shots they already know and also works on adding some shots. If he starts using an array of shots, the opposition keep guessing, and it allows him to find more gaps."

The array of shots was seen on Sunday. Shamim exhibited a six over mid-off with a straight face that emphasises Babul's words. Shamim averaged over 56 in the last Dhaka Premier League. Talha Jubair, his coach at Prime Bank last year, feels the batter now understands the value of his wicket better.

"You see that in international cricket, he is playing in the same pattern that he wants to, focusing on his strengths. There is a maturity that was previously not seen,"

Talha opined.

"The game is still 20 percent skill and 80 percent mentality. I only talked about the value of his wicket. T20 is about risks, but while taking that risk, if you throw away your wicket, then it's not useful. His ball selection is what I saw improve."

What Shamim is trying to master – calculated aggression – can only come with discipline. And if Bangladesh can continue to nurture that balance in him, they may yet unlock a timely talent for their T20 ambitions.

FROM RALLIES TO RHYTHM:

Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek, the newly crowned singles winners of Wimbledon 2025, share a joyful moment on the dance floor at the traditional Champions' Dinner in London on Sunday (Monday, Bangladesh time). After dazzling in their tennis whites, they got glammed up for a night of celebration, capping off a landmark weekend. The pair engaged in a 20-second dance, albeit at a slow pace and with one twirl, to the tune of Portugal. The Man's 2017 hit "Feel It Still". Sinner, uncharacteristically animated off court, had earlier outclassed Carlos Alcaraz for his first Wimbledon title, and the Italian now owns three of the four Slams, missing only the French Open. Swiatek, too, claimed her maiden Wimbledon crown, crushing Amanda Anisimova with a rare double bagel; and the Polish has only the Australian Open yet to conquer.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK VIA WIMBLEDON



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Holding fair polls govt's main job, but it can't ignore reforms

Says Dr Kamal Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even though the main responsibility of the interim government, formed in the wake of the July mass uprising, is to hold a free and fair election, it cannot ignore people's aspirations for reforms, said Gono Forum founder and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday.



He said that even 53 years after gaining independence through the Liberation War, Bangladesh has failed to uphold its commitment to equality, human rights, and justice.

He noted that last year's mass uprising occurred because political divisions prevented the implementation of the guidelines agreed upon during the 1990 anti-fascist movement.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



BNP leaders and activists marching through the capital's Shahbagh as part of a procession they brought out from the party's Nayapattan office yesterday. They were protesting the alleged propaganda against BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman and demanding justice for the murder of Lal Chand alias Sohag. The procession marched through Matsya Bhaban and ended at the Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

Sohag murder being exploited for political leverage

Suspects BNP, starts its own probe into killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concerns about the brutal murder near Mitford hospital in the capital, the BNP said the issue could be used for gaining political leverage and to destabilise the election environment.



It said those trying to disrupt the political environment and create uncertainty about the polls, using the issue, will be identified and resisted.

The BNP decided to form a committee to investigate the cause of the murder and publicly disclose the report.

"There are ample reasons to suspect that this murder is being used for political gain and as an excuse to disrupt the environment of the upcoming national election," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday told a press briefing at the party's chairperson's Gulshan office.

The murder of Sohag, a scrap metal trader, is being politicised and used to malign BNP and its top leadership, particularly acting chairman Tarique Rahman, Fakhru said.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY Charges framed against ex-DMP chief, 7 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed charges against former Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner Habibur Rahman and seven other ex-police officials in a crimes against humanity case filed over the killing of six people in the capital's Chankharpool area on August 5 last year.

The tribunal then set August 10 and August 11 for the opening statements of the prosecution and recording of witness depositions.

The other charges against the accused are murder, command responsibility, abetment, incitement, facilitation, complexity, and conspiracy.

This is the second time any accused have been charged at the ICT for the atrocities committed across the country during last year's mass uprising, which, according to a UN report, left 1,400 dead and over 25,000 wounded.

On July 10, the ICT-1 framed charges against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides in another case.

Justice Md Shofiqul Alam Mahmood read out the charges as instructed by the tribunal chair, Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, in a packed courtroom with four accused in the dock. The remaining four are absconding.

The absconding are former DMP chief Habibur Rahman, former DMP joint commissioner Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, former additional deputy commissioner (Ramna zone) Shah Alam Mohammad Akhtarul Islam, and former assistant commissioner (Ramna zone) Mohammad Imrul.



Habibur Rahman

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Trump arms Ukraine, issues Russia ultimatum

Threatens sanctions on countries that buy Russian oil

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump announced new weapons for Ukraine yesterday, and threatened to hit buyers of Russian exports with sanctions unless Russia agrees a peace deal in 50 days, a major shift in policy brought on by frustration with Moscow.

Sitting side-by-side with Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte in the Oval Office, Trump told reporters that he was disappointed in Russian President Vladimir Putin. Billions of dollars in weapons would be distributed to Ukraine, he said.

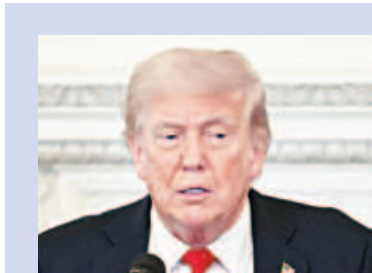
"We're going to make top-of-the-line weapons, and they'll be sent to Nato," Trump said, adding that Washington's Nato allies would pay for the weapons.

The weapons would include Patriot air defence missiles, which Ukraine has urgently sought to defend its cities from Russian air strikes. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed gratitude to Trump for his readiness to protect Ukrainian lives.

"It's a full complement with the batteries," Trump said. "We're going to have some come very soon, within days... a couple of the countries that have Patriots are going to swap over and will replace the Patriots with the ones they have."

Some or all of 17 Patriot batteries ordered by other countries could be sent to Ukraine "very quickly," he said.

His threat to impose so-called secondary sanctions on Russia, if carried out, would be a major shift in Western sanctions policy. Lawmakers from both



Trump threatens secondary sanctions on Russia in 50 days

Says up to 17 Patriot batteries could be available for Ukraine

political parties in the United States are pushing for a bill that would authorise such measures, targeting other countries that buy Russian oil, reports Reuters.

Throughout the more than three-year-old war, Western countries have cut off most of their own financial ties to Moscow, but have held back from taking steps that would restrict Russia from selling its oil elsewhere. That has allowed Moscow to continue earning hundreds of billions of dollars from shipping oil to buyers such as China and India.

"We're going to be doing secondary tariffs," Trump said. "If we don't have a deal in 50 days, it's very simple, and they'll be at 100%."

A White House official said Trump was referring to 100% tariffs on Russian goods as well as secondary sanctions on other countries that buy its exports.

Still, Trump's announcement of a 50-day grace period was greeted with relief by investors in Russia, where the rouble recovered from earlier losses and stock markets rose.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas welcomed Trump's tougher line on Russia, but said a 50-day ultimatum on punishing Moscow was "very long," reports AFP.

"It is very positive President Trump is taking a strong stance on Russia," Kallas told journalists. "On the other hand, 50 days is a very long time if we see that they are killing innocent civilians every day."

Trump, who returned to power this year promising a quick end to the war, said his shift was motivated by increasing frustration with Putin, who, he said, had talked about peace but continued to strike Ukrainian cities.

Population policy updated to harness demographic edge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 13 years, the government has updated the Population Policy with the aim of achieving six key objectives, including fully harnessing the potential of the country's demographic dividend.

Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum yesterday inaugurated the Bangladesh Population Policy-2025 at a programme at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium to mark World Population Day, which was on Friday.

In 2012, the government enacted the Population Policy,

The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15-64) is larger than the non-working-age share: UNFPA.

with the first objective of reducing the total fertility rate (TFR) to 2.1 by increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate.

The updated policy, prepared by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, reflects a major shift, placing greater emphasis on harnessing the potential of the demographic dividend rather than focusing on population control.

The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15-64) is larger than the non-working-age share, according to UNFPA.

Bangladesh is currently going through the demographic dividend period.

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Woman, 2 children found murdered in their home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the bodies of a woman and two children with their throats slit from their house in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as 25-year-old Moyna Begum, wife of Rafiqul Islam, a garment worker; their daughter Raisa Akter, four; and son Md Nirab, two.

They were found inside their house in Ward-7 of Bhaluka municipality after neighbours noticed blood near the door and alerted the police.

"We recovered the three bodies with their throats slit around 11:30am," said Md Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station.

"The murders are believed to have taken place either late last night [Sunday] or early today [yesterday]. At the time, Rafiqul was away on his night shift."

The OC said Rafiqul's younger brother, Nazrul Islam, an auto-rickshaw driver, had also been living in the same house. "After the incident, Nazrul fled. We now suspect he may have committed the triple murder over a family dispute."

Police also recovered an anti-cutter, believed to be the murder weapon, from Nazrul's room.

Before fleeing, Nazrul reportedly sold his mobile phone and SIM card to a local around 8:00am, claiming he needed the money as he would not be allowed back into the house without clearing due rent, OC Humayun said.

Meanwhile, Moyna's brother, Johirul Islam, filed a case

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Even amid the pouring rain, some people have no option but to visit a TCB truck for the daily essentials at subsidised prices. The photo was taken in front of the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Rayerbazar area yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Four 'ARA men' held with UZI at Rohingya camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Four alleged members of the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) have been arrested during a joint operation by the Bangladesh Army and Armed Police Battalion (APBn) at Rohingya Camp II in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya.

The raid was carried out around 6:45pm on Saturday in Block C-6 at the house of camp community leader (majhi) Kefayet Ullah. A foreign-made UZI submachine gun and Tk 14 lakh in cash were recovered, according to a press release.

The detainees are Md Anas, 30, of Block E; Kefayet Ullah, 35, of Block C-6 in Camp II; Mansur Ahmed, 32, of Block C-14; and Yasser Arafat, 35, of Block C-16 in Camp 9.

Preliminary interrogation revealed that they are active ARA members under notorious criminal Nabi Hossain.

According to the press release, the group had gathered to buy foreign arms from a dealer named Elias, who managed to flee during the raid. The seized weapon, reportedly used by the Myanmar military, was meant

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