



Pvt sector sidelined in tariff talks

At a *Star* roundtable, industry leaders, trade experts slam govt's handling of negotiations with US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders and trade experts have expressed frustration over the government's handling of negotiations with the United States on punitive tariffs, warning that poor preparation, lack of transparency, and minimal private-sector involvement have left Bangladesh vulnerable in its most crucial export market.

Their concerns were aired at a roundtable hosted yesterday by The Daily Star, titled "What's Next for Bangladesh After US Tariff Talks?", where participants criticised the government's reactive and disjointed response to the Trump administration's imposition of a steep 35 percent tariff on Bangladeshi goods.

As Dhaka prepares for a third round of negotiations with the Office of the United States Trade Representative -- after two earlier rounds failed to secure a deal -- a deepening trust deficit between the government and industry stakeholders has come to the surface.

Business leaders warned that without their direct involvement, negotiators risk accepting terms that could render large parts of the country's garment industry uncompetitive.

Some participants said Bangladesh's failure to act swiftly and strategically has resulted in one of the highest tariff rates among exporting nations. In contrast, Vietnam, a direct competitor in the global apparel market, secured a significantly

RECOMMENDATIONS

2 tier committees need to be formed immediately

Intense negotiations with USTR for tariff reduction must continue

Lessons must be learnt from other countries' negotiations

US trade bodies like AAFA, others should be used to convince Trump admin

lower rate of 20 percent, leaving Bangladesh at a distinct disadvantage.

"This is our single biggest export market. And we may lose it because we weren't proactive," said AK Azad, chairman and CEO of Ha-Meem Group. He argued that the government had failed to hire experienced lobbyists or involve the private sector at a critical early stage when the direction of talks could have been influenced.

"Global brands are already anxious," Azad added. "They see us lagging while others move forward... We didn't even know what our neighbours were

negotiating."

He called for forming formal negotiation support committees that include BGMEA leadership and relevant business leaders. "If we, the stakeholders, are not told where the problem is, how can we help?" he asked.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), confirmed that the industry was not part of the negotiation process at the outset. "We've been engaged in a limited capacity only in recent days," he said.

He, however, cautioned that broader geopolitical considerations beyond trade seem to be at play. Due to a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) signed between Dhaka and Washington, stakeholders remain

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Nari Samhati, a women's rights group, takes out a torch procession from in front of the National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh last night to commemorate the role of female student protesters in the July uprising.

CONSENSUS TALKS Key amendments must pass JS, public Parties agree on referendum for changing caretaker system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties yesterday reached a consensus that any constitutional amendment concerning the caretaker government system must secure a two-thirds majority in parliament, followed by a referendum.

They also agreed on this two-step process for bringing any changes to the constitution's preamble, Article 8 (on basic principles), Article 48 (concerning the appointment and powers of the president), Article 56 (regarding the appointment of

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The hands that stretched to freedom

S DILIP ROY

Abu Sayed is no longer just a name.

The English department student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) was brutally shot dead by police on this very day a year ago.

Martyred on his own campus for protesting a discriminatory quota system, he

has become a symbol of a generation's conscience in its fight against authoritarianism.

The video of his killing -- Sayed with arms outstretched, a single stick in hand -- showed how metal pellets struck him one after another.

The footage, which spread like wildfire, did more than galvanise the quota reform

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A Palestinian man mourns while holding the shrouded body of a child killed in overnight Israeli strikes, inside the morgue of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: AFP

'It felt like an abduction' Says Assamese teacher pushed into Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and DIPAN NANDY

Khairul Islam, a 48-year-old primary school teacher in Assam's Murigaon village, had just finished his evening lessons on May 27 when he was dragged into a nightmare.

Khairul Master, as he is locally known, was audibly shaken when recalling the day during a telephone conversation with The Daily Star yesterday.

When he heard that this paper was calling from Bangladesh, his voice broke.

"Bangladesh gave me a new life," he said. "I will pray for this country from the bottom of my heart for the rest of my life." Khairul recounted how members of India's Border Security Force (BSF) arrived without warning. "They came to take me away. I resisted. I kept asking, 'Why me? What did I do?' But they didn't answer. They slapped me."

What followed, he described, felt like an abduction.

"They struck me with a truncheon. Then they blindfolded me, tied my hands,

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Crime 'stable' at 11 murders, 15 rapes a day!

Jan-June police data show

TANIM AHMED

A government statement claiming there has been no significant rise in crime begins with the observation that recent news reports, hinting at a spike in crime, are "fuelling fear and insecurity among citizens".

The chief adviser's press wing goes on to assert that the official crime statistics from September 2024 to June 2025 do not "completely" support the claim that crime is sharply rising this year. "In fact, the data reveals stabilisation in major crime categories over the past 10 months."

These are not the "hallmarks of a crime wave" because some serious crimes are supposedly either "declining or stable", CA's press wing claims.

It says, "Citizens should remain vigilant but also trust that law enforcement is maintaining control, as reflected by relatively stable crime trends."

Before going into the two tables provided by the press wing, the rhetoric begs to be examined. The statement seems to blame the media for fuelling fear and insecurity through its inaccurate reporting, much of which was triggered by the gruesome death of a scrap trader in Old Dhaka, at a stone's throw from an Ansar office.

The press wing then presses the point that crime has stabilised, not risen; that it is declining or stable. The language belies the extent of insensitivity of the chief adviser's spokespersons when they talk

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We Deeply Mourn

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Razi'un
Truly, to Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return



Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury

11 November 1957 - 15 July 2025

ONE Bank PLC family deeply mourns the sad demise of Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury, founder and former Chairman of ONE Bank PLC. He breathed his last on Tuesday, 15 July, 2025. (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Razi'un. Truly, to Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return).

Sayeed H. Chowdhury was also the founder Chairman and CEO of HRC Group and a key figure in the development of ONE Bank PLC. He served as Chairman of ONE Bank from 2001 to 2008 and again from 2012-2020 and in later years as a Director. A distinguished business leader, he completed his education in the UK and began his career managing his family's business in the Gulf before returning to Bangladesh. In 1991, he established HRC Group, which grew into a major conglomerate involved in shipping, real estate, media, finance, and IT. He also held leadership roles in several organizations, namely Media New Age, ISN Ltd., and BGIC, and served as President of BOGSOA and Honorary Consul of Spain in Bangladesh. He will forever be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

We pray for the salvation of his departed soul and extend profound condolence to members of his bereaved family.



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Nationwide mayhem leaves 6 dead

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

July 16, 2024, marked a grim escalation in the quota reform protests as violence swept across Bangladesh, leaving at least six people dead, including three students, and hundreds injured in fierce clashes involving protesters, Chhatra League activists, and police.

In Chattogram, three people were killed during confrontations between quota reform protesters and Chhatra League activists. Among the dead were Wasim Akram, a student of Chittagong College; Faisal Ahmed, a management student at Omargani MES College; and Md Faruk, an employee at a furniture shop. Hospital sources confirmed that Faruk had sustained bullet wounds while Akram was stabbed. Thirty others were injured, two critically. The violence erupted after Chhatra League men occupied the rally venue at Sholashahar Railway Station, sparking chaos at multiple nearby locations including Muradpur and Gate No 2.

In Dhaka, pitched battles raged for over seven hours in Science Lab and Dhaka College areas. Two people died in the clashes—Md Shajahan, a 24-year-old hawk with a makeshift shop near Balaka Cinema Hall, and Sabuj Ali, 25, who suffered critical head injuries. Both were declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Shajahan's mother, Ayesha Begum, broke down at the hospital, crying, "My son had nothing to do with the protest. Who killed him?"

The Science Lab intersection turned into a war zone as protesters—mostly college students—engaged in running battles with stick-wielding Chhatra League activists. Brick chunks flew as both groups chased each other back



JULY 16, 2024

and forth between 1:45pm and 8:45pm. At least 127 people were injured, including two police officers. Around 7:00pm, they chased away former Awami League MP Haji Salim near LabAid Hospital, forcing him and his aides to take refuge inside the building.

Clashes also erupted in Chankharpu, Rayshahebbazar, Mirpur-10, Bhatara, and Farmgate. At Rayshahebbazar, five students—including four from Jagannath University and one from Kabi Nazrul Government College—were shot during an attack carried out by Awami League and Jubo League men.

In Rangpur, tragedy struck when police opened fire on students protesting at Begum Rokeya University. Abu Sayed, 25, an English department student, was shot in the chest. A widely circulated video showed him standing with his arms outstretched before collapsing. He was declared dead at



Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Around 30 other students were injured in the incident. A haunting image of Sayed with his arms raised—moments before he was shot—quickly became an icon of the movement, symbolising student defiance in the face of state violence.

Tension flared further when students tried to bring Sayed's body back to campus. Police intercepted them and sent the body for autopsy. In response, enraged students set fire to the vice-chancellor's residence and vandalised five university vehicles. Vice Chancellor Prof Abdur Rashid, along with staff and faculty members, was confined inside the building for hours before being rescued by law enforcers. Students also set fire to a Chhatra League leader's room at Bangabandhu Hall.

The violent turn of events followed a massive swell in protester numbers

after the previous day's attack on Dhaka University students. Students from private universities and colleges joined in droves. Major thoroughfares including Jatrabari, Shantinagar, Science Lab, Motijheel, Badda, Tantibazar, Uttara, and Beribandh were blocked, bringing traffic to a standstill. Protesters also halted trains at Mohakhali for over six hours and obstructed highways connecting Dhaka to Chattogram, Sylhet, Tangail, and Mymensingh.

The government responded by deploying Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Dhaka, Chattogram, Bogura, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Gazipur. It closed all secondary schools and colleges indefinitely and postponed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams scheduled for July 18. Late at night, the University Grants Commission announced that all public and private universities and their affiliated colleges would be closed until further notice, instructing students to vacate their dormitories.

Hasnat Abdullah, one of the protest coordinators, condemned the day's events as "state-sponsored attacks." Another coordinator, Asif Mahmud, announced plans for a symbolic "coffin procession" and gayebana janaza at Raju Bhashkarjo the following day at 2:00pm to honour those killed. He urged students from across the country to join in remembrance and resistance.

As the day came to a close, the scale of destruction, trauma, and fury left no doubt that July 16 would be remembered as one of the darkest days of the quota reform movement—cementing a turning point in the nationwide uprising.

Let's build a new Bangladesh with spirit of July: CA

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has urged the people of the country to work together to build a new Bangladesh, utilising the opportunity created by the sacrifice of the July martyrs.



He made the call in a message issued yesterday on the occasion of "July Martyrs' Day" to be observed across the country today.

"On this day, I remember with deep respect all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the July uprising to make the nation free from the chains of tyranny."

The chief adviser said it's a remarkable day in the history of the mass uprising of students, workers, and commoners.

On this day, he said, at least six people were martyred in Chattogram, Rangpur, and Dhaka in police firing and attacks on the students, who were protesting for the abolition of the discriminatory quota system in government jobs.

"The sacrifice of these fearless heroes gave a strong impetus to the movement."

To uphold the contribution of the martyred and injured July fighters, the interim government, after assuming office, has taken various initiatives for their welfare and their families, the chief adviser said.

The July Mass Uprising Directorate and the "July Shaheed Smriti Foundation" were established, he said, to preserve the memory of the martyrs and for the welfare of the martyrs' families and the injured.

He mentioned that the process of preparing a complete list of July martyrs and publishing it in the gazette is ongoing.

Yunus said Tk 30 lakh and monthly allowances are being given to the families of each July martyr, while similar initiatives are also being implemented for the welfare of the injured July fighters.

The chief adviser said the July martyrs dreamed of a new state system free from discrimination, corruption, and autocracy. "Everyone must work together to utilise this opportunity created in exchange for their sacrifice."

Pvt sector sidelined in tariff talks

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unable to access the full details of the discussions.

"As it is a government-to-government matter and protected under an NDA, we respect the confidentiality. We do not want to compromise the trust or breach the agreement. If the main negotiators can protect our interests, we are satisfied," Khan said.

The BGMEA chief reiterated the association's demand for a tariff structure that is both affordable and aligned with regional competitors such as India, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Cambodia. "If the tariff is slightly higher but allows for a level playing field, that would still be acceptable," he said.

However, Khan stressed that the association is pushing for a rate at least 10 percentage points lower than our competitors to ensure Bangladesh remains competitive in the US market.

Khan also flagged a looming crisis surrounding new US requirements for 40 percent local value addition. While BGMEA wants a lower threshold, confusion persists over how "value addition" is defined. "If only raw materials are included in the calculation, factories would struggle to comply," he said.

"Many factories that depend entirely on the US market will simply not survive," he added. "That could trigger widespread factory closures and mass layoffs."

He further cautioned that factories exporting more than 40 percent of their products to the US would be the hardest hit. "Some factories are even 100 percent dependent on the US market. If they fail to comply with the new tariff structure, they will not survive."

Former BGMEA president Rubana Huq, speaking virtually, described the current standoff as "personal and bilateral" for President Donald Trump, and criticised the government for failing to meaningfully engage stakeholders at an early stage.

She emphasised that no strategic alignment is possible without first addressing the deep-rooted trust deficit between the government and the business community.

Huq suggested Bangladesh should learn from countries like Pakistan, which actively involved its private sector in high-stakes trade talks with the US.

"We need a two-tier structure — both a steering and a working committee — to ensure inclusivity. BGMEA must be part of the process," she said.

Expanding on the broader implications, Huq argued that the US's defiance of global trade norms, particularly rules of origin and special differential treatment, has created a precarious situation for countries like Bangladesh. Even so, she pointed to signals from Washington that suggest room for dialogue.

"The White House is signalling: 'Meet us halfway.' That's a hint of flexibility," she said.

Huq stressed that Bangladesh

must recognise its limitations when compared to Vietnam, India, or Pakistan in terms of geopolitical alignment and negotiating leverage. As an example, she cited China's rare earth minerals deal with the US, which she said underscores how strategic trade relations have become.

"Even China is headed toward a truce with the US. Meanwhile, we are exposed," she said.

She also warned against complacency over projections that estimate the impact at \$8 billion in lost trade. According to her, the risks are far greater. "It's far worse. We are seeing customers frontload orders out of fear. In just five months, exports to the US totalled \$3.38 billion."

Huq outlined a bleak scenario if the situation continues unresolved: sharp declines in export volume, massive layoffs, intensified pricing pressure, reduced foreign direct investment, and serious disruptions to supply chains. She said the country's GDP could contract as a result.

"Let's be clear — America is our single biggest growing market. And

discussion between the government, researchers, and stakeholders," he said. "If non-trade issues are on the table, we need to know what those are, at least in principle."

He added that a bad deal may be worse than no deal, but panic should also be avoided if the talks stretch beyond August. "Negotiations must continue beyond artificial deadlines."

Razzaque also called for political consensus on what kind of trade deal would be best for Bangladesh in the medium to long term.

THE BIGGEST INSULT
Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions, delivered a blunt critique of the government's decision to exclude the private sector from the negotiation process.

He called it "the biggest insult" and said the excuse of the NDA was being used to cover up a lack of planning. "They could've consulted us on red lines and fallback options," he said.

"That should not have been the case," he said. "I'm not claiming that everything would have turned out differently if we had been involved,



Participants of the roundtable discussion on "What's next for Bangladesh after US tariff talks?" held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

just when we were opening up and attracting even Chinese investors, this shock hits us."

She insisted that consulting the private sector is no longer optional, but essential to avoid deep economic fallout.

"This is not just about big businesses. Millions of jobs are at stake. And as some exporters shift from the US to the EU, it's affecting even those outside direct US trade."

Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation, said the tariff shock marks a reversal of decades of free trade gains. "In general, we have enjoyed the benefits of a globalised world and free trade. But now, I think we are going backwards," he said.

He pointed to a core supply chain vulnerability: "Many companies in Bangladesh still rely heavily on raw materials and components imported from China."

He appealed for transitional relief. "If they could negotiate an implementation period of at least six months, it would help companies to do alternative sourcing," he said.

Economist Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of RAPID, warned that the private sector must brace for a worst-case scenario.

"So far, we haven't seen meaningful

but there's no logic in excluding stakeholders who account for more than 98 percent of the country's import and export activity."

Hoque criticised the justification offered in the name of national interest, noting that "had a private sector representative been included in the committee from the beginning, they would have automatically been bound by the non-disclosure agreement."

"Why shouldn't the largest representatives of the stakeholders have the same status?" Hoque asked. "We are also sons of this country. We feel just as responsible for its future. If a secretary, deputy secretary, or joint secretary can be trusted with confidentiality, why can't we?"

Expressing his disappointment with the government's approach, he said, "I'm very sorry. This government is trying to do good things and bring meaningful change across Bangladesh. But, unfortunately, from the very first day, the private sector has somehow been neglected. I don't know the reason, but it's happening."

Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, a former caretaker government adviser on foreign affairs, said the 35 percent tariff is inconsistent with WTO norms.

"However, they don't care about the

WTO. US domestic law supersedes all international law, including norms followed by multilateral organisations of which the United States is a member."

Chowdhury called for a comparative study of Vietnam's strategy, where an initial 46 percent tariff was slashed by 26 percentage points in just three months.

"We have to understand the methodology that Vietnam uses and its negotiating strategy. Vietnam moved swiftly at the very first warning signs, started high-level contacts and immediately entered into negotiations for a framework trade deal," he said.

A framework agreement provides a forum for continuing discussions across a varied spectrum of trade, investment and intellectual property.

Chowdhury added that American concerns span para-tariffs, non-tariff barriers, procurement, corruption, copyright, foreign equity caps and repatriation.

Lutfi M Ayub, chairman of Fountain Garments Manufacturing Ltd, said half his output goes to the US and half to the EU. Now, buyers like Walmart are in a "wait-and-see" mode.

"This waiting period could cost us several idle months — a difficult situation for our factories," he said.

"When we approached the government for clarity, we were warned by other agencies that delays and a lack of proactive action would cost us. And that seems to be what's happening."

"The government responded by saying they're bound by a non-disclosure agreement. That's quite frustrating. They didn't need to share the full agreement, but they could have consulted us on key points. We understand how to run our businesses best."

"If we lose \$8 billion in business, that could mean one million jobs lost — with devastating social consequences," Ayub said. "We need a decisive deal before August 1."

M Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, called for a new market-based approach. "We need a market-based strategy where exporters and US buyers — brands and retailers — share the added cost."

"BGMEA must play a guardian or curating role. If left to individual firms, it'll lead to undercutting — a race to the bottom."

He said the most sustainable strategy is to enhance competitiveness: "We need to bring down trade and business costs through better logistics and ease of doing business, and improve productivity through tech and skills."

"We're at a disadvantage compared to Vietnam, India, Indonesia — this has to change," he said.

"Competitiveness improvement is a medium to long-term agenda, but it must start now. It should have started 10 years ago."

"If we are offering politics, security, and defence, then we must ask for the best possible tariff outcome in return."

Crime 'stable' at 11 murders

FROM PAGE 1

about murder, rape and child abuse as if it were exchange rates of currencies. They further suggest that the people should be relieved since crime trends are holding steady, and that too because law enforcers are at work.

In other words, rapists can continue raping, murderers can go around killing people just as they did last month because the police are in control. It is because the law enforcement agencies are working hard that crime is stable, the statement claims.

Turning to the numbers, provided by the press wing (which they said was sourced from the police), murder, rape, and violence and against women and children have risen since January 2025. There was a drop in the number of rapes in February while violence against women and children showed a drop in June.

Murders rose by 17 percent from 294 in January 2025 to 344 in June. Rapes rose by 25 percent from 392 in January to 492 in June, with February registering a decline with 337 rapes. Violence against women and children rose from 1,048 in January to 1,441 instances in June, peaking in May with 1,584 cases.

Comparing the data of the first six months this year to another year might give a better idea of the crime trend. There were 1,933 murders in the first six months of 2025. In other words, almost 11 (10.74) people were murdered every day compared to 8.28 every day in 2023. There were 2,744 rapes till June 2025. That is, just over 15 women were raped every day so far this year compared to just over 14 a day in 2023. Perhaps the most damning indictment for the government is its failure to protect children. There were 2,159 instances of violence against children between January and June this year amounting to 12 children abused every day as opposed to 2,713 such instances in 2023, which is about 7.43 per day.

Since the latter half of 2024 was unstable and featured the July uprising, it would not be a fair comparison to understand the general trends, hence the comparison with the preceding year.

Police data show that violent crimes

in the first half of 2025 outpaced the corresponding period of 2024 in almost every major category. Murders climbed by 25.93 percent, with 1,930 cases recorded this year, compared to 1,533 last year. However, police noted that over 400 of this year's cases involved incidents that occurred in previous years.

Repression against women and children rose by 22.29 percent, reaching 11,008 cases in the first half of 2025 — just short of the 2021 peak of 11,240. In the same period last year, 9,002 cases were reported.

Earlier this month, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad noted that the number of rape cases between January and June this year is nearly as high as the total number of rape cases last year in their compilation of statistics based on 15 newspapers. The organisation reported 481 rapes — 345 of them children. The number was 516 in entire 2024.

But far more than numbers, or mainstream media reports, public perception is shaped by social media and the barbarity of certain criminal acts. The grisly murder at Mitford and the mugging in Shyamoli where muggers stripped their victim of even his shirt have had a strong impact in the public mind about their own safety during early morning walks.

It does not reflect sensitivity on the part of the press wing if in reply to these genuine concerns they say, the trends are holding steady and numbers are not rising and whatever crime that is happening out there do not bear the "hallmarks of a crime wave". Crime statistics illustrate the state of security of the citizens, and as such, it is only natural to focus on the recent trend, the here and now.

This "stable crime trend", high as it is, can hardly be desirable for any government, although the current one appears to be missing the point entirely. Instead, it is trying, and failing, to present statistics in a manner that makes it look better.

In an ideal and truly democratic dispensation such a reaction from the government would be considered rather irresponsible and deliberately misleading.

Govt may not be able to publish 'July Charter'

FROM PAGE 12

the 17-year-long movement. We will give July its rightful recognition and grant it constitutional state honour. We will ensure that in the future, no ruler can raise a finger at July."

Chhatra Dal President Rakibul Islam Rakib said, "It is unfortunate that we are not seeing any initiative for trial regarding Chhatra League... Without justice for the victims of Chhatra League's actions, July will be in vain."

Regarding Jamaat-e-Islami, Rakib said, "A person who married the niece of a Jamaat nayebe-ameer led the chanting of disgraceful slogans against our top leader. If any attempt is made to create an unstable situation, there will be an appropriate response."

President of Dhaka University's Chhatra Union, Meghmalla Basu

said, "We want unity. But unity is only possible with those who believe in the ideology of Bangladesh. There can be no exemption for those who committed genocide in 1971 or in 2024."

Abu Bakr Mojumder, central convener of the Bangladesh Gantantrik Chhatra Sangsad, said, "In the attack that took place in front of Ekattor Hall on July 15 [last year], Chhatra Dal activists stood together and fought back. We were the coordinators, but the truth is that Chhatra Dal, Shibir, leftist organisations, and Islamic groups, all were with us. Without everyone, this uprising could never have been successful."

Leaders of several student organisations, except those from Chhatra Shibir, were present.

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GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOLS Fill vacant headmaster posts: Yunus

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has directed that vacant headmaster positions in government primary schools be filled quickly.

It must be completed urgently by coordinating with the Public Service Commission and issuing circulars, Yunus instructed during a meeting at the state guest house Jamuna on Monday, according to a statement issued yesterday by the CA's press wing.

At the meeting, Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder, adviser to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, said, "We are conducting assessments and ranking the schools, and taking special initiatives for schools lagging behind. Currently, the position of headmaster is vacant at 32,000 primary schools... Prompt measures are being taken in this regard."

Yunus also said, "Priority must be given to recruiting qualified individuals... Those who are experienced should be given priority. At the same time, young candidates should also be given opportunities to become headmasters."

Students from various schools and colleges in Kishoreganj paint graffiti to mark the anniversary of the July uprising. The initiative is part of a government programme. The photo was taken at the Katiadi Upazila Parishad premises yesterday.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

15TH AMENDMENT Appeal to be filed seeking its full annulment

Says Badiul Alam Majumder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badiul Alam Majumder, the petitioner in a writ concerning the restoration of the caretaker government system, yesterday said they would file an appeal seeking the full annulment of the 15th amendment to the Constitution.

He also demanded the scrapping of the 2011 Supreme Court verdict led by then Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque on the 13th amendment, which was used by parliament to abolish the non-partisan caretaker government system.

Badiul Alam and the legal team shared the updates at a press conference held at the Foreign Service Academy. A recent judgement has scrapped parts of the 15th amendment following their petition filed in August last year.

Sharif Bhuiyan, the lead of the lawyers' team in the writ, said the caretaker system was abolished through two actions -- by the court verdict and by the 15th amendment passed in parliament.

"As the High Court has now declared the parliamentary annulment of the caretaker government system unconstitutional, the system has been

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Tk 65,000 in salary, Tk 5cr in properties

ACC probes former police officer
over alleged illegal wealth

DIPAN NANDY

On paper, the basic salary of an officer-in-charge (OC) of a police station in Bangladesh is Tk 22,000 under the ninth national pay scale.

With other allowances, the monthly income of an inspector-ranked OC usually totals around Tk 60,000 to Tk 65,000 -- adding up to no more than Tk 8 lakh annually.

Despite this limited income, Ekram Ali Mia, former OC Dhanmondi Police Station, has managed to acquire multiple high-value properties in the capital, including one flat in his name and two others in his wife's.

All three flats are located in the upscale Dhanmondi area and were purchased between 2018 and 2024. Ekram served as the OC of Hazaribagh Police Station in 2018 and then held the post at Dhanmondi from July 2020 to June 2023.

But the story doesn't end there. His wife, Kaniz

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Built to assist, left to rot

Escalators on four Dhaka footbridges mostly non-functional, frustrating pedestrians

DIPAN NANDY

Sanjay Gomez was crossing the road via the Farmgate footbridge with his daughter when he told her, "Put on your mask." Asked why, he replied, "This footbridge had an escalator installed. Now it looks more like a garbage bin."

The footbridge, constructed at a cost of nearly Tk 20 crore, was inaugurated on October 15, 2023. Within a week, the escalator was cordoned off with bamboo fencing, without any public announcement. Since then, people have been dumping waste on the escalator. Some use the non-functional structure to cross the road.

The same scenario is seen at three other footbridges -- Banani Sainik Club, Airport Bus Stand, and Pragati Sarani.

The four footbridges equipped with escalators under Dhaka North City Corporation -- the only ones in the city -- now have their escalators mostly out of service.

Md Rasheduzzaman, a regular user of the Farmgate footbridge, said, "I suffer from knee pain, and the escalator was a big help. Suddenly it stopped working,

If it broke down, that should have been communicated. And if it broke within a week, that means there was a construction flaw."

Many pedestrians now cross the busy roads beneath the footbridges, risking their lives.

Mahmuda Khatun, a resident of Indira Road, said, "When people get used to a service and it is suddenly taken away, it's not just an inconvenience; it erodes trust."

Bangladesh's first escalator-equipped footbridge was introduced in 2014 near Banani Sainik Club. Despite having escalators on both sides, one side remains almost always out of service. The functioning side is limited to specific hours, making it unreliable for most users.

Aroshi Binte Kamal, a school student, said, "There's a big rush during school hours. You can go up on one side, but the down escalator is usually shut. Often there's even a lock hanging on it."

At the Airport Bus Stand, the footbridge escalators installed in 2017 have remained completely out of order for nearly four years. Parts of the machinery lie broken,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

SC clears path for 15 lakh to get grade benefits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday released the full text of its verdict that cleared the way for the government and autonomous employees, who got the facilities of a time scale or a selection grade before 2015, to achieve the benefits of two higher grades in their services.

Following the apex court judgement, about 15 lakh officers and employees are now entitled to receive relevant financial benefits, Barrister Md Salahuddin Dolon, principal counsel for the writ petitioners, told The Daily Star.

He also said the authorities concerned of the government and autonomous organisations can now implement the SC verdict.

Earlier on April 30 this year, the Appellate Division of the SC delivered the verdict after disposing of four separate appeals and eight leave-to-appeal petitions filed by the state challenging that High Court judgement on this issue.

In the 18 pages' full text of judgment released yesterday, the apex court bench headed by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam modified two HC judgments regarding this issue.

"Accordingly, the operating part of the impugned judgments and orders dated January 4, 2017 and December 4, 2017 respectively passed by

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Sayed Hossain Chowdhury passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Sayed Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of HRC Group, passed away at a hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday.

His personal secretary Md Sohel confirmed the news.

Chowdhury is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, and a host of well-wishers.

Chowdhury was the eldest son of Hedaet Hossain Chowdhury, the founder chairman of Karnaphuli Group, renowned educationist, language activist, and social worker.

He was also the elder brother of Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the managing director of Karnaphuli Group and Chairman of Desh TV.

Sayed Hossain Chowdhury made significant contributions to the development of Bangladesh's tea industry.

Man held over rape of 9-yr-old girl in Mohakhali

STAR REPORT

A man was arrested yesterday in connection with the rape of a nine-year-old girl in Dhaka's Mohakhali area on Monday night.

Banani police arrested Al Amin, 21, from the Mohakhali TV gate area around 7:50pm after examining CCTV footage, according to a DMP press release signed by Deputy Commissioner (media) Talebur Rahman.

Earlier, the victim's mother filed a case with Banani Police Station against an unidentified man.

The arrestee confessed to his involvement during the primary interrogation, it added.

Around 10:30pm on Monday, locals noticed the girl crying and bleeding near the National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital and informed police, who took her to a hospital.

Quoting the survivor, OC Rasel Sarwar said a man forcibly took her to a secluded spot behind the hospital and raped her.

She was admitted to a hospital in the capital for examination, police said.

An official of the hospital said, "Several tests, including forensic examinations, were conducted today. Preliminary results suggest evidence of rape."

Satyajit Ray's ancestral home being demolished

New M'singh Shishu Academy building to replace it

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The ancestral home of eminent litterateur Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury -- formerly used as the Mymensingh Shishu Academy -- is being demolished to make way for a new semi-concrete structure.

Upendrakishore was the father of celebrated poet Sukumar Ray and grandfather of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

The century-old house, located on Harikishore Ray Chowdhury Road in Mymensingh, is tied to the legacy of the

illustrious Ray family, whose contributions to Bangla literature and arts are considered foundational. Harikishore Ray Chowdhury himself was an ancestor of Upendrakishore, Sukumar, and Satyajit.

Asked about the demolition, Md Mehedi Zaman, Mymensingh's district children affairs officer, said the decision to demolish the house was made by a committee led by the district's Deputy Commissioner Mofidul Alam. It also includes him and officials from the Public Works Department.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BNP pledges to support govt on US tariff challenges

UNB, Dhaka

Senior BNP leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said that his party will offer coordinated cooperation to the government on US tariff and security issues, to help address the tariffs imposed by the US.

Chowdhury made the remarks during a briefing to journalists at a hotel in Banani, following an exchange of views with business leaders concerning the US tariffs.

The BNP standing committee member emphasised that the livelihoods of 15-16 lakh people are linked to exports to the US market, so the tariff issue is a serious matter for Bangladesh.

Khosru said business leaders fear that the recent US tariff impositions will severely impact Bangladesh's trade.

Therefore, the BNP is prepared to cooperate with the government in the ongoing tariff discussions with the US, aiming to achieve a pragmatic solution for Bangladesh.

In response to a question, Amir Khosru pointed out that India and Vietnam are Bangladesh's direct competitors in the international garment export market.

If Bangladesh fails to reach a solution regarding the tariffs, these competitor countries will gain a significant advantage in exporting to the US.

He warned that Bangladesh cannot afford to bear the risk of millions of job losses, the closure of industrial factories, and thousands of backward linkage industries due to unresolved tariff issues. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan, BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem, former President of FBCCI AK Azad, Chairman of Apex Tannery Ltd Syed Nasim Monzur, Chairman of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, Chairman of Prank RFL Group Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, among others joined the meeting.

Malaysia denies entry to 96 Bangladeshis

STAR REPORT

Malaysian authorities have denied entry of 96 Bangladeshis, among 131 foreigners, into the country during a special operation by the Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS) on Friday.

The operation led to the denied entry of 131 foreigners out of over 300 inspected at Terminal One of Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

"From that number, 96 Bangladeshi men, 30 Pakistani men, and five Indonesian men and women were found to have not met the set criteria to enter the country," said AKPS in a statement, reports Malaysian daily The Star yesterday.

"Among the issues found were suspicious accommodations, failure to present themselves to the immigration counter and not bringing enough funds.

"Insufficient funds are generally a big clue into the intent of the person seeking entry. For example, there were those who claimed to be visiting for a month but had only brought around RM500 [about Tk 14,000], leading to doubts over their true intentions," the AKPS said.

The AKPS also urged all travellers to ensure that all required criteria are met before entering the country.

PRAYER
TIMING

JULY 16

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



Even amid heavy rain, Md Yunus Hawlader, 55, sits on this footpath and sells guavas to earn a livelihood. He sells the fruit for Tk 40 per kilogramme. The photo was taken from Sadar Road in Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Mud, potholes cripple Jashore-Khulna highway

Vital trade route nearly impassable after monsoon rains

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

The Jashore-Khulna highway, a vital artery for the country's southwestern trade routes, is now in a state of disrepair. Serving as the main corridor connecting Benapole along with Noapara river port, Mongla sea port, and Bhomra land port, the highway has become nearly impassable due to recent monsoon rains and unfinished work.

A five-kilometre stretch between Basundia and Chengutia has



become particularly hazardous. Large potholes and mud make it difficult to even recognise this as a highway. Traffic has slowed to a crawl, and the transport of goods

along this crucial route has ground to a near standstill.

According to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), a total of Tk 321 crore has already been spent on reconstructing the 38 kilometre highway from Palbari intersection in Jashore to Rajghat in Abhaynagar. The project began in 2017 but, despite multiple deadline extensions, was only completed in 2023. An additional Tk 172 crore project is currently underway.

"The stretch from Rupdia to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Satyajit Ray's ancestral home being demolished

FROM PAGE 3

The same committee is also supervising the demolition, added the official.

"The house had been abandoned for 10 years, and Shishu Academy activities have been running from a rented space," said the official, adding that the new semi-concrete building with several rooms will be built to

resume academy activities.

He also claimed that the demolition is being carried out in accordance with proper procedures and necessary approvals.

DC Mofidul Alam could not be reached for comments.

When asked why such a historically significant building, located on a 36-acre plot, was being torn

down, Mehedi said the old building posed safety risks to children gathering at the compound.

Situated just behind Shashi Lodge -- one of the region's most prominent archaeological landmarks -- the house had reportedly fallen into disrepair after years of neglect by the authorities.

According to the Department of Archaeology, the house was built over a century ago by Upendrakishore, a zamindar from Masua in Kishoreganj's Katiadi upazila. After the

partition of 1947, the property came under government ownership and started housing Mymensingh Shishu Academy in 1989.

Locals say the demolition will wipe out the legacy of the Ray dynasty in Mymensingh city.

"The house remained in a sorry state for years, with cracks forming on its roof -- yet the authorities never cared about the rich history these old buildings hold," said poet Shamim Ashraf, adding that locals had repeatedly called for its preservation, but to no avail.

Sabina Yeasmin, field officer of the Department of Archaeology (Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions), said the house had not been officially listed with the department, but according to surveys, it was an archaeological heritage.

She said she had spoken with Shishu Academy and local administration officials, urging them to protect the house, but her request was ignored.

She also informed the department's regional director on this matter, she added.

সাধারণ সভার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা প্রজ্ঞাপিত সংগঠনের সংশ্লিষ্ট সদস্যগণকে অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, এ্যাসোসিয়েশন অব অ্যান্টি- মানিলাভারিং কমপ্লায়েন্স অফিসার্স অব ব্যাংকস ইন বাংলাদেশ (Association of Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officers of Banks in Bangladesh) (প্রজ্ঞাপিত) নামে কোম্পানি আইন ১৯৯৪, ধারা-২৮, বাণিজ্য সংগঠন আইন ২০২২ এবং বাণিজ্য সংগঠন বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী একটি সংগঠন গঠনের লক্ষ্যে বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় (বাণিজ্য সংগঠন-১) থেকে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে নামের হাভসপার গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। এমতাবস্থায়, বাংলাদেশের তফসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকসমূহের যেসব সদস্য উক্ত সংগঠনের সদস্য হতে আগ্রহী, তাদেরকে আগামী ০৭ আগস্ট ২০২৫ খ্রি., বুধসপ্তাহের, বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকায়, সংগঠনের অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়: ইন্টার্ন কমার্শিয়াল কমপ্লেক্স (১২ তলা), ৭৩ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা এ বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় সাধারণ সভায় উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। এছাড়া, প্রজ্ঞাপিত সংগঠনের নামে কারো কোনো আপত্তি বা পরামর্শ থাকলে, বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে তা লিখিতভাবে মহাপরিচালক, বাণিজ্য সংগঠন, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা বাবার অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মোহাম্মদ জিয়াউল হাসান মোস্তা
সভাপতি, Association of Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officers of Banks in Bangladesh (প্রজ্ঞাপিত)

আয়তনক দক্ষতা সহায়তা!

ইউসেস বাংলাদেশ

অন্তরঙ্গ সজ্জা (Interior Decoration) ও মেরামত কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইউসেস বাংলাদেশ এর আওতাধীন MTB UCEP Skills Training Institute (MUSTI) Project Building, প্লট: ০৭, মাদানি রোড, মাদানি, ময়মনসিংহ-১২১০ এর অভ্যন্তরীণ সজ্জা (Interior Decoration) এবং মেরামত কাজের জন্য দক্ষ ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। শুধুমাত্র হারানাদাস ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের মূল অথবা ফটোকপি প্রদর্শন সাপেক্ষে ইউসেস বাংলাদেশের প্রধান কার্যালয়, প্রশাসন শাখা (৩য় তলা), প্লট নং- ২ ও ৩, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬ হতে আগামী ১৬/০৭/২০২৫ থেকে ২৪/০৭/২০২৫ ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র জমা করা হবে। দরপত্র ২৭/০৭/২০২৫ ইং তারিখ বেলা ০৩:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ইউসেস বাংলাদেশ এর বিভাগ তলায় রফিক ভেন্ডার বাজার মুখবন্ধ খামে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র একই দিন বেলা ০৩:০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাধারের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ থাকেন) খোলা হবে। তফসিল ক্রয়ের মূল্য ১,৫০০.০০ (এক হাজার পঁচাত্তর টাকা মাত্র) অক্ষরতযোগ্য। কাজের নাম, ধরণ, বিবরণ ও পরিমাপ ইউসেস বাংলাদেশ এর ওয়েবসাইট (<http://tender.ucepbd.org>) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা হবে। দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত মোট মূল্যের উপর ২.৫% আর্নেস্টমনি হিসাবে যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হতে করতল পো-কার্ডারগোংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে ইউসেস বাংলাদেশ এর মূলতহা জমা দিতে হবে। আর্থিক প্রস্তাব এবং কারিশমার প্রস্তাব আলাদা আলাদা খামে জমা দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শালে ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার সার্বিক অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। যোগাযোগ্য ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রশাসন, ইউসেস বাংলাদেশ, মোবাইলঃ ০১৭৭৪০৯২৭৩, প্লট নং- ২ ও ৩, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬। ফোনঃ ৪১০০২৪৬৬-৬৬।

act:onaid

Tender Notice

ActionAid Bangladesh invites sealed quotations from qualified vendors/suppliers for the purchase of construction materials for the Natural Resource Management Project. These materials will be distributed in various Rohingya camps located in Cox's Bazar. The details are as follows-

SL#	Name of Items	Quantity
1	Construction Materials	4 Job

The Tender Schedule will be available for collect at ActionAid Cox's Bazar Office (House No-752, Ward- 11, Jhawola, Masjid Road, Cox's Bazar- 4700) between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm during office hours of 16-21 July 2025 (Working Day). Alternatively, interested suppliers/vendors can obtain the schedule from the following website.

Website

Construction Materials | <https://actionaidbd.org/tender-notice>

The Quotation must be submitted in a sealed envelope on or before 22nd July 2025 by 11:00 AM at the above-mentioned locations.

ActionAid Bangladesh may propose entering into long-term agreements (LTAs) with selected individual vendors/suppliers for the specified categories of items to facilitate future procurement for a duration of one year.

The authority of ActionAid Bangladesh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CBE

Request for Concept Notes - 2025

The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust established by BRAC with support from Government of Germany through KfW. It is an innovative direct climate finance mechanism which supports NGOs, registered under NGO Affairs Bureau, working in Bangladesh. CBF Secretariat invites project concept notes from NGOs, targeted to increase the resilience of people living in selected urban areas who are either displaced or are at risk of being displaced due to the impacts of climate change. The fund currently supports vulnerable communities in Rajshahi, Khulna, and Barishal city corporations as well as Satkhira and Sirajganj municipalities. Project areas proposed in the submitted concept notes must be confined within these locations. Duration of the proposed projects may vary between three to five years and estimated budget should be within BDT 50 lakhs to 3 crores.

International NGOs registered with NGO 50 are eligible to apply under the condition that the proposed projects include a strong collaboration with local/national NGOs and their involvement is limited to technical and fiduciary support.

For detailed instructions on how to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.brac.net/cbf>

Interested NGOs are requested to fill out the prescribed project concept note template completely in English and submit to: cbf.info@brac.net with the subject "**CBF/CCW/NGOs/2025/01**".

Deadline for submission: **Monday, 01 September 2025, 23.59 BST**

*Any form of persuasion shall result in disqualification

brac

german cooperation

KFW

Career Opportunity

TM Textiles & Garments limited is inviting application from suitable candidate for an Expatriate Garments Technician for Company's Garments Division, Located at Kashor, Hobirbari Union, Bhaluka, Mymensingh, Bangladesh having the following conditions:
For more information, please visit: www.toray.com

Position & Post	Education	Experience	Responsibility
Garments Technician (01)	Graduate	10 years in Garments Production & Quality and at least 40 years of age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report to top management about analytical data on running productionAdvice/Help to QC team and factory to solve production issueProvide suggestions to production team if any problem raised.Develop method & work place engineering and maintaining lost time recording and calculate efficiency.

Salary & Other Benefits: Negotiable

Interested applicants are requesting to send their CV by mail to hr@tmtgbd.com or by post to Admin & HR Department, TM Textiles & Garments Limited, House # 541/3 (4th Floor) Rd # 12 DOHS, Baridhara , Dhaka -1206 , Bangladesh within 15 days from the date of advertisement.

Bangladesh Open University

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

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

Ref. No. BOU/E/E&E/28(422)/2025/182

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: 1131010 Ref. No. BOU/VIP/Guest House/AC/07/2025-2026. Package No. 07	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Split Type Air-Cooler System for remaining rooms, VIP 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 Sahab
University Engineer
Bangladesh Open University
Phone: 02996691121

GD-1590

UNITED INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SEARCH FOR PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR

United International University strives for becoming a center of excellence in education in Bangladesh as well as in the South Asian region. It has keenly been pursuing to establish a pleasant and effective teaching-learning-research environment. With this end in view, the University is looking for suitable candidates for the position of Pro-Vice Chancellor having a strong academic background and excellence in research activities as well as proven record of accomplishment in academic administration.

Basic Requirements

- The ideal candidate should have a Ph.D. Degree (preferably from a North American University) with a very high academic distinction and reputation as an eminent scholar in his/her field.
- Applicants must have at least 10 (ten) years of teaching experience at a recognized university and a minimum of 15 (fifteen) years' combined experience in teaching, research, or administrative roles.

Additional Requirements

- The ideal candidate should be a dynamic and visionary leader in the area of academic administration.
- S/he should be an internationally acclaimed research scholar having outstanding marks in research activities in the international arena.
- S/he should be a student-centric academic leader having a proven record of problem solving and crisis management.
- S/he should possess professional outlook and capacity to adapt himself/herself with a new environment.
- S/he should have strong mindset to take new initiatives/challenges.

Key Responsibilities

- Teaming up with Vice Chancellor on affairs related to the university
- To cultivate innovative and best teaching practices among the faculty members
- To promote quality research and enhance research activities among the faculty members
- To oversee curriculum development of academic programs
- To contribute significantly in better positioning the university in World University Rankings
- To foster collaboration with the world-class universities abroad
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Trump voices disappointment with Putin

Kremlin says his statements are serious, require analysis

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump appears to be losing patience with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, voicing disappointment on Monday just hours after threatening “severe tariffs” against Russia.

“I’m disappointed in him, but I’m not done with him. But I’m disappointed in him,” Trump told BBC in an interview.

A few hours earlier, during a meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) Secretary General Mark Rutte in the Oval Office, Trump warned, “We’re going to be doing very severe tariffs” if a ceasefire agreement on Ukraine is not reached within 50 days.

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick clarified later that Trump actually meant “economic sanctions” when he threatened “secondary tariffs” against Russia, The Washington Times reported.

Trump also told Rutte that the United States would supply weapons to Ukraine through Nato, including Patriot missile systems, with deliveries starting soon.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said yesterday that US President Donald Trump’s recent statements, including a threat of sanctions on buyers of Russian exports, are serious and require analysis, reports Reuters.

Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: “The US president’s statements are very serious. Some of them are addressed personally to President Putin.”



Smoke rises as Syrian security forces sit in the back of a truck, while troops enter the predominantly Druze city of Sweida in southern Syria yesterday, following two days of clashes between Bedouin tribes and Druze fighters. PHOTO: REUTERS

EAST LEBANON
Israeli jets hit Hezbollah targets
12 people killed

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel’s military said it was striking targets belonging to Hezbollah’s elite Radwan force in eastern Lebanon yesterday, the latest attack despite a ceasefire between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group.

“Moments ago, Israeli Air Force fighter jets... began numerous strikes toward Hezbollah terror targets in the area of Beqaa, Lebanon,” it said.

“The military compounds that were struck were used by the Hezbollah terrorist organisation for training and exercising terrorists to plan and carry out terrorist attacks against (Israeli) troops and the State of Israel,” it added.

Israel has repeatedly bombed Lebanon despite a November ceasefire that sought to end over a year of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, including two months of all-out war that left the group severely weakened. Defence Minister Israel Katz said the latest strikes were “a clear message” to Hezbollah and the Lebanese government “which is responsible for upholding the agreement.”

West Bank seeing largest displacement since 1967

Warns UN, raises concerns about possible ‘ethnic cleansing’ by Israeli forces

AFP, Geneva

The UN warned yesterday that mass displacement in the West Bank had hit levels not seen since the start of Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territory nearly 60 years ago.

The United Nations said an Israeli military operation launched in the north of the occupied territory in January had displaced tens of thousands of people, raising concerns about possible “ethnic cleansing”.

The military operation “has been the longest since ... the second Intifada”, in the early 2000s, said Juliette Touma, spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

“It is impacting several refugee camps in the area, and it is causing the largest population displacement of the Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967,” she told reporters in Geneva via video from Jordan, referring to the six-day Arab-Israeli war that led to Israel’s occupation of the West Bank.

The UN rights office meanwhile warned that mass forced displacement by an occupation force could amount to “ethnic cleansing”.

Since Israel’s military launched its operation “Iron Wall” in the north of the West Bank in January, rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said that “about 30,000 Palestinians remain forcibly



displaced”.

Israeli security forces had during the same period issued demolition orders for about 1,400 homes in the northern West Bank, he said, describing the figures as “alarming”.

He pointed out that Israeli demolitions had displaced 2,907 Palestinians across the West Bank since October 2023.

Another 2,400 Palestinians -- nearly half of them children -- had been displaced as a result of Israeli settler actions, he added, lamenting that the combined result was the “emptying large parts of the West Bank of Palestinians”.

“Permanently displacing the civilian population within

occupied territory amounts to unlawful transfer,” Kheetan said, stressing that depending on the circumstances this could be “tantamount to ethnic cleansing” and could “amount to a crime against humanity”.

Kheetan said 757 attacks by Israeli settlers had been recorded in the West Bank during the first half of the year, a 13 percent increase on the same period in 2024.

The attacks injured 96 Palestinians in the occupied territory in June alone, he told reporters, stressing that this was the highest monthly injury toll of Palestinians from settler attacks, “in over two decades”.

Drone attack shuts Iraq oil field run by US company

AFP, Arbil

A drone strike forced a US company to suspend operations at an oil field in Iraq’s autonomous Kurdistan region yesterday, the latest in a string of attacks targeting the region’s energy infrastructure.

The Kurdistan Regional Government said the Sarsang oil field in Duhok province was hit, calling the strike “an act of terrorism against the Kurdistan Region’s vital economic infrastructure”.

The attack followed a similar drone strike a day earlier on an airport in neighbouring Arbil province, which hosts US troops.

HKN Energy, the US firm operating the site, said the blast occurred at about 7:00 am at one of its production facilities in the Sarsang field.

“Operations at the affected facility have been suspended until the site is secured,” it said in a statement.

A fire broke, but no casualties were reported. Emergency response teams later contained the blaze, HKN Energy said.

REPRISALS FROM TALIBAN
UK launched secret scheme to relocate Afghans after data leak

REUTERS, London

Britain set up a secret scheme to relocate thousands of Afghans to the UK after a soldier accidentally disclosed the personal details of more than 33,000 people, putting them at risk of reprisals from the Taliban, court documents showed yesterday.

A judge at London’s High Court said in a May 2024 judgment first made public yesterday that about 20,000 people may have to be offered relocation to Britain, a move that would likely cost “several billion pounds”.

Britain’s current defence minister John Healey said that around 4,500 affected people “are in Britain or in transit ... at a cost of around 400 million pounds”.

The government is also facing lawsuits from those affected by the breach, further adding to the ultimate cost of the incident.

A Ministry of Defence-commissioned review of the data breach, a summary of which was also published yesterday, said more than 16,000 people affected by it had been relocated to the UK as of May this year. The British government was forced to act after the breach revealed the names of Afghans who had helped British forces in Afghanistan before they withdrew from the country in chaotic circumstances in 2021.



Key amendments must pass JS, public

FROM PAGE 1

the prime minister), and Article 142 (which outlines constitution amendment procedures).

National Consensus Commission Vice President Prof Ali Riaz disclosed the development to reporters following the 14th day of the second phase of dialogues between the commission and political parties at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

Through the 15th Amendment, the Awami League government in 2011 removed the provision requiring a referendum for constitutional amendments concerning the preamble, fundamental principles, presidential powers and appointment, and the appointment of the prime minister.

This amendment also abolished the caretaker government system. Bangladesh held its only constitutional referendum on September 15, 1991. Voters were asked: “Should the president assent to the 12th Amendment?”

The 12th Amendment reinstated the parliamentary system, designating the president as a ceremonial head of state and transferring executive authority to the prime minister. It also abolished the vice-president’s

position and mandated that the president be elected by parliament.

The non-partisan caretaker system was introduced in 1990 after the fall of dictator HM Ershad as an ad hoc arrangement. Later, it was formally adopted in 1996.

The Awami League administration abolished the system in 2011, ignoring opposition demands. The Sheikh Hasina-led government also dismissed calls to reinstate the caretaker model ahead of the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections.

Following her ouster, the High Court, in December last year, annulled a portion of the 15th amendment that had scrapped the caretaker system.

During yesterday’s talks, parties once again failed to reach a consensus on the formation of the upper house. The third agenda item, women’s representation, could not be discussed due to “time constraints”.

Ali Riaz said most major parties support establishing a bicameral parliament, but disagreements persist over how the upper house would be formed.

“Some back proportional representation, others favouring seat-based allocation. The issue has now

been left to the commission for a final decision, expected next week,” he said.

WHAT PARTIES SAY

BNP is withholding its final position on the upper house structure and function until the commission makes an official decision, party standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters after yesterday’s discussions.

“We have proposed a two-step process for vital constitutional amendments involving a two-thirds majority in parliament and a referendum for changes to the crucial parts of the constitution.”

Salahuddin suggested that any future attempt to abolish or alter the caretaker government system should also fall under this referendum clause to prevent unilateral actions.

Sayed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, nayab-e-ameer of Jamaat, claimed that without a voter-based proportional representation system, the upper house risks becoming an extension of the lower house, undermining its role as a check and balance mechanism.

Saying Jamaat supports a two-tiered amendment system, Taher agreed that crucial constitutional provisions should be subject to national referendums

to ensure broader public legitimacy.

“Constitutional change must be difficult to prevent any single party from imposing unilateral amendments.”

National Citizen Party (NCP) Member Secretary, Akhter Hossen, proposed a three-tiered constitution amendment process involving a two-thirds majority in the lower house, a two-thirds majority in the upper house, and a referendum for key constitutional revision.

He also suggested that any future attempt to amend or abolish the caretaker system must also go through a referendum.

He further said NCP strongly supports an upper house elected through a proportional representation system.

“This will institutionalise multi-party democracy, allowing even smaller parties with at least 1% of the national vote share to gain representation.”

NCP criticised BNP and its allies for resisting proportional representation in the upper house and accused them of attempting to exclude the upper house discussion from the core reform agenda.

Govt declares day of state mourning today

FROM PAGE 1

privately owned buildings and Bangladeshi missions abroad.


Special prayers for the martyrs will be held in mosques across the country, alongside similar arrangements in other religious establishments.

This declaration of state mourning applies only to this year.

Officials at the Cabinet Division clarified that if the government decides to observe the day in the future, a fresh gazette will be issued.

On July 15 last year, law enforcers and activists of Awami League and its affiliated organisations launched attacks on student protesters demonstrating nationwide for the reformation of the quota system in government jobs.

At least six people, including Abu Sayed of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, were killed on July 16.



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)

প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বরঃ ৭১/২০২৫

তারিখঃ ৩০ আষাঢ়, ১৪৩২
১৪ জুলাই, ২০২৫

জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এ ২০২১ সাল ভিত্তিক 'অফিসার (রুরাল ফ্রেডিট)/(আরসি)' (১০ম গ্রেড) (JOB ID-10182) এর ৩৫১টি শূন্য পদে প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভূক্ত জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এ ২০২১ সাল ভিত্তিক 'অফিসার (রুরাল ফ্রেডিট)/(আরসি)' (১০ম গ্রেড) (JOB ID-10182) এর ৩৫১টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে এ সচিবালয়ের ১০/০১/২০২৩ তারিখের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর-০৩/২০২৩ এর প্রেক্ষিতে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত নম্বরের ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি বিধিবিধান অনুসরণপূর্বক মেধা ও কোটা অনুসারে প্রার্থী প্যানেল হতে নির্বাচিত ৩৫১ (তিনশত একদশ) জন প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত করা হয়েছে।

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এর ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।

এ বিষয়ে যে কোন প্রয়োজনে প্রার্থীদের info.bsccs@bb.org.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করার পরামর্শ প্রদান করা যাচ্ছে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৫-১৭৮৫
তারিখঃ ১৫/০৭/২০২৫

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মিজানুর রহমান আকন
পরিচালক (বিএসসিএস)
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হযরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1589

One misstep does not justify another

Govt must discontinue retrospective promotions for retired civil servants

It is surprising that the government would seek to replicate rather than reject a controversial move that saw it award retrospective promotions to retired bureaucrats who had allegedly been deprived of promotions during the 15-year rule of Awami League. According to a report, the government is set to promote several hundred retired officials from non-admin cadres, following its move last December to award post-retirement promotions to 764 officers from the admin cadre. If this is a response to any pressure to balance out the provision of “compensations” among all cadres, it is the wrong kind of response. It should not have happened. If anything, the earlier move that created the scope for this one should have been rolled back.

Unfortunately, what we’re witnessing is the institutionalisation of a manifestly partisan practice that offers no benefit to the taxpayers, as those receiving “compensations” are no longer in service. Instead, it only puts additional strain on public funds. As reported before, the last round of retrospective promotions has added Tk 42 crore in additional expenditure, not to mention the enhanced pensions to be provided for the rest of their lives. Currently, a list of around 400 retired non-admin cadre officials is under review. If all or a significant number of them get through the selection process, how much more money will be wasted?

The logic here is simple: if promotions are meant to reward merit and service, how can they be handed out to retired officers whose performances can neither be evaluated nor used to the benefit of citizens in the present? Apparently, there is little transparency around the criteria being used for granting these promotions, making public administration experts question it. Some have pointed out that the government has taken no steps to revoke undeserved promotions granted in the past, which undermines any moral ground it might have had in awarding delayed promotions. Any solution to perceived injustices, therefore, must lie in structural reform—with an eye on the future—not ad hoc compensations. But repeating moves like this only raises questions about the sincerity of the current top brass.

We urge the government to immediately halt this process. Retrospective promotions for retired officials must not become the new norm. Instead of creating new problems, the government should focus on addressing concerns over some of its decisions regarding promotions and placements. We have, for example, seen how it enabled the persistence of supernumerary promotions—another legacy of the Awami regime—again in the name of addressing grievances for past injustices. We must fix such systemic flaws in line with the proposals of the Public Administration Reform Commission so that a truly merit-based, service-focused administration can be formed.

Prevent waterlogging in Dhaka South

DSCC needs a sustainable drainage strategy, recover occupied canals

Every year, as the monsoon arrives, many parts of both Dhaka South and Dhaka North experience waterlogging even after moderate rainfall. This year has been no exception. Numerous areas of Dhaka have already started to face waterlogging amid continuing rainfall. Dhaka South has been especially vulnerable as projects implemented by the ousted regime to address this issue have failed to produce satisfactory results. In 2023, for example, the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) identified 30 areas as highly prone to waterlogging, but has since failed to undertake any effective measures to mitigate the problem. This is because, rather than adopting a sustainable long-term strategy, DSCC largely relied on temporary solutions, such as using water pumps to remove water from the affected areas.

Reportedly, during the tenure of former mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, DSCC spent Tk 360 crore to tackle waterlogging. Of this amount, around Tk 100 crore was invested in improving the drainage system in Shantinagar and surrounding areas. Yet, severe waterlogging continues to affect these areas to this day. Several other projects initiated during the previous government's tenure are also ongoing but have had little impact. For a sustainable and permanent solution to Dhaka's waterlogging problems, the root causes must be addressed.

As a 2024 study by the River and Delta Research Centre (RDRC) suggested, excavating only 15 of the occupied canals under both city corporations could potentially solve around 80 percent of the city's waterlogging. While we have seen some initiatives from DNCC to recover the encroached canals in the past few months, such efforts are not visible in DSCC areas. Meanwhile, various development projects are also contributing to waterlogging. According to a senior DSCC official, newly built structures in the Pilkhana area have blocked drainage lines, causing waterlogging in the New Market area, while the construction of the elevated expressway—which disrupted part of the Haturheel drainage system—is responsible for waterlogging in the Green Road area. If the authorities continue to undertake such projects without considering their environmental impacts, we will never be able to solve this problem for good.

It is imperative that the authorities preserve Dhaka's natural infrastructure and recover its lost water bodies, canals, and flood-flow zones as a matter of priority if they are really serious about solving the city's perennial waterlogging problem. For that, we need a long-term master plan. Both the DNCC and DSCC authorities must show their sincerity in working towards that goal.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

US successfully tests an atomic bomb

On this day in 1945, The United States tested the first atomic bomb near Alamogordo, New Mexico, and the following month dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, hastening the end of World War II.

How Bangladesh must navigate the US-led trade shift



Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem is research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). He can be reached at moazzem@cpd.org.bd.

KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM

America's trade negotiations with its major trading partners, especially the 71 countries with which it maintains a high trade deficit, have put the world on the verge of entering a new global trade order. This trade order has emerged because of the US's high ad valorem tariffs—in addition to the usual product-specific most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariffs—with its bilateral trading partners having a high trade deficit. Tariff rates for individual countries have been estimated based on a unique formula whereby the rate of tariff is inversely related to the import of US products and positively related to the export of non-US products to the US market. Such a formula has little relevance to the rate of tariffs estimated under WTO rules. Although the US claimed to impose the tariff following the WTO articles on national security, it is difficult to justify that logic.

Since the US suspended the effectiveness of bilateral ad valorem tariffs against different countries for three months, most of these countries have undergone different levels of discussion and negotiation with the US. These discussions have taken place in four categories: (a) initiated negotiation with the US and reached an agreement (e.g. UK, Vietnam, China); (b) initiated negotiation with the US and yet to reach an agreement (e.g. Bangladesh); (c) initiated negotiation with the US but withdrawn midway (e.g. Indonesia); and (d) not entered into discussion and negotiation but rather threatened to impose retaliatory tariffs if the US imposed additional tariffs (e.g. Brazil, EU). It seems that the US carried out these negotiations in order to attain four objectives: (a) ensuring higher exports of US products to



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

US's trade deficit. Third, countries may find it difficult to export their products to other countries if those countries have bilateral agreements with the US covering products of interest. And fourth, countries may be artificially forced to import US products despite having cheaper alternatives available from other countries facing higher import tariffs/restrictions in the US market. Such new trade dynamics would severely undermine not only the export competitiveness of countries under trade agreements with the US but also force them to buy US products at less competitive prices or prevent them from importing from low-

Canada and Ukraine are important sources of wheat. Similarly, Qatar is a major source of Bangladesh's import of LNG. Bangladesh's promise to import important strategic products such as arms and ammunition from the US may hurt the export interests of existing sourcing countries, such as China, India and others. Though these countries have other export destinations for the aforementioned products, they may consider the issue of losing an important share of their export market in Bangladesh as a serious blow. These countries may take retaliatory measures in other areas where Bangladesh's economic

US's 5,530 products (HS code at 6-digit level), there are products that are of Bangladesh's export interest, such as plastic products, agricultural products, chemicals, parts and equipment, etc., which may face direct competition and challenges because of the preferential market access granted to US products in those markets. These challenges are likely to be faced by small-scale exporters in different non-traditional markets in Asia, Europe, Australia and Africa.

It is apprehended that the US's high tariffs on major global exporters of agricultural products, raw materials, intermediate products and finished goods, such as Brazil, Canada, China and India, would make those products available at lower prices in non-US markets. This may have both positive and negative effects. On the one hand, these cheap agricultural products and raw materials would help countries like Bangladesh import them at lower cost. However, Bangladesh may not utilise that opportunity if it commits to higher domestic value addition for reduced tariffs in the US market. On the other hand, if Bangladesh commits to importing those products from the US, the opportunity to access low-cost products from non-US markets would be lost. Such costly procurement would raise the cost of products in the domestic market.

Bangladesh's trade deficit is evident with many European as well as Asian countries. Is Bangladesh ready to offer similar preferential market access through higher imports from those countries? Perhaps this is not possible. Hence, Bangladesh's ill-considered promises on trade may place it under pressure from other countries.

Overall, Bangladesh should deal with the US under the framework of its national trade, investment and procurement policies. More importantly, negotiations should not only consider the offensive and defensive interests in the US market.

Bangladesh's trade deficit is evident with many European as well as Asian countries. Is Bangladesh ready to offer similar preferential market access through higher imports from those countries? Perhaps this is not possible. Hence, Bangladesh's ill-considered promises on trade may place it under pressure from other countries.

Rather, Bangladesh needs to consider the offensive and defensive interests with other key trading partners, including China, Brazil, Canada, Qatar, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the European Union. The government needs to take into account that a single-country-centric trade deal may have various effects on Bangladesh's bilateral relationships with other important partners in the short to medium term.

MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES	SHARE OF TOTAL US EXPORTS (USD2.06 trillion in 2024)	US'S AD VALOREM TARIFF	MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES	SHARE OF TOTAL US EXPORTS (USD2.06 trillion in 2024)	US'S AD VALOREM TARIFF
Canada	16.9	35%	Italy	1.6	30%
Mexico	16.2	30%	Hong Kong	1.4	25%
China	7.0	54%	Malaysia	1.3	24%
Netherlands	4.3	30%	UAE	1.3	TBD
United Kingdom	3.9	10%	Switzerland	1.2	TBD
Japan	3.9	25%	Spain	1.2	30%
Germany	3.7	30%	Colombia	0.9	25%
South Korea	3.2	25%	Chile	0.9	TBD
Brazil	2.4	50%	Thailand	0.9	36%
Singapore	2.2	10%	Ireland	0.8	TBD
France	2.2	30%	Türkiye	0.7	TBD
Taipei, Chinese	2.1	32%	Israel	0.7	TBD
India	2.0	<20%	Saudi Arabia	0.6	TBD
Australia	1.7	TBD	Viet Nam	0.6	20%
Belgium	1.7	30%	Dominican R	0.6	TBD

US's ad valorem tariff on selected countries

reduce its trade deficit; (b) ensuring higher revenue through additional tariffs to reduce US budget deficit; (c) encouraging foreign companies to invest in the US to increase domestic employment; and (d) discouraging countries from trading and investing with specific countries. It appears that individual countries' trade negotiations are dependent on their capacity to increase US imports and their level of resilience to withstand the US's retaliatory tariffs.

These bilateral negotiations have been taking place under a diverse range of structures and compositions—negotiations have involved not only setting overall ad valorem tariffs but also product-specific ad valorem tariffs. On the other hand, the negotiations include preferential tariffs/market access to US products in different markets. Hence, countries will have to deal with multiple challenges under the new trade negotiations. First, countries need to ensure their market competitiveness in the US market under the new ad valorem tariff. Second, countries need to import more US products in order to help reduce the

cost sources. Bilateral relationships between non-US countries would face a new level of strain because of changing trade preferences focused on the US, which may extend further to non-economic relationships between countries.

Bangladesh needs to take lessons from the multi-dimensionality of this new trade regime. First, Bangladesh is now fully concentrating on ensuring better market access to the US market. To ensure that, Bangladesh has offered a set of promises including: (a) reducing tariffs on products which are of the US's export interest; (b) promising to import a large volume of US products, which would contribute to reducing the bilateral trade deficit; (c) expecting reduced ad valorem tariffs on Bangladeshi products; and (d) promising to increase its local value addition of export products in order to ensure reduced tariffs in the US market. At the same time, a few other issues are being discussed, though they have not yet specifically entered the public domain, such as the US's concern over rising investment from some countries in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh

interests with them are quite high. For example, Bangladesh's manpower export to Qatar may face adverse effects. Similarly, Bangladesh's export to Canada may confront some ad valorem duties, or Bangladesh may face reduced credit support from China or China-dominated banks, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Exim Bank of China.

A commitment to raising domestic value addition requirements to 40 percent may initially appear positive for domestic industries. However, these industries are not yet ready to supply the required quantities while maintaining quality and timeliness. Therefore, the import of raw materials and intermediate products needs to continue for export-oriented industries. If the value addition criteria are increased, imports of certain key raw materials from important sources (China, India, Hong Kong) would need to be significantly reduced. Losing a favourable market by these non-US partners, especially China and Hong Kong, may not be received positively. Bangladesh's bilateral relations may

REMEMBERING ABU SAYED

A soul that lit the darkness



Sonia Benty Siddik, a Master's student of English Literature from Begum Rokeya University, was a friend of Abu Sayed.

SONIA BENTY SIDDIK

Today, July 16, marks the first death anniversary of Abu Sayed—the first martyr of the July uprising—who was once ordinary and overlooked, but rose to become the flagbearer in ending the reign of Awami League authoritarianism through his monumental sacrifice. He became an icon of fearless resistance, defiance, and selflessness, ushering in a new dawn for Bangladesh. His spirit left us a creed: to live not merely to breathe; to bow to no crimson glare of the tyrant; and never to retreat in the face of oppression when rights, truth, and justice demand a voice. And yet, beyond his place in history and the grandeur of public legacy, he was someone very close to my heart. To me, he was not merely a symbol of rebellion, but a living conscience—unyielding, immovable, and outspoken.

Although we were classmates, we recognised each other online, thanks to the suspension of in-person classes due to the Covid pandemic. The friend I kept encountering in every educational Facebook group was him—always showing resilience, determination, and commitment to his studies, with the hope of becoming the breadwinner for his family and working for the betterment of the underprivileged. That marked the beginning of our friendship, a spiritual bond that remained unbroken, even at the eleventh hour of his life. I still recall July 15, when he offered his umbrella to shield his friend from the rain and suggested we share a cup of tea. That simple act of kindness and generosity now lingers in my memory, haunting me with a quiet ache. If only I had accepted his offer, perhaps we could have shared one more moment, one more memory, over a warm sip of tea.

He was always the first person to ask how I was whenever I stepped into the classroom. No one else ever called just to go over the syllabus before an exam. It was Sayed, with his intellect and insight, who could always find a resolution, even in the most difficult topics. No one else showed such genuine grief and offered heartfelt condolences during my personal losses. It was Sayed who gave me the strength to carry on during my father's operation and our semester final examinations, encouraging me to stay strong when I needed it most. But now, there is no one left to encourage me with those familiar words: "You will do well in every exam." I no longer have someone to rely on

as Bangladesh lives. As a student of the Department of English, he not only immersed himself in English literature but also embodied the noble character traits of significant literary figures, applying their morals in his own life. He was like Hamlet from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, having the mind of a philosopher without being an actual philosopher. As an intellectual, he thought more deeply and critically, constantly questioned the meaning of life and existence, and felt more intensely. He possessed a sense of appreciation for beauty—not physical beauty, but the inner beauty of human souls. His sense of idealism and moral sensibility made him vulnerable in the face of the vileness and ugliness of earthly gains, instigating him to brave death to remove inequality, injustice, spiritual barrenness, and ignite a flame to dispel the darkness. His pursuit of knowledge prompted his relentless quest for understanding, wisdom, and truth. In most cases, society imposes

the importance of women's empowerment through equal participation in education. He stood as an exemplary figure, underlining the urgency of girls' education by covering all educational expenses for his younger sister with his hard-earned tuition income. He did not simply sympathise with the distressed, he empathised. He initiated several charitable organisations and actively participated in them with great devotion. He even dared to donate blood during exam periods, ignoring the physical strain. Having endured multiple layers of personal suffering throughout his life, he became more humane and deepened his desire to work for a better, more compassionate, and more just world. Remarkably, what made him exceptional was his unwavering determination and firm resolution never to yield to injustice, standing on the edge between life and death, and finally he summoned death for a greater cause. He never bowed to injustice, nor did he compromise with wrongdoing. He delivered on his commitment until his final breath. He never tried to escape death. Instead, he embraced it willingly, as his death could ignite the conscience of a nation. It became more than a sacrifice. It became a call to action. The way he embraced death raises a profound question: what truly gives life its meaning—its duration or its quality? His fearless confrontation with death compels us to reflect on the real value of life and human



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Abu Sayed emerged as a true visionary, committed to building a nation free from corruption, discrimination, exploitation, ignorance, injustice, inequality, marginalisation, misrule, and unemployment. He was always vocal against the sinkhole of corruption, highlighting how lenient punishment emboldens it, and urging civic institutions to enforce transparency and accountability, holding perpetrators to account and dismantling corrupt networks.

for assignments, projects, and presentations, as we were always in the same group. He was the one who shared the burden, offering unwavering support that made our academic journey smoother and helped us overcome every challenge together. Worse still, he is now thousands of miles away from us, living in a world beyond our reach. A world where our words cannot follow. Yet his memories remain ever-present. Sayed has transcended death by embracing it courageously, and he will remain etched in our memory and collective consciousness as long

certain standards that primarily benefit those in power. From an early age, we are taught to accept these norms without question. But he was capable of thinking independently and refused to shape his life around borrowed ideas. This ability to think critically set him apart from the mainstream, even though he came from modest means. Thus, he lived an authentic and examined life that gave him distinction. Abu Sayed emerged as a true visionary, committed to building a nation free from corruption, discrimination, exploitation, ignorance, injustice, inequality, marginalisation, misrule, and unemployment. He was always vocal against the sinkhole of corruption, highlighting how lenient punishment emboldens it, and urging civic institutions to enforce transparency and accountability, holding perpetrators to account and dismantling corrupt networks. He championed anti-discriminatory efforts to eradicate deep-rooted bias and protect equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of caste, creed, or colour, in line with constitutional and international human rights standards. He raised his voice against exploitation and systemic oppression, demanding an inclusive nation that does not relegate anyone to the margins. He held a deep admiration for education, believing it the path to genuine freedom through the elimination of unemployment. What he truly desired was a system where meritocracy triumphed over political favouritism. Time and again, he stressed

existence. His sacrifice reminds us that the search for meaning, the desire to build and endure, and the drive to uplift humanity are what truly give life its worth. His courageous acceptance of a tragic death at such a young age reflects the philosophical truth that all human beings are destined to die. Yet, it is heroic to embrace that fate unflinchingly when it serves a higher purpose. He reveals that true immortality does not lie in living forever, but in living with such meaning that your memory remains alive. Do all his dreams remain unfulfilled? No. He is like the mythical Phoenix, sacrificing himself only to rise from the ashes as thousands more. He chose death not as an end, but as a means of awakening and empowering countless youths to protest, to proclaim, to resist, and to reclaim their rights from the monsters of oppression. Here, death is no longer an end, it becomes an opportunity to set ablaze all forms of injustice, suppression, and the historical silencing of voices. His courageous death marks the tipping point for Bangladesh to begin anew, echoing the dream of all those who gave their lives for an inclusive, non-communal nation—one built on equal footing, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence. Abu Sayed is like the sky, studded with stars, shining like Sirius—distant, yet radiant—his name now echoing in the hymn of our awakening. In every act of courage, in every stand against injustice, in every pursuit of truth, we carry a piece of him forward.

The day fear died



THE OVERTON WINDOW
Eresh Omar Jamal is the head of the editorial department at The Daily Star. His X handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

FRESH OMAR JAMAL

I did not know Abu Sayed. Not even his name, until after he had died. But even then, I distinctly remember the moment I saw him being shot. At that point in the quota reform movement, most people were silently hoping that someone would step forward to support the public university students, who had been brutally beaten the day before by Chhatra League goons. Yet, the predominant fear was that the students would soon be beaten so mercilessly that the entire movement would be crushed. This left a deep sense of unease all around. It was after lunch at the office. In between tasks, I instinctively began scrolling through whatever footage was available to see what was unfolding. Eventually, I clicked on what I (mistakenly) thought was a livestream of the protests. The first few seconds were chaotic—shifting scenes of violence and loud, terrorising sounds. Then, within minutes, a young man appeared on screen. Standing a few feet ahead of the other protesters, arms outstretched, he was gesturing to those in front of him that he meant them no harm and that any harm

past 15 years—used the full force of the state to successfully quell the protests. That everyone would get the message: protest, and you will pay with your limbs and your life. And having gotten that message, they would back down, too afraid to take to the streets. That is what had happened again and again during the Awami League's 15-year reign. But the next morning, I remember seeing Sayed's picture on the front page of this daily. Standing there, arms outstretched. Unafraid of death. And something shifted. The newspaper was closed that day on the occasion of Ashura. Coincidentally, it was also my birthday. Someone close to me had planned a dinner for me with friends. But that morning, all we could think about were the protests. I remember watching students from various public universities say they would not leave their halls. Their defiance made my morning. But by the end of the day, through even more violence, the government had started to clear out most public university halls. I was too depressed for any dinners or celebrations. Instead, in the evening, with a couple of friends, I watched Sheikh Hasina deliver yet another disgraceful address to the nation. The next day, there was more violence as private university students took to the streets. Casualties started to pile up. Injuries were being reported left, right, and centre. However, the violence didn't matter anymore. Yes, there was sympathy for the injured. Grief for the dead and their families. But the fear was gone. Because Abu Sayed had stood there. Despite knowing how far the Awami regime was willing to go to stay in power and carry on with its despicable acts, it was difficult—even for a journalist—to fathom the lengths it would go to in the following weeks. I had stood in front of the former home minister's residence 30 minutes before helicopters reportedly fired on people. Yet, when I initially heard about it from people I knew, who lived around Dhanmondi Road 5, I didn't believe it at first. Although the fear of what might happen to others was there, what might happen to me was gone. Because Abu Sayed had stood there. In earlier days, when the students were getting mauled by Chhatra League and law enforcers, there were moments when we had hoped that the students would just get off the streets. Because we did not want them to endure any more cruelty. But now, I, myself, started joining the protests after work. And anyone who asked how they could join, we would refer to events that we knew were happening. Because Abu Sayed had stood there. Over the next days, one by one, everyone I knew started to say that this regime would surely fall. Because Aby Sayed had stood there. And now that he was gone, someone else would stand there. And that if they too fell, we, ourselves, would stand there. Because we all wanted to be Abu Sayed. Whereas before July 16, we were all hoping "someone else" would do something. After what Sayed did, we gave up on that hope. Instead, we learned to act, ourselves. And once all of us felt that way, it was over. Our freedom from the oppressive Awami regime was all but guaranteed. Today, the feeling Abu Sayed had instilled in us has left. We have gone back to hoping that someone else would do something. Blaming others for whatever is happening around us. Perhaps, as we look back on that image of Sayed today, that feeling will return, however briefly. That, like Sayed, we must not step back. We must put ourselves on the front line. That, as individuals, we must take a stand for justice. And if enough of us collectively do that—just as Sayed inspired us to, nearly a year ago—the dreams of our July martyrs can surely be turned into reality.

MONDAY'S ANSWERS



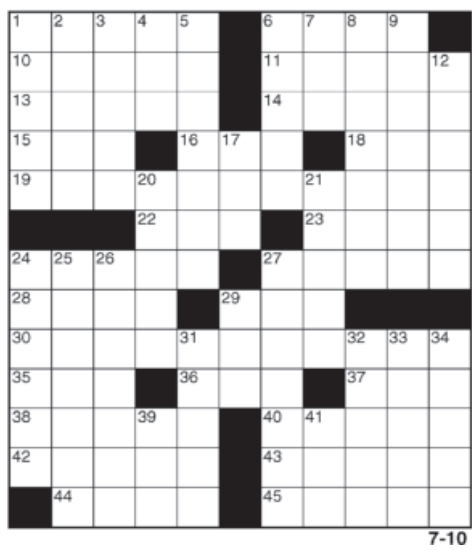
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CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS
JOSEPH

- ACROSS
1 Dense
6 Mascara target
10 Zellweger of "Chicago"
11 Patriot Ethan
13 Bronze or brass
14 Tire in the trunk
15 Conk out
16 Diner dessert
18 At present
19 Student's grade booster
22 Poem of praise
23 Fallon's predecessor
24 Puts away
27 Ambulance sound
28 Ebb
29 Drama division
30 Pizza option

- 35 Seventh Greek letter
36 "The Matrix" hero
37 Puzzle
38 Exhausted
40 Martini garnish
42 Backbone
43 Soda bottle size
44 Supplies with turf
45 Kick off
DOWN
1 Barter
2 Spiral shape
3 Bay
4 Co. bigwig
5 ATM parts
6 Intense beam
7 The Matterhorn, for one

- 8 Libel's kin
9 Jane Eyre or Scarlett O'Hara
12 Scientist Isaac
17 Rink surface
20 Crew member
21 Select group
24 Candy
25 Accountant's pointers
26 Toronto's province
27 Colleges
28 Casino card
31 Peru peaks
32 Argentina-set musical
33 Cut off
34 Use, as force
39 Terminate
41 Set fire to



OLIVIA RODRIGO condemns humanitarian crisis in Palestine

Pop singer Olivia Rodrigo expressed concern on Instagram last Saturday over the “horrific and unacceptable” conditions faced by Palestinian families for nearly two years. Referencing a Reuters report, she highlighted the widespread hunger and homelessness in Gaza.

“There are no words to express the heartbreak I feel watching the suffering of innocent people in Palestine,” she wrote. “People in Gaza are starving, dehydrated, and being denied basic medical treatment and humanitarian aid.”

She added, “No child—whether in Israel, Palestine, or anywhere—should ever have to live through the pain and trauma we’re seeing. Turning our backs on them means turning our backs on our shared humanity.”

Rodrigo also mentioned that she has made a donation to UNICEF to aid those affected by the crisis and encouraged her followers to contribute if they are able.

She joins many artistes speaking out on Gaza. Recently, Lana Del Rey said she prays for Palestine daily, while Billie Eilish called Israel’s plan to forcibly relocate two million Palestinians “horrifying.”



Anuswar to celebrate anniversary with biting political satire

Theatre troupe Anuswar will celebrate its sixth anniversary on July 25 with the premiere of its 12th production, *Budhijibir Bashay Shoytan* (The Devil in the Intellectual’s House), at Anuswar Studio in Segunbagicha.

The play, written by Mohammad Bari and Saif Suman and directed by Bari, will be staged at 5 pm and 7 pm.

Inspired by Taufiq al-Hakim and Khalil

Gibran, the satire explores the contradictions of modern warfare, questioning the peace narratives often used to justify conflict.

The cast includes Saif Suman, Mitu, Majedul Mithu, Nuruzzaman Sarkar, and Rima.

On July 26, Anuswar will host a discussion, *Anuswar Sanglap*, at Shilpakala Academy, featuring theatre director Asim Das in conversation with audiences.

Exhibition: ‘She, the Universe – The Infinity Within Her’

Liton Kar’s solo painting exhibition explores femininity, memory, and the metaphysical through surreal, symbolic paintings. The artworks celebrate womanhood as a cosmic force—graceful, infinite, and elemental.

The exhibition features exclusive screenings of his award-winning short film, *ICU (I See You)*, and a special performance by the band Post Office Society.

DATE: FRIDAY–SATURDAY | JULY 18–26
TIME: 3PM–9PM (MON–SAT)
VENUE: LA GALERIE, ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA, DHANMONDI

WHAT’S THE HAPS?



ANDREW GARFIELD joins Luca Guadagnino’s AI-themed film ‘Artificial’

Andrew Garfield has officially signed on for Luca Guadagnino’s upcoming Amazon MGM feature *Artificial*, a comedic drama set in the world of artificial intelligence. Reports suggest that the film may draw inspiration from the real-life turmoil at OpenAI in 2023.



Garfield will star alongside Yura Borisov, the *Anora* breakout and Oscar nominee. *Artificial*, written by Simon Rich (*An American Pickle*), is being produced by Rich, David Heyman, Jeffrey Clifford, and Jennifer Fox.

Artificial reunites Garfield with Guadagnino and Amazon MGM, following their collaboration on *After the Hunt*, set to release on October 10.

The project adds to Garfield’s packed slate, which includes *The Magic Faraway Tree* with Claire Foy and the historical thriller *The Rage*, directed by Paul Greengrass for Focus Features.

Unreleased Beyoncé music, show plans stolen from car in Atlanta



Unreleased music and tour materials belonging to US pop icon Beyoncé were stolen from a rental car in Atlanta on July 8, days before her *Cowboy Carter* tour stop in the city.

The car, used by her choreographer Christopher Grant and a dancer, was found with a shattered window. Stolen items included jump drives with unreleased, watermarked music, setlists, stage footage, a MacBook, luxury clothing, and headphones.

Despite efforts to track the laptop and headphones, nothing has been recovered. Atlanta Police have issued a warrant for a suspect, who remains at large. Beyoncé concludes her four-night Atlanta run on July 14 and will finish the *Cowboy Carter* tour in Las Vegas later this month.

‘Harry Potter’ reboot: HBO unveils first look of Dominic McLaughlin as Harry

HBO officially began filming its long-anticipated *Harry Potter* series and unveiled the first look at Dominic McLaughlin as the iconic young wizard.

The image, shared via Instagram, shows McLaughlin in his full Hogwarts attire, marking the launch of the series’ production.

This adaptation will reimagine JK Rowling’s beloved novels with a new cast, including Alastair Stout as Ron Weasley and Arabella Stanton as Hermione Granger.

Hollywood veterans John Lithgow, Paapa Essiedu, Janet McTeer, and Nick Frost will portray Dumbledore, McGonagall, Snape, and Hagrid, respectively.

Fans responded warmly to McLaughlin’s casting, praising his resemblance to the original character. The series aims to introduce a new generation to the wizarding world while offering a fresh interpretation of the classic saga.



NEWS

Man out on bail after 30 years in jail

FROM PAGE 12

The day after incident, he gave a three-line confessional statement at court, and began a life behind bars that would span three decades.

Over time, his relatives stopped visiting.

“Many had even forgotten whether he was alive or dead,” said Legal Aid Official Majid.

The case, however, was never brought to trial, nor was a sentence delivered.

The High Court, in 2003, had stayed judicial proceedings due to his mental condition, which complicated any efforts towards a typical legal

resolution.

It was only recently that the case came to the attention of Muhammad Abbas Uddin, senior assistant judge and legal aid officer in Habiganj. Disturbed by Konu Mia’s prolonged incarceration without a verdict, he began working with legal aid lawyer MA Majid to secure his release.

“The bail of an accused with mental illness requires special considerations,” Judge Abbas Uddin said. “We had to ensure arrangements for his safety, medical condition, and social reintegration.”

Efforts were made by legal aid officials to contact Konu’s family. His

brothers, Manu Mia and Nasu Mia, were eventually located and informed of the legal initiative.

“Everyone is happy that he is out after all these years,” said Manu Mia. “He’s not well, but at least he is with family now.”

On July 14, lawyer MA Majid filed a bail petition at the Habiganj District and Sessions Judge’s Court. Judge Jasmine Ara Begum granted the petition following a hearing, clearing the way for Konu Mia’s release.

Konu appeared visibly emotional as he walked out of prison and saw the open sky again, a sight he had not experienced in over 30 years.

Mujibism, Hasina

FROM PAGE 12

government has learnt to “compromise”. “The government does not do the works that are necessary for fundamental reforms.

“We must build a new government that will be a government of people. Then, we will form new structure,” she said.

Earlier in the day, Nahid Islam, Samanta Sharmin, Hasnat Abdullah, Sarjis Alam, and Tasnim Jara, along with other central leaders, began their march from Kalibari Mor to Kabil Jam e Mosque.

NCP leaders chanted slogans and interacted with bystanders.

The rally was moderated by the NCP Chief Organiser (northern region) Sarjis Alam.

14 NBR officials

FROM PAGE 12

refused to comply with the transfer order issued on June 22 but also openly expressed support for other colleagues who took similar actions.

They were accused of publicly tearing up the official order, demonstrating what the NBR termed “arrogance”.

In response, the NBR has decided to initiate departmental proceedings against all 14 officials following formal investigations.

As per government rules, the officials have been temporarily suspended and made “OSD or Officers on Special Duty” at the NBR headquarters. During the suspension period, they will receive subsistence allowances as per applicable regulations.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission has launched investigations into 16 NBR officials over corruption allegations in three phases.

NCP, 143 others failed to meet EC criteria

FROM PAGE 12

The NCP submitted its 43,616-page documents, seeking registration.

The EC has been registering political parties since 2008 under the Representation of the People Order, 1972. Currently, there are 50 registered parties in the country.

A party must meet at least one of the three criteria to qualify for registration. They are winning at least one seat with its electoral symbol in any parliamentary election; securing at least five percent of the total votes cast in a constituency in a national election; or having a functional central office, a central committee, and offices in at least one-third of the districts or 100 upazilas/metropolitan areas, with a minimum of 200 voters as members in each upazila.

‘No proof of communal violence’

FROM PAGE 12

over the past 11 months.

According to the CA press wing, police reviewed all 27 reported deaths – 22 were registered as murder cases, and five were classified as unnatural deaths. None, police said, were linked to communal motives.

As part of the investigations, 48 individuals were arrested, 15 surrendered, and 18 gave confessional statements under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The government reiterated that none of the deaths were driven by communal motives.

The July 10 press conference also cited 20 incidents of sexual violence, including gang rapes. Police registered cases in 16 of them and arrested 25 individuals. No formal complaints were lodged in the remaining three, the press wing’s statement said.

The two organisations further claimed that the majority of incidents occurred during a two-week period from August 4 to August 20, 2024, reporting 2,010 incidents, including 1,769 attacks and assaults on minorities.

In response, police said they have verified 1,457 of these incidents across 56 districts.

Other allegations included 60 incidents of theft, vandalism, and arson at temples, as well as land grabbing and attempted evictions of minority community members.

The organisations further claimed that the majority of the violence occurred between August 4 and 20, 2024, citing a total of 2,010 incidents –

Ahead of the last national polls, 93 parties sought registration. After the initial screening, the EC conducted field verification for 12 of them, including Gono Odhikar Parishad and AB Party.

Of those 12, only two – Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM) and Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP) – got registration.

In another development, 48,080 Bangladeshi expatriates from nine countries have applied for voter registration and National Identity Cards (NIDs).

Biometric data of 29,646 of them have already been collected, ASM Humayun Kabir, NID wing director general, told reporters at the EC headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Of them, registrations of 17,367 have been completed.

“We have recently received the foreign ministry’s approval to begin NID-related work in five new countries – the United States, Oman, South Africa, Jordan, and the Maldives. Preliminary preparations in the five countries have already been completed.”

The EC plans to extend its voter registration programme for expatriates to 40 countries.

Besides the five countries, the registration process is going on in nine other countries – Saudi Arabia, Italy, Kuwait, Qatar, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, the UK, and the UAE.

Japan will be added as the 10th country, with the process scheduled to begin this July.

Humayun said the updated voter list would be published soon, possibly within this week or the next.

875 killed near Gaza aid sites

FROM PAGE 12

told Al Jazeera yesterday.

“Palestinians woke up to endless explosions, artillery shelling and air strikes, especially in Shujayea and Jabalia”, Hind Khoudary from Deir el-Balah said.

“These areas are where Israeli forces just issued an evacuation threat, calling Palestinians in the eastern Gaza City to evacuate to the western part where most Palestinians are currently displaced,” she said.

In a separate development, Syrian state media reported that the Israeli military struck the southern Syrian city of Sweida yesterday, as Syrian government forces entered the Druze-majority city to end deadly clashes with Bedouin tribes.

SANA said that an “Israeli occupation aircraft” targeted the city of Sweida. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz had warned Damascus on Monday not to target the Druze after striking tanks in Sweida province.

The southern city had been under the control of armed factions from the Druze minority, whose religious leaders said they had approved the deployment of Damascus’s troops and called on fighters to hand over their weapons.

A curfew was imposed on the southern city in a bid to halt the violence, which erupted at the weekend and has since spread across Sweida governorate.

Government forces said they intervened to separate the two sides but ended up taking control of several Druze areas around Sweida, an AFP correspondent reported.

Phone: +88029530161, E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd



WOMAN AND LAW

ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT in workplace and educational institutions

Our judiciary has often led from the front in cases concerning environmental justice, electoral integrity, and constitutional governance. But without legislative reinforcement, judicial pronouncements become paper tigers—courageous in ink, ineffective in impact.

JOYDEP CHOWDHURY

The Constitution of Bangladesh promises equality, but for a sizeable population of women, this promise has yet to be materialised. In factories and industries where labour powers the economy, in offices where decisions are made, in schools, colleges, and universities where minds are shaped, in hospitals where care is delivered, and in courtrooms where justice should reside, harassment is a common occurrence. Notably, in *Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) v Government of Bangladesh* (2009), the Court issued detailed guidelines to be followed by all workplaces and educational institutions, including the establishment of complaint committees, confidentiality protections, timelines for investigation, and public awareness obligations. Drawing inspiration from the Indian Supreme Court’s judgement in *Vishaka v State of Rajasthan* (1997), our Court gave these binding guidelines to be followed until a suitable legislation is enacted in its place. Subsequently, in another writ petition by the same petitioner (*BNWLA v Bangladesh*, 2011), the Court determined that sexual harassment outside workplaces and educational institutions must also be addressed. In full agreement with the 2009 judgment, the Court issued a supplementary set of guidelines. It opined that the term ‘sexual harassment’ should be used instead of the euphemistic term ‘eve-teasing’. It also defined stalking, including following a woman, making unwanted contact through cyberspace and other media, as well as other acts which may reasonably cause a woman to fear or apprehend for her safety. Yet today, more than 15 years later, no law has been enacted and the directives are also seldom observed. Most workplaces in Bangladesh, public and private alike, have failed to implement effective grievance redressal mechanisms as well. Where committees exist, they often lack independence, gender representation, or any functional authority. The BNWLA judgment, meant to be a temporary fix, has instead become a shield for legislative inaction. This neglect is not merely a policy failure. It is also a breach of Bangladesh’s international obligations. As a ratifying state to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since 1984, Bangladesh

is bound to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the workplace. Article 11 of CEDAW specifically addresses the right to protection of health and safety in working conditions, including safeguarding women from sexual harassment. Bangladesh has routinely submitted reports affirming its commitment to these principles. But domestically, the legislative record betrays a different truth. The Penal Code 1860, albeit a colonial legacy, criminalises “outraging the modesty of a woman” under section 354 and “insulting the modesty” under section 509. These terms are not only outdated but also steeped in patriarchal morality. What constitutes “modesty” remains undefined and dangerously subjective, often turning trials into moral audits of victims rather than legal scrutiny of offenders. The Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (BLA), on the other hand, only has section 332 relating to sexual harassment at the workplace, which is vague and hardly ever applied in real life. The Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015 (after amendment of 2022) has rule 361A, which gives some clarity to section 332 of the BLA. However, in real life, these provisions are seldom applied. Moreover, its scope excludes the informal sector workers, where a large percentage of women work as domestic workers, garment labourers, or caregivers. Furthermore, other laws such as the Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000, or the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, address violence and exploitation broadly, but fail to define or target workplace-specific harassment, power asymmetries, or institutional duties of care. Let us look at how other countries have dealt with this issue. India, prompted by the Vishaka judgment, passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act in 2013. The law mandates internal complaints committees, provides protections against retaliation, enforces timelines, and recognises harassment in a wide spectrum, from physical to verbal to non-verbal. Beyond South Asia, Canada’s Human Rights Act 1985 compels federally regulated employers to maintain harassment-free workplaces, backed by specialised tribunals. In the UK, the Equality Act 2010 imposes a proactive duty on employers to prevent harassment, and failure to do so results in liability. Kenya’s Employment Act

2007 requires a sexual harassment policy statement from any employer employing 20 or more individuals. These systems also have flaws, but they demonstrate a trend toward proactive, preventive, and participatory frameworks. Recent statistics underscore the urgency of the situation in Bangladesh. A 2022 survey by the BNWLA revealed that only 71% of educational institutions and 39% of workplaces have sexual harassment prevention committees, and of these, merely 44% are effective in addressing the issue, while 57% of them do not have complaint boxes to report incidents. Additionally, a study by Plan International revealed that approximately 74% of female students face violence and harassment at their educational institutions, underscoring the prevalence of such issues in academic settings. These experiences have profound effects on women’s mental health thereby contributing to their reluctance to participate fully in educational and professional life. What is required now is a standalone, comprehensive statute in Bangladesh addressing workplace sexual harassment as a matter of civil, criminal, and constitutional urgency. Such legislation must clearly define sexual harassment in all its forms—verbal, non-verbal, physical, and online. It must mandate the creation of gender-balanced Internal Complaint Committees with genuine independence, transparency, and proper training. Importantly, the law must adopt an intersectional approach. Women from marginalised communities—garment workers, domestic workers, gender-diverse individuals, rural labourers, and women with disabilities—face heightened risks and almost no access to legal recourse. We must listen to these voices, not just echo parliamentary drafts written in urban echo chambers. The real impediment is not resource scarcity but political inertia. Bangladesh is not a country lacking in legal imagination. Our judiciary has often led from the front in cases concerning environmental justice, electoral integrity, and constitutional governance. But without legislative reinforcement, judicial pronouncements become paper tigers—courageous in ink, ineffective in impact.

The writer is Lecturer, Sonargaon University (SU), Dhaka.

RIGHTS AND POLITICS

Exploring the legality of visa restrictions

SHARMISTA BANIK

In recent years, governments of so-called developed countries have increasingly restricted their visa policies as a diplomatic measure against developing nations. More often than not, such restrictions are imposed without legitimate justification, only as a means of expressing diplomatic disapproval, exerting pressure on other governments, or targeting individuals solely based on their nationality or race. For instance, in 2025, the United States imposed additional travel restrictions on an array of countries on two separate occasions, saying it was due to “security threats.” Similarly, since July–August 2024, India sharply reduced visa services for Bangladeshi citizens. Although staffing shortages were cited as the reason, critics alleged that the decision was politically motivated. Admittedly, under international law, each country has the right to control who can enter its borders. Foreign nationals do not have an automatic right to visit another country. However, arbitrary policy decisions translating into visa or travel restrictions potentially also have human rights implications. National immigration laws often give officials wide discretion to refuse visas based on reasons such as “national interest” or “public safety,” which are broad enough to be used to justify otherwise politically motivated policy decisions. For instance, in the United States, section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 allows the executive branch to suspend entry of any aliens or any class of aliens whose presence would be “detrimental to the interests of the United States.” Courts, too, have historically been significantly deferential to executive determinations on immigration, recognising immigration control as a sovereign function. In the landmark case *Chae Chan Ping v United States* (1889), the US Supreme Court established the “plenary power” doctrine, affirming Congress’s nearly absolute authority over immigration. More recently, in *Department of Homeland Security v Regents of the University of California* (2020), the Court ruled that immigration-related agency actions are usually subject to judicial review but emphasised strong deference to executive decisions on immigration policy. Similarly, in Australia, the Migration Act 1958 gives the Minister for Immigration wide “public interest” discretion that cannot be challenged, as confirmed in recent High Court cases such as *Davis v Minister for Immigration* (2023). In a similar vein, international tribunals, such as the European Court of Justice (ECJ), in *Sahar Fahimian v Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (2017), upheld a wide degree of discretion for states in immigration matters (para 42).



However, it is important to note that the ECJ, while granting such wide discretion, also established that this discretion needs to be proportionate and be based upon “sufficient grounds” and a “sufficiently solid factual basis.” Similarly, General Comment No. 15 (1986) by the UN Human Rights Committee, which interprets the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), states that an alien may enjoy the protection of the Covenant even in relation to entry or residence, for example, when considerations of non-discrimination, prohibition of inhuman treatment and respect for family life arise. Importantly, in the case *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Qatar v United Arab Emirates)* in 2018, International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its Order on Provisional Measures directed the UAE to allow Qatari nationals access to courts and family reunification, implicitly acknowledging the human rights impact of entry restrictions. However, the ICJ, in the preliminary objection stage of the case, declared that it did not have the jurisdiction to hear the case because the impugned actions by the UAE were based on nationality, and not “race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin”, as required under Article 1(l) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The findings of the ICJ apparently seem to be in contradiction with the jurisprudence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD Committee). This is because in General Recommendation XXX on Discrimination Against Non-Citizens, the CERD Committee mentions that if a state treats people differently just because of their nationality or immigration status, and if that treatment is not pursuant to legitimate aim and is disproportional to the achievement of such aim, then it counts as racial discrimination under the CERD. However, the ICJ did deal with this apparent contradiction in the Qatar case. It found, “the Committee’s aim was obviously to make clear that differential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status is prohibited in so far as, “judged in light of the objectives and purpose of the Convention”, the criteria used are a vehicle for disguised racial discrimination as defined in the CERD. The UAE, however, did not hide behind non-citizenship in order to racially discriminate (as defined in the CERD) against Qataris. The Recommendation has no bearing on the present case.” Hence, the ICJ, here too, impliedly admitted that differential treatments based on citizenship or immigration status are prohibited if they are discriminatory or go against the objectives of the Convention. In light of the above, in my opinion, blanket visa restrictions may fall under the kind of discrimination that the CERD prohibits. However, challenging such practice (which violates the non-discrimination obligations under ICCPR and CERD) remains difficult in the current international legal framework, as the enforcement of such laws largely depends on the willingness of the states imposing such restrictions.

The writer is law student at the University of Dhaka and an official contributor for Law & Our Rights.



One hattrick, two venues

SPORTS REPORTER

Midfielder Shanti Mardi scored a hattrick while Munki Akter added one as Bangladesh cruised to a 4-1 victory over Bhutan in their SAFF U-20 Women's Championship fixture inside the Bashundhara Residential Area on Tuesday, consolidating the top spot in the four-team competition with a third win in three matches.

However, the round-robin fixture might not be most remembered for Shanti's first hattrick in international age-level football, but instead for the fact that her last two goals came more than three hours after the first, and on a different kind of surface and at an entirely different venue altogether. Yes, you've read it right.

When Shanti had put Bangladesh ahead with a seventh-minute left-footed strike, smashing home a rebound, it seemed like business as usual at the Bashundhara Kings Arena, where Bangladesh have been enjoying a bit of a



goalfest. Despite the heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms, the match kicked off on schedule. But as the half progressed, it became clear that natural play was anything but possible on this heavy pitch, and the risk of injuries to players became a major worry.

It took the match commissioner and his team till the end of the first half to decide the pitch wasn't good enough for football to continue, and preparations were made to make the ground playable with groundstaff trying to pull the water out of the puddles on various parts of the pitch.

But more than an hour's tireless effort, the match officials were forced to relocate the second half to the nearby practice ground, which boasts an artificial turf.

Lengthy halts in play due to extreme weather conditions are not uncommon in world football. In fact, the Federation Cup final between Abahani and Bashundhara Kings was held over a week's gap due to bad light owing to heavy rain in Mymensing in April this year.

However, whether there is any instance of an international fixture, albeit an age-group one, played on two venues, could be a topic of research.

The match did resume three hours after it had been halted, with Bhutan equalising through Sangay Wangmo eight minutes after restart. However, Shanti restored Bangladesh's lead before substitute Munki Akter scored a brilliant solo goal in the 75th minute. Shanti wrapped up the victory by completing her hattrick in the 79th minute.

Tigers scent rare series win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will aim to draw confidence from their clinical display in the second match as they seek to end their series-winning drought on Sri Lankan soil in the series-deciding third and final T20I at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo today.

Over the past month, the visitors narrowly missed out on securing their first-ever series win in Sri Lanka in both Tests and ODIs – squandering both chances due to a lack of consistency throughout the respective contests.

Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka began with a draw in the two-match Test series opener in Galle, where they dominated in most of the proceedings – but they surrendered miserably in the series-deciding second Test in Colombo to concede their sixth series defeat in Sri Lanka out of seven series. The other series ended in a 1-1 draw in 2017.

In the following series, Bangladesh registered a hard-fought victory in the second ODI in Pallekele – but the lack of consistency from their batters let the side down in both the series opener and series-deciding contests, resulting in their conceding big defeats in both matches. It also kept Sri Lanka's undefeated record across seven series (five wins, two draws) against Bangladesh intact on their home soil.



The T20 series fate now hangs in the balance, just like the previous two series, after Bangladesh – who lost their opening match by seven wickets in Pallekele – clinched a dominating 83-run victory in the second match in Dambulla to be in a position to finish their roller-coaster

journey in Sri Lanka on a high.

"The way we played the last match, I think the boys got good confidence and the momentum also shifted towards us. I hope we can finish it well," Bangladesh's senior assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin told reporters in Colombo

yesterday.

"When you play well and win matches, the inspiration will come. I think the way we played and won the last game was a big inspiration for us," added Salahuddin, who claimed that they are only focusing on their next game.

One of the biggest reliefs for the Tigers

'What would I gain from favouritism?': Salahuddin on criticism



in the previous game was their skipper Litton Das showing signs of coming out from the long lean patch he had in white-ball cricket, as he made a brilliant 50-ball 76 and was supported well by players like Tawhid Hridoy and Shamim Hossain, who played timely innings to help Bangladesh post a challenging total of 177 for seven.

The win not only snapped Bangladesh's six-match losing streak in T20Is but also handed them a golden opportunity to wrap up their Sri Lanka tour on a triumphant note ahead of this month's three-match T20I series against Pakistan at home.

RECORDS TUMBLE AT SABINA PARK

Australia pacers made a statement in Jamaica on Monday, bowling out the West Indies for the second-lowest Test total ever in a day of staggering numbers. Australia romped to a 176-run win, sweeping the three-match series.

Australia bundled West Indies out for just 27 runs in their second innings on the third day of the third Test. This is West Indies' lowest-ever total in Tests and the second-lowest overall, just behind New Zealand's 26 against England in 1955.

It's also the lowest total Australia's men have kept a side to in Tests.

Mitchell Starc finished with figures of 6/9, the best innings figures of any player in their 100th Test, bettering Muthiah Muralidaran's 6/54 for Sri Lanka against Bangladesh in 2006.

Starc also became the fourth Australian bowler to reach 400 Test wickets.

Starc had taken just 15 deliveries, the fewest ever in Test history, to complete a five-wicket haul.

Starc has now taken 81 wickets in 14 Pink-ball Tests, 38 more than the next best – Nathan Lyon.

Seven Windies batters registered ducks, most in a Test innings, beating nine instances of six naughts.

Scott Boland's hattrick was the first in a Pink-ball Test.

With his 3/34 and 3/2 at Sabina Park, Boland's Test bowling average now stands at 16.53, the best of any bowler in the last 110 years of Test cricket (minimum 2000 balls bowled).



'World's oldest marathon runner' dies aged 114

AFP, New Delhi

India's Fauja Singh, believed to be the world's oldest distance runner, has died in a road accident aged 114, his biographer said Tuesday.

Singh, an Indian-born British national, nicknamed the "Turbaned Tornado", died after being hit by a vehicle in Punjab state's Jalandhar district on Monday.

"My Turbaned Tornado is no more," Fauja's biographer Khushwant Singh wrote on X.

"He was struck by an unidentified vehicle... in his village, Bias, while crossing the road. Rest in peace, my dear Fauja."

Singh did not have a birth certificate but his family said he was born on April 1, 1911.

He ran full marathons (42 kilometre) till the age of 100.

His last race was a 10-kilometre (six-mile) event at the 2013 Hong Kong Marathon when 101.

He became an international sensation after taking up distance running at the ripe old age of 89, after the death of his wife and one of his sons, inspired by seeing marathons on television.

Although widely regarded as the world's oldest marathon runner, he was not certified by Guinness World Records as he could not prove his age, saying that birth certificates did not exist when he was born under British colonial rule in 2011.

Jadeja criticised for cautious approach in Lord's thriller

AFP, New Delhi

Ravindra Jadeja was praised Tuesday for almost taking India to an unlikely Test win at Lord's, but former greats said a little more risk-taking with the bat might have got his side over the line.

Jadeja, batting at number seven, hit a painstaking unbeaten 61 as he shepherded the tail from 112-8 at Lunch chasing 193 for victory against England in the third Test.

But he eventually ran out of partners after more than four hours at the crease as India were all out for 170 after Tea on a nerve-shredding final day.

Jadeja, who came in at 71-5 and saw India slump to 112-8 at lunch, chose to protect Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj from England's attack by scoring singles to keep the strike and controlling his attacking instincts.

Former batting great Sunil Gavaskar said on Sony Sports that scoring quicker and putting pressure back on England's bowlers might have resulted in "a partnership of 60-70 which would have made a difference".

"India never got that (partnership)," he said.

"You could say that Jadeja could have taken the odd chance and not necessarily the aerial route when Joe Root and Shoaib Bashir were bowling. But full marks to



him (Jadeja)."

Jadeja hit just four fours and one six in his 181-ball stay before Bashir bowled number 11 Siraj to trigger jubilant England celebrations.

"I'd like to look a little deeper into that whole innings," former batsman Sanjay Manjrekar said on ESPNcricinfo.

"There was one attempt at playing a shot that went for six."

"But I don't think there were too many attempted attacking shots."

"For me, one telling moment was when he got to his fifty and India were still a few runs short."

"You saw the reaction of the dressing room there were people applauding but I don't think there was excitement around and belief that Jadeja would take them through."

England lead the series 2-1 with two to play.

The fourth Test starts at Manchester's Old Trafford on July 23.

Tigresses to play two warm-up matches before WC

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team will play one practice match against Sri Lanka and one against Sri Lanka 'A' team prior to the Women's ODI World Cup, which will be held in Sri Lanka and India from September 30 to November 2.

The warm-up fixtures will take place between 25-28 September, with seven teams playing two matches each, plus Australia, who will feature in just one.

Four venues have been designated for the warm-up matches – the Centre of Excellence Ground and M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, along with the R Premadasa Stadium and Colombo Cricket Club Ground in Colombo.

India 'A' and Sri Lanka 'A' will also feature in the warm-up fixtures, with India 'A' scheduled to play one match and Sri Lanka 'A' set to play two.

The warm-up fixtures kick off on September 25, with 2017 finalists India and England facing off while South Africa take on New Zealand in Bengaluru. At the same time in Colombo, Sri Lanka will play Pakistan, while Bangladesh go up against Sri Lanka 'A'.

The next round of warm-up games is set for September 27, with Australia facing England in their only fixture. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka will take on Bangladesh, and India will play New Zealand.

The final round of warm-up fixtures will be held on September 28, with South Africa facing India 'A' and Pakistan taking on Sri Lanka 'A'.

Bangladesh will play their first match of the World Cup against Pakistan on October 2 in Colombo.



Govt may not be able to publish ‘July Charter’

Says Salahuddin

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed doubts whether the interim government will be able to publish the “July Charter”.

He said, “Work on the July Charter has been going on for a long time. But with their slow pace, I don’t know whether they will be able to publish it. On February 12, we submitted a draft charter on behalf of our party. A few days ago, they asked for a refined version, and we submitted that too. Even so, they have still been unable to publish it.”



He made the remarks at a seminar titled “The Day of Turning Point of Mass Uprising,” organised by Chhatra Dal yesterday at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University.

Salahuddin said, “May this day be a tradition and pride for all of us, which is our prayer. We have fought for 17 years for democratic and constitutional rights. The fall of fascism happened through

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After this newspaper published a photo of illegal shops at Patenga beach in May this year, the authorities demolished the structures. However, this photo taken yesterday shows the illegal shops are back.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Mujibism, Hasina kept ‘nation split for 50 years’

Says Nahid at Bhola rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina split the country by perpetuating the divisions between freedom fighters and Razakars.

He said, “The ideology of Mujibism kept the country divided for the last 50 years. But we stepped forward with the July uprising, disregarding the divisions.”

“During the uprising, we pledged to build an inclusive, democratic Bangladesh, a country for workers, farmers, the middle class, and the common people.”

He was speaking at a rally in front of the Kabil Jam-e Mosque in Bhola town yesterday on the 15th day of the party’s “July Padajatra,”

At the same gathering, NCP’s Senior Joint Convener Samanta Sharmin denounced the recent incidents of sexual violence, extortion, and corruption.

She alleged that the interim

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Man out on bail after 30 years in jail without trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

After spending more than three decades in prison without trial or sentencing, 65-year-old Konu Mia walked out of Habiganj District Jail yesterday morning.

A resident of Singhagram village in Lakhai upazila, Konu Mia was released on bail around 10:30am following a court order issued the previous day.

His release was confirmed by MA Majid, a lawyer with the Habiganj District Legal Aid Office.

Konu had been in prison for 30 years, two months, and 19 days in connection with the 1995 murder of his mother, Major Bibi.

On May 25, 1995, he had allegedly attacked his mother with a spade while she was asleep, after which villagers detained him and handed him over to police.

Locals and family members said that at the time of the incident, he was reportedly suffering from mental illness.

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875 killed near Gaza aid sites in 6 weeks

Says UN rights office; one in 10 children malnourished

AGENCIES

The UN rights office said yesterday it had recorded at least 875 killings within the past six weeks at aid points in Gaza run by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and convoys run by other relief groups, including the United Nations.

The majority of those killed were in the vicinity of Gaza Humanitarian Foundation sites, while the remaining 201 were killed on the routes of other aid convoys, reports Reuters.

The GHF uses private US security and logistics companies to get supplies into Gaza, largely bypassing a UN-led system that Israel alleges has let Hamas-led fighters loot aid shipments intended for civilians. Hamas denies the allegation.

The UNRWA, meanwhile, warned yesterday that one in ten children screened in clinics run by the United Nations refugee agency in Gaza is malnourished.

“Our health teams are confirming that malnutrition rates are increasing in Gaza, especially since the siege was tightened more than four months ago on the second of March,” UNRWA’s Director of Communications, Juliette Touma, told reporters in Geneva via a

video link from Amman, Jordan.

EU aid chief Hadja Lahbib said yesterday that Israel has taken some positive steps but is not yet fully implementing an agreement with the European Union to increase humanitarian aid supplies in Gaza.

» 11 Palestinians killed in Israeli shelling, air strikes

» EU says Israel not yet fully implementing aid deal

» Israel strikes tanks in Syria’s Sweida: report

Egypt’s foreign minister said on Monday that the flow of aid into Gaza has not increased despite an agreement last week between Israel and the European Union that should have had that result.

In the ground, at least 11 Palestinians were killed by Israeli attacks across Gaza since dawn, sources in Gaza hospitals

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PARTY REGISTRATIONS NCP, 143 others failed to meet EC criteria

EC gives them 15 days to submit documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party, along with 143 others, failed to pass the preliminary scrutiny of the Election Commission for registration.

The EC yesterday granted the new parties an additional 15 days to submit required documents and information.

After initial screening, EC officials said none of the parties managed to meet the requirements.

Speaking to reporters yesterday afternoon, EC Additional Secretary KM Ali Newaz said, “...We found minor deficiencies in the applications of all 144 parties.”

“In the first phase, letters will be sent to 62 parties. The rest will be contacted in the next phases. The parties must address the issues within 15 days.”

The EC opened registration for new political parties on March 10. The initial deadline was April 20. Following the requests from 46 parties, including NCP, the commission extended the deadline to June 22.

A total of 144 parties sought registration during this time.

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Martian rock that crash landed in Sahara listed for \$2m

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A huge and “incredibly rare” chunk of Mars that crash-landed in the Sahara will go on sale for nearly \$2m at auction.

Sotheby’s in New York is selling the 55-pound rock, named NWA 16788, for upwards of \$1.6m, which it says is the largest piece of Mars on Earth.

The reddish-brown Martian rock travelled 140 million miles to Earth before it was found by a meteorite hunter in Niger in 2023, according to the auction house.

The rock is about 70 per cent larger than the next largest piece of Mars found on Earth and represents nearly 7 per cent of all Martian material currently on the planet, Sotheby’s said.

“This Martian meteorite is the largest piece of Mars we have ever found by a long shot,” Cassandra Hatton, vice chairman for science and natural history at Sotheby’s, told Fortune.

Hatton said the rock was sent off for testing to a specialised lab, which found it to be an “olivine-microgabbroic shergottite,” a type of rock formed from the slow cooling of magma.

It is also a rare find. There are only 400 Martian meteorites out of the more than 77,000 officially recognised meteorites found on Earth, Sotheby’s says.

DEFYING TRANSFER ORDERS 14 NBR officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has suspended 14 more officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for defying transfer orders and allegedly tearing up their transfer letters in public.

The action comes after the government recently sent four senior NBR officials into retirement in “public interest” and suspended the commissioner of the Chattogram Custom House.

In separate notifications issued yesterday, the suspensions were made effective immediately.

The suspended officials include three additional commissioners: Hasan Muhammad Tarek Rekabdar, Mirza Ashiq Rana, and Sifat-e-Mariam; six joint commissioners of taxes: Shahadat Jamil, Masuma Khatun, Murad Ahmed, Mohammad Morshed Uddin Khan, Monalisa Shahreen Sushmita, and Md Ashrafur Alam Prodhan; three deputy commissioners: Mohammad Shihabul Islam, Nushrat Jahan Shomi, and Imam Tauhid Hasan Shakil; and two revenue officials: Sobuj Mia and Shafikul Boshir.

Of them, Rikabdar and Rana were the president and vice president of the NBR Reform Unity Council, a platform of tax and customs officials, which staged the recent protests that disrupted exports and imports by enforcing a countrywide shutdown on June 28 and 29 to press home a set of demands.

Their demands included the removal of the NBR chairman, inclusion of their representatives in a tax reform panel formed by the NBR, and an end to what they termed “vengeful transfers”.

According to the notifications, the officials not only

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A seller sorting bottle gourds in a basket floating on a waterlogged street at Karwan Bazar. A shower inundated the kitchen market in the capital with filthy water yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

‘No proof of communal violence’

Police reject minority groups’ claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday said it found no evidence to support the recent allegations, made by two minority organisations, of communal violence.

Citing a statement by the Bangladesh Police, the chief adviser’s press wing in a statement said, “Bangladesh Police are investigating each reported incident with utmost diligence and seriousness, following the facts wherever they lead.”

“So far, no evidence of communal violence has been found; only individual acts of aggression. Rest assured, the police remain committed to safeguarding the safety and security of all citizens, institutions, and religious establishments in Bangladesh.”

On July 10, the Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad (Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council) and the Minority Unity Alliance at a press conference said 27 individuals were killed in communal attacks between January and June this year. They also claimed that 2,442 incidents of communal violence occurred

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