

Jet slams into school, kills 22, mostly children

Toll may rise; around 170 injured, many critically; ISPR says 'mechanical failure' caused BAF training plane to plunge into Uttara school



Firefighters and army personnel conduct a rescue operation on the ground floor of a Milestone School and College building after a fighter jet crashed into it in the capital's Diabari yesterday afternoon, left. A mother cries out in desperation for her child, a student of the school, as the campus is cordoned off for rescue efforts.

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

WASIM BIN HABIB, MUNTAKIM SAAD and DIPAN NANDY

The final bell had rung.

Dozens of children from the primary section of Milestone School and College in Dhaka, along with their guardians and teachers, lingered inside the two-storey building – some preparing to head home, chatting and winding down from the day.

Suddenly, the bustle turned into chaos.

A Bangladesh Air Force training jet plunged from the sky and slammed into the school's Diabari campus in Uttara around 1:30pm yesterday. The aircraft burst into flames on impact, killing at least 20 people, including the pilot, and injuring over 170 others, according to data provided by the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) around 5:30pm.

Before I could process anything, I saw children running toward me... fire spreading. I poured water on two or three of them in the washroom. Then another teacher shouted, 'Purnima, get out!'

Purnima Das,
a teacher of the school

the site, visible from a great distance.

The F-7 BGI training jet had struck the front of the building, tearing through concrete walls and iron grilles. The force of the impact drove the aircraft deep into the structure, leaving only the engine's rear end protruding from the mangled wreckage.

A desperate scene unfolded.

Students, their uniforms scorched and skin blistered, stumbled out of the smoke, crying, groaning, and calling for help. Some collapsed on the ground. Others were carried by guardians and seniors, their bodies marked with horrific burns.

The air was thick with smoke, screams, and confusion as residents, firefighters, and army personnel rushed to rescue the injured.



Children were carried on arms, stretchers, and rickshaw-vans, then loaded into ambulances. One harrowing video showed a boy walking with blistered skin. In another, a father sprinted with his wounded daughter cradled in his arms.

The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals and the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Uttara Adhunik Hospital and the burn institute. The air force airlifted many of the critically injured.

Survivors who made it out were shaken.

"You could see the trauma etched on their faces," said one witness at the scene.

Ariful Islam, a first-year HSC student, said, "What happened on the ground floor is beyond description."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Two of the injured died at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery later, taking the toll to 22, Resident Surgeon Shaon Bin Rahman told The Daily Star around midnight.

The toll from what is now the deadliest training aircraft crash in recent memory may rise, as many of the injured remain in critical condition, some with burn injuries covering their entire bodies.

Moments after the impact, fire engulfed several classrooms on the ground floor of the two-storey building. Children were trapped inside. The building housed classrooms for third and fourth grade students on the ground floor, and the room struck by the plane was used for class three.

TV footage from the scene and social media videos showed fire and a thick plume of smoke billowing from

For students, unto death

Mahreen dies trying to save as many children as she could

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

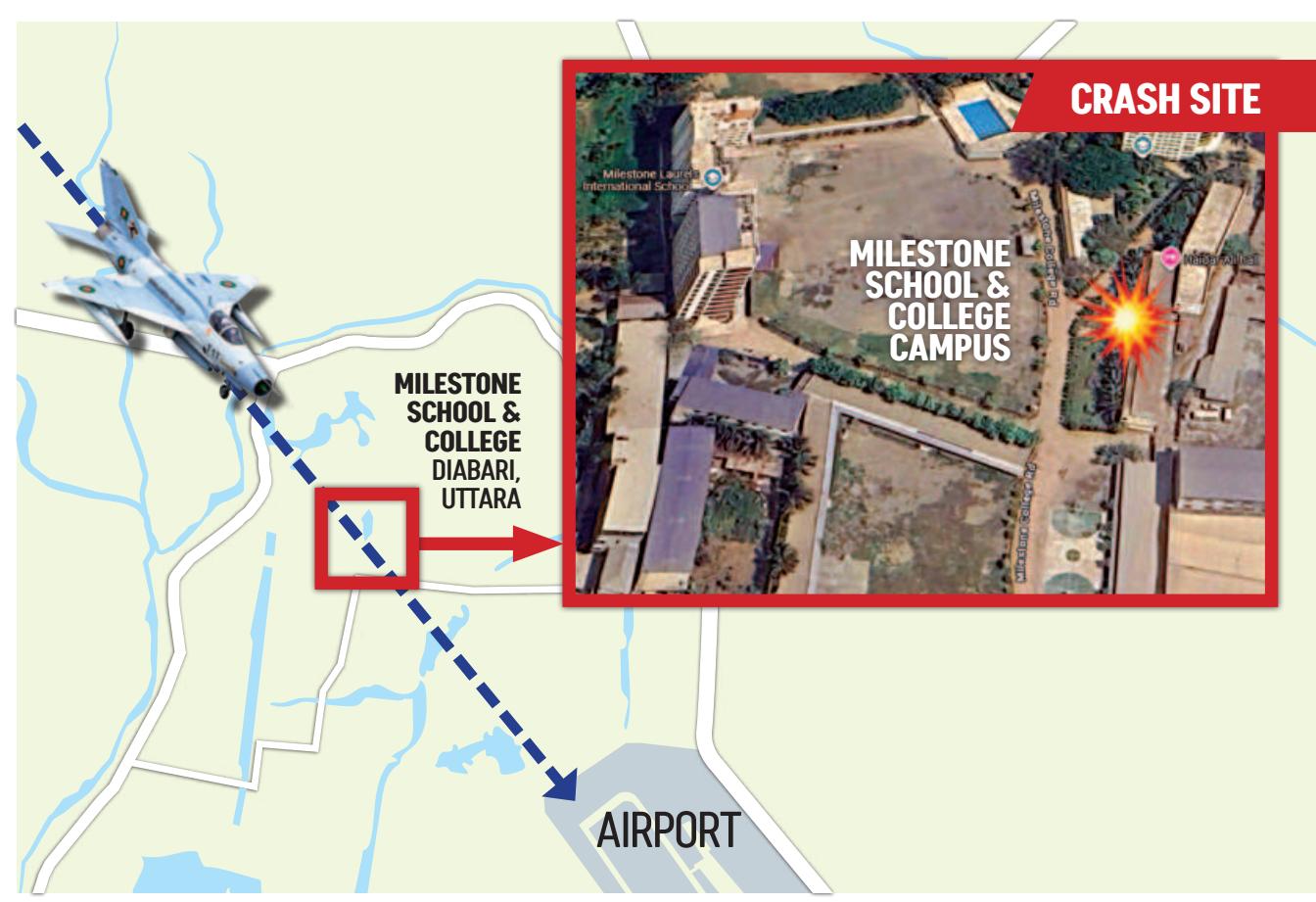


Mahreen Chowdhury, 46, a coordinator of Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara, died yesterday after sustaining 80 percent burns while trying to escort students outside after a Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashed into one of the school buildings.

After fighting for her life for hours on life support at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's ICU, she succumbed to her injuries around 10:00pm.

Before being placed on life support, Mahreen was able to speak briefly with her husband, Monsur Helal. He said, "She told me school had just ended and she was helping the children leave when the plane crashed right outside the gate. Even after being burned herself, she tried to save them."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



WE MOURN
The Daily Star mourns the victims of the air force jet crash at Milestone School & College in Dhaka



NATION NUMB WITH SHOCK

Condolences pour in; national day of mourning today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has declared today a national day of mourning after an air force jet crashed inside the campus of Milestone College in Uttara, killing 22 people and injuring around 170 others, mostly students. To mark the day, the national flag will be

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Hospital corridors echo with grief and groans

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In the aftermath of a devastating air force jet crash into a school, Dhaka's hospitals become the frontline of a tragedy that shook the city to its core. The corridors of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery became a scene of anguish as scores of critically injured, mostly children, arrived in waves.

For many of them, it was a grim, 20-kilometre journey from the disaster site in Uttara to the country's top burn hospital in Chankharpool. About 70 people were rushed to the facility, many bearing life-threatening injuries. By yesterday afternoon, it became the epicentre of the crisis, as the most critical cases were transferred from smaller, overwhelmed hospitals in the northern part of the city.

Including these 70, at least 88 burn victims were being treated at seven city hospitals last night, with 25 in critical condition, according to health ministry data.

The crash occurred in the heart of densely populated Uttara, where the aircraft plummeted into a two-storey building of Milestone School and College, just after midday. Parents and guardians, many of whom had just arrived for school pickups, rushed into the unfolding chaos. With no time to wait for emergency responders, they carried the wounded out themselves, doing whatever they could to save lives before ambulances arrived.

Outside the burn institute, the scene was one of barely controlled turmoil. Volunteers struggled to clear paths for ambulances and private vehicles. Many of the victims arrived already swathed in bandages, evidence of hastily administered first aid from smaller clinics. Personnel from Ansar and the Rapid Action Battalion were deployed to manage the crowds and keep emergency entrances accessible.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Experts question training flights above mega city

RASHIDUL HASAN and ZYMA ISLAM

Aviation experts and pilots, both military and civilian, yesterday questioned the rationale behind allowing military aircraft to conduct training exercises over a densely populated area like Dhaka.



Aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam said that due to the densely populated nature of Dhaka, flying military training aircraft in the capital is significantly more dangerous compared to other parts of the country where the air force operates its fighter training missions.

"Despite the risks, the air force aircraft continue to use the sole runway at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport," said Alam.

"We have long been demanding the relocation of the air force base near Dhaka airport, as its presence is hampering the operations of commercial airlines at the airport."

A Bangladesh Air Force pilot from the same cohort as that of the deceased pilot, speaking anonymously, said training in such a populated area poses additional

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

'We were ready to go home'

Survivors, parents recount horror as jet crashes into school

SHAEEN MOLLAH, AHMED DEEPTO and DIPAN NANDY

Barely 300 metres from Milestone School and College, Sharif Ul Anwar Sazzan was waiting for his son Srijon Sattik, a sixth grader, to come out so they could return home for lunch.

"My daughter and I were waiting when we saw what looked like a ball of fire in one of the school buildings."

Tragedy struck yesterday afternoon when a Bangladesh Air Force F-7 training jet crashed into the ground floor of a two-storey building on the school campus.

As of 11:40pm, 22 people, including the pilot and several students, were reported dead. Around 170 were injured, and many remained missing.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

NOTICE

In respect of the national day of mourning for the victims of the Milestone School and College tragedy, we are withholding this Tuesday's Lifestyle issue. Lifestyle will be published on Wednesday July 23.

OF PAIN, RELIEF AND RESPONSE



PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS, AMRAN HOSSAIN

Left top: Traumatised after witnessing the incident that killed many of her peers, Tisha Sarkar Sreya, a ninth-grader at Milestone School, calling her relatives as she waits in a separate building near the crash site. She had left the affected building for a few minutes just before the crash. **Left bottom:** Rafsi Akter Rafia, a fourth grader, undergoes treatment for burn wounds at Uttara Crescent Hospital (Photo: collected). **Centre:** Army and fire service personnel, along with others, rush an injured patient into a military helicopter. **Right top:** Still gripping her pencil, a child is carried away by her guardian after the crash at her school. **Right bottom:** Hundreds gather in front of DMCH to donate blood.

Jet slams into school, kills 22

FROM PAGE 1

He was attending class on the seventh floor of another building across from the crash site. "Suddenly, I saw a plane crash into the first floor of the adjacent building," he said. "The entire site was engulfed in flames with a loud bang, and screams began coming from the building."

SM Mahin, an HSC second-year student, recalled: "The heat and thick smoke were overwhelming. Still, we saw some children coming out, severely burnt. We helped as many as we could."

Purnima Das, a teacher of the school, posted on her Facebook around 8:00pm: "I had just finished class and was heading to the teachers' room when the fire started. About eighty percent of the students had already left as school ended at 1:00pm."

The rest, she wrote, were in tuition classes or waiting for parents.

"Before I could process anything, I saw children running toward me... fire spreading. I poured water on two or three of them in the washroom."

"Then another teacher shouted, 'Purnima, get out!' I stepped out and saw the corridor ablaze -- just two arm-lengths away. One colleague, terribly burned, collapsed at my feet crying, 'Save me!'

Purnima froze before realising someone was dragging her out.

During a briefing around 8:00pm, Professor Md Sayedur Rahman, the chief adviser's special assistant for health and family welfare, told reporters that 88 of the injured were undergoing treatment at seven hospitals and 25 of them were in a critical condition.

He said 17 bodies had been kept at various hospitals across the capital, and that the death toll could rise.

Nation numb with shock

FROM PAGE 1

flew at half-mast at all government, semi-government, autonomous, and educational institutions across the country.

Similar instructions have been given to Bangladeshi missions abroad. Special prayers will be offered at places of worship for the deceased and the injured.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin expressed deep shock and sorrow over the tragic incident. In a condolence message, he prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved families. He also wished for the swift recovery of those injured in the crash.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus also conveyed his profound grief, describing the incident as a "moment of deep national sorrow".

"I'm deeply saddened by the casualties caused by the heartbreaking accident involving a Bangladesh Air Force jet on the Milestone School and College campus," he said in a statement issued by the chief adviser's press wing.

He described the loss suffered by air force personnel, students, teachers, staff, parents, and others associated with Milestone College as irreparable.

The chief adviser instructed all relevant authorities, including the hospitals concerned, to treat the situation with the highest level of urgency. He also affirmed that the government would take necessary steps to investigate the cause of the crash and extend all possible assistance to those affected.

The UN, European Union, and several other nations, including

Nations, and the European Union each expressed condolences and support for Bangladesh in this moment of tragedy.

The main campus of Milestone School and College was established in 2002 on Gareeb-e-Newaz Avenue in Sector II of Uttara Model Town. Around a decade ago, the institution set up its Diabari campus, which consists of 11 buildings and serves approximately 6,000 students across various grades, according to the school authorities. Principal Mohammad Ziaul Alam did not receive phone calls for comments.

Briefing reporters at the scene around 4:45pm, Brig Gen Muhammad Jahed Kamal, director general of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the crash occurred after classes had ended for the day. "Children and possibly some guardians had gathered in the building when the plane struck," he said.

Talking to reporters at the burn institute, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said, "Such a massive, catastrophic accident has never occurred in our national history."

He said the authorities of the burn institute took all necessary preparations to provide the best possible treatment to the victims.

"If needed, foreign doctors will be brought in, and arrangements will be made to send critically injured students abroad for treatment," he said, adding, "There will be no shortage in any aspect of their medical care. But what we have lost today cannot be compensated by anything."

Fire service personnel called off the rescue operation last night while air force and police cordoned off the area. They said there were no bodies or survivors left within the school premises.

BNP Standing Committee member Salabuddin Ahmed said, "We consider those who lost their lives in this sudden tragedy as martyrs."

Jamaat, in a statement, called upon its members and locals to come aid of the injured.

"May Allah have mercy on those who lost their lives, forgive them, and grant them the honour of martyrdom and the highest rank in paradise. May Allah grant the injured a swift and complete recovery," it said.

In a statement, NCP Convener Nahid Islam expressed deep sorrow and instructed party leaders and activists to assist the victims.

The National Consensus Commission postponed yesterday's dialogue with political parties and observed a one minute silence in memory of the victims and offered prayers. Talks are expected to resume tomorrow.

Bangladesh's top sports bodies -- the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), and the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation -- issued statements mourning the lives lost in the crash.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) also expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy.

Celebrities and public figures took to social media to express their heartbreak. Many have also stepped forward to support the victims and their families.

Public personalities who posted tributes and extended support include actors Shakib Khan, Ziaul Faruq Apurba, actresses Shobnom Bubbly, Apu Biswas, Tasnia Farin, and Mehazabien Chowdhury, singer Elita Karim, and filmmakers Sunny Sanwar and Ashfaque Nipun.

Experts question training flights

FROM PAGE 1

challenges to military jet pilots.

"Although the entire field is supposed to be clear of any building over one or two storeys, there are plenty of high-rise buildings in the flight path. As a result, we have to gain altitude very fast and remain at higher altitudes," said the pilot.

Another veteran pilot with similar training experience agreed.

He, also requesting anonymity, opined that the pilot may have realised that he was flying at an altitude higher than the "glide path" and, as a result, would overshoot the runway, so he reduced power to lose altitude.

The glide path is the vertical flight path that an aircraft follows as it approaches a runway for landing, typically during the final approach phase.

"Then he might have needed to reintroduce power to proceed with the landing. But jet engines have a limitation -- it takes a few seconds to spool up," said the veteran pilot. Those lost seconds are precious when the landing strip is only seconds away.

Fighter jets like the FT-7BGI, which crashed inside a school compound in Uttara yesterday, fly at supersonic speeds, calculated in "Mach", a unit relative to the speed of sound, which is 1,234km per hour. Unlike commercial aircraft, these planes fly and land at higher speeds. The plane in question is capable of flying at Mach 2, which is well above 2,400kmph.

Experts and pilots say if everything had gone okay, Flight Lieutenant Towkirk Islam Sagar would have been able to land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, 3.3 kilometres from the crash site, in seconds.

Military and civil aviation professionals questioned the logic of operating such training in a city like Dhaka when the air force has the option to conduct such training from bases in Jashore or Chattogram.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one such professional noted that very few countries in the world allow Air Force training aircraft to operate on the same runway used for commercial aviation.

However, he acknowledged that countries with limited land availability, historical military bases,

and forward operating bases.

A police report seen by AFP identifies the woman as Bano Bibi and the man as Ehsan Ullah, and says they were killed last month in Margat, near Quetta in Balochistan, after eloping.

In a video circulating on social media, more than a dozen men are seen gathered in a remote, mountainous desert area, with SUVs and pickup trucks parked nearby.

A woman is ordered to stand facing away from the group before a man pulls out a gun and shoots her in the back.

He then turns the weapon on a man

and shoots him dead.

"We have arrested over a dozen men for their involvement in the incident," a senior police official told AFP on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

The official said those arrested included a cousin of the woman and the tribal elder who headed the jirga, or tribal council, that ordered the killings.

It comes after the video of the incident went viral at the weekend, prompting the provincial Balochistan government to register a case under terrorism charges.

The chief minister of the province described the incident as "heinous".

Traditional jirgas made up mostly of male elders are used to settle local disputes and are commonplace in rural Pakistan where they operate legally alongside the modern court system.

He then turns the weapon on a man

Towkirk tried to steer plane away from populated areas: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Flight Lieutenant Towkirk Islam Sagar, whose FT-7 jet crashed into Milestone School & College yesterday, was of the 35 squadron, 76 BAF course.

He died while undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), according to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Towkirk completed his first 100 hours of flight training during his cadet years in PT-6 aircraft.

He later served with the 15th Squadron, where he logged approximately 60 hours of flight time, before joining the 35th Squadron.

To avoid a major disaster, the pilot, Towkirk, attempted to steer the FT-7 BGI aircraft away from densely populated areas and towards a sparsely inhabited zone, said ISPR.

However, despite his efforts, the plane smashed into a two-storey building of the school in the Diabari area of Uttara.

The victim's family lives in a rented house in Sector 3 of Rajshahi city's Upashahar area, according to Prothom Alo.

His father Tahurul Islam, mother Saleha Khatun, sister Srishti, and brother-in-law stay in that house. His father is involved in the export-import business. Their ancestral home is in the Kansat area of Chapainawabganj, it said.

After the plane crash, Towkirk's family members expressed their wish to fly to Dhaka to see him while he was under treatment. The air force then arranged a helicopter for them.

Around 4:30 in the afternoon, Towkirk's father, mother, sister, and brother-in-law were taken from their home to Shah Makhdom Airport in Rajshahi. From there, they departed for Dhaka in a special air force helicopter.

After the news of Towkirk's death broke, journalists and locals were seen gathering in front of the house in Upashahar.

Towkirk's grandfather, grandmother, and aunt were still at the house, reported Prothom Alo. His maternal uncle, Motakabir, was standing outside, informing curious people and journalists about the family's condition.

Motakabir said Towkirk studied up to class seven at Rajshahi Laboratory School and College. He was later admitted to Pabna Cadet College. He joined the service in 2017. A year ago, he married a lecturer at a private university.

For students

FROM PAGE 1

Mahreen was responsible for escorting students to the gate to ensure they safely reached their parents. According to news reports, she managed to lead at least 20 children out while sustaining injuries herself.

Her brother, Munaf Mojib Chowdhury, told The Daily Star last night, "She was on her way out of the school when the incident occurred, but she saw students trapped inside. She knew she had to get them out."

Monsur later told reporters, "From head to toe, she's completely burnt. It looked like 100 percent to me."

Enjoy Your Golden Years with

SENIOR CITIZEN PUBALI DEPOSIT SCHEME (SCPDS)

- ✓ Any Bangladeshi individual aged 59 years and above can open account under this scheme.
- ✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit [6 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]

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

Open your
Account
from anywhere

The mother (C) of an injured student weeps inside a hospital after an air force training jet crashed into a building of Milestone College in Dhaka's Uttara killing at least 22 people and injuring 169.

PHOTO: AFP

Side by side
in bandages,
siblings fight
to survive

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL and
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Siblings Aryan Ashraf Nafi and Tania Ashraf Nazia lie side by side at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, their small bodies covered in bandages.

Nafi, a class 2 student, suffered 95 percent burns, while his sister Nazia, in class 6, had burns covering 90 percent of her body. Both are students at Milestone School and College – and they are now fighting for their lives in hospital beds.

Their mother, Tahmina, stood frozen beside them, unable to process the trauma. Their father, a retired army officer, struggled to stay composed.

Though now reunited in the hospital, the siblings had been separated in the chaos that followed the crash of a training jet onto their school compound.

At first, only Nafi was found.

The family searched frantically for Nazia for nearly an hour.

Eventually, it was their aunt, Akhi, who discovered her – but the relief was instantly crushed by a doctor's grim update: "Her

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

'Please help us find our children'

Families desperately search for missing students

AHMED DEEPTO, MD ABBAS and
TANGLA TASnim

A sense of grief and desperation engulfed Uttara yesterday after an air force jet crashed into Milestone College, killing at least 22 people and leaving several students missing,

The scene outside was one of chaos, confusion, and quiet prayers. Families wandered between hospitals and the crash site, clutching photographs, their eyes swollen from tears. According to the fire service, many students remain unaccounted for.

as anguished families searched desperately for their loved ones.

Parents rushed between the crash site, hospitals, and morgues in a frantic attempt to locate their children. Near the metro rail depot in Uttara, just 500 metres from the

site of the crash, heartbroken families stood crying, clinging to hope.

Among them was Parul, the mother of Nusrat Akhter, a third-grade student who has not been seen since the incident.

"Our home is in Diabari," Parul told The Daily Star, her voice trembling.

"My daughter went to school around 8:00am. Her classes end at 1:00pm, but she stays until 3:30pm for coaching. I haven't found her since," she said.

As security forces sealed off the area, she pleaded, "Where is my daughter? They are not letting anyone in. Please, help me find my daughter... I just want my daughter back."

The scene outside the college was one of chaos, confusion, and quiet prayers. Families wandered between hospitals and the crash site, clutching photographs, their eyes swollen from tears. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, many students remain unaccounted for.

Lucky Akter, another guardian, told reporters around 3:00pm that both her children study at Milestone School.

"I managed to get my elder child out, but I can't find the younger one," she said, tears streaming down her face.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

15 dead in as
many training
flight crashes
in 2 decades

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A series of training flight crashes, both military and civilian, have claimed the lives of at least 15 pilots and civilians over the past two decades, before the F7 jet crash in Dhaka's Uttara yesterday.

According to newspaper reports, multiple incidents involving Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) training aircraft and flying academy planes have also left dozens injured.

On May 9, 2024, Squadron Leader Asim Jawad died after a YAK130 trainer fighter jet of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crashed into the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram's Patenga.

Arif Ahmed Dipu, an air force wing commander, was killed when his F7 fighter jet crashed in Tangail's Madhupur upazila on November 23, 2018, during a training mission.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

EC seeks data on polling officials in last 3 nat'l elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has sent letters to all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners seeking information on officials responsible for conducting the last three national elections.

Following the filing of a case over electoral irregularities with Sher-e-Bangla Police Station on June 22, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) requested the information, prompting the EC to take the initiative.

The EC issued the letter on July 20. It was signed by EC Deputy Secretary Monir Hossain.

According to the deputy secretary, on July 3, the PBI sent a letter requesting detailed information on returning officers, presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, and polling officers who served in the 2014, 2018, and 2024 national parliamentary elections.

The EC's letter to the divisional commissioners and DCs said, in connection with a case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, the PBI (Dhaka metro north) had requested names, parents' names, permanent and current addresses, NID numbers, passport numbers, and mobile numbers of the officials deployed in those elections – organised by polling centre.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



PHOTO: PR OFFICE DU

DU launches 'July Memorial Museum'

6 left student bodies boycott
event over Shibir presence

DU CORRESPONDENT

The "July Memorial Museum" (July Smriti Songrohoshala) was inaugurated at the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) building yesterday to honour the martyrs and injured of the July uprising.

The event was presided over by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, while Education Adviser Prof Dr CR Abrar was present as the chief guest.

Addressing the programme, the adviser said,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

'We must boost climate negotiation capacity'

Speakers tell Star-ALRD roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to enhance its capacity to negotiate climate change issues on global platforms like the Conference of Parties (COP), said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They emphasised that achieving climate change mitigation targets as part of national preparedness could boost the country's confidence in demanding its fair share of global climate resources as an affected nation.

The roundtable, titled "NDC Implementation Challenges: Accelerating Mitigation and Adaptation through Sustainable Land Management", was jointly organised by the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Speakers noted that although Bangladesh is not a major polluter, its role in mitigation will be discussed at the upcoming COP30, scheduled for November in Brazil.

To address climate change through mitigation, Bangladesh formulated the

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) – a policy document aligned with the Paris Agreement – in 2015. COP30 will focus on implementing the NDC and revising targets for 2030, they added.

Climate change expert Prof Ainun Nishat said Bangladesh contributes only 0.48 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, while countries like China, the US, India, and members of the European Union are the top emitters.

He said although a global fund to address climate change-induced challenges exists, it is not adequate. Bangladesh needs to strengthen its capacity to secure a share of this fund.

With the country set to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, it will need to align with forums such as the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) to effectively negotiate climate-change-related issues in the future, he added.

Prof Nishat also stressed the importance of youth raising their voices against major polluting nations, as climate change will impact younger generations the most.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Speakers at a roundtable, titled "NDC Implementation Challenges: Accelerating Mitigation and Adaptation through Sustainable Land Management", held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Built for farmers, agri markets stay unused for 15yrs

S DILIP ROY, *LaMonirhat*

A total of 32 agricultural markets were constructed across seven districts of Rangpur division to enable farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers, bypassing middlemen and ensuring fair prices. However, nearly one and a half decades later, not a single one of these markets has been made operational.

Despite government expenditure of around Tk 62 crore, farmers continue to sell produce by the roadside, often at unfairly low prices.

A field visit to the BDR Haat agricultural market in LaMonirhat Sadar upazila revealed a locked, long-abandoned facility. Locals said a few influential individuals have taken over the site and converted it into a storage warehouse for rice, paddy, fertiliser and other goods.



Badiar Rahman, 60, a farmer from Kornopur village, said he harvests vegetables daily and takes them to the local haat, but due to a lack of designated space, he is forced to sell them to wholesalers at lower prices.

In Rangpur city, the Mahiganj agricultural market has reportedly been converted into a community centre by a powerful local figure, while another market near the truck terminal is being used as a slaughterhouse and meat shop under lease by the city corporation.

Nabin Chandra Barman, 65, a farmer from Mahiganj, said, "This market has never been used for agriculture. As soon as the structure was built, it was taken over. We've only heard of it as an 'agricultural market' in name."

According to the agriculture department, under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) and the National Community Development Programme (NCDP),

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

We must boost climate negotiation capacity

FROM PAGE 3

Dwijen Mallick, research fellow at the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, said Bangladesh has received inadequate climate financing from both domestic and external sources, which poses a major obstacle to addressing its challenges.

He identified sectors such as agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU), along with waste management, as critical sectors where Bangladesh could make progress in climate mitigation.

Globally, around 35 percent of emission reductions could come

from AFOLU and waste management, he noted.

Khushi Kabir, chairperson of ALRD and coordinator of Nijera Kori, highlighted the need to monitor greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda criticised large polluting countries for making lofty commitments at forums like COP but rarely following through.

STATUTORY NOTICE

OFFICE SPACE TO LET
4500-5000 sft per floor in AA Bhaban
Location: Shapla Chittar, beside Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel C/A.
Newly Renovated with all facilities and fire escape
Enquiry: +880 2 47120210, 01911-310446, 01324-533080
SMS: 01711-675325, 01755-509456
Email: info.aabhaban@gmail.com

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1205 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF: CF Global Limited, represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Rayan Moyeen
-VERSUS-
The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms & others, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka -1215. Respondent

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act 1994 was moved in petitioner to Condonation of delay in holding the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Company named CF Global Limited. Upon preliminary hearing on 26.06.2025 his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 16.07.2025 if any person interested in the said application may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

Mohammad Golam Kibria FCS, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
GK CHAMBERS, 218, Syed Nazrul Islam Saroni, Tropicana Tower (9th Floor), Suite # 9A, Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Mobile: 01707-429282

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1200 OF 2025
An application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994
IN THE MATTER OF:

Md. Fazlul HaquePetitioner
-vs-Respondent
RJSC

Notice hereby given that an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved by the petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company named Sterling Apparel Ltd. Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 02.07.2025. If any person is interested in the said application, he may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

Mr. Sifat Mahmud,
Barrister-at-Law, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No. 103, Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka-1000.

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1127 OF 2025
An application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994
IN THE MATTER OF:

Syed Asad AliPetitioner
-vs-Respondent
RJSC

Notice hereby given that an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved by the petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the Company named Mastech IT Ltd. Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 02.07.2025. If any person is interested in the said application, he may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

Mr. Sifat Mahmud,
Barrister-at-Law, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No. 103, Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka-1000.



A Dhaka North City Corporation worker sprays pesticide in the Ring Road area of Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday, with the goal to curb the spread of dengue. Efforts have been ramped up, following rising number of dengue infections across the country.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

No quota in govt jobs for July uprising victims Says Liberation War affairs adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There will be no quota in government jobs for the families of those killed or injured in the July uprising, said Faruk E Azam, adviser to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, yesterday.

He said while the government will provide various forms of support to those affected, no decision has been made to introduce a job quota for them.

The adviser made the remarks at a press conference held at the Secretariat, where he outlined the ministry's initiatives for the families of the July uprising victims.

In response to a question about whether a quota system would be introduced for the injured and the families of the deceased in the uprising, he said, "No, no quota will be there."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

One more Covid death, 364 new dengue cases

BSS, Dhaka

One person died of Covid-19 in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, while three new infections were recorded during the same period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This brings the total number of Covid-19 deaths this year to 28. Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the overall death toll stands at 29,527.

Meanwhile, 364 new dengue cases were reported in the same 24-hour period.

So far this year, dengue has caused 62 deaths and infected 17,582 people across the country.

5,206 pass 48th special BCS written test

BSS, Dhaka

A total of 5,206 candidates have passed the written test (MCQ type) of the 48th special Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exams, according to the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC).

The results of the MCQ-type written examination, held on July 18, were officially published through a press release signed by BPSC Exam Controller Masuma Afrin.

Of the 5,206 successful candidates, 4,695 qualified for the surgeon post, while 511 were selected for the assistant dental surgeon post on a provisional basis. These candidates are now eligible to appear in the viva voce.

The full results can be viewed and downloaded from the commission's official website: www.bpsc.gov.bd.

PRAYER TIMING

JULY 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrub Esha

AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15

JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

TENDER NOTICE



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

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD - UNHCR ITB 1289	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENT (s) FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION AND WASH MATERIALS FOR UNHCR-BANGLADESH

Interested and bona fide vendors are invited to participate in this Invitation to Bid (ITB) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal.

UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/271469>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Please confirm your participation for BGD - UNHCR ITB 1289 by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in Cloud ERP Supplier portal. Please indicate whether:

- You are interested in participating in this ITB, or
- You are not interested in participating.

[Sending your confirmation above will enable to receive automatic email notifications from UNHCR with information on any changes related to this negotiation.](#)

Instruction to Bidders:

[BDJobs link: https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/unhcr/unhcr527.htm](https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/unhcr/unhcr527.htm)

To register as a potential supplier, please refer to link as follows: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to Log in with your email address and Password Do not create a new profile if you already registered. Kindly. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not know/remember your password or username from previous registration.

Bid submission deadline: Sunday, 10 August 2025 – 23:59 hrs BST Bangladesh time.

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

Pak militants use drones to target security forces: officials

REUTERS, Peshawar

Militants in Pakistan have started using commercially acquired quadcopter drones to drop bombs on security forces in the country's northwest, police said, a potentially dangerous development in the volatile region.

Two quadcopters sent by the militants targeted a police station earlier this month, killing a woman and injuring three children in a nearby house in Bannu district, said police officer Muhammad Anwar. A drone spotted over another police station on Saturday was shot down with assault rifles, he said. It was armed with a mortar shell, he said.

Eight such drone attacks have targeted police and security forces in Bannu and adjacent areas in the last two and a half months, he said. The main militant group is the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) denied using the drones.

YEMEN PORT Israeli military attacks Houthi targets

REUTERS

The Israeli military attacked Houthi targets in Yemen's Hodeidah port yesterday in its latest assault on the Iran-backed militants, who have been striking ships bound for Israel and launching missiles against it.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the army was "forcefully countering any attempt to restore the terror infrastructure previously attacked".

The Al Masirah TV said yesterday that a series of attacks on the port was under way, without providing any details.

In a statement, the Israeli military said the port it attacked had been used "among other things, to transfer weapons from the Iranian regime, which are then used by the Houthi to execute terrorist attacks against the State of Israel and its allies."

Since Israel's war in Gaza against the Palestinian group Hamas began in October 2023, the Iran-aligned Houthi have been attacking vessels in the Red Sea.

Israel has responded by launching attacks on Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen, including the vital Hodeidah port.



Smoke and flames rise from a residential building hit by an Israeli strike in Gaza City yesterday. Pope Leo spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas about the conflict in Gaza and violence in the West Bank, the Vatican said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel begins ground assault in Deir al-Balah

17 Palestinians killed; UK, 24 Western allies, in a joint plea, say the war in Gaza 'must end now'

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli tanks pushed into southern and eastern areas of the Gazan city of Deir Al-Balah for the first time yesterday, an area where Israeli sources said the military believes some of the remaining hostages may be being held.

Gaza medics said at least three Palestinians were killed and several were wounded in tank shelling that hit eight houses and three mosques in the area, and which came a day after the military ordered residents to leave, saying it planned to fight Hamas fighters.

The raid and bombardment pushed dozens of families who had remained to flee and head west towards the coastal area of Deir Al-Balah and nearby Khan Younis.

In Khan Younis, earlier yesterday, an Israeli airstrike killed at least five people, including a man, his wife, and their two children, in a tent, medics said.

Israel's military said it had not entered the districts of Deir Al-Balah subject to the evacuation order during the current conflict and that it was continuing "to operate with great force to destroy the enemy's capabilities and terrorist infrastructure in the area."

Israeli sources have said the reason the army has so far stayed out is that they suspect Hamas

might be holding hostages there.

Families of the hostages expressed their concern for their relatives and demanded an explanation from the army of how it would protect them.

The military escalation comes as Gaza health officials warned of potential "mass deaths" in the coming days due to mounting hunger, which has killed at least 19 people since Saturday, according to the territory's health ministry.

Tanks pushed into southern, eastern areas of Gaza

IDF believes hostages may be held in Deir Al-Balah

Rising deaths, hunger will affect ceasefire talks: Hamas

Health officials said hospitals were running out of fuel, food aid, and medicine, risking a halt to vital operations.

Health ministry spokesperson, Khalil Al-Deqran, said medical staff have been depending on one meal a day, and that hundreds of people flock to hospitals every day, suffering from fatigue and exhaustion because of hunger.

The new raid and escalating number of fatalities appeared to be complicating ceasefire talks

between Hamas and Israel that are being mediated by Qatar and Egypt, with US backing.

A Hamas official told Reuters on Sunday that the group was angered over the mounting deaths and the hunger crisis in the enclave, and that this could badly affect ceasefire talks underway in Qatar.

Israel and Hamas are engaged in indirect talks in Doha aimed at reaching a 60-day truce and hostage deal, although there has

been no sign of breakthrough.

UNRWA, the UN refugee agency dedicated to Palestinians, said in a post on X yesterday, it was receiving desperate messages from Gaza warning of starvation, including from its own staff as food prices have increased 40-fold.

"Meanwhile, just outside Gaza, stockpiled in warehouses UNRWA has enough food for the entire population for over three months. Lift the siege and let aid in safely and at scale," it said.

The European parties have been at fault and negligent in implementing the nuclear agreement, said Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei.

Iran blames Europeans for nuclear deal collapse

AFP, Tehran

Tehran yesterday blamed European powers for the failure of 2015 nuclear deal, accusing them of breaking their commitments ahead of renewed talks in Istanbul with UK, France and Germany.

The 2015 deal, reached between Iran and the UN Security Council's permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — plus Germany, imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

But it unravelled in 2018 when the United States, during Donald Trump's first term as president, unilaterally withdrew from the accord and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

The Europeans had pledged continued support for the deal, but the mechanism intended to offset US sanctions never materialised effectively and many Western firms were forced to exit Iran, which has since faced a deepening economic crisis.

"The European parties have been at fault and negligent in implementing the nuclear agreement, said Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei.

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

X calls French probe 'politically motivated'

AFP, Paris

A French probe into alleged foreign interference and bias via the algorithm at Elon Musk-owned social network X is "politically motivated", the company said in a post yesterday, adding that it was refusing to cooperate.

"X believes that this investigation is distorting French law in order to serve a political agenda and, ultimately, restrict free speech," the social network said.

It added that it "has not acceded to the French authorities' demands" to access its recommendation algorithm and real-time data, "as we have a legal right to do".

Cybercrime prosecutors announced the opening of the probe on July 11 into suspected crimes including manipulating and extracting data from automated systems "as part of a criminal gang".

The move followed two complaints received in January about "foreign interference" in French politics via X — one of them from Eric Bothorel, an MP from President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party.

Bothorel had complained of "reduced diversity of voices and options" and Musk's "personal interventions" on the network since his 2022 takeover of the former Twitter.



Russia strikes Ukraine with 450 drones

2 killed; apartment hit

AFP, Kyiv

Russia fired a volley of drones and missiles at Ukraine early yesterday, hitting apartment blocks and a nursery in Kyiv, days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky proposed holding a fresh round of peace talks.

Moscow has not responded to Zelensky's call for new negotiations this week or an ultimatum by US President Donald Trump to make progress on a peace deal or face massive sanctions.

Two people were killed across the country, Zelensky said. Russia launched 450 drones and missiles in total, according to Ukraine's air force.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot arrived in the capital, Kyiv, while rescuers were still sifting through the rubble.

Zelensky condemned the strikes as an "assault on humanity" and said at least 15 other people had been wounded in the attacks, including a 12-year-old boy.

Efforts to reach a diplomatic solution to the three-year war have stalled in recent weeks.

The two sides last met for direct negotiations more than a month ago in Istanbul.

They did not make any progress towards a ceasefire, instead agreeing to a series of prisoner exchanges.



An aerial view shows a truck carrying evacuating members of the Bedouin community stopping at a checkpoint set up by Syrian government forces along a road in Taarah, in Syria's southern Sweida province, en route to Daraa, yesterday. Inset, Druze fighters patrol a street in the predominantly Druze city of Sweida after the ceasefire halted a week of sectarian bloodshed.



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

নির্বাচন ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.ecs.gov.bd

তারিখ: ০৭ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২
২১ জুলাই ২০২৫

ই-জিপি পুন:দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয় কর্তৃত [National Electronic Government Procurement Portal \(www.eprocure.gov.bd\)](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) এ নিম্নরূপ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলো:

ক্রমিক	ই-জিপি দরপত্র আইডি	দরপত্র পক্ষতি	তারিখ ও সময় (২৪ ঘণ্টা ধরে)		
			দরপত্র প্রকাশ	দরপত্র বিত্তী শেষ	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তরণ
১	1132775	NCT, OTM	২১ জুলাই ২০২৫ সময়: ১০:৩০	০৩ আগস্ট ২০২৫ সময়: ১১:০০	০৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫ সময়: ১৪:৩০

বিস্তারিত জানতে আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণ www.eprocure.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে ভিজিট করুন। শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে।

GD-1623

১২৩.৮২
(রাশেদুল ইসলাম)
উপসচিব (নি. প-১)
নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৫৫০০০৫২৪৮

BANGLADESH IN TRANSITION: A FORESIGHT OUTLOOK

The plausible future facing the country

This is the second instalment of a three-part series based on a foresight analysis centred on Bangladesh's transition, delving into the plausible future scenarios that may unfold over the next few months.

Debapriya Bhattacharya
is distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy
Dialogue (CPD).

Towfiqul Islam Khan
is senior research fellow at CPD.

Najeeba Mohammed Altaf
is senior research associate at CPD.

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA,
TOWFIQUL ISLAM KHAN and
NAJEEBA MOHAMMED ALTAF

"Hindsight is the best insight to foresight."

In the first part of this series, we outlined the analytical framework and methodology behind this foresight exercise—an effort to understand what the articulation of a minimum working consensus on reforms could look like in the lead up to national elections in Bangladesh. Through this exercise, 34 drivers of change, i.e. the forces instigating a trend, were identified, comprising 13 economic and 21 sociopolitical drivers. Each driver was scored in two rounds by the 16 experts across three dimensions—certainty, criticality, and relevance to the articulation of a reform consensus in Bangladesh over the next few months. As no single driver stood out in particular, the experts chose to consolidate the most closely scored drivers into two composite drivers, each representing a bundle of related dynamics. The first, Economic Conditions, spans three interlinked issues: the cost of living; the availability of meaningful jobs; and levels of labour discontent. The second driver, Political Alignment, captures the degree of political consensus on reform sequencing, the electoral timeline, and the inclusivity of the upcoming national elections—not just in terms of party participation, but also the freedom of citizens to vote without fear or intimidation.

grows increasingly risk averse and investment decisions get delayed.

The political landscape mirrors this economic outlook. Major political parties remain divided on the inclusion of the previously ousted party in the upcoming national elections. There is no clarity regarding the timeline for the national elections. Moreover, a working consensus among major political actors on the scope, sequence and pace of reforms remains elusive. As such, the overriding priorities become restoring law and order and accelerating

groups, and there is an intensification of political pressure from parties seeking to expedite the national elections. While it is agreed that his credibility could facilitate a minimum working consensus on reforms or even a prolonged extension of the interim tenure, there must be a clear articulation of the interim government's goals. Much depends on the relationship between the chief adviser and the chief of army staff, which has become a moderating force in Bangladesh. On the regional front, there is further deterioration in the Bangladesh-India

government will exhibit a strong bargaining power with the political parties to broker a "minimum working consensus" on reforms. There may also be continued vagueness about the national elections timeline. On the global front, we may witness improvements in the global economy with the subsiding of the global tariff war and the de-escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Scenario 3: Strong political alignment amid adverse economic situation

In Scenario 3, Bangladesh experiences an unexpectedly high alignment among

The scenarios derived from this foresight analysis describe how varying combinations of political alignment and economic conditions may play out in the process, including the weak signals that can serve as cues for early action and the challenges that accompany each future.

could be the decision to expedite national elections in response to growing frustration among the masses, including the private sector in Bangladesh and international calls for a "democratic reset."

Scenario 4: Strong political alignment in improved economic circumstances

Scenario 4 is the most optimistic of the four scenarios, characterised by substantial political alignment and improved, stable economic conditions. However, this situation also has its complexities.

In this scenario, there is an improved availability of jobs, as well as a reduced cost of living, resulting in reduced labour unrest in the manufacturing sector across the country. Moreover, the resentment among farmers has softened due to market stabilisation, but they remain wary of the upcoming summer.

In Scenario 4, there is a minimum working consensus on the scope, sequence and pace of reforms, and a clear timeline for the national elections. Moreover, there is a separation between the past ruling regime and its leadership, which leads to a trial of its high-level leadership, paving the way for the inclusion of the past ruling party in the upcoming national elections.

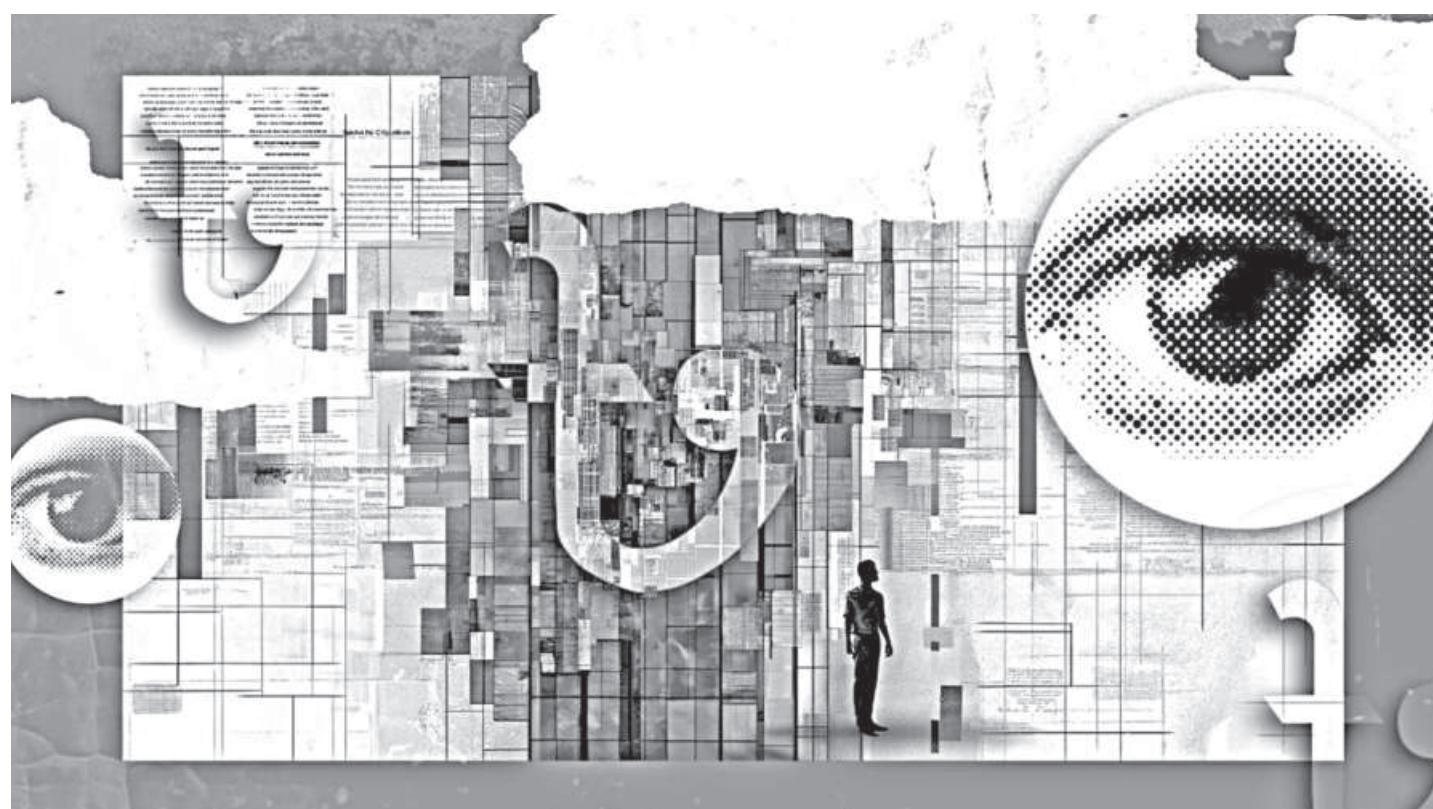
Weak signals: An improved economic environment may create complacency, paradoxically resulting in a decline in perceived urgency for political or structural change, which can dampen momentum for reforms and/or national elections. The separation of the ousted autocratic political regime from its current leadership enables the party to contest the upcoming national elections. Civil society organisations (CSOs), meanwhile, may begin playing a more assertive role, with some acting as watchdogs, scrutinising the interim government. In contrast, other CSOs engage closely with the interim government to provide technical inputs. In contrast, international development partners take on a "wait and see" approach. They remain focused on the medium to long-term outlook, ultimately prioritising long-term political relationships over short-term commitments. Consequently, their role in shaping reform trajectories may weaken.

As such, there are no questionable judicial processes regarding the trial of the former ruling regime in this scenario. While a referendum on amending the constitution remains unlikely, not banning any political parties from the upcoming national elections and having no judicial controversies will signal a stable and high level of political alignment.

With the high level of political alignment in this future scenario, the possibility of brokering a minimum working consensus around reforms is high. However, a referendum on amending the constitution remains unlikely. This is due to the ambiguity surrounding the modus operandi regarding reform implementation.

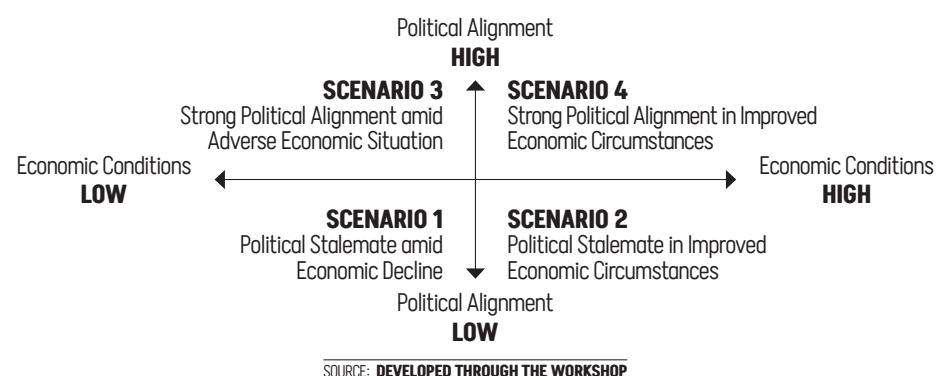
Weak signals: Within Bangladesh's political landscape, a signal towards improved political alignment would be to ensure credible judicial proceedings before restricting any political party from the electoral procedure. Even with improving political alignment, the growing spread of disinformation, especially on informal social media, risks deepening the trust deficit between the public and media. On the international front, rising geopolitical tensions in both the regional and global space could exacerbate the grim domestic economic outlook. Against this backdrop, a telling signal

Views expressed in this article are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of CPD or any other organisation with which the authors are associated.



FILE VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

FIGURE 1: SNAPSHOT OF THE DERIVED SCENARIOS



SOURCE: DEVELOPED THROUGH THE WORKSHOP

Based on the composite drivers identified, the experts were tasked with developing four alternative futures for Bangladesh over the next few months, leading up to the national elections. The remaining drivers of change identified by the experts were considered as cross-cutting dynamics shaping each of the plausible future scenarios wherever relevant. Figure 1 presents a quick overview of the scenarios developed. It is worth noting that all scenarios are anticipated, and the coming reality is likely to be a mix of these scenarios.

Scenario 1: Political stalemate amid economic decline
This is a scenario in which both political and economic outlooks deteriorate in the period leading up to the national elections. During this period, the cost of living in Bangladesh has soared, while job creation has slowed. Global issues such as continued tariffs and tightening economic conditions further exacerbate the grim outlook. Labour unrest intensifies against the backdrop of bleak economic conditions while the private sector

convictions of the former ruling party leaders, including the party's head.

In this context, the interim government has become highly "person oriented" with low/weak negotiating power. This means that the chief adviser of the interim government dominates the public narrative, while other advisers remain in the periphery or are not viewed in a similar light. As such, the bureaucracy poses significant resistance to consensus-building in this scenario.

Weak signals: The "weak signals" of change are defined as the first indicators of an event or trend that are not yet fully manifested, yet can point to larger implications at the national, regional and global levels. In Scenario 1, the interim government suffers from a lack of cohesiveness, which undermines its effectiveness and, consequently, struggles to reconcile competing political pressures. A weak signal in this case would be an accelerated rise in intolerance (including religion-based), moral policing, and violence that further fragments the social order in Bangladesh. As such, there is growing scrutiny of the chief adviser's credibility from various stakeholder

relationship, with additional restrictions being placed on economic relations. In short, Scenario 1 is characterised by reform fatigue setting in, driven by three converging points: economic, political and social unrest.

Scenario 2: Political stalemate in improved economic circumstances

This is a scenario in which Bangladesh staggers on a fragile equilibrium of an improved economic outlook but low political alignment. The cost of living is on the decline, while job availability grows, and organised labour unrest remains limited across the nation. Globally, remittance inflows remain steady, while trade tensions, including the US tariff policy, are expected to subside over the next few months. Meanwhile, the Russia-Ukraine war begins to slow down, shifting the attention of international development partners from defence spending to rebuilding infrastructure.

Despite economic gains, the political landscape remains divided in Bangladesh. There is no consensus among the major political parties regarding the scope, sequencing and pace of reforms. There is also no clear timeline for the national elections. There are persistent disagreements among major political parties over whether these elections should be inclusive, particularly regarding the inclusion of the previously ousted ruling party.

As such, there may be a rise in tension between parties that are "pro-substantive reforms prior to elections" and "pro-reforms essentially by elected parliament." Political parties that are "pro-reforms essentially by elected parliament" may concede on certain reform areas, but fundamental differences remain. On the ground, grassroots party cadres may resort to extortion, and significant agitation may be unlikely to occur.

Weak signals: In Scenario 2, the surge in remittance inflows continues. Leveraging improved economic conditions, the interim

political actors amid a deteriorating economic situation. Inflation continues to rise, eroding purchasing power, while both domestic and foreign investment remains low. Confidence within the private sector falters, and labour unrest intensifies. The economic deterioration exacerbates social unrest despite the political landscape appearing united.

In the political landscape, a key driver is the strong alignment between the chief adviser of the interim government and the chief of army staff, which serves to converge the stances of political parties around the inclusion of the past ruling party in the upcoming national elections, clarity on the elections timeline and scope, sequence and pacing of reforms.

As such, there are no questionable judicial processes regarding the trial of the former ruling regime in this scenario. While a referendum on amending the constitution remains unlikely, not banning any political parties from the upcoming national elections and having no judicial controversies will signal a stable and high level of political alignment.

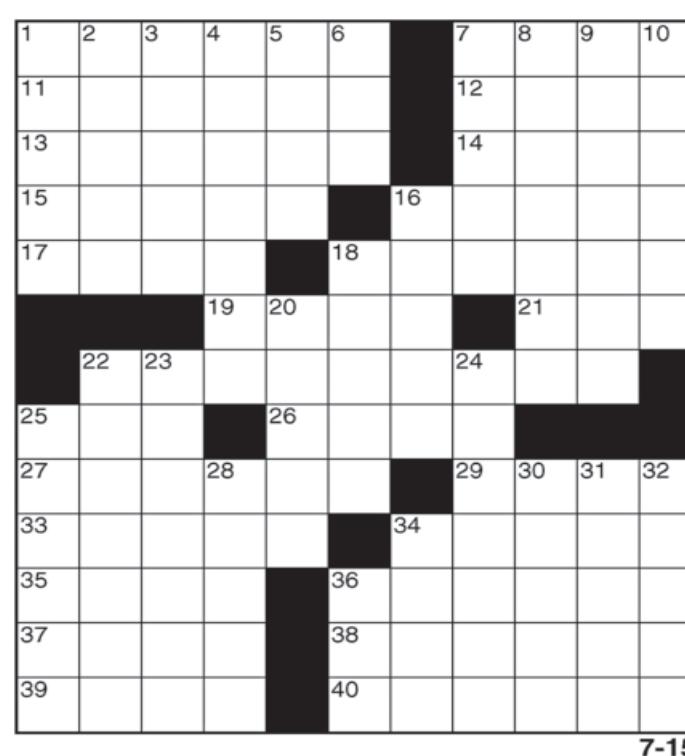
With the high level of political alignment in this future scenario, the possibility of brokering a minimum working consensus around reforms is high. However, a referendum on amending the constitution remains unlikely. This is due to the ambiguity surrounding the modus operandi regarding reform implementation.

Weak signals: Within Bangladesh's political landscape, a signal towards improved political alignment would be to ensure credible judicial proceedings before restricting any political party from the electoral procedure. Even with improving political alignment, the growing spread of disinformation, especially on informal social media, risks deepening the trust deficit between the public and media. On the international front, rising geopolitical tensions in both the regional and global space could exacerbate the grim domestic economic outlook. Against this backdrop, a telling signal

CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Downhill course
- 2 Rainbow maker
- 7 Suit piece
- 11 Asian temple
- 12 Wild about
- 13 "Hold on ..."
- 14 Sports figure
- 15 Walking aids
- 16 Singer Bonnie
- 17 Young foxes
- 18 Save
- 19 Altar exchange
- 21 Bungle
- 22 Virtual reality space
- 25 Receipt line
- 26 Dole out
- 27 Buck topper
- 29 Does kitchen work
- 33 Cowboy contest
- 35 Article
- 36 Muskrat, e.g.
- 37 Nautilus captain
- 38 Not nervous
- 39 Spotted
- 40 "Citizen Kane" creator
- 29 Rainbow maker
- 33 Does kitchen work
- 34 Cowboy contest
- 35 Article
- 36 Muskrat, e.g.
- 37 Nautilus captain
- 38 Not nervous
- 39 Spotted
- 40 "Citizen Kane" creator
- 1 Noted Vulcan
- 2 Roofed patio
- 3 Bond, for one
- 4 Wigs out
- 5 Lofty poems
- 6 Buddy
- 7 Travel papers
- 8 Tempts
- 9 Height
- 10 Stagger
- 16 Bowler's button
- 18 Wanderer
- 20 Titled women
- 22 Aquatic mammal
- 23 Radical
- 24 Work on a room
- 25 Easy putts
- 28 Seafood garnish
- 30 Exemplary
- 31 Good judgment
- 32 Carries
- 34 Learning method
- 36 Bitterly cold



7-15

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



Yunus assures probe into

FROM PAGE 12
is praying for the injured from a distance.

"I have no words. I don't even know how to begin. Like me, people across the country are stunned and in shock today. None of us could have imagined such a tragedy. It was beyond anyone's thoughts. And yet, we were suddenly forced to accept this unthinkable reality," the chief adviser said, starting his speech in an emotional, choked voice.

"What answer will we give to their parents? What will we say to them? We can't even answer ourselves. The innocent faces of children we never knew keep flashing before our eyes."

He said the entire nation is stunned and speechless. "Even the word 'sorrow' seems too little to describe what we are feeling. The shock of this tragedy hasn't worn off yet. Bodies are still arriving at hospitals. Children are still dying in hospitals. Parents are still desperately searching, asking where their sons or daughters are. Some may never recognise them again."

"The bodies we're seeing -- how can anyone tell which one is their own child? There's no way to trace them. These children were ours -- all of ours. Suddenly, they are gone forever," the chief adviser added.

He extended his deepest sympathy to the parents, families, and loved ones of all those killed and injured in the crash incident.

"Every child in Bangladesh is your child too. We will try to find some comfort in our hearts, and we are all sharing this grief with you. The entire nation stands with you in this moment of sorrow," Prof Yunus said.

He mentioned that the government has already announced a state mourning today to pay tribute to the victims.

"We will remember them together. We will pray for peace for their souls. From today, we ask everyone to pray for them, for their forgiveness and eternal peace. May Allah grant you peace. May Allah bring peace to everyone in our nation who has been devastated by this tragedy. We are all praying for them," he added.

Dhaka on 'right

FROM PAGE 12
Meanwhile, local garment exporters, who face one of the steepest tariffs in the US market, are closely watching the developments.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the impact of the current US tariff varies widely across factories.

Of 1,322 member factories, 146 export 81-100 percent of their products to the US, and 91 factories export 61-80 percent. Another 87 factories export 41-60 percent, according to BGMEA data.

"We will face a lot of challenges if the tariff is not lowered," Khan told The Daily Star.

Shovon Islam, managing director of Sparrow Group, which exports \$150 million worth of goods to the US annually -- half of his company's total exports -- said some American buyers have already asked him to share half of the 35 percent tariff burden.

Others are frustrated with the high duty, he said.

Islam added that he, along with some of the buyers, are still hopeful the negotiations will yield results.

A businessman said a private sector group, particularly from the garment industry, is now lobbying to involve American buyers in seeking a reduced tariff for Bangladesh.

PR system

FROM PAGE 12
of martyrs, we would surely have finalised it by now," he said, calling to finalise the list in a year a "collective shame."

"Please, do not betray the blood of the martyrs," he added.

He said fascism cannot be prevented only by the formulation and enactment of laws.

"It is often the disregard for the rule of law that turns individuals into fascists or autocrats. To prevent such tendencies within the state, the people must be empowered, both politically and economically, as I have repeatedly said," Tarique added.

He said if people remain empowered and retain the ability to exercise their political rights, then their unity is sufficient to resist fascism or authoritarianism.

That's why BNP is demanding the formation of a government directly elected by the people, to ensure that the will and power of the people are effectively upheld in the governance of the state, Tarique added.

Drawing the attention of the interim government, Tarique said the government set priorities straight to run the administration smoothly.

Curfewed calm, burning rage

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

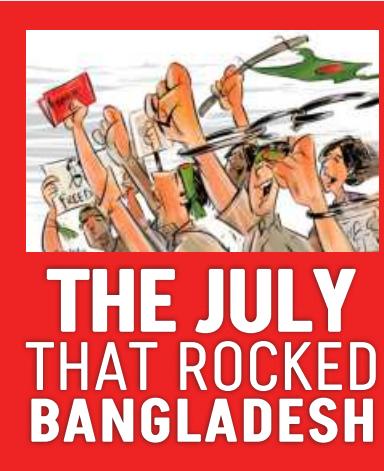
On July 22, 2024, the nation witnessed a fragile calm after nearly a week of violent unrest. While capital Dhaka saw no fresh clashes on the third day of a strict nationwide curfew, the country continued to grapple with the aftermath. The death toll climbed further as six more injured individuals succumbed to their wounds, and tensions remained high amid mass arrests, political accusations, and heightened security presence.

Four of the victims succumbed to their injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), with hospital authorities confirming that they had suffered either bullet or shotgun pellet wounds.

In addition, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Ahad Ali said police recovered two more bodies from the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital. These were later sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsies. The victims had reportedly sustained injuries during clashes in Uttara and Gulshan over the preceding days.

With these latest fatalities, the nationwide death toll since July 15 rose to at least 146. The unrest began that day when six people were killed in violent clashes related to the ongoing quota reform movement.

In a separate development, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan stated that three police personnel had been killed and 1,117 others injured across the country during confrontations



JULY 22, 2024

would not be spared this time as they had been in the past. She accused them of attempting to carry out terrorist activities during the ongoing curfew.

On the same day, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman expressed optimism that stability would soon return, crediting the military's presence for the improving situation.

The University Teachers Network (UTN) issued a statement urging the government to withdraw the nationwide curfew and restore internet services to ease public suffering. The disruption, they said, was severely affecting access to essential services.

According to police, 1,427 people were arrested across the country in connection with the recent violence over the last three days. Of them, 692 were detained in the capital, while the rest were arrested in 16 other districts.



"Don't take Baba away!" — Little Tayeba ran after the prison van carrying her father to jail, while her mother, Mona, tried to hold her back. Mizan, a CNG driver, had been arrested from their home in the capital's Jatrabari the previous night in connection with a case over. He was produced before the CMM court, which sent him to jail on the afternoon of July 22, 2024.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

July Charter must be made in 10 days

FROM PAGE 12

"Some parties may still have minor suggestions or feedback. We have requested that you organise and submit those suggestions to us by today [yesterday], so that we can present them tomorrow and try to reach a decision or we must make decisions ourselves."

He reminded attendees that the commission has only 10 days left, including yesterday, to finalise the process. "We've already discussed many issues; the rest will be addressed as well."

Highlighting the significance of the political dialogue, he said, "In the preliminary stage, you agreed or disagreed on many matters. We consider crucial areas like state structure, system of governance, and principles of good governance."

"We have presented them again for further discussion. On eight such issues, consensus has been built, although in some cases, notes of dissent have been recorded."

Prof Riaz said, "We must decide within the next 10 days. Where consensus is possible, we shall have it. Where disagreement remains, it will remain. If the majority supports a decision, we cannot dismiss it simply because of disagreement. There is no

position from us that says it should be abandoned."

He added that they have presented these issues because they consider these essential for state structure reform. "If we evaluate them properly, we can reach a unified position within 10 days and formulate the National Charter. If our cooperation continues, we can come to that unified point."

Chief adviser's Special Assistant Monir Hayder presided over the session.

Commission members -- Safar Raj Hossain, Badiul Alam Majumdar, Iftekharuzzaman, and Ayub Mia -- were also present.

During yesterday's talks, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed reiterated his party's position, saying that the prime minister should also serve as the leader of parliament to ensure the legislature functions effectively.

He added, "There should be flexibility to allow a party chief to become the prime minister. The ruling party should decide which of their lawmakers is going to be the prime minister."

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant General Secretary Hamidur Rahman Azad said his party opposed the PM's dual

roles as a party chief.

Tipu Biswas, chief coordinator of the Jatiya Gano Front, said a person becomes an autocrat while working as the premier and a party chief.

Mushtuq Hossain, president member of Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said the prime minister could be the leader of the parliament but must not hold the post of a party chief.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Javed Rasin said a party chief must resign from the post before taking oath as the prime minister.

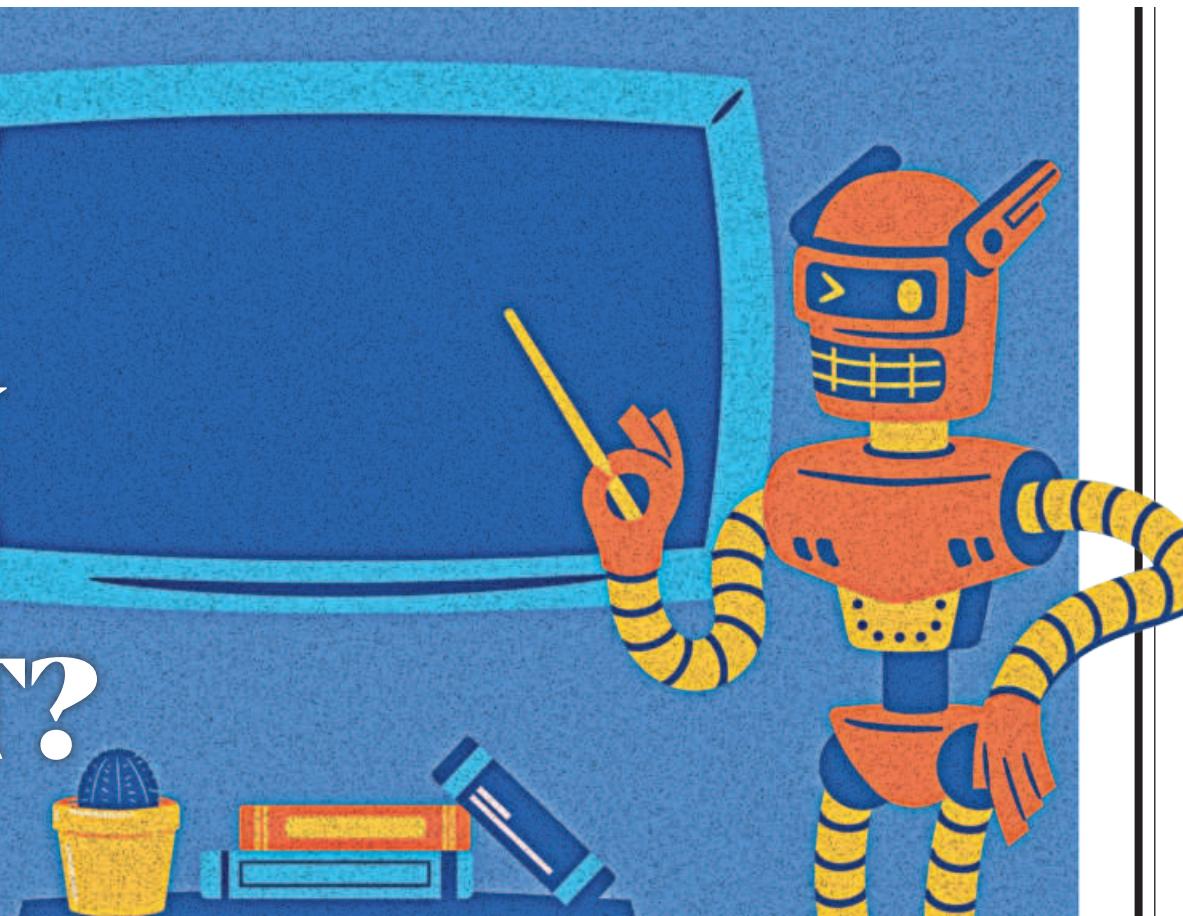
Representatives of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) supported that a party chief must not be the PM, but they suggested not including this provision in the constitution.

Amar Bangladesh Party, Gano Forum, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islami Party, Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, among others, supported that the proposal that the prime minister and the leader of the parliament could be the same person.

But representatives of the parties strongly recommended that the prime minister must not hold the position of a party chief.

National

Are we learning vocabulary from CHATGPT?



The influence extends beyond scripted content. Studies at Cornell University, focusing on the use of AI-generated "smart replies" in messaging platforms, have found that while these tools often result in more positive and cooperative interactions, they also create discomfort when users suspect they are being used.

MD. ZAHIDUR RABBI

Before 2023, words like 'prowess', 'streamline', 'bolster', and 'nuance' were rarely encountered in everyday English, whether in conversation, professional writing, or mainstream media. Even the use of the em dash (—), a punctuation mark more common in formal prose, was relatively uncommon in day-to-day writing. That began to shift dramatically with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Since its public release in late 2022, ChatGPT has become a digital presence almost everywhere. Whether in school assignments, office work, professional writing, video production, or casual conversations, AI tools like ChatGPT have noticeably changed people's vocabulary and stylistic choices by subtly enriching users' linguistic capacities.

A recent study from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development has revealed a notable increase in the use of certain words frequently found in ChatGPT's output. By analysing over 360,000 YouTube videos and around 771,000 podcast episodes spanning from 2019 to mid-2024, researchers observed a significant rise in the prevalence of words such as 'adept', 'meticulous', 'realm', and 'delve' following the release of ChatGPT in late 2022. These terms also appeared commonly in AI-generated texts during earlier experiments, pointing to a growing influence of the language patterns used by AI tools on human speech and communication.

The findings raise important questions about the ways in which AI is shaping human language, not through direct instruction but through constant passive exposure. The research highlights not only changes in vocabulary but also the possibility of broader shifts in tone and expression. While studies

have so far focused primarily on word choice, scientists suspect that AI is also shaping the structure of speech, making it more formal, emotionally restrained, and syntactically ordered: known characteristics associated with ChatGPT's default style.

The influence extends beyond scripted content. Studies at Cornell University, focusing on the use of AI-generated "smart replies" in messaging platforms, have found that while these tools often result in more positive and cooperative interactions, they also create discomfort when users suspect they are being used.

People are also concerned that AI is making different forms of English sound too similar, particularly when it comes to local dialects and informal ways of speaking. Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, found that ChatGPT and similar models often struggle with dialects such as Singlish or African American Vernacular English. In some cases, the models simply repeated the input without understanding it. In others, they exaggerated the dialect so much that it sounded cartoon-like. The study argues that these are not just technical mistakes but cultural ones, reinforcing a narrow idea of what counts as "correct" or acceptable language.

AI tends to favour certain ways of speaking, which risks reducing the variety of human language. Unique features such as regional expressions, hesitation sounds, and everyday words help build trust between people. As more speakers adopt AI-influenced language patterns, these natural and personal elements may gradually disappear.

Still, there are signs that this trend is not entirely one-way. Some academics and public speakers are reportedly beginning to avoid terms like 'delve' or 'tapestry' precisely

because they now feel overused or artificial. This kind of informal resistance suggests that users may eventually push back against the uniformity of AI-generated language.

The path forward is uncertain. As AI systems become more sophisticated, they may begin to reflect a greater range of human expression. At the same time, users will need to make conscious choices about how and when to rely on automated tools.

For writers, educators, and anyone who values originality in communication, this moment represents more than a shift in how we communicate, as it marks a broader cultural inflection point. The question is not just about technological capability, but about human originality. Those who genuinely care about writing and have built their vocabulary through constant trial and error, which includes reading, writing, and constant practice, will likely continue to prefer the authenticity of their own voice over that of an artificial one.

While AI can certainly offer a helpful grammar nudge or suggest an alternative phrase here and there, it can not replicate the subtle satisfaction of finding the perfect word on your own, nor the pride in crafting a sentence that feels entirely yours. In that sense, AI becomes less of a teacher and more of a tool, which is very useful indeed, but never a substitute for the human craft of language.

The bigger question is no longer whether AI will shape the way we write and speak, because it already has. The real challenge is whether individuals can continue to own their own voices. Whether in classroom presentations, dating profiles, or workplace emails, expressing oneself in a truly human way may soon require conscious effort and protection.

NEXT STEP

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Optimizely

Senior Manager,
Software Engineering
(.Net)



Deadline: N/A

Eligibility:

• Bachelor's or Master's in computer science or engineering, or related experience.

Minimum experience: 3 years

MJL Bangladesh Mobil PLC.

Senior Executive,
Sales & Marketing



Deadline: July 31

Eligibility:

• BBA or equivalent from any reputed university. MBA or equivalent from any reputed university is preferred.

Minimum experience: 3-4 years

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



Data Administrator



Deadline: July 27

Eligibility:

• University degree or equivalent in statistics, business studies, or development studies.

Minimum experience: 2 years

SMC Enterprise Limited



Officer/Sr. Officer,
Production



Deadline: July 31

Eligibility:

• Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in EEE/ IPE/ Food Engineering & Technology/ M. Pharm.

Minimum experience: 3 years

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



Bridging skills and enterprise: How BYETS is unlocking youth employment through SME support

A new approach to workforce development places SMEs at the heart of Bangladesh's drive for inclusive economic growth

As Bangladesh seeks to diversify its economy and create sustainable employment opportunities for its growing youth population, one initiative is tackling two persistent challenges in tandem: the need for skilled labour and the limited capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to absorb it.

The Building Youth Employability Through Skills (BYETS) programme has taken a pragmatic approach to this challenge by aligning its training and skills development activities with the real-world needs of Bangladesh's SME sector. Rather than focusing solely on large industrial employers, BYETS is working to ensure that smaller businesses, which are more geographically dispersed and often more accessible to rural and peri-urban youth, are equipped to provide meaningful employment.

Central to this strategy is the recognition that SMEs are often overlooked in national workforce planning, despite their potential to drive innovation, generate jobs, and contribute to decentralised economic development. Many operate outside the reach of conventional support structures and face common barriers, including limited awareness of compliance and regulatory frameworks, weak links to global supply chains, and difficulty accessing skilled manpower.

BYETS is addressing these issues

from both ends. On one side, it is training young people with practical skills tailored to sectors like agro-processing—a field that spans everything from food and beverage manufacturing to agro-machinery, sustainable packaging and jute-based products. On the other, it is working with SMEs to strengthen their organisational capacity, improve their understanding of compliance requirements, and connect them with market opportunities.

A key part of this effort was a recent international expo co-organised with CEMS Global. Unlike traditional trade fairs that focus narrowly on machinery or end-products, this event offered a comprehensive view of the agro-processing value chain. By bringing together producers, processors, technology providers and packaging firms, both domestic and international, the expo provided SMEs with a unique opportunity to explore innovations, forge partnerships and identify export avenues.

The aim was not simply to showcase products, but to create an ecosystem in which skilled youth and growth-oriented SMEs can find one another. For a country where industrial hubs like Gazipur and Chattogram attract much of the investment, SMEs—dotted across the country—offer a chance to broaden the economic base and enable young people from a wider range of backgrounds to access stable livelihoods.

The seminars held during the

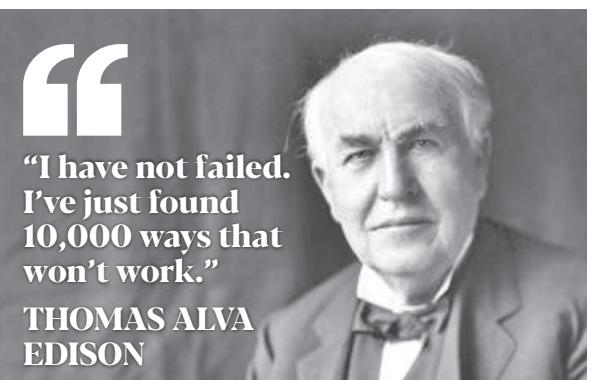
expo reinforced this vision, tackling core issues such as regulatory barriers, compliance standards, and the challenge of entering non-traditional markets. These discussions were designed to give SMEs the tools they need to expand, and to help policymakers understand what support is required.

At its heart, BYETS' model is one of integration. It understands that equipping youth with skills is only half the solution; those skills must meet real demand. By embedding its training efforts within a broader strategy of enterprise development and trade facilitation, the programme is creating the conditions for more inclusive growth.

This joined-up thinking reflects a shift in how development programmes approach employment. Rather than viewing training and job creation as separate endeavours, BYETS is treating them as interdependent, recognising that sustainable employment comes from strengthening both the supply and the demand sides of the labour market.

If successful, this model could offer a template for other sectors, and for other countries grappling with similar challenges: how to create opportunities for young people not just in industrial hubs, but across the full landscape of the economy.

The BYETS project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by Swisscontact.



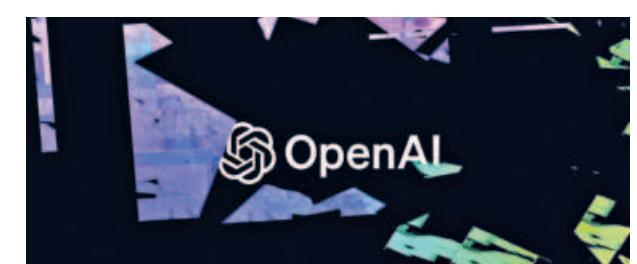
OpenAI announces \$50 million fund to help nonprofits

NEXT STEP DESK

OpenAI has announced a \$50 million (£39 million) fund to help nonprofit and community organisations implement AI solutions. The fund will support organisations working in education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and community organising, says the company.

The initiative builds on OpenAI's recent 'Nonprofit Jam' events that brought together 1,000 charity leaders to explore AI applications. It also follows recommendations from an independent commission that engaged over 500 nonprofits representing 7 million Americans, as per an official statement.

"AI should help solve humanity's hardest problems," OpenAI stated in the announcement, emphasising the fund aligns with its mission to ensure artificial intelligence benefits society. The company also added that the initiative will support both immediate AI implementation and longer-term community-led research into AI's potential for public good.



BCB reimposes food, drink ban at Mirpur

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has reimposed its ban on bringing outside food and beverages into the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium for the second and third T20Is between Bangladesh and Pakistan on July 22 and 24.

In a press release issued yesterday, the BCB stated the decision was made in light of "enhanced security protocols" following the opening match of the series on Sunday, where fans were temporarily allowed to bring in food and water to address long-standing complaints over overpriced in-stadium vendors.

The move was welcomed by spectators, many of whom brought their own snacks and drinks. However, according to BCB's media committee chairman Iftekhar Rahman Mithu, several incidents raised concerns among security forces.

"We had lifted the ban with good intentions, but people came in with food carriers. Security officials said they couldn't inspect items like lentil dishes properly," Mithu told The Daily Star.

He added that spectators also failed to follow instructions regarding water bottles, with some refusing to remove caps and others bringing steel bottles, complicating entry checks.

Injury setback for India ahead of Manchester Test

AFP, New Delhi

India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy was on Monday ruled out of the final two Tests against England because of a knee injury.

India trail the five-match series 2-1 after losing by 22 runs at Lord's last week.

"Nitish will fly back home and the team wishes him a speedy recovery," the Board of Control for Cricket in India said in a statement.

Reddy scored 45 runs and took three wickets in his two outings in the series.

The fourth Test starts on Wednesday at Old Trafford.

Left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh, who is yet to feature in the series, will miss the fourth Test after injuring his thumb during net practice.

Uncapped all-rounder Anshul Kamboj has been added to India's squad.

Athletes, sports bodies mourn Uttara tragedy



PHOTO:FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh and Nepal players, along with match officials, observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims of a Bangladesh Air Force F-7 aircraft crash into a building of Milestone School and College in Uttara, ahead of their title-deciding clash in the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

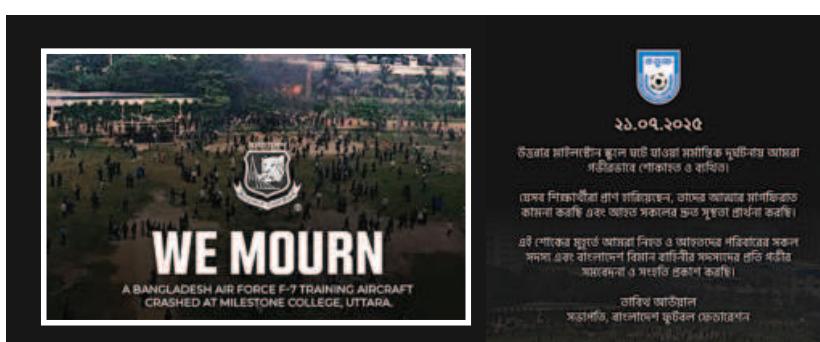
The tragic plane crash in Uttara yesterday sent shockwaves across the nation, with the country's sports fraternity joining in mourning. Various sports bodies and athletes expressed deep sorrow and offered prayers for those affected.

The incident occurred around 1:30pm, when a Bangladesh Air Force F-7 aircraft crashed into the premises of Milestone College. The resulting blaze left many injured and claimed several lives, including schoolchildren, by the time of filing this report.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) offered condolences in a statement: "The Bangladesh Cricket Board is deeply shocked at the casualties from the tragic air crash... Our prayers and thoughts go out to all those affected in this devastating incident."

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Tabith Awal also shared a message of solidarity, mourning the loss of young lives and extending prayers for the injured.

Former captain Tamim Iqbal echoed the nation's sorrow: "What has happened and is happening right now is incredibly sad. Our hearts are breaking apart... They are our children."



Force," he said.

Other organisations, including the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, Olympic Association and Sports Press Association, released similar statements of grief.

Bangladesh T20I captain Litton Das wrote on Facebook: "Prayers and heartfelt thoughts go out to everyone affected by the Uttara Milestone School & College incident. May peace, healing, and strength find their way to the victims and their families."

Cricketers Mushfiqur Rahim, Shadman Islam, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mominul Haque, and Akbar Ali also shared their condolences on social media.

Men's football captain Jamal Bhuyan wrote: "Horrible to see this. Praying for everyone involved," while national defender Tapu Barman called it "truly heartbreaking" and urged authorities to take preventive measures.

Ahead of their SAFF U-20 Women's Championship final against Nepal in the evening, the Bangladesh women's U-20 team observed a minute's silence at the Bashundhara Kings Arena to honour the victims.

A minute's silence will be observed and both teams as well as match officials will wear black arm bands to pay respects to those killed in a tragic plane crash at the Milestone School and College in Uttara yesterday.

Tail-up Tigers chase 2015 repeat

SPORTS REPORTER

After a commanding performance in the series opener, Bangladesh will be looking to seal the ongoing three-match T20I series when they take on Pakistan in the second game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Coming back from their recent 2-1 T20I series triumph over Sri Lanka, the home side continued their decent run of form in the shortest format and notched up a dominating seven-wicket win over the tourists to go 1-0 up in the series.

It was Bangladesh's first series win in 2025 across all formats and they will now be eyeing to complete their back-to-back series victory over Pakistan.

Bangladeshi bowlers, especially their pace trio -- Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed and Tanzim Hasan Sakib -- set up the victory as they leaked only 48 runs in 11.3 overs and claimed six wickets to break the backbone of the visitors' batting line-up, dismissing them to their lowest total against Bangladesh in the format.

Bangladesh will be hopeful of a similar performance from their players, especially their bowlers, in the second game as well, in order to check opposition batters from scoring big runs. Otherwise, they might face trouble on such a surface, which has already received a lot of criticism from the Pakistan camp.

The win in today's game, however, will enable the Tigers to win their first T20I series over Pakistan after 10 years, while it will also help them register their first victory in a T20I series involving multiple matches.

Earlier, in April 2015, Bangladesh won their only T20I series over Pakistan in Mirpur, but the series featured only one game. Since then, they have lost three consecutive T20I series to Pakistan (all three-match series), with the latest defeat coming in May-June this year in Lahore.

Meanwhile, for Pakistan, the challenge will be to keep the series alive by winning the second game, and it might lead to a few changes in their playing eleven.

Although the visitors bat deep, the majority of their batters wanted to go from the very beginning of their innings -- a rare stance, especially in conditions like Mirpur -- and they might have worked on the issue before taking the field against Bangladesh again.

Ahead of today's game, both teams opted to have a rest day yesterday.



german cooperation giz

Call for Climate-Smart, Innovative, Small-Scale, and Digital Solutions to Mitigate Climate Impact

Due to global warming and climate change, various natural disasters such as floods, tidal surges, and heatwaves are occurring in different regions of the country. To address these adverse effects, the Innovations for Climate-smart Urban Development (INCLUDE) project is being implemented in the municipalities of Chapainawabganj, Charghat, Gaibandha, and Sirajganj under the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), which operates under the Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives of Bangladesh. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented through GIZ.

Under this project, a call for innovative solutions has been launched to build climate-resilient cities in the participating municipalities. Your innovative, digital, inclusive, realistic and practical ideas, especially those offering practical and sustainable solutions for vulnerable areas and communities, can guide the way toward real change in addressing local climate challenges. The winning ideas will be implemented by the respective municipalities.

Selected participants will receive special training, certificates, publicity, and opportunities for recognition. Implemented solutions will include a commemorative nameplate as a mark of recognition, serving as a lasting example.

Eligible Municipalities: Chapainawabganj, Charghat, Sirajganj, Gaibandha.

Who Can Participate: Participation is open to general citizens, any legally operating community-based group, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, educational institutions, relevant individuals or entities from the private sector. However, applicants must submit solutions specifically relevant to one of the four municipalities mentioned.

Your idea must be based on local problems, digital, inclusive, innovative, feasible for implementation.

Submission Deadline: 31 August 2025

To submit online, scan the QR code provided

Visit: <https://include-call-for-ideas.grantplatform.com/>

To submit in person, collect the form from the respective municipal office.

For any assistance,

Mobile: 01324175193, **Email:** include.call.for.ideas@gmail.com

This initiative is implemented by GIZ and the municipalities of Chapainawabganj, Charghat, Sirajganj, and Gaibandha.



**THE BEST QUALITY
EVERY TIME GUARANTEED
BSRM**

**HAT-TRICK OF
Superbrands
AWARD**

Yunus assures probe into jet crash

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday assured an investigation into the Bangladesh Air Force aircraft that crashed into a building of Milestone School and College in the capital's Uttara.

"We will definitely carry out an investigation. But an investigation will not bring them [the victims of the crash] back. We have taken steps to ensure proper treatment," he said in a video message, expressing deep shock over the tragic incident.

Urging all not to unnecessarily crowd the hospitals where the injured are being treated, the chief adviser said, "It is not good for those who are injured. Their bodies are already weak and struggling to recover. If we crowd around them, we cannot be sure that germs from us might not spread to them."

That is why, Prof Yunus said, he

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Bangladesh captain Afeida Khandaker holds the trophy aloft as her teammates celebrate a title-sealing 4-0 victory over Nepal in their sixth and final fixture of the SAFF Under-20 Women's Championship in Dhaka yesterday. Mosammam Sagorika starred with all four goals, sealing Bangladesh's seventh age-group title since 2017. The match at the Bashundhara Kings Arena began with a minute's silence in memory of the victims of Uttara tragedy.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

July Charter must be made in 10 days Says Prof Ali Riaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Emphasising the urgency of reaching a national consensus within the next 10 days, National Consensus Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz has said they feel obligated to complete the National Charter, popularly known as the "July Charter", by July 31.

"A few issues remain to be discussed, and one or two days may be allocated for that. But on some matters, we simply cannot move forward without making decisions," he said during his opening speech yesterday, the 16th day of the second phase of dialogue with political parties.

Meanwhile, after an air force jet crashed on Milestone College in the capital's Uttara, which killed students and injured many others, the commission postponed yesterday's talks, which were held at the Foreign Service Academy.

The topics of the discussion were allowing the prime minister to hold multiple posts and the fundamental principles of state governance.

Stressing the urgency of concluding the dialogue, Prof Riaz said, "You must now say clearly whether you agree or disagree on these points. Since we have allowed the submission of notes of dissent from the beginning, any party may disagree."

"Such disagreements will be mentioned in the National Charter along with the parties' explanations. If needed, you may briefly state your positions, but we cannot engage in prolonged discussions any longer."

"We are now at the decision-making stage. We must take a position through a defined process."

Regarding the introduction of an upper house in parliament, he said, "Whether we will have a bicameral legislature or not is currently under consideration based on your [political parties] feedback. We hope to come to a decision on this within the next couple of days."

Prof Riaz said majority of political parties agreed with the revised proposal on the caretaker government.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Soil on the Moon could support life



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The soil on the Moon could support life, scientists say. That is thanks to a breakthrough new technology that could allow humans to survive on the Moon.

It could help support a broad hope, held by a range of countries, that future missions to the lunar surface could see humans stay there before heading further into the solar system.

That might only be possible if we are able to make the necessary fuel, water and other resources on the Moon itself, since flying them to the lunar surface could be impossible.

Using samples brought back from a Chinese mission to the Moon, however, scientists were able to find a new method that would allow the astronauts to get the water they need from the lunar soil. Previous attempts to do so have used large amounts of energy and didn't break down CO₂, but the new system overcomes those problems.

PR system will lead to instability

Warns Tarique, urges all to preserve unity for nation's sake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the proportional representation (PR) electoral system, as demanded by some political parties, will result in unstable governments, putting the country's sovereignty at risk.

"We have observed that some political parties have demanded the introduction of a proportional representation electoral system in the country. However, in the context of Bangladesh, such a system could pave the way for separatism, fascism, and extremism in the state and politics," he said while addressing a rally organised by Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad virtually.

He said such a system tends to create a fragmented society and can lead to the formation of unstable governments.

"As a result, the country's independence and sovereignty may come under threat," Tarique said.

National Citizen Party, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and several other Islamist parties have demanded the introduction of the PR system in the upcoming national election.



Power may have changed hands, but governance has not—this perception threatens democratic institutionalisation.

TARIQUE RAHMAN

"While some parties may claim this demand as part of their democratic rights, the BNP maintains that Bangladesh is not suitable for such an electoral system," the BNP said, adding that if national unity, gained through last year's mass uprising, is to be preserved, there is no room for such a system.

He said the uprising once again reminded us that the most crucial factor in keeping the country free from subjugation and fascism is the unity of the people.

However, he said a certain quarter is trying to put pressure on the government "cleverly" to delay the polls.

"Those who seek to maintain their dominance by placing a gun on the interim government's shoulder—exploiting its authority to serve their own interests—are the very ones strategically obstructing the national election. This reality is gradually coming to light," he said.

The BNP leader urged them to quit these "deceitful tactics" and urged them to work to uphold the rights of the people.

"We often see many being overly active to take credit for the uprising. Had that same level of effort been used for compiling the list

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



As the guava season gets underway, traders load up their boats with fresh guavas to take them to the country's largest floating guava market in Bhimruli village in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila. The photo was taken on Saturday at the upazila's Shotodoshkathi village.

GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE AFTERMATH Villages deserted fearing arrest

3 bodies exhumed for autopsies

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The bodies of three people who were killed in last week's violence centring a political rally in Gopalganj were exhumed yesterday for post-mortem examinations, five days after burial.

In response to a petition on Sunday, Chief Judicial Magistrate Romana Rozy ordered that the victims' bodies be exhumed for post-mortem, necessary for ensuring justice and uncovering the truth behind the killings.

As per the court order, the bodies of Ramzan Kazi, Imon Talukdar, and Sohel Mollah were exhumed and sent to Gopalganj 250-bed General Hospital for autopsy yesterday, said Gopalganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mir Mohammad Sajedur Rahman.

On July 16, four people, Dipto Saha, Ramzan Kazi, Imon Talukdar, and Sohel Mollah, died after receiving gunshot wounds during the daylong running battles between Awami League followers and law enforcers following an attack on a pre-scheduled NCP rally at Gopalganj Municipal Park.

Later in the day, Dipto's body was cremated, while the bodies of the other three victims were buried without post-mortem examinations or any police inquest report.

Another person, Ramzan Munshi, also sustaining bullet injury during the violence, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early Friday. His body was buried after an autopsy.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Dhaka on 'right path' to secure US tariff cut Says commerce secretary

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh is preparing to submit its formal proposal to the United States as negotiations for a tariff reduction deal gain momentum.

"You can say that Bangladesh is going in the right direction to sign the agreement with the US for the reduction of the tariff rate," he told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Hesaid a position paper detailing Bangladesh's requests and offers has been prepared and would be submitted to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) today or tomorrow.

The document outlines Bangladesh's commitments to increase imports of US goods and reduce duties on certain items, alongside non-trade commitments the government has deemed non-harmful.

The third round of negotiations with the USTR is expected soon, although a date has not been set. The second round concluded recently, with the government now finalising its stance ahead of the next meeting.

An inter-ministerial meeting was held at the commerce ministry on Sunday to finalise Bangladesh's position. It was attended by Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin, National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, and Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Fayed Ahmed Tayeb. Eleven secretaries from various ministries also joined the meeting.

According to officials present, Bangladesh has agreed to reduce tariffs on several US goods and increase imports from the US as part of the broader negotiation process.

For example, the government signed an agreement Sunday to import seven million tonnes of wheat from American suppliers annually. Talks are also at an advanced stage to procure 14 Boeing aircraft.

Despite progress, the USTR has not yet confirmed a schedule for the third round of negotiations.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Yarlung dam won't affect neighbours

Chinese envoy to Touhid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China will not withdraw or use any water from the Yarlung Zangbo river, where a hydropower project is underway, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said yesterday.

He made the remark during a meeting with Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain at the foreign ministry, according to a ministry statement.

Wen said the project, which is solely for power generation, would not affect downstream countries.

On July 19, Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced the start of construction of what will be the world's largest hydropower dam in Tibetan territory.

Dhaka had earlier sought information about the project and its possible impacts on lower riparian countries, including Bangladesh.

The Chinese envoy also updated the foreign adviser on follow-up actions from Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's recent visit to China. These included bilateral

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6