



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

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 22, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 178

SRABAN 7, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 26, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00

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 171 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

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

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.”

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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 Chankarpool. 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.

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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

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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.”

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‘We were ready to go home’

Survivors, parents recount horror as jet crashes into school

SHAHEEN 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.

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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



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.

Of the 17, 10 are children while the identities of seven could not be known. "But we fear that all of them are children," said Sayedur.

At the burn institute, the stream of patients arriving in ambulances was constant.

Heartbroken relatives gathered outside, desperately waiting for updates on their loved ones. The area was overcrowded, and medical staff were struggling to manage the high volume of patients while continuing urgent treatment.

The Bangladesh Air Force has formed a high-level committee to investigate the crash and determine its cause.

The ISPR said the pilot, flight lieutenant Towkir Islam, was on a routine training mission when the jet "encountered a mechanical failure".

"The exact cause remains under investigation," it said in a statement.

The pilot tried to divert the aircraft away from densely populated areas but, "despite his best efforts", crashed into the school building, the ISPR added.

It was Towkir's first solo flight. He reportedly completed his first 100 hours of flight training during his cadet years in PT-6 aircraft.

The crash was the worst aviation accident in the country in several decades. The deadliest ever disaster happened in 1984 when a plane flying from Chattogram to Dhaka crashed, killing all 49 on board, reports AFP.

The government has declared a day of state mourning today.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus expressed deep sorrow and prayed for the departed souls.

Messages of solidarity poured in from around the world. India, Japan, Pakistan, Switzerland, the United

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 11 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.

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-7 BGI, 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 Towkir 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,

or strategic partnerships often utilise civil-military joint-use airports.

Imran Asif, a veteran of the aviation industry with 20 years of experience and currently the chief executive officer of Air Astra, stated that in the case of yesterday's incident, the fatalities could potentially have been avoided if the fighter training aircraft had conducted the operation from a base outside Dhaka.

"We, the aviation experts, have long been calling for the relocation of the air base from Dhaka on valid grounds. But Bangladesh remains one of the few countries where no action is taken until lives are lost," he added.

He also criticised the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) for failing to protect the interests of civilian passengers, whose safety is compromised by military flights operating from Dhaka airport.

"After this tragic incident, will CAAB finally raise its voice to stop jet fighter training operations from using Dhaka airport's runway for the safety of passengers?" Asif further questioned.

A senior pilot of Biman Bangladesh Airlines with 32 years of experience pointed out, "I have been flying as an airline pilot to hundreds of airports, but I have never faced any delay anywhere due to Air Force flying. Dhaka and Chattogram are probably the only international airports that allow such fighter jet activities."

He also criticised the unplanned urbanisation surrounding the airport.

"Aircraft accidents most frequently occur during takeoffs and landings, that is why strict regulations prohibit the construction of high-density establishments such as schools, colleges, and shopping malls near airport approach paths," he said, blaming unplanned urbanisation for the tragedy.

"This accident was just waiting to happen," he said.

Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the accident happened due to a mechanical failure shortly after take-off from BAF Base Bangabandhu in Kurmitola, and that the pilot had tried to steer the plane towards a less-populated area.

Towkir tried to steer plane away from populated areas: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

Towkir 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, Towkir, 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 aircraft 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, Towkir'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, Towkir's father, mother, sister, and brother-in-law were taken from their home to Shah Makhdum Airport in Rajshahi. From there, they departed for Dhaka in a special air force helicopter.

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

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

Motakabbir said Towkir 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.



Nation numb with shock

FROM PAGE 1

flown 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

India and Japan, have expressed condolences to the victims and families affected by the crash.

Meanwhile, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said, "We are all devastated. Doctors are doing their best for the injured. If patients need to be taken abroad, arrangements will be made."

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed also expressed grief over the incident.

After the incident, several political parties, including BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party (NCP), Communist Party of Bangladesh, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Socialist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Party, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, and Nezam-e-Islam, issued messages mourning the tragedy.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock and sorrow at the loss of lives in the incident, reports BSS.

In her message, she prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and the speedy recovery of the injured.

The BNP chief asked the leaders and activists to stand by the families of the deceased and injured.

In a Facebook post, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman wrote, "We are heartbroken by the tragic aircraft crash at Milestone College. No student should face such horror in institutions meant to facilitate their learning, growth, and well-being."

"My earnest prayers are with the shaken young souls, and I call upon leaders, activists, and professionals of the BNP to stand by the affected. Together, as a united nation, we must tackle this situation."

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin 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 Bubly, Apu Biswas, Tasnia Farin, and Mehazabien Chowdhury, singer Elita Karim, and filmmakers Sunny Sanwar and Ashfaque Nipun.

Pak police make arrests after outcry over 'honour killing'

AFP, Quetta

More than a dozen men have been arrested in southwestern Pakistan for alleged involvement in the so-called "honour killing" of a couple after a video of the murders went viral on social media, a police official said yesterday.

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.

For students

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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."

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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

JET CRASH AT UTTARA SCHOOL



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. They are not letting anyone in. Please, help me find my daughter.



Parul
Mother of Nusrat Akhter, a third-grade student

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.

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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

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'Please help us find our children'

Families desperately search for missing students

AHMED DEEPTO, MD ABBAS and
TANGILA 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.

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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.

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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 Songrohoshalo) was inaugurated at the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus) 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,

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'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, Lalmonirhat

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 Lalmonirhat 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



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

People suffer as bridge lacks approach roads

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

People continue to suffer due to the lack of approach roads to a bridge built over the Louhajang River in Tangail Sadar upazila.

The bridge, constructed at Lawjana area on the eastern side of Chilabari Bazar during the 2023-24 fiscal year, cost Tk 90 lakh. Construction firm Pratyus Builders carried out the work.

Locals said people from around 30 villages, including Baimail, Kagmara,



Char Kagmara, Basakhanpur, Chilabari, Lawjana, Dharebari and Jugni, travel through the area every day. A bridge had long been needed here, and although it has finally been built, the suffering has not ended due to the absence of approach roads.

Abul Kashem, a local resident, said people are suffering immensely. "They can spend so much money to build a bridge but cannot make it passable for traffic... This is nothing but their negligence."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

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.

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.

Farida Perveen, director at the Department of Agricultural Extension, shared that drones are now being used to assess flood damage in the country.

Among others, Rowshan Jahan Moni, deputy executive director of ALRD, also spoke at the event. The discussion was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGOs and Foreign Missions at The Daily Star.

15 dead in as many training flight

FROM PAGE 3

On July 1 of that year, two pilots -- Squadron Leader Md Serajul Islam and Squadron Leader Enayet Kabir Polash -- were killed in the crash of a K-8W training aircraft in Jashore Sadar upazila.

On December 17, 2017, two training aircraft -- both YAK130s -- of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crashed in Maheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar. All four crew members were rescued alive.

Flight Lieutenant Tahmid went missing when his F7 crashed into the Bay of Bengal on June 29, 2015.

On July 14, 2013, a training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed at Baralia union in Patiya upazila of Chittagong. Flight Lieutenant Abu Jihad Arafat escaped unhurt.

A training aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force crashed near Barishal airport and killed two pilots -- Squadron leaders

Mahmudul Haq and Ashraf Ibn Ahmed -- on December 20, 2010.

Squadron leader Morshed Hasan died when his F7 aircraft crashed in Ghatail upazila of Tangail on April 8, 2008.

In June 2005, a training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed into a tin-roofed house in Uttara, injuring six people, including two infants.

On February 27, 2003, a BAF training aircraft crashed due to a mechanical fault in Dhaka during take-off from the then Zia International Airport.

A training aircraft crashed at a village in Banskhalia upazila of Chattogram on July 30, 2002, leaving its pilot and three civilians killed and 10 injured.

FLYING ACADEMY ACCIDENTS

A trainee pilot died as a training aircraft of a flying institute crashed at Shah Makhдум Airport in Rajshahi on March 31, 2015.

A flight instructor and a trainee pilot escaped with serious injuries after a Cessna 152 of Bangladesh Flying Academy crash-landed and flipped during a training flight at Shah Makhдум Airport on April 13, 2013.

Another training aircraft of Parabat Flying Academy crashed on June 7, 2002 in Uttara, killing its pilot Moklesur Rahman Sakib on the spot.

Earlier, on September 27, 1998, a training plane of Parabat Airlines crashed at Postogola in Dhaka due to a technical fault, leaving its pilot Faria Lara and co-pilot Rafiqul dead.

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 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.

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LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
COMPANY MATTER ON - 1205 OF 2025
An application under section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994

IN THE MATTER OF :
Md. Kawsar Hossain, son of Abdul Wahab Boyati, Managing Director of Doyel Development Properties Ltd. Address: Koda-3/1/C, Adapt Amir Complex (4th Floor), Flat-C, Bashundhara Gate, Bashundhara, Dhaka

VERSUS-
..... Respondents

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and others

Notice is here be 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 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Company named and Doyel Development Properties Ltd. Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli 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.

Md. Monirul Islam
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Hall Room No. 01 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Building, Dhaka.
Mobile No. 01723-210745

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1047 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF: CF Global Limited, represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Rayan Moyeen

VERSUS-
..... Respondent

The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms & others, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1 Kavar Bazar, Dhaka -1215.

Respondent Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 12 read with section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Company Bench Hon'ble High Court Division, of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for confirmation and permission to amend the objective clause of Memorandum of Association of the petitioner Company namely, CF Global Limited. Upon preliminary hearing, on 26.06.2025 his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli presiding over the Company Bench has admitted the application and pleased to direct to publish notice in the newspapers and also directed to submit compliance on or before 29th July, 2025. Any one desirous of opposing the said application may do so before the Hon'ble High Court either personally or through Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of nominal fees.

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

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1200 OF 2025
Jamal Rana.....Petitioner

VERSUS-
..... Respondents

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and another...Respondents

On behalf of Jamal Rana, Son of Md. Ful Miah Of Modir Bar, Village-Kodda, Post office-Kodda, Brahmanbaria Sadar, Brahmanbaria, Director, Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited-14/A, Toyenbee Circular Road, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, I have filed an application under section 81(2) and section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 read with Rules 8 and 263 of Companies Rules, 2009 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd. for the calendar years 2020 to 2024.

That the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division comprising of his Lordships Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli heard the said application and by the order dated 14.07.2025 was pleased admit the application. The final hearing of the application will take place at the time fixed by the Hon'ble Court.

Anyone interested in the matter is requested to collect a copy of the application from the office of the undersigned upon payment of cost.

Yousuf Khan Rajib, Barrister-at-Law
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No. 3029 (Annex) Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Supreme Court, Dhaka. Mobile-01713201187

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

RJSCRespondent

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 Soheli** 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. 1125 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

RJSCRespondent

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 Apparels Ltd.** Hon'ble Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli** 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. 1128 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

RJSCRespondent

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 **Bishkhali Dredgers Ltd.** Hon'ble Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli** 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.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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>

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.

An unspeakable horror

Deadly air force jet crash must bring national reckoning

We are shocked by the horrific tragedy that befell students after a training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed into the Milestone School and College campus in Uttara on Monday afternoon. As of 8pm, at least 20 have been confirmed dead, including the pilot who was steering the jet. Over the years, there have been quite a few tragedies during such training missions by the air force, but this crash is certainly the deadliest. With about 170 suffering burn injuries in its aftermath, many critically, the death toll seems certain to rise in the coming days.

A tragedy like this demands not only our deepest condolences but also urgent answers and accountability. And the fact that most of the victims are children barely in their teens makes the urgency even more profound. After the crash, our correspondents reported horrifying scenes of panic and devastation both on the spot and at the hospitals, where families were desperately searching for their loved ones. Survivors described moments of sheer terror: flames erupting post-crash, smoke choking the air, and panicked screams echoing down the hallways. According to an eyewitness, the jet struck a two-storey building where primary-level classes are held, with the fire spreading to nearby buildings. Many students and staff were reportedly caught off-guard near the gates as the crash occurred, leaving them exposed to the impact.

Key details are still emerging. The authorities have yet to determine the reasons for the crash, so we will have to wait until investigators reveal what really happened. Many, however, have questioned the rationale for allowing air force training missions so close to residential areas in an overcrowded city, maximising the risk of any crash. In the absence of clear safety buffers, even a minor error or technical failure can lead to catastrophic consequences, as this crash has so painfully demonstrated. In a way, it has also renewed concerns over our aviation safety amid reports of persistent irregularities, with a recent investigation by the CAAB uncovering numerous anomalies in pilot licensing and training programmes. Dhaka's uncontrolled expansion—bringing flight paths dangerously close to densely populated neighbourhoods—is also something we must critically ponder going forward. For now, however, we hope the authorities will conduct a thorough investigation not just into Monday's crash but also the conditions of all trainer jets and safety protocols of the air force.

A tragedy like this must bring a national reckoning. The memory of seeing our children burn and die in such a senseless tragedy will haunt us for a long time. It was, however, heartening to see the frantic rescue and treatment efforts that followed, with volunteers and professionals alike giving their all to help the victims. But going forward, we must take all measures necessary to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again.

Can the world hear the cries in Gaza?

Israel is killing starving Palestinians even when they seek aid

Updates emerging from the Gaza Strip over the past few weeks paint a picture that even someone with a modicum of humanity would struggle to imagine: starving human beings being shot at as they desperately seek food aid. On Sunday, Israeli forces again opened fire on Palestinians crowding around aid trucks, killing at least 93 people and injuring dozens more, according to Gaza's civil defence agency. That these individuals went out hoping to get food and were met with death instead is distressing, to say the least.

The UN World Food Programme said its 25-truck food convoy faced "massive crowds of hungry civilians which came under gunfire" near Gaza City on Sunday. "Hunger makes you desperate," the US-based National Public Radio quoted one of the victims as saying. "I have no food at home. I went out to feed my kids. And this is what happened to me," he said, injured in the head and leg from Israeli tank fire. This cry for help is all too understandable as people continue to die of starvation in Gaza. On Sunday alone, at least 19 deaths from starvation were reported over the previous day, including that of a 35-day-old baby.

Israel, meanwhile, continues to dispute the numbers presented by the Gaza authorities. Regarding Sunday's incident, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claimed that soldiers fired "warning shots" at the crowds of aid-seekers to "remove an immediate threat posed to them." If these were truly warning shots, how did so many people end up fatally wounded?

Israel has been running its atrocious campaign in Gaza by weaponising hunger for weeks. In March, it blocked aid from entering the strip. That blockade lasted 11 weeks before it was finally lifted "following pressure from its allies," according to a BBC report. But while Israel eventually allowed aid trucks into Gaza, it started killing those seeking the aid. The UN recently reported that at least 875 aid-seekers were killed at aid distribution points, and along or near the routes of aid convoys, between late May and July 13.

This is a blatant display of disregard for both human rights and international law. What's worse is that Israel is getting away with it while the world watches in silence. How much more must the people of Gaza suffer before they are saved? If world leaders truly stand for humanity, they must come together to stop Israel from continuing its inhuman campaign in Gaza.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Pablo Escobar escapes prison

On this day in 1992, Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar escaped from police custody as he faced transfer from La Catedral, a luxurious prison that he had built, to a more secure facility. He remained a fugitive until December 1993, when he was killed during a shootout with law enforcement.



Who is India pushing into Bangladesh?



Kamal Ahmed is head of the Media Reform Commission in Bangladesh and an independent journalist. His X handle is @ahmedkal.

KAMAL AHMED

July 16 was a special day this year. On this day, we observed July Martyrs Day for the first time, marking the ultimate sacrifices made by heroes like Abu Sayed and Md Wasim Akrum. Yet, while we remained focused on post-uprising efforts to rebuild the state through forging political consensus and reforming institutions, our border management seemingly slipped into disarray.

On July 17, Bangladeshi media reported that the day before, India had pushed 55 individuals across the border at four locations in Sylhet and Sunamganj. Citing Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources, the report noted that these push-ins happened between 4am and 1pm.

The cumulative number of individuals forcibly pushed into Bangladesh may have already exceeded 2,000. Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain acknowledged that such incidents persist despite the existence of formal mechanisms between the two countries for verifying and returning nationals. "There is a prescribed process between the two countries to identify and take back citizens through the exchange of verified lists. Any push-in that circumvents this process is a clear violation of the rules," he said. While he confirmed that Bangladesh had recently accepted several citizens under this framework, he urged India to be consistent in adhering to the agreed-upon procedure.

Perhaps none of this is surprising. Earlier, on a separate occasion, the adviser admitted that push-ins were taking place, though he argued that physically resisting them was not a practical option.

This response seems entirely out of sync with the reality on the ground. One is left wondering whether our foreign ministry is even fully aware of the growing outrage among Bangalee politicians in India over these forced deportations. In BJP-governed states and at the national level, Bangla-speaking individuals—many of whom are Indian citizens—are increasingly being harassed and pushed across the border into Bangladesh. This issue has been festering for some time and is now reaching a critical point, especially in West Bengal.

In West Bengal, on July 16, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led a protest march in Kolkata. Speaking at



In India, Bangla-speaking individuals—many of whom are Indian citizens—are increasingly being harassed and pushed across the border into Bangladesh.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

the rally, she declared, "I have decided to speak more in Bangla from now on. Hold me in detention camps if you can," in direct defiance of the BJP's stance.

Banerjee highlighted that nearly 22 lakh Indian Bangalee migrant workers are employed across India and hold valid documents, including Aadhaar, Voter ID, and PAN (Permanent Account Number). "What right does the BJP have to harass Bangalees, arresting them and pushing them into Bangladesh? Is West Bengal not part of India?" she demanded the answer.

This was not her first public criticism of the Modi government's treatment of Bangla-speakers. On June 16, in the West Bengal State Assembly, she condemned the Maharashtra government for allegedly deporting individuals solely based on their use of the Bangla language, branding them arbitrarily as "Bangladeshis."

In a recent incident, three Bangalee migrant workers were deported to Bangladesh only to be returned to

India following an intervention by her administration.

In Bangladesh, several media outlets have reported detailed cases in which individuals pushed in by the Indian authorities were not Bangladeshis but Indian citizens and even Rohingya refugees who had sought shelter in India. Such practices are not only devoid of decency but also constitute

retaliating—a stance that should continue. But the continued mistreatment of Bangla-speaking individuals and the forced deportation of Indian citizens under the guise of identifying "illegal immigrants" must be firmly rejected.

It is time to consider reactivating a strategy that once proved effective: the push-back policy. Between 2003

serious breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law. Expelling one's own citizens to another country, or forcibly deporting refugees fleeing wars and persecution, violates fundamental norms and is a rare thing.

Although the foreign ministry in Bangladesh has sent multiple official communications to the Indian authorities, these textbook diplomatic measures have yielded little progress. The reality is that such tactics are unlikely to be effective in the near future, particularly given the electoral stakes in India. With crucial state assembly elections looming in West Bengal and Assam—states where Bangla-speaking and minority communities typically vote against the BJP—the ruling party appears to be exploiting nationalist sentiment for political gain.

While credible allegations exist of Indian interference in Bangladesh's internal politics over the years, Bangladesh has refrained from

and 2005, the then Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), predecessor to the BGB, implemented this approach, resulting in India's Border Security Force (BSF) to cease push-ins. The BSF resumed these actions at an alarming rate only in recent months.

The BGB must now be instructed to not only resist any unauthorised push-ins but also to return individuals who are forcibly sent across, swiftly and decisively, using any available border points. Such actions would send a strong, unambiguous message to New Delhi: that Bangladesh expects adherence to international norms, including the verification of citizenship at the point of detection and repatriation through proper consular cooperation.

The current situation is not merely a matter of diplomatic formality; it is about national dignity, human rights, and the protection of our sovereignty. A principled, firm and lawful response is not just justified—it is urgently required.

The Gopalganj killings and the peril of impunity



Maj (retd) Md Badrul Alam Siddiqui, PhD is head of operations at Millennium Certis Security Bangladesh Ltd. He can be reached at siddiqui1964@gmail.com.

MD BADRUL ALAM SIDDIQUI

The names of the dead in Gopalganj—Dipto Saha, Ramzan Munshi, Sohel Mollah, Ramzan Kazi, Imon—are bound to haunt the conscience of new Bangladesh. They were not political leaders or armed combatants; they were ordinary citizens stuck in a firestorm of political violence. Yet, the most damning story is not just how they died, but how they were buried. In the chaotic aftermath of the clashes on July 16, four victims were laid to rest "without inquest or post-mortem examination," a shocking abdication of legal duty that threatens to entomb the truth along with them. This is more than a procedural failure; it is a foundational crisis for a state forged in protest against impunity.

The failure to perform autopsies creates a black hole of accountability. A post-mortem is the state's first and most essential tool for answering the cardinal question in any violent death: who is responsible? It can determine the type of bullet used and, through ballistics, potentially link it to a

specific weapon. Without this "vital piece of evidence," as Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua described it, the chances of identifying who fired the fatal shots are drastically reduced. The official explanation that "an unruly mob forcibly removed the bodies" from the hospital to prevent autopsies seems like an admission of the state's loss of control. It raises an even more disturbing question: why did a hospital holding the primary evidence of a multiple-homicide case have inadequate security?

This evidentiary vacuum is made darker by the cloud of official contradictions. On the one hand, the inspector general of police asserted that his officers did not use "lethal weapons." On the other hand, the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) acknowledged that its troops used "force in self-defence" but made no mention of gunfire or casualties. With at least nine people suffering from gunfire wounds, legal rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

asked the question on everyone's mind: who fired these shots? In the absence of forensic proof, the conflicting statements from the authorities deflect responsibility, making way for rumours and speculation and deepening public distrust. A similar thing happened with the death of Abu Sayed, the first martyr of the anti-discrimination movement. His killing

The human cost of this failure is immense and ongoing. The families of the victims are left not only with grief but with a thorny path to justice. As Jyotirmoy Barua warned, if they wish to file a case, they may now face the 'traumatic hurdle' of having to 'exhume the bodies for autopsies.'

on July 16, 2024 was followed by a brazen state-led cover-up.

The then-government of Sheikh Hasina attempted to muddy the waters with false narratives of brickbats and rubber bullets. More damningly, they waged a war on the truth itself. As detailed in later reports, the forensic physician at Rangpur Medical College was pressured and threatened into

altering the autopsy findings six times, each version designed to obscure the simple fact that Abu Sayed was killed by police birdshot. The previous regime's crime was to corrupt the evidence.

Now, the methods differ, but does that matter when the outcome is identical? In both instances, justice is obstructed at its source. In both cases, impunity was hatched, even though the interim rose to power on the promise of accountability.

The human cost of this failure is immense and ongoing. The families of the victims are left not only with grief but with a thorny path to justice. As Jyotirmoy Barua warned, if they wish to file a case, they may now face the "traumatic hurdle" of having to "exhume the bodies for autopsies." It is cruel forcing families to choose between letting the truth remain buried or disturbing the final rest of their loved ones.

The government has formed a committee to investigate the violence. But this inquiry will be meaningless if it cannot answer the questions the missing autopsies left unanswered. Its primary task must be to cut through the official obfuscation and establish a clear chain of command and action for the security forces on that day. The new Bangladesh cannot be built on the foundations of the old regime's practices. To allow that is to betray the very mass uprising that brought on this new Bangladesh.

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.

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DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA,
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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.

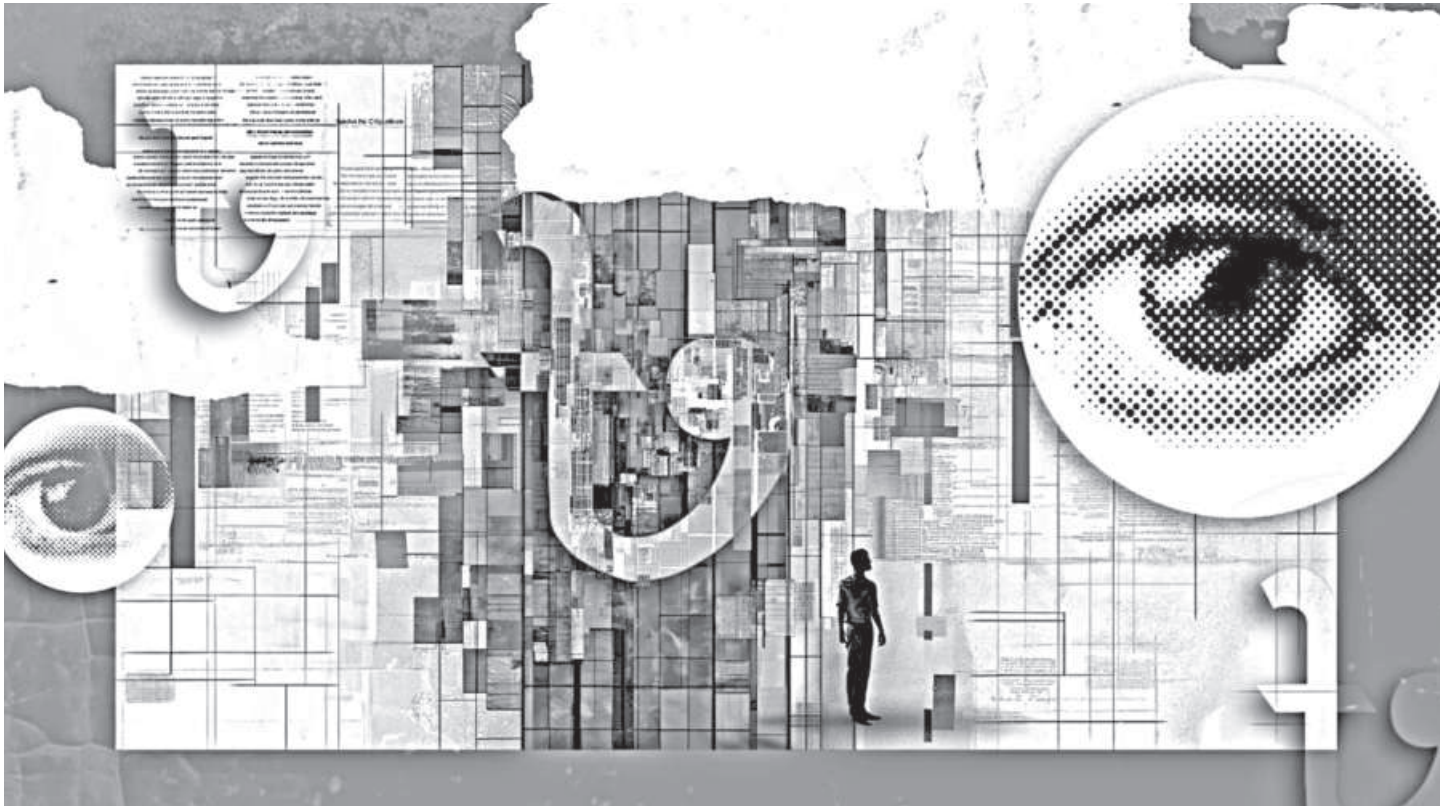
The political landscape mirrors this economic outlook. Major political parties remain divided on the inclusion of the previously ousted party in the upcoming national elections. There is no clarity regarding the timeline for the national elections. Moreover, a working consensus among major political 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.

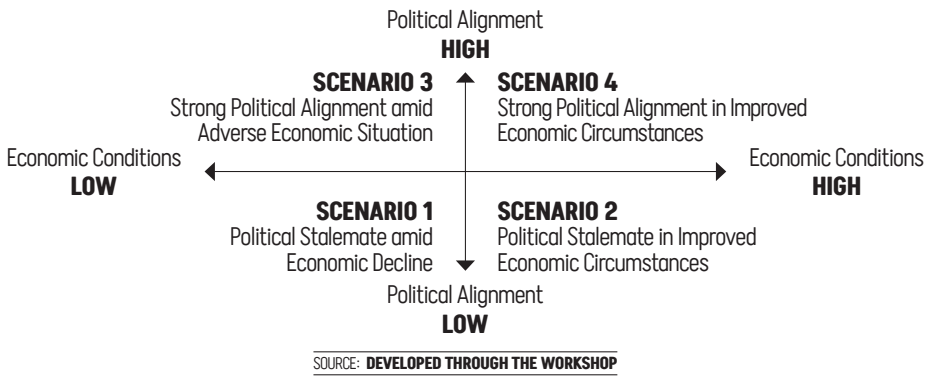
Scenario 3: Strong political alignment amid adverse economic situation
In Scenario 3, Bangladesh experiences an unexpectedly high alignment among

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.



FILE VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

FIGURE 1: SNAPSHOT OF THE DERIVED SCENARIOS



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

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.

Together, these four scenarios reveal plausible future events that may unfold for Bangladesh in the months ahead, leading up to the national elections. 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. The final segment of this foresight series will confront a critical question: what if the most plausible future is also the one that is not desired? In the final instalment, the focus will shift to examining the informal, shifting networks of influence and power that stretch from the government to political parties and even non-state actors, including civil society. To ensure that Bangladesh is moving not just towards what is likely, but towards what is needed, understanding the “wheel within the wheel” will be critical.

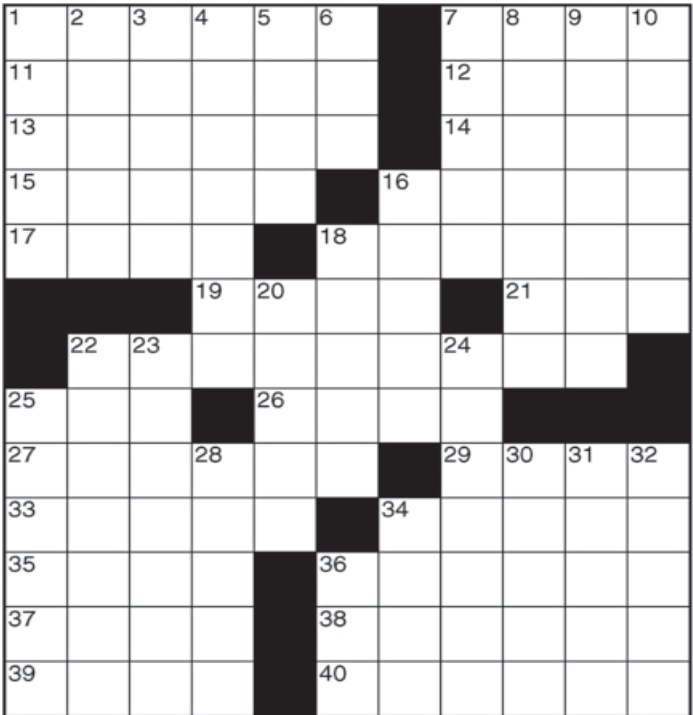
Views expressed in this article are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of CPD or any other organisation with which the authors are associated.

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BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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7-15

YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

H	E	F	T	S		R	I	F	F	S
A	R	R	O	W		E	R	R	O	L
I	R	E	N	E		D	E	E	R	E
L	A	N		E	M	U		N	Y	E
E	T	C		T	E	X		C	O	P
D	A	H	L	I	A		T	H	U	S
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C	H	A	P		P	O	P	U	P	S
R	A	N		P	I	T		S	I	T
A	M	I		H	E	R		T	E	A
V	I	L	L	A		A	P	A	R	T
E	L	L	I	S		C	I	R	C	E
S	L	A	T	E		E	N	D	E	D

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 tariffs 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



surrounding the quota protests.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Administration sent a proposal to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the afternoon, recommending that 93 percent of civil service recruitment be based on merit, with the remaining 7 percent reserved for quotas. The revised quota system was proposed to apply to recruitment for grades 9 through 20 across government, semi-government, and autonomous bodies.

Addressing a meeting with leading businesspeople at her office, then prime minister Sheikh Hasina issued a stern warning against the “BNP-Jamaat clique,” vowing that they 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 your 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, presidium 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.

Villages deserted fearing arrest

FROM PAGE 12
Meanwhile, panic continues to grip Gopalganj residents due to the ongoing police drives. So far, police have filed eight cases accusing more than 8,400 people over the deaths and the violence.

On a visit yesterday to several villages in Tungipara upazila, about 15 kilometres from the Gopalganj town, this correspondent learnt from locals that police were patrolling the streets all day long and conducting raids at night.

Residents of Paanch Kahania, Keralakopa, and Gimadanga under Tungipara municipality reported experiencing blackouts during the police raids at night.

Md Maruf Sheikh, a van driver from the Charpara Fakir Bari area of Tungipara, said, “Police entered into our village last night [Sunday night]. I, along with many others, fled from home. I returned home at around 2:00am.”

Aslam Sheikh from Gimadanga village said the roads take on a deserted look after evening.

Visiting Bagherkul, Dariarkul, Baladanga, and Balagati villages, this correspondent found that all the male members have fled home.

Some 15 to 20 panic-stricken women were found to have taken shelter in the residence of a local BNP leader.

“Police came to my house around 9:00pm last night [Sunday night]. They were looking for my husband, who was not home. They forced me to open the door and questioned me about my husband’s whereabouts,” said a woman on condition of anonymity.

“How can we feel safe to stay home at night when the male family members are on the run even though

they are not accused in any case? So, we decided to meet with the BNP leader,” she added.

The BNP leader Khalid Biswas told The Daily Star, “There’s an atmosphere of arrest panic here. These women have come to my house. I tried to contact the deputy commissioner but couldn’t reach him. I then informed the officer-in-charge of police, who told me there is no issue with the male members returning home.”

Khalid, organising secretary of BNP’s Tungipara upazila unit, said, “I plan to sit with the women after Maghrib prayers today [yesterday] and will try to arrange a video conference with the district administration to reassure them.”

Meanwhile, the number of inmates in Gopalganj District Jail has sharply increased in recent days.

Acting Jail Superintendent Tania Zaman told The Daily Star that although the jail has a capacity of 360, it is currently holding 865 inmates.

“Normally, the number of inmates stays around 600,” she said.

Dozens of individuals arrested in Gopalganj in recent drives were transferred to Pirojpur district jail on Saturday due to a lack of space in Gopalganj district jail.

Attempts were made several times to contact the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Gopalganj district Md Mizanur Rahman both at his office and over the phone to enquire about the public’s fear of arrest and alleged harassment. However, he could not be reached for comment.

With one person arrested in the 24 hours till yesterday noon, a total of 322 people have so far been arrested in connection with the violence, said police.

Hospital corridors echo

FROM PAGE 1
Inside, medical professionals scrambled through triage, fielding frantic inquiries from terrified families while trying to log patients’ names and statuses. Medical staff worked under crushing pressure, managing oxygen cylinders, administering pain relief, and coordinating surgeries. Cries of pain echoed through the halls.

Among the wounded was nine-year-old Nusrat, her arm wrapped in thick white gauze. Her uncle had been en route to pick her up from school when he saw the crash unfold. He pulled her from the wreckage with his bare hands. Her mother said she had suffered 25 percent burns.

A panicked man soon approached them, searching for his friend’s missing daughter, Nahia Ashraf. He explained that Nahia’s brother had already been admitted to the ICU with 95 percent burns. On the fourth floor of the institute, a paper taped to the wall bore a stark testimony: next to patient names were numbers – 40 percent, 80 percent, and for some, 100 percent.

Outside that room, more than a hundred relatives gathered. Some sat silent on the floor, others wept in one another’s arms. Grief and dread hung thick in the air.

In another corridor, a female student in her Milestone School uniform recounted that she and her twin brother were both at school that day. She had left early, around 12:40pm – just half an hour before the school’s scheduled closure. Her brother wasn’t as lucky; he was now among the patients being treated inside.

In one corner of the hospital, Akhlma Parvin stood crying in the hallway. Her son, Tawfiq Hossain, a class five student, had just been admitted.

“He had breakfast with me in the morning. I cooked his favourite meal. He was supposed to come back and eat lunch,” she said.

Parvin added, “When I heard the blast, I rushed towards the school. I found him injured. He wrapped his arms around me and begged me to save him.”

Elsewhere, a woman clung to a

relative, sobbing as she described seeing the plane strike the school. Her daughter, also present during the crash, was later found and admitted to the hospital. Her condition was described as stable.

On the sixth floor, crowds gathered outside treatment rooms. Hospital staff struggled to keep them out, citing infection risks. “Your entry may cause infection,” one of them warned, trying to control the influx of visitors and concerned relatives.

The scene outside was no less chaotic. Political leaders, advisers, and delegations from various professional bodies arrived at the hospital, often with entourages, unintentionally disrupting emergency operations.

As the sun dipped low, the streets surrounding the institute swelled with people holding makeshift signs, pleading for blood donations, especially negative types. One sign simply read: “O Negative Needed Urgently.”

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed addressed reporters at the institute. “Our immediate priority is to ensure the best possible treatment for the victims. We will look later if any other support is needed.”

The National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, inaugurated in October 2018, is the world’s largest facility of its kind. With 500 beds, 50 intensive care units, and 12 state-of-the-art operating theatres across 12 floors, it was built to handle one of the most catastrophic medical emergencies.

Today, it is being tested once more.

Yarlung dam

FROM PAGE 12
cooperation in trade, infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, fisheries, green energy, disaster management, and tourism.

Wen also referred to recent meetings between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain in Kuala Lumpur.

Both sides stressed the need for stronger collaboration and people-to-people exchange as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Bangladesh–China diplomatic ties this year.

Parul, a resident of Diabari, was one of them. Her daughter Nusrat Akhter, a third grader, had been missing since the crash. “Where is my daughter? They are not letting anyone in. Please help me find her. I want her back,” she cried.

Third-grader Raisa Moni’s mother waited the whole day, silently praying her child wouldn’t become another statistic.

Eventually, Raisa’s brother Jakir Hossain sent their exhausted mother home. “I went to Dhaka Medical, CMH, Uttara Adhunik, and four other hospitals. I can’t find our Raisa,” he said last night.

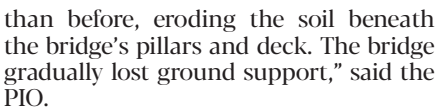
Sazzan, who brought both his children home, said, “Watching little burnt children come out of the building, hearing the screams – it was unbearable ... I brought mine home... but how many parents are still waiting? How many are watching their children suffer in hospitals? How many came back to homes with no children left to return?”

“Will the state again escape accountability, hiding behind the excuse of an ‘accident’?”

No quota in govt jobs for July

to the "July fighters" would be made equal to that of the freedom fighters, the adviser said, "Bringing in the comparison with freedom fighters is not appropriate here. Freedom fighters' contribution is undeniable."

Describing the bridge as very important, the official said hundreds of people from six villages use it daily, and a new bridge is needed as a permanent solution. For urgent repair work, around Tk 5 lakh is required, and higher authorities have been informed, he added.



DU launches

Meanwhile, six left-leaning student

Shibir was banned from operating on campus by Paribesh Parishad – a student representative platform – following the fall of the Ershad regime in 1990. However, Shibir leaders claim they do not recognise any decisions made by Paribesh Parishad, as it is not an official university body.

Built for farmers

NM Alomgir Badsha, deputy director (deputy secretary) of the Department of Agricultural Marketing in Rangpur division, admitted the project's failure. "The markets were not built in suitable locations, which led to a lack of interest among farmers. Even local committees failed to make

Islam, additional director (acting) of the Regional Agricultural Extension Department in Rangpur, said, "If these markets were operational, both farmers and consumers would benefit. Farmers would get fair prices, and consumers could buy fresh produce at reasonable rates."

Please help us

In the aftermath of the tragedy, the parents' cries echoed one shared plea: "Please help us find our children."

Side by side in bandages

DOCTORS STRUGGLE
Inside the seventh floor of the burn unit, Dr Zakia Sultana Mitali was working in the thick of the emergency

Despite the crowd, moments of humanity emerged. Young volunteers formed human chains to keep pathways clear for patients and doctors.

People suffer as bridge

Tangail Sadar Upazila
Nirbahi Officer Nahida
Akter said she has already
asked the upazila engineer
(LGED) to conduct an on-
site inspection and submit

Contacted, Muhammad Jakir Hossain, executive engineer of LGED in Sadar upazila, said the bridge was built by the upazila parishad. The approach roads were not constructed due to insufficient allocation. However, a demand for allocation has been submitted. He said discussions have been held with the UNO. "I hope we will get the allocation soon. The work will start at the beginning of the new fiscal year," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Netrokona
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.- 46.02.7200.0000.99.2025-1491

Date : 21-07-2025

e-Tender Notice No: 01/2025-2026

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


SL No.	Tender ID	Package No. and Name of Scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing & Opening date & time	Procurement Method
1	1131790	LGED/ISWRDP-2/BD-P98/24-25/25285-Structures Part-A: Construction of Box culvert at ch. 1+050 km (2V-3.0m x 3.0m), Part-B: Replacement of vertical gate for existing regulator-01 at 1+615 km (Gtra khal), (1V-1.5m x 1.8m), Part-C: Replacement of vertical gate for existing regulator-02 at ch. 0+122 km (Tel khal), (1V-1.5m x 1.8m), Part-D: Repair WMCA Office & new water supply arrangement, Tiles for toilet and Furniture supply of existing WMCA office, Part-E: Boundary wall around the WMCA office, Part-F: Supply of Computer and others related item works of Baharali Beel Sub-Project (SP ID-25285) Under Upazila: Kendua, District: Netrokona.	06-08-25 12:00	06-08-2025 15:00	OTM
2	1131693	NDRIIP/Purbadhala/25-26/RD-18 Improvement of road by BC from H/O Rubel Khan at Shamgonj-Gouripur LGED road to Tangua at Ch. 00-1970m, Under Purbadhala Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372835157].			
3	1131692	NDRIIP/Barhatta/25-26/RD-32 Part A: Improvement of road by BC from Chandrapur GG-Khashikona road-House of Roton Contractor-61 at Charam Village Road at Ch. 00-715m [Road ID No-372095063]. Part B: Construction of 1 No Single vent RCC Box Culvert 4.00 x 4.00m on Chandrapur GG-Khashikona road-House of Roton Contractor-61 at Charam Village Road at ch. 345m, Under Barhatta Upazila, District: Netrokona.	12-08-25 12:00	12-08-25 15:00	OTM
4	1131691	NDRIIP/Kendua/25-26/RD-34 Improvement of Road by BC from Sandikona Up office to Shakra Bazar via Yatiara bazar Road at Ch. 3022-6750m, Under Kendua Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372473917].			
5	1131690	NDRIIP/Kendua/25-26/RD-33 Part A: Improvement of Road by BC from Shahitpur Bazar-Mitali High School Road at Ch. 00-4700m [Road ID:372474033]. Part B: Construction of 1 no Single Vent RCC Box Culvert (2.00 x 2.00m) on Shahitpur Bazar-Mitali High School Road at Ch. 575m. Part C: Construction of 1 no 2 Vent RCC Box Culvert (3.00 x 3.00m) on Shahitpur Bazar-Mitali High School Road at Ch. 1167m. Part D: Construction of 1 no 2 Vent RCC Box Culvert (4.00 x 4.00m) on Shahitpur Bazar-Mitali High School Road at Ch. 4177m Under Kendua Upazila, District: Netrokona. (Salvage cost: Tk. 1,49,726.00).	19-08-25 12:00	19-08-25 15:00	OTM
6	1131689	NDRIIP/Kendua/25-26/RD-32 Improvement of Road by BC from Digolia moor - Ghipara Last Border Road at Ch. 00-1780m, Under Kendua Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372475130].	12-08-25 12:00	12-08-25 15:00	OTM
7	1131688	NDRIIP/Mohanganj/25-26/RD-15 Part A:Improvement of road by BC from Khurshimul Bazar-Rampasha Road at Ch. 500-1684.10m [Road ID No-372634018]. Part B: Improvement of Road by RCC from Khurshimul Bazar-Rampasha Road at Ch. 1684.10-2000m Under Mohanganj Upazila, District: Netrokona.	12-08-25 12:00	12-08-25 15:00	OTM
8	1131687	NDRIIP/Madan/25-26/RD-20 Improvement of road by BC from Bottala Barori Road-Joula Eidghah Field at H/O A. Mannan at Ch. 471-1000m, Under Madan Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372564956].	06-08-25 12:00	06-08-2025 15:00	OTM
9	1131686	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-24 Improvement of Road by RCC from Baganipara - Gochikhal pucca road via Boli Village Road at Ch. 00-2500m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372385073].	19-08-25 12:00	19-08-25 15:00	OTM
10	1131685	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-23 Improvement of Road by RCC from Rajapur Kanda-Daudpur Noutnpara Road at Ch. 00-1500m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372384039].			
11	1131684	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-22 Improvement of Road by RCC from Nazipur - Rajipur Haor Road at Ch. 00-2000m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372385037].	12-08-25 12:00	12-08-25 15:00	OTM
12	1131683	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-21 Improvement of Road by RCC from Krishnapur-Sultnapur Road at Ch. 00-2000m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372385016](Salvage cost Tk. 10,49,958.00)			
13	1131682	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-20 Improvement of Road by RCC from Modon Khalaijuri R&H Road-Borodaur Haor via Islampur Village Road at Ch. 00-1000m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372384041].			
14	1131681	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-19 Improvement of Road by RCC from Adompur Westpara DC road-Kodakati Road via Chopta at Ch. 00-1000m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372384043].			
15	1131680	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-18 Improvement of Road by RCC from Khalaijuri GC at Muslimpara-Lipsa GC Road at Ch. 10190-11750m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372383091].	12-08-25 12:00	12-08-25 15:00	OTM
16	1131679	NDRIIP/Khalaijuri/25-26/RD-17 Improvement of Road by RCC from Goalbari Kaizalokona-Chanpur Road at Ch. 00-2000.00m, Under Khaliujuri Upazila, District: Netrokona [Road ID No-372384042].			

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches.

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



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GD-1625

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া।

স্মারক নং- ২১৮৬/১ম ভঙ

তারিখঃ ৪- ২১/০৭/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।


"প্রকাশ্য নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি-০২/২০২৫-২০২৬"

এতদ্বারা বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/চিকাদার, নিলাম ডাককারীদের ও সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া সদর উপজেলায় মেন্ডুরা মৌজার পুলিশ বিভাগের ২,১২৫০ একর ভূমির খালি জায়গায় ডাম্পিং স্টেশন নির্মাণ কর্তৃক প্রবেশের রাস্তায় ০১টি সেতুন গাছ নিলামে বিক্রির নিমিত্ত আগামী ০৬/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়ায় প্রকাশ্য নিলাম ডাকের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে। আগ্রহী নিলাম ডাককারীগণ যথাসময়ে যথাযথ উপস্থিতি হয়ে প্রকাশ্য নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

ক্রঃ নং	প্রকল্পের নাম	নিলাম ডাকের জামানত	অপসারণের সময়সীমা
১	ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া সদর উপজেলায় মেন্ডুরা মৌজার পুলিশ বিভাগের ২,১২৫০ একর ভূমির খালি জায়গায় ডাম্পিং স্টেশন নির্মাণ কর্তৃক প্রবেশের রাস্তায় ০১টি সেতুন গাছ নিলামে বিক্রয়	২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা।	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ০৭ দিন।

নিলামে ডাকের শর্তাবলী :-


- ০১। আগ্রহী নিলাম ডাককারীকে নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য জামানত বাবদ (ফেরতযোগ্য) পুলিশ সুপার ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া বরাবরে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এবং জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের ফটোকপি জমা দিয়ে নিলাম ডাকের দিন বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে তালিকাভুক্ত হতে হবে।
- ০২। সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাককারীকে ডাকমূল্য, ডাকমূল্যের ১০% আয়কর ও ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ সমুদয় অর্থ ০৩ (তিন) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে একসাথে পরিশোধ করে ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে প্রদেয় নিলামকৃত গাছ অপসারণ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় তত্ত্ব ডাক বাতিল পূর্বক ২য় সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারীকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে এবং ১ম সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারীর প্রাপ্ত জামানতের টাকা ব্যয়গ্রহণ করা হবে। এক্ষেত্রে দ্বিতীয় সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী নিলামকৃত গাছ নিতে বাধ্য থাকবেন।
- ০৩। ১ম সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারী সম্পূর্ণ টাকা জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত ২য় সর্বোচ্চ ডাককারীর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার ফেরত দেয়া দেয়া হবে না।
- ০৪। নিলামকৃত গাছটি স্থানান্তরের পূর্বে গাছের লগের মাধ্যম সর্গুন্ডিয় বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক হাতুড়ীর ছাপ গ্রহণ করতে হবে এবং বন বিভাগের ইনস্ট্রাক্ট চলাচল পাশ গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- ০৫। নিলামকৃত গাছ নিজ খরচে অপসারণ করতে হবে।
- ০৬। নিলামে অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিনিধিদের প্রতিনিধিগণ আরআই পুলিশ লাইন্স, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করে আশোচ গাছ অবিস্ত চলাকালীন সময়ে সরেজমিনে দেখতে পারবেন।
- ০৭। কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বোচ্চ ডাক গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয়। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন নিলাম ডাক গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।


এহেতশমুল হক
বিপ-৮১০৮১২১৫৮১
পুলিশ সুপার, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া।

ফোন: ০২৩৫৪৪১৬৮০, ফ্যাক্স: ০২৩৫৪৪৪০২০২৪

ই-মেইল: spbrahmanbaria@police.gov.bd

GD-1624



Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.

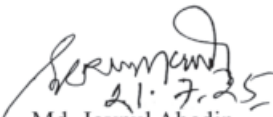
Memo: 46.207.007.17.02.2025-28
Date: 21-Jul-2025

e-Tender Notice

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

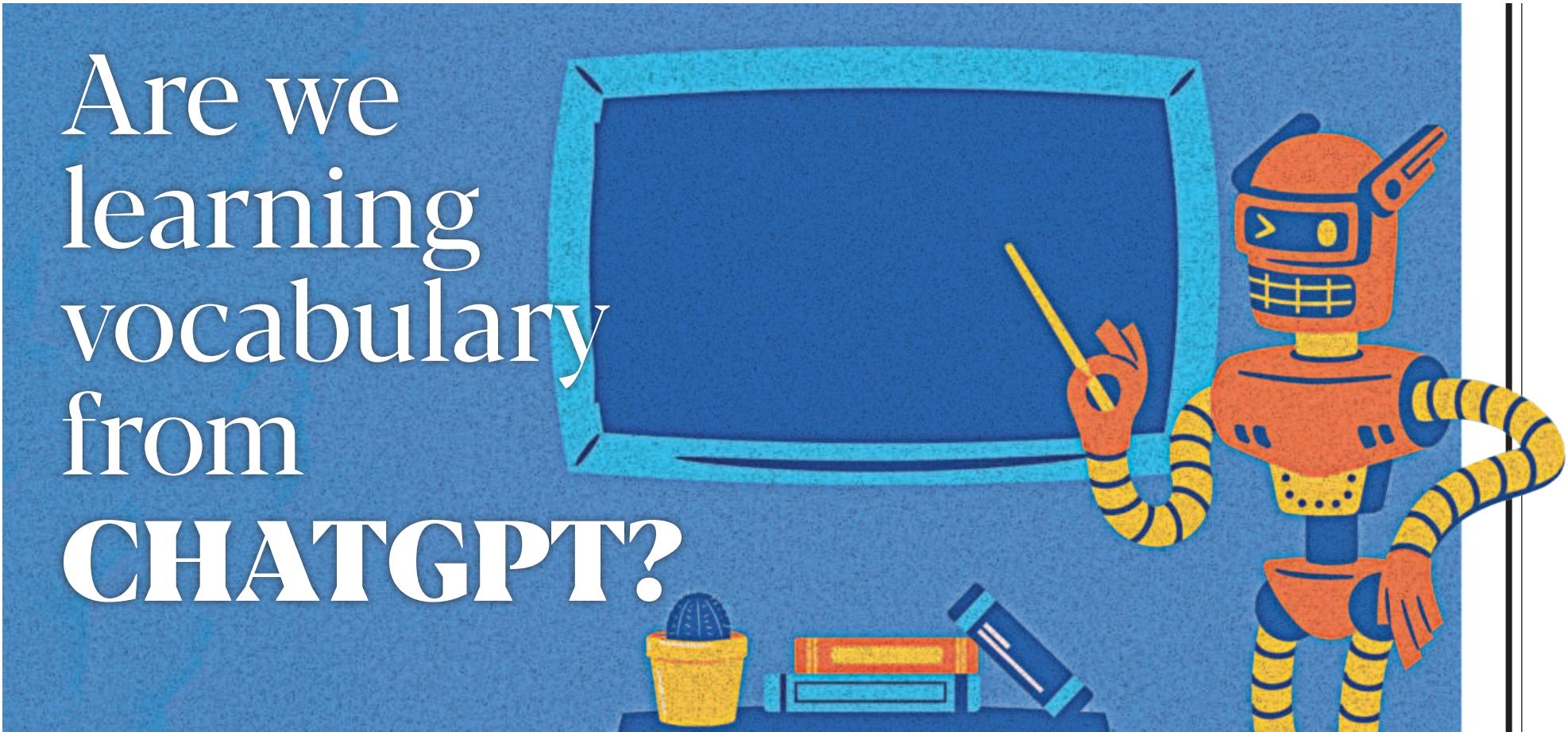
SL. No.	Method of tender & Tender ID, Ref No	Procurement Item Descriptions.	Publishing Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	OTM (NCT) Tender ID. 1132849 Ref.46.207.007.17.01. 2025-148	Supply of Pesticide Temephos 50% EC for use in mosquito eradication program of DSCC in 2025-2026.	21-Jul-2025 17.00.00	03-Aug-2025 17.00.00	04-Aug-2025 14.00.00

This is an online tender. Where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal.


 Md. Joynul Abedin
 Deputy Secretary
 Chief Store & Purchase Officer
 Store & Purchase Department
 Dhaka South City Corporation
 E-mail: csposdsc20@gmail.com

ডি.এস.সি.সি./পিআরডি/২০/২০২৫-২০২৬

GD-1622



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.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

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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 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)



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

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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.

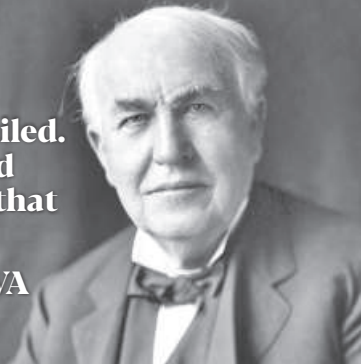
At its heart, BYETS’ model is one of integration. It understands that equipping youth with skills is only half the solution; those skills must meet real demand. By embedding its training efforts within a broader strategy of enterprise development and trade facilitation, the programme is creating the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

“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”
THOMAS ALVA EDISON



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. “At this moment in time we would like to express our solidarity with all the members of the affected families and with members of the Bangladesh Air



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.”

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.”

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.



4-star Sagorika strikes gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Mosammat Sagorika struck all four goals as Bangladesh beat Nepal 4-0 in the final match of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday, sealing yet another South Asian title for the dominant hosts.

The 17-year-old striker – returning after a three-match suspension for a red card against the same opponents last week – delivered with clinical precision every time she got involved.

The win reaffirmed Bangladesh's supremacy in regional women's age-group football, with seven titles from 13 tournaments since its introduction in this region in 2017.

Needing just a draw to retain the title after five straight wins, coach Peter Butler fielded his strongest eleven for only the second time in the tournament.

Sagorika wasted no time, testing Nepal goalkeeper Sujata Tamang in the second minute and, moments later, opened the scoring by rounding off Sujata and finishing coolly from a Sapna Rani through-ball.

Nepal nearly levelled when tournament's top scorer Purnima Rai's volley struck the crossbar after a fumble by goalkeeper Mile Akter, but that was as close as they came.

After the break, Sagorika doubled the lead with a sublime turn and strike from Umehla Marma's pass. The girl from Thakurgaon completed her second hat-trick of the tournament soon after, lifting Nabiran Khatun's pass over the advancing keeper.

Sujata denied her twice more, but Sagorika sealed her fourth with a powerful long-range effort in the 74th minute as Bangladesh cruised to victory in front of a 5,000-strong crowd.



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.

On a challenging surface in Mirpur, the total could have been tricky but Parvez Hossain Emon struck an unbeaten 39-ball 56 and shared a 73-run stand for the third wicket with Tawhid Hridoy (36) to drive the hosts home with ease, with 27 balls to spare.

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.





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 Division (LGD) of the Ministry of 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.



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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

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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. Mosammat 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

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 Soheli 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 Soheli 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.

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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.

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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

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.



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.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

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

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