



**P8**  
When your  
musical  
heroes  
defied the  
authoritarian  
regime

YOUR  
RIGHT  
TO KNOW

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## CA may unveil polls month on Aug 5 or 8

July Declaration set to be  
rolled out on Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is likely to announce the month for the next general election in a televised address to the nation on August 5 or August 8.

Multiple government sources said the exact date and time are yet to be finalised, but the address will coincide with either of two key dates: August 5, the anniversary of the student-led mass uprising that led to the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, or August 8, which marks the formation of the interim government led by Yunus.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday announced it will unveil the "July Declaration" on August 5.

According to insiders, Yunus prefers not to place too much emphasis on the date of the formation of the interim government.

"So, there's high chance the address will be on August 5," said a government source.

Another official said the chief adviser, after announcing the month of the polls, will urge the Election Commission to announce the national election schedule.

At a meeting on July 26, Prof Yunus assured political parties that the election date would be announced soon.

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## 'Manifesto for a new Bangladesh' at NCP rally today

Party demands July Charter  
be legally binding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam has announced that the NCP will hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar today, where the manifesto for a new Bangladesh will be read out.

"Tomorrow [today] we will officially conclude our July march at Shaheed Minar. There we will read out the manifesto of a new Bangladesh, where we, on behalf of the NCP, will unveil our vision and action plans for the future of the country," he told a press conference at the party's office in Banglamotor yesterday.

He also stated that the party would use the rally to demand that the July Charter be issued by August 5 and the document be made legally binding.

"The next parliament must be formed on the basis of the July Charter, and the charter must be implemented during the tenure of this interim government."

Nahid expressed regret over the NCP rally overlapping with the Chhatra Dal programme, and HSC and BCS exams.

"There will likely be traffic congestion in the city. We sincerely apologise to the residents and students for this. As August is a historic month, we have to hold our programme on this day."

In the same vein, Chhatra Dal yesterday also expressed advance regret for any public inconvenience that may arise due to its rally at Shahbagh intersection.

In a press statement, it said it is aware of the potential disruption such a rally could cause on a working day in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Today is the 12th Death Anniversary of  
**Sobera Ahmed Rizvi (Rita)**



We request all relatives, friends  
and well-wishers to remember her in their  
prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

Jowher (Shahinshah), Yasser, Nasser, Fatema, Zain, Zarah & Zameer



With each monsoon swallowing more than the last, this sliver of land on the bank of the Pasur river now barely holds the homes of its riverine residents. With no functional flood control or protective system in place, they've weathered the elements year after year, fighting to preserve their lives and livelihoods that now teeter on the edge. The photo was taken recently in Chila union of Bagerhat's Mongla upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

US deports 39  
Bangladeshis  
Deportees allege  
mistreatment

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-nine Bangladeshi citizens have been deported from the United States on charges of staying in the country illegally.

They arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka yesterday morning aboard a US military aircraft, a top official from the airport's Immigration Department told The Daily Star.

The official added that although initial reports suggested that 60 individuals would be deported, the final figure was 39.

The returnees complained that they were kept in handcuffs for the entire duration of the long flight.

"We are not criminals... we were simply seeking refuge. But we were treated like dangerous prisoners," said one of the deportees.

Upon their arrival, BRAC provided transportation, and the Expatriates' Welfare

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Made with US cotton? Pay less at US customs

A tariff clause offers reduced duties on goods that include at least 20% US-origin content

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is likely to benefit from reduced US tariffs on garment exports under a new clause that incentivises the use of American materials, potentially enhancing the country's competitiveness in the US market.

Under a recent executive order issued by President Donald Trump on Friday, US customs will apply a tariff rate only to the non-American portion of a product's value, provided that at least 20 percent of its content is sourced from the United States.

For example, a T-shirt valued at \$10 that includes 20 percent US content will face a tariff of \$1.60 instead of \$2, as the 20 percent tariff -- the rate imposed on Bangladesh -- will be calculated only on the \$8 non-US portion.

"This offers a unique opportunity for Bangladesh to cut export costs to the US and strengthen our position in the market," Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will have the authority to request documentation from importers to verify compliance with the content-based tariff provision. Importers may be required to submit

**Some Bangladeshi factories already use up to 40 percent US-originated materials in production. Under the new rule, this would mean the 20 percent tariff applies only to the remaining 60 percent of product value, further reducing the effective duty paid at the US border.**

information at the time of entry to demonstrate both the proportion and value of US-origin components used in a product.

Verification measures are intended to ensure that only eligible products benefit from the reduced tariff calculation based on US content.

The executive order defines "US content" as components either wholly produced or substantially transformed in the United States.

Khan said the BGMEA has begun working with US partners to ensure traceability and third-party certification of American cotton used in local manufacturing, a prerequisite for claiming the lower tariff rate. "We're prioritising compliance and verification so that US customs can easily recognise our use of US materials," he said.

Bangladesh imports more than \$4 billion worth of cotton annually, including around \$500 million from the US. With local cotton

production unable to meet domestic demand, manufacturers often rely heavily on imports, offering a natural pathway to increase US-origin content in garments destined for the American market.

Some Bangladeshi factories already use up to 40 percent US-originated materials in production. Under the new rule, this would mean the 20 percent tariff applies only to the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



**THE JULY  
THAT ROCKED  
BANGLADESH**

AUGUST 3, 2024

A nation united  
under one  
demand

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On August 3, 2024, the anti-discrimination movement in Bangladesh reached a new peak as protesters rejected prime minister Sheikh Hasina's offer for dialogue and instead placed a singular, uncompromising demand before the nation: the resignation of the

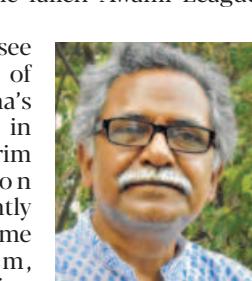
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Interim govt  
echoes AL  
fascism

Says Anu Muhammad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Anu Muhammad said yesterday that the interim government's actions are reminiscent of the fallen Awami League administration.



"We see the shadow of Sheikh Hasina's administration in how the interim administration is currently operating. The same authoritarianism, the same oppression of the people, and the same discriminatory system still exist."

If the government keeps deviating from the July expectations, the people's march will have to continue, he said.

Anu Muhammad made the remarks while addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar prior to the "Droho Jatra 2025" procession.

The event was held to mark the anniversary of last year's "Droho Jatra" -- a massive rally held in front of the Jatiya Press Club on August 2, which was joined by people from all walks of life seeking justice for the July killings.

Various left-wing political, cultural, women's, labour, and student organisations arranged yesterday's event to call for the abolition of the fascist state structure, the prosecution of all mass killings in the hills and plains -- including the July killings -- and resistance to neo-fascist tendencies.

Like last year, Prof Anu Muhammad presided over yesterday's programme.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

RELATED STORY, PHOTO ON PAGE 12

Dhaka  
roads to  
avoid today

STAR CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday issued a public notice advising commuters to avoid key roads in the capital today due to multiple political rallies and events scheduled throughout the day.

In a notice signed by DMP Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali, the police said major gatherings are expected in and around Shahbagh, Shaheed Minar, and Suhrawardy Udyana. As a result, vehicle movement, particularly through Shahbagh intersection, will be severely hampered.

According to the notice, pro-BNP student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal will hold a rally at

## Our Deepest Condolences



We mourn the sad demise of eminent industrialist Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Founder Life Member and Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, North South University. He passed away on August 1, 2025; Inna Lillahi Raji'un.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed was a visionary leader whose guidance and dedication played a pivotal role in shaping North South University into the institution it is today. As a founder life member and former chairman, he contributed significantly to the growth of private higher education in Bangladesh.

His legacy continues through the thousands of students, faculty, and alumni whose lives were touched by his commitment to excellence in education.

The NSU community including members of the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, students, and alumni extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prays for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

The NSU Board and the University Administration would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to the family members of Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, in this trying time, and may they find solace that his legacy will live on long after his passing.



North South University

'Tk 1 lakh offered' as hush money for rape of child  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

A 14-year-old girl and her family fled their home on Cox's Bazar's Saint Martin's Island on Friday, after local political figures, allegedly of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, offered Tk 1 lakh to silence them over the rape of the teenager.

The alleged rapist, Abdullah, 35, is reportedly the brother of Jamaat-e-Islami's former union ameer and the current Cox's Bazar committee member Abdur Rahim Jihadi.

According to the victim's mother, her daughter had gone out that afternoon when Abdullah lured her into his home and raped her.

"She came home crying and told me everything. Later, some local leaders offered Tk 1 lakh to keep us quiet. When we refused, we started receiving threats."

The family, now in hiding, is trying to secure treatment for the girl.

Locals said a group of "community elders", including local BNP union president Nurul Alam, held an informal arbitration and proposed a Tk 1 lakh settlement.

Nurul Alam denied the allegation, saying, "The claim of a cover-up with money is not true. I've been trying to offer legal support. When the family came to me, I asked if they had any witnesses. When they said no, I suggested they go to the police."

SEE PAGE II COL 5

## Made with US cotton? Pay less at US customs

FROM PAGE 1  
remaining 60 percent of product value, further reducing the effective duty paid at the US border.

Khan urged the government to support increased imports of US cotton and to deepen bilateral discussions to ensure the new trade provision is fully leveraged. He also encouraged investment in systems that could certify and document US input use throughout the supply chain.

The Trump administration reduced the tariff rate on Bangladeshi goods to 20 percent from the previous 35 percent, a move Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus described as "a decisive diplomatic victory" for the country. However, the effective tariff rate stands at about 36.5 percent with existing duties taken into account. While still substantial, the new content clause provides a mechanism to lower the burden.

Bangladesh's position could strengthen further as other apparel-exporting countries, such as India and Pakistan, are less likely to benefit due to their use of domestically grown cotton. Vietnam faces an additional risk: if goods are deemed transshipped, the US may apply tariffs as high as 40 percent.

Khan said shifting orders from China, where tariffs remain elevated, could also benefit Bangladesh. However, he warned of a downside risk: rising tariffs on consumer goods may fuel inflation in the US, potentially reducing American demand for imported garments.

As US importers are expected to bear the bulk of the new tariff costs, Khan cautioned that some buyers may seek to shift part of the burden onto Bangladeshi suppliers. "It's important that we remain competitive, but also that we don't absorb more cost than we can afford," he said.

## 'Manifesto for a new Bangladesh'

FROM PAGE 1  
the busy capital, but has urged city residents to view the matter with understanding.

Meanwhile, Dhaka police have urged city dwellers, particularly HSC, equivalent, and BCS examinees, to leave for their exam centres well ahead of time to avoid delays.

FROM PAGE 1

prime minister and her entire cabinet. What began as a decentralised uprising led by students evolved into a mass mobilisation, pulling together people from all segments of society in a powerful demonstration of unity and defiance.

From early morning, thousands began converging on the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, many of them braving rain with family members, waving national flags, and holding placards bearing the faces of the dead, the disappeared, and slogans of resistance. The surrounding areas, Doyer Chittar, Jagannath Hall, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and Shibbari intersection, overflowed with protesters as chants of "Dofa Ek, Dabi Ek: Sheikh Hasina Podotyag" echoed through the streets. The rally, which formally began at 5:00pm, soon swelled to tens of thousands, bringing together teachers, lawyers, garment workers, parents, rickshaw pullers, and children.

In the midst of this crowd, Nahid Islam, a key organiser of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, took the stage and declared, "We are here with a one-point demand. We seek to ensure people's safety and justice."

The protest sites extended far beyond the boundaries of the Shaheed Minar.

In Mirpur 10, thousands of students and citizens blocked the roundabout.

In Uttara, students and parents stood shoulder to shoulder near BNS Centre, carrying placards like "My brother is in the grave, why is the killer outside?" and "Police, whose side are you on?"

Meanwhile, Dhaka College students blocked Mirpur Road at Science Lab, vowing to stay until the one-point demand was fulfilled. The day's procession was peaceful in the capital, with security forces largely maintaining distance.

However, clashes erupted in at least seven districts, including Gazipur,

## ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR

### A nation united under one demand



FILE PHOTO: NAIMUR RAHMAN

Braving the rain, thousands pour into the Central Shaheed Minar and surrounding streets on August 3, 2024, to join the anti-discrimination student movement.

Chittagong, Cumilla, Sylhet, Bogura, Jamalpur, and Faridpur, where police and ruling party activists allegedly opened fire on demonstrators. Two people were killed, and at least 55 others were injured.

Earlier that morning, Sheikh Hasina addressed members of the Professionals' Coordination Council at Gono Bhaban, stating, "The Gono Bhaban's doors are open. I want to sit with the agitating students and listen to them. I don't want any conflict."

She called for the release of detained students and pledged that trials would be held for each person killed in the protests. But her appeal fell flat. Organisers and demonstrators alike viewed the gesture as too little, too late.

In response to the growing tension, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman issued a directive to ensure the protection of lives, property, and vital state institutions. He emphasised that the Bangladesh Army had always stood by the people and would continue to do so in times of need.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir released a statement demanding the government step down without further bloodshed.

and factories, and boycott all state-run seminars, events, and institutions.

They also called for suspending remittances through formal banking channels, offshore transactions, and transport services, while making exceptions for hospitals, emergency services, and daily essentials. The movement sought full nationwide shutdowns without economic collapse by allowing workers to claim salaries while refusing cooperation with the state.

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**Businessman tortured, forced to pay Tk 4cr at gunpoint**

**Suspended BNP leader, journalist accused in complaint**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A businessman in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore was allegedly held at gunpoint, partially buried in sand and extorted of Tk 4 crore in multiple phases by a suspended BNP leader and a local journalist.

The victim Shahnewaz Kabir Tipu, 48, is the owner of Jafridi Enterprise in the Nawapara Bazar area.

Tipu's wife, Asma Khatun, filed a written complaint with Rajghat Army Camp in Abhaynagar regarding this matter on July 31, said Lance Corporal Nadim Mahmud of the army camp.

The trader has fled the area with his family over safety concerns.

On the morning of September 2 last year, a man named Saikat Hossain Hira took Tipu to the personal office of one Asaduzzaman Jony, the suspended organising secretary of Nawapara municipal unit of BNP, according to the complaint.

There, Jony beat him up and demanded Tk 2 crore at gunpoint. Asma later transferred the money to Jony's company account, following which her husband was released, it said.

Then, on September 18 last year, Tipu was intercepted by Hira on his way to Nawapara Bazar from Chalisia on a motorcycle. His phone was found switched off until 3:00pm that day. Later, it was learned that he had been taken to Kona Eco Park, allegedly controlled by Jony.

In the complaint, Asma said that when she arrived at the park, she too was attacked at gunpoint by Jony, Samrat Hossain and Nawapara Press Club General Secretary Mofiz Uddin.

The attackers dug a pit, buried her husband up to his chest in sand and demanded another Tk 2 crore, she said.

Tipu was forced to call his business manager and ask him to arrange the money. Subsequently, Tk 68 lakh was transferred from Pubali Bank and Tk 32 lakh from SBAC Bank to a bank account belonging to journalist Mofiz.

SEE PAGE II COL 4

## CA may unveil polls monthon Aug 5 or 8

FROM PAGE 1

Coming out of the meeting, Mostafa Jamal Haider, leader of the 12 Party Alliance and chairman of Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar), said, "The chief adviser categorically said he would announce a specific timeline and date of the election within the next four to five days."

On July 9, Yunus instructed the authorities concerned to complete election preparations by December. During a meeting with law enforcement officials that day, he also reiterated that the polls may be held in February or April.

Earlier, on June 13, during a meeting in London with BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, the chief adviser said the election could take place before Ramadan 2026, which begins in the third week of February.

### JULY DECLARATION

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said the government will formally present the "July Declaration" to the nation on August 5 in the presence of all stakeholders of the 2024 mass uprising.

The announcement will be made at 5:00pm, it said, adding that more details regarding the announcement

will be provided shortly.

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Mahfuj Alam also confirmed the development on his verified Facebook page, writing: "The July Declaration is now a reality... I thank everyone for keeping this issue alive in the public consciousness and helping pave the way for its implementation."

The student protests, which began on July 1 last year against the quota system in government jobs, quickly escalated into an uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

According to a report of the UN fact-finding mission in February, up to 1,400 protest-related deaths occurred between July 15 and August 5.

The government is drafting the "July Declaration" in consultation with political parties after it took on this responsibility last December amid protests by Students Against Discrimination (SAD).

Samanta Shermeen, senior joint convener of the National Citizen Party, said yesterday they would not announce a separate July Declaration since the government is preparing to release it.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam yesterday welcomed the move.

"We have learned from the government side that the July Declaration will be announced on August 5... We welcome this initiative," he said at a press conference at the party office in Banglomotor.

On December 29 last year, SAD and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee announced plans to proclaim the July Uprising Declaration at the Central Shaheed Minar on December 31, sparking debate over its timing and impact.

Later that day, the chief adviser's press secretary clarified it was a private initiative, not endorsed by the government. However, the following night, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said the government would pursue a proclamation based on national consensus.

In response, the two platforms called off their declaration and held a "March for Unity" instead, where student leaders gave the government a January 15 deadline.

As the movement reigned with demands to ban the Awami League and announce the declaration, the advisory council decided on May 10 to release it within 30 working days. In mid-July, the draft was sent to pro-unionisation parties for feedback before finalisation.

Bangladeshis.

A diplomatic source based in New York said yesterday that it was not unusual for US immigration authorities to deport undocumented immigrants.

"However, when deportations are done frequently, it makes the news."

"Although it's true that the Trump administration is strictly enforcing its immigration laws, its main target is illegal immigrants from Latin America. There are not many undocumented Bangladeshis in the US," he added.

Alleging that the July movement has been exploited by a new type of extortionist, communal, religious, and fascist forces, Anu Muhammad asserted that the movement must be reclaimed by the people, whose sacrifices gave it meaning.

Alleging that the July movement has been exploited by a new type of extortionist, communal, religious, and fascist forces, Anu Muhammad asserted that the movement must be reclaimed by the people.

"The uprising belongs to no single entity -- it is owned by the people."

Anu Muhammad also called for an end to the ongoing mass arrests, extortion, mob violence, and indiscriminate case filings.

The state must assume full responsibility for the martyrs and injured in last year's uprising across Bangladesh, he added.

Given the multiple overlapping events, DMP warned of severe traffic disruptions near Shahbagh, Shaheed Minar, and Suhrawardy Udyana areas, and advised commuters -- especially

## Road crash in Malaysia kills three Bangladeshis

UNB, Dhaka

Three Bangladeshis were killed and two others injured after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off East Coast Highway (LPT) 1 near Kuantan, Malaysia, yesterday.

The victims were driver Saber Hasan, 30, and passengers Jahid Hasan, 21, and Abdullah, 24.

Acting Kuantan Police Chief Adli Mat Daud said an initial investigation

revealed that the group was travelling from Kuantan to Kuala Lumpur when the driver reportedly lost control of the multi-purpose vehicle, causing it to veer off the left side of the road.

The two injured were hospitalised, the police officer said in a statement.

Adli further said preliminary findings showed that the driver did not have a valid driving licence and that the vehicle's road tax had expired in May.

The war needs to end. The Israeli government will not end it willingly. It has refused to do so.

The Israeli government must be stopped. For our sakes, for our soldiers' sakes, for our sons and for the future generations of everybody in the Middle East."

Of the 251 hostages taken during the Hamas attack, 49 are still being held in Gaza, including 27 the Israeli military says are dead.

After the meeting, the Forum released a statement saying that Witkoff had given them a personal commitment that he and US President Donald Trump would work to return the remaining hostages.

"Horrifying acts"

Hamas attempted to maintain pressure on the families, releasing a video of one of the hostages -- 24-year-old Evgatar David -- for the second time in two days, showing him looking emaciated in a tunnel.

## Dhaka roads to avoid today

FROM PAGE 1

Shahbagh intersection from noon to 6:00pm to mark the first anniversary of the July-August uprising.

Meanwhile, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, the National Citizen Party (NCP) will hold a public rally at the Shaheed Minar, demanding the implementation of their "July Declaration and Charter".

Additionally, the "July Jagaran" cultural festival by Saimun Shilpigosthi is being held at Suhrawardy Udyana every day from August 1 to 4, from 10:00am to 10:00pm.

DMP also noted that Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exams, along with the BCS examination, will take place at different centres in the city on the same day.

Vehicles approaching from the west via Science Lab Crossing should avoid Shahbagh by turning towards Nilkhel/Palashi or towards Sonargaon Road (Hatkirpool) and then use the Banglomotor link road.

Vehicles coming from High Court or Kadam Fountain Crossing should avoid Shahbagh and continue straight on Hare Road or Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Sarani (Moghbar Road).

Similarly, vehicles approaching from the north via Sonargaon or Banglomotor crossings should avoid heading straight towards Shahbagh. Instead, they should turn left and use Hare Road or Minto Road.

## Interim govt echoes AL fascism

FROM PAGE 1

The former Jahangirnagar professor said the interim government has spent its first year breaking every expectation of the July uprising.

"We understood that this government couldn't do much, and we didn't expect an overnight change. But we did expect the beginning of change -- something that never happened."

Regarding mob violence, Anu Muhammad said, "Mobs have destroyed homes and attacked various institutions. They have been used as a mercenary force by certain individuals to install some people and remove others."

He said, "We wouldn't have blamed the government for these events had we seen genuine efforts to stop them. Instead, we see that some within

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## Process on to identify July martyrs buried in Rayerbazar Says home adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Some 114 unidentified victims killed during the July uprising and buried at Rayerbazar Intellectuals' Graveyard will be identified soon, said Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday morning.

"We have begun the process of identifying the bodies. Once confirmed, the families may decide whether to leave the remains there or move them elsewhere," he told reporters during a visit to the graveyard.

He said although the families were initially reluctant to assist in the process, they have now agreed to cooperate. "This graveyard holds a mass grave of 114 people whose identities remain unconfirmed."

Raising concerns about reported irregularities in the graveyard's construction work, he said, "As you can see, the quality of materials used - bricks and gravel - is very poor."

"It is disheartening to see corruption even in the construction of graves for those who gave their lives for the country. This cannot be allowed to continue."

## Public universities still trapped in authoritarian culture: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public universities continue to operate like poorly managed state institutions, where old authoritarian practices persist under new names, said University Teachers Network at a seminar yesterday.

Speakers said no major reforms have been initiated in the university system, despite repeated calls from academics and students.

While the government has formed various commissions over the past year, it did not feel the need to form one on higher education, they said. As a result, key structural problems remain unaddressed, and decision-making power remains centralised.

The event, titled "What Kind of Universities Do We Have in Post-Uprising Bangladesh?", was organised by the teachers network at Dhaka University.

DU Economics Department assistant professor Rushad Faridi, Management department's associate professor Tahmina Khanam, and ULAB teacher Oliur Sun jointly presented a paper at the event.

Rushad said in older public universities, "autonomy" often serves as a façade for political dominance, benefiting teachers affiliated with or aspiring to align with the ruling



Names, photos, and brief details of many of those killed in last year's July uprising on display at TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The exhibition was organised by Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Govt finally begins work on health reforms

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

Around three months after the Health Sector Reform Commission submitted its report, the health ministry has moved to implement some of its short-term recommendations at the primary stage.

Initially, the ministry plans to prepare a three-month action plan and begin implementing it. It has also asked all its wings and agencies to prepare their own plans and present them at a meeting on August 6.

Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, will preside over the meeting, which is expected to be attended by the heads of all its agencies, as well as all additional and joint secretaries of the Health Services Division, officials said.

The 12-member commission, led by National Professor AK Azad Khan, submitted its report on May 5, recommending a sweeping overhaul of health service management to make it more pro-people.

It suggested that the government make primary healthcare a constitutional obligation and provide it free of cost to ensure universal access.

The commission also called for the formation of an independent and permanent Bangladesh Health Commission to formulate essential policies and strategies and to oversee the health sector.

The proposed reforms, the commission said after submitting the report, would take around two years to implement and should be carried out by a powerful inter-ministerial committee.

The report came at a time when the health sector faces major challenges, including inadequate funding, a shortage of health workers, high out-of-pocket expenses, unequal access to services, and weak governance.

These issues, health experts say, deprive many people of quality treatment and compel many others to seek medical care abroad.

Upon receiving the report, Chief Adviser Prof



### AT A GLANCE

- >To implement short-term health reforms
- Three-month action plan in the works
- Agencies, wings asked to submit plans by Aug 5
- Ministry issued directive via letter on July 29
- First concrete step since report submitted May 5

Muhammad Yunus instructed the relevant authorities to act on the immediately actionable recommendations, stating that they could play a crucial role in resolving the problems in the health sector.

However, no inter-ministerial committee has yet been formed, nor has there been any visible move by the health ministry to begin implementing the commission's recommendations, until now.

Expressing frustration, a member of the reform

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SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

## MILESTONE TRAGEDY Tears, tributes for jet crash victims

College section to reopen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorial programme was held yesterday morning at Milestone School and College in Diabari, Uttara, seeking eternal peace for those who died in the recent fighter jet crash and a speedy recovery for the injured.

Speaking at the event, Principal Captain (retd) Jahangir Khan reflected on the tragic incident, saying he narrowly avoided being at the crash site. "On the day of the plane crash, the headteacher called me to interview two new teachers at 1:00pm. I left for her office around 1:04pm, and the accident occurred between 1:12 and 1:13pm. Had it not been for her call, I might have been among the corpses too," he said.

The principal added, "I have been in charge at this college for nearly two years. Never once have I gone outside at 1:00pm, when the final bell rings. I usually stand in the corridor, walk around, monitor the

duties of teachers, officers, and staff, and observe the students."

Praying for the children who died, he said, "If the accident had happened even at 1:04 or 1:05, we would have lost so much more. Many more parents would have lost their children because it takes about 10 minutes for the children to leave after school ends."

Jahangir also commended the efforts of teachers and staff in the immediate aftermath. "I sincerely salute your efforts and pain. If anyone thinks this was due to negligence, I alone bear the responsibility - no one else. You can judge me however you wish," he said.

Habibur Rahman, father of seventh-grade English medium student Zarif Hasan, also spoke.

Masuka Begum, assistant teacher of the Bangla medium section, died in the crash with 85 percent of her body burned. Her colleagues and family

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



A woman looks at the photographs and posters on display at the day-long event titled "Koilza Kapano 36 Din" at the Bangladesh National Museum yesterday. The event paid respect to the July uprising.

## Artistes unite to honour martyrs of July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drissho Madhyam Shilpi Shomaj organised a day-long event yesterday titled "Koilza Kapano 36 Din", paying respect to the student-led uprising in Bangladesh that unfolded a year ago. The event took place at the Bangladesh National Museum.

The programme featured 13 film screenings, exhibitions of photography, posters, and theatre, along with live performances of music and poetry. A series of discussions reflected on the ongoing resistance and commemorated the lives lost during the movement.

The event was attended by families of the martyrs, along with a diverse gathering of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

## Jamaat leader removed from post for forging UNO's signature

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Latmonirhat

Acting principal of Hatibandha Model College and Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami's Hatibandha upazila unit in Lalmonirhat, Hasen Ali, has been served a show-cause notice and removed from his party position following allegations of forging the UNO's signature on official documents.

According to the upazila administration, Hasen allegedly submitted 13 recruitment files to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education using a scanned copy of UNO Shamim Mia's signature.

"This is outright fraud and forgery. A show-cause notice has been served on Thursday, and an investigation is underway," UNO Shamim Mia told reporters, adding that the forgery came to light after the directorate flagged the documents.

In response to the allegations, Jamaat-e-Islami relieved Hasen of his duties as ameer of Hatibandha upazila, said district Jamaat Ameer Abu Taher.

## 3 BNP men among 5 held for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Tangail

Police have arrested five people, including three local BNP leaders, in Tangail in an extortion case.

They were held in the town's Santosh between Friday night and yesterday, said Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tanvir Ahmed.

Abdullah Al Mamun, 26, Sabir Hossain, 20, Shah Alam, 50, Jubair Hossain, 52, and Golam Rabbani, 52, were produced before a Tangail court after the victim sued them yesterday morning, the OC added.

Of the arrestees, Rabbani is president of ward-8 unit of Tangail town BNP, Shah Alam, its general secretary,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Straw being transported from various villages in the Atrai upazila of Naogaon by a boat to Pabna. During floods, Pabna faces a severe shortage of straw, which is vital for feeding cattle. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Clogged sewers add to waterlogging woes in Pirojpur

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Residents of Pirojpur town are suffering immensely due to the lack of adequate drainage facilities. The problem becomes particularly acute during the rainy season, when even moderate rainfall leaves roads waterlogged and impassable.

Although there are some drains within the municipality, which spans around 30 square kilometres, they are not spacious enough and are poorly maintained, often becoming blocked, according to locals.

Jakir Hossain, a resident, said there is no way to move along the Choumuhuni to Balaka Club Road, as there is no drainage system in place and the road remains flooded after rainfall. "Even when the rain stops, the water does not recede immediately," he said.

The situation is similar in other areas including Ukilpara, Moddy Rasta, Sheikhpura, Post Office Road and Muslimpara.

"Though our municipality is around 150 years old, its facilities are in a dire state," said Syed Moin, another resident, adding that other civic amenities, including proper road communication, are also lacking.



Locals Mainul Ahsan Munna and Khalid Abu echoed the concerns.

Contacted, Dhruba Lal Datta, executive engineer of Pirojpur municipality, said there are around 150 kilometres of both concrete and earthen drains in the area. However, the municipality lacks sufficient income to construct more drains and roads. "We have to spend all our earnings on staff salaries," he said.

He said a proposal has been submitted to the Local Government Engineering Department seeking funds from the Local Government Covid-19 Response and Recovery Project. "If the proposal is approved, we will be able to carry out some development work in the municipality," he said.

"As Pirojpur municipality is in a very poor condition, it needs a special project for its development," he added, suggesting the government could provide support through the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project.

## Tongi's drains of death

Despite fatalities, authorities yet to take action, allege locals

MONJURUL HAQUE, Gazipur

Open and unguarded drains across Tongi in Gazipur have turned into deadly traps, posing a constant threat to pedestrians, garment workers, schoolchildren, the elderly, and motorcyclists alike.

Despite repeated accidents, including a recent fatality, no effective steps have been taken by the authorities.

On July 30, firefighters recovered the body of Faria Tasnim Jyoti, who had fallen into an open drain in Tongi. Her lifeless body was found beneath a dense pile of water hyacinth in the Shalikchura Beel, into which the drain flows.

A visit on the four kilometre area from Board Bazar to Tongi's Hossain Market on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway revealed at least 25 drains and manholes without covers.

In some places, thin bamboo sticks or pieces of red cloth serve as makeshift warnings. During rain, when the manholes are submerged, pedestrians unknowingly walk into danger. These roads are daily routes for thousands, said locals.

Abul Hossain, a garment worker, said, "These open manholes become even more dangerous when there's no light."



Near Gazipur Crescent Hospital, two manholes sit wide open.

Ismail Hossain, another worker, said, "Just days ago, someone fell in right here. Bystanders pulled him out."

Amir Hossain, a rickshaw puller from Gacha, added, "I've seen manhole covers being stolen in broad daylight. No one stops them. The covers are later sold off as scrap metal."

In Kunia-Targachh, resident Iman Ali pointed to five open manholes in his area alone. "With this much traffic, anyone could fall in at any moment."

Asked, Gazipur City Corporation Secretary Al Amin Parvez said, "We cannot avoid responsibility. We're listing all open drains and manholes across the city and have been instructed to seal them. The work has already begun."

## Public universities still trapped in authoritarian

FROM PAGE 3

party. Dissenting voices, he said, are still discouraged or silenced.

He expressed concern over rise of far-right extremism and growing anti-minority sentiment, both of which are creeping into university spaces. State's inaction, he said, is being seen as a silent approval.

Speaking on private universities, Oliur Sun said these institutions still operate primarily as profit-driven businesses. Despite

the UGC's regulatory authority under the 2010 Private University Act, no meaningful protection has been provided for institutional autonomy.

Tahmina Khanam said the UGC continues to function like an extension of the education ministry, relying heavily on bureaucratic approvals for its operations and funding.

Education Adviser Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar said under the banner of autonomy, many teachers

have become deeply involved in partisan politics, which has severely damaged the academic environment.

He said such a system cannot be dismantled overnight. "It requires internal reform, and for that, universities must raise demands and engage their stakeholders."

On VC appointments, he said while previous governments made unilateral decisions, a search committee now exists -- comprising a UGC

representative, a subject expert, and a VC.

Reflecting on the past year, Abrar said he did not hold responsibility for the entire period but understood the pressure under which the administration operated.

"Not all decisions were good," he said. "Perhaps the state did not play the role it was expected to."

"Relying solely on an education commission for solutions is not realistic."

UGC Member Prof Tanzimuddin Khan said the current UGC structure lacks internal accountability. He pointed out that appointments are

often political. "Our focus should be on reforming the state structure," he added.

Chairing the event, economist Prof Anu Mohammad said whichever party came to power, it used 1973 university ordinance to its advantage, corrupting university system.

"But we cannot blame everything on the ordinance. It ultimately depends on the state and how it wants to shape the universities. Why an education reform commission has not yet been formed, and why education has not been given importance, remain major questions."

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## AUTOPilot DEATH Tesla ordered to pay \$242m

AFP, New York

A Florida jury on Friday ordered Tesla to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to plaintiffs who blamed a deadly 2019 crash on the company's "Autopilot" driver assistance technology.

The jury found Tesla's system partly responsible for a crash in Key Largo that killed Naibol Benavides Leon and injured her boyfriend, Dillon Angulo, according to attorney Darren Jeffrey Rousso, a partner at the law firm.

The plaintiffs had alleged that Autopilot was to blame when driver George McGee's Tesla careened into a Chevrolet sport utility vehicle, killing Leon and injuring Angulo.

The jury awarded \$200 million in punitive damages, plus \$59 million in compensatory damages to Leon's family and \$70 m in damages to Angulo, according to court records.

Tesla will appeal the decision.



Palestinians receive lentil soup at a food distribution point in Gaza City yesterday. The World Health Organisation warned on July 27 that malnutrition was reaching "alarming levels" in Gaza.

PHOTO: AFP

## India to keep buying Russian oil defying Trump

REUTERS

India will keep purchasing oil from Russia despite US President Donald Trump's threats of penalties, two Indian government sources said, not wishing to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

"These are long-term oil contracts," one of the sources said. "It is not so simple to just stop buying overnight."

Trump last month indicated in a Truth Social post that India would face additional penalties for purchases of Russian arms and oil. On Friday, Trump told reporters that he had heard that India would no



On our energy sourcing requirements ... we look at what is there available in the markets, what is there on offer, and also what is the prevailing global situation or circumstances," India's foreign ministry spokesperson Ranghira Jaiswal told reporters during a regular briefing on Friday.

Jaiswal added that India has a "steady and time-tested partnership" with Russia, and that New Delhi's relations with various countries stand on their own merit and should not be seen from the prism of a third country.

The White House in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Indian refiners are pulling back from Russian crude as discounts shrink to their lowest since 2022, when Western sanctions were first imposed on Moscow, due to lower Russian exports and steady demand, sources said earlier this week.

The country's state refiners

Indian Oil Corp IOC.NS, Hindustan Petroleum Corp HPCL.NS, Bharat Petroleum Corp BPCL.NS and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd MRPL.NS - have not sought Russian crude in the past week or so, four sources familiar with the refiners' purchase plans told Reuters.

On July 14, Trump threatened 100% tariffs on countries that buy Russian oil unless Moscow reaches a major peace deal with Ukraine. Russia is the top supplier to India, responsible for about 35% of India's overall supplies.

Russia continued to be the top oil supplier to India during the first six months of 2025, accounting for about 35% of India's overall supplies, followed by Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, received about 1.75 million barrels per day of Russian oil in January-June this year, up 1% from a year ago, according to data provided by Reuters by sources.

longer be buying oil from Russia.

The New York Times yesterday quoted two unnamed senior Indian officials as saying there had been no change in Indian government policy, with one official saying the government had "not given any direction to oil companies" to cut back imports from Russia.

Reuters reported this week that Indian state refiners stopped buying Russian oil in the past week after discounts narrowed in July.

## Thai storm kills six

AFP, Bangkok

Floods and landslides triggered by Tropical Storm Wipha since last month have killed six people and affected more than 230,000 people across Thailand, disaster management officials said yesterday.

Since 21 July, heavy rains have inundated 12 provinces, mostly in the northern and central regions, according to Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

"We are closely monitoring the impact of rainstorm Wipha and coordinating with affected provinces to assist those in need," the agency said in a statement on its official Facebook page.

Images on social media showed murky floodwaters, sandbags stacked outside homes, and residents using plastic boats to navigate submerged streets.

However, the kingdom's meteorological department predicts rainfall will ease in the coming days.

## New push to reach plastic pollution pact

AFP, Paris

Negotiators will take another stab at reaching a global pact on plastic pollution at talks opening Tuesday in Geneva but they face deep divisions over how to tackle the health and ecological hazard.

The coming 10 days of talks involving delegates from nearly 180 nations follows a failure to reach a deal last December on how to stop millions of tonnes of plastic waste entering the environment each year.

Plastic pollution is so ubiquitous that microplastics have been found on the highest mountain peak, in the deepest ocean trench and scattered throughout almost every part of the human body.

In 2022, countries agreed they would find a way to address the crisis by the end of 2024, but the talks in Busan, South Korea failed to overcome fundamental differences.

One group of countries sought an ambitious globally binding agreement

to limit production and phase out harmful chemicals.

However, a group of mostly oil-producing nations rejected production limits and wanted to focus on treating waste.

The stakes are high. If nothing is done, global plastic consumption could triple by 2060, according to OECD projections.

Meanwhile, plastic waste in soils and waterways is expected to surge 50 percent by 2040, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which is acting as the secretariat for the talks.

Some 460 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally each year, half of which is single-use. And less than 10 percent of plastic waste is recycled.

Plastics break down into bits so small that not only do they find their way throughout the ecosystem but into human blood and organs, recent studies show, with largely unknown consequences on the health of current and future generations.



## Drone strikes kill three in Russia

AFP, Moscow

Ukrainian drone strikes killed three people and wounded two others overnight in western Russia, regional governors said yesterday.

One woman was killed and two other people were wounded in an attack on an enterprise in Penza, the region's governor, Oleg Melnichenko, wrote on Telegram.

An elderly man was killed inside a house that caught fire due to falling drone debris in the Samara region, governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev posted on Telegram.

In the Rostov region, a guard at an industrial facility was killed after a drone attack and a fire in one of the site's buildings, acting Rostov governor Yuri Sliusar said.

"The military repelled a massive air attack during the night," destroying drones over seven districts, Sliusar posted on Telegram.

Russia's defence ministry said its air defence systems had destroyed 112 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory - 34 over the Rostov region - in a nearly nine-hour period, from Friday night to Saturday morning.

In Ukraine's central-eastern Dniproptetrovsk region, overnight Russian drone attacks left three people wounded, governor Sergiy Lysak wrote on Telegram. Several buildings, homes and cars were damaged, he said.

Russian forces have claimed advances in Dniproptetrovsk, recently announcing the capture of two villages there, part of Moscow's accelerated capture of territory in July, according to AFP's analysis of data from the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

## ROW WITH RUSSIA

### Trump deploys nuclear submarines

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of two nuclear submarines Friday in an extraordinary escalation of what had been an online war of words with a Russian official over Ukraine and tariffs.

Trump and Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's security council, have been sparring on social media for days.

Trump's post on his Truth Social platform abruptly took that spat into the very real -- and rarely publicized -- sphere of nuclear forces.

"Based on the highly provocative statements," Trump said he had "ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that."

"Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, I hope this will not be one of those instances," the 79-year-old Republican posted.

Trump did not say in his post whether he meant nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed submarines. He also did not elaborate on the exact deployment.

The United States and Russia

control the vast majority of the world's nuclear weaponry, and Washington keeps nuclear-armed submarines on

locations, which are kept secret by the US military.

But in an interview with Newsmax that aired Friday night, Trump said the submarines were "closer to Russia."

"We always want to be ready. And so I have sent to the region two nuclear submarines," he said.

"I just want to make sure that his words are only words and nothing more than that."

Trump's remarks came

hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow had started mass producing its hypersonic nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile, and could deploy them to Belarus, a close Russian ally neighbouring Ukraine, by year end.

The nuclear sabre-rattling came against the backdrop of a deadline set by Trump for the end of next week for Russia to take steps to ending the Ukraine war or face unspecified new sanctions.

The United States and Russia control the vast majority of the world's nuclear weaponry, and Washington keeps nuclear-armed submarines on

permanent patrol as part of its so-called nuclear triad of land, sea and air-launched weapons.

Medvedev had criticised Trump on his Telegram account Thursday and alluded to the "fabled 'Dead Hand'" -- a reference to a highly secret automated system put in place during the Cold War to control the country's nuclear weapons.

This came after Trump had lashed out at what he called the "dead economies" of Russia and India.

Medvedev had also harshly criticized Trump's threat of new sanctions against Russia over its war in Ukraine.

Accusing Trump of "playing the ultimatum game," he posted Monday on

X that Trump "should remember" that Russia is a formidable force.

Trump responded by calling Medvedev "the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he's still President."

Medvedev should "watch his words," Trump posted at midnight in Washington on Wednesday. "He's entering very dangerous territory!"



**Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)**  
398, Mayor Anisul Haque Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208  
[www.bsccic.gov.bd](http://www.bsccic.gov.bd)



**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring a Research Institution/ Consulting Firm for Conducting a Research on "Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level."**

**KEY INFORMATION**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Ministry/Division         | Ministry of Industries  |
| 2 Agency                    | Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)                               |
| 3 Procuring Entity Name     | Director (Planning & Research), BSCIC, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208                            |
| 4 Procuring Entity District | Dhaka   |
| 5 Invitation for            | Conducting a Research on "Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level." |
| 6 EoI Ref No                | 36.02.0000.035.16.001.24  |
| 7 Date                      | 03-08-2025  |

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 8 Procurement Method         | Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) |
| 9 Budget and Source of Funds | GOB                                     |

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 10 Project / Programme Name  | Conducting a Research on "Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level."  |
| 11 EoI Closing Date and Time | Expression of interest shall be submitted by 12:30 pm (BST) on 31-08-2025 in a sealed envelope to be delivered to Director (Planning & Research) and be clearly marked on the top of the envelope "Expression of Interest for Conducting a Research on Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level." |
| 12 EoI Opening Date and Time | 31-08-2025 at 2.00 pm (BST)  |

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 13 Brief Description of the Assignment                    | As Per ToR  |
| 14 Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Requirement | The bidder must have solid feasibility studies experience and operational strength to undertake this work forward without any hindrances. Bidder must also have adequate technical ability, resources, human resources and processes. As such, following are defined as minimum eligibility criteria:   |
|   | 1. Minimum 03 (Three) years' experience as a registered company/entity.   |
|   | 2. At least 01 (One) production process or salt related research/studies completed as consulting firm. Completion Certificate must be submitted.  |
|   | 3. Must submit updated Trade license, Income tax and VAT certificate.   |
|   | 4. Needs to have full time experienced human resource as per Terms of Reference (TOR).  |
|   | 5. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the firm shall be Tk. 15 (Fifteen) lakh. Bank Solvency certificate will not be allowed. Bank guarantee Certificate/ Bank Statement of after publication of EOI date must be submitted.   |
|   | 6. Yearly average turnover of the firm shall be at least Tk. 50 (Fifty) lakh in last 3 (Three) years. Payment certificate must be submitted.  |
|   | 7. Multiple Companies having technical and legal competency for conducting such research can bid jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company needs to be master. Master company needs to fulfill all conditions mentioned in TOR. Joint-venture agreement needs to have clear identification about each responsibility. |

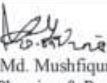
A shortlist of consultants/firms will be prepared upon evaluation of EOIs of the eligible applicants and "Request for Proposals" document will be issued in their favor. Consultants/firms will be selected through the Quality and Cost Based (QCBS) method. Total duration of the contract will be 06 Months.

Interested Applicants may obtain further information from the address below.

Allowed

Khondokar Md. Mushfiqur Rahman  
Director (Planning & Research)  
BSCIC Head Office, 398, Mayor Anisul Haque road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208  
Phone: 0223314036 E-mail: [dirplanning@bsccic.gov.bd](mailto:dirplanning@bsccic.gov.bd)

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs or even change of EoI.

  
Khondokar Md. Mushfiqur Rahman  
Director (Planning & Research)  
BSCIC, Dhaka

## Reduce system loss in energy sector

Govt must address technical defects, theft, and wastage

We are concerned about the financial losses the government is facing due to "system loss" in the gas sector. Petrobangla estimates that Tk 3,500 to 4,000 crore is lost annually from inefficiencies in the supply network, which is nearly half of the government subsidies given to the sector. More specifically, Petrobangla attributes the loss to distribution defects, illegal connections, and gas theft. Some experts, however, suspect that those in charge could be masking the high cost of purchased gas as "system loss" or theft. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that a vast amount of gas remains unaccounted for. At a time when the country is grappling with a severe gas crisis, causing disruptions in industrial operations and other sectors, a loss of this magnitude is unacceptable.

Reportedly, in the fiscal year 2023-24, an average of 6.28 percent of gas was lost in the distribution lines, amounting to 2,036 million cubic metres of gas, and resulting in a financial loss of Tk 3,790 crore. However, till March of FY2024-25, the loss increased to 7.44 percent, amounting to 1,451 million cubic metres of gas and causing a financial loss of Tk 3,286 crore. Officials estimate that the full fiscal year's loss would amount to nearly Tk 4,000 crore. At a time when the government is having to import LNG from abroad, providing a substantial amount in subsidies to address the country's gas shortage, such avoidable losses are deeply concerning. Reportedly, in FY2024-25, Petrobangla received Tk 8,900 crore as subsidy for the gas sector. That nearly half of that amount was lost due to gas theft and wastage is simply unthinkable.

Considering that international standards permit a maximum gas loss of only 0.20 to 0.30 percent in distribution lines, the overall system loss in our transmission and distribution network is alarmingly high. Experts also argue that the two percent loss recorded by the state-owned Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)—responsible for delivering gas from production sources to distribution intake points—is unreasonable, as high-pressure transmission lines should not allow for significant wastage. While Petrobangla officials attribute this to technical faults, experts stress the need for thorough investigation to detect potential leaks or system errors.

System loss is a critical issue that must be addressed urgently. The authorities should minimise wastage by adopting advanced technology and closely monitoring transmission and distribution line faults. Replacing outdated pipelines and fixing leakages are also essential, alongside ensuring transparency and accountability in LNG purchase. Petrobangla must strengthen its oversight and actively work to curb illegal connections. Most importantly, accelerating domestic gas exploration is vital to reduce our overreliance on costly imported LNG.

## No more excuses for Dhaka waterlogging

### We need good governance and real solutions

Waterlogging in Dhaka has become as predictable as the monsoon downpours, although they should not be mutually inevitable. According to a report, the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has identified 98 spots vulnerable to waterlogging, often leading to submerged homes and roads, hours lost in traffic gridlock, and severe disruption to daily life. This is despite the DNCC spending over Tk 650 crore on drainage development between 2020 and 2024. But lack of governance, poor planning, and disregard for environmental laws have made waterlogging a seemingly permanent curse.

The DNCC oversees 86km of canals, 300km of primary drains, and 1,200km of secondary drains. But areas like Kazipara, Shewrapara, Uttarkhan, Dakkhinkhan, and Mirpur are routinely flooded every year, indicating a system in complete collapse. The DNCC has acknowledged the problem and claims to have cleaned canals and conducted assessments. But this is too little, too late.

It is common knowledge that unplanned urbanisation over decades is responsible for the destruction of Dhaka's natural drainage system. In 1995, water bodies made up 20.57 percent of central Dhaka. Today, they account for only 2.9 percent. Green space has also declined—from 22 percent to nine percent over the same period. This indiscriminate encroachment has left a city paralysed by floods after even a moderate downpour. Most water bodies, drains, and canals are clogged with plastic and solid waste. Although DNCC has made efforts to clean canals, these have failed to deliver long-term results. Outdated and inadequate drainage systems have only worsened the crisis.

We urge the interim government to take bold action to address this crisis. The outdated 2015 drainage plan must be revised to reflect changing climate patterns, population growth, and rapid urban expansion. Encroachment of canals, water bodies, and flood flow zones must be stopped, and illegal structures preventing drainage must be removed. The government must also ensure that the two city corporations (North and South), WASA, and the Department of Environment work in a coordinated manner to address the waterlogging crisis.

Community-level programmes should also be initiated to involve citizens in maintaining cleaned canals. This includes forming local monitoring groups, incentivising proper waste disposal, and launching awareness campaigns. Moreover, there must be accountability and transparency in all public works. Citizens have the right to know how public funds allocated to address waterlogging have been spent, and to what effect. The authorities must also prioritise building a sustainable drainage system over superficial cleanups that offer little long-term relief.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### Unprecedented feat of US submarine

On this day in 1958, the US atomic submarine Nautilus passed beneath the thick ice cap of the North Pole, an unprecedented feat.

# EDITORIAL

## What young people want a year on from July uprising



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SEЛИM RAIHAN

Young people in today's Bangladesh are at a pivotal juncture. On the one hand, they are more educated, connected, and ambitious than any previous generation. On the other hand, they face a relatively tougher reality: shrinking economic opportunities, an outdated education system, and political structures that largely exclude them. Tensions over these challenges reached a boiling point during the 2024 July uprising, when young people took to the streets in a massive wave of protests and toppled the authoritarian regime of Awami League.

About a year after that upheaval, the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), in collaboration with ActionAid Bangladesh, launched the Youth Survey 2025. This nationally representative study, encompassing 2,000 young individuals aged 15 to 35 across all eight divisions, highlights the experiences and expectations of young people during this period of change. The results present a sobering yet hopeful picture: young people feel disillusioned, but they have not given up. They seek reform, not empty promises. Above all, they want to be heard.

**Education-employment disconnect**  
The survey reveals a significant gap between education and employability. Only 14.5 percent of the survey respondents believe their education has adequately prepared them for the job market. A startling 30.8 percent said their education had little to no effect on their readiness for employment. This underscores a fundamental failure of the current education and training systems to adjust to the evolving needs of the economy. While nearly half of the surveyed are still in school, more than 37 percent have dropped out, citing early marriage, financial struggles, etc.

Among those employed, three-quarters work in the service sector. However, these jobs are insufficient: 13.7 percent are actively seeking work without success, and an alarming 39 percent are "disengaged" entirely, meaning they are neither studying nor working, nor even searching for employment. These discouraged youths form a ticking time bomb for

both the economy and the social fabric.

**A generation locked out**  
Why are so many young people unable to access opportunities? One word dominates their responses: nepotism. Over 54 percent of the youth cite nepotism as the primary barrier to



About a year on from the July uprising, young people still feel disillusioned, but they have not given up. FILE PHOTO: STAR

employment, followed by inadequate formal education and a mismatch between academic content and labour market demands. For many, job applications lead nowhere: 45 percent reported that they had not received a single interview invitation in the past year.

The gig economy offers some hope but also exposes gaps in awareness and access. While 70.8 percent of respondents see freelancing as appealing due to its flexibility and earning potential, only 10 percent are very familiar with it. Nearly half have no knowledge of the concept at all.

Meanwhile, migration remains a compelling option. Among the youth who have never worked abroad, nearly 40 percent say they are contemplating it. The reasons are clear: better pay, improved working conditions, and a more dignified life.

believe that political parties have failed to connect with them. The message is clear: symbolic inclusion is no longer enough. Young people demand real representation and accountability.

### Youth demands: From protest to policy

To respond effectively to this generational discontent, policymakers must listen. The survey shows that the youth overwhelmingly identify education reform (94 percent) as the top national priority, followed by health (92 percent), labour market reform (90 percent), and human rights (89 percent). Gender equality, institutional governance, and minority rights are also highly ranked.

However, awareness of the actual reforms following the July uprising remains low. Nearly half of the respondents did not even hear of the

proposed reform packages, and only 2.3 percent felt fully informed. There is a rising fear among 13.5 percent that reforms will never come to fruition. This cynicism is both dangerous and preventable.

To close the gap between rhetoric and reality, future reforms must be visible, inclusive, and results-oriented. This calls for transparency in implementation, participatory planning, and targeted outreach to marginalised groups. It also requires addressing the growing concern about religion-based politics, which nearly half of the youth consider unsuitable for Bangladesh's future—especially among non-Muslim respondents, who predominantly report feeling insecure.

### A hopeful yet fragile future

Despite the bleakness of many indicators, Bangladesh's youth have not lost hope. Most still intend to vote in the upcoming election. Many believe that meaningful reforms can improve the political and economic situation. And importantly, they remain willing to engage if given a reason to believe that their engagement will make a difference.

The July uprising must continue to serve as a wake-up call—not fade into a missed opportunity. Nearly a year on from that historic moment, we stand at a crossroads: if the voices of the youth remain ignored, their frustration may harden into fatalism; but if they are heard, valued, and acted upon, they could become the driving force behind a fairer, more prosperous, and inclusive future.

## When change agents lose their way



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KAZI ASM NURUL HUDA

Last year, the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) platform stood as the moral engine of a historic moment. It united a restless generation and, for a brief moment, people of all ages found hope in its banner as students shook the foundations of a draconian political order. The July-August uprising in 2024 promised more than a revolt. It promised a new kind of politics that placed conscience above opportunism. Unfortunately, that same banner now stands smeared by scandal. Over the past week, several SAD-affiliated leaders were arrested for allegedly demanding Tk 50 lakh from a former ALMIP family in Gulshan, and it was later discovered that they also pressured another former MP into signing cheques worth crores. These are not petty lapses. They go to the core of what gave SAD its moral legitimacy.

Since this development, SAD has expelled the accused and dissolved all of its committees across the country, except for the central committee. Former leaders, including Umama Fatima, have said that this is not an isolated incident but the product of a culture that tolerated closeness to power without accountability. This is not the first such allegation. It is, however, the first time the rot has broken through the surface for everyone to see.

Accountability must also extend

to the National Citizen Party (NCP). NCP emerged from SAD, yet when it transitioned into a political party, it left SAD intact, creating two overlapping structures that blurred the line between civic movement and party machinery.

That choice was not prudent. It allowed SAD to drift on as an unregulated network while its most notable organisers moved into positions of influence inside NCP. Now that NCP holds significant political clout in the post-uprising political landscape, it cannot simply wash its hands of SAD's misdeeds. These incidents are not isolated; rather, they are the predictable outcome of a culture of informal power, favour-trading and access that NCP appears to have tolerated and, in practice, legitimised. To pretend the two are separate is to deny responsibility for the very decay that has now come back to stain them both. The trend of abusing power is not restricted to SAD, NCP, or affiliated organisations, however, with grassroots leaders of major political parties like BNP often engaging in similar crimes.

Max Weber, in his famous lecture "Politics as a Vocation," argued that politics demands three virtues: passion, responsibility, and judgement. When passion is left without the discipline of responsibility, it curdles into vanity. Vanity feeds on the thrill of power, the privilege of access, and the self-

importance that influence brings. The Gulshan extortion case makes this lesson painfully clear. Passion that once drew a generation together has, when left unchecked, turned inward, away from purpose, and towards ambition. These young leaders did not simply break the law; they broke the covenant that sustains every serious political movement. This is not a matter of a few bad actors. It is the direct result of a movement that failed to cultivate a culture in which passion is anchored by responsibility.

Isaiah Berlin adds another warning. In *The Sense of Reality*, he wrote that political judgement is not about applying formulas but about reading the texture of a moment. The hardest test comes after the banners come down, when the fire of protest must be replaced by the discipline of building institutions. SAD's leadership has stumbled here. They behaved as if last year's tactics—with their reliance on informal authority, rapid mobilisation, and easy access through banners—could remain unchanged after the uprising. They failed to see that once the moment of revolt ends, legitimacy no longer flows from the street but from a disciplined organisation. When a movement cannot make this shift, its energy leaks into the hands of opportunists. The Gulshan scandal and earlier incidents—one where SAD activists assaulted a businessman in Mirpur, and another, where 14 SAD members were sent to jail for extortion and vandalism in Kalabagan—are simply the cost of that failure. Instead of recognising that their movement demanded institution building, they continued to live off the moral credit of July as if it were inexhaustible.

Social movement scholars Francesca Polletta and Beth Garry Gardner

remind us that movements live and die by the stories told about them. Stories give meaning to sacrifice, bring diverse people together, and inspire allies. But when the story changes, trust collapses. The Gulshan incident is already replacing the story of a brave generation with another story. And once a movement loses control of its story, it loses its greatest resource. Numbers and access can be rebuilt, but moral credibility, once lost, is almost impossible to recover. If SAD's leaders treat these events as a passing lapse, they risk letting others write their final chapter. A public that once stood with them will see yet another group seduced by the temptations of power.

Rebuilding trust will take more than expelling a few names, however. It requires a cultural reset. SAD needs an independent process to investigate wrongdoing, a clear and public code of ethics, and proper leadership training. Moreover, NCP must not be allowed to stand apart as if it has no role to play in this. NCP is not a bystander here. It has benefited from SAD's rise and must answer for the structures it created but never controlled. Without this reckoning, these organisations will be remembered not for the hope they once inspired, but for how quickly they fell into the same habits of the system that they had set out to challenge.

Bangladesh cannot afford to see another generation's idealism fade into cynicism. For SAD, as well as for NCP, this is a moment that will define their legacy. If they confront what has gone wrong, they may still reclaim the promises of July. If they turn away, they will lose the trust they inspired, and the banner that once stood for hope will be remembered only as a warning of what happens when a movement forgets why it was born.

# 'There is no reason not to accept OHCHR assistance'

**Barrister Sara Hossain**, a Supreme Court lawyer and the honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), talks to **Monorom Polok** of **The Daily Star** about the role of the UN rights mission in Bangladesh and the current human rights situation.

**What do you see as the main role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Bangladesh right now?**

It is widely acknowledged that most Bangladeshi institutions, particularly those of accountability, have become deeply dysfunctional, and their independence severely compromised. This process has accelerated over the last few years. Therefore, it is very important to start the process of rebuilding, particularly so for the institutions of accountability and those responsible for protecting human rights.

The UN Human Rights Office can play an important role in working with public authorities and civil society to build a clearer and common understanding about the universality of human rights and their integration in our own national laws and policies. Most importantly, the UN mission can help us identify and carry out the measures needed to ensure that these rights are enforced in practice, and also begin the process of change.

**Will the OHCHR be working alongside existing institutions?**

Yes. According to my understanding, the OHCHR office in Bangladesh will supplement, complement, and assist in strengthening the capacity of local institutions to function effectively in protecting human rights. It is not supposed to replace those institutions. We still need independent and accountable courts, an independent and effective human rights commission, and law enforcement agencies that operate without discrimination and apply the law equally to all. And we need laws that are fair, just, and non-discriminatory. We are a long way from having all these in place.

Bangladesh operates with a legacy of oppressive and arbitrary laws—many colonial, but many, ironically, made post-independence under different political governments. We have an even more oppressive and arbitrary legacy of practice, significantly exacerbated in recent years. It is a major task to begin the process of correction, and having the OHCHR's office assist us in that process is a logical course of action. There is no reason not to accept this assistance, particularly at a moment when we are going through a critical transitional period.

The office will help access the experiences of other countries that have undergone transitions and put in place transitional justice systems. I hope it can help us move beyond the zero-sum situation of reprisal and revenge, which we are witnessing frequently.

**How can the OHCHR help make the National Human Rights Commission more effective?**

The public information available regarding the MOU signed by the interim government states that the OHCHR mission will be involved in providing "technical assistance and capacity-building" in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights. Given that one of the core bodies responsible for these tasks in Bangladesh is NHRC, the OHCHR office could play a role in advising on needed reforms for it to operate independently and effectively, and on how it can be reconstituted and resources needed for it to function properly.

**Some say the OHCHR hasn't been able to prevent atrocities elsewhere, like in Palestine. How relevant is that concern in our context, especially if we face repression again?**

OHCHR alone cannot prevent atrocities anywhere where there is systematic denial by the concerned state or any authority of its duties, and a failure of the international community to act. But we saw that OHCHR's fact-finding mission has been crucial in gathering evidence systematically on the atrocities that occurred in July-August last year, the mass killings and injuries, and mass arrests. We have not as yet seen any similar effort from any national body, including those that have been so vocal in denouncing OHCHR. OHCHR's mandate is focused on addressing recent serious violations, including those under the previous government. So I presume that will be their main focus, and hope that they will also be able to assist with putting in place measures to ensure that our laws, procedures, and institutions can protect against repression and repressive practices.

**Can the OHCHR help push reforms in policing or the legal system?**

Yes, I hope so. Among the reform commissions, the recommendations by several, including the Police Reform Commission and Judicial Reform Commission, have not been included



Barrister Sara Hossain

in the National Consensus Commission discussions. There are also important recommendations regarding justice in the reports of the labour, media, and women's commissions.

As the country is engaged in remembering the atrocities of July-August in 2024, we need to commit not only to remembering those killed and injured, tortured, and detained, but also to changing the conditions that led to the occurrence of such gross human rights violations. There were egregious abuses of existing laws. We lived in a state of virtual lawlessness, where we witnessed law enforcement agencies and security forces, or others, killing people with state officials sanctioning and directing such actions. While accountability efforts have started, they must be fair, just, and transparent. We need to ensure that these are accompanied by real reparations, including measures to prevent such atrocities from occurring again. The OHCHR office can play an important role in advancing the Police Commission's recommendations, and also several others, including judicial reform.

**Has the legal system, which was heavily influenced by Awami League, improved since the party's ouster?**

The interim government has taken the initiative to set up a justice reform commission. Some reforms have already started, such as online filings or hearings in some courts. But it is a different scenario when we consider the proposals for reforms to the criminal justice system, particularly on practices of arrest, detention, treatment in custody, and the making of bail orders.

The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances is a very important initiative to investigate the allegations of disappearances reported in the past 15 years. We have ratified the related UN treaty too, which, by the way, did not receive the same kind of objection as the planned OHCHR mission did. However, we are still seeing widespread arrests and detentions, and the methods used in that are questionable.

One particular area of concern, prior to last July-August, and still today, has been about the right to personal liberty and the processes for granting and denying bail. There have been improvements, but in many cases, particularly those still seen as linked to the events of July-August, we are witnessing concerning practices, especially in the refusal of bail, even in so-called "wholesale" murder cases.

At the same time, some legal reforms have taken place. For example, repeal of the draconian Digital Security Act; adoption of the cyber protection ordinance; changes to both the civil and criminal procedures to reduce backlogs in the courts; a draft law on remedies for enforced disappearances; and action to strengthen the legal aid act. Most recently, the Advisory Council approved changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure, which would bring into legislation essential safeguards in cases of arrest and detention. So things are happening with regard to changing laws.

But the paradox is that these are happening alongside concerning practices from the past, especially in "politically sensitive" cases. Change won't come overnight, but we can do much more to make the justice system fairer and non-discriminatory.

Although Awami League is no longer in control of the justice system, the real question is whether the justice system can function independently. Independence means freedom from any kind of pressure, not just

from political parties like Awami League, but also from other political forces, from public pressure, or from fear.

Many people have spoken of the fear factor operating to inhibit judges from acting independently. It's vital that judges are able to make decisions without fear or favour. Not influenced by anyone, and not afraid of consequences. It's difficult to say we are there yet.

**Are there other key areas where the interim government should have done more?**

Yes, several. Police reform should have been a top priority. Judicial reform, particularly the criminal justice system, is also a critical area.

We've seen the criminal justice system being used as a tool of retaliation and weaponised by various political groups over many years, not just in Bangladesh, but in much of South Asia.

This won't change overnight, but we should have seen more urgent efforts in this area, and some changes by now. People must be more alert to call out the repetition of bad practices from the previous regime and earlier. Arbitrary arrest and detention, in particular, need to stop. Firm action should be taken to prevent and to hold accountable those who seek to determine outcomes through threat and intimidation and "mob violence," whatever their political affiliations.

**Would you like to add anything about the OHCHR's role in Bangladesh?**

In many countries where UN missions operate, they are in post-war or post-conflict contexts. Bangladesh is not emerging from a war, but we are emerging from a period of severe and systematic repression. We still lack fully functioning, independent, and accountable institutions. Transitional justice approaches are important for us, alongside efforts to ensure justice and accountability. There is also the need for victim-centred approaches, by ensuring reparations, and truth-telling about the kinds of atrocities that have occurred, the impact those left on victims, and the roles and responsibilities of different actors to break the selective silences that have engulfed our country at different times. In this situation, the UN mission could help build the process of respect for universal human rights for society and the state.

## What can Bangladesh learn from China's rise?



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MD ABBAS

How do we harness our demographic dividend, accelerate inclusive growth, and build future-ready systems in a rapidly changing world? This is a question we must ask as Bangladesh enters a new phase of its development journey. A compelling answer, I believe, lies in the story of China, which has transformed itself in just a few decades through strategic investments in education, technology, and infrastructure. My recent visit to the country has left me convinced that Bangladesh has much to learn from this transformation.

China's progress is deeply rooted in its careful investment in education, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). From primary schools to postgraduate research institutes, it has embedded innovation, experimentation, and industry relevance into its academic culture.

At a university in Guangzhou, I saw students not just attending lectures but also actively working in state-of-the-art labs, partnering with companies on research, and even launching start-ups right from the campus. It's a model that blends theory with practice—one that Bangladesh must work towards.

Unfortunately, most of our universities still operate in silos. Curricula are outdated, many faculty members lack exposure to global developments, and there's little interaction between academia and industry. Unless we align education with market demands and technological shifts, we risk producing graduates unprepared for the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

One way forward is to forge stronger ties between Bangladeshi and Chinese institutions. Joint degree programmes, research collaborations, technology transfer, and faculty exchanges should be key to our higher education strategy. Such collaborations can also extend to our skills development centres, especially outside Dhaka, to ensure broader access to quality learning.

Technology and artificial intelligence (AI) have been central to China's transformation. In cities like Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing, I

infrastructure gaps persist. If we want to truly leap ahead, we need to develop our own tech and AI ecosystems. For instance, the ICT Division, in partnership with local universities and Chinese tech firms, among others, could initiate joint ventures to build AI-based traffic control systems, smart city platforms, and customised e-governance solutions. By co-developing technology rather than merely importing it, we not only retain value but also

While many Chinese cities use AI-powered systems to regulate traffic, manage public transport, and ensure commuter safety, Dhaka suffers from chaos, broken signals, and inadequate services, causing severe social and economic losses. To address this, we can adopt smart traffic solutions through partnerships with Chinese planners and tech firms. AI-driven traffic systems, digital public transport networks, and low-cost smart cards

could detect early signs of disease, connect patients to specialists in urban centres, and maintain digital health records with seamless efficiency. For Bangladesh, where rural health infrastructure is often poor and specialist care is concentrated in a few urban centres, this kind of model could be revolutionary. We don't necessarily need to build mega-hospitals in every upazila. Instead, what we need is a decentralised, tech-enabled healthcare model.

With support from Chinese firms and institutions, we could roll out AI-based diagnostic tools at community clinics, train health workers to use them, and connect clinics to tertiary care centres through telemedicine. Simple devices like portable ECG machines, digital thermometers, and automated prescription systems could make a real difference to people's lives.

China's cities also offer a lesson in urban planning. This is a country where cities are planned around people, sustainability, and efficiency. Parks, public spaces, walkways, and waste management systems are designed to serve communities, not just elites. In the cities, I saw how mixed-use urban zones combined housing, shopping, recreation, and public transport in a compact, eco-friendly design. Smart lighting, waste segregation, green buildings, and efficient energy use are built into the urban fabric.

In contrast, our cities suffer from unplanned growth, unsafe construction, and environmental degradation. To reverse this, we must go beyond short-term real estate incentives and develop a long-term vision for sustainable, inclusive urban spaces.

Through collaboration with Chinese urban development institutes and investment in training our city planners, Bangladesh can adopt and adapt models of green city design. Pilot projects in secondary cities like Khulna, Barishal, or Sylhet, focusing on walkability, water management, and smart utilities, can further emphasise that sustainable urbanisation is possible beyond Dhaka.

Ultimately, what impressed me most in China was not the technology itself, but how it was deployed with a deep understanding of people's needs. Development, after all, is not just about GDP or tall buildings; it's about the quality of everyday life.

For Bangladesh, the takeaway is simple but powerful. We don't need to become another China. We need to become the best version of ourselves—smart, inclusive, green, and future-ready. That transformation cannot come from the government alone. It requires the collective vision and effort of educators, researchers, health workers, technologists, urban planners, and citizens.



China's progress is deeply rooted in its careful investment in education, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

PHOTO: MD ABBAS

grow local talent and generate employment.

We also need to empower our youth to become innovators, not just users of technology. Through mentorship, innovation hubs, and a Bangladesh-China start-up bridge, our young entrepreneurs could access the capital, guidance, and networks they need to scale their ideas.

As things stand, few aspects of daily life expose the gap between China and Bangladesh as starkly as traffic management.

could transform urban mobility if designed with accessibility in mind. This would benefit everyone, ranging from rickshaw pullers to students and working-class commuters.

One of the most eye-opening experiences during my visit was observing China's health-tech revolution. Even in relatively remote areas, people accessed healthcare through digital appointment systems, mobile diagnosis apps, and AI-assisted doctors. Rural clinics were equipped with low-cost devices that

# GET UP, STAND UP

## When your musical heroes defied the authoritarian regime

**"There had been some murmurs about the one-point demand, but it was only after hitting the streets that I came to know more clearly about it, through the slogans and placards of various other protesting groups," shared vocalist Rezaul Karim Leemon.**

SHARMIN JOYA

In the charged days of July, artistes from across the country stood with the people. Musicians, too, found their voice in the revolution. They came together under a single banner, *Get Up, Stand Up*—a name borrowed from Bob Marley's timeless anthem. And with that spirit—*Get up, stand up, stand up for your rights*—they raised their voices not just for rights but against brutality, mass killings, and fear that soaked the monsoon nights.

**Before uniting all the voices**

The July Uprising shattered all notions of being 'non-political', breaking through the rigid protocols imposed over the past 16 years—protocols that bred oppression and pushed the nation to its boiling point. Yet, it was not about politics, but about survival—a fight against overwhelming odds.

"We all were individually expressing our grief and anger through our social media handles," said vocalist Hasan Aether, one of the group Highway's founders. "I remember it was as early as July 18."



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

artistes alongside Samogeet, Shayan apa, Ghaasphoring, and I were present," said Armeen.

Many also said that musicians were bashed because they were late in responding. Although none of the artistes we spoke to for this article could verify such an incident, Armeen's response to this is, "It wasn't the students who showed frustration to me, but rather I to my fellow musicians. I still am angry with them for their blind loyalty towards a murderous dictator."

The emotions flooded with anger, grief, and at many points of fear, unpredicted by what was coming ahead. These people, who knew that appearing in such a rally might affect their careers, or even it could be life-threatening as well. Yet, they did it with full confidence, because it was now or never.

"16 years of suppression led many to boycott artistes who spoke out against injustice, and it was done by the big agencies that were affiliated with the government. Whenever anyone spoke, they were avoided, so we were aware of that. I believe Artcell was one of the first bands to protest against the violence, and then we saw how the revolution burst into the nationwide, and it even reached the international arena. We didn't think that we would win, but we were hoping and praying every second," asserted Jewel.

Jewel's 16-year-old son didn't hesitate to raise his voice. He shared that his son joined his school friends and united for the justice that was longed for. His wife also joined in.

"On August 3, at the Shaheed Minar, that's when I first heard—directly and in person—about the one-point demand," reminisced Elita. "We saw slogans demanding the release of rapper Hannan, who had been arrested for his song *Awaaj Uda*," recalled veteran singer Elita Karim. "It was a tense moment, charged with adrenaline. Our purpose was clear: to stand against injustice and support the students facing arrests, attacks, and the unbearable bloodshed of innocent lives."

**Facing reality after a year**

"After August 5, the hierarchy of the political figures in art and culture remains, and the wastage of money on banners and boring speeches still remains. It will take more than one year for us to bring real change, I get that; however, I applaud those who have left their main jobs to attempt, but a lot of the old ways are very prevalent, and if the new elected govt isn't worldly, doesn't value art, diversity, and most of all human respect, then there's not much hope," said Armeen.

After the fall of Awami League's long tenure,

on August 8, the new interim government took oath, showing a new ray of hope. What went through the minds of people?

"I remember students taking charge of the roads, directing traffic—it felt like hope was finally manifesting. Looking back, maybe I was naive to think things would instantly improve. We want change, but the system remains stubborn. The dream that everyone would suddenly become honest, follow rules, and end corruption felt, in hindsight, unreal."

Jewel continued, "In truth, over the past year, we haven't really seen the kind of progress we had hoped for. A new party has come to power—they're talking about change—but visibly, there hasn't been any improvement. Across the country, it was students and ordinary people who carried out the movement, but their representation still hasn't been properly ensured."

**Threats to the cultural arena**

After the dream of a new nation, one year passed, and the threat and attacks on the cultural arena still continue. Be it the attack on Baul *akhra* (settlements), postponing concerts quoting 'security issues', or creating mob violence to stop female artistes from participating in the inaugural ceremonies of different shops.

"Mob violence has become a major issue, and we're feeling unsafe even to step outside," said Jewel.

"The deterioration of law and order is largely to blame for this. People are committing crimes and still getting away with it—that's one of the key reasons." He continued, "Whenever a country is in such a vulnerable situation, art and culture are usually the first to be targeted by opportunistic extremists. They just wait for the right moment—and this was a perfect chance for them."

"It is too soon to tell if it's moving in the right direction—the can of worms has been opened," said Armeen. "But I don't see a lot of politicians who inspire me to be honest. Most educated, experienced, and moral people stay away from politics, so it's slim pickings for us right now."

"One hopeful sign is that we've all, to some extent, learned to ask questions. The way the entire nation came together last July, united by a shared dream, gives me reason to believe that our country can, in time, truly become the *Shonar Bangla* we aspire to. I have dreamt of a Bangladesh where thought, spirit, and integrity stand tall with pride. Where I can hold my head high and say, I am a Bangali. But if we fail this time, then perhaps we may never get another chance," concluded Leemon.



## 'Saba', 'Pett Kata Shaw' selected for Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

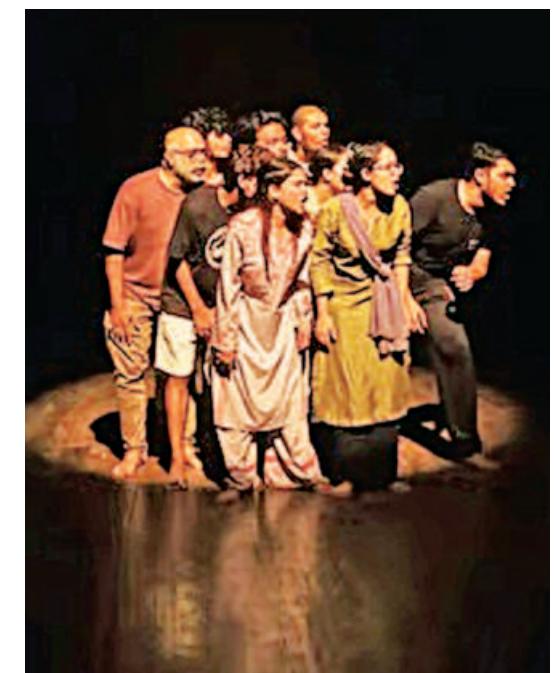
Bangladeshi productions *Saba* and *Pett Kata Shaw* have been officially selected for the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025 under the From the Subcontinent category.

Directed by Maksud Hossain, *Saba*, starring Mehzabien Chowdhury, will screen on August 17. The film follows a woman navigating financial and emotional turmoil while caring for her ailing mother.

Nuhash Humayun's horror anthology *Pett Kata Shaw*, co-written with Gultekin Khan, features Afzal Hossain, Mosharraf Karim, and Sumaiya Shimu, and will screen on August 20 and 24.

The IFFM, running from August 14 to 30, will also feature Bengali films from West Bengal and pay tribute to Ritwik Ghatak with screenings of *Titash Ekti Naderi Naam* and *Meghe Dhaka Tara*.

## 'July Reawakening Theatre Festival' underway at Shilpkala



The *July Reawakening Theatre Festival* is ongoing at Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, showcasing 11 new plays by 11 troupes in honour of the July movement. Running from July 31 to August 8, the festival revisits themes of resistance, loss, and social responsibility.

On August 1, Teerondaz Repertory premiered *Shuvonkar Haad Dhorche Cheyechhilo*, written and directed by Deepak Suman, drawing praise for its layered storytelling. *Deyal Janey Shob* by Spandan Theatre Circle also had its second showing that night.

Athera Theatre's *Rokto Kadam*, directed by Ira Ahmed, is set to stage today. Organised by the academy, the festival aims to engage the youth with cultural consciousness and was inaugurated by Secretary Mohammad Wares Hossain and director Nayla Azad's *Re-Revolt*.



Their plan to gather at Rabindra Sarobar was scheduled for August 3. Adding to this, Armeen Musa, the founder and lead vocalist of Ghaasphoring Choir, said, "Before Shaheed Minar on July 28 at Zero Point, I saw the one-point demand in the hands of Rehnamra Madam. It said 'Chhatro Khuni' (student murderers). I didn't join in their chants; I was still scared. Later, at Shaheed Minar, a group of people from all walks of life—businesspeople to day labourers—made me realise it was time to be braver."

"My direct involvement with the movement truly began after the administration's extreme oppression of students and incidents of open fire," recalls Rezaul Karim Leemon.

"We basically stood for the students, against how they were fired on the streets by the police, and innocent people getting killed. We stood for justice, and it was never a political movement for us," said Jewel.

**On August 3...**

Major bands, musicians of the country, and young musical artistes—they all showed up as planned. From there, they moved to Shaheed Minar. Upon reaching, they saw people from all walks of life were present, chanting different slogans, out of which the one-point demand was the most powerful one, and shocking to many as well.

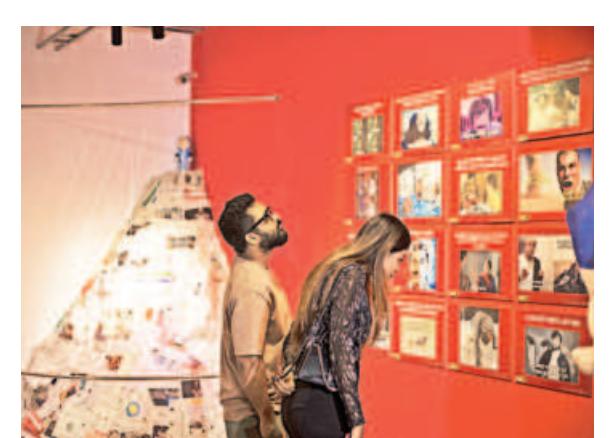
"There had been some murmurs about the one-point demand, but it was only after hitting the streets that I came to know more clearly about it, through the slogans and placards of various other protesting groups," shared vocalist Rezaul Karim Leemon.

"I didn't find myself separate from those students or protestors. From the beginning,



**Bidrupe Bidroho**, a six-day exhibition at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka in Dhanmondi, is commemorating the first anniversary of the July 2024 uprising—a 36-day movement that toppled the Awami League regime. Organised by Earki, it revives resistance not through slogans or speeches, but with satire—cartoons, memes, graffiti, installations, and interactive games. The exhibition is open to all from 3pm to 9pm daily, except Sundays, until August 5.

PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR



## Tears, tributes

FROM PAGE 3

remembered her courage, saying she could have run from the room but stayed with the children.

Masuka's brother-in-law, Khalilur Rahman, said, "After hearing about the crash, I tried to contact her over the phone but couldn't. I also came to the school looking for her but couldn't find her. Later, she was located at the hospital."

The programme began with a minute of silence in memory of the victims. Headteacher Khadija Akhter also addressed the gathering, while Nusrat Alam, English teacher of the college section, moderated the event.

The Milestone authorities announced that the college will reopen today at 10:00am, starting with a condolence programme.

The school reopening date will be announced later.

## 3 BNP men

FROM PAGE 4

and Jubair Hossain, general secretary of ward 7 unit.

Tangail city BNP General Secretary Ejazul Haque Sabuj confirmed that the three – Shah Alam, Jubair, and Rabbani – are local BNP leaders and said the party will investigate the matter. If they are found to be involved in the incident, organisational action will be taken against them, he added.

According to the case statement, on Thursday night, an unidentified person handed a letter to an employee of fish trader in Santosh area, demanding Tk five lakh.

The letter was given to the trader on Friday morning.

## PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15

JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## First charge sheet filed in Ctg July murder case

FROM PAGE 3

2024, just two days before the fall of the Awami League government.

Chandgaon police pressed the charge sheet against 231 leaders and activists of the AL and its affiliated organisations, including former ministers Hasan Mahmud, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel, and Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed.

It is the first charge sheet out of the 151 cases filed over the July uprising in Chattogram. Other accused include former mayors AJM Nasir Uddin and Rezaul Karim Chowdhury; former MPs Abu Reza Muhammad Nezamuddin Nadwi, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, MA Latif, SM Al Mamun, Mohiuddin Bachchu, Abdus Salam, Didarul Alam, and Noman Al Mahmud; former Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Mahbubul Alam; and former councillors

eight individuals and 300 to 400 unidentified others.

OC Aftab Ahmed said, "During our investigation, we found that the victim was hit by 10 bullets. Those who were on the spot and directed others to open fire were implicated in the case after investigation."

Speaking to journalists, Shahid's mother said, "I want justice, and I want to

see the accused hanged for killing my son."

According to police and court sources, 69 of the 151 cases were filed with nine police stations in the city and district, while the remaining are complaint cases filed in court. Of the 69, 15 are murder cases.

Altogether, the cases name 13,450 identified

**Shahidul Islam Shahid, an employee of a shoe store, was shot dead during a student-led movement in the Bahaddarhat area of the port city on August 3, 2024, just two days before the fall of the Awami League government.**

accused, with at least 30,000 others unnamed. Among the accused are leaders and activists of the AL, as well as non-political individuals including businessmen and professionals from various fields.

As of July 15, a total of 1,201 people have been arrested in connection with the 69 police station cases.

## People may rise again if democracy stalls: Moyeen

FROM PAGE 3

the country has not been able to move forward in its democratic transition.

"I often fear whether this new arrangement may turn into a permanent one. We want change, but not all change is true change. Back in 1/11, we saw banners and festoons across Dhaka calling to change everything, to overhaul everything. But not everything in the world can or should be changed," he said.

Revolutionary Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque also spoke.

Speaking to journalists, Shahid's mother said, "I want justice, and I want to

see the accused hanged for killing my son."

When we talk about reforms, I say reforms must not be superficial. Cosmetic changes will not change the fate of 180 million people. You may amend a few lines of the Constitution, or even rewrite the whole document, but it won't matter unless the hearts of the people who run this country change," he observed.

Revolutionary Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque also spoke.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer  
Ghior Upazila Health Complex, Manikganj

Memo No. 855

Date: 02/08/2025

## e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Supply of following goods.

| Tender ID No. | Description                      | Publication date and time | Online tender closing & opening date and time |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1135512       | Procurement of Non EDCL Medicine | 03-Aug-2025<br>10:00:00   | 18-Aug-2025<br>13:00:00                       |
| 1135513       | Supply of MSR Equipment.         | 03-Aug-2025<br>10:00:00   | 18-Aug-2025<br>13:00:00                       |
| 1135515       | Supply of Gauge, Bandage, Cotton | 03-Aug-2025<br>10:00:00   | 18-Aug-2025<br>13:00:00                       |
| 1135516       | Supply of Linen                  | 03-Aug-2025<br>10:00:00   | 18-Aug-2025<br>13:00:00                       |
| 1135517       | Supply of Chemical Reagents      | 03-Aug-2025<br>10:00:00   | 18-Aug-2025<br>13:00:00                       |
| 1135518       | Supply of Furniture              | 03-Aug-2025<br>10:00:00   | 18-Aug-2025<br>13:00:00                       |

This is 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 document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through a registered bank branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

208/25

Dr. Hasib Ahsan

Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer  
Ghior Upazila Health Complex, Manikganj

## Will sign landmark labour deal

FROM PAGE 3

Welfare and Overseas Employment organised the event to recognise 201 migrant workers as "Remittance Joddha" for their contribution to the July uprising last year.

Most of the workers were arrested during protests in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia amid the uprising. They were later pardoned by the respective authorities, following intervention by Prof Muhammad Yunus after the interim government took office.

Nazrul, adviser to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, described the solidarity of the expatriates with the local protest as an "extraordinary act of

sacrifice".

"You did not know the regime would change or that you would be released. You could still be in jail for a long time. Such sacrifice sets an example against injustice," he said.

Lutfey Siddiqi, the chief adviser's special envoy for international affairs, said the UAE's general amnesty, granted following a single phone call from the chief adviser, was unprecedented.

"The expatriates didn't just protest in the streets; they launched an economic resistance by halting remittance flows, essentially declaring war against fascism," he added.

At the event, some of the returnee workers also spoke.

"We were jailed based on

false information provided

to the UAE authorities,"

said Alam Abdul Gafur,

returnee.

who returned from the UAE and was one of 11 individuals sentenced to life among the 214 detained there.

He said the UAE authorities still held 26 of the expatriates who had been detained alongside them.

"We, 188, have been released and sent back to Bangladesh. For the sake of their families, the government must act to bring the others back."

Some of us have around Tk 10-12 crore invested there, which is stuck. Many of us have been left penniless, he said.

Another returnee, Mizanur Rahman, demanded one-time grants and monthly allowances for them, similar to those provided to "July Joddhas".

Firoz Ahmed, writer and politician; Sajid Sharif, poet and editor; and Salimullah Khan, writer, educator, and thinker.

The programme concluded with a vibrant cultural segment, featuring performances by cultural organisation Samageet, Kafil Ahmed, Warda Ashraf, Muiz Mahfuz, Hasan Aether (Highway), Deepak Suman, Sina Hasan (Bangla Five), Alkil Ashraf (Pseudos on a Wrong Route), Upoma, Nizam Rabby, Sharif, and Teerondaz.

## Artistes unite to honour martyrs

FROM PAGE 3

educators, filmmakers, photographers, theatre practitioners, writers, orun geche osthachole", featured prominent cultural figures who played vital roles during the movement.

The inaugural programme kicked off with speeches by Shamsi Ara Zaman, mother of martyred journalist Tahir Zaman Priyo, and Sabrina Afroz Sabonti, sister of Shaheed Mahamudur Rahman Soikot.

Later, a special discussion programme was held, which was divided

into two sessions. The first, titled "Tara ki phiribe aij shuprobhate. Joto torun or shikol bhang," featured prominent cultural figures who played vital roles during the movement.

Participants included Shahidul Alam, renowned photographer and rights activist; Azmeri Haque Badhan, actress; Hasan Aether, musician; Taslima Akhter, photographer and political activist; Ritu Sattar, artist and filmmaker; Mushfiqur

Rahman Manju, film producer; Krishnendu Chattopadhyay, filmmaker; and Edila Farid Turin, costume designer.

The final session featured another discussion titled "Koto biplobi bondhur rokti ranga. Bondishalar oi shikol bhang."

Participants included Samina Luthfa, theatre activist and educator; Shireen Parveen Huq, women's rights activist; Munem Wasif, artist and educator; Amirul Rajib, art historian and curator;

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Public Administration

Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

www.mopa.gov.bd

No: 05.00.0000.113.07.036.2025-701

Date : 31-07-2025

## e-Tender Notice No. 1/2025-26

Ministry of Public Administration of Bangladesh invites the following tender in the National e-GP Portal:

| Si | Tender Id | Name of Supply       | Publishing Date and Time | Closing Date and Time  |
|----|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1  | 215775    | Computer Consumables | 03 August 2025 & 10.00   | 17 August 2025 & 14.00 |

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. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal should be deposited online through any registered Bank.

Further Information and Guidelines are Available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

31-07-25

Md. Abu Aowl

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration

Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Phone: 55100540

## BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD

POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Memo No-27.12.6152.118.07.011.25.66

Date: 30-07-2025

## e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Construction of Modupur Zonal Office, Ansar Barrack cum Garage & Entrance gate with Gurad Room, Boundary Wall, Pump House with UGWR, Deep Tubewell, Internal Road and Surface Drain at Mymensingh PBS-1 under PBS fund. Tender security amount will be in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of General Manager Mymensingh PBS-1. Tender submission deadlines are mentioned below:

| Sub-package lot No   | Description of Works/Goods   | Tender ID No | Closing Date | Closing Time |
|----------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| MPBS-1/CW/MZO/AB-G-1 | Construction of 2 storied Ansar Barrack cum Garage on 3 storied Foundation at Modupur Zonal Office under Mymensingh PBS-1. | 1133987      | 25.08.25     | 11:00        |
| MPBS-1/CW/MZO/G/     |  |              |              |              |

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ওয়েজেজ আর্নার্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড

প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়

প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন

৭১-৭২, ইন্সট্রন গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০

(www.wewb.gov.bd)

নম্বর:১৯.০৪.০০০০.০০৪.১৮.১২৫.২৫-৮৮৯

তারিখ: ১৫ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২

তারিখ: ৩০ জুলাই ২০২৫

## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন ওয়েজেজ আর্নার্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের নিয়োগে পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত শর্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (<http://wewb.teletalk.com.bd>) আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

অনলাইন ব্যাচ্চাত কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না:

| ক্রম | পদের নাম ও বেতনক্রম<br>(জাতীয় বেতনক্রম,<br>২০২৫) | পদের সংখ্যা     | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা   |
|------|---|-----------------|---|
| ১.   | সহকারী পরিচালক<br>(গ্রেড-৯)                       | ১০<br>(দশ)টি    | কোন স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে-<br>(ক) প্রথম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রকোতৰ বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিঃ অথবা<br>(খ) অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রক বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিসহ<br>অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রকোতৰ বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিঃ<br>অথবা<br>(গ) অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে ৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদি মাত্রক<br>(সম্মান) ডিপ্রি।  |
| ২.   | সহকারী পরিচালক<br>(তথ্য ও জনসংযোগ)<br>(গ্রেড-৯)   | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | কোন স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে গণযোগাযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা বিষয়ে-<br>(ক) অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রক বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিসহ<br>অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রকোতৰ বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিঃ<br>অথবা<br>(খ) অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে ৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদি মাত্রক<br>(সম্মান) ডিপ্রি।  |
| ৩.   | আরবি অনুবাদক<br>(গ্রেড-৯)                         | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোন স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে আরবি বা ইসলামী শিক্ষা (আরবি মাধ্যম) বিষয়ে-<br>(অ) অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রক সমমানের ডিপ্রিসহ<br>অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রকোতৰ বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিঃ<br>অথবা<br>(আ) অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে ৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদি মাত্রক<br>(সম্মান) ডিপ্রি; এবং<br>(খ) আরবি হইতে বাংলা বা ইংরেজি এবং বাংলা বা ইংরেজি হইতে আরবি অনুবাদ<br>কার্যে ২ (দুই) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা। |
| ৪.   | উপ-সহকারী পরিচালক<br>(গ্রেড-১০)                   | ২০<br>(বিশ)টি   | কোন স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে<br>মাত্রক বা সমমানের ডিপ্রি।   |
| ৫.   | হিসাবকরক<br>(গ্রেড-১১)                            | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্যে অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের<br>সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রক বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিসহ কম্পিউটার চালনায় দক্ষতা; এবং<br>(খ) মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগসমূহের হিসাব কোরের কর্মসূচী নিয়োগ বিদ্যমালা, ২০১৮<br>এর তফসিল-৩ অন্যায়ী গ্রহণ কর্তৃত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।   |
| ৬.   | প্রেস কিপার<br>(গ্রেড-১৩)                         | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-<br>তে মাত্রক বা সমমানের ডিপ্রি; এবং<br>(খ) কম্পিউটার চালনায় পারদর্শীতা।  |
| ৭.   | ক্যাশিয়ার<br>(গ্রেড-১৩)                          | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | কোনো স্থান্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্যে অন্যন হিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের<br>সিজিপিএ-তে মাত্রক বা সমমানের ডিপ্রিসহ কম্পিউটার চালনায় পারদর্শীতা।  |
| ৮.   | কেয়ারটেকার<br>(গ্রেড-১৬)                         | ০২<br>(দুই)টি   | কোনো স্থান্ত বোর্ড হতে অন্যন হিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে<br>উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্টার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং   |
| ৯.   | রিসিপশনিস্ট<br>(গ্রেড-১৬)                         | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বোর্ড হতে অন্যন হিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে<br>উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্টার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং<br>(খ) কম্পিউটার চালনায় পারদর্শীতা।  |
| ১০.  | ইলেক্ট্রিশিয়ান<br>(গ্রেড-১৬)                     | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বোর্ড হতে ২ (দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদি জেনারেল ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল<br>ওয়ার্কস বা ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল মেইনটেনেন্স ট্রেডে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল স্টার্টিফিকেট<br>(ডোকেশনাল); এবং<br>(খ) সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত বা অন্য কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্জে ২ (দুই)<br>বৎসরের বাস্তব কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতা।   |
| ১১.  | ডেসপাচ রাইডার<br>(গ্রেড-১৬)                       | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বোর্ড হতে অন্যন হিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে<br>উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক স্টার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং<br>(খ) লাইসেন্সহ মোটর সাইকেল চালনায় পারদর্শীতা।  |
| ১২.  | জেনারেটর ও পাম্প চালক<br>(গ্রেড-১৬)               | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বোর্ড হতে ২ (দুই) বৎসর মেয়াদি অটোমোবাইল বা<br>ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল ওয়ার্কস বা ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল মেইনটেনেন্স ট্রেডে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল<br>স্টার্টিফিকেট (ডোকেশনাল); এবং<br>(খ) সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত বা অন্য কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্জে ২ (দুই)<br>বৎসরের বাস্তব কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতা।  |
| ১৩.  | প্লাষার<br>(গ্রেড-১৬)                             | ০১<br>(এক)টি    | (ক) কোনো স্থান্ত বোর্ড হতে প্লাষিং বা পাইপ ফিটিং ট্রেডে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল<br>স্টার্টিফিকেট (ডোকেশনাল); এবং<br>(খ) সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত বা অন্য কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্জে ২ (দুই)<br>বৎসরের বাস্তব কর্ম অভিজ্ঞতা।   |
| ১৪.  | অফিস সহায়ক<br>(গ্রেড-২০)                         | ৩০<br>(ত্রিশ)টি | কোন স্থান্ত বোর্ড বা প্রতিষ্ঠানে সময় সরকারি পরিচালকের মুক্তি প্রদর্শন কর্তৃত বা সমমানের<br>পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীকার পরিচালকের মুক্তি প্রদর্শন কর্তৃত বা সমমানের  |

## আবেদনকারীদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য শর্তাবলী:

- চাকরি প্রার্থীগণ ০৭/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখ কার্যক্রম নং ১০.০০ টা হতে ০৭/০৯/২০২৫ তারিখ কার্যক্রম নং ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত অনলাইনে এই ওয়েবসাইটে (<http://wewb.teletalk.com.bd>) আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। অনলাইন (Online) ব্যাচ্চাত সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না। সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগে প্রেরিত সকল আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না। সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগে প্রেরিত সকল আবেদন বাতিল করা হবে না।
- যদি কোন প্রার্থী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক না হন কিংবা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কোন বাস্তিকে বিয়ে করেন বা করার জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানিক হন কিংবা কোন হোজেন্দারী আদালত কর্তৃত নেটওর্ক কোর্টে নেটওর্ক কর্তৃত শৃঙ্খলাজনিত অভিযোগে দণ্ডিত হন কিংবা কোন সরকারি বা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরি হতে বরখাস্ত হয়ে থাকেন তবে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। এছাড়াও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের মুক্তি প্রদর্শন কর্তৃত আবেদন করতে হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশ হিসেবে কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের মুক্তি প্রদর্শন কর্তৃত আবেদন করতে হবে।
- মুক্তিযোক্তা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোক্তা ও রায়েশনার সদস্য, স্কুল ন-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবেশী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গে কোটার প্রার্থীদের সর্বশেষ  
নীতিমালা অন্যায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সার্টিফিকেট মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের ক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক সকল ধরনের কোটা প্রক্রিয়া/নীতি অনুসরণ করা হবে। পরবর্তীতে কোটা  
সংক্রান্ত অথবা নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিধি বিধানে কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে। একেতে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিঙ্গার চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্পর্কিত যে কোন সংশোধন, সংযোজন (যদি থাকে) বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইটে (<http://wewb.gov.bd>) এবং (<http://wewb.teletalk.com.bd>) ওয়েবস



## Breaking the silence on hepatitis!

On 28 July 2025, the world observed World Hepatitis Day, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) calling on governments and partners to accelerate efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat. The theme for this year, "Hepatitis: Let's break it down," urged action to dismantle barriers to prevention, testing, and treatment—from stigma to funding gaps.

"Every 30 seconds, someone dies from a hepatitis-related liver disease or liver cancer. Yet we have the tools to stop hepatitis," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General.

Viral hepatitis types A through E are major causes of liver infection, but only B, C, and D can lead to chronic illness and raise the risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer. These three types affected over 300 million people globally and caused more than 1.3 million deaths annually.

Hepatitis D was recently classified as carcinogenic to humans, like hepatitis B and C. WHO published updated testing guidelines for hepatitis B and D in 2024 and continued monitoring clinical outcomes from new treatments.

Hepatitis C remained curable with oral medication in 2–3 months, while hepatitis B could be controlled with lifelong therapy. Treatment options for hepatitis D were still evolving. WHO stressed that expanding services—vaccination, testing, harm reduction, and treatment—within national health systems was essential.

WHO also partnered with Rotary International and the World Hepatitis Alliance to amplify global advocacy and emphasise the critical role of community leadership in eliminating hepatitis and reducing liver cancer deaths by 2030.

Source: World Health Organisation

The fundamentals of fat loss:  
A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

RAISA MEHZABEEN

In an era dominated by fad diets and quick fix solutions, sustainable fat loss remains a topic riddled with misconceptions. Many individuals embark on extreme diets or punishing workout regimens, only to find themselves frustrated with little to no long term results. However, evidence-based strategies highlight a more practical and sustainable approach to fat loss—one that prioritises lifestyle changes over drastic restrictions.

At the core of fat loss lies a calorie deficit—consuming fewer calories than the body expends. However, this does not imply starvation; rather, it emphasises mindful eating, where protein intake plays a crucial role.

Including protein in every meal aids in satiety, muscle preservation, and overall metabolic health. Complementing this with regular movement, such as getting sufficient steps daily, ensures that energy

expenditure remains consistent.

Beyond diet and movement, hydration and sleep serve as foundational pillars for effective fat loss. Water intake not only supports digestion and metabolism but also helps regulate hunger cues.



Meanwhile, quality sleep is essential for hormone balance, recovery, and overall energy regulation.

Strength training, ideally two to three times a week, is another key aspect. Unlike excessive cardio, which may lead to muscle loss, strength training helps build lean

muscle mass, improving metabolic rate and body composition. Minimising alcohol consumption also aids in fat loss, as alcoholic beverages often contribute empty calories while impairing metabolism and recovery.

Perhaps one of the most overlooked yet essential aspects of fat loss is the mental approach. The pressure to adhere to a "perfect" routine often leads to guilt and burnout. Instead, adopting a flexible mindset—where progress is prioritised over perfection—fosters consistency and long-term success.

In essence, fat loss is not about deprivation but about making sustainable choices that support overall well-being. By focusing on these fundamental principles, individuals can achieve not just weight loss but a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.

The writer is the founder & CEO of Nutrition For Change. E-mail: raisamch20@gmail.com

## Why friendships are your life's quiet superpower

We often underestimate just how powerful friendship really is. While careers, routines, and to-do lists fill up our days, it is often the people we share laughter, stories, and silence with who leave the biggest impact on our lives.

Real friends do more than fill up your contact list—they uplift your mood, support your goals, and remind you who you are when you forget. Whether it is a shoulder to cry on or someone to split dessert with, meaningful connections can improve your mental and even physical health. In fact, strong

friendships have been linked to lower stress, better heart health, and even longer lifespans.

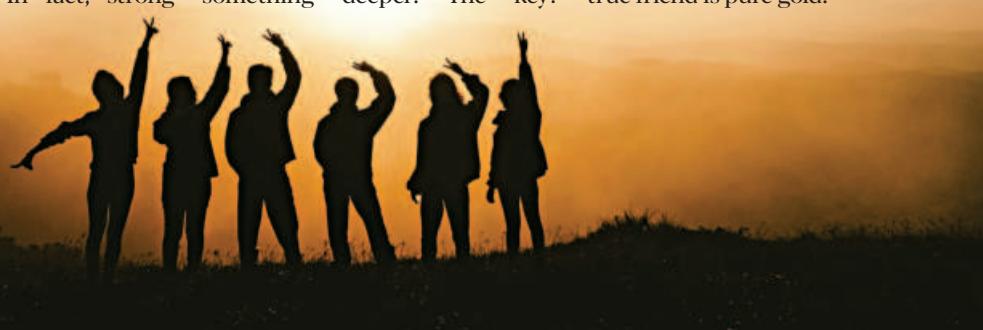
Still, meaningful friendships do not happen overnight. They take time, honesty, and effort from both sides. You do not need dozens of friends—just a few good ones who truly get you.

Looking to meet new people? Try joining a hobby group, volunteering, attending local events, or taking up a new class. Even reconnecting with an old acquaintance could lead to something deeper. The key?

Be open, approachable, and interested.

And remember, while friends can be amazing emotional support, they are not a substitute for mental health care. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stuck, do not hesitate to seek professional guidance.

Not every conversation will turn into a lifelong bond—and that is fine. Keep showing up with kindness and authenticity, and the right people will find you. Because in a world that often feels noisy, a true friend is pure gold.

NATURE'S FIRST NUTRITION  
Prioritising breastfeeding for a healthier future

DR AHAD ADNAN

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a powerful reminder of the vital importance of breastfeeding, both for child development and societal well-being. First commemorated in 1992 by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), this global event—now supported by WHO and UNICEF—aims to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life. World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2025 is observed globally from 1 to 7 August 2025. Breast milk provides essential nutrients, prevents life-threatening diseases, and supports optimal physical and cognitive development. The official theme for WBW 2025 is "Prioritise breastfeeding: create sustainable support systems."

Every mother must be informed of the optimal feeding practices. The national guidelines recommend initiating breastfeeding within one hour of birth, providing only breast milk for the first six months, and introducing nutritious, hygienically prepared complementary foods from the seventh month up to two years. Antenatal counselling should emphasise the advantages of breast milk, the dangers of formula, correct feeding techniques, milk storage methods, and the importance of maternity leave.

Breast milk alone meets all a baby's energy and nutritional needs for the first six months. It reduces the risk of diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and many other non-communicable diseases. For mothers, breastfeeding not only helps reduce post-delivery complications but also lowers the risk of osteoporosis and cancers of the breast, ovaries, and uterus.

Formula feeding, on the other hand, is expensive, contributes to illness and malnutrition, undermines mother-child bonding, and contradicts nature's intent. By discouraging unnecessary formula use and supporting proper complementary feeding, we can help prevent undernutrition, obesity, frequent infections, and developmental delays.

So why would a mother choose otherwise? Often, it comes down to incorrect latching, poor positioning, or a lack of understanding of how breast milk is produced and released. Health professionals must take responsibility for addressing these issues through early support and education.

Workplace conditions also play a critical role. Many working mothers struggle due to a lack of maternity leave, privacy, or facilities for expressing and storing milk. Supportive, family-friendly workplace policies—such as paid

parental leave, breastfeeding breaks, safe and clean lactation spaces, and accessible childcare—are essential. These not only help mothers continue breastfeeding but also promote workforce participation, employee satisfaction, and long-term economic gain.

Fathers should also be encouraged to take paternity leave, fostering shared responsibilities in child-rearing and promoting gender equality.

Though maternity leave in Bangladesh lasts six months, many other countries fall short. Even in nations with resources, emotional and societal support for breastfeeding remains insufficient. The situation is even more fragile in developing countries, where working mothers receive minimal help.

No discussion of breastfeeding in Bangladesh would be complete without honouring Professor Dr M Q K Talukder, a pioneer of the breastfeeding movement. His advocacy continues to inspire the fight against artificial feeding and empowers mothers nationwide. In this World Breastfeeding Week, his legacy serves as a guiding light for a healthier, more natural future.

The writer is a child specialist and registrar at the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH), Matuail, Dhaka. Email: ahadann@gmail.com

RSV  
The winter virus that can break more than just your breath

Most people think of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) as a common winter illness that causes coughs, colds, or breathing problems—especially in older adults. But a recent study published in the Clinical Infectious Diseases suggests that RSV may pose a far more serious risk to the heart than previously believed.

Researchers looking at adults hospitalised with RSV found that a large number experienced heart-related problems, not just during their illness but especially in the first month after getting infected. These heart complications included heart failure, irregular heartbeats like atrial fibrillation, and even heart attacks. Shockingly, many of these patients had no previous history of heart disease.

In fact, the risk of having a heart problem during RSV infection was much higher than in the six months before getting sick. Most of these complications occurred within the first week of falling ill.

What is more worrying is that more than half of the cases were first-time heart events, meaning RSV may actually trigger these conditions, not just worsen existing ones.

This new research sends a clear message: RSV is not just a lung infection—it can seriously affect your heart too. With colder months approaching and RSV season returning, older adults and people with underlying health conditions should stay alert.

Prevention, early diagnosis, and proper care during RSV illness may help lower the risk of these hidden and dangerous complications. As science learns more, it is clear that RSV deserves just as much attention as the flu or COVID when it comes to heart health.



## Bridge Gaps, Deliver Nutrition to All

**The Daily Star (TDS):** How has Care Nutrition Ltd's (CNL) fortified complementary foods and micronutrient supplements improved nutritional outcomes for mothers and children in underserved communities, and what evidence supports these impacts?

**Ali Amjad Hussain (AAH):** There is significant clinical evidence supporting the efficacy of the humanitarian products we produce, including Small Quantity Lipid Based Nutritional Supplements (LNS SQ), Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF), Ready to Use Supplemental Foods (RUSF), Microbiota Directed Food (MDF), and Lipid Based Nutritional Supplements for Pregnant and Lactating Women (LNS PLW). The specific evidence varies based on the product, target population, and study design, but generally these products have been shown to improve nutritional status and health outcomes. We are happy to share more specific details with anyone interested in learning more about the specific products and clinical trials.

Our commercial products borrow from this clinical evidence, though we have not conducted randomised control trials of their efficacy as these products are meant to be consumed by the general population and not distributed through humanitarian, government, or public health channels. When we develop any of our commercial products, we aim to include many of the same macro and micronutrients as are in our humanitarian products in order to create significantly more nutritious alternatives to the most popular imported brands, and to make them available at prices all families in Bangladesh can afford.

**TDS:** How does CNL ensure that its

nutrition products are accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate for low-income and rural populations, particularly in addressing specific dietary needs and preferences?

**AAH:** When we develop our commercial products, we focus on identifying the product categories and formats that are most popular with consumers already and that can be formulated to incorporate key macro and micronutrients without negatively impacting



**TDS:** How does CNL monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its interventions in diverse settings, and what key lessons from past efforts are informing future strategies for scaling impact in low-resource regions?

**AAH:** For clinical and humanitarian products, we partner with teams of physician scientists to conduct clinical trials and evaluate efficacy. Some of our clinical research partners include Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Washington University in St. Louis, icddr,b, Médecin Sans Frontières, and The

**Ali Amjad Hussain**  
Managing Director at Care Nutrition Ltd.

Gates Foundation.

**TDS:** In what ways have development partners like iDE supported CNL's mission, and how can such collaborations be leveraged further for community education, co-funded initiatives, local capacity building, and sustained knowledge sharing?

**AAH:** iDE is a key development partner of Care Nutrition Ltd. (CNL), advancing a market-led approach to nutrition access in remote, low-income areas of Bangladesh. Through community education and retailer engagement, iDE raises awareness of good nutrition and CNL's products. Expanding this partnership by co-funding pilots, building local capacity, and sharing lessons will help more vulnerable families access affordable, nutritious foods in hard-to-reach communities.

*This content has been published under 'Catalyzing Markets' - a media campaign jointly initiated by iDE and The Daily Star. This interview is conducted by Zahidur Rabbi*

## BUTTERFLY

## In Full Flight



France's Maxime Grousset roars after winning the men's 100m butterfly at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore yesterday. The 26-year-old edged Switzerland's Noe Ponti and Canada's Ilya Kharun in 49.62 seconds -- the third-fastest time in history and a new European record. It was his second gold of the meet after the 50m butterfly and his seventh individual Worlds medal across four events. Often overshadowed by compatriot Leon Marchand, Grousset reaffirmed his status as a sprint butterfly powerhouse.

PHOTO: AFP

"What did I just do? That's crazy!"

Grousset said, clearly thrilled after the race.

## What to WATCH

SONY SPORTS 1  
England vs  
India  
Fifth Test, Day 4  
Live from 4:00 pm

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates after reaching his sixth Test ton on Day 3 of their fifth and decisive Test against hosts England at The Oval on Saturday. Jaiswal's innings was not without fortune -- he was dropped twice, on 20 and 40. England pacer Josh Tongue removed Jaiswal after a 164-ball 118, laced with 14 boundaries and two maximums. At Tea, the visitors were 304 for six in their second innings, leading by 281 runs, meaning England will have to record the highest chase at this venue. The standing record was made in 1902 by England when they chased 263 against Australia.



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Carlsen breaks new ground

AGENCIES

Magnus Carlsen, the world's number one grandmaster, clinched the inaugural chess title at the Esports World Cup (EWC) in Riyadh, pocketing \$250,000 and redefining chess' place in modern competitive gaming.

The Norwegian star swept French rival Alireza Firouzja 2-0 in the final, reaffirming his dominance while embracing a futuristic stage for the ancient game.

The EWC, featuring 25 popular titles from Call of Duty to League of Legends, included chess for the first time this year, sparking debate over its esports credentials. But organisers' gamble paid off, with packed audiences, giant screens, and heart-rate monitors giving chess an electrifying new look.

Carlsen, also serving as an EWC ambassador, thrived in this high-octane environment, calling it "an amazing show, unlike anything I've seen." His win also propelled Team Liquid to the top of the EWC Club Championship standings, edging out 2024 winners Team Falcons.



Already having won the Norway Chess, Grenke Chess Freestyle, and the Chess.com Champions Tour in 2025, Carlsen's latest triumph cements his adaptability in both classical and digital arenas.

"New ground conquered," he posted on X, 'hailing chess' debut on the esports stage. "I hope this is a big part of the future for chess. Maybe next year, on an even bigger stage."

Carlsen's seamless leap into esports underscores his willingness to evolve with the game--whether campaigning for relaxed dress codes or embracing online formats. As he left the stage with trophy and triangular champion's key in hand, one thing was clear: Magnus Carlsen is rewriting how chess is played, watched, and imagined.

## Taijul swings BEYOND SPIN

EKUSH TAPADER

Following back-to-back series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan last month, the national cricketers are currently enjoying a rare breather, having been granted a short break -- and they're making the most of it.

Bangladesh T20 captain Litton Das has taken a family trip abroad to celebrate his wedding anniversary, sharing wholesome moments with his wife and child. Meanwhile, Mustafizur Rahman, ever the quiet soul, is embracing his downtime with a relaxing holiday far from the cricket pitch.

For a group under constant spotlight and scrutiny, it's a rare chance to pause. But it's not all quiet at the home of cricket in Mirpur. While Litton and Mustafizur bask in family time and freedom, some of their teammates are staying close to the grind.

Take wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali Anik, for instance. On Saturday, he was spotted working up a sweat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Not far behind was flamboyant stroke maker Soumya Sarkar, determined to push his way back into national contention.

Then there's Taijul Islam, Bangladesh's ever-reliable Test spinner. With no red-ball assignments until November, Taijul has turned his attention to the National League. Interestingly enough, he wasn't bowling the other day -- he was batting!

Guided by spin coach Sohel Islam at the BCB Academy ground, Taijul focused on sharpening his skills with the bat.



PHOTO: BCB

It might raise eyebrows, but the move makes sense. Expectations from tail-enders have grown, and Taijul is keen to add extra runs from the lower order. His highest Test score remains 47, with just two first class fifties to his name. But his recent defensive solidity suggests that, with a bit of extra effort, he could become more than just a bowling asset.

Soon, the quiet will give way to intensity. The Bangladesh Cricket Board is planning a short T20 series against the Netherlands in Sylhet later this month to keep the team sharp before the Asia Cup in the UAE.

A training camp begins on August 6, with power-hitting coach Julian Wood joining on August 10. Selectors will also keep a close

eye on the 'A' team versus 'HP' team series in Chattogram for potential late call-ups. To ensure mental readiness, psychologist David Scott will work with the squad ahead of their Asia Cup opener on September 9.

For now, though, it's a fleeting window of calm before a packed calendar: the Asia Cup, followed by relentless T20 cricket in the build-up to next year's World Cup.

Whether it's Litton's getaway, Mustafizur's escape, or Taijul sharpening the blade, each player is recharging in their own way before regrouping in Sylhet -- because come September, Tigers' rollercoaster resumes, making this their last relaxing breath of fresh air before the storm.

## SHORT CORNER

## Annie, Rafi fail to match personal best in 50m events

Bangladesh's swimmers Annie Akter and Samiul Islam Rafi failed to improve their personal bests in the 50m events at the ongoing World Aquatics Championships in Singapore yesterday. Annie clocked 31.39 seconds in the women's 50m freestyle event -- slightly off her previous best of 31.05. Rafi recorded a time of 27.21 seconds in the men's 50m backstroke, falling short of his personal best of 26.90.

## 'Abahani will always remain a cherished chapter in my life'

Captain of Abahani last season, Mohammad Ridoy, moved to Bashundhara Kings recently, but the midfielder stated that he shares a special connection with his former club. "Abahani will forever remain a cherished chapter in my life, etched in my heart," Ridoy wrote on Facebook.

\*\*Read full stories on The Daily Star's website



Bangladesh under-20 women's football team reached Vientiane yesterday to take part in the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers. The SAFF U-20 Women's Championship winners, who have been placed in Group H, will play against hosts Laos on August 6, Timor Leste on August 8 and South Korea on August 10. Eight group winners along with best three second-place finishers will join hosts Thailand in the AFC Asian U-20 Women's Asian Cup, to be played in April next year.

PHOTO: BFF

## Transfer window heats up as clubs go big

AGENCIES

The football summer transfer window is in full swing, with clubs across the Premier League, LaLiga, Bundesliga, Serie A, and Ligue 1 making significant moves to strengthen their squads for the 2025-26 season. High profile transfers and intense speculation dominate the headlines as teams vie for top talent and address key areas, while several major sagas continue to unfold.

Here's a look at some of the most prominent confirmed deals and ongoing transfer battles:

## Liverpool splash the cash

Arne Slot's Liverpool have been one of the most active clubs this window, bringing their total summer spend to approximately €284 million, making them Europe's biggest spenders.

Florian Wirtz headlines the arrivals, joining from Bayer Leverkusen for €136 million on a five-year contract.

French striker Hugo Etikite arrives from Eintracht Frankfurt for a reported €75 million, potentially rising to €92 million with add-ons. The 23-year-old, who scored 22 goals and provided 12 assists last season, adds a physical presence and finishing ability up front.

Liverpool also strengthened their flanks with Jeremie Frimpong (Leverkusen, €34 million) and Milos Kerkez (Bournemouth,



€46 million), both expected to rejuvenate the full-back positions.

The Merseyside club is also pursuing Alexander Isak from Newcastle United. A reported £110 million bid was rejected, with the Magpies holding out for over £150 million. Talks are ongoing.

**Luis Diaz to Bayern: A new chapter in**

**Manchester Utd reinforce with Cunha and Mbeumo**

Matheus Cunha joined Manchester United

who joined Bayern Munich for a reported €75 million, including add-ons. The Colombian, who won a Premier League, two League Cups, and an FA Cup with the Reds, signed a four-year contract until 2029. At 28, Diaz adds explosive pace and direct attacking flair to Julian Nagelsmann's squad.

**Manchester Utd reinforce with Cunha and Mbeumo**

Matheus Cunha joined Manchester United

from Wolves for €73 million, signing a deal until 2030. A versatile forward who excels in pressing systems, Cunha brings movement and creativity across the front line. His ability to drop deep and link play suits Ruben Amorim's fluid attacking structure.

United also added Bryan Mbeumo from Brentford for £65 million, with another £6 million in potential add-ons. The Cameroonian international scored 20 Premier League goals last season -- behind only Mohamed Salah, Isak, and Erling Haaland -- and is expected to provide consistent scoring and work rate from wide or central areas. Together with Cunha and Bruno Fernandes, Mbeumo will form a dynamic, mobile front three that could solve United's long-standing scoring problems.

## Joao Pedro to Chelsea: Attack reinforced

Chelsea continued their recruitment drive by signing Joao Pedro from Brighton for €63.7 million. The 23-year-old signed a long-term deal through 2033. Pedro's ability to operate across the front line offers manager Enzo Maresca added flexibility in attack. Pedro has already shown his quality helping The Blues to a FIFA Club World Cup triumph in the USA with three goals.

## Viktor Gyokeres joins Arsenal

Arsenal have addressed a long-standing need for a traditional centre-forward by signing Viktor Gyokeres from Sporting CP for €74 million. The Swedish striker is powerful, physically dominant, and offers excellent

hold-up play. His ability to bring others into play and finish in the box will provide Mikel Arteta's side with a consistent goal threat -- something that was missing in tight games last season. Gyokeres' aerial ability will also be useful in set-piece situations, an area Arsenal have mastered in recent seasons. This particular signing has been seen as a game-changer and might just be the missing key that will bring Mikel Arteta's Arsenal a Premier League title.

## The ongoing sagas: Sesko, Simons, and Isak

Newcastle have submitted an €80 million bid for the 21-year-old striker. However, reports suggest the player prefers a move to Manchester United, who are also actively in talks. Sesko's mix of pace and finishing ability makes him one of the most sought-after young forwards in Europe.

Chelsea appear to be closing in on Xavi Simons. Reports indicate a deal worth €60 million, rising to €70 million with add-ons, is nearly complete. Simons has reportedly agreed personal terms, and his removal of Leipzig references from social media has fueled the speculation.

Meanwhile, Liverpool remain in pursuit of completing the hottest deal of the summer for Isak, despite their first offer being rejected by Newcastle. Fabrizio Romano reports that Isak is open to the move, with Liverpool continuing negotiations.

## Four of a family killed as train hits auto-rickshaw



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five people, including four of a family, died when a train hit a CNG-run auto rickshaw at an unauthorised level crossing in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victims were Renu Ara, 35, of Chadakpara village of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila; her sister Asma Ara, 13; and Renu's two sons -- three-year-old Ashek Ullah and one-and-a-half year old Ata Ullah -- and auto-rickshaw driver Habib Ullah, 50.

All the victims died on the spot, said Tayebur Rahman, officer-in-

SEE PAGE II COL 1

**US TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS**  
**Boeing plane purchase was not talked about**  
**Says commerce adviser, dismisses speculations on secret deal**

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin has said the purchase of 25 Boeing aircraft from the US was not raised in the trade talks in Washington DC.

"This issue is one sided. Boeing made 12 aircraft last year. So, according to this agreement, they may be able to deliver the first aircraft in 2023."

"Boeing aircraft is not a very important issue," Bashir said, adding, "You don't buy it every day, but you buy soybean every day."

The US was interested in agricultural products, he said.

The adviser laid emphasis on boosting the operational capacity of aircraft and that the government was trying to do that.

Boeing has the potential to transport an additional 10 million passengers, he said, adding that 25 planes are not much considering this.

The adviser dismissed the speculations about any secret deal with the US in exchange for the reciprocal tariff reduction on Bangladeshi exports from 35 percent to 20 percent, saying that all discussions prioritised the national interests.

"There is no room to ignore our own interests. Whatever we did, we did by prioritising our country -- just as the US prioritises its national security."

He also noted that a Bangladeshi business delegation is now in the US, and "they will not do anything that goes against their own interests".

Bashir said the information in the trade agreement following the negotiations with the US will be released

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## Man 'beaten to death' in Khilgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was beaten to death by some members of security forces in the capital's Khilgaon Sipahibagh area yesterday, family members alleged.

The deceased was identified as Nazrul Islam Molla, 43.

Police and family members said they brought him to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Mugda General Hospital, but DMCH doctors declared him dead around 12:15pm.

Family members claimed Nazrul's body bore several injury marks.

Speaking to reporters at the hospital, Nazrul's uncle Kamal Hossain said that Nazrul, originally from Kalkini upazila in Madaripur, had been living in a rented apartment in Khilgaon's Sipahibagh area with his wife Aklima Begum and their two children. He ran a roadside stall there, selling puri and singara.

Kamal said Nazrul used to take drugs and sell them too, and had narcotics cases against him with Khilgaon Police Station.

"Around 11:00pm on Friday night, a team of army men entered Nazrul's

SEE PAGE II COL 7

## 'How can you decide on women without them?'

Rights groups reject consensus commission's decision on reserved women's seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists and civil society representatives yesterday rejected the National Consensus Commission's decision on reserved parliamentary seats for women, condemning the decision-making process as exclusionary, undemocratic, and an insult to half the nation's population.

Speaking at an event in the capital, they expressed outrage over the complete absence of women in the process.

They also noted that neither the Women's Affairs Reform Commission nor any women's rights organisations were included in the consensus commission or any of the political party delegations it held talks with.

Titled "Our demand: No decision about women without women", the event was organised by the Campaign for Popular Education and partner organisations at the BRAC Centre in the capital's Mohakhali.

During Thursday's consensus talks, political parties agreed to nominate women in five percent of the constituencies in the next election. They also agreed to retain the existing 50 reserved seats for women, with necessary constitutional amendments to follow. Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, said, "Almost all parties agreed in principle to gradually raise the number of women's seats to 100." He added that while some parties submitted notes of dissent, "a broad consensus has been established".

At yesterday's event, speakers pointed out that the 433 detailed recommendations made by the Women's Affairs Reform Commission were ignored despite repeated follow-ups. They also criticised the consensus commission as an

elite dominated body disconnected from lived realities, especially of women.

Shireen Huq, chief of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, said, "We are in 2025, and if we still can't demand a 50-50 share for women, then when will we? When I raised the issue, someone said that if women get 50 percent representation, there will be a female majority in parliament. But men have led for 50 years; now it's time to give women a chance."

### SOME OF THE DEMANDS

- 1 The July Charter must fully incorporate recommendations of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission
- 2 At least 50% women's representation is essential in all national commissions, boards, and committees
- 3 State secularism must be upheld, and women-related laws reformed with women's input

"We aren't asking for something permanent. Let women lead for two terms, then judge the results. If a parliament is formed with a female majority, we should evaluate whether the country benefits from it."

She added, "Our progressive [commission] leaders haven't accepted this idea. They've accepted many things, but not this. That's the reality, and that's why we must keep raising

SEE PAGE II COL 1

## 1 in 3 Gazans going days without food

Says Unicef; 98 more people, including 39 aid seekers, killed

AGENCIES

Gaza faces a grave risk of famine, with one in three people going days without food, the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) has warned.

Unicef also urged the international community to act swiftly as conditions continue to deteriorate due to Israel's genocidal war.

The statement came as the Palestinian Health Ministry yesterday said at least 98 people were killed and 1,079 wounded by Israeli attacks in the last 24 hours.

The figure includes 39 people killed while waiting for food aid.

With that, the death toll from the attacks since October 2023 has gone up to 60,430, with 148,722 wounded.

"Today, more than 320,000 young children are at risk

SEE PAGE II COL 6

Female SAD coordinator quits politics citing harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Fatema Khanam Liza, a former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) in Chattogram, has quit politics citing harassment by her fellow male activists.

In a Facebook live on Friday night, Fatema, also the former spokesperson of Chattogram unit of SAD, said the same men who stood in front to protect their fellow women activists from bullets during the July uprising are now harassing them.

The SAD leaders in Chattogram, including Khan, Talat, Mahmud Rafi, Rassel Ahmed and Rezaur Rahman, failed to take a proper action against the online harassment of women, she said.

"I remain deeply concerned about the future of women politicians in Chattogram -- if a woman in this city dares to step into the political arena, I fear for what might await her," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

They may face violence, humiliation, disrespect and conspiracy from both within and outside her party, she said.

"I have personally experienced these countless times. I may not have fulfilled every goal with which I entered politics, but I have never betrayed the ideals of the July

SEE PAGE II COL 4



A woman using a bamboo bridge in her yard at home in Sarabhita village of Khulna's Dumuria. Several thousand people in around 100 villages have been waterlogged for over two weeks as the Sholmari and Mayur rivers cannot drain the rainwater. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

**আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাত**

**আলহাজ্ব আজিম উদ্দিন আহমেদ**  
 (১৯৮০-২০২৫)

এর মৃত্যুতে

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাত

চেয়ারম্যান মিউচুয়াল গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানিজ  
 প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও সদস্য, বোর্ড অব ট্রাস্টিজ,  
 নর্থ সাউথ ইউনিভার্সিটি  
 প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক  
 সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
 প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক  
 আরলা ফুডস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

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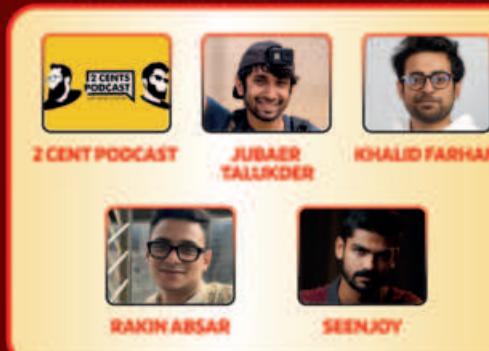
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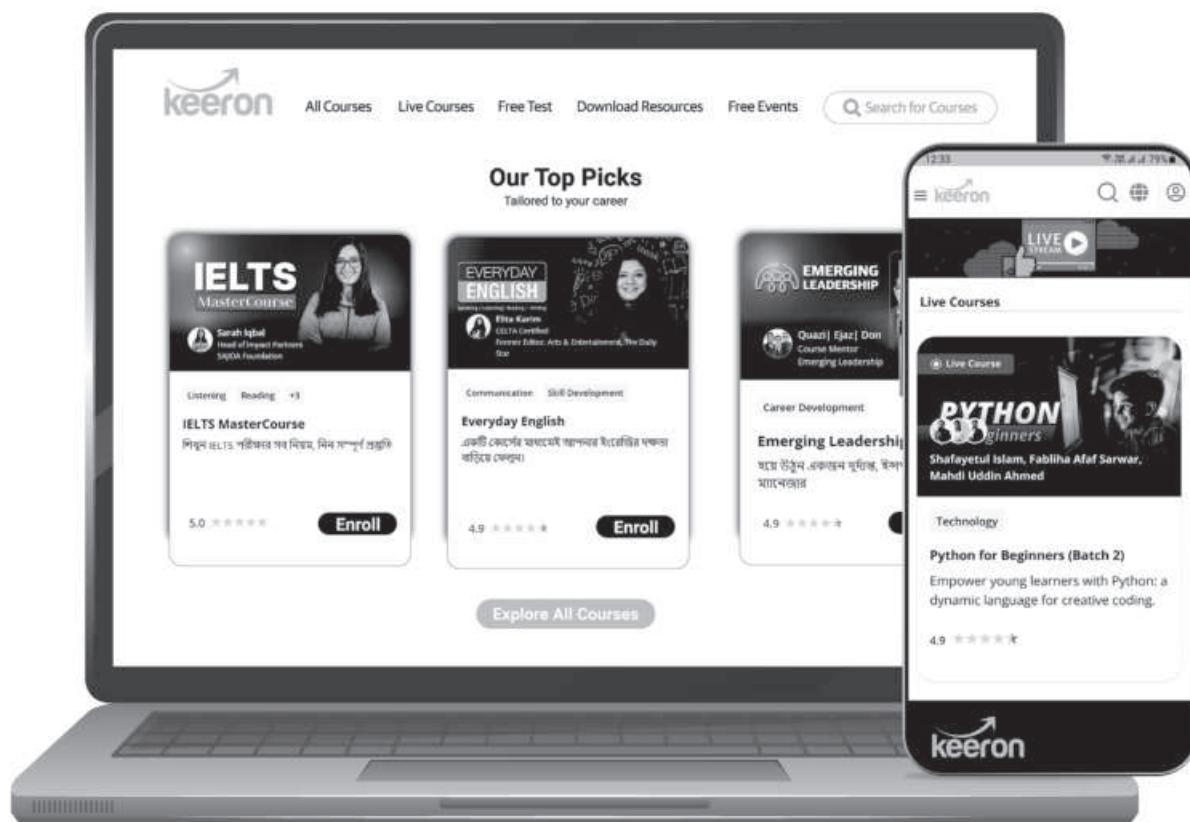
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