



What President Trump is doing is tacit – he wants to dismantle multilateralism... and replace it with unilateralism.

Lula da Silva, Brazilian president on US tariffs

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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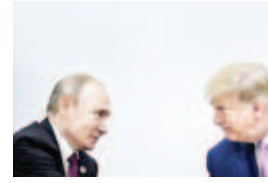
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A year of progress with caveats

Govt falls short in ensuring rights, improving law and order

TANIM AHMED and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The recent announcement of election timeline has allayed apprehensions and brought a sense of calm among major political players who have often been at odds with each other. While there has been no overt opposition to the prospect of a February election, the public's reception has been warm. With its success in US tariff negotiations, the interim government marks one year in office on a relatively high note.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's initial pledge of "reform followed by election" morphed into "reform, trial and election" in the face of young July uprising leaders demanding justice for the murder of their compatriots. Another responsibility that the interim government had agreed to shoulder was the July Declaration.

On that front, the trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her top aides for crimes against humanity has begun at the International Crimes Tribunal. There are a

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ONE YEAR OF INTERIM GOVT

- Election timeline and July Charter signal progress
- Economic recovery show encouraging signs
- Critical reforms remain pending
- Concerns over rights and justice



Palestinian children receive medical attention at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, following Israeli bombardment on the Mawasi area of Khan Yunis.

PHOTO: AFP

Election top priority in govt's 'second phase'

Says Prof Yunus at advisory council meeting



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the foremost task of the interim government's "second phase" is to hold the upcoming national election in a free and fair manner.

Speaking at the weekly advisory council meeting at the Secretariat, Yunus said the government will also continue prioritising its two other key goals – implementing reforms and ensuring justice for the victims of last year's mass uprising.

"The second phase has officially begun with a letter from the Chief Adviser's Office to the Election Commission, requesting it

to initiate preparations for the national polls," Yunus's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters after the meeting.

He said the chief adviser has instructed officials at all levels to prepare with utmost sincerity to fulfil the government's commitments.

Shafiqul said the government has shortlisted 121 actionable items from the recommendations of 11 commissions. Of these, 16 have already been implemented, 85 are currently being implemented, 10 are partially implemented, and the remaining 10 are under review for feasibility. He,

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NOAB voices concern over Janakantha incidents

Urges govt to safeguard press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) has expressed concern over the recent unexpected incidents centring the daily Janakantha, as well as the overall freedom of media and the safety of journalists in the country.

In a statement signed by its President AK Azad yesterday, NOAB said that the latest report from Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) paints a bleak picture regarding the freedom of media and access to information.

"People of the country united with the expectation of establishing a free, democratic society through a mass uprising, and we firmly believed that

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Bangladesh hopes to set sail stronger as US tariff kicks in

Expects rise in investments, exports as India faces 50% tariff

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The new tariff on US-bound exports from Bangladesh came into effect yesterday, with hopes of maintaining a healthy flow of garment shipments to the American market.

With this, the effective tariff rate (ETR) for Bangladeshi goods exported to the United States now stands at 36.5 percent, comprising the newly imposed 20 percent reciprocal rate and the existing 16.5 percent tariff.

However, for Bangladeshi exporters, using the advantages of the new rate can mean a stitch in time since some of its regional competitors face similar or higher tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

The finalisation of the rate has already begun yielding results, as major American retailers and brands have started confirming work orders for upcoming summer and autumn seasons, industry insiders said. Currently, local garment exporters are busy shipping consignments for the Christmas season in the US.

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Tariff finalisation has already begun yielding results, as major US retailers, brands start confirming work orders for upcoming seasons, industry insiders say.

Journo stabbed to death in Gazipur

Another journalist hurt in separate attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A group of miscreants killed a journalist with sharp weapons in front of a crowded market in the Chandana Chowrasta area of Gazipur city last night.



The victim, **Tuhin** Asaduzzaman Tuhin, 40, worked as a staff reporter of Mymensingh-based daily Pravidiner Kagoj for around five years, said its Editor Khairul Alam Rafiq.

Originally from Bhatipara village of Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila, Tuhin lived in the Chowrasta area, police said.

Quoting witnesses, Shaheen Khan, officer-in-charge of Basan Police Station, said Tuhin got involved in an altercation with four to five youths at a tea stall near the Masjid Market in the Chandana Chowrasta area around 8:00pm.

At one point, the youths stabbed him with a knife. He died on the spot, the OC said.

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the BUSINESS

An economic check-in after one year of interim govt

One year into its tenure, the interim government has a record of stark contradictions.

While it successfully pulled the economy back from the brink of collapse, it has profoundly failed to restore the confidence of investors, leaving the economic future in a state of vulnerable uncertainty.

The administration can point to clear successes. It reduced the rampant corruption of the previous regime, stopped the freefall of foreign exchange reserves, and bolstered inflows of remittances through tighter financial monitoring.

STORY ON B1



A heavily loaded boat takes logs to the wholesale timber market in Swarupkathi upazila, Pirojpur, from where they are distributed nationwide. The photo was taken yesterday in the upazila's Andakool area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

EC finalises the code of conduct

Polls schedule in first half of Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has finalised the Code of Conduct 2025 for political parties and candidates ahead of the 13th National Parliamentary Election, scheduled to be held before Ramadan in February next year.

The code was approved at the EC's ninth commission meeting, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, and held from 11:00am to 7:00pm yesterday at the EC headquarters in Dhaka.

Speaking to reporters in the evening, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said, "The draft of the code of conduct for candidates and political parties, on which we had sought opinions online, has been finalised today based on that feedback."

He also confirmed that the election schedule will be announced in the first half of December.

The EC further announced plans to introduce postal voting for Bangladeshi expatriates, who will receive ballots marked only with electoral symbols, not candidate names.

Voters abroad will cast their votes by selecting a symbol and returning the ballot via post. A three-week window will be provided for registration. Expatriates who register by October 31 will be included in the final voter list.

The EC plans to launch a voter education and sensitisation campaign for expatriates starting in September. Each expatriate vote via postal ballot may cost around Tk 500. The cost for every 100,000 votes could range between Tk 6 crore and Tk 7 crore, said Sanaullah.

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20 hurt in clash at Al-Arafah bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people, including the head of the human resources (HR) department at Al-Arafah Islami Bank, were injured in a clash between the bank's security personnel and recently terminated employees.

The incident occurred around 4:15pm yesterday at the capital's Dainik Bangla intersection.

Among the injured, security guard Shahinur was seriously wounded and admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Several others have also been admitted to the hospital.

HR head Amir Hossain is currently undergoing treatment at Square Hospital. Police rescued three deputy managing directors of the bank from the attackers.

Zubair Bin Rashid, one of the terminated employees, said that a total of 547 employees were dismissed across the country on July 20. Since July 22, they have been staging a sit-in protest demanding reinstatement.

He claimed that the bank's personnel attacked them during their peaceful demonstration.

Inspector Moniruzzaman (Investigation) of Paltan Police
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Makeshift stalls line the pavement and the road near the level crossing in the capital's Jurain area, shrinking space for vehicular movement. The resulting congestion is a daily ordeal for road users. The photo was taken on Wednesday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

India defiant amid tariff row with US

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said he will not compromise the interests of the country's farmers even if he has to pay a heavy price, in his first comments after US President Donald Trump's salvo of a 50% tariff on Indian goods.

"For us, our farmers' welfare is supreme," Modi said at an event in New Delhi. "India will never compromise on the well-being of its farmers, dairy [sector] and fishermen. And I know personally I will have to pay a heavy price for it," he said.

Trump announced an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods on Wednesday, raising the total duty to 50% -- among the highest imposed on any US trading partner. The new tariff, effective August 28, is meant to penalise India for continuing to buy Russian oil, Trump has said.

While Modi did not explicitly mention the US or the collapsed trade talks, his comments marked a clear defence of India's position.

Trade talks between India and the United States broke down after five rounds of negotiations over disagreement on opening India's vast farm and dairy sectors and stopping Russian oil purchases.

India's foreign ministry has called the US decision "extremely unfortunate" and said it would "take all necessary steps to protect its national interests."

The US has yet to impose similar tariffs on China, the biggest buyer of Russian oil. Experts say China's dominance in rare earth minerals -- critical to high-tech industries -- gives it leverage that India currently lacks.

NOAB voices concern

FROM PAGE 1

fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of the media would be guaranteed. Unfortunately, that expectation has not been fulfilled in the past year," reads the statement.

"We have observed with concern that recently, at the daily Janakantha newspaper, there has been an attempt to evict the owners and forcibly press demands by inciting a mob," it added.

"If there are any dues or payments owed to the workers, it is supposed to be resolved through the Labour Court. Any disputes related to news or content could be reported to the Bangladesh Press Council for resolution. However, instead of doing that, an untoward situation was created at the newspaper's office and on the portal," said NOAB.

"The culture of inciting mobs at any newspaper or media house to threaten and intimidate the owners must be stopped," the statement added.

According to TIB, between August 2024 and July 2025, at least 496 journalists faced harassment. Of them, 266 were accused in murder cases linked to the July uprising. Three journalists were killed while on duty, and at least 24 media professionals were removed from their posts. Editors of eight newspapers and news editors of 11 private television channels were also dismissed, said the statement.

NOAB demands that the government take urgent steps to safeguard press freedom and ensure a free and democratic society.

Former BRUR VC

FROM PAGE 12

During the hearing, Kalimullah said, "This [yesterday] morning, shortly after breakfast, I was suddenly arrested by the Detective Branch of police. I didn't resist."

In response, the judge said, "Why would you resist? You have to go to jail. You'll go to the grave alone... If you commit corruption, you'll also have to go to jail alone... No one will go with you. Many of those involved in corruption are rotting in jail, while their relatives are enjoying trips abroad with the money earned from corruption."

The judge also asked Kalimullah why he was living full-time in Dhaka instead of on the university campus in Rangpur.

Kalimullah replied, "No, sir. Even though I was in Dhaka, I had a residence there [in Rangpur]. Forty percent of my salary was deducted for that."

He added, "The former education minister Dipu Moni used to make unreasonable demands. Because of her, I avoided going to campus. I even held a press conference against her demands. This angered her."

"I worked 17-18 hours a day for the betterment of the university. Since the Liberation War, this is the first time a university vice-chancellor has challenged an education minister. That is why Dipu Moni made these false allegations against me."

At the end of the hearing, Kalimullah was heard thanking the judge before being taken to the court's lockup.

At 5:43pm, he was escorted in a prison van to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

Kalimullah was arrested by DB from Mohammadpur in the capital around 12:15pm yesterday. He was later handed over to the ACC.

A year of progress with caveats

FROM PAGE 1

few other cases against senior police officers as well.

As for the reforms, the National Consensus Commission appears to be inching closer to the July Charter -- an agreement among political parties that will guide future reforms. With the election timeline, as well as the July Declaration, announced on the anniversary of July Uprising, the interim government appears to be progressing reasonably well on its pledges. So far as checking boxes are concerned, it is fairly on course.

The financial sector reforms have been commendable too. The interim administration had inherited an economy on the brink of collapse. Over the last year, it has contained outflow of foreign exchange and noticeably improved once dwindling foreign reserve. Exports have turned around and banks have regained consumer confidence, thanks to prudent regulations. A spiralling inflation has been tamed with encouraging signs that it will dip further. But given the temporary nature of this government, most investors are waiting for a more predictable political landscape, which will unlock Bangladesh's full economic potential leading to employment generation.

But reforms have been largely absent in areas like bureaucracy, anti-corruption, policing, health or education. Most of the discussions have centred around issues deemed crucial for election, caretaker government and the constitution, that will presumably help revive the independence of autonomous and constitutional bodies, rebuild institutions crucial for a strong democracy. Arriving at this political compact in itself may be regarded as a worthy effort and a sign of progress. However, similar to the July Declaration, which has been roundly criticised for failing to embody people's aspirations, the July Charter might also be a letdown compared to the high expectations around it.

As for the women's affairs commission, the government's conspicuous silence despite blatant public abuse from religious hardliners suggest that Dr Yunus's administration has all but disowned it. In fact, even the physical assaults on women, and there have been quite a few of them, do not appear to have drawn much attention of the cabinet of advisers many of whom had been vocal activists for most of their life.

Journo stabbed to death in Gazipur

FROM PAGE 1

On information, police went to the scene and recovered the body.

Sub-inspector Zahirul Islam of Basan Police Station said the body was sent to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Khairul Islam, a local trader, said at least three people attacked Tuhin.

Rabiul Hasan, deputy commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police, said they have collected some video footage of the incident and also got some clues.

The official added that police were on a manhunt to nab the culprits.

In separate statements, the Jamaat-e-Islami, Khelafat Majlish and Islami Andolan Bangladesh protested against and expressed deep concern over the murder of Tuhin.

Meanwhile, a journalist was assaulted allegedly by extortionists in Gazipur's Sahapara area on Wednesday while investigating allegations of extortion collected from battery-run and CNG-run auto-

This is an aspect that rights advocates at home and abroad have noted.

Ain O Salish Kendra, a right organisation notes in its press release of August 7 that women are "living in an environment of widespread insecurity". It says, rape, sexual harassment, and domestic and social violence have become news items. Hate speech is becoming increasingly aggressive. "This oppression of women is not limited at the individual level, but rather, it has taken the form of structural violence, increasingly narrowing the avenues for women's social, political, and economic empowerment."

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said in its report in July that "tensions and religious freedom concerns still persist". It points out that although Professor Yunus reiterates the importance of religious freedom in Bangladesh and a commitment to maintain religious harmony in his speeches, individuals express concern about their safety and ability to express their faith openly. "Some religious minorities and Muslim women emphasised that they continue to face societal-level discrimination from more hardline Islamic groups, and they emphasised that attacks along religious lines, while sporadic, continue."

Far from being isolated instances, the spectacle of a few gruesome executions, mob violence, and public assault of women were symptomatic of the overall deterioration of law and order of the past year. The government's denial, and labelling reports as 'fear mongering' have hardly helped matters.

The police, on the other hand, are yet to find their morale that they had lost during the July protests when they killed hundreds of protesters on the streets. The army continues to work in aid to civil power with magistracy powers to help with policing.

Despite all its rhetoric and promise of good governance, the interim government has not been able to stop murder cases being filed against hundreds of people, directly or remotely connected to the previous regime. Hundreds of people, perceived to be beneficiaries or sympathisers of the Awami League regime, have found themselves accused of murder. These have included journalists, politicians, judges, lawyers, film stars and even former sportsmen. Many of them have been arrested and denied bail. Even the law adviser admitted in a recent

rickshaw drivers.

The victim, Anwar Hossain, 35, a staff reporter for the daily Bangladesh Alo, was attacked in broad daylight, allegedly in front of police.

He was undergoing treatment at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in a "critical condition".

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested a suspect named Farid in connection with the incident, said Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Gazipur Sadar Police Station.

The incident has sparked outrage on social media after a video of the attack went viral.

The video shows seven to eight men surrounding Anwar and beating him, with one assailant striking his head and face with a brick. Although police could be seen nearby in the video, no immediate action was taken.

Police and locals later rescued Anwar and admitted him to the hospital.

interview that mob violence and fabricated charges have been deeply troubling. At least 266 journalists have been implicated in various cases, many for murder, related to the events of July and August last year.

According to Human Rights Watch, between August 6 and September 25, 2024, police lodged cases against 92,486 people, most of them related to murder. Nearly 400 former ministers, members of parliament, and other Awami League officials have been named in over 1,170 cases, which also include hundreds of unnamed individuals, said the international human rights organisation.

While it is desirable that Bangladesh speaks with a strong voice and articulates its vision, the interim government has yet to come up with a win-win vision as regards our largest neighbour. Hence, it is not surprising that relations with India remain cool, at best, with the borders still shut down a whole year after the interim government took oath. On the other hand, efforts to deepen relations with China have been noticeable in frequent exchanges and visits of delegations. Rohingya repatriation efforts continue to face hurdles and have become increasingly complicated, with the Arakan Army seizing control of large swathes of Rakhine state, which borders Bangladesh. In the midst of all this, the suggestion of a humanitarian passage to transport aid to the Rohingya sparked widespread criticism.

Although the Yunus government has repealed the notorious Cyber Security Act -- used to target journalists under the Awami League regime -- there are concerns over provisions of the Cyber Security Ordinance, that replaces it, since it grants authorities extensive powers to arrest individuals and conduct searches without a warrant. In another positive development, Bangladesh signed on to the UN's International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The government's one year in office has been marked by its lack of resolve. It has baulked and backed down in the face of protests no matter how unreasonable the demands. Repeated reversal of its own decisions clearly betrayed a lack of coordination within itself. The interim government's silence and inaction in situations that demanded immediate intervention only exposed imprudence and callousness.

The injured journalist's mother, Anwara Sultana, filed a written complaint with Gazipur Sadar Police Station yesterday.

According to the complaint, a group led by Raktim, Sourav, and Farid, regularly collected Tk 30-40 in extortion from each battery-run and CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

When Anwar went to the spot to collect information, the group dragged him behind a tea stall, and beat him with sticks, bricks, and locally-made weapons.

They also snatched two mobile phones and Tk 26,250 in cash, according to the complaint.

OC Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star that they arrested Farid after analysing video footage. "Efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the remaining attackers."

Asked about the inaction of police during the attack, he said, "There was one police officer there. I haven't seen the video yet. We will take action after watching it."

Bangladesh hopes

FROM PAGE 1

The Trump administration imposed the same 20 percent reciprocal tariff on Vietnam, currently the second-largest apparel supplier to the US, bringing its ETR to 36.5 percent as well. However, goods transhipped through Vietnam now face a 40 percent duty, offering Bangladesh a competitive edge.

India, the fourth-largest apparel supplier to the US, is set to face a 50 percent reciprocal tariff in the coming weeks, raising its total ETR to 66.5 percent. Meanwhile, China, the largest supplier, currently faces a 55 percent tariff, with negotiations on a reciprocal rate still ongoing.

These developments are expected to divert a notable volume of US apparel orders from India and China to Bangladesh.

"This is a better opportunity," said Faisal Samad, managing director of Surma Garments Ltd and director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). "Retailers and brands, who were earlier confused, are now coming back with higher volumes of orders."

He, however, stressed the need for strategic marketing, improved price negotiation, and better promotion and branding of both the sector and the country to fully leverage the opportunity.

Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) who was a private sector representative in the final round of negotiations with the US Trade Representative (USTR), said Bangladesh has committed to reducing the bilateral trade gap by 75 percent as soon as possible.

Bangladesh currently exports over \$8.2 billion worth of goods to the US annually, while importing just over \$2 billion, resulting in a trade gap of about \$6 billion.

"This gap can be narrowed," Russell said, citing cotton imports as one example. Bangladesh imports \$4 billion worth of cotton globally every year, but only 5 percent comes from

the US. "If we start sourcing \$1 billion worth of US cotton, the gap will shrink significantly," Russell said.

He also requested the US government to allow "Made from US cotton" tags on Bangladeshi apparel to enable exporters to claim additional tariff benefits. Use of US cotton in production can unlock special treatment under the new tariff regime, he added.

Beyond cotton, Russell pointed to Bangladesh's potential to import more US-made products, including LPG, soybean, wheat, agricultural goods, and even aircraft, to help balance trade. "Of course, Bangladesh will enjoy the spillover effects of the higher tariffs on China and India," he noted.

Mohammed Amirul Haque, chairman of Seacom Group and another private sector member of the Bangladeshi negotiation team, said the country is now in a more favourable position in terms of ETR.

"A new door of opportunity has opened. This is a great achievement for Bangladesh," he said. "In reality, both countries will benefit from this arrangement."

Still, exporters face challenges. As countries like China and India redirect their shipments to Europe at lower prices due to US tariffs, Bangladeshi suppliers may face stiffer competition in the European Union market, where they export over \$25 billion annually. This could lead to additional price pressure from European buyers.

Moreover, demand for apparel in the US could fall due to inflation and rising prices, potentially affecting future shipments.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, economist and chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development, warned that a downturn is possible. "When the Trump administration imposed a 25 percent tariff on Chinese goods in 2018, US apparel imports fell," he said.

The US used to import \$105 billion worth of garments annually, but by 2024, that figure had declined to \$85 billion, he added.

Election top priority

FROM PAGE 1

however, did not provide further details on the proposals.

The press secretary said a dispute has arisen regarding the amount of honorarium to be paid to each family member of those killed during the July uprising. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has been tasked with drafting a regulation to address the matter.

Asked about former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Shafiqul said the government wants to bring her back and ensure she faces trial, while also guaranteeing her the right to a

fair trial.

Meanwhile, the advisory council congratulated the commerce adviser on successfully concluding tariff negotiations with the United States, and the cultural affairs adviser on the smooth execution of the 36-day commemorative events in July.

The council also approved two new proposals: renaming "Gazipur Digital University" to "University of Frontier Technology Bangladesh," and upgrading World Tourism Day, observed on September 27, from a Category 'Ga' to a Category 'Kha' national day.

EC finalises the code of conduct

FROM PAGE 1

The entire process will be managed through an ad hoc arrangement.

In-country postal voting will also be allowed for government officials, election workers, and individuals in legal custody or prison. These voters will be able to register online and vote through the same method.

Addressing concerns about digital interference, EC Sanaullah said the commission has imposed strict restrictions on the misuse of artificial intelligence during the election period.

"The code of conduct is for candidates and political parties. But AI will be used by many others. There are various entities. Some will operate from within the country, some from abroad. To counter this, we have formed a committee. They are already working to determine what actions can be taken," he said.

Regarding internet access during the election, he added: "Our primary goal is to conduct the election without reducing bandwidth or disrupting any services. Unless absolutely necessary, the Election Commission currently has no intention of limiting any service or platform."

Asked about the possible date of the vote, he said the matter was not discussed in the meeting, but the announcement would be made about two months [before the polls] by the EC.

The commission also discussed the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972 (Amendment) Ordinance 2025.

"We have started discussions on the RPO amendments. We've reached a certain stage, and the discussions will continue next week," Sanaullah added.

DHAKA

Relocate training flights from Dhaka to prevent disasters

Urge aviation experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jet crash at Milestone School and College in Uttara's Diabari is a wake-up call to prevent similar incidents in the future, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar, titled "Aviation Emergencies and Civil Risk: Rethinking Disaster Preparedness in Bangladesh", was organised by The Bangladesh Monitor, a fortnightly journal, at a Dhaka hotel.

Capt Tanvir Khurshid, chief of technical at Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said commercial flights regularly face difficulties, including holding aircraft in the sky due to military operations on the lone runway at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

"Things become critical during bad weather," he said, adding that flights often miss slots at foreign airports because of delays caused by military aircraft operations at Dhaka airport.

He suggested that military training flights could be shifted to other airports instead of using one in the densely populated capital. "We don't see joint military-civil operations on a single runway in other countries," he noted.

Capt Tanvir also said while Dhaka airport previously handled a small number of flights, around 350 flights now operate daily.

He warned that joint military-civil operations on a single runway could increase the risk of mid-air collisions.

Mofizur Rahman, managing director of Novoir,

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Pedestrians struggle to navigate Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue as footpath development work from Farmgate to Karwan Bazar drags on. Instead of a phased approach to minimise disruption, the entire stretch has been dug up simultaneously, worsening the public inconvenience. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HC acquits GK Shamim in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted expelled Jubo League leader Golem Kibria Shamim, widely known as GK Shamim, and his seven bodyguards from a money laundering case in which he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by a lower court.

It also scrapped the lower court verdict that sentenced his bodyguards to four years' imprisonment, Deputy Attorney General Md Hemayet Ullah told The Daily Star.

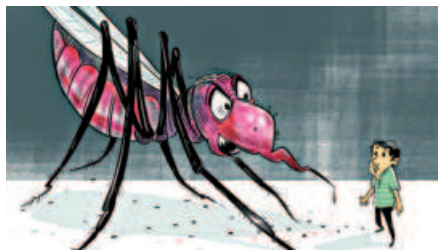
The bench of Justice ASM Abdul Mobin and Justice Md Jabid Hossain delivered the verdict following appeals filed by GK Shamim and the other accused, challenging the trial court judgement.

Advocate Mosaddek Billah, a lawyer for the accused, told The Daily Star that his clients will get released from jail following the HC verdict if they are



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Dengue death toll climbs to 95 amid surge in cases



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died while 408 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, indicating an alarming trend in the outbreak this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), two of the deaths occurred in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation, and one in Dhaka North City Corporation.

With these, the total number of dengue-related deaths has risen to 95, while confirmed cases have reached 23,220.

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10 'diseases' plague the health system

Ministry says reform plans include decentralisation, stronger primary healthcare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has identified 10 major "diseases" in the healthcare system and has taken or planned measures to address them, aiming to improve the country's overall healthcare.

If healthcare reform is not at the centre of planning, all other reforms will become meaningless, the ministry said yesterday.

"We promise that change is coming and reforms have already begun," said Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry.

Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum said, "We are undertaking various initiatives to bring positive changes to the country's health sector. We hope the benefits of these efforts will become visible in the coming days."

They were speaking at a press conference held at the Shaheed Abu Sayed International Convention Centre in the capital to highlight the ministry's achievements over the past year and outline future reform plans.

Prof Sayedur said they have identified 10

major problems in the health system, describing them as "diseases".

These are the absence of merit, knowledge, and competence in the system; excessive centralisation; overreliance on specialised

We are undertaking various initiatives to bring positive changes to the country's health sector. We hope the benefits of these efforts will become visible in the coming days.

NURJAHAN BEGUM, health adviser

treatment and neglected primary healthcare; lack of transparency and a culture of impunity; unmotivated and demoralised healthcare providers; absence of critical thinking and proper mindset; erosion of ethics and conflicts of interest; overdependence on external actors; weak leadership and poor management; and

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Ex-CJ Khairul sent to jail after remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque to jail yesterday on completion of his seven-day remand in a case filed over manipulation of the Supreme Court verdict on the caretaker government system.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifuzzaman passed the order after Md Khaleque Miah, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station and also the case's investigation officer, produced him before the court after his remand period ended in the case.

On July 30, another Dhaka court placed him on a seven-day remand.

Yesterday, no lawyer was present at the court to defend him.

On July 24, a team of the Detective Branch of police arrested Khairul from a house in Dhaka's Dhanmondi.

JULY KILLINGS IN ASHULIA Prosecution seeks indictment of 16 accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday urged the International Crimes Tribunal-2 to indict 16 people, including a former Awami League lawmaker and a former Dhaka range DIG, for their alleged involvement in the killing of seven people during the July uprising in Ashulia.

Six of the victims were reportedly set on fire, with one of them still alive at that time.

The prosecution read out the charges against the accused before the three-member tribunal headed by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and made the plea as the day was scheduled for a hearing on charge framing.

The tribunal set August 13 for the next hearing, when it will hear from the defence lawyers.

Eight of the accused are in custody. They are -- former Savar circle additional SP Md Shahidul Islam; former Dhaka district additional SP Abdullahil Kalif; former DB inspector Aralat Hossain; former Ashulia sub-inspectors Aralat Uddin Abdul Malek and Sheikh Abzalul Haque; former assistant ASI Kamrul Hasan; and constable Mukul Chokder. All of them were present in the dock.

The other accused -- former AL lawmaker from Savar Muhammad Saiful Islam; former Dhaka range DIG Syed Nurul Islam; former Dhaka SP Md Asaduzzaman Ripon; former Ashulia police OC AFM Sayed; inspectors Muhammad Masudur

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A rickshaw-van lies abandoned on a waterlogged road in Katalganj area of Chattogram city after it overturned. Following incessant rainfall since Wednesday night, several parts of the port city experienced severe waterlogging yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain leaves Ctg waterlogged, portion of bridge collapsed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram city experienced severe waterlogging in several low-lying areas yesterday following continuous rainfall since Wednesday night, disrupting daily life for thousands of residents -- particularly office-goers, workers, and students.

Meanwhile, a portion of a bridge over the Sheetal Jharna Canal on the Oxygen-Bayezid road collapsed early yesterday, blocking one side of the road and causing severe traffic congestion.

It has been really difficult to commute due to gridlock caused

by the bridge collapse, said Arafat Hossain, a college student.

Faisal Shahriar, a businessman from the Fatehabad area, said, "I almost missed my flight due to the jam caused by the sunken bridge. Fortunately, I made it to the airport just in time and caught my flight to Dhaka."

Meanwhile, several areas in the port city, including Muradpur, Bahaddarhat, Agrabad, Katalganj, the Wasa intersection, and GEC Circle, got submerged due to the downpour, with knee-deep water reported in many places.

According to the Ambagan Weather Office, Chattogram

recorded 81mm of rainfall in the 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday.

"The monsoon is currently active over the region. Rain is likely to continue in Chattogram until tomorrow," said Mahmudul Alam, a meteorologist at the regional weather office.

The continuous downpour has also raised the risk of landslides in hilly areas. Warnings have been issued, and residents in vulnerable zones have been advised to move to safer locations, he added.

Raihan Uddin, a lecturer at a private college, said, "I had to wade through knee-deep water in

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

HC scraps ICT case against Shahidul Alam

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the proceedings of a case filed against internationally acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam. The case was filed under the controversial section 57 of the ICT Act, 2006 in which he was behind the bar for 107 days.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Tamanna Rahman Khalidi delivered the verdict after holding hearing on a petition filed by Shahidul last year, challenging legality of the case proceedings.

The HC quashed the proceedings against Shahidul Alam on the grounds that the case is still now at the investigation stage and has not been placed before the court concerned for trial and such cases cannot run under the relevant provisions of the law, said Qazi Zahed Iqbal, a lawyer for Shahidul.

The allegations brought in the case are not covered by the law, he added.

On August 5, 2018, Shahidul, founder of Drik Gallery and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, was picked up from his Dhanmondi home during a movement for safe roads.

Police lodged the case and produced him before a Dhaka court the following day. On November 15, 2018, HC granted him bail, and he was released from Dhaka jail the next day.



কিম্বদ্বারি রাহমানি রাহিম

জাতীয় পার্টি-জিন্দাবাদ

পত্নীবন্ধু এরশাদ-অমর হউক

জাতীয় পার্টির ১০ম জাতীয় কাউন্সিল

৯ আগস্ট ২০২৫ ইং, শনিবার, সকাল ১১টায়

ইমানুয়েল পার্টি সেন্টার, বাড়ি নং- ৮, রোড নং-১৩৫, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা

প্রধান অতিথি

জননেতা আনোয়ার হোসেন মঞ্জু

সাবেক মন্ত্রী ও দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক-এর সম্পাদক মন্ডলির সভাপতি

সভাপতিত্ব করবেন :

ব্যারিস্টার আনিসুল ইসলাম মাহমুদ

ভারপ্রাপ্ত চেয়ারম্যান, জাতীয় পার্টি

বক্তব্য রাখবেন জাতীয় নেতৃবৃন্দ

আমন্ত্রণে

এ বি এম রুহুল আমিন হাওলাদার

কো-চেয়ারম্যান, জাতীয় পার্টি

গ্যাডজেট মুজিবুল হক চন্দ্র

মহাসচিব, জাতীয় পার্টি

জাতীয় পার্টি

Rain boosts sapling trade in Rajbari

SUZID DAS, Faridpur

The ongoing Aman paddy planting season has sparked a surge in paddy sapling sales at Khankhanapur market in Rajbari's Sadar upazila, following recent bouts of rain.

According to the Khankhanapur Bazar management committee, as well as dealers and buyers of paddy seedlings, this market is one of the largest and most prominent paddy sapling trading centres in Rajbari. Sellers and buyers, along with paddy growers and traders from various districts, gather at the market twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays) from the first week of July to mid-September.

Numerous varieties of Aman paddy saplings, such as BR-17, BR-33, BR-75, BINA-7, BINA-17, Golden-1, Dhanigol, Sorna, Babusorna, Binashail, and Latishail, are sold at the market.

During a recent visit, paddy sapling growers from different regions were seen gathered along both sides of the Khankhanapur-Kamaldia road at Khankhanapur Bazar, displaying their saplings for eager buyers. Sellers were also seen negotiating prices with the buyers.

Raju Sheikh, 46, a paddy sapling grower from Charbasantapur village, said, "I spent Tk 9,500 to cultivate paddy saplings on my



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Every monsoon, Jharna Das collects water lilies from the wetlands of Khulna to earn some extra income. Popular for enhancing the flavour of fish dishes, the lilies are in high demand. Each morning, she ventures into the Amtala Beel in Abhaynagar of Jashore by boat, gathering 120-150 bundles, which she sells for Tk 3-4 each. The photo was taken yesterday.

Unsafe but unavoidable

Rickety bamboo bridge puts 50,000 lives at risk

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

A rickety bamboo bridge remains the only means of communication for around 50,000 people in several unions of Madarganj upazila in Jamalpur and Sariakandi upazila in Bogura, forcing locals to risk their lives every day.

The 100-metre-long makeshift bridge, built over a tributary of the Jamuna river at Nangla village in Balijuri union, serves as the only connection between at least 15 villages, including Nangla, Nadagari, Paschim Sukhnagari, Fuljod, Kajfer Char, Atamar and others.

Since the river remains full almost

year-round, there is no alternative route available.

During the monsoon, the bridge becomes dangerously slippery. Women, children, the elderly, students and patients suffer the most while crossing it, said locals.

Locals said they have been demanding a concrete bridge for over 15 years, but their pleas have largely gone unheeded. Time and again, public representatives promise a permanent structure before elections – yet, once the polls are over, those commitments are forgotten.

Azibar, a resident of Nangla village, said, "We don't want anything else, we

just want a bridge."

Alim, a tenth-grade student, said, "I often slip and fall while crossing. My books get wet, and I injure myself."

Rahim Mandal said farmers in the area struggle to transport their produce to nearby markets. Due to the lack of proper infrastructure, they are often forced to sell crops at unfair prices.

In the absence of a bridge, locals have to travel an additional 5 to 7 kilometres to reach the upazila headquarters or any major market, which adds to their suffering, said Manjurul Islam Musa, former UP chairman of Balijuri union parishad.

Contacted, Golam Kibria Tamal, engineer at Madarganj upazila LGED, said they have submitted a proposal to the ministry and hopefully, it will get approval soon.



20 decimals of land. I have already earned Tk 15,000 by selling them and hope to earn another Tk 8,000-10,000 this year."

Shajahan Sheikh, 49, a paddy sapling trader of Khankhanapur Bazar, said, "I bought paddy saplings from different villages and brought them to this market to sell. By selling paddy saplings, I can earn Tk 1,500-2,000 per day."

Shajahan Kazi, a leaseholder of the Khankhanapur paddy saplings market, said, "On average, paddy saplings worth around Tk 50,000 to Tk 60,000 are sold on every market day. If it rains more in the next couple of weeks, the sales will be even higher."

"Khankhanapur is one of the biggest paddy sapling markets in our district. Traders and paddy growers from different areas, including Faridpur and Madaripur, come here to buy saplings," he added.

10 'diseases' plague the health system

FROM PAGE 3

severe lack of planning, resource allocation, and consistency.

He said the ministry has already taken some steps and planned further measures to tackle these issues.

They have repealed the quota system in medical admissions and set up an accreditation council, he continued.

Among other measures, the ministry has proposed an automated posting system, a separate public service commission for the health sector, and either the closure or quality improvement of low-standard medical colleges.

They have also taken steps to decentralise the power of various directorates under the ministry, said Prof Sayedur.

New institutions have also been planned, including a National Institute for

Women in Khulna, a Geriatric Health Institute in Chattogram, and a health city in Rangpur.

To strengthen primary healthcare, ward-based primary healthcare centres will be established in urban areas, while existing union-level health and family planning centres will be turned into full-fledged primary healthcare centres. A total of 2,700 doctors will be appointed to provide primary healthcare, he also said.

Patients referred from these centres will be treated by specialists at upazila and district hospital outpatient departments.

To ensure transparency and accountability, they are planning to introduce a unique Health ID, and all procurement will be carried out through the e-GP system.

The ministry has proposed a special pay board

for healthcare workers and an 18-month internship for doctors, up from the current 12 months. The internship will include six months of outdoor or community-based primary healthcare services.

Pharmaceutical companies, diagnostic centres, and private hospitals will not be allowed to offer gifts or commissions to doctors, he added.

Two separate councils will be established to resolve conflicts of interest. The capacity of the government-run Essential Drug Company Ltd will be expanded to reduce dependency on external suppliers.

The Bangladesh Institute of Health Management will be operationalised to develop competent leadership. A needs assessment will also be carried out for manpower planning in the sector, said Prof Sayedur.

When a reporter asked for their response to a health sector reform commission member's recent remark that the ministry was in an "utter mess", Prof Sayedur said, "We don't want to comment on that. You can make your own judgment... We tried to improve the situation..."

In response to the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries' (BAPI) claim that the government is putting the pharmaceutical sector at risk, he said no pharmaceutical company has faced an existential crisis during their tenure.

"I'm not sure why they're saying this. We have to strike a balance – ensuring citizens' access to affordable and quality medicines, while also allowing a fair and reasonable profit margin," he said.

Nurjahan said after taking

office, their priority was to ensure proper treatment for those injured in July uprising and preparing a database of victims. In addition to treatment within the country, 78 individuals were sent abroad for better care.

The government has decided to promote 7,000 officials and has already promoted some of them, addressing long pending promotion issues, she said.

The prices of coronary stents and anti-cancer drugs have been reduced, and existing laws have been amended to facilitate organ donation, she added.

Top ministry officials were also present at the briefing.

Dengue death toll climbs

FROM PAGE 3

Experts have warned that the situation may worsen in August and September due to continued rainfall, which creates ideal breeding conditions for Aedes mosquitoes – the primary vector of the dengue virus.

"Intermittent rain is highly favourable for the spread of the dengue virus, which is already present across the country," said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman.

He said Aedes mosquitoes are more active during overcast or gloomy weather, which has persisted across the country. "During the monsoon, the number of dengue cases can be up

to nine times higher than during the dry season," he added.

Saifur urged the public to take precautions, including wearing full-sleeved clothing, using mosquito nets, and regularly cleaning homes to eliminate breeding sites, especially on rooftops.

Jahangirnagar University entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar warned that August could see at least three times as many dengue cases as July, with a further rise possible in September.

"The current rain pattern is one of the main reasons behind the surge. Once an outbreak starts, cases tend to increase at a geometric rate," Bashar explained.

He stressed the need for aggressive larval control and the elimination of mosquito breeding sites. "When both mosquito populations and infected individuals rise simultaneously, the disease spreads rapidly," he said.

Bashar also called for targeted hotspot management around the homes of dengue patients to kill adult mosquitoes and prevent further breeding. He highlighted the importance of mosquito control in hospitals as well.

"Hospitals can become major sources of transmission if Aedes mosquitoes bite infected patients and then transmit the virus to others," he warned.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Films and Publications

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Tathya Bhaban

112 Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000

www.dfp.gov.bd


Memo No: 15.57.0000.003.07.001.25.93

Date: 07.08.2025

E-Tender Notice (OTM)

Sl No	Tender/ Proposal ID	Procurement Nature, Title	Ministry, Division, Organization, PE	Tender Publishing date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	1137455	Goods, Procurement of Printing books on Sachitra Bangladesh	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Department of Films and Publications (DFP)	Date: 07-Aug-25 time: 13:10:00	Date: 26-Aug-25 time: 12:30:00
02	1137487	Goods, Procurement of Printing books on Nabarun	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 07-Aug-25 time: 13:10:00	Date: 25-Aug-25 time: 12:30:00
03	1137511	Goods, Procurement of Printing books on Bangladesh Quarterly	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 07-Aug-25 time: 13:05:00	Date: 24-Aug-25 time: 16:12:00

- This is an online tender, only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Dayana Islam Sima
Deputy Director (Admin)
Phone: 8300682

GD-1743

ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশন
আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

ইসলামী বইমেলায় স্টল বরাদ্দের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশন কর্তৃক আয়োজিত পবিত্র ঈদ-ই-মিলাদুন্নবী (সা) ১৪৪৭ হিজরি উপলক্ষে বায়তুল মুকাররম জাতীয় মসজিদের পূর্ব ও দক্ষিণ চত্বরে আগামী ০৪/০৯/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ থেকে ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশন কর্তৃক আয়োজিত মাসব্যাপী ইসলামী বইমেলা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত বইমেলায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক পুস্তক প্রকাশক/ব্যবসায়ীগণকে আগামী ১২/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখ থেকে ২৬/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ সিডিউল/আবেদনপত্র ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশন বায়তুল মুকাররমস্থ কেন্দ্রীয় বিক্রয় শাখা হতে ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ২৭/০৮/২০২৫।


মোঃ রেজ্জাকুল হায়দার
পরিচালক
প্রকাশনা বিভাগ
ফোনঃ ০২-২২২২১৮২৭৭

জিডি-১৭৪২

Prosecution seeks

FROM PAGE 3

Rahman and Nirmol Kumar Das; ASIs Biswajit Saha and Kamrul Hasan; and Saiful's aide Rony Bhuiyan – are absconding.

The prosecution said 29 people were killed in Ashulia during the uprising, but the charges in this case are based on the killing of one protester on August 4 last year and six others the next day. The second incident involved five bodies and one injured person being set on fire in a police van.

HC acquits

FROM PAGE 3

not arrested in other cases. Senior lawyer Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal also appeared for GK Shamim and others during hearing of the appeals.

On July 17, 2023, a Dhaka court handed down the sentences to GK Shamim and the others in the case filed over laundering Tk 195 crore to Singapore and Malaysia.

His seven bodyguards – Md Delwar Hossain, Md Murad Hossain, Md Jahidul Islam,

Prosecutor Mizanul Islam told the court that the investigation initially found former MP Saiful Islam, former DIG Nurul Islam, then Dhaka SP Asaduzzaman, additional SPs Kafi and Shahidul, former OC AFM Sayed, and inspectors Masudur Rahman and Nirmol Kumar Das planned and supervised the crimes as part of a "joint criminal enterprise".

He said they directed their subordinates to open fire on unarmed demonstrators in the Ashulia area.

Md Shahidul Islam, Md Kamal Hossain, Md Samsad Hossain, and Md Aminul Islam – were sentenced to four years in jail for assisting GK Shamim, who was a top contractor of government projects, in acquiring the laundered money.

Rab on September 20 of 2019 arrested him on charges of extortion and tender manipulation. His bodyguards were also arrested then. Later, Rab filed the case against them with Gulshan Police Station.

Trump, Putin to meet in 'coming days'

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said that a summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Ukraine was set for the "coming days" as US-led efforts to broker peace rumbled on.

The Russian president named the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a potential location for the summit with Trump, but essentially ruled out a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The Trump-Putin summit would be the first between sitting US and Russian presidents since Joe Biden met Putin in Geneva in June 2021. It comes as the Republican seeks an end to Russia's military assault on Ukraine.

Three rounds of direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv have failed to yield any progress towards a ceasefire. The two sides appear as far apart as ever in the conditions they have set for an end to the more than three-year-long conflict.

Trump said on Wednesday that he was likely to meet Putin face-to-face "very soon".

They last sat together in 2019 at a G20 summit meeting in Japan during Trump's first term as US president, but have spoken by telephone several times



since the former reality TV star returned to the White House earlier this year.

"Both sides showed interest" in the Russia-US leaders meeting, Putin told reporters on Thursday.

"We have many friends who are willing to help us organise such events. One of our friends is the president of the United Arab Emirates," he said, standing next to UAE leader Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Earlier yesterday, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said that the plan to hold a bilateral summit was "at the suggestion of the American side".

"Next week has been set as a target

date," said Ushakov, adding that both sides have already agreed the venue "in principle", without mentioning it.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Russia launched its military offensive on Ukraine in February 2022.

Russian bombardments have forced millions of people to flee their homes and have destroyed swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine.

Putin has resisted multiple calls from the United States, Europe and Kyiv for a ceasefire.

At talks in Istanbul, Russian negotiators outlined hardline territorial demands if Ukraine wants Russia to halt its advance

-- calling for Kyiv to withdraw from some territory it still controls and to renounce Western military support.

Reports of the upcoming summit came after US envoy Steve Witkoff met Putin in Moscow.

Witkoff proposed a trilateral meeting with Zelensky, but Putin appeared to rule out direct talks with the Ukrainian leader.

"I have nothing against it in general, it is possible, but certain conditions must be created for this," he told reporters, adding: "Unfortunately, we are still far from creating such conditions."

Putin said in June that he was ready to meet Zelensky, but only during a "final phase" of negotiations on ending the conflict.

Zelensky earlier yesterday had refreshed his call for a meeting with Putin -- which he says is the only way to make progress towards peace.

"It is necessary to determine the timing for such a format and the range of issues to be addressed," he wrote on social media.

He also said that he would hold several other conversations throughout the course of the day, including with Italian officials.

India bans 25 books in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Indian authorities in Kashmir have banned 25 books, including a work by Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy, saying the titles "excite secessionism" in the contested Muslim-majority region.

The government order accuses the writers of propagating "false narratives" about Kashmir, "while playing a critical role in misguiding the youth, glorifying terrorism and inciting violence" against the Indian state.

It follows orders in February when authorities seized Islamic literature from bookshops and homes.

The ban listed 25 books it said "have been identified that propagate false narrative and secessionism", including Roy's 2020 book of essays, "Azadi: Freedom, Fascism, Fiction".

Other books banned include titles by academics, including one of India's foremost constitution experts A.G. Noorani, and Sumantra Bose,

who teaches political science at the London School of Economics.

The order was issued on Tuesday -- the six-year anniversary of New Delhi's imposition of direct rule -- although the ban took time to be brought to wider attention.



Nauru sells first passports to fund climate action

AFP, Sydney

A remote Pacific nation selling passports to fund climate action has approved just six applicants since early this year, but officials yesterday said that interest in joining the low-lying, largely barren island is increasing.

Pacific microstate Nauru has said it hopes to drum up more than US\$5 million in the "climate resilience citizenship" programme's first year, which would equate to 66 "golden passports" sold at US\$105,000 each.

Almost six months after the scheme opened, Nauru has so far approved six applications -- covering two families and four individuals. But officials said the number of approvals to date does not reflect interest levels.

Nauru believes the passports could eventually generate \$43 million which would account for almost 20 percent of projected government revenue.

The Nauru passport provides visa-free entry into more than 80 countries or territories.

More than 60 different nations offer some form of migration for investment schemes, Australia's Lowy Institute has found.

But there are concerns that these programmes could be ripe for exploitation. A previous Nauru attempt to sell passports ended in disaster when, in 2003, officials sold citizenship to Al-Qaeda members who were later arrested in Asia.



People inspect the damage at the site of an overnight Israeli strike in the southern Lebanese village of Deir Seryan, in the Nabatieh district, yesterday. The strikes killed two people in south Lebanon. Lebanon's cabinet is set to meet again on Thursday to discuss the thorny task of disarming Hezbollah, a day after the Iran-backed group rejected the government's decision to take away its weapons.

PHOTO: AFP

Japan population sees record drop

AFP, Tokyo

The population of Japanese nationals fell by a record amount -- more than 900,000 people -- in 2024, official data showed, as the country battles to reverse its perennially low birth rates.

While many developed countries are struggling with low birth rates, the problem is particularly acute in Japan, where the population has been declining for years.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has called the situation a "quiet emergency", pledging family-friendly measures like more flexible working hours and free day care to try and reverse the trend.

Last year, the number of Japanese fell by 908,574, or 0.75 percent, to 120.65 million.

The decline -- for a 16th straight year -- was the largest drop since the survey began in 1968, the internal affairs ministry said Wednesday.

There were 3.67 million foreigners as of January 1, 2025, representing nearly three percent of the whole population in Japan, which was more than 124.3 million as of that date.

The overall population of the country declined by 0.44 percent from 2023.

Third-hottest July on record wrecks havoc

AFP, Paris

The third-hottest July worldwide ended a string of record-breaking temperatures, but many regions were devastated by extreme weather amplified by global warming, the European climate monitoring service said Thursday.

Heavy rains flooded Pakistan and northern China; Canada, Scotland and Greece struggled to tame wildfires intensified by persistent drought; and many nations in Asia and Scandinavia recorded new average highs for the month.

"Two years after the hottest July on record, the recent streak of global temperature records is over," Carlo Buontempo, director of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, said in a statement.

"But that does not mean climate change has stopped," he said. "We

continue to witness the effects of a warming world."

As in June, July showed a slight dip compared to the preceding two years, averaging 1.25 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) era.

2023 and 2024 warmed above that benchmark by more than 1.5C, which is the Paris Agreement target set in 2015 for capping the rise in global temperatures at relatively safe levels.

That deceptively small increase has been enough to make storms, heatwaves and other extreme weather events far more deadly and destructive.


11 countries experienced their hottest July in at least a half-century, including China, Japan, North Korea, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Brunei and Malaysia, according to AFP calculations.

In Europe, Nordic countries saw an unprecedented string of hot days, including more than 20 days above 30C across Finland.



Indian National Congress (INC) party leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the media in front of a screen showing India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) and Home Minister Amit Shah at the party headquarters in New Delhi yesterday, ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in India's Bihar state.

PHOTO: AFP




Bangladesh Bank
Common Services Department-1
(Equipment Section)
Head Office
Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka				
1	Ministry/Division	Not applicable		
2	Agency	Not applicable		
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank		
4	Procuring entity code			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	The Procurement of 08 (Eight) Pcs. Laptop for Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.		
7	Invitation Ref No.	CSD-1(Eq)69(6)/2025-15		
8	Date	07/08/2025		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	Own source		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)			
13	Project/program name (if applicable)			
14	Tender Package No.			
15	Tender package name	Date		
16	Tender publication date	Date		
17	Tender last selling date	Not applicable		
18	Tender closing date and time	Date	Time	
19	Tender opening date and time	21/08/2025	03:00pm	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address		
	-Receiving tender document	BB website and Hard Copy of Tender Security		
	-Opening tender document	Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
21	-Pre-tender meeting	Date	Time	
		13/08/2025	11:30am	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least Two (2) contract(s) of similar nature successfully completed within the last Three (3) years		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of 08 (Eight) Pcs. Laptop for Bangladesh Bank, Head Office		
24	Brief description of related services	N/A		
25	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	I	Laptop	CSD-1	45,000.00 (forty-five thousand only)
				Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing
				8 weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
26	Name of official inviting tender	Swapan Kumar Goswami		
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (CSD-1)		
28	Address of official inviting tender	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka		
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530148	Fax: 9530441	E-mail: swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.			

DCP: 48/2025-2035
Date: 07-08-2025



Swapan Kumar Goswami
Director (CSD-1) (CSD-1)
Phone: 9530148
E-mail: swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1746

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Tread carefully as new tariffs kick in Bangladesh under pressure as global trade tensions escalate

A new and more perilous chapter in global trade has begun. With the imposition of a 20 percent tariff by the United States, the total duty levied on Bangladesh's vital garment sector now climbs to a punishing 36.5 percent. Our largest export market has suddenly become a far more expensive arena. This is not an isolated squall but part of a much larger storm. The immediate impact is as sharp as it is severe. Exporters face intense pressure from US buyers to absorb the new costs within their already razor-thin profit margins. The very competitiveness of our ready-made garments is at stake.

Yet this moment of crisis is also a test of the nation's resilience and an opportunity for the manufacturing sector to reaffirm its strength. The government and industry leaders believe Bangladesh can weather this, leveraging a hard-won reputation for bulk and timely delivery. The path forward, however, cannot be one of passive hope. It demands a steady hand. The government must continue its diplomatic engagement with Washington, aiming for further negotiations to mitigate this tariff burden.

President Donald Trump's trade decisions pushed American import duties to their highest level in a century, as a new, more contentious era of trade rivalry is playing out. The increases were implemented despite frantic, last-minute lobbying by various countries desperate to escape the levies. In a punitive action against New Delhi's continued purchases of crude oil from Moscow, the US president has now hit India with an additional 25 percent tariff. This comes on top of an existing 25 percent duty imposed after the two nations failed to reach a trade deal before the August 1 deadline—bringing the total tariff on Indian goods to a staggering 50 percent. Whether this new tariff landscape will create a competitive opening for Dhaka remains to be seen.

For Bangladesh, a strategic pivot is essential. Manufacturers must aggressively pursue the diversification of export markets, as the vulnerability of over-reliance on a single trading partner has now been laid bare. This external push must be matched by internal fortification: we must strengthen the industry's backward linkages as an economic necessity. The government, in turn, must encourage and incentivise innovation. The goal must be to help manufacturers move relentlessly up the value chain, from basic apparel to more complex and higher-margin products. In this new global marketplace, it is also time to champion our commitment to sustainable and ethical manufacturing.

The winds of global trade have shifted, perhaps irrevocably. Navigating this new landscape calls for Bangladesh to be both careful and strategic. Our future prosperity depends on it.

EC must create level playing field for all Security, administrative neutrality key issues as we approach the polls

After protracted tensions over the timing of the 13th parliamentary elections, the confirmation of a February date by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday should dispel any doubts in this regard. Reportedly, Yunus has already instructed the Election Commission to complete all arrangements before Ramadan in February. Barring any disruption to this timeline in the ensuing months, the country is officially on the path to its next election. The test now lies in ensuring that this path remains democratic. One concern flagged by some parties involves creating a level playing field so that all parties have a fair chance of participation. This is a legitimate concern given the disturbing trend of crimes, political violence, and security lapses seen over the past months. Can the government limit their effect in electioneering?

It will undoubtedly be very challenging. A recent report by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has presented an unflattering portrayal of ongoing political and administrative practices. It highlighted how political parties, and politics in general, remained hostage to authoritarian practices of the past. Political violence, for instance, remains rampant, with 121 people killed and 5,189 injured in such clashes between August last year and June this year. Extortion by politically connected actors also remains widespread. Many were found to be involved in orchestrating mob attacks, or exploiting dubious cases against rivals. Politicisation of state institutions, including in the judiciary, has also continued. The performance of law enforcement agencies has been similarly disappointing, as they continue to allow arbitrary cases and detentions, while crimes of all sorts persist as before.

That being the situation, how can we trust that there will be a level playing field for all parties—old or new, small or large—and that the election will be free from violence or partisan influence? If the government wants to set an example for the future, it must take a critical look at all the institutions and stakeholders involved with the election, and ensure that everyone acts within the bounds of the law, without bias or undue influence. We are encouraged to learn that the EC and the home ministry have already set to the task of finalising their action plans. Reportedly, the ministry is planning to reshuffle DCs, SPs, UNOs, and OCs through a lottery to minimise administrative bias, and to speed up recruitment, training and other preparations. These efforts, however, must equally focus on the lead up to the election to ensure proper electioneering. The EC, on the other hand, must establish a firm grip on the entire electoral process.

As we approach the election, it is crucial to rein in politically affiliated actors who can abuse their power, hold law enforcement agencies accountable for any rights or rules violations, and restore neutrality across all relevant state institutions.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Resignation of US President Nixon



Faced with the near-certain prospect of impeachment for his role in the Watergate scandal, US President Richard M Nixon, whose administration opposed Bangladesh's Liberation War, announced his resignation on this day in 1974.

JULY DECLARATION

Where is the roadmap for our future journey?

Denigration of our Liberation War will never be acceptable



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher of
The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

Condemn Sheikh Hasina's rule of over 15 years as much as you want, as there is enough fact-based evidence to do so. (See our recent investigative stories, including the one published on Thursday, August 7). But don't denigrate our freedom struggle, our greatest source of pride, the moment when our people made the biggest sacrifice ever. Our *Muktijuddho* is indelibly etched in our hearts, minds, and consciousness. True history will never permit its denigration, although contrived history may. But that "history" will never stand the test of time. That is the lesson of history.

Wasn't the July Declaration meant to chalk out our future on the basis of the values that the uprising represented? Wasn't it supposed to provide a roadmap of how Bangladesh will achieve the goals that the past oppressive regime prevented?

Instead, we have another example of rewriting history.

Whatever may be the stance of independent political parties, the interim government's position must have some authentic base. What Prof Yunus read out as the chief adviser—and which is being proposed for incorporation into our constitution—is but an instance of a "cherry-picked" version of our past.

In the July Declaration, we have a two-paragraph version of our freedom struggle that gave us an independent country. The two paras include a reference to colonial rule and 23 years of "authoritarian Pakistani regime." We "established the state of Bangladesh through a bloody Liberation War following the Declaration of Independence on March 26, 1971." The following para says "... the people of Bangladesh made the utmost sacrifice through a long struggle to materialise a liberal democratic state ... based on equality, human dignity, and social justice..."

That was the depiction of our 23 years of struggle against Pakistan's military and brutal rule.

There is no mention in the declaration of our Language Movement and the first killing of students in the newly formed Pakistan and the birth of "Ekushey February." There is no reference to the historic election of 1970 that gave our political leadership—represented at that time by the Awami League (AL)—the legitimacy to speak on behalf of the people. It was because the leaders were elected that the then political leadership could "declare" independence when the Pakistan Army attacked us in the most brutal and barbaric manner. The election was most crucial for us to form the "government in exile" and gain international support, without which we could not have carried on with our independence war.

In addition, it is shameful that Prof Yunus, as head of the government, read out a document that did not mention "genocide" committed by the Pakistan

army that started with unparalleled brutality on the night of March 25, 1971. There may be some controversy about the figure of three million people killed, but there is no doubt that hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children were indiscriminately killed just because they were Bangalees, citizens of East Pakistan.

There were 10 million refugees—the UNHCR called it the "largest single displacement of refugees in the second half of the century"—who took shelter in India, where they received food and medicine for the nine months of the war. (We later had many issues with India, especially on sharing water and many others, but their role in support of our struggle for independence will remain a part of history.) Millions more were displaced internally, pushing families



This photo, taken on August 3, 2024, shows how the Central Shaheed Minar inspired the July Uprising. Yet, the Language Movement did not find a place in the July Declaration.

FILE PHOTO: NAIMUR RAHMAN

into economic distress and leading to widespread disease and death.

The declaration also does not mention *Mukti Bahini*, who are heroes of the most glorious phase of our history. Dhaka University, which is the centre of the July Uprising, was also the centre of the creation and propagation of the *Mukti Bahini* at that time.

What about the indiscriminate rape of our women by the Pakistani army? Ethnic cleansing was a part of state policy of Pakistan during those crucial nine months. A recent book titled *The Vortex: A True Story of History's Deadliest Storm, an Unspeakable War, and Liberation*—by Scott Carney and Jason Miklian—adds invaluable evidence to the already established ones.

In 1971, Prof Yunus himself was an active member of an expatriate group in the US who, along with others, did invaluable work to propagate the legal and moral justification of our Liberation War. He met US senators, political leaders from both the Republican and Democratic party, and wrote pamphlets and media articles depicting our struggle. What did he say

though—for women. They constitute 50 percent of our population and there is not even a mention about their plight.

What stunned us is the absence of any special focus on the youth in the document. It is the youth who gave us an opportunity to build a new Bangladesh. In several conferences, Prof Yunus eulogised the role of the youth and pinpointed their importance in building a future not only of Bangladesh but of the whole world.

In para 9 of the July Declaration, Sheikh Hasina's regime is called "anti-people, autocratic, against human rights that turned Bangladesh into a fascist, mafia and failed state and thereby tarnished Bangladesh's image." There is enough ground to accept all the charges, but was Bangladesh a "failed state"? Forget everything else, are we not graduating from LDC to a middle-income country status? Didn't this government itself refuse to postpone the "graduation" time, as requested by the business community, as we are ready? Is this possible graduation a sign of a "failed state"? Are we not "tarnishing" Bangladesh's image now?

stuck in my mind and forced me to ponder that question. Then, it dawned on me that not only are we obsessed with the past, but we also think nothing of distorting it. We love to suit it to our own political and ideological perspective, whatever may be the cost in terms of credibility, authenticity and building trust. Even when we repeatedly see that "contrived history" falls with the fall of regimes, we have no qualms in blatantly replacing facts with our own fancied version of it. Much of our intellectual community, who toed the lines of this group or the other, are guilty of it.

We have suffered enough at the hands of "tailor-made" history. The time has come to learn from that mistake and not repeat it. We remember how, with regime changes, school textbooks changed too; how recognised and highly respected authors got dropped because of a particular regime's likes and dislikes. Because we tinker with the past, we are unable to build a future of stability and trust. This time, we should not make that mistake again. In a relentlessly evolving, AI-dominated world, we may not get another chance.

Who pays when the roads are blocked?

Dr Mohammad Naveed Ahmed
is managing director of Mvako Appliance
Limited, Bangladesh, adjunct associate
professor at Independent University
Bangladesh, and joint convener at the Dhaka
Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

MOHAMMAD NAVEED AHMED

Every time political or ceremonial events take over the streets in Bangladesh, it is the ordinary citizens, "the mango people," who silently pay the price. Small traders, informal workers, and roadside vendors are the first to suffer when traffic comes to a halt, deliveries are missed, and perishable goods go bad.

The economic cost of road blockades is not an abstract concern. It plays out visibly, as it did on August 6, when Dhaka was brought to a near standstill by celebratory processions and street programmes. While supporters of political parties waved flags and

loudspeakers blared, the city's arteries choked. Delivery vans were stuck for hours, online orders were cancelled, office-goers were stranded, and many daily earners—who often survive on a few hundred takas a day—went home empty-handed. The irony is that even when there is no political unrest, the culture of blocking roads for rallies and commemorations has the same suffocating effect on commuters, small business owners, and informal workers.

Over 78 lakh SMEs in Bangladesh employ more than two crore people and account for about 27 percent of the country's GDP. These livelihoods are often dependent on road transport. A half day of blocked streets means halted deliveries, lost inventory, and cancelled sales, especially for perishable goods like fruits, fish, and dairy.

In 2023, an Al Jazeera report cited the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry

(FBCCI), which stated that the ongoing blockades were causing Bangladesh's economy to lose Tk 6,500 crore per day. This trend persists to this day. And the greatest burden of this loss is borne by the poor, not really by the large corporations or organisers of political parties.

The situation worsens for small businesses due to systemic and structural unfairness. Generally, large businesses can adapt as they have warehouses and can use alternate routes. The wealthy can stay home or shift to online services. But the "mango people" do not have that luxury. For them, every hour of gridlock is a step closer to poverty. And when gridlock comes not just from political unrest but from celebrations and rallies, the message is even clearer: their time, work, and survival are dispensable.

This trend must be reversed. I think the following steps will make a difference: i) creating emergency

movement protocols; ii) ensuring stricter regulation of road occupation; iii) protecting informal livelihoods; and iv) enforcing transport discipline. Essential and perishable goods must be allowed passage during all major events, closures, or celebrations, and rallies must be time-bound and limited in scope. Such events should be held in designated zones away from economic corridors. Furthermore, urban mobility plans should ensure that no single event can paralyse the capital's transport for hours.

August 6 was just the latest example—but protests, blockades and other street programmes are a recurring nightmare for small traders and workers. These people do not gain anything from symbolism, and yet they lose the most. If we want an inclusive and just Bangladesh, the "mango people" must be given the freedom to move, to trade, and to earn—no less than anyone else.

Democratising the economy for all



Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir is professor at the Department of Development Studies in University of Dhaka.

RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

The interim government inherited a broken economy from the toppled regime, which had collapsed due to people's wrath. Serving its oligarchic clientele, the deposed regime, severed from the people's hopes and desires, robbed the economy to the point of brink.

From this suffering, the people rose in defiance against fascism. Their resistance, forged in the fires of disappearances, killings, and state terror, finally erupted in the July uprising last year. The working class and students stained the streets with their own blood in the uprising, as they sought liberation from the unrelenting crisis. The regime's brutality left deep scars.

Since 2008, a cabal of politicians, bureaucrats and business people nurtured an economy of patronage, a system where the spoils flowed to the connected while the majority languished. Institutions were hollowed out, democratic rights suffocated, and accountability tossed aside like inconvenient truths. Through the concentration of power, an extractive economic order was imposed.

The current arrangement, born of that political order, structures the economy as a gated fortress, excluding the public from meaningful participation. As a result, unemployment continues to rise. Youth unemployment has reached intolerable levels while new waves of poverty crash upon households.

Investment is stagnant; without investment, there can be no jobs. Real wages are falling. People can barely cope as inflation erodes their earnings. Social cohesion is fraying. Workers' lives have hit rock bottom. These circumstances cause inequality to thrive. Bangladesh, full of potential, continues to stumble in its journey to become a democratic state for all.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Breakdown and repair

The interim government cannot be expected to fully restore the economy. Yet, it has taken steps. Inflation has slightly eased. Foreign exchange reserves have increased due to higher official remittance inflow, growth in exports, external loans, and lower imports. Reforms have begun in banking oversight and legal frameworks.

The outgoing regime's budget should have been revised immediately after the

interim authority took charge. Given the absence of a parliament after the uprising, ordinances were issued under Article 93(3) of the constitution to pass the budget and related statutes. The government has held talks with political parties; it could have engaged with them on the budget. There remain deficits in the constitution concerning the people's sovereignty over public finance. A dialogue could have

helped create the blueprint of a budget-related reform agenda. The economy remains a ship adrift. According to preliminary estimates by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, GDP growth in FY2024-25 stands at 3.97 percent, the lowest in two decades outside the Covid period. Tax collection is just 7.2 percent of GDP. The NBR tax-GDP ratio fell by 0.66 percentage points compared to last year. Debt servicing has climbed. The

poverty and inequality could worsen. By 2025, national poverty could reach 22.9 percent, with extreme poverty at 9.3 percent, resulting in three million new poor. Labour demand has shrunk greatly, and private sector hiring has declined, while domestic investment remains frozen. Day labourers, farm workers, and transport workers are bleeding income. Women, especially in informal sectors, are the worst hit. According to the International Labour

Organization (ILO), from 2013 to 2022, the working-age population grew by 1.5 percent annually, while employment growth was a mere 0.2 percent. Unemployment continues to rise at an alarming rate.

From crisis to transformation

The road ahead cannot be paved with band-aid solutions. Structural bottlenecks must be addressed at the root. Massive job creation is essential. Young people must be integrated into the labour force with fair wages. Otherwise, the demographic dividend will indefinitely remain out of reach.

New waves of investment and an industrial policy built on diversification, competitiveness and productivity, rather than cheap labour, can generate jobs. But transformation is not possible without a skill-based and future-ready education system. Education must prepare young people not just to survive, but to thrive.

Structural reforms demand a coherent medium and long-term strategy. But no long-term reform can be truly realised without political legitimacy.

What the economy needs more than emergency repair is democratisation. Democratising the economy is not the job of an interim caretaker. It must be carried out by a government elected by, and accountable to, the people. The longer this transition drags, the more fragile reforms become.

Investors do not gamble in twilight; they wait for sunrise. That is why the most urgent task is to return power to the people through free, fair, and inclusive elections. Only a legitimate government can inspire trust, ensure policy stability, and create the conditions for meaningful transformation.

The interim government's historic task will be complete only when it ensures a peaceful transfer of power. The election must not be treated as a procedural formality, but as a democratic necessity.

The economy is not just about interest rates or revenue targets. It is about people and their right to shape their future. Reclaiming that right is the most profound economic incentive and stimulus. It is time for the people to have their say, and for the journey of transformation to begin through democratic practice.

Symbolism isn't enough: What Bangladesh can and must do now



Shafiqul Islam is director of Water Diplomacy, and professor of civil and environmental engineering and water diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, U.S.

SHAFIQU L ISLAM

Twelve months after the uprising that upended Bangladesh's political landscape, the interim government (IG) has successfully sustained a fragile stability—steady food prices, a functioning budget, a stabilised foreign reserve, etc. We may recall that, during its first 100 days, the government made symbolic strides that hinted at a new direction. From stabilising central bank reserves to enabling peaceful religious celebrations and reopening universities, these gestures signalled a break from fear-based governance. Equally significant was the return of robust criticism across media and social platforms, suggesting that democratic discourse had regained public space.

On the diplomatic front, a former diplomat emphasised that "the government managed to maintain a coalition that included student leaders, reformist bureaucrats, and mainstream political actors while still keeping lines open to key international players." An expatriate pointed to dialogues with China and Pakistan as part of an effort

to diversify Bangladesh's diplomatic options. Prof Yunus's August 2024 speech struck a hopeful chord: transparency, justice, and national healing. The symbolic steps hinted at a new trajectory.

Symbolism, however, alone cannot sustain legitimacy, especially in a nation that rose to transform after waiting for meaningful change for so long. People did not expect quick fixes, but many hoped Prof Yunus would serve not merely as an international figurehead, but as a principled pragmatist—capable of translating vision into action for a new Bangladesh. A year later, for many, the outcomes have fallen short of those expectations.

One of the biggest failures, several observers agreed, was the IG's inability to deliver a clear, timely, and actionable agenda. "They needed to speak to the nation—not with ambiguity, but with urgency and honesty—about the state of collapse they inherited," said one entrepreneur. That early silence allowed rumours to fester, opposing forces to regroup, and public expectations to spiral.

Admittedly, the IG inherited a deeply compromised bureaucracy. "The fascist players are everywhere—from academia to the courts," said a senior civil servant. The government's quiet resistance has slowed down even the most well-intended reforms. "Despite scattered initiatives—from repatriation of siphoned money to anti-graft investigations—there has been little public evidence of breakthrough reforms," said another person.

Justice, too, has faltered. "The IG should've gone for something like a Nuremberg-style tribunal—quick, symbolic, and decisive," lamented a retired academic. Instead, the system allowed many perpetrators to fade into bureaucratic anonymity. A leading physician echoed this frustration, observing that the momentum of the uprising was squandered when its youth leaders were "absorbed into a king's party framework," derailing their credibility and weakening the movement's long-term prospects. The failure to adequately address the needs of injured revolutionaries and victims' families remains a moral blemish. "We cannot build a new Bangladesh by forgetting those who bled for it," said one technocrat.

Leadership style has also drawn pointed critiques. "Dr Yunus is too academic, too symbolic. He seems more concerned with his private legacy than reshaping the nation's future," said one expatriate. While some credited him with using his global stature to inhibit a military takeover, others questioned his lack of decisiveness. The core advisory

team, many noted, remains drawn from a tight personal circle—well-meaning but lacking the depth and practical governance experience needed for a nation in flux. "This required political savvy and pragmatic muscle," said one tech entrepreneur.

I likened this journey of the IG to the metaphorical road from Tetulia to Teknaf—a long path toward democratic and institutional reform. It is supposed to be difficult. However, the IG seems stuck in Bogura, losing momentum and direction.

Those who hold a hopeful vision for Bangladesh believe that it should use this moment not just to move beyond international dependency, but also to bridge the divide between elites and working people by investing in innovation-led development that delivers tangible benefits for all. However, the sceptics are more cautious. "The same corrupt networks could return, wearing new masks," warned an expatriate physician.

The IG has yet to show that it grasps this divide between elites and the working class, let alone how to close it. After decades of political betrayal, people are sceptical. Earlier, when advisers responded directly to protests by our injured heroes, offering compensation and rehabilitation, some of this scepticism began to thaw. But that momentum has since been stalled. Without a transparent mechanism, the moral contract between the state and citizen remains fragile.

A revitalised Bangladesh must translate symbols into actionable systems. First,

the IG must prioritise credible electoral reform. This includes codifying term limits, establishing a clear and binding electoral calendar, and guaranteeing the independence and resourcing of the Election Commission.

Second, the restoration of law and order must move beyond elite enclaves. For too many citizens, daily life remains shaped by extortion, harassment, and fear—often at the hands of local enforcers, complicit officials, or political thugs. The IG must dismantle protection rackets, ensure impartial policing, and make the rule of law visible where it matters most: in the lives of the working poor.

Third, the youth who sparked the uprising must be heard. Student unions such as DUCSU must be freed from party patronage and revitalised as platforms for civic engagement and democratic oversight.

The uprising brought down a regime, but regime change is not transformation. In August 2024, the country stood united in its demand for justice. A year later, that unity has splintered into political horse trading while public frustration is growing. Dreams of a just and inclusive Bangladesh 2.0 now compete with fears of returning to the tyranny people rose to reject.

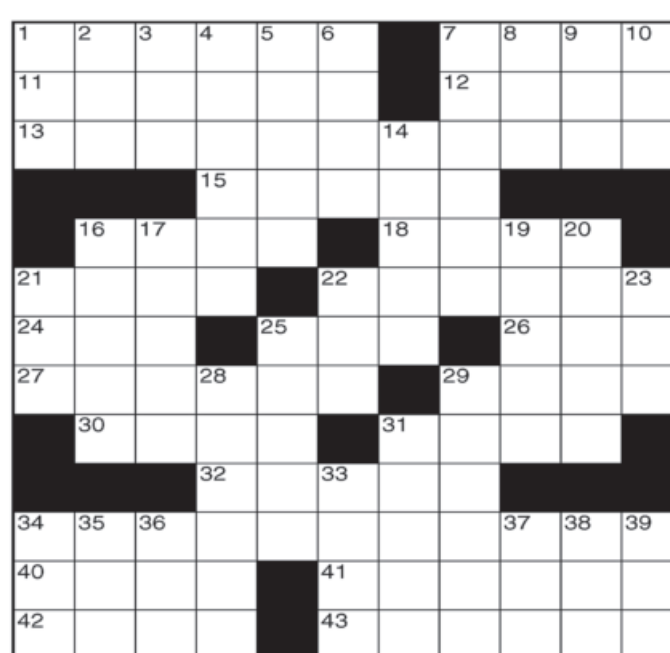
Whether this moment becomes a turning point or a lost opportunity will depend on whether the IG delivers more than symbolism. At the core, there must be functional electoral and constitutional reforms.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

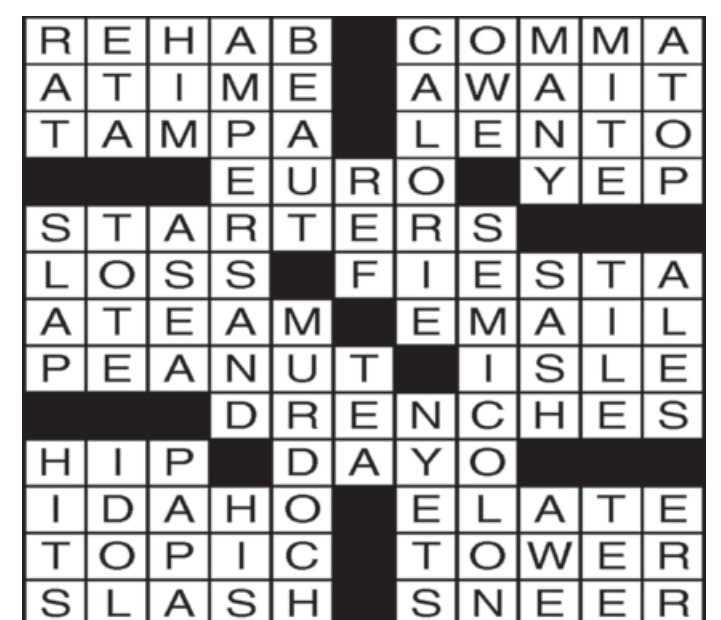
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21 Cry loudly
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34 Triangular sail
35 "Born in the -"
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



'The Eternal Journey' to compete at KISFFO 2025 in Greece

The *Eternal Journey* (*Tadattwo Onneshan*), a 17-minute experimental short by Fozle Rabby, has been officially selected for competition at the 3rd Karditsa International Short Film Festival Opseis (KISFFO 2025) in Greece.

Shot in luminous black-and-white, the film follows theatre actor Pankaj Chowdhury Rony's transformation into Kute Kahar, a palanquin bearer, through method acting that blurs performance and reality. Rooted in poetic realism, the film explores themes of identity, memory, and cultural inheritance.

Produced by Shankha Das Gupta, and co-produced by Nimon Morshed and Fazle Hasan Shishir, the film draws inspiration from Nasrin Sultana's story and Arindam Natya Goshthi's production. Its selection at KISFFO highlights the global recognition of Bangladeshi independent cinema.



SHOUMYA seizes the day

After becoming a landmark in the film industry, Utshob premiered on OTT on August 7. Shoumya Joyti, who plays an important role in the film, has been residing in Melbourne, Australia, for a while. He conversed with The Daily Star over the phone about his experience.

When did you land in Australia? How has the experience been so far with the overseas audience?

I arrived here on June 29, and the first show was on July 3. Since the majority of the Bengali community lives in Sydney and Melbourne, we had the first screening in Sydney, and then I came to Melbourne, where I am currently staying.

As for the response, it has been quite unbelievable. I witnessed the first phase in Bangladesh, and now here in Australia, it has been absolutely incredible—all the shows here are houseful just like in Bangladesh. It's amazing to see that people have come from far away to watch the movie.

For the ones who grew up during the '90s, 'Utshob' brings a wave of nostalgia. Surprisingly, Gen Z was also in awe after it hit theatres.

I think the way the film's narrative is showcased worked all the magic. The script and dialogues deserve great applause because they truly connected with everyone. My mother

often tells me that this generation isn't used to seeing love stories in contemporary films. They rarely get the opportunity to watch a movie with the entire family. *Utshob* was a delightful treat for them.

You've been part of several projects with period-based timelines—'Maya' (directed by Animesh Aich) and 'Utshob', for instance. Did you make any specific preparations for the roles?

I had a guest appearance in *Maya*. As for my preparations, I'm grateful to the team who made it easier to step into a different generation. I even learned to ride a bike for the role—and ended up needing 15 stitches, most on my head! (laughs)

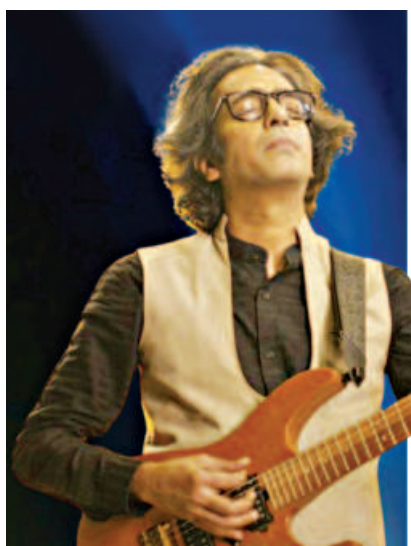
Emotionally, I am already connected to the period-based eras. I grew up watching Zahid Hasan's *Kothao Keu Nei* and old Bangla films. I'm also a huge Salman Shah fan—I've seen all his movies. We had a VCR at home too, so I was familiar with many things from that time.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHOUMYA JOYTI

You have announced a year's break from acting. As a rising artiste, don't you think this is your time to seize the spotlight?

I will be honest, when I received such an overwhelming response for *Utshob*, it made me feel that my responsibilities as a performer have grown to a great extent. Also, people have developed great expectations of me. So, I would never want to let them down. I want to educate myself more as a performer and take acting lessons. I'm also nearing the end of my undergraduate degree in English Literature at NSU. So, I am striving to maybe go abroad for my higher studies.



Bappa Mazumder reimagines 'Brishti Pore' with AI music video

More than two decades after its original release, Bappa Mazumder has re-envisioned Dalchhut's

classic *Brishti Pore* with a new arrangement and an AI-generated music video.

The original track, a fan favourite from the band's 2000 album

Hridaypur, has been updated with a fresh sonic and visual treatment.

Released on August 5, on his YouTube channel, the new version features lyrics by Sheikh Rana and the original melody by Bappa. Ahad Antor designed the AI-powered music video, marking another step in the artiste's embrace of new technology to reduce production costs.

Bappa encouraged listeners to appreciate the new version as a separate expression, stating, "Please don't compare it to the original."

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Reimagining Waste'

Urukku Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh and ULAB, is hosting *Reimagining Waste* today, an exhibition born from a three-month workshop transforming discarded materials into creative works. The event will showcase functional and poetic designs that challenge perceptions of waste, encouraging visitors to rethink consumption. A special cultural ceremony is scheduled for 6pm today.

Date: Friday to Saturday | August 8-9
Time: 4pm onwards
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh



James Cameron returns to non-Avatar films with Hiroshima project



James Cameron is set to direct *Ghosts of Hiroshima*, marking his first non-Avatar project in nearly 15 years. Based on Charles Pellegrino's new book, the film will explore the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing. Cameron announced the project on August 6, the 80th anniversary of the attack.

Cameron, who previously collaborated with Pellegrino on *Titanic*, describes the story as one of the most powerful he has encountered.

While *Avatar: Fire and Ash* is now set for release in December 2025, Cameron insists cinema alone can't fix global issues—but stories like this can inspire reflection and connection to humanity.

NEWS

Rights violations persist amid weak law and order

FROM PAGE 12
of the previous regime's repressive tactics. Meanwhile, the deterioration of law and order has left citizens increasingly anxious about their safety.

At the same time, the statement read, mob violence has surged alarmingly across the country. "Whether triggered by political provocation or social unrest, numerous deaths and injuries have resulted from such activities. The law enforcement agencies and other institutions concerned have failed to prevent or address these incidents, which has raised serious concerns about the state of human rights in the country."

ASK further said that another alarming aspect of the current situation is the growing vulnerability and insecurity of religious minorities.

"While the public hoped for an inclusive system that respected human rights, attacks, threats, and persecution against ethnic and religious minorities have only increased.

"Some have even faced organised attacks over allegations of blasphemy,

accompanied by looting and threats to their lives. The absence of visible justice or punishment for perpetrators has deepened the sense of insecurity among minority communities."

Furthermore, it said, even the women who were at the forefront of the movement are now living in a state of insecurity.

Public incidents of assault, harassment, and humiliation of women have risen, while rape, sexual violence, and domestic abuse continue to dominate headlines, the statement read.

"Hate speech targeting women is on the rise, alongside intensified moral policing over their clothing and behaviour. This oppression is no longer limited to individual acts; it has taken the form of structural violence, severely restricting women's social, political, and economic empowerment."

The media has also been subjected to various forms of harassment, ASK noted, adding that hundreds of journalists have had their press accreditation cards revoked, been dismissed through strategic planning, faced false allegations, legal

harassment, arrests, and even attacks on their news offices.

"These developments have raised questions throughout the year about the true state of press freedom and freedom of expression."

Moreover, students' rights in educational institutions have been violated, it added. "Many students face unfair expulsions and revocation of their academic certificates, threatening their right to education, freedom of expression, and democratic values."

Amid these grim realities, one hopeful sign is Bangladesh's signing of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, ASK said.

"The formation of a commission to investigate enforced disappearances under previous governments is a significant step toward accountability and upholding international human rights standards. However, the government's failure to reform the National Human Rights Commission casts doubt on its commitment to protecting human rights."

ASK also welcomed the

announcement of a tentative timeline for the next election by the chief adviser, calling it an important step toward restoring the democratic process. The organisation expressed hope that this would pave the way for a free, fair, impartial, and inclusive election.

The rights body strongly demanded that the government ensure the rule of law and due legal process, and establish an environment that respects human rights.

Among its other demands were effective action against arbitrary arrests, mob violence, and attacks on minorities; a zero-tolerance policy for violence against women; concrete steps to protect freedom of expression and media independence; safeguarding of constitutional rights to assembly and organisation; and full transparency and accountability in investigations of human rights violations.

"The state must now play an effective, responsible, and rights-friendly role to ensure the dream of change achieved through the people's blood and sacrifice does not fail," ASK said.

Went to the sea to contemplate, reflect

FROM PAGE 12
privately about the future direction of politics. Sitting by the sea, I deeply reflected on the mass uprising, the Citizens' Committee, the structure of the Citizen Party, the future constituent assembly, and the outline of a new democratic constitution," he wrote. "I don't see this as a crime. It was a responsible and thoughtful exercise for a political activist."

He stated that Hasnat had informed him on the night of August 4, using a colleague's phone, that he planned a short trip with friends. Nasiruddin said he advised him to inform the party convener. Later that night, Nasiruddin met with Convener Nahid and spoke to Member Secretary Akhter, who confirmed that three other leaders would be present at the July Declaration event and that Nasiruddin had not been assigned any role.

"So I decided to go on the trip," Nasiruddin wrote.

Those who accompanied him included NCP Chief Organiser (North) Sarjis Alam and his wife; Senior Joint

Member Secretary Tasnim Jara and her husband Joint Convener Khaled Saifullah.

Nasiruddin also addressed rumours of a secret meeting with former US Ambassador Peter Haas. "I immediately told the media this was false. The hotel confirmed he was not staying there, and later sources confirmed he was in Washington at the time," he wrote. "My trip was transparent, lawful, and intended for personal thinking. Still, I am replying with respect to party discipline. Let me be clear: travelling is not a crime. History is not only made in meetings—sometimes it begins in solitude, even by the sea."

Hasnat, in his statement, criticised the July Declaration for "prioritising the views of a few individuals" instead of reflecting unity or the voices of those injured or martyred in the July Uprising.

"On August 5, I left Dhaka as a quiet protest against an incomplete July Declaration," he wrote. "The event, which should have honoured unity, instead promoted division.

When the voices of a handful take precedence over those injured or martyred in the movement, I saw no reason to attend."

He said he had initially tried to reach Convener Nahid and later informed Nasiruddin of his plans.

Hasnat also alleged that their movements were tracked by intelligence agencies, and that their photos and videos were shared with the media. "In collusion with some media and intelligence agencies, our actions were portrayed as suspicious," he wrote.

He further condemned what he called a "slandering and misogynistic attack" on Tasnim Jara. "I believe this vile attack aimed to discourage women from participating in politics," he wrote.

Hasnat concluded that the show-cause notice made no mention of any breach of party rules. "There is no such mention in the notice I received, because I did not break any," he wrote. "Instead, the language of the notice fuelled conspiracy theories."

20 hurt in clash at Al-Arafah Bank

FROM PAGE 2
Station confirmed that a clash took place between two groups, but no one has been arrested yet.

After the fall of the previous government regime, various regulatory bodies, including Bangladesh Bank, launched investigations into the recruitment process at Al-Arafah Islami Bank and found several irregularities.

Following directives from the relevant authorities to regularise the situation, the bank conducted an evaluation test for 1,414 identified employees.

Of them, 547 who failed the assessment were terminated, according to bank officials.

According to current bank officials, the terminated employees suddenly gathered at the main entrance of Al-Arafah Islami Bank's head office on the morning of July 28, forming a human barrier and behaving aggressively.

Since then, for the past eight days, they have been blocking the main gate from morning till evening.

Major Sadikul's wife

FROM PAGE 12

Participants allegedly chanted anti-government slogans and discussed a plan to mobilise supporters from across the country to occupy the Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka upon instruction from ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, said the investigation officer.

The aim, according to police, was to create instability and spread panic to pave the way for Hasina's return to power. The remand was sought to extract "vital information" about the alleged plan, the petition added.

Sumaiya, who was detained from her residence in Mirpur DOHS on Wednesday evening, denied all allegations and claimed she had been

falsely implicated.

In her bail prayer, the defence argued that the accused was not involved in the incident and had left the venue shortly after arriving and noticing a large crowd. Her counsel sought both bail and cancellation of the remand prayer.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate rejected the bail plea and granted the five-day remand.

Major Sadikul is currently in military custody over alleged involvement in the same incident.

At least 28 people have so far been arrested in the case filed with Bhatara Police Station on July 13 over what police described as a "secret training session".

525 high-rises illegally built

FROM PAGE 12

Mahmood said.

The issue of unauthorised high-rise buildings near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) and the old airport in Tejgaon has come into focus following the July 21 plane crash at Milestone School & College in the Diabari area.

The Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashed into the school's compound, killing at least 35 people and injuring scores of others. Most of the victims were schoolchildren.

At the media briefing, Caab officials clarified that there are no unauthorised high-rise buildings surrounding the Milestone compound.

Group Captain Md Noor-e-Alam, member (Air Traffic Management) of CAAB, explained that the permitted height for buildings in that area is maximum 150 feet, and the tallest

building surrounding the Milestone school camps is currently 135 feet high.

About aviation experts' views that training of fighter jets should not be carried out over the sky of densely populated Dhaka, the CAAB chief said fighter jets use HSIA runway just for taking off and landing.

"But the training area and training path are different, it's not in the Dhaka sky," the CAAB chairman added.

Regarding the inauguration of the Terminal 3 at the HSIA, CAAB Chairman Mostafa did not provide a specific date.

However, he mentioned that efforts were underway to make the terminal fully operational very soon.

He also said discussions were ongoing with a Japanese consortium regarding the operation of the terminal, and a formal agreement would be signed once both parties reach an understanding.

Formal charges against ex-DMP

FROM PAGE 12

murder, conspiracy, complicity, facilitation, abetment, incitement, failure to prevent or punish crimes, and command responsibility—all under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

According to the prosecution, the case was filed over the killing of two people and the shooting of two others during the movement in Rampura.

On July 19, six-year-old Musa was shot and critically injured during police action. The same bullet fatally struck his grandmother, Ayesha Begum, after passing through the child's body. Musa survived after treatment, but his grandmother died.

Another victim, Md Nadim, was also shot dead during the same incident.

In a separate incident that day, a video went viral on social media showing a young man, later identified as 18-year-old Amir Hossain, hanging from the ledge of an under-construction building. The video appeared to show two policemen shooting at him at close range while he clung to the edge, desperately trying to save himself.

ICT Prosecutor Faruk Ahmed shared these details with journalists after submitting the formal charges to the registrar of ICT-1. The charges are expected to be formally placed before the tribunal soon, according to ICT sources.

On Wednesday, prosecutor Mizanul Islam told reporters ICT's probe agency submitted its investigation report to the prosecution on July 31.

131 held in weeklong joint drives

Says ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 131 individuals -- including listed criminals, illegal arms holders, muggers, teen gang members, and drug dealers -- have been arrested during weeklong joint drives led by the army.

The operations, conducted between July 31 and August 7, were part of the ongoing nationwide security efforts, the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) said in a statement yesterday.

Units under infantry divisions and independent brigades of the Bangladesh Army carried out the drives in coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

Rain leaves

FROM PAGE 3

Muradpur. It was a struggle to get to New Bridge."

Public transport services have become scarce due to submerged roads, prompting rickshaw pullers and CNG-run autorickshaw drivers to charge inflated fares.

"I usually pay Tk 50 for a rickshaw ride from Muradpur to the Wasa intersection. Today [yesterday], I had to pay Tk 80 because rickshaws were hard to find," said Mamunur Rashid, a private service holder.

Residents blamed the persistent waterlogging on clogged drains and waste-filled canals, criticising the authorities for failing to implement sustainable drainage solutions.

PRAYER TIMING	
AUGUST 8	
Fazr	Juma
4:20	12:30
5:00	6:47
6:47	8:15
JAMAT	Asr
4:55	1:15
5:15	6:50
6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

A platform for survival

In flood-prone char areas in Rangpur region, neighbours unite to build elevated cluster homes



S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

In the flood-prone riverine regions of northern Bangladesh, a grassroots survival strategy called the "cluster homestead" is emerging as a beacon of resilience.

Along the banks of the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, and Dudhkumar rivers, people living on the remote chars have started jointly constructing elevated earthen platforms where five to ten families live together -- platforms that double as flood shelters during emergencies.

Each cluster homestead is typically built 8 to 10 feet higher than the surrounding land. These are constructed on 15 to 25 decimals of land, with the total cost ranging between Tk 40,000 to Tk 60,000 per unit.

In the five districts of Rangpur division -- Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Nilphamari, and Gaibandha -- there are around 560 chars, including 450 in Kurigram alone.

The model of cluster homesteads is now rapidly spreading across these vulnerable zones. Mizanur Rahman, 55, a day labourer in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said ten families, including his, built a cluster homestead on 25 decimals of land last year, spending around Tk 60,000.

"During floods, while others' homes get submerged, our homestead remains safe, and even neighbouring families take shelter here," he said.

Nazrul Islam, 65, a marginal farmer from Ulipur upazila, said five families have been



living together on one such platform for the past three years. "We've planted trees to improve the environment. Living together also ensures mutual support during floods or erosion," he added.

Sekendar Ali, 70, a resident of Char Gorokmandol in Phulbari upazila, said, "Earlier, our home would flood every year. We had to flee to schools or roadside shelters. But now, with eight families building a 10-foot-high cluster homestead together, we don't

face that hardship anymore."

In Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, farmer Subal Chandra Barman, 65, said, "Six families have been living on our 20 decimal cluster homestead for four years. We've planted fruit trees around it. Even during floods, the platform remains dry and safe."

Professor Shafiqul Islam Bebu, convener of the Kurigram Char Development Committee, said while cluster homesteads are effective, most families can't afford to build them.

"Government and NGO support is far too limited. Every time a flood hits, the importance of these platforms becomes clear. The government must step in and ensure support for building cluster homesteads for all char residents," he said.



BBC Media Action launches 'BBC Hello Check'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BBC Media Action yesterday launched its latest venture, "BBC Hello Check," a social media-based platform aimed at building awareness among Bangladeshis on issues such as the impact of climate change and tackling disinformation.

The initiative was launched with the unveiling of a new logo during a ceremony held at a city hotel.

Audiences can access the content of BBC Hello Check through its Facebook page, as well as its YouTube and TikTok accounts.

Topics covered by the platform will include gender and social inclusion, governance, media development, health, life and livelihoods, violence against women, civil and women's rights, freedom of expression, and cybercrime.

The target audience will include youth, children, and the broader community.

By creating this content, the platform aims to provide information that helps people make quick, accurate, and effective decisions.

Speaking at the ceremony, BBC Media Action Country Director Al Mamun said the new platform is "a rebranding" of their previous initiative "Hello Check", which reached more than 12 million young people over the past eight years.

Relocate training flights

FROM PAGE 3

said joint civil-military operation guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are regularly ignored at Dhaka airport.

In response, Group Capt M Kamrul Islam, director CW&IT at Air Headquarters and former executive director of HSA, said HSA undergoes ICAO safety inspections, audits, and certifications every two years, and improvements are ongoing.

"Each civil and military flight follows proper protocols and is controlled as per Air Traffic Control clearance," he said, adding that the Bangladesh Air Force also conducts strict flight safety audits for every flight.

Salahuddin M Rahmatullah, former

head of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Group at CAAB, criticised CAAB's passive role in ensuring aviation safety and suggested constructing a second, independent runway at Dhaka airport.

Aviation expert and Bangladesh Monitor Editor Kazi Wahidul Alam presented the keynote, calling for the formation of a national aviation emergency task force. The body would include CAAB, BAF, disaster management agencies, emergency services, and local government.

He also proposed setting up Aviation Incident Response Zones (AIRZ) around densely populated air corridors or known approach paths of military aircraft.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

আইইবি ভবন (১০ম ও ১১তম তলা), রমনা, ঢাকা

www.sreda.gov.bd

স্মারক নম্বর-২৭.০২.০০০০.০১১.১১.০০১.২৪-৩৩৪

তারিখঃ ২৩ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২
০৭ আগস্ট ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (স্রেডা) নিম্নোক্ত অস্থায়ী পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত শর্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (<https://sreda.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে) আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন ব্যতীত কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না (Online):

ক্রম	পদের নাম ও বেতন ফেল (জা.বে.ফেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	বয়স	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১	সহকারী পরিচালক (উইভি এন্ড আদার্স) টা: ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯ম)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০১ (এক)	(ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে ডিগ্রি বা মাস্ট্রিক বা কেমিক্যাল প্রকৌশল বিষয়ে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) শিক্ষাজীবনে ২ (দুই)টিতে প্রথম বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি থাকিতে হইবে; তবে কোন পরীক্ষায় তৃতীয় বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

২। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

- সকল পদের প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রেই ১১.০৮.২০২৫ইং তারিখে বয়সসীমা অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে একিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরির প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। তবে সকল চাকরির প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- চাকরির আবেদন ফরমে (Applicants Copy) সর্বশেষ শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাসহ সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা উল্লেখ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় চাকরির জন্য নির্বাচিত হলে চাকরির আবেদনে উল্লিখিত সনদ ব্যতীত চাকরির আবেদনের পূর্বে অর্জিত অন্যান্য শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার সুযোগ থাকবে না।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধানে কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- কোনো ব্যক্তি কোনো পদে সরাসরিভাবে নিয়োগ লাভের জন্য উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হইবেন না, যদি তিনি (ক) বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক না হন, অথবা বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা না হন, অথবা বাংলাদেশের ডমিসাইল না হন; এবং (খ) বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নহেন এইরূপ কোনো ব্যক্তিকে বিবাহ করিয়া থাকেন বা বিবাহ করিবার জন্য প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ হইয়া থাকেন।
- লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং পূরণকৃত Application Form সহ সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত একসেট ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত শূন্য পদ পূরণে টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্মচারী চাকরি প্রবিধানমালা, ২০১৮ অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত কোনো শর্ত বা অনুচ্ছেদ সংশোধন/পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন বা বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- এই নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

৩। আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলিঃ

- পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ <https://sreda.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ
 - Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরু তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১১.০৮.২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা।
 - Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১১.০৯.২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা।
- উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এ পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিবেন।
- Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার রঙিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০xপ্রস্থ ৩০০) pixel ও স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০xপ্রস্থ ৮০) pixel স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 100KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 60KB হতে হবে।
- Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।
- প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এককপি জমা দিবেন।
- SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানঃ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং Signature upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নিফুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's copy প্রার্থী প্রিন্ট অথবা download করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই)টি SMS করে বর্ণিত পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ২০০/- (দুইশত টাকা) ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ২৩ (তেইশ) টাকা মোট ২২৩ (দুইশত তেইশ) টাকা, অনাধিক ৭২ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। অনগ্রসর

শ্রেণির (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীগণ) প্রার্থীরা আবেদন ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ টাকা) ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬ (ছাপ্পাত্ত) টাকা অনধিক ৭২ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, "Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোনো অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না।"

প্রথম SMS: SREDA<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: SREDA ABCDEF

Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk. 223 will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is xxxxxxxxxx. To pay fee Type SREDA<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: SREDA <space>YES<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: SREDA YES xxxxxxxxxx

Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for SREDA Application for xxxxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxx).

৮. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <https://sreda.teletalk.com.bd> এবং স্রেডার Website: www.sreda.gov.bd এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS-এর মাধ্যমে (শুধু যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

৯. SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও ভেন্যুর নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংবলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক Print (রঙিন) করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

১০. শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID, Serial

এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

i. User ID জানা থাকলে SREDA<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222.

Example: SREDA HELP USER ABCDEF

ii. PIN Number জানা থাকলে: SREDA<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No & Send to 16222.

Example: SREDA HELP PIN 12345678

১১. পত্রিকা ছাড়াও টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা) ওয়েবসাইট www.sreda.gov.bd এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিহীন ও অভ্যন্তরীণ সাক্ষর তথ্য প্রদাণ যাবে। এছাড়া QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে।

১২. অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে 121 নাম্বারে ফোন করে তথ্য জানা যাবে অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। এছাড়া, টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল এর ফেসবুক পেজ <https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdteletalk> এ মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail/মেসেজ এর Subject-এ Organization Name: SREDA, Post Name: *** Applicant's User ID & Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।

১৩. প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা যাচাইঃ

প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যেকোনো প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক প্রতিটির ০১টি করে সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবেঃ

- প্রার্থীর সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রসহ);
- প্রার্থী যে ইউনিয়ন/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের বাসিন্দা সে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/প্রশাসক, পৌরসভার মেয়র/প্রশাসক, সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/প্রশাসক অথবা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র;
- কোটা দাবির সমর্থনে প্রার্থীকে সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ/প্রমাণপত্রের সত্যায়িত ছায়াছবি;
- ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/প্রশাসক, পৌরসভার প্রশাসক/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/প্রশাসক অথবা নবম গ্রেড তদূর্ধ্ব গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা (প্রাক্তন প্রথম শ্রেণি) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র;
- জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি;
- Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের কপি (Applicant's copy);

৫. উপরে উল্লেখ করা হয়নি এমন যে কোনো বিষয়ে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারীকৃত বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।

** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান করতে পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাচ্ছে।



স্রেডার ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর

QR Code



স্রেডার টেলিটক পোর্টালের

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চৌধুরী মোঃ হামিদ আল মাহবুব

সদস্য (প্রশাসন)

ও

সভাপতি

বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন/পদোন্নতি কমিটি

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ



My parents are ageing and it scares me

My mother and I are very alike; we usually brave fevers and colds like it's nothing, but recently, she's been getting sick more frequently. She is still an amazing multitasker, yet I can see the freshly formed age spots when she looks at me while she does ten things at once.

AZRA HUMAYRA

It's 2006, and I am five years old. I fall asleep in front of the television on a weekend on the wooden sofa set that every middle-class family in Dhaka seems to have. I don't have to worry about much, so sleep comes quite quickly and, eventually, I wake up ever so slowly at nine in the morning.

But what is this? How am I on my bed? I swear I slept on the sofa; this has to be magic. It indeed was; the magic was my father. He carried me without stirring me from my stupor.

Now, times have changed. Every year, my parents' footsteps get lighter; they seem to shrink. They occupy less and less space. It is a difficult fact to come to terms with.

I always complained to my parents about why they couldn't come to my sports events. My parents used to work as if the next Great Depression was almost upon us. It took a lot of growing up to understand that all the work my parents were doing was for my brother's and my sake. But still, that little girl in the back of my mind refuses to understand this at the age of 25.

Even if they couldn't always come to see me during the much-coveted sports day, they made sure to take us out on weekends to play zones. I knew if I got hurt, I could run to my

parents, and they would carry me like I was lighter than specks of dust.

My parents' age wasn't as evident to me because I could always see them functioning healthily, like the healthy people they were. Even their grey hair didn't bother me because I didn't pay enough attention. But it all hit me when my father was scheduled for cataract surgery. I thought only old people got those, but there I was with my father, running from one room to another before the surgery.

My mother and I are very alike; we usually brave fevers and colds like it's nothing, but recently, she's been getting sick more frequently. She is still an amazing multitasker, yet I can see the freshly formed age spots when she looks at me while she does ten things at once.

It is extremely difficult to get used to my parents' age when I have been so used to them being strong and healthy. They always feel like they have to materialise out of thin air when their children need them, but the years have taken a toll on their bodies. The wrinkles are deeper, and the knee pains are beginning to get in the way.

As the years run by, it will be tougher to see them getting weaker, but I have to remember that they are getting used to the same fact as well. They now like to stay home as much as they can and enjoy the slow life, which they

did not have the luxury of living when they were spirited and young (I blame capitalism for that). The age spots scare me, but I have to accept those pesky little brown spots even though I don't want to.

There was this one particular day when my mother made peace with her age, though not without some theatre. For years, I had been the designated plucker of the stray grey hairs in her brows. But this year, the greys staged a full invasion. She handed me the tweezers and then paused. To pluck them all would leave her with a bald spot. With a huff and a laugh, she waved me off, declaring, almost regally, that it was time to "let them flourish".

One day, I might have to carry my parents the way they once carried me from the sofa to my bed. The thought feels strange, like the world turning upside down, but maybe that is what love does; it rearranges the weight we hold for each other. They taught me how to be cared for; now I must learn how to care back.

Age is creeping in with grey brows, aching knees, and bottles of calcium tablets, and we laugh about it because otherwise we might cry.

Azra Humayra is majoring in mass communication and journalism at the University of Dhaka. Find her at: azrahumayra23@gmail.com.

In our algorithm-centric lives, we must extend our empathy

Every time a tragedy shakes the country, there appears to be a group of people, most of whom we primarily see on our screens, who seem to remain unaffected. I have seen this pattern repeat in tandem – the Bailey Road fire, the July Mass Uprising, and recently, the Milestone tragedy. While mourning has continued to cling on to this country like a shadow, these people go on about their lives, continuing to post images of them hanging out with friends and lounging around coffee shops. I fail to grasp the insensitivity and disrespect.

ANICA BUSHRA RAHMAAN

It makes me recall a conversation I had with a friend last year in July. In contrast to the battlefield our country had devolved into, then – bleeding under a sky which refused to keep quiet – it felt as though she was completely unfazed. She simply continued to share images from her trip, without a single mention of what was happening back home. When I confronted her about it, she claimed that she didn't want negativity to taint her precious peace. The conversation, while necessary, was futile. It merely reinforced how intently some people hold on to their bubble of privilege.

Some may call it virtue signalling. However, when any sort of misfortune floods the country, choosing not to share bits of their unperturbed lives on social media is the bare minimum. It's



not radical to demand silence, if not compassion, when tragedy strikes. It's about being respectful enough not to be louder than the cries of death, to not disregard the weight of loss.

In this day and age, most of us resort to social media and online platforms to receive updates. Hence, the image of someone lounging about anywhere, which is seen almost immediately after attempting to make sense of harrowing developments, is not just bad timing; it is a failure to read the room, which makes it downright disconcerting.

This begs the question: Have we grown so desensitised to every atrocity that takes place across the globe? Coming across people we personally know – those who are just like us – demonstrating such behaviour is deeply infuriating. Ignoring tragedies does not make them any less real. A tragedy cannot merely be reduced to a minor inconvenience for some.

I feel as though behaviour like this particularly stings when it comes from people our age. We should know better than most the vital role social media plays in circulating news, how it can help in identifying missing children, how it can make

This begs the question: Have we grown so desensitised to every atrocity that takes place across the globe? Coming across people we personally know – those who are just like us – demonstrating such behaviour is deeply infuriating. Ignoring tragedies does not make them any less real. A tragedy cannot merely be reduced to a minor inconvenience for some.

the process of sourcing blood donations relatively easier, and how a newsfeed can disseminate real-time developments. I am left to wonder if grief ceases to matter unless it's our own. Nonetheless, we must remind ourselves that protecting one's peace should not come at the cost of being tone-deaf.

Sometimes we simply must observe and keep up, even if it's uncomfortable. Sometimes, the world demands our discomfort. It might disrupt our mental peace, but that's what being human entails. The price of empathy cannot be compensated with anything else. The least one could do is at least offer silence. The world does not stop when disaster strikes. However, as the saying goes, there is a time and place for everything.

Some of us might have the luxury of moving on, of course. But in order to do that, we must first reckon with what has transpired. Nonetheless, it seems as though some aren't willing to extend their empathy even to such a small extent. I am not asking for constant mourning, and I also recognise that some people grieve in different ways, but there's a fine line between silence and ignorance.

Anica Bushra Rahmaan is a student of Economics at BRAC University. Reach her at anicarahmaan@gmail.com

The pitfalls of wanting to stay productive during semester breaks

BIPRA PRASUN DAS

As a university student, the world feels like it's getting more competitive with each passing day. It feels as if every unused or under-utilised moment is a missed opportunity to gain an edge on your academics or future professional life.

With the rise of so many different ways to stay productive, including, but not limited to, online courses, internships, part-time jobs, and personal projects, many university students are no longer just using their semester breaks to unwind. Instead, they are choosing to hustle through these breaks.

This productivity drive, for the most part, stems from both internal and external expectations in an achievement-oriented society.

During semester breaks, there isn't any coursework to worry about, but for many, that empty space quickly becomes a breeding ground for anxiety if it's not filled with something "productive". Scrolling through LinkedIn or hearing about a friend's achievement can further trigger an immediate sense of falling behind.

This pressure to constantly be working toward the next big milestone, even during traditional rest periods, indicates that university students, by and large, have become part of a culture that prioritises constant achievements over balanced lifestyles.

That being said, a semester break spent learning a new skill, honing existing ones, or completing internships or projects does offer benefits for future career prospects.



ILLUSTRATION: SANJANA SABAH KHAN

For many students, these break periods provide opportunities to explore career interests without the competing demands of academic coursework. This exploration can play a role in making significant academic decisions, such as changing majors or choosing which minors to pursue.

In addition, for a lot of students, working during semester breaks provides financial support that they

may have to depend on to fund their education. Beyond that, a purposeful approach to breaks that includes some planned activities can provide a healthy middle ground between the rigid scheduling of the semester and the complete absence of structure.

The real problem, however, arises when semester breaks become extensions of academic pressure rather than periods of rest and recovery.

There is always the looming risk of extending and deepening the burnout already caused by the semester. After all, how fruitful would it be to start a new semester physically drained and mentally exhausted?

It is also important to consider the diminishing returns to continuous productivity. This is shown in a seven-year longitudinal study of summer programming, where students attending consecutive summer terms showed 19 percent lower GPA gains in subsequent academic years compared to peers who balanced work and rest. This shows that an excessive focus on remaining productive during semester breaks can actually backfire.

For students, it is important to find the right balance, like setting intentional but limited goals, managing expectations and setting boundaries, and breaking down goals into small, attainable chunks. This approach helps maintain a sense of purpose during breaks and protects against the exhaustion that comes with overcommitment.

Rest does not have to be at odds with productivity, and when we start looking at rest itself as a productive activity, things start making a bit more sense.

Reference:

RAND Summer Learning Series (July 2023). *A Longitudinal Analysis of Outcomes from the National Summer Learning Project*.

Bipra Prasun Das studies Computer Science and Engineering at North South University.

As rankings rise, BFF MUST LEAP FURTHER

BISHWAJIT ROY

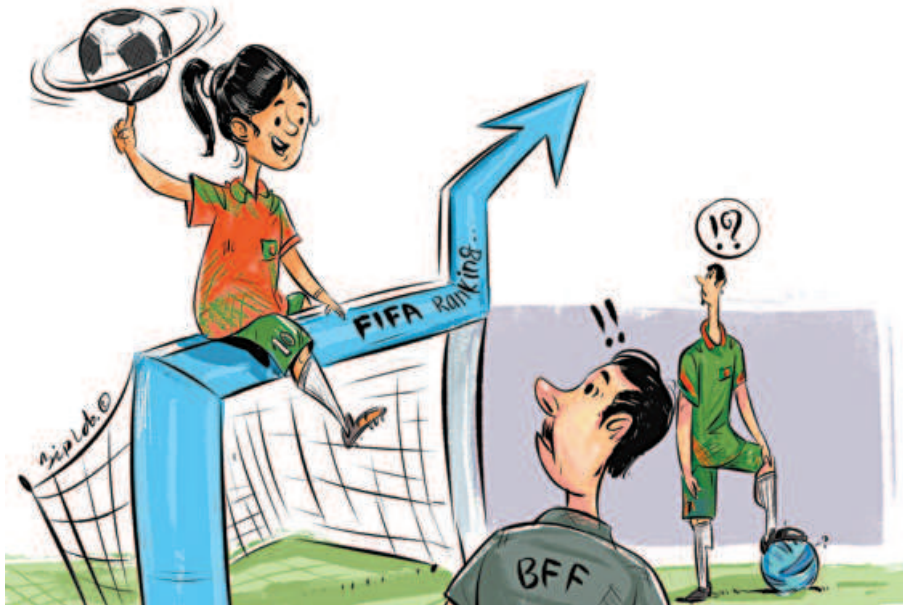
Bangladesh women's football, under the guidance of Peter Butler, is arguably going through its best phase at present, and the big leap in the latest FIFA Women's World Ranking is a timely reminder of that progress.

The game's governing body, FIFA, highlighted Bangladesh as one of the "biggest risers", as the team climbed 24 places -- from 128th to 104th -- following their historic qualification for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup for the first time.

While this is not the highest position Bangladesh women's team have ever achieved -- they peaked at 100 in 2013 -- the side earned the most points (+80.51) in the latest FIFA rankings update, marking a significant milestone.

What's more encouraging is that from the age-group levels to the senior national

When it comes to the women's league, it's crucial that clubs shift their mindset and actively collaborate with the BFF. If entertainment value and visibility are benchmarks for attracting sponsors and club interest, then our footballers have already made a strong case.



team, Bangladesh have shown consistent improvement -- not just in results, but in the style and brand of football being played.

It's a game that fans can now enjoy beyond just wins and losses, and the players have added clear entertainment value with their confident, attacking performances.

The players are doing their job. But every time women's football makes headlines, a familiar question resurfaces: when will the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) present a long-term roadmap to raise

the standard of the country's women's football structure?

Last month, Bangladesh topped their AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification group with a perfect record -- defeating hosts Myanmar 2-1 and thrashing both Bahrain and Turkmenistan 7-0. It was a commanding display that has rightly sparked national pride.

But now, after this historic qualification, the pressing question remains, and rightly so: can the BFF convert this success into

lasting development?

BFF president Tabith Awal, in a recent in-depth interview with The Daily Star, stated that "this success should motivate us all." He spoke of three key priorities: creating opportunities for players in top international leagues, attracting more sponsorship and branding, and drawing stronger government support. That includes establishing a well-structured, long-awaited women's league and a dedicated women's football complex.

Crucially, he admitted the federation's failure in providing a proper, standard women's league -- something players have long demanded.

Now, everyone is watching to see whether these promises will translate into tangible action, and without delay. There's no excuse to lag behind, especially when the players are improving at such a rapid pace. Long-term sustainability must be ensured.

When it comes to the women's league, it's crucial that clubs shift their mindset and actively collaborate with the BFF. If entertainment value and visibility are benchmarks for attracting sponsors and club interest, then our footballers have already made a strong case.

With each new achievement, the disparity between men's and women's football in the country grows harder to justify. Equal support is no longer optional; it's essential for the game's future.

U-20s eye successive wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will look to keep their winning momentum going in the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers when the women in red and green take on unfamiliar opponents Timor-Leste in their second match at the Laos National Stadium today.

The match will kick off at 3:00 pm (Bangladesh time). Although the charges of English coach Peter Butler struggled a bit in the first half of their opening match against hosts Laos, they dominated the second half to secure a comfortable 3-1 win.

Buoyed by that victory, Bangladesh will be aiming to collect full three points against Timor-Leste before facing former champions and group favourites South Korea on Sunday.

Like Laos, Timor-Leste are also unfamiliar opponents for Bangladesh. However, Timor-Leste are not expected to pose as tough a challenge, having suffered a heavy 9-0 defeat to South Korea in their opening match -- a result that also gave the Bangladesh technical staff an opportunity to analyse their game.

However, Afeida and Co. will need to improve their overall performance, particularly in passing and game control, to achieve a better result against Timor-Leste -- a result that could ultimately boost their chances of qualifying for the finals as one of the best three runners-up.

Bangladesh players did not hold an outdoor practice session ahead of today's encounter. However, according to a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) statement, the players went through stretching and gym workouts before undergoing a recovery session in the swimming pool.

9 PSG players on Ballon d'Or shortlist

REUTERS

Nine players from treble-winning PSG have been nominated for the men's Ballon d'Or this year, as France Football announced the list of nominees on Thursday.

PSG coach Luis Enrique, Chelsea's Enzo Maresca, and Liverpool's Arne Slot were nominated for the men's Coach of the Year award.

Ousmane Dembele, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Desire Doue, Achraf Hakimi, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Nuno Mendes, Joao Neves, Fabian Ruiz, and Vitinha are all on the 30-man list.

Dembele scored 35 goals and claimed 16 assists in all competitions as PSG won the Ligue 1 title, French Cup, and Champions League and were Club World Cup runners-up to Chelsea.

Other nominees include Barcelona's Raphinha (34 goals, 25 assists), Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (34 goals, 23 assists), who was named Premier League Player of the Season, and Manchester City striker Erling Haaland (34 goals, five assists). Barca's Lamine Yamal (18 goals, 25 assists) made the cut while the 18-year-old winger was also nominated for the Kopa Trophy for best Under-21 player, an award he won last year.

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

No explanation as Mymensingh still missing

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) tournament committee held a coordination meeting yesterday for the upcoming NCL T20 in September. In the background, however, frustration and suspicions were being raised regarding Mymensingh division's continued exclusion from the National Cricket League (NCL).

Formed in 2015 after being carved out of Dhaka division, Mymensingh remains the only administrative division yet to be included in the country's premier domestic first-class competition. Hopes of inclusion were once again dashed when Mymensingh was left out of the recent meeting, chaired by BCB tournament committee chairman Akram Khan.

A member of the Mymensingh divisional sports association informed that they have not received any explanation from the BCB regarding their NCL exclusion, and if they are not included, they will take legal steps if necessary.

"We haven't received any explanation on why Mymensingh are excluded," former BCB director Abdullah Al Fuad Redwan,

now a member of the Mymensingh divisional sports association, told members of the media on Thursday.

"After the division was created, we have been trying to play the NCL and have appealed in various government departments. Lastly, the NSC sent a letter to the BCB to include Mymensingh division when Faruque Ahmed was the

"Without Mymensingh division's inclusion, we won't let NCL be organised and if necessary, we will take legal steps."

Abdullah Al Fuad Redwan, member of Mymensingh divisional sports association.

president. Back then, the president said that it will happen.

Redwan, also former general secretary of the Mymensingh divisional sports association, further said that they will not allow the NCL to take place if Mymensingh are not included. "If necessary, we will take legal steps," he warned.

The BCB was aware of the developments, and when The Daily Star asked director Akram Khan, he said that a discussion on the matter has to be undertaken by the board directors and BCB president and it was not solely under his jurisdiction, adding such decisions have to be approved in an AGM (Annual General Meeting).

When The Daily Star asked a board director regarding the comments from a member of the Mymensingh Sports Association, it appeared BCB were not highly concerned at the moment.

"Yes, they can file a case, but as you can see, everything has been designed through involvement with the districts," a BCB director said on condition of anonymity.

"There were matters of increasing venues, and there were other issues related to players. So these things take time. As far as I heard, according to our constitution, it may be that for a new district, you have to include them through the AGM."

With these developments, it is likely that Mymensingh's fate will depend on the legal steps and decisions from legal bodies.

U-17 ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

Girls pitted in strong group

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have been placed in a strong Group H alongside hosts Jordan and Chinese Taipei in the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, following the official draw held at the AFC headquarters in Malaysia on Thursday.

A total of 27 teams will compete in the qualification round, with the eight group winners advancing to the final tournament. They will join four automatic qualifiers -- DPR Korea, Japan, Korea Republic, and hosts China PR -- in the 12-team final round scheduled for April 30 to May 17, 2026, in China.

The Group H matches will take place from October 13 to 17, 2025.

The qualifiers will be in a single round-robin format, which could favour Bangladesh, considering their history with the format. They previously reached the final round of the competition twice (2017 and 2019 in single round-robin format) before crashing out in a double round-robin system in the 2023 edition.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's U-17 men's team have been drawn with hosts China PR, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Timor-Leste, and Sri Lanka in Group A of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The men's qualifiers, featuring 38 teams, will be held from November 22 to 30, 2025. Seven group winners will qualify for the finals, joining nine teams that secured their spots by qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Qatar later this year.

Tennis' richest stage RAISES THE BAR

AGENCIES

The US Open has once again redefined the financial landscape of tennis, standing at the forefront of both tennis excellence and athlete advocacy.

In a bold move that reflects both growing player influence and the tournament's continued commercial strength, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has announced a record-breaking \$90 million in total player compensation for the 2025 edition -- the highest in the sport's history and a 20% jump from last year's \$75 million.

At the heart of the increase is a landmark payout of \$5 million each to the men's and women's singles champions -- up 39 percent from the \$3.6 million awarded in 2024.

The move comes amid heightened demands from players for more equitable revenue sharing across all competition tiers. In March, 20 leading players -- including Novak Djokovic, Coco Gauff, Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sinner -- jointly signed a letter to Grand Slam organisers urging greater transparency and inclusion in

Grand Slam 2025 comparison:		
Tournament	Prize pool	Singles champions (each)
US Open	\$85 million	\$5.00 million
Wimbledon	\$73 million	\$4.01 million
French Open	\$65.7 million	\$2.97 million
Australian Open	\$62.8 million	\$2.26 million

- 2025 US Open, starting from Aug 24
- Singles winners: \$5 million each -- highest ever in tennis (+39%)
- Doubles champions: \$1 million -- new high
- Total prize pool (excluding non-performance costs): \$85 million

decision-making. The tournament, long a leader in equality since introducing equal prize money in 1973 under

the advocacy of Billie Jean King, continues to evolve. The current \$90 million figure also includes player

accommodations, meals, and other non-performance-related costs, reflecting a more holistic approach to player support.

Alif chosen over Sagor for Olympic scholarship

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite earning a direct qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, archer Sagor Islam has been overlooked for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) scholarship for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics due to a recent dip in performance.

Sagor became the third Bangladeshi athlete to qualify directly for the Olympic Games, following in the footsteps of golfer Siddiqur Rahman and archer Ruman Sana.

However, the young archer was not nominated for the monthly IOC scholarship, worth approximately US\$1,500, which runs through to the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Instead, Asia Cup gold medalist Abdur Rahman Alif has been nominated in the recurve division. Himu Bacher and Puspita Zaman have been selected in the compound division, which will be included in the Olympic Games for the first time.

"We nominated the names of archers

on the basis of their performances, and Alif was ahead of Sagor, who is now even struggling to secure his place in the squad for the upcoming World Archery Championship," Tanvir Ahmed, general secretary of the Bangladesh Archery Federation, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Referring to the case of expatriate archer Ruman Sana, Tanvir added: "We don't want to make another example like Ruman Sana, who also struggled to secure his place in the national squad after qualifying directly for the Tokyo Olympics."

Ruman, who had received the IOC scholarship earlier, was also not considered for the Paris Olympic scholarship despite his direct qualification for the Tokyo Olympics.

Besides archery, three shooters -- Robiul Islam Tomas, Kamrunnahar Koly, and Shaira Arefin -- have also been nominated for the IOC scholarship. The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) sent the names of all six athletes to the IOC last month for final approval.



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Formal charges against ex-DMP chief submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday submitted formal charges at the International Crimes Tribunal against five former police officials, including Habibur Rahman, ex-commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed in the capital's Rampura during the July uprising.



The other accused are then DMP's (Khilgaon zone) additional deputy commissioner Rashedul Islam; then Rampura Police Station officer-in-charge Mashur Rahman; then sub-inspector of the police station Tarikul Islam Bhuiyan; and then Rampura police outpost assistant sub-inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarkar.

Only Chanchal is in custody, while the remaining four are on the run.

The charges brought against the accused include murder, attempted

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



Heavy overnight rain on Wednesday caused the collapse of a section of the bridge over the Shital Jharna Canal in the Starship area on Gate No-2 Oxygen Road in Chattogram city, halting all traffic on one side. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

ONE YEAR OF INTERIM GOVT

Rights violations persist amid weak law and order

Says Ain o Salish Kendra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government, which assumed office this day last year following the July uprising, has failed to meet people's expectations, as Bangladesh continues to face human rights violations amid a deterioration of law and order, rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) said.

In a statement issued yesterday, it said that in August, the country witnessed a historic mass uprising, led by students opposing the quota system in government jobs and authoritarian repression.

"The uprising was rooted in demands for justice, human dignity and democratic rights. Opposing oppression, inequality and corruption, the students and citizens took to the streets, ultimately forcing a shift in the country's power structure," the statement read.

It further said this movement was not just a political transition, but marked the beginning of a new era defined by a renewed commitment to protecting human rights, freedom of expression and ensuring state accountability.

"Though upsetting, the truth is that the interim government that took office in the aftermath of the movement has failed to live up to the people's expectations.

"Arbitrary arrests continue along with custodial deaths and extrajudicial killings, which are reminiscent

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Electric 'air taxis' set to debut in Japan



AFP, Tokyo

Airline ANA yesterday said that, together with a US start-up, it hopes to have electric "air taxis" whizzing over Japan from as early as 2027.

ANA and California-based Joby Aviation said they will establish a joint venture with a view to deploying more than 100 of the five-seater aircraft. Flying taxis will "revolutionise our air mobility", Koji Shibata, president and CEO of ANA, said in a statement Tuesday.

An ANA spokesman told AFP that the aircraft, designed to carry a pilot and up to four passengers at speeds of up to 200 mph (320km/h), could be in service from as early as 2027.

The project primarily envisages trips between Narita and Haneda airports and Tokyo, although the routes can diversify in the future.

Currently, a car or train ride between central Tokyo and Narita typically takes an hour or longer, but Joby's five-seater can shorten this to around 15 minutes, ANA said.

There are no price details yet, but ANA wants to make the service as affordable as possible for the general public, a spokesman told AFP.

ANA and Joby will make a public flight demonstration of the vehicles at the Osaka Expo in October.

'SECRET AL MEETING'

Major Sadikul's wife placed on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed the wife of an army major on a five-day remand in a case over a "secret meeting" allegedly involving members of the Awami League and its banned student wing Chhatra League.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sefatullah passed the order after Detective Branch Inspector Md Zehad Hossain, also the investigation officer, produced Sumaiya Zafrin before the court with a seven-day remand plea.

According to the remand petition, Sumaiya, wife of Major Sadikul Haque, was directly involved in a meeting held on July 8 at a convention centre near the capital's Bashundhara residential area.

The gathering, which reportedly lasted from 10:00am to 6:00pm, was attended by 300 to 400 people, including activists of Chhatra League and Awami League, as well as retired government employees.

Sumaiya and her husband were also present, it added.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Israel intends to take control of all of Gaza

Says Netanyahu as Israeli security cabinet set to meet

AGENCIES

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday said Israel intends to take military control of all of Gaza, despite intensifying criticism at home and abroad over the devastating almost two-year-old war in the Palestinian enclave.

"We intend to," Netanyahu said in an interview with Fox News when asked if Israel would take over the entire coastal territory. "We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter. We don't want to govern it. We don't want to be there as a governing body."

He said that Israel wanted to hand over the territory to Arab forces that would govern it.

Netanyahu made his comments to Fox News before the outcome of a meeting he was due to have yesterday with a small group of senior ministers to discuss plans for the military to take control of more territory in Gaza.

The security cabinet session follows a meeting this week with the head of the military, which Israeli officials have described as tense, saying the military chief had pushed back on expanding the campaign.

Opinion polls show that most Israelis want the war to end in a deal that would see the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas-led Palestinian militants.

Netanyahu's government has insisted on total victory over Hamas.

The idea, pushed especially by far-right ministers in Netanyahu's coalition, of Israeli forces thrusting into areas they do not already hold in the enclave has generated alarm in Israel.

The mother of one hostage urged people yesterday to take to the streets to voice their opposition to expanding the campaign.

The Hostages Families Forum, which represents captives held in Gaza, urged military Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir to oppose widening the war and the government to accept a deal that would bring the war to an end and free the remaining hostages.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday that the military would carry out the government's decisions until all war objectives were achieved.

Israeli leaders have long insisted that Hamas be disarmed and have no future role in a demilitarised Gaza and that the hostages be freed.

The UN has called reports about a possible expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza "deeply alarming" if true.

There are 50 hostages still held in Gaza, of whom Israeli officials believe 20 are alive. Most of those freed so far emerged as a result of diplomatic negotiations. Talks toward a ceasefire that could have seen some more hostages released collapsed in July.

» Military chief has pushed back against expanding Gaza ops

» Most Israelis want deal to release hostages

» FAO says only 1.5% of Gaza's farmland now usable

DHAKA AIRPORTS

525 high-rises illegally built on approach paths of planes

Says CAAB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 525 unauthorised high-rise buildings have been constructed in the approach paths of the runways of two airports in Dhaka over the past 10 years.

Air Vice Marshal Md Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), revealed the information at a media briefing at the CAAB headquarters in the city's Kurmitola yesterday.

The CAAB boss said they do not have the jurisdiction or power to demolish the unapproved portion of those buildings.

"CAAB has been repeatedly writing to the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) over the past 10 years regarding the issue, as it is their responsibility to take action against the unapproved structures," Mostafa

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An oriental bay owl stares wide-eyed right into the camera as it was spotted in Chattogram's Hazirikhil Wildlife Sanctuary. Cloaked in rich chestnut and creamy hues, this petite owl can be found in South and Southeast Asia. It lives in dense evergreen and montane forests, plantations, and mangrove fringes up to higher elevations. A nocturnal bird, it feasts on small rodents, bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small insects at night. As a secretive predator, it helps keep forest ecosystems balanced by regulating prey populations. Though it is currently listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, this owl still faces threats from habitat loss and deforestation.

PHOTO: MD NAHIDUL ISLAM

Former BRUR VC Kalimullah sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, former vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, was sent to jail in a corruption case yesterday.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after the Anti-Corruption Commission produced him before the court, seeking his confinement in jail, said an ACC official.

Earlier on June 18, the ACC filed a case against five people, including Kalimullah, on charges of embezzling Tk 4 crore from a development project.

Around 4:00pm yesterday, Kalimullah was escorted to the courtroom amid tight security. Around 12 minutes later, he was taken to the dock and the hearing began at 4:22pm.

It ended in 16 minutes.

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GUARDIANS OF THE NIGHT