



BB readying Tk 20,000cr for bank overhaul

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank is designing a Tk 20,000-crore plan to restructure troubled banks, backed by international audits and new legal powers to deal with failing lenders.

"The first phase will start in a month or so, and some banks will be restructured by December," BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur told The Daily Star last week.

Further funds will be needed in later phases, with financing coming from both the national budget and development partners. The Asian Development Bank is expected to provide up to \$1.5 billion, while the World Bank may contribute \$1 billion.

The overhaul plan will start with at least five banks: First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, and EXIM Bank. ICB Islamic Bank, also in trouble, will require a separate solution due to its foreign investment exposure. The others could be merged as part of the restructuring.

"Equity injections will be unavoidable. However, for banks involved in mergers, future business plans must be financially viable," said Zahid Hussain, a member of the central bank's reform task force. "It's possible to merge these five banks by December," he added.

Governor Mansur stressed that government recapitalisation funds, whether provided as equity or loans, will be repaid with a return, ensuring the government does not incur losses.

A donor-supported Asset Quality Review (AQR) is already underway in private banks to test compliance with new rules on asset classification and provisioning. The phased review will cover 17 private domestic banks, representing 35 percent of total banking assets.

The first phase, completed in May by KPMG and Ernst & Young Sri Lanka, examined six banks. The second and third phases, covering the remaining 11, are due to conclude by December. Bangladesh Bank has

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ADB may provide as much as \$1.5 billion

Five banks targeted for restructuring by December

Reviews of an additional 11 private banks underway

Tk 13,000cr earmarked for bank restructuring in budget



Once a shimmering landscape of white stone beds -- Bholaganj Sada Pathor, a popular tourist spot in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila -- now lies stripped and desolate. Over the past year, illegal stone extractors have been plundering valuable mineral resources from the Dhalai river, as authorities looked the other way. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Armed forces to act as law enforcers during polls

Says draft amendment to RPO; 'no-vote' option on cards to stop uncontested wins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has prepared a draft amendment to the Representation of the People Order, 1972, proposing several key changes, including the reintroduction of a "no vote" option on ballots for constituencies with only one contestant.

The draft further proposes recognising the armed forces as law enforcement agencies during elections. It grants the EC the power to cancel a constituency's election if significant

irregularities are detected. It will also have the authority to reject a candidate's nomination for submitting false information in their affidavit.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting at the EC, Election commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said, "We hope to finalise the draft within this week so that we can send it to the law ministry by next week for the vetting."

He said the EC has covered topics it thinks will not require approval by the National Consensus Commission.

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'We hanged Razakars, we'll hang them too'

Hasina told then DU VC about July protesters; phone call transcript read out at ICT-1

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

In an audio conversation on July 14 last year with then Dhaka University vice-chancellor ASM Maksud Kamal, deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina likened the protesters to "Razakars" and said they would meet the same fate as those executed for 1971 war crimes.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam read out the transcribed conversation at the International Crimes

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Mourners bid farewell to the bodies of the Al Jazeera journalists who were killed in an overnight Israeli strike on their tent in Gaza City, before their burial at the Sheikh Radwan cemetery in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

48.5pc yet to decide whom to vote for

Shows BIGD survey of 5,489 respondents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of Bangladeshi voters undecided about their choice in the upcoming polls has risen sharply over the past eight months, shows a BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) survey.

The figure now stands at 48.5 percent, up from 38 percent in a survey in October last year.

The Pulse Survey-3 was conducted between July 1 and 20 this year through telephone interviews with 5,489 respondents representing both rural and urban demographics.

Of them, 53 percent were male and 47 percent female, with 73 percent from rural areas and 27 percent from urban centres.

The survey assessed public perceptions of the interim government's performance, reform priorities, the upcoming election, and the popularity of

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Israel strike kills five Al Jazeera journos in Gaza

UN, rights groups slam targeted killing of journalists

AGENCIES

Condemnations poured in from the United Nations and media rights groups yesterday after an Israeli strike killed an Al Jazeera news team in Gaza, as Palestinians mourned the journalists and Israel accused one of them of being a Hamas militant.

Dozens of Gazans stood amid bombed-out buildings in the courtyard of Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City to pay their respects to Anas al-Sharif, a prominent Al Jazeera correspondent aged 28, and four of his colleagues killed on Sunday.

Hospital director Mohammed Abu Salmiya said a sixth journalist, freelance reporter Mohammed Al-Khaldi, was killed in the strike that targeted the Al Jazeera team.

Mourners, including men wearing blue journalists' flak jackets, carried their bodies, wrapped in white shrouds with their faces exposed, through narrow alleys to their graves.

Israel confirmed it had targeted Sharif, whom it labelled a "terrorist" affiliated with Hamas, alleging he "posed as a journalist".

Al Jazeera said four other employees -- correspondent Mohammed



Anas al-Sharif

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



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Man killed in mob attack after mugging bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An unidentified man was killed in a mob beating following an attempted mugging in the Station Road area of Tongi, Gazipur, yesterday.

The incident occurred around 12:00pm, said Faridul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tongi East Police Station.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the OC said the victim allegedly attempted to snatch mobile phones from Md Habibur Rahman of Jamalpur Madhyapara, and Moni Akhtar of Jangliya, both residents of Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur.

Screaming for help, Habibur and Moni drew the attention of nearby pedestrians. Locals reportedly chased the suspect and beat him, he added.

During the attack, the man lost consciousness and was subsequently taken to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.

Abul Fazal, duty officer at the hospital's emergency department, told The Daily Star that the man was declared dead on arrival.

At least 89 people were killed in mob attacks between January and June this year, including 45 in Dhaka alone, according to rights group Ain o Salish Kendra.



Malaysia rolls out the red carpet for Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus upon his arrival for a three-day state visit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

The Daily Star's new initiative

FROM PAGE 1

our exports a lot of protection.

The present-day questions are: Are we ready to face the international trading world without the exemptions allowed? Is our economy ready? Is our legal framework modern enough to suit the international standards?

Most importantly, is our private sector ready, which will spearhead our drive forward to compete and succeed?

If not, what do we need to do?

To find answers to those crucial questions, The Daily Star is launching a series of four roundtable discussions, starting today, with leading personalities from the corporate world to chalk out a way forward. The roundtable will be under the following headings:

1. LDC graduation: How to energise the private sector
2. Smart logistics for a competitive private sector
3. Policy and regulatory challenges for the economy
4. Financial sector: How can it help drive the private sector for international competition

Finally, we will hold a review meeting to formulate a "Way Forward" action programme.

All of this must be done before we graduate, meaning within the next 14 months.

Mahfuz Anam
Editor & Publisher

BB readying

FROM PAGE 1

engaged an international consultant to review earlier special audits by local firms and identify gaps against the donor-agreed terms of reference.

International audits completed in May revealed significant capital deficits. As of December 2024, five banks – First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, and ICB Islamic Bank – had a combined capital shortfall of about Tk 46,000 crore, which has since grown.

The central bank has established a three-tier governance structure – implementation, project management, and steering committees – along with special inspection teams to analyse the root causes of asset quality problems. A high level AQR oversight committee was formed with representatives from the IMF, the World Bank, and ADB as observers.

The reform programme is supported by the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, issued in May, which gives the Bangladesh Bank formal authority to execute corrective actions and apply resolution tools in a structured, rule-based manner. The ordinance allows intervention when a scheduled bank is deemed non-viable.

Its powers include establishing bridge banks, implementing bail-ins, arranging purchase and assumption transactions, imposing temporary public ownership, and transferring assets to asset management companies. A new Banking Sector Crisis Management Council will coordinate crisis responses and maintain financial stability. Banks will be classified by financial health.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the current budget includes allocations for bank restructuring.

According to finance ministry sources, Tk 13,000 crore has already been earmarked for bank restructuring in the current budget. Allocations under the "miscellaneous expenses" category have risen to Tk 17,442 crore this year, a 163 percent increase from last year, primarily for financing banking reforms. Historically, spending in this category ranged between Tk 4,000 crore and Tk 5,000 crore annually.

Under its IMF programme, the government will publish a banking sector stability and sustainability strategy. Agreed between Bangladesh Bank and the finance ministry, the plan will set out how to make weak banks healthy again, keep essential banking services running, and keep the cost to taxpayers as low as possible.

48.5pc yet to decide

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political parties.

The October survey covered 4,158 respondents.

Yesterday, BIGD Fellow of Practice Syeda Selina Aziz presented the latest findings during a joint event organised by BIGD and the citizen reform platform "Voice for Reform" at the National Archives auditorium in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The data paints a picture of an electorate increasingly uncertain as the election draws closer.

According to the results, 14.4 percent of the respondents did not wish to disclose their preferred candidate, while 17 percent said they would not vote.

Asked which party they intended to vote for, 12 percent named the BNP, 10.4 percent Jamaat-e-Islami, and 2.8 percent the National Citizen Party (NCP).

Eight months earlier, those figures stood at 16.3 percent for the BNP, 11.3 percent for Jamaat, and two percent for a "new political party formed by students", indicating slight declines for BNP and Jamaat, and a modest rise for the student-led NCP.

Support for the Awami League, now barred from political activities, fell from 8.9 percent in October to 7.3 percent in July, while Jatiya Party's share declined from 0.7 percent to 0.3 percent, and Islamist parties dropped from 2.6 percent to 0.7 percent.

However, when asked which party they believed would win in their constituency, 38 percent predicted a BNP victory, followed by 13 percent for Jamaat, seven percent for the AL and one percent for the NCP.

Asked if Bangladesh is on the right track politically and economically, 42 percent said the country is on the right

path politically, down from 56 percent in October. In contrast, 45 percent believed the country is economically on the right path, up slightly from 43 percent.

On average, respondents rated the interim government's performance at 63 out of 100, compared to 68 in October.

The survey found that 51 percent wanted comprehensive reforms before the election; 17 percent supported holding polls only after urgent reforms; and 14 percent preferred the election without reforms. Thirteen percent had no opinion.

On reform priorities, 30 percent wanted improvements in law and order; 19 percent each called for reducing political unrest and reforming the electoral system; 17 percent urged tackling corruption; 16 percent mentioned judicial reforms and boosting the economy; 13 percent wanted essential commodity prices reduced; 11 percent demanded improved security; and 10 percent sought reduced unemployment.

Meanwhile, 32 percent wanted the election before December this year; 12 percent by February 2026; 11 percent by June 2026; and 25 percent in December 2026 or later.

A notable 70 percent believed the next national election would be free, fair, and impartial, while 15 percent disagreed and 14 percent were unsure.

The data unveiling was followed by a panel discussion with BIGD Senior Research Fellow Mirza M Hassan and Dhaka University Associate Professor Asif Mohammad Shahhan, moderated by Voice for Reform co-convenor AKM Fahim Mashroor. The discussants then responded to journalists' questions.

Israel strike kills five

FROM PAGE 1

Qreiqeh, and cameramen Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal and Moamen Aliwa – were killed when the strike hit a tent set up for journalists outside the main gate of Al-Shifa.

An Israeli military statement accused Sharif of heading a Hamas "terrorist cell" and being "responsible for advancing rocket attacks" against Israelis.

The military released documents alleging to show the date of Sharif's enlistment with Hamas in 2013, an injury report from 2017 and the name of his military unit and rank.

According to local journalists who knew him, Sharif had worked at the start of his career with a Hamas communication office, where his role was to publicise events organised by the group that has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2006.

Sharif was one of Al Jazeera's most recognisable faces working on the ground in Gaza, providing daily reports on the now 22-month-old war.

Media freedom groups have condemned the Israeli strike on journalists, which the UN human rights agency called a "grave breach of international humanitarian law".

A posthumous message, written by Sharif in April in case of his death, was published online saying he had been silenced and urging people "not to forget Gaza".

In July, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) called for his protection following online posts by an Israeli military spokesman.

The group had accused Israel of a "pattern" of labelling journalists militants "without providing credible evidence", and said the military had levelled similar accusations against media workers in Gaza including Al Jazeera staff.

"International law is clear that active combatants are the only

justified targets in a war setting," Jodie Ginsberg, CPJ's chief executive, told AFP yesterday.

Unless Israel "can demonstrate that Anas al-Sharif was still an active combatant, then there is no justification for his killing", she said.

Al Jazeera called the attack "a desperate attempt to silence voices exposing the Israeli occupation", as it described Sharif as "one of Gaza's bravest journalists".

The Qatari broadcaster also said the strike followed "repeated incitement" and calls by Israeli officials to target Sharif and his colleagues.

Hadja Lahbib, the European commissioner for equality, preparedness and crisis management, said she was "horrified" to learn of the killing of the Al Jazeera journalists in Gaza, including Anas al-Sharif.

"A direct hit on freedom of the press," she wrote in a social media post. "Civilians must be protected, access secured & the press safeguarded. Always."

Reporters Without Borders says nearly 200 journalists have been killed in the war, which was sparked by Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel.

RSF "strongly and angrily condemns the acknowledged murder by the Israeli army" of al-Sharif and other journalists in a Sunday strike on their tent in Gaza City, it added.

Israel prevents international reporters from entering Gaza, except on occasional, tightly controlled trips with the military.

The strike on the news team in Gaza City came days after the Israeli security cabinet had approved plans to send troops into the area, a decision met with mounting domestic and international criticism.

Joining others, Australia yesterday said it would join a growing list of Western nations in recognising a Palestinian state.

Armed forces to act as law enforcers

FROM PAGE 1

EC officials said the reintroduction of "no vote" will ensure that no one is elected uncontested. "No vote" option was on the ballot papers in the 2008 polls. Around 3,82,000 people cast "no vote" in that election.

During the one-sided 2014 election, 153 lawmakers out of 300 were elected unopposed, as most of the opposition, including the BNP, boycotted the vote.

Earlier, 49 candidates nominated by the then ruling BNP were elected uncontested in the February 15, 1996 election, boycotted by the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and other parties.

EC Sanaullah said that under the new definition approved by the EC, law enforcement agencies will now include the army, navy, air force, and coast guard. All provisions related to EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) have been abolished, as a prior decision had already been made not to use them.

If members of the armed forces members are defined as law enforcers, the EC will not require any further order to deploy them in election duties. Armed forces members will also get the power to arrest culprits, he added.

The draft proposes the restoration of a provision that allows the EC to postpone elections at any stage after announcing the schedule. If approved, the commission will have the power to suspend or cancel election results in one or multiple polling centres, or all constituencies, depending on the situation.

After an amendment in July 2023, the EC can postpone elections only on the polling day.

A provision has also been added in the RPO to enforce penalties for violations of the electoral code of conduct, ensuring proper implementation of the code.

"The commission also proposed a provision that would allow it to withhold a party's registration if there is

a decision to ban that party's activities," said Sanaullah.

Regarding the power to suspend elections and cancel results, Sanaullah said, "If approved, the EC will have the power to suspend or cancel elections in one, several, or all constituencies as needed."

He further mentioned that penalties for negligence by officials involved in election activities have been clearly defined. Investigations now must be completed within three working days, and the findings must be reported to the Commission.

EC PROPOSES	
➡	Abolishing all provisions related EVMs
➡	Restoring EC's powers to suspend or cancel polls or results
➡	MPs can lose their seats if they file false affidavits
➡	All campaign expenditures must be thru banks
➡	Re-election in case of a tie

On false information in affidavits, Sanaullah said the draft now has a provision for investigation and taking effective action even after taking oath as a member of parliament.

"For example, if someone is elected as an MP for a five-year term and if any false information is found in the affidavit during that time, it will be investigated. If necessary, the candidate's nomination can be cancelled, and even an elected MP could face legal consequences and lose their position if found guilty," he said.

MOB VIOLENCE IN RANGPUR 4 held as videos of attack go viral ASK condemns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Ruplal Robidas and Pradip Chandra Robidas were begging for their lives, shows a video clip circulated in the social media yesterday, days after a mob beat the two to death on suspicion of rickshaw van theft in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila.

The duo was surrounded by a mob who were questioning them aggressively.

Pradip was trying to convince the mob that they were innocent and that they were returning home.

But their conversation could not be clearly heard. Within two minutes, the crowd became furious, and the clip ended abruptly.

In another video clip, the two were seen lying motionless on a van, blood streaming from their heads, faces, and other parts of their bodies.

Watching the clips, Ruplal's daughter Nupur Robidas said, "I could never imagine that people could be so cruel.

"Many people in the Burirhat Bottola area [where the incident took place] knew my father, but no one came forward to save him. My father was the only breadwinner in our family. We are devastated."

His wife Maloti Robidas said, "I have become so scared and traumatised that I could not close my

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CUSTODIAL DEATH OF JONNY HC upholds life term for two former cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the life imprisonment of two former police officers and reduced another officer's life term to 10 years imprisonment in a case over the custodial death of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment-waste trader from Dhaka's Mirpur, 11 years ago.



Jonny

This is the first High Court verdict in a case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

The court upheld the life term of Zahidur Rahman, former sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station, dismissing his appeal against the trial court verdict.

It did not say anything about the life imprisonment of former assistant sub-inspector Qamaruzzaman Mintu, who has been absconding and did not appeal against the trial court verdict, meaning his sentence remains in place.

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Speakers at a seminar titled "Empowering Women Fisherfolk Communities in Bangladesh," organised by Badabon Sangho at the International Mother Language Institute in Shegun Bagicha, Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Indigenous rights still ignored despite political shifts

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite their contribution to the July uprising, the situation of indigenous people in the country remains unchanged, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They noted that neither the interim government acknowledged them as "indigenous" nor observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

The speakers urged the government to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The discussion, titled "Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures", was organised by the Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network (BIWN) at the Liberation War Museum auditorium on the occasion of the indigenous peoples' day.

Presiding over the discussion, BIWN Vice President Lalasa Chakma said, "We thought the new generation who joined the uprising would be progressive, but we have found them rather opposite. We have our own language, culture, food, and traditions, yet we are always deprived of our rights."

In her keynote paper, BIWN General Secretary Falguni Tripura said indigenous people in Bangladesh have been neglected by the state throughout the British period, the Pakistan era, and even after independence.

"Just as indigenous peoples were 'betrayed' after the Liberation War, they were also 'deceived' following the July uprising," she said, noting that persecution, repression, rape of women, killings, and violations of fundamental human rights against them have continued to rise.

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Fisherwomen left in the shadows by gender bias

Says study; speakers urge recognition, support, and policy reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite playing a crucial role in sustaining Bangladesh's fishing communities, nine out of ten women fishers face regular gendered bias and remain largely invisible due to deep-rooted social, structural, and policy barriers, according to a recent study.

Their vital work, ranging from fishing in rivers and canals to net mending and fish drying, is often dismissed as "less important" compared to men's sea fishing. Frequently labelled as mere "assistants" rather than full-fledged fishers, women are denied the recognition and respect they deserve, the study added.

One of the most pressing hurdles is the difficulty in obtaining National Fisherfolk ID Cards.

An overwhelming 83 percent of women surveyed have yet to receive these essential IDs, effectively cutting them off from government aid programmes such as ration distributions, which disproportionately favour male cardholders.

In the study area, only 1,234 out

of 6,695 registered fisherfolk are women, underscoring the gender gap in registration.

Subah Samara, assistant professor of public administration at Jagannath University, shared the findings yesterday at a policy discussion

AT A GLANCE

Women make up 12% of registered fisherfolk countrywide

90% women fishers face gender bias

83% lack Nat'l Fisherfolk ID Cards

57% excluded from safety nets

53% never received government support

seminar titled "Empowering Women Fisherfolk Communities in Bangladesh", organised by Badabon Sangho at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital's Shegun Bagicha.

She highlighted that the lack of

fisherfolk ID cards excludes many women from accessing low-interest loans through cooperatives. Instead, most are forced to rely on informal lenders charging exorbitant interest rates of 20 to 30 percent, trapping them in cycles of debt.

The study also revealed that women remain institutionally absent from governance and advocacy platforms, further deepening their invisibility.

Without proper registration, they are excluded from social safety nets, cooperative membership, and leases on state waterbodies, increasing their economic vulnerability.

Additionally, the research highlighted severe health challenges faced by women due to prolonged exposure to saline water – issues worsened by climate change.

Access to clean water, hygiene products, and healthcare is limited, with local clinics often dismissing women's symptoms.

Specialised gynaecological services are largely unavailable, and the costs of treatment and transport are often prohibitive,

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Star INTERVIEW

Towards a stigma-free, sustainable mental healthcare

SAJIDA Foundation CEO
Zahida Fizza Kabir discusses
reshaping Bangladesh's
mental health landscape

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Inside a modest but modern office in Gulshan, one of Dhaka's busiest urban enclaves, Zahida Fizza Kabir was speaking with calm demeanour.

"Mental health is not a luxury," she said. "Rather, it's a necessity."

As the chief executive officer of SAJIDA Foundation, one of Bangladesh's largest non-profits, Kabir is spearheading a quiet but

The aim was to create a credible, self-sustaining model – one that could be scaled down over time without compromising clinical quality. We're trying to shift how people think about mental health – from taboo to tool.



groundbreaking transformation in the country's mental health landscape.

At the forefront of this effort is Psychological Health and Wellness Care (PHWC), along with a host of other programmes and enterprises.

In a country where therapy is still spoken of in whispers and psychiatric illness is often dismissed as weakness or worse, PHWC has emerged as a rare beacon.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER PBI now asked to submit probe report by Sept 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit the probe report by September 14 of the case filed over murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi in 2012.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Minhazur Rahman passed the order after Investigation Officer Md Azizul Haque, also an additional superintendent of police at the PBI, failed to submit any probe report by yesterday. This marks the 121st extension of the deadline, according to case records.

Sagar, news editor at Maasranga TV, and Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed on February 11, 2012, at their rented apartment in Dhaka's West Rajabazar.



MALIBAGH HOSPITAL BASEMENT Police probing two mysterious deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are investigating the deaths of two men whose bodies were found yesterday inside a car parked in the basement of Sirajul Islam Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka's Malibagh area.

The victims – Zakir Hossain, 40, and Mizan, 42, from Gomatoli village in Noakhali – were cousins.

According to Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police, officers went to the scene after receiving information and recovered the bodies – Zakir in the driver's seat and Mizan in the passenger seat.

It is not yet clear whether the men were murdered, Alam said, adding that CCTV footage and other evidence were being collected. The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Police said the white private car entered the hospital parking lot around 5:30am on Sunday.

One person got out of the car at the hospital gate and went away. Since then, the car remained in the parking lot. Police noted that the bodies had already begun decomposing when discovered.

It was later found that the person who got off the car was its owner, Zubair Al Mahmud Sourav, also from Noakhali.

Contacted, Sourav said he ran a rent-a-car service and Zakir was working as a driver for the last three months.

"I came to Dhaka to drop off a person at the airport. Mizan tagged along as his relative booked the car. Zakir and Mizan were supposed to pick up some relatives from Sirajul Islam hospital around 11:00am yesterday and return to Chatkhil. Since there were too many passengers, I got off at the hospital gate and took a bus to Noakhali

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



People jump onto a moving train while others wait on nearby tracks, risking serious accidents. The photo was taken near Dhaka's Airport Rail Station recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Lawyers scuffle during the bail hearing of ex-CJ Khairul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two groups of Supreme Court lawyers yesterday scuffled at High Court during the hearing of a bail petition filed by former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque in a murder case.

The incident, which lasted around 10 minutes, caused pandemonium in a courtroom of the HC bench comprising Justice Md Zakir Hossain and Justice KM Rasheduzzaman Raja after 3:00pm.

Angry lawyers shouted at each other, demanding opponents leave the courtroom.

Several senior lawyers including MK Rahman, Md Mohsen Rashid, Mohammad Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, ZI Khan Panna, Qumrul Haque Siddique and Md Motaher Hossain Sazu appeared for Haque.

Deputy Attorney Generals Md Rasel Ahammad and Md Imran Khan, along with Assistant Attorney Generals Md Uzzal Hossain, Muhammad Safwan and Md Jasim Uddin represented the state.

Advocate MK Rahman placed the petition before the bench.

DAG Rasel Ahammad requested a week's time for hearing, saying that Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman would present the state's arguments.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Man dies after bike hits pillar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 26-year-old man died early yesterday after his motorcycle hit a pillar beneath the Pallabi Metrorail Station in Dhaka.

Emon Molla, a resident of Mirpur's Alubdi area who worked in event management, was returning home from work, said Md Alauddin, sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station.

Emon's family said he tried to avoid a pedestrian. His cousin, Aslam Matbar said Emon lost control of the motorcycle and hit the pillar.

Locals initially rushed him to Islamia Hospital, from where he was referred to the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in Agargaon. As his condition worsened, he was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead at approximately 2:00am, the sub-inspector said.



A mother and her two children wait patiently for hours to buy essential goods at subsidised prices from an OMS truck. These trucks are often the only option for low-income groups. The photo was taken in the Ring Road area of Mohammadpur, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Towards a stigma-free, sustainable mental healthcare

FROM PAGE 3

Founded in 2018 as a social enterprise under SAJIDA Foundation, it blends international clinical standards with a deep commitment to accessible, compassionate care. In doing so, it is not only challenging stigma but also setting new benchmarks.

"You can't separate the mind from the body," Kabir said, leaning forward slightly, as if to emphasise the urgency of a national blind spot.

"The aim was to create a credible, self-sustaining model -- one that could be scaled down over time without compromising clinical quality."

"We had to prove this was not just talk therapy. This is medical science," said Kabir during an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

From its inception, PHWC brought together psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychological counsellors under one roof. The team was led by psychiatrist Dr Ashique Selim, the centre's first managing director, and psychologist Nissim Jan Sajid.

Under their leadership, PHWC was not merely reactive but rather proactive -- offering diagnosis, ongoing treatment, and a wide range of services, including therapy for individuals, couples, and families.

To date, it has delivered over 40,000 therapy sessions to over 7,000 individuals, and partnered with more than 110 organisations. Its outreach has included 450+ workshops on emotional intelligence, stress management, and psychological safety.

Kabir sees this not merely

as service delivery, but as a way to change the system.

"We're trying to shift how people think about mental health -- from taboo to tool."

Earlier this year, SAJIDA launched another venture: The HUB -- Neuroscience & Psychiatry Hub, Bangladesh's first private long-term psychiatric admission facility.

Designed to treat severe conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and psychosis, it fills a longstanding gap in care.

"There was no place in Dhaka where you could admit a loved one without fear of stigma or substandard care," Kabir said. "So we built one."

It's this approach -- identifying the gap and creating the solution -- that has made SAJIDA's work in mental health an outlier in a country with little policy or regulatory clarity on the sector, she said.

"We had to navigate a vacuum," Kabir explained. "There were no licensing frameworks, no unified oversight. We engaged with ministries, councils, and local authorities -- no one had a blueprint."

"With support from global experts and institutions, PHWC developed on its own. Clinical supervision, data privacy protocols, and ethical governance -- all were implemented internally, long before others caught up," she also said.

"We weren't waiting for permission to do the right thing."

Perhaps PHWC's most radical feature is not its services but its structure: a for-profit social enterprise designed to make purpose sustainable.

Kabir continued.

"Donor funding dries

up. We've seen it too many times," she said. "Mental health needs long-term commitment. And that means financial sustainability."

That sustainability enables PHWC to continually reinvest -- in people, in infrastructure, and in quality, Kabir explained.

And while its fees make it more accessible to Dhaka's middle and upper classes, the long-term plan is broader -- creating regional centres, expanding digitally through SAJIDA's "Shojon" telehealth platform, and partnering with universities to build a stronger, better-trained mental health workforce, she said.

"If we want to serve more people, we need more trained people. And we have to pay them well enough to retain them," she added.

Kabir stressed that this is not just a social issue -- it's also economic.

"When people are unwell, they miss work. They underperform. That impacts companies, families, and GDP," she continued.

She connected mental wellness to Bangladesh's broader development goals. "We talk about demographic dividend, skills development, and innovation. However, without psychological resilience, all that falls apart."

Looking ahead, SAJIDA is exploring expansion into divisional cities and underserved urban areas. Kabir is adamant, however, that scale will never come at the expense of quality.

"We took seven years to get this model right. Every centre, every therapist,

every session must reflect that standard."

Back in her office, sunlight spilt through the glass as Kabir paused. "This isn't just a care facility," she said. "It's a culture shift."

In a society where mental health has long been relegated to the

shadows, PHWC is offering more than treatment, she said. "It's offering an opportunity -- to speak, to seek help, to believe that wellness includes the mind."

"We're not done." Kabir smiled. "But we've started something that matters."

Indigenous rights

FROM PAGE 3

She said more than 4 million people from over 54 indigenous groups have been living in the region since ancient times, preserving their distinct customs, traditions, and ancestral beliefs.

The keynote paper mentioned that the absence of a reform commission on indigenous affairs, as well as the exclusion of indigenous communities from dialogues in other reform commissions, reflects an undemocratic and authoritarian approach.

"Although the Women's Affairs Commission sought opinions from both mainstream and marginalised women, including indigenous women, the initiative and its recommendations faced fierce opposition from fundamentalist groups. As a result, no signs of positive change for indigenous women are visible even under the current government," the paper added.

It also noted that in artificial intelligence (AI), indigenous communities are often neglected or misrepresented in ways that are false and misleading. "The datasets from which AI systems draw information frequently portray indigenous people in a negative light."

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori,

said, "The authorities fear indigenous communities -- especially women -- and are reluctant to integrate them into the mainstream." This situation, she noted, has not improved even after the July uprising.

Sanjeeb Drang, general secretary of Forum of Bangladesh Indigenous People, said indigenous women face discrimination in multiple ways -- as women, as indigenous people, and as marginalised members of society.

Banasree Mitra Neogi, director (rights and governance) at Manusher Jonno Foundation, said it is positive that many indigenous communities have educated themselves despite lifelong struggles.

"You [indigenous people] need to keep moving forward to achieve your rights altogether," she added.

Journalist Abu Sayeed Khan, along with rights activists Jana Goswami, Katharina Koenig, and Helena Talang Hiramón, also spoke at the discussion.

PRAYER
TIMING
AUGUST 12

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:25

12:45

4:45

6:41

8:00

JAMAAT 5:00

1:15

5:00

6:44

8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MADHABPUR IN HABIGANJ

Key road turns impassable

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

At least a 10-kilometre stretch from Jagdishpur to Shahjibazar in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj has become virtually impassable due to prolonged neglect and lack of maintenance, causing immense suffering for thousands of residents.

The road, a key link connecting several industrial zones to the Dhaka-Sylhet highway, is riddled with potholes and water at several points, posing hazards for all types of vehicles.

Locals said the road, despite being vital for transportation of goods and daily commuting, has not been repaired in years.

"Every day we risk accidents. The road is full of potholes and water. It's been like this for two

years," said Rashid Mia, a driver who uses the route daily.

Sadhon Karmakar, a former UP member of Jagdishpur Bazar, said, "This road is essential -- it's the only link to the district town for many people."



With so many factories now lining both sides, it should be widened and renovated for workers and other commuters; but nothing has been done, he added.

The poor condition is also hampering education. "It's very difficult for students to reach school. I don't understand why the authorities are ignoring it," said Nurullah Bhuiyan, a teacher at Jagdishpur JC High School.

"This road was last paved about 10 years ago. No renovation has been done since then. The road is crucial for tourists, but now it's completely broken," said Simon Mormu, a member of Teliapara Tea Garden Union Parishad.

Contacted, Madhabpur LGED Engineer Rezaul Nabi said, "We have submitted a project proposal for financial allocation to repair several roads, including the Jagdishpur Road. If approved in the current fiscal year, the road will be repaired."

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1316 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:
Ahammad Faisal MonzoorPetitioner
-VERSUS-
BARISAL FISHING LIMITED and anotherRespondents

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Ahammad Faisal Monzoor filed an application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the companies Act, 1994 ("the application") seeking an order to hold Annual General Meeting for the calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 of respondent No. 01 Company, Barisal Fishing Limited for submitting the audited balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended on 30th June 2020, 30th June 2021, 30th June 2022, 30th June 2023 and 30th June 2024, before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble Justice of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application by an order dated 27.07.2025 and further the petitioner is directed to publish this notice in two daily newspaper namely The "Daily Star" and The "Daily Jangor" within 3 (three) weeks from date of said order and also the petitioner is further directed to file an affidavit-in-compliance on or before 31.08.2025. The petitioner is further directed to put in requisites forthwith. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fixed. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs.

Yours sincerely,
A.K.M. Mahbubul Alam Bhuiya
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Suit No. 15, kabboaksh Supermarket,
Kawranbazar, Dhaka.

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1315 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:
Ahammad Faisal MonzoorPetitioner
-VERSUS-
Mitali International Limited and anotherRespondents

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Ahammad Faisal Monzoor filed an application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the companies Act, 1994 ("the application") seeking an order to hold Annual General Meeting for the calendar year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 of respondent No. 01 Company, Mitali International Limited for submitting the audited balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended on 30th June 2020, 30th June 2021, 30th June 2022, 30th June 2023 and 30th June 2024, before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble Justice of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application by an order dated 27.07.2025 and further the petitioner is directed to publish this notice in two daily newspaper namely The "Daily Star" and The "Daily Jangor" within 3 (three) weeks from date of said order and also the petitioner is further directed to file an affidavit-in-compliance on or before 31.08.2025. The petitioner is further directed to put in requisites forthwith. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fixed. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs.

Yours sincerely,
A.K.M. Mahbubul Alam Bhuiya
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Suit No. 15, kabboaksh Supermarket,
Kawranbazar, Dhaka.

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IFIT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Building Façade Work.
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-05A
4	Publication Date	12 August 2025
KEY INFORMATION		
5	Procurement Method	Competitive Tendering among eligible Tenderers: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Least Cost Basis (LCB).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
6	Source of Funds	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with Common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-05A
9	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Fitting and Fixing of Building Façade Work.
10	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	21 August 2025 up to 5:00 PM
11	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	25 August 2025 at 11:30 AM
12	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
13	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	31 August 2025 up to 12:00 Noon
14	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	31 August 2025 at 12:30 PM at the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Intending Tenderers or their Authorized Representatives may remain present during opening of Technical Offer.
15	Name and Address of the Office Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
16	Name and Address of the Office for Receiving Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
17	Brief Description of Works	Building Façade Work: Supply, Installation, Fitting and Fixing of Aluminum Framing and Glazing Work including all Accessories, Hardware, Sealant (External, Internal) Glazing Bit etc.
18	Price of Tender Document & Issuance of Tender Documents	Issuance of Tender Documents: Tenderers intending to obtain Tender Documents shall have to apply along with a Non-refundable Pay Order/Bank Draft for an Amount of BDT 10,000 (Ten Thousand) or equivalent in USD in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2).
19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BMT D1 (One) million or in equivalent USD in the form of Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2). The Tender Security furnished by a Foreign Bank must be counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
20	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	a) General Experience: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must be a Bonafide Contractor/Supplier having minimum 5(five) years of experience in supply and installation of building Façade Work. b) Specific Experience: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer or their JV Partner(s) must have successfully completed at least 1(one) work of Supply, Fitting, Fixing and Installation of Façade Work (Aluminium Frame and Glazing) of 10-Storied and above Commercial Building in all respect in last 5(five) years.
21	Financial Criteria of Tenderer	a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover for Building Construction Work of BDT 20 (Twenty) million or equivalent USD in last 5(five) years. b) Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit: Lone Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 20 (Twenty) million or Equivalent USD for this particular project.
22	Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Telephone No. +880 2223 374 601 & +880 9638 917 000 E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org
23	Any further changes /up-date/ modifications regarding this Tender	Shall be available in the official Website of IsDB-BISEW (www.isdb-bisew.org) in the form of Corrigendum and Addendum. Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender
24	Special Instructions and Conditions:	a) If the Government declares holiday on the opening day of Tender, Tender shall be received and Technical Offer shall be opened at the same time on the next working day. b) Applicants without having the requisite experience and qualification need not apply for issuance of Tender Document. c) This Invitation for Tender can be seen in the Website of IsDB-BISEW. d) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.

Neaz Khan
Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wafk (IsDB-BISEW)
IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
Phone No.: +880 2223 374 601 & +880 9638 917 000
Website: www.isdb-bisew.org, E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org

Education sector still in disarray

Reforms necessary to ensure quality, end disparities

It is deeply disappointing that, even after a year in office, the interim government has failed to initiate any meaningful reforms in the education sector. Expectations were high that it would take decisive steps to improve quality and address longstanding disparities. Instead, the government has not only fallen short of those expectations but has also struggled to manage the turmoil that erupted after the fall of the Awami League government.

Over the past year, students and teachers have repeatedly taken to the streets with demands ranging from salary increases and pay scale adjustments to exam postponements and automatic promotion. Educational institutions have witnessed forced resignations of teachers, politically motivated appointments, and public humiliation of educators. These disruptions extended beyond universities, with protests erupting in numerous schools and colleges, often calling for the removal of institutional heads—exposing the administration's inability to restore order. Despite forming 11 commissions for state reform after the July uprising, the government excluded education from its reform agenda. But why has such a critical sector been so glaringly neglected?

Understandably, it is not possible to reform the entire sector in one year, but the government has failed to do even what was feasible during this period. Educationists argue that, at the very least, it could have formed a reform commission to provide the next government with a solid foundation for essential reforms, and that the ongoing disruptions should have been handled far more effectively. For instance, after the mass resignation of public university vice-chancellors, many institutions struggled to resume regular academic and administrative activities. As a result, students faced prolonged disruptions. At KUET, for example, all academic activities were suspended for over five months until a new VC was appointed late last month.

Primary, secondary, and higher secondary education has also suffered significant setbacks. A sudden return to the 2012 curriculum for classes 6 to 12 created widespread confusion. Meanwhile, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), tasked with revising 50 textbooks, missed its December 2024 deadline, delaying nationwide distribution until April 2025. Consequently, many students began the academic year without complete textbooks, further widening learning gaps. Although a consultative committee was formed for primary education, progress in implementing its recommendations has been disappointing. Additionally, the cancellation of HSC and equivalent examinations—postponed during the July mass uprising—was regarded by many as a serious misstep.

This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. We strongly urge the government to prioritise the education sector and implement much-needed reforms. Experts have called for the formation of a specialised, non-partisan commission to stabilise the sector and draft a long-term policy roadmap to guide future administrations. This proposal deserves serious consideration. One year has already been lost to uncertainty. The government must not dilly-dally anymore.

A chilling revelation of state policing

Implement safeguards against surveillance system built by AL govt

A recent investigation by this daily into the state surveillance system built by the Awami League government has revealed disturbing details. The report outlines how the ousted regime constructed a digital infrastructure capable of tracking, monitoring, and intercepting end-to-end communication as well as targeting specific individuals. The extent to which this system was used against citizens remains unclear, however. What's more, a year after the fall of the regime, it is not clear how the system is being used at present.

According to our investigation, between 2016 and 2024, the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center (NTMC), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), and various units of police collectively purchased surveillance equipment worth Tk 1,382 crore. These included IMSI catchers, GPS trackers, mobile and vehicle-mounted signal jammers, speaker recognition systems, and tools capable of intercepting encrypted communication and injecting spyware. Ostensibly, this massive infrastructure was built to "pinpoint targets" actively and passively threatening national security. In reality, as we saw over the years, it was also used to target individuals for dubious arrests, enforced disappearances, and even extrajudicial killings. What was supposed to protect the people ultimately became a tool of oppression against critics and political opponents.

Worse still, this level of surveillance was legally authorised. As a security expert explained to this daily, Bangladesh's surveillance system is "rooted in colonial-era laws that permit spyware use, communication interception, and broad law enforcement access without adequate safeguards." While state surveillance can be necessary to prevent crime, gather intelligence, and address threats to public safety and national security, without proper checks and balances it becomes open to abuse, serving the agendas of the ruling authorities of the day. This leads to violations of people's constitutional rights to privacy, due process, and dignity—something we saw happen repeatedly under the previous regime.

Unfortunately, although more than a year has passed since Awami League's fall, there has been no tangible action by the interim administration to neutralise or dismantle this digital policing system. There is still no clarity on whether—or how—this massive surveillance apparatus, built at the cost of crores of taxpayers' money, is being used. Establishing transparency and accountability must be a prerequisite when it comes to state surveillance. The administration must outline a clear plan to neutralise the system and restrict its use solely to matters of national security and combating serious crime.

One way to do it is to establish an independent oversight body to monitor the activities of the executive branch and the security forces, including intelligence agencies. Another is to introduce strong legal safeguards to prevent abuse of the surveillance system and curb executive overreach. Surveillance may at times be necessary, but it must never override citizens' civic and human rights.

What the Global South needs to achieve SDG goals



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun
is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

From June 30 to July 3, 2025, world delegates convened in Seville, Spain, for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) of the United Nations. For many Global South countries, the deadline to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fast approaching, but the financing gap remains staggering—an estimated \$4 trillion every year. Seville was pitched as a moment to both inject momentum into resource flows and reshape the global financial system, making it more equitable and effective.

The meeting concluded with the Sevilla Commitment, outlining over 100 policy actions covering almost all aspects of the development finance agenda: from public and private resource mobilisation to debt relief, tax cooperation, trade, and the fight against illicit flows. Long-standing promises resurfaced, including the benchmark for wealthy countries to allocate 0.7 percent of their national income to official development assistance (ODA), with 0.15-0.20 percent earmarked for least developed countries. Donors were also urged to at least double support for domestic revenue reforms in partner countries striving to raise their tax-to-GDP ratio to 15 percent.

Developing countries, however, wanted fresh injections of public finance, concrete operational steps to expand the lending firepower of multilateral development banks (MDBs), and faster, fairer procedures for resolving debt crises. They also pressed for a more representative process to write global tax rules, as well as dependable new revenue streams through solidarity levies—a small, targeted tax on certain activities or goods, like airline tickets, collected to raise money for global causes such as development or climate action.

In some respects, the conference moved the needle. A coalition of nations, including France, Spain, Kenya, and Barbados, pledged to design

taxes on premium airline travel and private jets, with proceeds ring-fenced for climate and development. Though the measure is still at a blueprint stage, and will require legislative follow-through, it marks a shift from theory to actionable policy.

Another tangible outcome was opening the way to use Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strengthen the capital of MDBs. Under new rules, these SDRs can be used as "hybrid capital" to increase their financial impact three



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

to fourfold. Spain recommitted to reallocating up to half of its 2021 SDR stock for this purpose. Other countries were encouraged to join by the end of 2025.

On tax cooperation, the final document promotes wider transparency and participation in information sharing and nods to calls for a UN-led process involving all states. However, the strongest demand for a binding UN tax convention was watered down, a reminder of the political fault lines between the North and the South.

There has been some partial progress on debt reform. The current

approval processes. Debt restructuring is often reactive, coming too late to prevent economic damage. Tax regimes are largely shaped in forums where poorer countries lack full voice. While innovative financing options such as airline levies and fossil fuel windfall taxes are discussed, they face domestic political hurdles that slow implementation.

Developing countries made consistent and clear demands, urging MDB shareholders to unlock more lending, offer more local-currency financing, and set up rapid response facilities for crises. They want debt contracts that include standstill

Mending the line of blood on our border



Maj (ret'd) Md Badrul Alam Siddiqui, PhD
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Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MD BADRUL ALAM SIDDIQUI

Three hundred and five. That is the number of Bangladeshis killed by India's Border Security Force (BSF) in the last ten years, according to a recent report from the Human Rights Support Society. This is not a statistical anomaly. Our research, analysing dozens of these incidents, also reveals a horrifying policy that has turned a shared border into a line of impunity.

For too long, these deaths have been dismissed as isolated events, but the evidence points to a pattern of arbitrary and extrajudicial executions in what has been a sustained human rights crisis. When BSF personnel shoot and kill an individual, they act as judge, jury, and executioner. There are far too many examples of such unlawful border enforcement to recount here or to call them anything but state-sanctioned.

This brutality is enabled by a political narrative of dehumanisation that operates at every level. On the ground, victims are dismissed as "miscreants" or "criminals" to justify the violence. At the highest political levels, this is sanitised into bureaucratic language that is just as pernicious. When confronted about India's "pushback" of alleged Bangladeshi immigrants through the border, the country's Ministry of External Affairs deflected by citing a "pending list of 2,369 [Bangladeshi] nationals" and blaming Dhaka for verification delays. This rhetoric reduces thousands of human beings to a backlog to be "dealt with." Systematic dehumanisation doesn't

just dull empathy; it creates the perfect conditions for border killings or illegal push-ins.

The erosion of restraint, then, is no accident. The BSF routinely defies the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms—an ethical framework built on necessity, proportionality, and accountability. Necessity demands that lethal means be a last resort. Proportionality forbids using a bullet to answer a transgression. Finally, the principles mandate robust accountability. Yet, we continue to see unchecked border aggressions and near-total absence of prosecutions, which suggest calculated neglect on the part of the BSF. We have documented various cases of torture. We have seen entire communities of Bangladeshi-origin Muslims in India have their homes bulldozed, be flown on military aircraft, and then dumped on a desolate island.

Each act of violence is swallowed by a ritual farce—outrage, denial, erasure. No inquiry. No justice. And with every unpunished killing, violence seeps deeper and becomes indistinguishable from policy. This systemic failure makes one thing painfully clear: the existing mechanisms for resolving border incidents have become a diplomatic charade, enabling rather than preventing the next tragedy. Even when Bangladeshi officials state plainly that "killings at the border can't be justified," the message fails to penetrate the BSF's operational doctrine. If the rule of law is to be

restored, a radical overhaul is required, built on a new architecture of justice and prevention.

The centrepiece of this architecture, in my view, should be a standing binational commission on border incidents—radically distinct from existing consultative forums. This body should be composed of eminent, independent figures: retired senior judges, respected human rights commissioners, and security analysts of unimpeachable integrity from both nations. Crucially, active BSF or BGB commanders must be excluded to guarantee impartiality. This commission would be the central engine driving a comprehensive five-point strategy for lasting change. These five points are:

The BSF routinely defies the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms—an ethical framework built on necessity, proportionality, and accountability. Necessity demands that lethal means be a last resort. Proportionality forbids using a bullet to answer a transgression. Finally, the principles mandate robust accountability.

First, the commission would be the engine of truth. By conducting fully autonomous investigations, it would serve as the official bilateral counterpart to a UN Special Rapporteur, with its mandate backed by the United Nations Human Rights Council. This is not a radical demand. The UN has deployed similar mandates to investigate state-sanctioned border violence in Belarus, and the UN

clauses and disaster-linked repayment pauses; rules that ensure all creditor groups share the burden fairly; tax rules set through a truly global process, backed by transparency measures that unmask illicit flows; and predictable global revenue streams earmarked for common challenges such as climate change and pandemic preparedness.

The Monterrey Consensus of 2002, the Doha Review of 2008, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of 2015 also called for increased development finance and a more inclusive system. They yielded incremental progress in areas such as domestic tax capacity and blended finance but missed their bigger marks. Hence, the ODA target remains unmet, debt distress has re-emerged, and climate finance still falls short of promises.

For Bangladesh, these global debates are anything but abstract. The National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh estimates that around \$230 billion will be needed for climate adaptation alone by 2050. With a tax-to-GDP ratio hovering near eight percent, fiscal space is tight, leaving little scope to fund large-scale green infrastructure or social programmes through domestic revenue. The ongoing IMF programme of \$4.7 billion blends traditional support with climate-related financing. But the scale and availability of such resources depend heavily on how global reforms play out.

The practical value of the Sevilla Commitment for Bangladesh lies in what happens next—whether the SDR-based hybrid capital facility becomes fully operational, whether solidarity levies mature into steady funding streams, and whether MDB reforms expedite lending and lower borrowing costs. Bangladesh also stands to gain from stronger international tax cooperation and targeted technical assistance to enhance its domestic revenue base closer to the 15 percent threshold. However, the promises of the Commitment will remain on paper unless countries act on areas such as funding MDBs, enacting levies, meeting aid targets, and improving tax governance.

The challenge now is turning Sevilla's policy architecture into actual flows of affordable and timely finance that can close the gap between ambition and delivery. Without that, global targets such as the SDGs will keep slipping further away.

Rapporteur on Iran has specifically investigated shoot-to-kill policies against cross-border couriers. The crisis on the India-Bangladesh border warrants no less.

Second, the commission would be the engine of reform. Its mandate must include the authority to compel prosecutions in civilian courts, bypassing opaque military tribunals. This external, binding pressure is the only mechanism that can force a genuine overhaul of the BSF's Rules of Engagement to align with UN norms, tear down the walls of immunity protecting abusers, and ensure measures like body cameras are implemented meaningfully.

Third, the commission would be the engine of bilateral justice. Its binding rulings on victim compensation and criminal accountability would transform the dynamic from political negotiation to a quasi-judicial process, injecting the element currently absent: inescapable consequence.

Fourth and fifth, the commission's mandate would extend beyond adjudication to address the root causes of the crisis. Its investigations would provide both governments with authoritative reports on why people are crossing the border—to find work, visit relatives, flee police crackdowns, etc. From this evidence, it could issue formal recommendations to establish joint development programmes and, crucially, design and monitor the implementation of legal migration pathways, such as temporary work permits. This would undercut the traffickers who profit from desperation.

A nation's commitment to human rights is tested at its margins. Right now, at its eastern border, India is failing that test—one body at a time. Trust between nations is not built on the number of meetings held, but on the justice delivered. The time for empty rituals is over; the time for justice has come.

How Bangladesh has been building a digital police state



Shahzeb Mahmood
is the head of research at Tech Global Institute, where he leads on platform accountability, surveillance, and data protection.

SHAHZEB MAHMOOD

Bangladesh, like many modern states, has a deeply embedded architecture of a surveillance state. But ours was not constructed overnight; it was forged in crises. From the presidential assassinations of the 1970s and 1980s to the attempted assassination of a foreign diplomat, from paramilitary mutinies to terrorist attacks over the last two decades—each national trauma has become a justification to tighten the government's grip on citizens. With each incident, the surveillance apparatus grew stronger and less accountable. What started as a response to security threats has morphed into a system for political consolidation and control.

Since the early 2000s, successive governments have steadily restructured Bangladesh's legislative and regulatory landscape to normalise expansive surveillance. Under more than 15 years of Awami League rule, this system has enabled the routine suppression of dissent, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings. Yet, this shift has not occurred in isolation; all arms of the state have been complicit in normalising a surveillance regime that undermines the very principles it claims to protect, whether through active enforcement, silence, or institutional abdication.

Surveillance at the source

Bangladesh's surveillance capacity does not begin with a camera; it begins with a budget line. In FY2023-24, over Tk 63,000 crore (approximately \$5 billion) was allocated for the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces Division, and the Public Security Division—the institutional core of the country's civilian and military intelligence apparatus. This sum feeds the backbone of Bangladesh's surveillance infrastructure, yet how much is spent on technologies that track, profile or monitor citizens remains undisclosed. There is no parliamentary scrutiny and no statutory human rights protection guiding procurement decisions.

According to an investigation by Tech Global Institute, between 2016 and 2024, the country's law enforcement and intelligence agencies procured over 200 surveillance devices and software systems, although the actual number is likely higher given the

opacity surrounding these transactions. These include IMSI catchers, GPS trackers, drone systems, facial recognition technologies, and communication intercept tools—acquired without any meaningful public consultation, export-import controls or legal safeguards.

While laws like the Public Procurement Act, 2006, the Public Procurement Rules, 2008, and the Import Policy Order establish standards for transparency, competition, and import regulation, these frameworks remain conspicuously silent on human rights. There is no legal requirement for the authorities to conduct due diligence or audit to ensure that imports capable of tracking, profiling or monitoring individuals are compliant with the Constitution of Bangladesh or international human rights obligations. Worse still, procurement decisions made “in good faith” are insulated with legal immunities, effectively shielding them from challenge even when rights are violated. In the absence of robust accountability mechanisms, state actors encounter little institutional friction for overreach and, in many cases, are incentivised to pursue it. By design, therefore, the laws are structured to allow systemic and sustained impunity, shielding state actors from legal challenge while leaving citizens with no meaningful avenue for redress.

A legal system built for control?

Existing legal and regulatory architecture governing surveillance in Bangladesh is a fragmented patchwork of laws that confer expansive, largely unchecked powers to state agencies. Tech Global Institute research found that more than 20 different laws enable surveillance. Often, terms like “monitoring” and “interception” appear repeatedly across laws, not as narrowly defined legal authorisations, but as vague placeholders that open the door to arbitrary surveillance under the catch-all justifications of public safety and national security.

At the heart of this framework lie legacy statutes such as the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 and the Telegraph Act, 1885, which allow the executive branch to monitor, intercept, record, and collect vast troves of user data throughout the entire telecommunications value chain—

from international gateways to mobile network operators and internet service providers. These provisions are neither accidental nor incidental; they are rooted in colonial-era and colonial-inspired statutes designed for domination, not democracy. Their continued enforcement in the 21st century reflects a deliberate choice in statecraft, one that preserves a legal order that treats citizens not as rights holders, but as subjects to be monitored, managed, and marginalised.

Complementing the statutes are licensing conditions issued by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) that, in effect, institutionalise surveillance as a non-negotiable requirement of doing business in the sector. Clause 25 of the 4G licence agreement, for instance, obligates mobile network operators to enable real-time access to user information, bulk data interception, and live database monitoring by security agencies like the

limited to telecommunications. An illustrative example is the collection and retention of expansive demographic and biometric datasets by the Bangladesh Election Commission under laws like the Representation of the People Order, 1972 and the National Identity Registration Act, 2010. Once collected, these datasets are routinely cross-linked with other databases, including health records, passport data, banking information, and tax filings maintained by other state agencies. Data flows across these networks through opaque bureaucratic pipelines, leaving citizens visible to power, and power invisible to them.

Even more concerning are the state's intelligence agencies operating in near-total darkness. Central state intelligence agencies like the NTMC, the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), and the National Security Intelligence (NSI) operate without public-facing mandates or accountability. Other surveillance behemoths—like the

in legitimate aims such as national security or public order. In practice, however, these safeguards are routinely ignored, reinterpreted or bypassed altogether. What was meant to be the exception has become the norm.

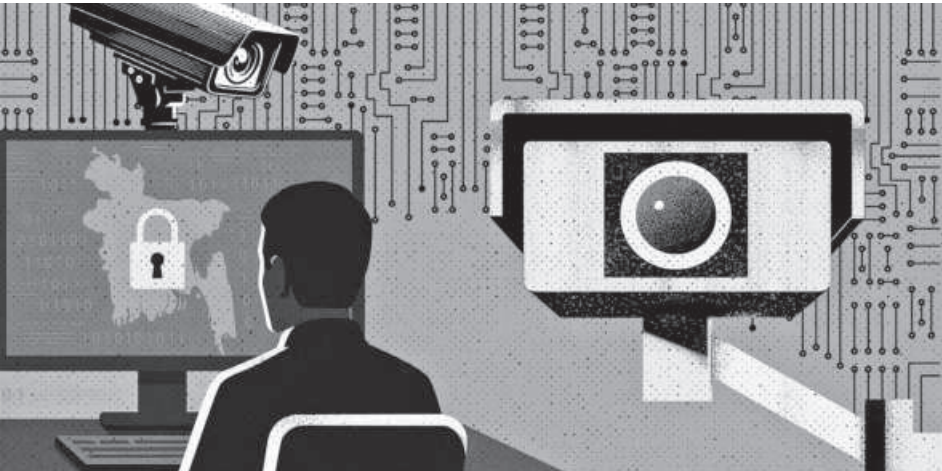
Exacerbating this structural permissiveness is a judiciary that has largely remained on the sidelines. Unlike comparable jurisdictions such as India, where courts have articulated strong constitutional limits on surveillance, courts in Bangladesh have remained largely passive. A rare exception is *The State vs. Oli* (2019), in which the High Court held that warrantless, routine collection of telecommunications data violates the right to privacy under Article 43 of the constitution. Yet, no clear guidelines were issued, nor has there been consistent judicial oversight since. Surveillance continues, undisturbed and unaccountable.

Rather than reversing this trajectory, emerging policies appear to entrench the status quo. Take, for example, the proposed Personal Data Protection Ordinance, which adds newer dimensions of risk. With expansive exemptions for crime prevention and national security, and vague provisions for data localisation, the law risks legitimising, rather than restricting, invasive surveillance. History has shown us that such provisions function less as protective safeguards and more as tools for consolidating state power in Bangladesh.

A panopticon state by design

Bangladesh now possesses the infrastructural capacity to watch more people, more closely, and for more arbitrary reasons than at any other time in its history. Surveillance in itself is not inherently illegitimate; the state has both the right and the responsibility to ensure national security and public safety. But over the past three decades, the balance between liberty and control has tilted decisively away from constitutionalism and towards authoritarianism. Surveillance is no longer a targeted tool; it is the default operating system of governance. It is embedded in the circuitry of daily life, normalised through bureaucracy, and reinforced by fear. What stands today is the quiet entrenchment of a panopticon state. The result is an Orwellian reality in which the state sees all, knows all, and answers to none.

Despite its reported extensive use during the 2024 “Monsoon Revolution” and promises of reform by the interim government, no meaningful efforts have been made so far to dismantle or restrain this machinery of control. Too many lives have already been lost, too many freedoms eroded, for the state to persist in these excesses. Now is the time to act, not with rhetoric but with reform. And it must be done with urgency and resolve, to honour those who have suffered and to ensure that such abuse is never repeated.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

National Telecom Monitoring Center (NTMC). Operators must also identify and report users flagged as national security threats. While the exact nature of compliance remains opaque, these obligations are likely carried out without meaningful user knowledge or informed consent. What is clear, however, is that compliance is not optional; it is enforced not only through the threat of criminal prosecution and financial penalties, but also through coercive administrative pressures such as licence non-renewal or permit withholding, making resistance commercially untenable. Nevertheless, the silent acquiescence by multinational subsidiaries reflects a profound abdication of corporate responsibility, and raises serious concerns under both domestic legal standards and international frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Government surveillance overreach is not

Special Branch, Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)—are only nominally governed by colonial era laws like the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, Special Powers Act, 1974, and Police Act, 1861, with their methods often outpacing both legal text and judicial oversight.

Violation of constitutional rights

These sweeping powers have gutted the very rights the constitution promises in at least two critical ways. First, the lack of legal clarity and institutional accountability undermines articles 31 and 32, which guarantee equal protection under the law and prohibit the deprivation of liberty without due process. Second, while articles 39 and 43 allow the curtailment of fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of expression, such restrictions must be reasonable and grounded

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Young people need opportunity and mentorship, not token gestures



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Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

IFTEKHAR UL KARIM

Bangladesh, with its demographic dividend and more than one-third of its population under the age of 35, stands at a critical crossroads that tests the nation's preparedness. As the World Economic Forum continues to highlight emerging jobs and essential future skills, including critical thinking and complex problem-solving, we must ask: are our systems, institutions, and mindsets equipping young people to thrive in this evolving landscape? Alarming, even students at Stanford University, in the heart of Silicon Valley, are voicing concern that they are not learning anything in class. This points to a global disconnect between education and employability. If even the most elite institutions are falling short, what does that say about our own theory-based and exam-driven classrooms in Bangladesh? Are we truly preparing our youth to lead in the age of disruption?

Beyond the challenges of formal education, there is a quieter crisis unfolding in the everyday lives of young people in Bangladesh: the steady erosion of social skills. With the average youth spending several hours a day scrolling through social media, the ability to hold meaningful conversations, practise empathy, and engage in real human connection is gradually weakening. What was once a vibrant culture of community gatherings, spirited dialogue, and shared lived experiences is

gradually dissolving into a device-driven existence where likes, shares, and filtered images often replace authentic human connection. Streets that once echoed with laughter, debate, and spontaneous conversation now fall silent as heads remain bowed to glowing screens. As virtual validation begins to outweigh self-awareness, we must pause and reflect. Are we raising a generation that is slowly forgetting how to connect person to person without using digital tools?

Another critical concern is the persistent wave of brain drain. Each year, thousands of Bangladesh's brightest minds leave the country in search of better education, meaningful work, and environments that reward merit, creativity, and innovation. Many do not return. While global mobility is a natural part of a connected world, the alarming rate at which our top talent is seeking opportunities abroad signals a deeper problem. Young people are not just looking for higher salaries or foreign degrees, but dignity, purpose, and opportunities free of corruption, red tape, or stagnation. The Bangladeshi passport's low global ranking not just limits travel opportunities for many young people but hinders global recognition as well. When a nation invests in its youth only to lose them at their most productive stage, it must ask itself: do we have a country our young people want to

shape, or is it one they feel forced to escape?

The struggle to find meaningful employment has become one of the most disheartening realities for young people in Bangladesh. Each year, thousands of university graduates face a job market that offers more rejection than opportunity. Many find themselves waiting endlessly, moving from one temporary role to another, or simply settling for jobs that do not match their skills or aspirations. The formal economy remains limited in its capacity to absorb the growing number of job seekers, pushing many into the informal sector, where work lacks future security. In Bangladesh, many young people turn to startup dreams as an escape from unemployment, hoping to innovate and succeed on their own terms. Yet global research shows that it is often older founders, with experience and deeper insight, who build the most successful ventures. How can we expect young entrepreneurs to thrive when they face a world that romanticises youth but offers limited ground support or space to grow?


Many young people in Bangladesh are also grappling with deep confusion brought on by the double standards they see around them. Both globally and locally, the contradictions are striking and hard to ignore. Tech companies preach privacy rights, while at times, quietly profiting from user data behind the scenes. Climate summits are filled with pledges to reduce emissions, yet the same leaders arrive in private jets and approve new fossil fuel projects. Superpowers advocate for democracy abroad while maintaining alliances with authoritarian regimes that serve their interests. Nuclear-armed countries call on others to denuclearise while refusing to dismantle their own arsenals. Nations

open their borders to some refugees while closing them to others based on race, religion, or politics. Athletes are praised for activism until their views challenge powerful sponsors. For young people trying to make sense of right and wrong, values and ambition, these contradictions disorient them, eroding their trust. How can we expect this generation to follow a clear moral compass when the world around them keeps shifting the lines?

In the face of contradiction,

disillusionment, and structural barriers, a growing wave of young people in Bangladesh is choosing not to be silent or sidelined. They are stepping into leadership roles, organising within their communities, creating civic platforms, and using digital tools not just for expression but to drive meaningful change. From climate advocacy to education reform, from championing social justice to promoting green enterprise, young voices are not only asking for inclusion

but also proving their readiness to lead. What they need now is not symbolic praise but genuine space, consistent mentorship, and institutional support. The future of governance cannot be shaped without the participation of those who will live it and inherit its consequences. If we choose to trust our youth, challenge them with purpose, and include them in building the present, we will not only nurture better leaders but also build a stronger and more just Bangladesh.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.11.1600-002.14.PD-17.2025

Date: 11/08/25

e-Tender Notice-DRIIDARP/2025-26/01

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

Package/ Lot No.	Tender ID	Identification of lot	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time
DRIIDAR/2025-26/CCC/W3/L2	1138662	Construction of RCC Girder Bridge over Shitol Jhama Khal with approach road at Bayezid Bostami Road near Starship Factory at 2 No. Ward	21-Aug-2025 13.00	21-Aug-2025 14.00
DRIIDAR/2024-25/CCC/W-08/L-01	1138669	Repair and maintenance work from Lalkhan Bazar to Bahaddarhat Flyover	21-Aug-2025 13.00	21-Aug-2025 14.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

CCC/PRD-14/25-26 (5"x4)

GD-1267

Md. Jashim Uddin
Project Director
"Different Roads and Important
Infrastructural Development including
Airport Road under
Chattogram City Corporation."
& Superintending Engineer
Chattogram City Corporation

There shouldn't be a set standard for 'wife material': Sunerah



If you think seriously, it's concerning that some men think that a 'wife material' should be someone who thinks that way.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Thanks to the release of the nationally beloved film *Utshob* on OTT, it has once again found its way into social media discussions. Lauded for its family-friendly, emotional, and evocative script, the film arguably peaks in the scene between Sunerah Binte Kamal and Zahid Hasan. A lighter facet of the emotional reunion of the father-daughter duo is Sunerah screeching, "How come this coffee is Tk 350? Outrageous!", a humorous dialogue which has unexpectedly set off debates on social media.

Memes captioned "wife material" have been circulating for days, owing to her character's stingy nature. "It is honestly flattering and quite funny to see these memes circulating around," said the actress, a recipient of the National Film Award for her very first film, *No Dorai*. "If you think seriously, it's concerning that some men think that a 'wife material' should be someone who thinks that way."

Sunerah further says that such arbitrary standards demean women in general. "Every woman who wants to get married is a wife material."

The actress, on a high from her role in *Daagi* and the subsequent cameo

in *Utshob*, still believes that she is on a learning path as an actress. "From the beginning of my career, I wanted to set an example. There was a weird perception that artists who came from modelling weren't that good at acting – and I wanted to buck that stereotype." That, she did. Her portrayal of the verbally mute Likhon in *Daagi*, especially when she communicated solely through her expressive eyes, was something to behold. "Likhon is among the top three characters I have played, along with Ayesha from *No Dorai* and Esha from *Utshob*. I hold them very dear to me."

Sunerah goes on to insinuate that she was previously ridiculed for 'cameo' appearances in films. "A lot of people would poke fun at me, saying 'when is your next cameo?', but they failed to understand that the screen-time of a role is not necessarily proportional to its impact. I give it my all to whatever I'm doing, and seems like it's paying off!"

What's next for the young star? Unsurprisingly, the hard worker is firing on all cylinders – working on television, films and even YouTube. "I don't subscribe to the notion that a film actress should stay away from other mediums. As I said, it's a learning journey for me and I am cherishing it."



PHOTO: COURTESY



Deepika Padukone to produce 'The Intern' remake

Deepika Padukone has stepped away from the lead role in the upcoming Hindi adaptation of the 2015 Hollywood film *The Intern* to focus solely on producing it under her KA Productions banner. Initially set to star opposite Rishi Kapoor and later Amitabh Bachchan, her role will now be recast.

According to Mid-Day, this is the first of five projects she plans to launch over the next year, aiming for stories with global relevance. The move follows her exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Spirit*, citing creative differences and work-hour demands, with Triptii Dimri replacing her. Rumours of her leaving *Kalki 2* were denied by sources. Deepika last appeared in *Singham Again* and welcomed her daughter, Dua, in September 2024.

Turkish drama 'Kuruluş: Osman' now in Bangla dub on Toffee

Popular Turkish series *Kuruluş: Osman* is now streaming on Toffee in Bangla dubbing, with the first three seasons available and the fourth releasing on August 22. Toffee has partnered with SRK Group to bring all six seasons in Bangla, featuring the voices of 53 Bangladeshi artistes.

The historical drama follows the Kayı tribe of Anatolia, led by Ertuğrul and later his son Osman, as they lay the foundation of the Ottoman Empire. Written by Mehmet Bozdağ and directed

by Metin Günay, the series stars Burak Özçivit, Özge Törer, and Alma Terzić. Broadcast in 73 countries, *Kuruluş: Osman* won Best Series at the International Venice TV Awards in 2020.



Blackpink's Lisa to release short film for 'Dream'

Blackpink's Lisa will release a short film for her track *Dream* from her debut album *Alter Ego*. Co-starring Japanese actor and model Kentaro Sakaguchi, the film premieres on August 13 at 11pm EST. Lisa announced the project on social media with a poster and the caption: "An emotional, beautiful story that will soon be yours."

Dream appears as the 13th track on *Alter Ego*, released on February 28, which debuted at number one on the Billboard Top Album Sales chart.

Lisa is currently on the *Deadline World Tour* with Blackpink, with upcoming shows in London on August 15-16 and in the Philippines on November 22-23.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Troubling Rain'

Renowned photographer Abir Abdullah unveils a compelling solo exhibition portraying the resilience, struggles, and lyrical beauty of life in the monsoon's embrace. Through evocative frames, the collection invites viewers to pause and reflect on the intimate relationship between rain, hardship, and hope in everyday Bangladeshi life.

DATE: THURSDAY-SATURDAY | AUGUST 14-23, 2025

TIME: 3-9 PM

VENUE: LA GALERIE, ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA

NEWS

Graft trial starts against Hasina, others

FROM PAGE 12

According to court sources, the three complainants read out very similar statements.

As all the accused were declared fugitive, there was no scope for any lawyers to cross-examine the witnesses.

The judge set August 26 for the next hearing.

Meanwhile, the trial of another three graft cases against Hasina, Sheikh Rehana, her son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and daughters, British MP Tulip Siddiq and Azmina Siddiq, and 18 others, including several current and former officials of the Ministry of Housing and Public

Works and Rajuk, is pending with the Special Judge's Court-4 in Dhaka.

The anti-graft body -- between January 12 to 14 -- lodged six cases with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 over alleged irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

The ACC alleged that Hasina, in connivance with senior Rajuk officials, unlawfully secured six plots -- each measuring 10 kathas -- in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 of the Purbachal New Town project for herself, Joy, Putul, Rehana, Bobby, and Azmina, despite their ineligibility under existing regulations.

On March 25 this year, the ACC

filed six charge sheets with the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka where Hasina was a common accused in all six cases.

On April 10, 13, and 15, the court issued arrest warrants against Hasina, Rehana, Joy, Putul, Tulip, Azmina, and Radwan, along with others, after taking cognisance of the charges.

The same court on July 1 ordered the relevant authorities to issue six gazette notifications summoning the 29 individuals to appear before the court in the cases.

On July 31, charges were framed against 29 people, including Hasina, Rehana, Joy, Putul, Bobby, Tulip, and Azmina, in the six cases.

CID clears ex-minister, secy after KL's request

FROM PAGE 12

Under a memorandum of understanding between Bangladesh and Malaysia, about 480,000 Bangladeshis went to Malaysia for work between August 2022 and May 2024 through 101 recruiting agents.

All their recruitment documents were processed by a web-based system named Foreign Workers Centralised Management System, which, industry insiders said, was a tool to manipulate the recruitment process.

As per the MoU, the recruitment cost has been agreed to be Tk 78,990.

However, on March 28 last year, four UN experts wrote a letter to the Bangladesh and Malaysia governments detailing labour exploitation in Malaysia.

They mentioned that each migrant spent between \$4,500 and \$6,000 (Tk 5-6 lakh).

It said the whole process reportedly begins with bribery within Malaysia's human resources and home affairs ministries to obtain "fake quotas for bogus employers".

"Subsequently, bribery extends to the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia and Bangladeshi syndicated agents to facilitate recruitment approval," the letter said.

In response, Bangladesh's mission to the UN in Geneva on May 29 last year said Dhaka wanted to allow all its 1,520 licensed recruitment agencies to send workers to Malaysia but Kuala Lumpur selected only 101 agents.

In March, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed 12 separate cases against 12 recruiting agency owners including former Finance Minister

AHM Mustafa Kamal and his family, former MP Nizam Uddin Hazari, Masud Uddin Chowdhury and former MP Benzir Ahmed for allegedly embezzling Tk 1,128 crore in human trafficking in different times.

Meanwhile, Khan, proprietor of recruiting agency Afia Overseas, had filed a human trafficking case with Paltan Model Police Station on September 3 last year against former state minister for expatriates' welfare Imran Ahmad, secretary Ahmed Munirur Saleheen and 101 recruiting agencies including the above-mentioned MPs and Kamal's family members Kashmiri Kamal and Nafisa Kamal.

The case accused them of embezzling Tk 24,000 crore through an organised syndicate.

Ahmad was arrested in October last year in connection with the case.

"Many of the Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia were exploited, confined, jobless and their passports confiscated -- these are all signs of human trafficking," Khan told The Daily Star.

Many recruiting agencies in Bangladesh, including Afia Overseas, also faced losses because of the syndicate that extorted huge amounts of money, he said.

The complainant in the case was not a direct victim as the alleged victims were the workers who paid the money, the CID inspector Rasel told The Daily Star.

About 4.76 lakh passengers were involved, many of whom paid through 3,000 agencies rather than directly to the so-called 103 processing agency,

he said.

"These agencies collected varying amounts -- Tk 4 lakh, Tk 4.5 lakh, Tk 5 lakh -- but passengers only signed documents acknowledging Tk 78,900. If they paid more, they themselves must lodge complaints. So far, not a single victim has done so."

The case lacked proper evidence, Rasel added.

In his no-confidence petition against the report, Khan said the accused, as part of the syndicate, influenced the police to transfer the investigation to a preferred CID unit without consulting him or seeking his input.

"During the investigation, the officer had no contact with me and was clearly influenced by the accused. Out of hostility and malice, he submitted a false and fabricated report, prepared or dictated by the accused," the petition said.

Khan said Interpol's National Central Bureau in Dhaka on October 24 last year requested assistance from Malaysian police to arrest two alleged masterminds -- Bangladeshi-origin Malaysian citizen Md Aminul Islam (Amin Nur) and former Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies secretary general Mohammed Ruhul Amin -- on charges of human trafficking and extortion.

"Interrogating them will uncover the true picture of the human trafficking," he said, adding that the request to Malaysia was based on the accounts of former minister Ahmad.

Khan said he will pursue the case until he is satisfied.

No reforms in foreign ministry amid

FROM PAGE 12

key stakeholder in the Bay of Bengal has grown significantly, as the US, China and India are seeking to expand influence in the region.

"As competition between the US and China escalates to near Cold War levels, Bangladesh must exercise heightened caution and pursue skillful diplomacy," said former ambassador M Humayun Kabir.

Bangladesh's youth, who played a pivotal role in ending an authoritarian regime, aspire to a country that maintains foreign relations with mutual respect and independence, Humayun said.

Reality, however, paints a different picture.

The foreign ministry remains institutionally weak, owing to both internal and external factors that have influenced its direction over the past few months.

The resignation of Jashim Uddin as foreign secretary on May 21 was one of several developments that raised questions about the ministry's institutional stability and integrity.

He stepped down under pressure following a social media campaign targeting him. Certain quarters within the ministry and also the government acted against him, according to several foreign ministry officials.

Also, the government cancelled the appointment of Khorshed Alam Khastagir, deputy high commissioner at the Bangladesh mission in Malaysia, as ambassador to Poland on October 6 last year following a social media campaign.

The campaigners alleged that he sued Bangladeshi migrants for demonstrating in support of the July mass uprising. Later, Malaysian authorities clarified that he had not filed any cases.

On May 22, the government scrapped a transfer order for

Shabab Bin Ahmed, who was posted at Bangladesh Embassy in the Netherlands at that time, and asked him to return home instead of joining as deputy high commissioner at the Kolkata mission.

The order was issued after a social media campaign claimed that he had "barred sacrifice of animals" during Eid-ul-Azha on the consulate premises.

The ministry has not yet provided any explanation as to why these changes were made.

Several foreign ministry officials said these developments created a sense of insecurity among them. Besides, multiple emails and WhatsApp conversations were leaked over the past year, fuelling mistrust among the staff.

Seeking anonymity, one of the officials said that any action must be backed by law, logic and proof, or else it creates chaos and promotes inefficiency.

COORDINATION NEEDED

Over the last few months, Khalilur Rahman, national security adviser, and Lutfe Siddiqi, chief adviser's envoy for international affairs, have played prominent roles in dealing with international issues, including the Rohingya crisis.

"On many occasions, the foreign ministry appeared to be taking a backseat when the Chief Adviser's Office took the front stage," said a foreign policy analyst, adding that this could lead to problems in coordination.

"This was reflected during the chief adviser's visit to the UK on June 10-13, which was declared an official tour. But no meeting between Yunus and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer took place," said the analyst, preferring not to be named.

Prof Sk Tawfique M Haque, director of the South Asian Institute

of Policy and Governance at North South University, said that if there is any gap in coordination, the foreign ministry should bring it up and address that.

In a report on governance over the past year, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said the government lacked clarity regarding its position on providing a "humanitarian corridor" to Rakhine and didn't communicate the issue transparently to the public.

On April 27, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said that Dhaka in principle agreed to the UN proposal for providing humanitarian passage to Rakhine, prompting widespread criticism from political parties and cross sections of people.

About a month later, Khalilur said the interim government had not discussed "humanitarian corridor" with any party and would not do so in the future. The issue has remained shelved since then.

The TIB pointed out that Bangladesh's relations with India strained after ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to the neighbouring country. India drastically restricted visas for Bangladeshis, imposed certain trade restrictions and continued push-ins of Bangla-speaking people.

As Bangladesh's ties with Pakistan improved over the past year, Beijing initiated a trilateral mechanism involving Dhaka and Islamabad -- a move that experts believe could upset New Delhi and Washington.

Experts say Bangladesh needs to have national consensus on key foreign policy issues and ensure strong coordination among relevant ministries to efficiently deal with foreign powers. Otherwise, it will be difficult to maintain strategic autonomy and protect national interests.

Plots afoot to obstruct return

FROM PAGE 12

If the BNP comes to power, leaders and activists must remain vigilant to prevent opportunists from joining the party.

"Colleagues, if Allah wills, you will run the country. You may form the government with the support of the people. But right now, many opportunists are circling around you. You must watch out for these opportunists -- they belong to no

one."

These opportunists only care about their own interests, he said.

"They will come. They will use you. They will damage your reputation. They will take their own benefit. They will damage the party's reputation. They will take their own benefit. And when they see hard times, they will run away. These vultures must not be allowed to come."

If the BNP comes to power, it will face numerous challenges, including creating jobs for the unemployed, addressing water management issues by re-excavating dried-up rivers and canals and reforming the education system.

"We must all stay alert. We must not do anything that could harm the party or destroy the people's trust and confidence. Pledge that you will keep the party united."

Fisherwomen left in the shadows

FROM PAGE 3
which led to serious social consequences, including increased domestic conflicts, separations, emotional abuse, and early school dropouts, which in turn contribute to early marriages.

Additionally, 57 percent of fisherwomen remain excluded from social safety net programmes, while key policies such as the Jalmahal Policy and Fisherfolk Guideline largely overlook their gender-specific vulnerabilities.

Although 63 percent have completed registration, most have yet to receive their ID cards, blocking access to vital aid.

Off-season rice aid disproportionately favours male cardholders, and many women are forced to pay fees of Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,500 to obtain VGD cards.

Furthermore, 53 percent report never having received any government or administrative support, exposing significant unfulfilled promises and misaligned interventions.

Samara recommended strengthening the economic resilience of fisherwomen by forming cooperatives with access to revolving funds, providing market-relevant skills training, and ensuring universal issuance of fisherfolk ID cards.

She urged improvements in social protection through a simplified and transparent ID registration process, the creation of gender-specific safety nets, and expanded access to affordable credit to reduce dependence on exploitative lenders.

She advocated for local health camps, support for rainwater harvesting, and the removal of barriers to healthcare access, while emphasising the need to embed women's representation and

priorities into fisheries, climate, and governance policies to achieve a gender-responsive transformation.

At the seminar, widow Farida Begum from Chila union in Bagerhat's Mongla, who has been fishing for 40 years, showing her hands, said, "Look at our hands -- whatever work men do, we do the same. We catch fish, steer boats, and our hands are marked with stains and scars. If male fishers get support, why shouldn't we?"

"We operate boats, get soaked in saltwater, and face tigers in the forest and alligators in the waterbodies to feed our children. Yet, the government provides us with neither food nor water tanks."

"If our names aren't on government records, I urge the government to remove women fishers like me from this earth altogether," said Farida.

Human rights activist Zakia Shishir stressed that discrimination stems from ingrained mindsets rather than policies alone.

"When we say 'fisherman' or 'jele', how many of us picture a woman? The real bias lies within our mindsets, not just in policies," she said.

She criticised policy-making detached from lived realities, calling for local contexts to be factored in and for women's voices to be formally recognised so they can claim their rights effectively.

Zakia criticised how policies are often made by officials detached from the realities of fisherfolk, rarely involving the actual beneficiaries.

She stressed the importance of considering local geographical differences for effective policy implementation.

Calling for formal

recognition of women's work, she pointed out that women face compounded oppression from both social norms and patriarchy.

Badabon Sangho's Executive Director Lipi Rahman echoed the need for formal recognition, stating that many remain unaware of women fisherfolk's contributions, leading to neglect of their rights.

Department of Fisheries Deputy Director Firoz Ahmed acknowledged that after the district-level ID card project ended, the department has struggled to maintain ID card issuance.

While a recent project provided some cards through a vendor, many registered fishers remain without them, he said.

Shahajadi Begum, project coordinator at Oxfam, suggested expanding the scope of definition and registration coverage to explicitly include more fisherwomen.

She also emphasised the need to provide women-friendly alternative livelihood options using local resources, especially for those involved in catching fish fry, as many of these women lack skills for other types of work.

Speaking as chief guest, Dr Md Abdur Rouf, director general of DoF, assured that the definition of fishers will be revised to explicitly include women, as the 2016-17 registration guidelines currently omit specific mention of female fishers.

Illegal fishers are also being removed from the registration list, while genuine fishers are newly included.

Women fishers make up of 12 percent of the registered fisherfolk across the country, he said, adding that in the past six months, 37,910 fishers have been newly registered, and 23,644 registrations have been cancelled.

Lawyers scuffle

FROM PAGE 3
MK Rahman argued that Haque, who retired a decade ago, had been detained on July 24 in a murder case filed a year earlier.

He condemned the treatment Haque received, including being brought to court with his hands tied behind his back, and criticised the judiciary's silence on the matter.

Mohsen Rashid, another lawyer for Khairul, urged DAG Rasel not to dictate the court and highlighted the humiliation faced by Haque.

"Insulting judges has become a trend in South Asia," he said.

A government-backed lawyer held Haque responsible for the judiciary's decline and the killing of around 1,500 people.

This statement was opposed by lawyers supporting Haque, leading to shouting, chaos and scuffle despite repeated requests from the judges to calm down.

Justice Haque was arrested on July 24 from a house in Dhaka's Dhanmondi by the detectives in connection with the murder of 16-year-old Jubo Dal activist Abdul Kaiyum Ahad, killed in Jatrabari on July 18 last year.

Police probing

FROM PAGE 3
from Sayedabad," he said.

"I called Zakir in the evening since he was supposed to be back in Noakhali by then, but got no response," he added.

Md Mizan, the hospital's security-in-charge, told reporters he was conducting his routine inspection when he noticed the men inside.

"I knocked on the window but got no response. When I pulled the door open, I found them unconscious. I immediately informed the hospital authorities, who called the police," he said.

HC upholds life term for two former cops

FROM PAGE 3
Both Zahidur and Qamaruzzaman will have to pay Tk 2 lakh each in compensation to Jonny's family and Tk 1 lakh each as a fine to the state.

Meanwhile, former assistant SI Rashedul Islam's life sentence was reduced to 10 years in prison. He was ordered to pay Tk 25,000 in compensation to Jonny's family and Tk 50,000 as a fine to the state, said defence lawyer Md Abdur Razzak Razu.

Police informer Russell, sentenced earlier to seven years in jail, was acquitted. Another informer, Sumon, who had also received a seven-year sentence, has already served his term.

Delivering the verdict on the appeals of three convicted accused, the court said documents and evidence, including inquest and post-mortem

reports, proved that Jonny, an innocent young man, was illegally detained and brutally tortured to death by police in custody.

As a state institution, the police cannot avoid responsibility for the illegal detention, inhuman torture, and death, the court observed.

The court also said the fact that there were 86 police personnel present at Pallabi Police Station during the incident, none of whom reported it to higher authorities, showed a complete collapse of internal supervision, monitoring, and accountability.

The bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan delivered the verdict after hearing the appeals.

Jonny's younger brother, Imtiaz Hossain Rocky, told The Daily Star

that he was satisfied with the upholding of Zahidur's life sentence but expressed concern for his safety following the commutation of another sentence and the acquittal of Russell.

"I was already living in fear and panic. Now that one accused has been acquitted, I don't know what will happen," he said.

Jonny's mother Khurshida Begum said she was satisfied with the verdict but urged the state to take responsibility for Jonny's two children and provide them with compensation.

According to the case statement, police informers Sumon and Russell called law enforcers after Jonny slapped Sumon for stalking and harassing women at a wedding programme in Pallabi's Irani Camp area.

Then, a team of 25-26 police officers, including


Zahidur, raided a house and detained Jonny and Rocky on February 8, 2014. Afterwards, the two were tortured at Pallabi Police Station.

The next day, Jonny fell ill and was taken to a local clinic before being transferred to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Rocky filed the murder case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka on August 8, 2014.

On September 9, 2020, a Dhaka court sentenced Zahidur, Qamaruzzaman, and Rashedul to life imprisonment and informers Sumon and Russell to seven years in jail.

Qamaruzzaman remains on the run, while Russell, who had been absconding during the trial court verdict, later surrendered.



West Zone Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Dev. Board)
Office of the Superintending Engineer (P&S)
Bidyut Bhavan, 35, Boyra Main Road, Khulna
Gmail: wz.procurement@gmail.com, Wave Address: www.wzpdcl.gov.bd

Memo No. 27.22.4785.010.74.002.25/2089

Date: 10.08.2025

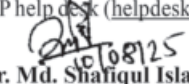
e-Tender Notice (NCT)

e-Tender for the office of the Superintending Engineer (P&S) invites in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods:


SL	Tender ID	Name of tender	Last selling and closing date & time
1	1138400	Construction of 33kV New Line from 33/11kV Sub-Station, Wzpdcl, Charfasion, Bhola to PGCB Grid Sub-Station, Charfasion, Bhola.	01-Sep-2025 15:30; BST 02-Sep-2025 15:00; BST

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1768



Engr. Md. Shafiqul Islam
Superintending Engineer (P&S)
WZPDCL, Khulna



বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
website: www.ugc.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ইউজিসি/প্রশাঃ/১২১(১২)/২০১৮/ ২৩১৭

তারিখ: ২৭ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২
১১ আগস্ট ২০২৫


“নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন এর নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী যোগ্য নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে :


ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়স
১।	সহকারী সচিব/সহকারী পরিচালক, বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০- ৫৩০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড)	১৫ (পনের)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর
২।	একাউন্টস অফিসার, বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০- ৫৩০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড)	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর
৩।	বাজেট অফিসার, বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০- ৫৩০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড)	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর
৪।	অডিট অফিসার, বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯ম)	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর
৫।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল), বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড- ৯ম)	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর
৬।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল), বেতন স্কেল : ২২০০০- ৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড- ৯ম)	০১ (এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর
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১১।	অফিস সহায়ক, বেতন স্কেল : ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- (২০ তম গ্রেড)	০৫ (পাঁচ)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর

নির্ধারিত ছকে চাহিত তথ্য ও কাগজপত্র প্রদানসহ আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের পৃথক আবেদনপত্র কমিশনের সচিব বরাবরে ডাকযোগে অথবা সরাসরি আগামী ১১-০৯-২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন, আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা- ১২০৭ ঠিকানায় পৌঁছাইতে হইবে। আবেদনপত্র দাখিল সংক্রান্ত তথ্য ছক, শর্তাবলী ও প্রয়োজনীয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি নির্দেশনা সংবলিত পূর্ণাঙ্গ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট www.ugc.gov.bd এর “ডাউনলোড” নামক সেবা বক্সের চাকুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি লিংক হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন কর্তৃপক্ষ অসম্পূর্ণ/অসত্য তথ্য সংবলিত আবেদনপত্রসহ যে কোনো আবেদনপত্র বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

GD-1765



ড. মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম
সচিব




Request for Expressions of Interest (National)
Selection of Individual Consultant – 01 Position

56.83.0000.006.11.001.25.824

Date: 11 August, 2025

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH		
1	Ministry/Division	Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Division
2	Agency	Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme
3	Client Name	Project Director, Aspire to Innovate Programme
4	Client Code	Not used at present
5	Client District	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	1. Consultant (Data & SDG) – 1 position
7	EOI Ref No	56.83.0000.006.11.001.25.
8	Date	11 August, 2025
KEY INFORMATION FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Source of Funds	Development Budget and Government of Bangladesh.
10	Development Partners (if applicable)	UNDP
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	223038900
12	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme
	Date	Time
13	EOI Closing Date and Time	27 August, 2025 11.45 AM (BST)
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
14	Brief Description of Assignment	Selection of the 1. Consultant (Data & SDG) – 1 position For detail Terms of Reference (TOR) please visit: https://a2i.portal.gov.bd/site/view/jobs/-
15	Qualification and Experience	Academic Qualification & Years of Experience: • As per Terms of Reference (TOR)
16	Other Details (if applicable)	Aspire to Innovate Programme invites the interested eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services in accordance with the Terms of References (ToR) provided in RFA. This shall require confirmation through submission of application forms and other documents described in the Request for Application (RFA). Expression of interest shall be submitted by 11:45 am (BST), 27 August, 2025 via email (recruitment@a2i.gov.bd) or hardcopy . Interested applicants are required to submit their Expression of Interest in accordance with the application form (email or Hard Copy) which may be obtained (RFA) from the Aspire to Innovate Programme website: https://a2i.portal.gov.bd/site/view/jobs/- or ICT Division website: https://ictd.gov.bd or Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) website: www.cptu.gov.bd Applicants may also obtain RFA document through email. Please send your request to: recruitment@a2i.gov.bd . For those who are to submit hard copy, a box will be kept in 13th floor of ICT Tower, a2i Office, Agargaon Dhaka to submit application & necessary documents. Consultants will be selected following PPA-2006 and PPR-2008. It is expected that the services will commence in September 2025 . For query, please contact: Mohammad Arifur Rahman, HR Officer Address: Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme, 13th floor, ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh Telephone No.: 9144848 Ext. 132, Mobile no. +88 01841030208
CLIENT DETAILS		
17	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Md. Rashidul Mannaf Kabir
18	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Joint Secretary & Project Director (Additional Responsibility), Aspire to Innovate Programme
19	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Division ICT Tower, E-14/X, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
20	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Tel. No. 88025500693 1-34 Fax No. 88025500 6936 e-mail pd@a2i.gov.bd
21	The Client reserves the right to reject all EOI's	



Md. Rashidul Mannaf Kabir
(Joint Secretary)
Project Director (Additional Responsibility),
Aspire to Innovate Programme
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GD-1769

SATYAJIT RAY'S 'Tagore' Films

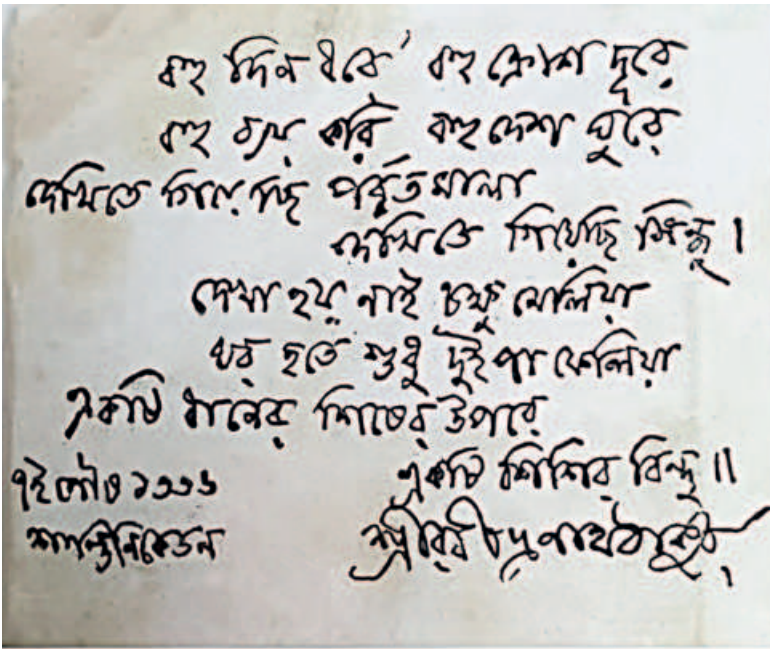
In 1961, Satyajit Ray made two films to make the centenary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore. One was a conventional bio-documentary, the other a triple bill, *Tin Kanya*, based on three of Tagore's stories focussing on women. Ray would go on to make two more screen adaptations of Tagore's writing – *Charulata* (1964) and *Ghare Baire* (1984).



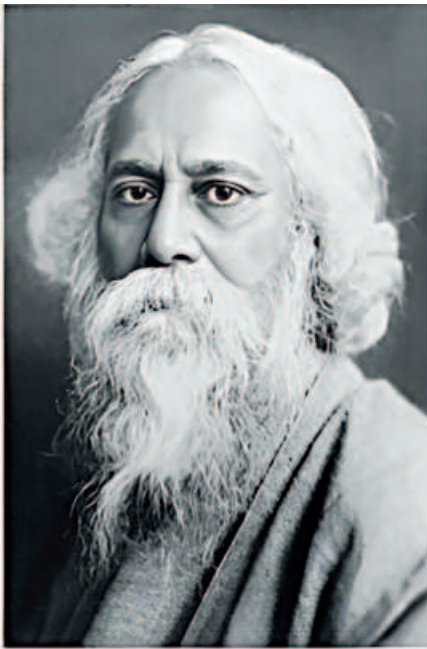
Both travelled widely and left their artistic marks in many different countries, yet were profoundly Bengali at heart, choosing to live and work in Bengal.

JOHN W. HOOD

Before taking a close look at the three feature films that comprise Ray's tribute to Tagore we might note a few similarities between the two cultural giants. There is ample evidence in Ray's notebooks of his talent in the visual arts where we find countless illustrations of so many of his cinematic ideas, while Tagore took to painting when he was close to 60. Ray was more than competent as a musician, composing the music for all his films from *Tin Kanya* on, while Tagore wrote some 2,232 songs. Ray too was a writer – of filmscripts, of course, but also of detective stories and science fiction, of essays and criticism. It is a popular truism that Tagore wrote in one lifetime more than most people could read in a lifetime – novels, short stories, plays, essays and nearly 60 volumes of poetry. Both men had a global outlook that reflected their versatility. Tagore was a devoted Indian who yearned for his country's freedom, yet his artistry and intellect could never be limited by just that one country; Ray was also



When young Satyajit Ray visited Tagore with his mother, Suprabha Ray, to seek the poet's blessings, he handed Tagore an autograph book. Instead of signing it on the spot, Tagore took the book home. The next morning, when Satyajit arrived at Tagore's residence in Uttarayan, he received the book back—with an eight-line poem written inside by the poet himself.



that Bhupati is dedicated to his own work, which is steeped in British India, while *Charulata* is kept busy by her place in Indian India. However, it would indeed be missing the point to make a comparative judgement about the quality of each India, or to assert that one is worthier than the other. Both Tagore and Ray, I imagine, would come down on the side of an intelligent synthesis of the two. Unfortunately husband and wife remain separate from one other, and this dichotomy is at the heart of the drama that will develop.

Germane to this drama is the visit of Amal, a young cousin of Bhupati, a lively, spirited and educated young man; a vibrant and creative relationship quickly develops between him and the somewhat older *Charulata*. It is at first an innocent relationship, based on a mutual passion for writing (in Bengali). But as this literary passion becomes more and more intense, the relationship might be seen to take on the appearance of an affair. However, there is nothing in the novella or the film to give definite substance to this, except for an emotional moment when *Charulata* sobs intensely, embracing Amal with her face resting on his chest. It must be noted that this moment does have a profound effect on Amal – he does not smile or laugh again in the remainder of the film – and it would seem that his departure is inevitable.

It must also be stressed that Bhupati is a good husband and a loving one, and that *Charulata* is devoted to him. The opening line of the film shows her concern for the master's tea being late, a simple indication of wifely devotion. The slippers that she embroiders for Amal might be seen as extravagant in comparison with the mere handkerchief she embroiders for Bhupati, but the point of the slippers is to indicate naivete rather than unfaithfulness, and to allow a simple suggestion of Amal's rejection in leaving the slippers behind on the night on which he leaves the house.

As noted in an earlier context, *Charulata* is one of the 'Tagore' films marked by visual Anglophilia, particularly in the architecture and décor of the house and Bhupati's choice of clothes. This apparent Anglophilia begs the contrast to *Charulata*'s passion for reading Bengali literature and writing in her mother tongue.

Twenty years later Ray made *Ghare Baire*, the first of his last four films, indicating that much of the shine had gone out of his work. *Ghare Baire* is over-long and dense with dialogue, most of which is dry and polemical.

The contextual basis of the film is Curzon's Partition of Bengal in 1905 and the protests that mostly took the form of the public burning of foreign cloth, a form of protest to which Tagore was strongly opposed. The drama is structured around three characters: Nikhil, his wife Bimala and his close friend Sandip. The friendship would seem unlikely – Nikhil is gentle, rational and opposed to the protest fires, while Sandip is something of a rabble-rouser, an ardent cloth burner and organiser of demonstrations. Bimala is there for Sandip to try to win over, and as *Charulata* is infatuated somewhat by Amal, Bimala is infatuated for a time by Sandip. It is when the protests become violent that Nikhil orders Sandip to leave and Bimala realises her foolishness in being influenced by him. Ultimately Nikhil is killed in the midst of protest violence.

These five 'Tagore' films of Satyajit Ray make up a somewhat uneven group, but *Postmaster*, *Samapti* and *Charulata* stand out as masterly.

Dr. John W. Hood is a film critic, translator, and former teacher.



A scene from the film *Charulata*.

proud of his Indian heritage, yet was happy to take whatever he wanted from the cultures of other countries. Both men spoke and wrote in English as well as they did in Bengali. Both had close connections to the Brahmo Samaj, which lent them, perhaps, a more streamlined religiosity, and both were noted for their profound humanism. Both wrote a lot for children, writing that could also be enjoyed and admired by people of all ages. Both travelled widely and left their artistic marks in many different countries, yet were profoundly Bengali at heart, choosing to live and work in Bengal. Yet remarkable as Ray's artistic scope was, it could not match that of Tagore; indeed, no one's could. However, similarities such as this brief summation do suggest a closeness of the poet to the filmmaker.

The three films of the triple bill and the two longer films all deal with male-female relationships, and except for *Postmaster*, the first of the three short films, they all focus on marriage. It might also be noted that *Postmaster* and *Charulata* offer significant allusions to literacy and literature.

Central to the narrative of *Postmaster* is the notion of dislocation. Nandalal, a young man of the Calcutta *bhadralok*, is posted to a rural post office and is confronted by a totally different way of life, one into which he simply cannot fit, and this cultural or societal conflict is the sole cause of his constant and worsening depression. Eventually he applies for a transfer after contracting malaria and leaves the village – and presumably, rural life – for good.

Perhaps Nandalal does not elicit much sympathy, being what would seem to be a pampered and probably over-mothered city boy. However, a great deal of sympathy is ensured by

Tagore and Ray for the little orphan girl, Ratan, who works as Nandalal's housekeeper and, when he is ill, acts as his nurse.

The literary interest in the film first emerges on Nandalal's arrival in his village home when he is seen unpacking some books. He takes one and reads it on the veranda. He lets some of the villagers know that he likes to write poetry and that he reads English literature. The reaction to this is one of sheer amazement. To ease his boredom he starts to teach Ratan to read and write. He does this for his own amusement, but to Ratan he takes on an almost divine status. When his happiness returns with the coming of his transfer, misery sets in for Ratan, who is assured of no more education and a return of her former loneliness. When Nandalal leaves the village, she does shed tears, but is championed by Tagore and Ray by maintaining a creditable dignity and showing a sign of maturity in pretending that she does not see him as they pass on the road.

The second film, *Monihara*, might seem somewhat out of place between the other two films. Indeed, when shown abroad, it was often left out to make the feature a double bill of two very different films with nevertheless a lot of relativity to one another. *Monihara* reveals a narrative of personal obsession and marital infidelity, which blends into a somewhat chilling ghost story. In fact, the film itself and the short story which it recreates are presented as a story read by a village schoolmaster.

The simple narrative deals with Phanibhushan's obsession with his wife, Manimalika, and her obsession with jewellery, her venality and her infidelity. Indeed, she elopes with a lover, while justice would seem to prevail when the boat on which they are travelling sinks and they drown.

We might note certain visual similarities with *Charulata*. The architecture and decor in the houses of Phanibhushan and Bhupati are notably Western in style as are the clothes that the two men wear. This serves as a reminder that the story-cum-film is set in two Indias – Indian India and British India – and that Tagore and, to a lesser extent, Ray, also lived through a time of two Indias. This point is rather significant in *Charulata*, but mostly it is merely cosmetic in *Monihara*.

The third short film is the delightful *Samapti*, which is remarkable for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it is one of the earliest films to bring to the screen Aparna Dasgupta who, later in life as Aparna Sen, would achieve fame as one of Bengal's finest actors and one of the foremost filmmakers in India.

The focus here is the character of Mrinmayi, a village girl of much the same age as Ratan in *Postmaster*, but

whereas Ratan is domesticated and responsible in her work, Mrinmayi – a veritable tomboy – is at one with the freedom of the outside, at play with her group of mostly boys and her pet squirrel.

The film is full of fun, as *Postmaster* is full of touching sentiment, most of it sad. It might also be said that *Samapti*'s fun is more prominent in Ray's version than in Tagore's, for so much of it can be transmitted visually – somebody seen slipping over in the mud can be much funnier than being told about it by some lines in a book.

Like *Postmaster*, narrative progresses by development of the contrast between the two central characters; unlike *Postmaster*, *Samapti* ends in a union, not a separation. However, there is one element of melancholy here: Tagore would seem to be unconvinced about the rightness of the marriage of young girls, for Mrinmayi's endearing

more than its dialogue. The opening titles roll over shot of a pair of hands embroidering the Roman 'B' on a handkerchief. (B for Bhupati, *Charulata*'s husband.) The titles are immediately followed by *Charulata*'s call to the servant for tea, and then there is a period just short of eight minutes without any dialogue at all. The visuals during this time show *Charulata* selecting a book – Bankimchandra's *Kapalkundala* – from a bookshelf, indicating both her literacy and her delight in Bengali writing. She also observes with evident delight the goings on in the outside world through a pair of opera glasses – a trainer and his two monkeys, a palanquin passing the house, an apparently amusing fat man. Then she sees Bhupati – in long shot coming along the upper storey veranda, lost in thought, not noticing his wife. He enters a room, from which he emerges a few moments later with



Posters featuring some of Satyajit Ray's Tagore films.

childlike features must fade as Mrinmayi the homemaker must emerge. Ironically, it would seem that her childlike features are what endear her to Amulya, as they indeed endear her to the film's audience.

There are distinct similarities between *Postmaster* and *Samapti*: both focus on a young girl and her relationship with an older, Western-educated man, and both have a rural context. But there are distinct differences too: a parting in one, union in the other; the poignancy of one, the light-heartedness of the other; simplicity of *Postmaster*, complex development of *Samapti*. Yet the two films compliment each other very well and strengthen the argument for *Tin Kanya* as a double rather than a triple bill.

In 1964 Ray made the exceptionally beautiful *Charulata*, a film remarkable for its visual experience

a book, opened and claiming his full attention. This opening section very skillfully reveals *Charulata* as isolated – from the outside world, connected only by opera glasses, and from Bhupati. It also highlights her restlessness.

The shot of *Charulata* selecting the Bengali novel is indicative of her Bengalianness, or her belonging to the Indian India. Bhupati is very much inspired and preoccupied by British India, even by just Britain. He sees British political liberalism to be the great hope of civilisation, and it is this that drives his own newspaper, *The Sentinel* (in English, of course), the appeal of which is limited to the Western-educated elite of Calcutta; he has no interest in the Bengali writers so much loved by his wife. And so, while it would be quite wrong to say that the marriage is in any way a loveless one, it is to be noted

‘We have to be realistic’

STAR SPORTS DESK

“Like snakes and ladders, what goes up sometimes comes down,” Bangladesh women’s football head coach Peter Butler reflected on the team’s landmark climb in the FIFA rankings. Following their breakthrough campaign in Myanmar in June–July this year, the women in red and green surged from 128th to 104th in the latest FIFA rankings, the biggest leap by any nation.

The ranking boost mirrors Bangladesh’s commanding qualifying performance at the age-group level, as the U-20s on Sunday secured their first-ever berth in the AFC Women’s U-20 Asian Cup, sealing the ticket to Thailand for April next year, as one of the three best runners-up among eight groups.

“I’m mindful that it can come tumbling down pretty quick, it can go up pretty quick,” Butler said via a video shared by the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

Butler credited this progress to a “competitive and healthier working environment” and said, “The girls deserve the recognition and accolades they’re receiving.”

The U-20s entered the qualifiers as reigning



SAFF champions, riding a six-match unbeaten streak, and carried that strong form through their campaign in Laos.

After emphatic wins over the hosts and Timor-Leste, the final group game pitted them against a world-class team like South Korea, a test they ultimately lost 6-1.

Reflecting on the defeat, Butler was candid: “I was proud of the girls, but at half-time I knew they were spent, they were done. We’d had fevers, injuries, and other issues... the South Koreans really put us to the sword in the second half.”

This was a match where Bangladesh had hoped to at least avoid a big-margin defeat but they conceded three late goals. Ultimately, the outcome did not spoil the party for Butler’s charges.

Rejecting a defensive approach, the former Liberia and Botswana coach explained, “We could have parked the bus, just gone route one, smashed it down the pitch and just defended that for our lives, but that’s not how I work.

“We went toe to toe in the first half, and at half-time it was one apiece. I admire the girls’ durability and spirit.

“But it was a great learning curve yesterday [Sunday] against probably one of the best sides in world under-20 women’s football.”

Looking ahead, he opined, “So, we have to be realistic and keep striving, keep working to actually try and maintain that FIFA ranking and bring it down below 100.”

Ultimately, Butler’s reflections struck a balance between pride and pragmatism. The double dose of historic qualification and rankings rise mark significant milestones for Bangladesh women’s football, but competing with Asia’s elite will demand continued commitment, growth, and resilience.



PRODIGY’S GAMBIT

Already the youngest to earn a Woman GM norm, British chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan has now become the youngest female to beat a grandmaster. Aged 10 years, five months and three days, she outmanoeuvred 60-year-old English GM Peter Wells in the final round of the 2025 British Championships, surpassing American Carissa Yip’s 2019 record. The daughter of Indian Tamil parents, Bodhana learnt chess during lockdown at five. In February last year, Indian-born Singaporean Ashwath Kaushik became the youngest ever to beat a GM, defeating Jacek Stopa at eight years, six months and 11 days.

PHOTO: FIDE



“Having worked with FIFA and AFC, I’ve seen football federations worldwide are run by government funds, but in Bangladesh we run it with sponsors’ money... We should’ve a training centre where the girls can stay comfortably, with gym and swimming pool facilities. Without a ground to practice properly, how can we expect anything good?”

Mahfuza Akhter Kiron, head of BFF women’s wing, told reporters yesterday.

Proteas pace prodigy takes flight

AGENCIES

In just over a year, Kwen Maphaka has gone from dominating schoolboy cricket to unsettling some of the world’s best batters.

On Sunday night in Darwin, the 19-year-old left-arm quick once again underlined why many believe he is South Africa’s next great fast-bowling hope.

Against Australia in the opening T20I, Maphaka returned career-best figures of 4-20, dismissing Mitchell Owen with a 144kph thunderbolt in just his fourth delivery and later removing power-hitter Tim David after conceding only 14 runs from 11 balls to him.

He capped his night with the scalps of Adam Zampa and Ben Dwarshuis, while also holding two sharp catches in the Powerplay.

It was the latest chapter in a rise that has been nothing short of meteoric. Maphaka burst onto the global stage at the ICC Under-19 Men’s Cricket World Cup 2024, where his 21 wickets at 9.71 earned him player of the tournament honours despite being just 17.

His exploits caught the attention of IPL scouts, leading to a Mumbai Indians contract before he had played senior international cricket. Rajasthan Royals snapped him up in 2025.

International cricket followed swiftly. In his maiden ODI against Pakistan last December, Maphaka was clocked at 151kph. Two weeks later, he became South Africa’s youngest Test debutant at 18 years and 270 days, showing the pace, skill, and temperament to trouble seasoned batters.

Maphaka’s edge lies not just in his physical attributes – his whipper action, ability to move the ball at high speed, and athleticism in the field – but in his mindset. Teammates describe him as quiet off the field but fiercely competitive on it, unafraid of verbal exchanges with senior pros. Against Australia, he stood toe-to-toe with David, a decade older, and refused to blink.

With a T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka less than a year away, Maphaka has already made a compelling case to be a key figure in South Africa’s plans.

If his development continues at this pace, the Proteas may have unearthed a bowler capable of leading their attack for the next decade.



‘Satisfying to see the group evolving’

After winning a bilateral YODI series in South Africa 2-1, Bangladesh Under-19 team capped off their month-long Africa tour with a tri-nation YODI series win in Zimbabwe involving the hosts and South Africa. U-19 team head coach Naveed Nawaz talked to **The Daily Star’s Samsul Arefin Khan** about the successful tour and the team’s preparation for next year’s U-19 World Cup. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): How do you rate the overall performance of your side in the last two series?

Naveed Nawaz (NN): It’s very satisfying to see the boys performing really well. South Africa was quite different from Bangladesh in terms of wickets, and conditions. We played some really good cricket there. When we came to Harare, we found that things were quite different. The ball was keeping up and down and there was a bit of seam movement. But when the ball got older, it became easier to bat. These were the challenges for us throughout the series.

DS: How satisfying was it to see a different player emerging as the match winner in every game?

NN: We saw different players coming up with solutions to the problems they faced in the middle. They performed well to make an impact on the result as well. It was satisfying because you can see the group is evolving. It also means we are building a strong unit, with players who have confidence to handle situations under pressure and also make their presence felt in the middle.

DS: As the next U-19 World Cup will be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia, how important was this tour?

NN: It was important for the boys to have some understanding on how the wickets will play. Although we will play in Bulawayo, which we didn’t go to this time as we played all the matches in Harare, still it’s not going to be a lot different. This tour will help the boys and all of us



as well to help them prepare for the World Cup.

DS: This group of players won the Asia Cup, did well in Sri Lanka and now had a great tour in Africa. Do you feel your side is developing into a top contender for the next World Cup?

NN: As a team, we never speak about outcomes. We only speak about the roles the people will have to play and the process that we follow and the discipline that we need to maintain. If the players can play their roles well and as a team, if we can play good cricket, the outcome will take care of itself. We are looking forward to the World Cup but we really don’t want to feel under pressure because of it. The main objective is to produce good

cricketers for Bangladesh.

DS: Do you see any similarities between this and the 2020 batch, which you coached to World Cup glory?

NN: It’s too early to say, but yes, there is definitely potential here.

DS: Are you satisfied with the preparation for the World Cup so far? **NN:** We have played around 20 YODIs starting from the UAE in 2024. We have a series in September against England and then a home series against Afghanistan in October. Asia Cup will probably happen in December. So, there are more games to play and it will add to the players’ experience, which will be good for them. So far, I’m very happy with the developments and outcomes as well.

AFC CHALLENGE LEAGUE

Abahani, Kings face stern tests in openers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh’s top two clubs, Abahani and Bashundhara Kings, kick off their AFC Challenge League campaigns today, with Abahani hosting Kyrgyzstan’s Muras United in Dhaka and Kings facing Syria’s Al Karamah SC in Doha.

Despite less-than-ideal preparation ahead of their first matches of the season, both sides are eager to produce positive results against higher-ranked opponents and progress from the preliminary stage to the 20-team final round of Asia’s third-tier club competition.

Abahani, six-time Bangladesh Premier League champions, have not advanced beyond the preliminaries of an AFC competition since their 2019 AFC Cup inter-zonal semifinal run.

Participating in continental tournaments for the 13th time since 1985, the Sky Blues face a stern challenge from Muras United, a club formed in 2023 but already leaders of the Kyrgyzstan Premier League with 11 wins in 15 matches.

For AKM Maruful Haque’s men, overcoming a foreign-player-laden Muras will require a disciplined performance.

In Doha, domestic powerhouse Bashundhara Kings – five-time league champions in six seasons – are aiming to break their continental jinx, having exited at the group stage in four straight AFC competitions, the last without a single point.

New Brazilian coach Sergio Farias has had just one training session with the full squad, as foreign signings and expatriates Tariq Raihan Kazi and Michel Orellana joined only yesterday.

Kings now face a daunting task against Al Karamah, eight-time Syrian league winners and former runners-up in both the AFC Champions League and AFC Cup.

With minimal preparation, they will be banking on resilience and flashes of brilliance to pull off a surprise in Qatar.



When the Mo magic goes missing

STAR SPORTS DESK

For all his reputation, records, goals, and moments of wizardry, Mohamed Salah’s big-stage resume has left a lot to be desired. Sunday’s Community Shield defeat to Crystal Palace was no different as the 33-year-old failed to make an impact, earning the lowest average rating based on his statistical output – no goals, no assists, no chances created, no successful take-ons, and no accurate crosses.

Salah in finals (including Community Shield): Finals: 13, Goals: 2, Assists: 2, Penalties scored: 2, Finals won: 5, Finals lost: 8

*Salah has yet to score from open play in a major final and has no assists in the seven he’s started for Liverpool.



তাকার সল্লিকটে বুড়িগঙ্গা নদীর তীরবর্তী ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারী শিল্পের অন্যতম শহর ঐতিহ্যবাহী **কেরানীগঞ্জ**

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০২ আগস্ট ২০২৫, মঙ্গলবার

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No reforms in foreign ministry amid global shifts

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh's foreign affairs apparatus did not see any major reforms over the past year when the country needed prudent diplomacy to navigate the complexities of rapidly evolving global and regional dynamics.

Foreign policy analysts say Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' 11 overseas visits helped secure international recognition for both the July mass uprising and the interim government. But the foreign ministry appeared somewhat sidelined.

"I don't understand why the government hasn't taken any initiative to reform the sector... There was political intention to do things differently," said former ambassador M Shameem Ahsan.

This inaction could either mean everything is fine on the foreign affairs front or it was given less importance, he told this correspondent, noting that the government set up 11 commissions to carry out reforms across various sectors but excluded foreign affairs.

"Over the last few months, what has been happening at the borders with India and Myanmar is unwanted. There are security concerns as well," said Shameem, also a former member of the Public Service Commission.

Given the global geopolitical sensitivity, the interim government should have at least formed a national foreign affairs council to help it with decision-making on critical foreign policy matters, he said.

"We, as a nation, cannot do things on an ad hoc basis," he added. Foreign policy analysts further say Bangladesh's importance as a

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A woman dries earthen pots in the sun. For decades, several Hindu families in Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan upazila have been crafting these traditional pots, primarily used for storing curd. The price of each pot ranges from Tk 8 to Tk 10, depending on size. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Teenager killed during clash at Geneva Camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager was killed during a clash between two groups of alleged drug traders in Mohammadpur's Geneva Camp yesterday. At least 13 people were detained in this connection.

The 16-year-old victim, a resident of the camp, was stabbed to death by rival gang members, said Abul Alim, inspector (operations) of Mohammadpur Police Station.

According to the police official, there has been a longstanding dispute between the two groups -- one led by Mona Sohel and the other by Pichchi Raja, Selim, and Parmanu -- over the drug trade in the camp.

He said the teenager, who allegedly belonged to Mona Sohel's group, was stabbed to death around 3:00pm when the gang led by Pichchi Raja attacked the rival group.

Pichchi Raja, Selim, and Parmanu were among those who took part in the attack, he said, adding that the gangs had been fighting since the morning.

Later in the night, joint forces conducted a raid in the camp and detained at least 13 suspects.

Locally made sharp weapons were recovered at that time, confirmed Lt Col Nazim Ahmed, commanding officer of the 23rd East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES CID clears ex-minister, secy after KL's request

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has cleared the former expatriates' welfare minister, its former secretary, several MPs and a syndicate of 101 recruiting agencies of charges of human trafficking and money laundering.

The move comes three months after Malaysian authorities requested Bangladesh to review or withdraw the charges in relation to the labour recruitment in Malaysia.

In the final report submitted on July 15 to the Anti-Human Trafficking Special Tribunal of Dhaka on human trafficking, Md Rasel, police inspector (heinous crimes) of CID, said the investigation has found no proof of the allegations.

The report recommended actions against the plaintiff Altab Khan.

Khan, meanwhile, submitted a no-confidence petition to the court against the final report, saying that the CID inspector must have been influenced by the accused and hence submitted such a flawed report.

Earlier on April 23, Malaysian Human Resources Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Azman bin Mohd Yusof had written a letter to Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Secretary Neyamti

“These agencies collected varying amounts -- Tk 4 lakh, Tk 4.5 lakh, Tk 5 lakh -- but passengers only signed documents acknowledging Tk 78,900. If they paid more, they themselves must lodge complaints. So far, not a single victim has done so.”

Md Rasel, investigating officer

Ullah Bhuiyan requesting the review or withdrawal of the cases related to the labour recruitment in Malaysia.

"The allegations of human trafficking and money laundering -- largely unsubstantiated -- have impacted the Malaysian reputation," he said in the letter.

He also requested the secretary to prevent the revival of dismissed cases to ensure that Malaysia will preserve and enhance the US Trafficking in Person ranking by demonstrating continued commitment to ethical recruitment.

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Graft trial starts against Hasina, others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of three graft cases filed against 23 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajeb Wazed Joy, and daughter Saima Wazed Putul, began at a Dhaka court with depositions of three complainants yesterday.

The complainants are Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Md Salahuddin, assistant directors Afnan Jannat Keya and SM Rasheedul Hasan.

For over one and a half hours, the complainants described alleged corruption by Hasina, Joy, Putul, and 20 others, to acquire plots in violation of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) rules and provisions, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of the Special Judge's Court-5 in Dhaka recorded their statements, said Ariful Islam, bench assistant of the court.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Plots afoot to obstruct return to democracy Says Tarique Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a conspiracy underway to stop the country from returning to a democratic state and to deny the people's right to vote, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday.

Efforts are being made to foil the return to democracy, he said while speaking as the chief guest at BNP's biennial conference in Naogaon.

"Many thought there was no opponent on the field, so why would the polls be so tough? I said back then that the next election would be the toughest in Bangladesh's history. One year ago, I said invisible forces were at work. Different kinds of conspiracies were happening and that it would not be so easy. Do you realise that now? It will be tough ahead."

People trust that if the BNP comes to power, it will do constructive work since it has experience in running the country.

"Everyone expects that the BNP will be able to move the country forward and make people's lives a little better. There is a conspiracy to ruin this plan."

To stop the ongoing conspiracy against democracy, voting rights and the BNP, Tarique urged his party members to avoid activities that could damage the public trust.

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BANGLADESHI JUTE GOODS

India blocks their entry thru land ports

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday banned the entry of certain categories of jute products, including sacks and bags, from Bangladesh through land ports with immediate effect.

The products are bleached and unbleached woven fabrics of jute or other bast fibre, twine, cordage and cables of jute besides sacks and bags of jute, said a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the Indian commerce ministry.

However, the import of these jute products will be allowed only through the Nhava Sheva sea port in Maharashtra, said the notification signed by Ajay Bhadoo, director general of the DGFT.

"Imports from Bangladesh shall not be allowed from any land port on the India-Bangladesh border," the DGFT said, adding that the move "regulates" imports of certain goods with immediate effect.

Last night's move came a little more than two months after India restricted the imports of a range of jute products and woven fabrics from Bangladesh via land ports, allowing them only through Nhava Sheva.

Similar steps were taken in April and May, covering readymade garments, processed foods, flax tow, jute yarn, and other bast fibre products.

On May 17, India imposed port restrictions on certain goods from Bangladesh, while on April 9, it withdrew the transshipment facility that allowed Bangladeshi garment exporters to ship goods to destinations including the Middle East and Europe, except for Nepal and Bhutan.



Makeshift stalls eat up much of the thoroughfare in the capital's North Jatra Bari, leaving little room for traffic, resulting in frequent congestion. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DUCSU POLLS Nomination submission from today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The submission of nomination papers for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) elections is set to begin today.

According to the election schedule announced by Chief Returning Officer

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