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Move to send peace mission to Myanmar

Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim reveals plan in joint press briefing with Prof Yunus

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh, Malaysia, and several other Southeast Asian countries will send a joint peace mission to Myanmar in the coming weeks to advocate for peace and humanitarian aid for the Rohingya population and other communities in the country.

To ensure that peace is achieved and the end to atrocities against some ethnic minorities and the people of Myanmar, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan will coordinate with the team comprised of members from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Bangladesh to visit Myanmar in the next few weeks.

"Malaysia is concerned with the burden placed on Bangladesh of having to cater to enormous numbers of Rohingya refugees," said Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at a joint press conference after a bilateral meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in Putrajaya yesterday.

"Therefore, to secure peace in Myanmar is, of course, a great priority, along with immediate

humanitarian assistance for the suffering first, the refugees, and also the victims of earthquakes," he said.

A civil war has been raging in Myanmar since a military coup in 2021.

Bangladesh hosts around 1.2 million Rohingya refugees, most of whom fled a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017. Now rebel group Arakan Army controls about 90 percent of Rakhine State.

Since 2023, an additional 2,00,000 have fled to Bangladesh. No repatriation has taken place over the years despite various attempts. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) could do little to address the issue.

To bring global focus back to the Rohingya crisis, the UN, at the request of Bangladesh, is going to organise a high-level conference on the Rohingya crisis on September 30 in New York.

A preparatory conference will be held in Cox's Bazar on August 25, the eighth anniversary of the Rohingya influx into Bangladesh.

Malaysia also shelters more than 1,00,000
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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim during a luncheon hosted by the latter at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

5 MOUs SIGNED

On defence cooperation between Bangladesh and Malaysia

On LNG supply, infrastructure development, and petroleum products

Between Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS)

Between MIMOS Services Sdn Bhd and the Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI)

Between National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)

STAR ROUNDTABLE 1

Businesses for deferment of LDC graduation by 6yrs

Without adequate preparation, industries may struggle to maintain their global foothold, exporters and economists warn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's leading business figures have urged the government to seek a six-year deferral of the country's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, warning that the economy is unprepared for the loss of vital trade preferences.

Citing a confluence of domestic and international pressures, including a nearly 40 percent currency devaluation, high interest rates, and a fraught investment climate, they are petitioning for the transition to be pushed back from its scheduled date of November 2026 to 2032.

The primary concern is the impending loss of preferential market access, particularly the duty-free, quota-free access to the European Union. Business leaders estimate this could slash annual exports by up to 14 percent, equivalent to \$7 billion, crippling key sectors like ready-made garments and footwear, which together constitute almost 90 percent of the nation's exports.

The Daily Star yesterday launched a series of roundtables on private sector challenges tied to the LDC graduation, aiming to make a roadmap for the future of the economy.

During the first of these roundtables, the business leaders suggested engaging in intensive negotiations with the United Nations and the two other graduating countries, Nepal and Laos, to secure the deferment. Two economists also spoke at the online discussion titled "LDC Graduation: How to Energise the Private Sector Objective".

Syed Nasim Manzur, president of Leathergoods and Footwear
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13TH GENERAL ELECTION 45,000 polling centres, 2.8 lakh booths likely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will train 9,31,131 polling officials ahead of the upcoming national election, which could have more than 45,000 polling centres and 2.8 lakh booths.

The training programme is likely to begin in September as part of the preparations for conducting the polls.

The polls will be held in the first half of February next year, with the EC planning to declare the schedule in the first half of December.

In preparation, the EC has already updated the voter list, is redrawing parliamentary constituencies, and making arrangements for expatriate voting.

Once the proposed amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) and the Election Conduct Rules are forwarded to the law ministry for swift approval, the printing of manuals and guidelines will begin. The materials will serve as key resources for training election officials.

The EC also aims to complete tasks like voter registration, training of officials, and procurement of election materials by September.

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Grounded planes put Biman's schedule in disarray

Experts question carrier's safety, maintenance regimes

RASHIDUL HASAN

A series of technical issues in Biman planes has raised questions about the national flag carrier's quality of maintenance and safety.

There has been at least 10 incidents in which Biman's Boeing and DHC Dash-8 aircraft suffered technical issues before or after take-off over the last month.

Now at least four of its 10 widebody planes remain grounded, three Boeing 787s and one Boeing 777.

"Biman's flight schedules have been seriously disrupted, affecting multiple onward services and increasing operational and passenger-handling costs," a top official of Biman told The Daily Star.

"Biman's flight schedule has almost collapsed, and we are anticipating major service disruptions. We cannot prepare a proper schedule as the availability of aircraft remains uncertain," said a senior Biman pilot, requesting anonymity.

Biman's present fleet comprises six Boeing 787s, four Boeing 777-300ERs, four Boeing 737s, and five Dash-8Q400s.

Due to the aircraft shortage, Biman was forced to delay flights on the Dhaka-Kuwait and Dhaka-Chattogram-Dubai routes by 24 hours yesterday, Biman spokesperson ABM Raoshan Kabir said.

According to Biman, the carrier is now operating flights to 21 international and seven domestic destinations.

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CHANKHARPOOL KILLINGS

Father tells tribunal how son was killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Mehedi Hasan Junaid's father told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday that his son was only 14 and too young to understand what was going on.

"What was his fault?" he asked while testifying.

Junaid, also called Mostakim by his family, and five others were shot dead allegedly by police in the capital's Chankharpool on August 5 last year.

His father, Sheikh Jamal Hasan, who testified in the crimes against humanity case filed over the killings, said, "Mostakim was our only son, a 10-year-old memoriser of the holy Quran. My wife and I now live like the walking dead. They destroyed my life. I want the killers to be hanged."

Another prosecution witness, Anjuara Yasmin, a teacher at Shaikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College, told the tribunal that she saw police fire on protesters from her rooftop during a curfew, injuring many, including her students.

She demanded justice, holding ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun,

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Women jostle and stretch out their arms as a TCB outlet employee writes queue numbers on their palms for subsidised essentials. With limited stock, many leave empty-handed. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Mohammadpur Town Hall area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP will be all about employment

Says Tarique Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged people from all walks of life to vote for the party in the upcoming national election.

"Vote for the sheaf of paddy [BNP's election symbol] - take the chance to build the country," he said at a discussion organised by Jubo Dal, Swechhasebak Dal and Chhatra Dal at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Agargaon to mark the International Youth Day.

To implement the BNP's plans for improving people's standard of living, public support is necessary.

"To establish the power of the people, the BNP needs your cooperation and support in the upcoming national election," he said, while calling on the young generation to present the party's people-oriented programmes to the public.

The BNP's politics in the coming days is about creating employment.

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We're now ready to hand over power to elected representatives

Yunus tells expats in KL
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the interim government is prepared to transfer power to an elected administration. "We are now ready to hand over power to elected representatives. I've already announced the election timeline. The government is working to ensure voting rights for expatriates in this election," he said while addressing a views-exchange meeting with Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuala Lumpur. Earlier in a televised address marking one year of the July uprising, Prof Yunus announced that the general election would be held in February.

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A low-pressure system, coupled with high tides, triggered unusual tidal surges at St Martin's Island, leading to erosion along its northern and western beaches. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOHAMMAD SOHEL

Polls cannot be held in February

Says NCP's Patwary
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Coordinator of the National Citizen Party Nasiruddin Patwary yesterday said the upcoming election cannot be held in February next year. Speaking at the National Youth Conference, organised to mark International Youth Day at the Krishibid Institution in Dhaka's Farmgate, the NCP leader said, "The election date has been announced for February, but it cannot happen then. "If the polls are held before completing reforms, the government must return the lives of my brothers who were killed in the uprising..." he added. Patwary alleged that the election was being planned under the same "fascist" constitution and system. Addressing the event as the chief guest, NCP Convener Nahid Islam said, "The equation is not yet complete. Those who think they've figured it out already are on the wrong track. We made concessions last year, and in the July Declaration, but in the July Charter we will not give even a one percent concession. "We will only take part in the election after ensuring the objectives of the July Charter are fulfilled," he added. He also warned that without unity within their ranks, another 1/11 could occur, adding, "We want elections, but there must be change. There will be no compromise on the July Charter. No political party will be able to come to power without implementing its pledges."

Move to send peace mission to Myanmar

FROM PAGE 1
Bangladesh and Malaysia yesterday signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and three Exchange of Notes in diverse areas of cooperation on defence, energy, education, investment, diplomatic training etc. "Our two countries share a deep bond rooted in history, religion, and cultural empathy. Malaysia is a unique partner of Bangladesh, particularly in human resources, trade, and people-to-people contact," the chief adviser said at the start of the delegation-level talks. He emphasised the need to boost trade and expand cooperation in migrant worker welfare, education, and efforts to resolve the Rohingya crisis. The leaders discussed Bangladesh's aspiration to deepen engagement with ASEAN, including its bid for Sectoral Dialogue Partner status, and sought Malaysia's support during its ASEAN chairmanship. Yunus invited Malaysia to participate in the upcoming Conference on the Rohingya Crisis in Cox's Bazar and the UN-led international conference on the Rohingya issue in New York in September. On economic matters, the two sides agreed to accelerate negotiations on a Bangladesh-Malaysia Free Trade Agreement, strengthen investment cooperation through Special Economic Zones, and operationalise

the Malaysia-Bangladesh Joint Business Council. Highlighting the growing bilateral trade imbalance, Dhaka sought greater market access for Bangladeshi products such as medicines, batteries, footwear, ceramics and jute. Bangladesh sought Malaysia's support in developing its Blue Economy and Halal industry, including establishing a Halal Economic Zone outside Dhaka, and expressed interest in joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). **RECRUITMENT** Prof Yunus thanked Malaysia for facilitating the entry of nearly 8,000 Bangladeshi workers, who could not enter Malaysia because it had frozen foreign labour recruitment on May 31 last year, and for introducing multiple-entry visas, allowing workers to return home during emergencies without risking their jobs. Both sides underscored the importance of transparent and fair recruitment processes to reduce costs and safeguard worker welfare, the CA office statement said. Currently, there are about 1.2 million Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia, but some 4,00,000 of them are undocumented, and the recruitment cost for the Bangladeshis between 2022 and 2024 ranged between Tk 4,50,000 and Tk 6,00,000, much higher than that of Tk 78,000 fixed by the two governments. At the delegation-level talks,

Expatriates' Welfare Adviser Asif Nazrul urged Malaysia to take steps to regularise the undocumented Bangladeshi workers. He also requested recruiting more skilled and professional Bangladeshis, including doctors and engineers, noting that Bangladesh's state-run agency BOESL is capable of handling recruitment for Malaysian companies. He also called for opportunities for Bangladeshi security guards and caregivers. Malaysian officials confirmed that Bangladeshi workers will now be entitled to the same social security benefits as Malaysian workers and will be able to lodge complaints in Bangla. Anwar Ibrahim said he places Bangladesh as an important partner because Bangladeshi workers have been instrumental in contributing to the development of both countries. "You have made some proposals and were given priority, particularly to assist the stranded workers," he said, adding that Malaysia has continued to have energy cooperation with Petronas and with Axiata in the telecommunications sector. "Now, we want to strengthen this into halal industry, STEM, research, and semiconductors." Bangladesh also requested "Graduate Pass" visas for thousands of its students in Malaysian universities. Currently, up to 10,000 Bangladeshi students are studying in Malaysia.

Boeing aircraft suffered a technical problem. A senior pilot of Biman, requesting anonymity, said two Boeing 737 aircraft, taken on lease in 2010, are suffering frequent technical issues despite having had a "D-check" maintenance done at Biman's hangar recently. "Concerned pilots reported 13 to 14 issues about these two aircraft from the engineering department. Officials said they would fix the problems, but the day after repairs, two flights were forced to return to Dhaka due to excessive engine vibration," the pilot said. Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert and a former member of Biman's board, warned that if such a situation continues, the possibility of a disaster cannot be ruled out. "At a time when the carrier needs to rebuild its reputation, these repeated incidents are eroding passengers' confidence," he added. According to Biman, on July 16, a Boeing 787-9 was grounded at Dubai International Airport due to a "wheel defect". It returned home 30 hours late. On July 30, a mechanical fault left a Boeing 737 stranded for six hours at Sharjah Airport. A senior Biman pilot, wishing anonymity, said, "This is the right time to critically assess how long Biman should continue to rely heavily on the Boeing Component Services Program (CSP), or whether it should move toward developing its own spare parts management strategy based on sound engineering and financial analysis." Raoshan Kabir admitted the frequency of recent problems was worrying, but insisted passenger safety was never compromised. "Even if a small issue is detected, an aircraft will not fly until the problem is fully resolved," he said. "Our skilled engineers are investigating and fixing each incident properly." He, however, said each technical fault is different, making it harder to identify the cause.

Grounded planes put Biman's schedule

FROM PAGE 1
Aviation experts said technical issues are common in any airline; however, the recurring nature of the problems has raised concerns about the safety standards and maintenance practices at Biman. According to Biman, over last 30 days, several international flights to Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Dammam, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur have faced problems mid air. A plane had to return due to a malfunctioning toilet. Allegations have been raised that engineers working at Biman are not doing their jobs properly. Multiple sources attributed the crisis to improper execution of scheduled "checks" and "servicing," a shortage of experienced engineers, and a lack of spare parts. However, a Biman official said employees in the engineering and maintenance section are overburdened and fatigued due to a shortage of manpower. The airline authorities have formed several investigation committees this month over the incidents. They have also made comprehensive technical inspections mandatory before any aircraft can take off. On August 10, a Boeing 787 was grounded at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport due to a fault in its flaps. With no alternative flight available, 262 passengers were accommodated in hotels at Biman's expense. The following day, on August 11, a Dash-8 aircraft returned to Dhaka after 20 minutes into the flight to Chattogram due to an excessive rise in cabin temperature. Passengers were later flown to Chattogram in another aircraft. On August 6, a Bangkok-bound Boeing 737 returned from Myanmar airspace after excessive vibration was detected in one of its engines. On August 7, an Abu Dhabi-bound Boeing returned to Dhaka after an hour due to three malfunctioning toilets. On August 9, after arriving at Singapore's Changi Airport, a

What makes us confident? Are we looking at fundamental issues? "Are the political players, such as the political parties and bureaucrats, aligned with the kind of discussions and challenges we have raised so far?" Noting that Bangladesh is the only LDC to have used the TRIPS waiver extensively in pharmaceuticals, he suggested, "We must involve the right stakeholders in these discussions to get their support and innovate given the challenging global context." Abdul Muktedir, managing director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals, cited bureaucratic delays in registering new drugs -- with more than 1,000 applications pending -- as proof of a lack of preparation. "Can you imagine we had to wait more than two years for a simple Drug Control Committee meeting in the ministry to get new drugs registered in the country, so that people could benefit from lower pricing?" "There is no denying the fact that we need more time. We must pursue this strongly," he added. He also warned about the magnitude of difference in prices, saying a tablet costing \$7 can end up being sold at \$1,000. Nafis-Ud-Doula, a director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), called for immediate UN talks to seek an eight-year deferment. He noted the economy of Nepal, which is also graduating, is different from Bangladesh because it is not too dependent on export. Anwar Hossain, CEO of Standard Group, stressed building institutional market access capacity. "If we compare our marketing capabilities, we are far behind India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and other competitors. We need to start immediately on building institutional market access capacity." "Whether graduation happens automatically or we get an extension -- even if it is, if we do not start today, we will remain in the same place even after six years," he added.

Businesses for deferment of LDC graduation by 6yrs

FROM PAGE 1
Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB), said while entry to the LDC club is voluntary, graduation is not. "That's the first point. Second, even if we set aside arguments about whether the data is correct or manipulated, the three criteria -- once met -- do not necessarily mean readiness," he said. From the private sector's perspective, particularly in footwear and leather goods worth \$1.8 billion in exports, Bangladesh risks "severe social and economic disruptions" without deliberate mitigation measures, he said. "As business people, we look at balance sheets, profit and loss, and competitiveness. We do not believe it is in Bangladesh's best interest to put ego before economic realities. No other country has as much to lose as Bangladesh." "Graduation shouldn't be a leap of faith, but a controlled landing," he added. Asif Ibrahim, vice chairman of Newage Group of Industries, said Bangladesh is "certainly not ready" for the transition. "There are many points that can be attributed to our non-readiness... We stand to lose duty-free, quota-free market access under the GSP EBA scheme," he said. Md Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions Ltd, said Bangladesh "certainly needs some sort of extension" and it is "very much possible" if Dhaka pursues it. "Our biggest competitors, like Vietnam and India, have already secured FTAs. India just signed one with the UK, the third-biggest market for Bangladesh, and Vietnam has FTAs with the EU and Canada. Meanwhile, Bangladesh is only negotiating with Bhutan, with no real initiative for our biggest markets post-graduation," he added. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said in a video message that LDC graduation

is "very directly related to the future of Bangladesh" and marks a "tremendous achievement" built over many years. Pointing out that Bangladesh will have to compete with much more advanced economies, he asked, "Is Bangladesh prepared, is the economy prepared, is the private sector prepared?" These questions, he added, are "unfortunately not being addressed". Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said graduation is both a testament to the country's progress and a wake-up call for urgent action. "Graduation means that Bangladesh has attained some modicum of capacity," he said in an online interview on August 10 as part of the roundtable, pointing to the UN's criteria -- GNI per capita, the Human Asset Index, and the Economic Vulnerability Index -- all of which Bangladesh has met. "Mortality rates have fallen, literacy has risen, and disaster management has improved. We have overcome some major impediments to development." The opportunities, he noted, include a stronger global image, improved creditworthiness, and greater investor confidence. "If a foreign direct investor comes, they will think this country has graduated from the LDC group; it must have internal capacity, otherwise it could not have done it." Yet, the challenges are equally daunting. Foremost among them, the loss of international support measures such as preferential market access and TRIPS-related waivers for pharmaceuticals. "Seventy percent of our exports enjoy duty-free access. After graduation, these will face tariffs in many markets, putting enormous pressure on competitiveness," Rahman warned. The pharmaceutical sector faces an acute blow. Currently, Bangladesh can produce patented medicines

without licensing fees, but after 2026, "the price of something like insulin could go up seven or eight times", Rahman said. Beyond trade, compliance costs in labour standards, environmental protection, and intellectual property rights will rise sharply. This, Rahman argued, will require a two-pronged approach: the private sector boosting productivity and meeting compliance requirements, and the government ensuring a more efficient business environment. "Interest rates, port turnaround time, customs clearance -- these directly affect competitiveness. If our institutions work better, if the cost of doing business comes down, our exporters can survive without special preferences," he said. MA Razaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), called the shift "perhaps the most challenging development transition we have experienced as a nation". Despite a 30-40 percent currency depreciation, real competitiveness has not improved as the country is known for weak infrastructure and high cost of doing business, he said. "Any extension after LDC graduation is a big bonus, and any country should try its best to obtain it." He warned that Vietnam has already secured duty-free EU access through an FTA, while Bangladesh "did not take proper notice". The priority, he said, is to drive reforms that enhance export competitiveness. Prof Selim Raihan of Dhaka University's economics department said the issue was initially approached "with a celebratory tone" without grasping the realities. "Five or six years ago... there were hopes that many things would be done, but not much happened," he said. Prof Raihan, also the executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem), raised many questions: Are we confident that over the next five or six years, we will make a difference?

doors of prosperity are open," he added. The party members must be careful that no one can accuse the BNP of rigging the vote the way the Awami League did, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. "No one should be able to point fingers at us and say that we took it by force like the Awami League did. No one should be able to say that. This is very important because now that the big party, the Awami League, is not there, we have to take that responsibility and work to ensure a completely neutral and fair election." If something goes wrong in the country, the BNP is blamed for it. "Since BNP will run the state, they try to malign this party and bring it down as much as possible," he added. Swechhasebab Dal Central President SM Jilani presided over the event, while BNP Publicity Secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Ganosambhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki and Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairman Bobby Hajjaj also spoke at the event among others.

BNP will be all about employment

FROM PAGE 1
"Formulating a system for technology and technical education, and finding ways to transform the young generation into skilled manpower based on technology -- this will be one of the main goals or objectives of our politics." If the BNP comes to power, it will arrange employment for the unemployed and provide various training programmes to make expatriates more employable. There would be government initiatives outside the school and college curriculum, such as foreign language courses. "The BNP believes that the days of slogan-based politics are now over. The people now want a change from conventional politics. To fulfil the people's aspirations, the BNP believes that it is not promises but the implementation of promises that is important." Tarique went on to urge the young generation to shun the path of revenge. "If you move forward with courage and integrity, avoiding the path of revenge and rivalry, I believe that all

doors of prosperity are open," he added. The party members must be careful that no one can accuse the BNP of rigging the vote the way the Awami League did, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. "No one should be able to point fingers at us and say that we took it by force like the Awami League did. No one should be able to say that. This is very important because now that the big party, the Awami League, is not there, we have to take that responsibility and work to ensure a completely neutral and fair election." If something goes wrong in the country, the BNP is blamed for it. "Since BNP will run the state, they try to malign this party and bring it down as much as possible," he added. Swechhasebab Dal Central President SM Jilani presided over the event, while BNP Publicity Secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Ganosambhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki and Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairman Bobby Hajjaj also spoke at the event among others.

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Consensus commission's term extended till Sept 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended the term of the National Consensus Commission till September 15.

The commission's six-month tenure was set to expire on August 15.

A notification in this regard, signed by Cabinet Division Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid, was issued on Monday night.

On February 12, the seven-member consensus commission was formed under the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The commission was tasked with reviewing and adopting recommendations from six national reform commissions. As part of this responsibility, it has been engaging in discussions with political parties to reach agreements on reforms.

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A car and a motorcycle illegally parked on the footpath under Kawran Bazar Metro Rail Station leave little space for pedestrians and metro users. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Expedite probe into Muradnagar rape: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to expedite the investigation, charge sheet submission, and DNA test report in a case over the rape of a woman in Muradnagar, Cumilla, so the trial can be completed on time.

It also ordered Cumilla Superintendent of Police Mohammad Nazer Ahmed Khan to submit a progress report by October 22.

According to the case, the mother of two was raped at knife-point in Ramchandrapur Panchkitta village while visiting her father's house in mid-June.

The HC bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Sayed Jahed

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Reserve 150 seats for women in parliament

Demand 67 rights orgs, call for direct polls to those seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the consensus commission's decision to keep 50 reserved seats for women in the parliament through nomination until 2043, the Committee for Social Resistance has called for major reforms to the system.

In a press statement, the committee -- a platform of 67 women's, human rights, and development organisations -- demanded that the parliament should have 450 seats in total, with 300 general seats and 150 reserved seats for women.

It called for ending the nomination system for reserved seats and instead filling these seats through direct elections from specific constituencies.

The committee said this arrangement should remain in place for two to three parliamentary terms. On top of the 150 reserved seats, women should also be allowed to contest the general seats normally, it added.

The platform expressed astonishment that all political parties had agreed to what it called a regressive decision, ignoring the long standing movement and demands of women for political

Women in Bangladesh are now ready to be directly elected to reserved seats by the people's vote, thereby participating in the parliament with equal rights, equal dignity, and responsibility, and playing an effective and meaningful role.

empowerment aimed at building a democratic and equality-based society.

"Women in Bangladesh are now ready to be directly elected to reserved seats by the people's vote, thereby participating in the parliament with equal rights, equal dignity, and responsibility, and playing an effective and meaningful role," the statement said.

"They are also capable of influencing government decisions on women's issues in ways that deliver visible benefits for women. If women are directly elected to

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ICT-1 rejects ZI Khan Panna's request to defend Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday dismissed an appeal from senior Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna, who sought permission to represent the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina, currently a fugitive, faces charges of crimes against humanity linked to the July uprising.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, rejected the appeal after lawyer Nazneen Nahar informed the court that Panna could not attend

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'Compensation, justice, school relocation'

Guardians of Milestone jet crash victims raise demands



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of students killed or injured in the July 21 jet crash have demanded justice, compensation, and relocation of Milestone School and College to prevent future tragedies.

They also called for a proper investigation and an end to coaching in educational institutions, saying many victims were in classrooms for coaching when the crash occurred.

The demands were made during a human chain near the school, where eight key points were presented. Some parents alleged the school pressured them to stay silent to avoid government action, while others claimed they were threatened to stop seeking justice.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Court summons IO to submit progress report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the investigation officer to appear in person before it on September 14 and submit the progress report on investigation in the case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarwar 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, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

The court also cancelled the bail of Palash Rudra Paul, now on a High Court bail, and issued an arrest warrant against him as he was absent from the court without taking any step for his non-appearance.

Meanwhile, the court extended the time for submission of the probe report. This marks the 121st extension of the deadline, according to case records.



'We will sleep in the car'

Final words of 2 men before being found dead in hospital basement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men found dead inside a car parked in the basement of a private hospital in Dhaka on Monday had earlier told the car owner that they would sleep in the vehicle.

The owner Zubair Al Mahmud Sourav said he and his driver Zakir Hossain, 40, travelled from Noakhali to Dhaka to see off his brother-in-law at the airport. Zakir's cousin Mizan tagged along as well.

"Mizan was supposed to pick up some relatives from Sirajul Islam hospital on Sunday [August 10], as they had booked the car," Zubair told The Daily Star.

"As I was leaving the hospital, Zakir told me that the patient would be released around 11:00am and he would sleep inside the car," he added.

Police on Monday found Zakir and Mizan dead inside the car.

"As there would be four people with the patient, including Mizan, I took a bus back to Noakhali. Around 5:30pm on Sunday, I called Zakir but he did not respond. Using the GPS tracker, I saw that the car was still in the hospital basement," Zubair told this newspaper.

"I attempted to contact him several times but he did not receive my calls. As I was tired from the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Revised stent prices to take effect from October 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) yesterday announced that the revised prices for coronary stents will take effect on October 1.

Speaking at a press conference, DGDA Director Akter Hossain said the decision followed requests from companies that had already stocked products at previous prices.

On August 3, the health ministry lowered the prices of coronary stents from three major US companies -- Abbott, Boston Scientific, and Medtronic -- by Tk 3,000 to Tk 88,000 per stent.

Prices of 10 types of stents from these companies were revised following recommendations from an expert advisory committee.

Akter said the price reduction will significantly cut medical costs, but some importing companies still have stock at previous prices, so the ministry

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

GOVT AYURVEDIC COLLEGE Academic activities stalled for over a month amid protests

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Academic activities at the Government Unani and Ayurvedic Medical College in Mirpur have remained halted for the past one and a half months due to an ongoing student protest demanding a separate law and the formation of an independent council to oversee their affairs.

Student admissions to its two undergraduate courses -- Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) and Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) -- have also been on hold for a month, putting the academic future of 50 students in uncertainty.

Each year, the college admits 25 students to each programme.

To resolve the crisis, the health ministry has drafted the Bangladesh Unani and Ayurvedic Medical Education Act-2025, which proposes forming an independent council.

However, students say the draft contains controversial provisions and lacks clarity.

On Monday night, students brought out a procession after the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division uploaded the draft to its website earlier in the day. The division has called a meeting on the draft for Thursday.

"All academic and administrative activities have remained suspended amid the protest," acting

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

CAREER OPPORTUNITY WITH The Daily Star

The Daily Star, the leading English Daily Newspaper in the country is seeking qualified individual for the following position:

Sr. Sub-Editor

Job responsibilities:

- Editing news reports
- Rewriting copies for better readability
- Checking facts to ensure that they are accurate and not libellous
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HR & Admin Department

The Daily Star Centre
64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Dhaka-1215

N.B: The position must be clearly mentioned on the email subject line.

Application Deadline: August 22, 2025

BNP leader files defamation case against Sarjis

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

A local BNP leader yesterday filed a defamation case against Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (northern region) of National Citizen Party (NCP), over "propaganda implicating BNP" in the murder of journalist Asaduzzaman Tuhin.

Gazipur city's Basan thana BNP President Tanvir Siraj filed the case with a magistrate's court seeking compensation for defaming BNP.

Tanvir said Judge Alamgir Al Mamun took cognisance of the charges and asked the Criminal Investigation Department to probe the case.

According to the case, the BNP leader said journalist Tuhin was killed while recording a video of a criminal gang.

However, Sarjis, without knowing the facts, has been spreading propaganda on Facebook, implicating BNP in the murder, which has tarnished the party's image, he alleged.

BALASHPUR IN MYMENSINGH

No relief from seasonal waterlogging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Seasonal waterlogging, under-construction roads and drainage work have made life miserable for some 2,000 families in Mymensingh city's Balashpur Madhyapara area.

The seasonal menace lasts around five months annually.

Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) claims it is building new drains and repairing old ones across the city to address waterlogging.

However, there has been no visible improvement in the most affected Balashpur Madhyapara area.

During a visit to the area, locals said waterlogging has persisted for over 20 years, with the situation worsening in the past decade.

"The menace is becoming more severe every season, increasing our suffering. We have been reeling under serious waterlogging since last month as rainwater cannot drain away even after a moderate

shower," said Reazul Hossain Rifat, a final year degree student.

Abdur Rahman, a vegetable vendor, said the problem has plagued them for five months a year over the past 10 years, with the situation deteriorating annually.



Jahan Begum, a homemaker, said she has faced waterlogging for months each year since moving there two years ago.

Locals said from May to September, thousands of residents suffer debilitating waterlogging. After every spell of rain, the area remains flooded with ankle- to

knee-deep water for days, with bathrooms, toilets and kitchens inundated.

Previously, the area's water drained into the neighbouring Kewatkhali Railway Power House Colony's drainage system, which flows into the Brahmaputra. Over time, blockages have developed, but the drains were not cleaned properly, worsening the problem.

Contacted, MCC Chief Engineer Md Rafiqul Islam Miah said a Tk 10 crore package had been taken up to construct a cross culvert and drains to pump out rainwater from the low-lying area.

The work was scheduled for completion in October last year but was cancelled four months ago after the assigned contractors left following the July uprising, he said.

A new tender has been prepared, and the work in Balashpur Madhyapara will be completed on a priority basis, with the drains connected to Kewatkhali using proper designs, the engineer added.

Aviation stakeholders oppose move to scrap GSA provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aviation stakeholders strongly oppose the government's move to scrap the rule requiring foreign airlines to appoint local General Sales Agents (GSA).

They warned that such a step would undermine regulatory oversight, compromise transparency, and hurt both employment and revenue generation.

According to industry estimates, the government risks losing more than Tk 100 crore in direct annual revenue and facing an additional outward foreign exchange flow of over Tk 500 crore if the provision is withdrawn.

The reaction comes as Civil Aviation and Tourism Adviser SK Bashir has called an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday to review the The Civil Aviation Act, 2017, which made it compulsory for foreign airlines operating in Bangladesh to appoint GSAs.

Industry insiders and members of the newly formed GSA Forum said the provision ensures accountability for foreign carriers and enables the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to monitor their operations effectively.

"Revising this law would dismantle a vital oversight mechanism, allowing foreign airlines to operate without local accountability," said KM Mozibul Hoque,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Begum Sitara Chowdhury passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Sitara Chowdhury, wife of late Justice AFM Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, passed away on August 6 at Square Hospital in Dhaka. She was 88.

She is survived by two sons, two daughters and 10 grandchildren, said a Supreme Court press release.

In 1955, she married AFM Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, the eldest son of Khan Bahadur Abdul Latif Chowdhury, Zamindar of Ulania, Barishal.

Begum Sitara earned her BA from BM College, Barishal.

As a socially conscious citizen, Begum Sitara authored "Shomoyer Kotha" (Time's Story), which serves as a call to establish integrity, justice, and compassion in society.

ICT-1 rejects ZI Khan

FROM PAGE 3

as he was occupied at the High Court. She conveyed his wish to be appointed as Hasina's counsel.

Tribunal member Justice Md Shofiul Alam Mahmood said, "ZI Khan Panna is a senior lawyer. He knows the procedure. How can he be appointed? What is his interest?"

He said the tribunal had already appointed a state defence lawyer since Hasina failed to appear before the court.

Justice Shofiul also said Panna should have appeared when the defence counsel was appointed rather than seeking involvement later. "It is like asking the station master to put you on the train after it has left," he observed.

Nazneen then stated that Panna wished to assist the appointed state defence counsel, Md Amir Hossain, in defending Hasina.

The tribunal chair rejected the request, noting that the state defence lawyer had already been appointed and that Panna could be considered for another case.

Contacted, ZI Khan

Panna said he did not want to be appointed as the state defence counsel for Sheikh Hasina; instead, he wished to offer his services free of charge. "I will not accept any payment, even if offered," he said.

He said he was at least willing to assist the state-appointed defence counsel for Hasina. "I don't know if I could save the accused if appointed, but I would certainly try."

Responding to the remark that "the train has left the station," he said, "Why only one? There can be ten state defence lawyers."

In this regard, Prosecutor Gazi Monwar Hossain Tamim said the application was not rejected but is invalid legally, as ZI Khan Panna is not a party to the case and has no right to file a petition.

"Officially, such an application cannot be made. Moreover, after five witnesses have testified, no state defence can be provided. It is a universal legal principle that a fugitive accused will not receive legal protection," he added.

Compensation

FROM PAGE 3

Protesters chanted, "Coaching or education? Education, education," and "All the flowers burnt - why? We want answers, we want justice."

At least 34 people, mostly students, died when the training jet crashed on the school.

Leon Mir, uncle of third grader Fatema Akter, said, "We lost our children but the government has not communicated with us. The school authorities contact us only to protect the school. The school authorities ask us 'is justice truly attainable in this country?' Then what is the point of demanding justice?"

"Our children died; won't we seek justice? Our children came to school to study and were supposed to return home safely... Of course, the government and the school authorities are liable," he said.

Leon demanded, "If the runway remains where it is, the school must be moved. If the school remains, the runway must be moved."

He alleged the school was gathering detailed personal data from victims' families, asking, "Why are they collecting this? Are they threatening us?"

Rina Akter, mother of Saima Akter, said she saw her daughter burning inside the room. "I did not want to send my daughter to coaching. She said that if I didn't, the miss would not be nice to her. Why has education turned into business? This coaching ruined my daughter's life."

Guardians demanded Tk 2 crore compensation per deceased child, Tk 1 crore per injured, removal of the headmistress within 72 hours, release of CCTV footage, and relocation of jet training to unpopulated areas.

College Principal Mohammad Ziaul Alam acknowledged guardians had signed letters supporting the school but denied threats or mistreatment. He said "make-up classes" occur only on request and the relocation decision rests with the government.

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Name of the Post	Number of Post	Academic Qualification	Experience
Technician	05	Graduate/ Diploma	Candidates have 5-7 years of experience for the positions.

Interested candidates are requested to send their CV with all relevant papers of educations and experiences including 02 (two) copies of passport size photographs to our Factory Office at: GSL Bhaban (5th Floor), Khowaz Nagar, Azimpura, Karmafully, Chittagong within 15 (Fifteen) days.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals for Hiring an event management firm for launching of Overseas Employment Platform (OEP). The bidding documents can be downloaded from the United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM) at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/275183>

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Sunday, August 31, 2025, by 04:30 PM (BST time).**

Islamic Foundation
Ministry of Religious Affairs
Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.islamicfoundation.org.bd

Invitation for e-Tender (Open Tender Method)

Memo No. 16.01.0000.000.026.31.001.25.698 Date: 12/08/2025

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

Tender ID	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1139357	Construction of book stalls, pandal for the month-long Islamic book fair on the occasion of the Holy Milad-un-Nabi [saw], 1447 Hijri.	13/08/2025 at 12.00am	26/08/2025 at 17.00	27/08/2025 at 12.00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy is accepted. To submit e-Tender please register in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to **27/08/2025 at 11.00am**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications.

Mohammad Ismail Hossain
Secretary (Joint Sec.)
Islamic Foundation
Phone No. 02-222218260

GD-1783

DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE PURCHASE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NEW AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA -1215
Web : www.dgdp.gov.bd
Email : adp5army1@dgdp.gov.bd

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed Tenders in Local Currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturer(s) /Supplier(s) (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

Ser No	Name of Items & Qty	Schedule Selling Date		Tender Opening Date	Tender No	Cost of I/T
		From	To			
1.	Grease PX-11 (Preservative Mineral Jelly Bees Wax), Qty-8,500 Kg.	13-08-25	23-09-25	24-09-25	219,254.25	1,000.00

2. Tender Schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hour to 1300 hour. The Tender can be dropped latest by 1125 hour on opening date (24-09-2025) and shall be opened at 1130 hour on the specified date of opening in presence of all Tenderers (if present).

Dated: August 2025 Major For Director General

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/২৬৪ GD-1779

DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE PURCHASE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NEW AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA -1215
Web : www.dgdp.gov.bd
Email : adp5army1@dgdp.gov.bd

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed Tenders in Local Currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturer(s) /Supplier(s) (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

Ser No	Name of Items & Qty	Schedule Selling Date		Tender Opening Date	Tender No	Cost of I/T
		From	To			
1.	Mineral Oil (ISO Viscosity Grade-46), Qty-15,500 Ltr.	13-08-25	23-09-25	24-09-25	219,253.25	2,000.00

2. Tender Schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hour to 1300 hour. The Tender can be dropped latest by 1125 hour on opening date (24-09-2025) and shall be opened at 1130 hour on the specified date of opening in presence of all Tenderers (if present).

Dated: August 2025 Major For Director General

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/২৬৩ GD-1778

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IFIT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Civil and Architectural Finishing Work.
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-05B
4	Publication Date	13 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-05B
9	Tender Package Name	Supply and Installation of Civil and Architectural Finishing 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 4:30 PM
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	01 September 2025 up to 12:00 Noon
14	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	01 September 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. 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	Civil and Architectural Finishing Materials: Supply and Installation of Marble, Granite and Tiles Flooring and Wall Cladding Works & External Limestone Cladding 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 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) or equivalent in USD in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2).

19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BDT 2(two) 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 Supplier/Contractor having minimum 10 (Ten) years of experience in supply and installation of building Finishing Materials (Marble, Granite and Tiles). b) Specific Experience: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer or their JV Partner(s)/Sub-contractor must have successfully completed at least 1(one) work of Supply, Fitting and Fixing of Marble, Granite and Tiles work 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 25 (Twenty Five) million or equivalent USD in last 5(five) years. b) Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit: Local Tenderer/Foreign Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 25 (Twenty Five) 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 Wakf (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



Migrants attempt to board a smuggler's boat in a bid to cross the English Channel from the beach at Gravelines, northern France, yesterday. More than 50,000 people have made the perilous Channel crossing to the UK in small boats since Keir Starmer became prime minister last July, official figures showed.

PHOTO: AFP



POST-COUP MYANMAR Security forces involved in systematic torture

Says UN report; victims were subject to strangulation and electric shocks

REUTERS, Geneva

United Nations investigators said yesterday they have found evidence of systematic torture by Myanmar security forces and identified some of the most senior perpetrators.

The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), formed in 2018 to analyse evidence of serious violations of international law, said victims were subject to beatings, electric shocks, gang rape, strangulation and other forms of torture like the removal of fingernails with pliers.

"We have uncovered significant evidence, including eyewitness testimony, showing systematic torture in Myanmar detention facilities," Nicholas Koumjian, head of the IIMM, said in a statement accompanying the 16-page report.

The torture sometimes resulted in death, the report said. Children, who are often unlawfully detained as proxies for their missing parents, were among those tortured, it said.

Perpetrators identified so far include high-level commanders, the report said, although names were withheld due to ongoing investigations and concerns about alerting the individuals.

A spokesperson for Myanmar's military-

backed government did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The military backed government has not responded to over two dozen requests by the UN team for information about the alleged crimes and requests to access the country, the UN report said.

The military has said it has a duty to ensure peace and security. It has denied atrocities have taken place and has blamed "terrorists" for causing unrest.

The findings in the report covering a one-year period through to June 30 were based on information from more than 1,300 sources, including hundreds of eyewitness testimonies as well as forensic evidence and documents.

Investigators focused on torture partly because many victims were able to identify perpetrators individually which Koumjian, a former prosecutor, said could help with future convictions. "People often know the names or they certainly know the faces of those who torture them or who torture their friends," Koumjian told reporters in Geneva.

Myanmar has been in chaos since a 2021 military coup against an elected civilian government plunged the country into civil war. Tens of thousands of people have been detained since then, the United Nations says.

Report says high-level commanders among perpetrators

Tens of thousands of people detained since 2021 coup

LANDMINE BLAST Thailand says another soldier hurt

AFP, Bangkok

A landmine blast on Thailand's border wounded a soldier yesterday, the military said, accusing Cambodia of planting new explosives in breach of a truce between the countries.

Five days of clashes erupted last month as ground troops, artillery and jets waged cross-border combat that killed at least 43 and saw over 300,000 civilians flee.

The Southeast Asian neighbours have a dispute over parts of their border dating back more than a century.

Russia, Ukraine need to cede land to end war Says Trump ahead of meeting with Putin

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Kyiv and Moscow will both have to cede land to end the war in Ukraine and talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin this week will instantly show whether the Kremlin leader is willing to make a deal.

European leaders and Ukraine's President Zelensky plan to speak with Trump ahead of his summit with Putin in Alaska on Friday, amid fears Washington may dictate unfavorable peace terms to Ukraine.

Ukrainians must have the freedom to decide their own future, EU member states said yesterday. "Meaningful negotiations can only take place in the context of a ceasefire or reduction of hostilities," the leaders of all EU countries except Hungary said in a joint statement.

Father tells tribunal how son was killed

FROM PAGE 1

and senior police officials responsible.

Eight police personnel - former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman, then DMP joint commissioner Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, former additional deputy commissioner Shah Alam Mohammad Akhtarul Islam, ex-assistant commissioner (Ramna zone) Mohammad Imrul, then inspector (operations) of Shahbagh Police Station Arshad Hossain, and former constables Sujon Hossain, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam - are accused in the case.

Arshad, Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul, who are in custody, were present during the hearing, while the rest, including Habibur, are absconding. Junaid's father Jamal recounted that on the morning of August 5, Mostakim, a seventh grader, left home with his friend Siam. At 1:45pm, a relative told him his son had been shot. When the body reached home, he found that a bullet had pierced his son's left eye and exited through the back of his head.

Witnesses said Junaid was in front of a procession

near Hanif flyover when police opened fire. Doctors at Mitford Hospital declared him dead and urged immediate removal of the body, citing "orders from the prime minister". They also warned that if his son's body was not taken immediately, they would list it as unidentified and send it to Anjanam Mufidul Islam for burial, said the father, quoting witnesses.

His son's namaz-e-janaza was held at Dhupkhola field in Gandaria. "When my son's body was brought there, we saw the body of Anas, another victim of the same shooting."

They were later buried at the Jurain Graveyard.

Holding back tears, Junaid's father Jamal accused Hasina, Kamal, and Mamun of his son's death under the principle of command responsibility. He also held then DMP commissioner Habibur, joint commissioner Sudip, ADC Aktarul, and AC Imrul responsible for the killing. Police constables Sujon and Nasirul shot his son and other protesters, he said, quoting witnesses.

The defence counsel cross-examined the prosecution witnesses after their statements were

recorded.

Meanwhile, the tribunal extended by a month the deadline for the MIST student Shaikh Ashabul Yamin murder probe report submission and granted three more months to probe the 2013 Hefajat "mass killings" at Motijheel.

Ex-deputy speaker Shamsul Haque Tuku, ex-IGP AKM Shahidul Hoque, Maj Gen (forced retired) Ziaul Ahsan, and former DIG Molla Nazrul Islam, who are accused in the "mass killings", were produced before the tribunal.

Spending spiked before last three elections

FROM PAGE 12

2022, when Bangladesh recorded its largest single-year expenditure on surveillance and spyware, totalling nearly \$88.3 million.

The National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) accounted for \$78.3 million of this spending. That was the year when Major General Ziaul Ahsan assumed leadership of the NTMC, overseeing its rapid evolution from a small intelligence processing unit within the Ministry of Home Affairs into a sophisticated spy agency embedded across regulatory, political, and intelligence networks.

The report found that between 2015 and 2025, at least 160 surveillance and spyware systems were imported or deployed in Bangladesh at an estimated

total cost of \$184.5 million. Among these, at least 30 percent are believed to be of Israeli origin, sold through intermediaries in third countries to circumvent diplomatic and trade restrictions.

These technologies include Pegasus, developed by Israel's NSO Group; Cellebrite UFED and its Physical Analyzer, used for extracting and analysing mobile phone data; Predator; WiSpear; and tools from Israeli-linked firms such as Prelysis, Cognyte, and Passitora.

While these companies are registered in countries such as Cyprus, Singapore, and Hungary, they maintain ties to Israeli-owned commercial spyware networks like Intellexa and Verint Systems.

According to the report, in 2022, Passitora sold a Wi-Fi interception system to

the NTMC for \$5.7 million via its Cyprus operations, effectively avoiding diplomatic scrutiny and import restrictions.

Other imported technologies included AI-powered facial recognition systems, IMSI catchers, geolocation trackers, deep packet inspection systems, and jamming devices used to disrupt wireless communications.

The report said surveillance operations remained largely unchecked, and such activities accelerated democratic backsliding by enabling the monitoring, harassment, and, in some cases, the detention of opposition leaders, activists, and dissidents.

B a n g l a d e s h Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 provides broad powers to law enforcement,

intelligence, and regulatory agencies to intercept, monitor, and collect telecommunications data.

"Entities ranging from submarine and international terrestrial cable operators to mobile network providers and internet service providers are compelled to facilitate targeted and untargeted surveillance, without judicial warrants or any obligation to notify affected users," said the report.

They have to provide real-time access to user information, allow bulk data interception, and facilitate live database monitoring by designated agencies. If service providers do not cooperate, they risk facing potential fines, imprisonment, or non-renewal of operating licences for non-compliance, it added.

The report noted that

both the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and the National Security Intelligence (NSI) operate without statutory mandates or publicly available operational guidelines, evading independent oversight and due process.

It noted that oversight is further weakened by legal carve-outs. Many agencies are exempt from disclosure requirements under the Right to Information Act, 2009, while the proposed Personal Data Protection Ordinance includes broad exemptions for law enforcement and intelligence activities.

As a result, Bangladesh's surveillance apparatus functions with minimal transparency and limited accountability.

Pakistan wins water arbitration against India

REUTERS, Islamabad

An international court ruling that said India must adhere to the Indus Waters Treaty in the design of new hydroelectric power stations on rivers that flow west to Pakistan endorses Islamabad's position, a senior Pakistani official said yesterday.

Under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, three rivers that flow westwards were awarded to Pakistan, with India getting three eastern flowing rivers.

In 2023, Pakistan brought a case to The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration over the design of Indian hydro-power projects on rivers that were awarded to Pakistan under the treaty.

The court, in a ruling on Friday that was posted on its website on Monday, said it had jurisdiction over the dispute and ruled the treaty "does not permit India to generate hydroelectric power on the Western Rivers based on what might be the ideal or best practices approach for engineering" of these projects.

Instead, the design of these projects must adhere "strictly" to the specifications laid down in the treaty, the court said.

We're now ready

FROM PAGE 2

"I hope this time you will have a new experience - you'll all be voters, and you'll vote. We've discussed this with the Election Commission, and they're preparing for it."

Highlighting the role of expatriates in reviving the economy from a devastated state, the chief adviser said, "The country's situation has now returned to a much more stable position. You've played a major role in the economy's recovery."

Prof Yunus expressed gratitude to Bangladeshi expatriates in Malaysia for their contribution to the country's economy.

"You're making an enormous contribution to the economy, and we must recognise it. We must ensure your voting rights in the upcoming election."

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul were also present at the event.

The chief adviser said the government has made efforts since assuming office to engage with expatriates and listen to their concerns.

"You have many grievances, and many of them are justified. We've been working

continuously to address these problems and reduce complexities."

On passport related complications, Yunus said the government has acted swiftly to resolve them.

He also announced the launch of a new initiative called "Citizen Services Bangladesh" to deliver all government services to expatriates.

In addition, a special mobile application is being developed to connect Bangladeshi expatriates worldwide on a single platform, he said.

During the meeting, various issues concerning Bangladeshi expatriates in Malaysia were discussed.

These included increasing staffing at the embassy, securing "Graduate Plus" visas for Bangladeshi students, regularising those who have become undocumented, and engaging Malaysian authorities to enhance cooperation in trade and industry, according to Asif Nazrul.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various professions, organisations, associations, and business communities of the Bangladeshi diaspora in Malaysia.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Environment
Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
9th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban New Building
E/16, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Consultant Firm/Organization (National)

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. Agency	: Department of Environment (DoE)
3. Procuring entity name	: Project Director
4. Procuring entity district	: Dhaka
5. Expression of interest for	: Consultant Firm (National)
6. Title of service	: Assessment of economic valuation of ecosystem goods, services and development of sustainable financing strategy for Halda River and Morjat Baor
7. EoI Ref No.	: 22.02.0000.045.14.010.25-181
8. Date	: 12 August 2025
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procuring method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and source of funds	: Global Environment Facility (GEF)
11. Development partners	: GEF-UNDP
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Project code	: 223053500
13. Project name	: Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
14. EoI closing date and time	: 14 September 2025, 02:00pm
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS	
15. Eligibility of the consulting firm/organization:	
a. The consulting firm/organization must have minimum 10 years' experience in Natural Resource Management (NRM) sector, environment, climate change, institutional assessment, ecosystem valuation, management plan development, policy formulation and financial strategy development.	
b. Proficiency in statistical analysis, economic modeling, and data standardization.	
c. Experience in conducting stakeholder engagement and participatory research in wetland ecosystems.	
d. Submission of latest (2023-24 and 2024-25) annual audit reports of the firm that should be at least BDT 02 crore net turnover from competent authority or firm.	
e. Successfully completion of at least two (2) similar assignments in the last 10 years with the evidence of Job completion certificate/Work Order/ Purchase order/Any Professional contract from competent authority.	
f. Submission of bank solvency certificate along with last three months bank statement (Income statement and balance sheet to indicate its financial stability, liquidity, credit standing, and market reputation, etc.)	
g. Submission of VAT and Tax Registration Certificate and evidence of payment issued by competent authority evidencing that the Bidder is updated with its tax payment obligations, or Certificate of Tax exemption, if any such privilege is enjoyed by the Bidder.	
h. Certificate of Registration of the business, including Articles of Incorporation, or equivalent document if Bidder is not a corporation or valid trade license or registered as Joint Stock Company.	
16. Other Details (if applicable): The Terms of References (ToR) for the services including the scope of works, deliverables, team composition with educational qualifications, and experiences are available on the DoE's official website (www.doe.gov.bd). Applicants are advised to provide all the necessary information and proven documents with a cover letter. One original and two copies of the EoI must be submitted in a sealed envelope and be clearly marked the title of service for the EoI.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
17. Name of official inviting EoI	: Farhana Mustari
18. Designation of official inviting EoI	: Project Director, Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
19. Address of official inviting EoI	: Department of Environment, 8th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban New Building, E/16, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
20. Contact details of official inviting EoI	: Phone: +880-2222218305, Email: fmumunni@yahoo.com
21. Place of submission of EoI	: Office of the Project Director, Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh, 8th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
22. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs.	

The Department of Environment (DoE) is implementing a project titled "Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh". The project aims to apply an ecosystem-based framework for managing Morjat Baor Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) in Jhenaidah and proposed Biodiversity Heritage Halda River in Chittagong in Bangladesh to enhance the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and support local livelihoods. The Project period is July 2024 to June 2029.

F. Mustari
12.8.25
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Project Director
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GD-1784

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Will there be no end to mob violence?

Nine beaten to death in first 10 days of August

To have to return to the discussion on mob violence week after week feels like a Sisyphean exercise by now, an unlikely fate given the promise of the July uprising to make a break from past authoritarian practices. This is a grim testament to the state's continued failure to enforce the rule of law. Given the rate at which mob incidents are occurring, it is hard to say whether law enforcement has totally lost control of the streets or is simply not enough to contain a multidimensional crime like this.

That said, any failure to prevent mob violence is primarily a law enforcement failure. And of late, this failure has been on a frightening display. The first 10 days of August alone reportedly saw at least 13 incidents of mobbeating, leaving nine people dead. Since January 2025, the death toll from mob attacks stands at 87, according to the rights platform Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) puts the number even higher, at 111. Even on August 11, an unidentified man was killed after an attempted mugging in Tongi, Gazipur. But the killings of Rupalal Das (40) and Pradip Das (35) in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila on August 9 stand out as a particularly chilling example.

According to a report, around 9pm that day, Rupalal and Pradip were on their way to the former's home in a van when a few locals stopped them on suspicion of van theft and, joined by more people later, beat them to death. Even though police arrived at the scene while both men were still alive, they allegedly fled "out of fear" of the mob, only returning an hour later accompanied by army personnel. But it was too late then. The question is, why would the police be afraid or reluctant to deal with mobs head-on?

In a recent interview, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul offered a hint: that the force that once opposed the July uprising finds it difficult to confront mobs often instigated by factions claiming to represent that uprising. This may be the case to some extent, but the blame for the failure to take effective measures must be shared by the government. We also must acknowledge the role of political actors behind mob formation. Incidentally, in the Rangpur case, there were three incidents of theft and robbery as well as a murder in just eight days prior to the August 9 incident—all within a three-kilometre radius of where it occurred. This reportedly caused anger and fear among locals who began to organise night-time patrols. Rupalal and Pradip were simply victims of their paranoia. But had locals seen effective law enforcement before, perhaps their reactions would have been different.

We must put an end to such desperation. As per a recent survey, 80 percent of people are worried about mob violence. They want to see effective steps both to control unruly mobs and punish everyday crimes that create scopes for desperation or exploitation in the first place. Equally important is overhauling our justice system to restore public trust in it. The truth is, without comprehensive and coordinated measures from all stakeholders, including political parties, this menace cannot be stopped.

Fisherwomen's rights must be honoured

Mindset change, effective policymaking needed for due recognition

A recent study on the fishing communities has brought to light a painful reality: that fisherwomen still face deep-rooted bias and discrimination. The study has found that 90 percent of fisherwomen in Bangladesh are victims of gendered bias as their work is often disregarded as "less important" compared to men's. Experts have pointed to the patriarchal mindset that still prevails in society, including within our policymaking mechanisms, as the root cause of this situation. As such, giving all their due recognition requires a reset in the prevailing attitude.

Of the fisherwomen surveyed, as many as 83 percent have not yet received their National Fisherfolk ID cards, which are essential to access government aid programmes. Without the ID, they are excluded from social safety nets, cooperative membership, and leases on state-owned water bodies, thus limiting their chances of gaining economic independence. Also, unregistered fisherwomen cannot access low-interest loans through cooperatives, which means when they need funds, they must turn to informal lenders who charge exorbitant rates of interest, placing these women under a huge debt burden.

As experts have pointed out, there is an inherent bias against female participation in fishing labour that keeps women invisible while unjustifiably favouring male fisherfolk, even though they often perform the same work. Rather than being acknowledged as fully fledged fishers, they are labelled as mere "assistants." Lack of formal recognition also means fisherwomen's needs remain ignored in policymaking. The study has also highlighted health-related challenges that fisherwomen face due to exposure to saline water, which is worsened by the impact of climate change. Lack of proper access to clean water and hygiene products is also a cause for concern. What's worse, local clinics often dismiss women's symptoms when they try to access healthcare services.

This state of affairs must change. Giving fisherwomen their due recognition is of utmost importance if we want to see the country's fishing community rise above poverty. For that, we need a gender-sensitive social outlook as well as policymaking, where fisherwomen's labour, economic independence, health, and well-being are considered equally valuable as those of fishermen. As a first step in that direction, an easy, transparent registration process must be put in place so that fisherwomen can obtain their IDs without hassle. This should be followed by access to healthcare services and affordable credit, so they don't have to turn to informal lenders for funds. Above all, we must do away with the mindset that women's labour is less valuable than men's.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Aztec empire falls

On this day in 1521, Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés captured Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City) after a 93-day siege, thereby ending the Aztec empire and winning Mexico for the crown of Spain.



Journalism is still fighting for its voice



Zillur Rahman is a journalist and the host of the current affairs talk show 'Tritiya Matra.' He also serves as the president of the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS). His X handle is @zillur.

ZILLUR RAHMAN

Following the mass uprising of 2024, many in Bangladesh thought that a fresh dawn would emerge over the nation's long troubled media landscape. The overthrow of an oppressive regime provided a glimpse of hope for increased press freedom, accountability, and an end to years of political and legal persecution of journalists.

Instead, one year after that momentous occasion, Bangladeshi media is still under political, institutional and psychological pressure.

Over 250 cases have been brought against journalists nationwide in the last 12 months alone. While some of these examples seem to be intentional attempts to strangle critical reporting, others are the result of straightforward social media posts. There is no denying the trend: journalists who challenge authority continue to suffer significant consequences.

It may be argued that journalists can be protected from unfair prosecution and protracted harassment, either politically motivated or contrived, by the recently adopted Section 173A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1898. The new clause allows for the discharge of an accused during investigation if a high ranking police officer supervising the probe asks for an interim investigation report, and it reveals insufficient evidence against the accused. The question, however, remains whether this mechanism will be employed selectively or impartially.

In addition to legal consequences, the profession was recently rocked by the horrific killing of journalist Asaduzzaman Tuhin while on duty on August 7. The incident served as a sober reminder that speaking the truth can be deadly. The day before, another journalist named Anwar Hossain came under brutal attack while trying to report on extortion at a CNG-run auto-rickshaw stand in Gazipur. These instances are not unique; they are part of an increasing trend of violence and intimidation aimed at stifling the media. The profession as a whole receives a terrifying message: be quiet or suffer the repercussions.

Even the Cyber Security Ordinance (CSO), 2025, which replaced the stringent laws such as the Digital Security Act (DSA), 2018 and the Cyber Security Act (CSA), 2023, contains

problematic provisions. Though the interim administration abolished some contentious sections of the DSA and CSA from the CSO, Section 42 allows the application of repressive tools previously used to harass and prosecute journalists. It states that, unless otherwise specified, provisions from the ICT Act of 2006, the Evidence Act of 1872, and the CrPC will still apply.

Similar to its predecessors, the CSO includes ambiguously worded provisions like "public confusion," "threats to national security," and "anti-state acts." Without definitions,



FILE VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

these concepts are easy to abuse and misinterpret. Such wording has historically made it possible to carry out extensive crackdowns on civil liberties, journalism, and opposition.

Furthermore, a complicated web of corporate domination, editorial compromise, and political influence has silenced media in Bangladesh for years. Once a thriving pillar of democratic accountability, investigative journalism has virtually vanished. There is little space for journalistic independence because many prominent media outlets function at the whim of their owners' political and commercial interests.

There has not been any organised institutional reform since the

government shift. The Journalists' Protection Ordinance, 2025 and the National Media Commission Ordinance, 2025, proposed by the Media Reform Commission, are two potentially promising measures that have been put on hold in bureaucratic limbo. Implementation of the "one house, one media" policy—prohibiting individuals or organisations from holding numerous media outlets—which is an admirable concept proposed by the commission, remains elusive.

Even the law that established the Bangladesh Press Council is filled with control-oriented clauses. The council risks becoming another tool of governmental supervision rather than a platform for journalist protection if its legal mandate is not entirely revised.

The structural flaws in journalist unions and media organisations are at the core of the media crisis. There are still significant political differences among many professional journalist associations, with some factions leaning

reporting. Reporters self-censor because they fear legal issues or professional retaliation. Sensitive stories are put away. Whistleblowers choose to not hear anything. Risk assessments tend to overshadow investigative reports.

A national framework for self-regulation is desperately needed. Adopting an internal editorial code of conduct, grievance redressal mechanism, anti-harassment policy, and straightforward complaint resolution process should be mandatory for all media outlets. This needs to be true for both public accountability and internal ethics. Furthermore, a transparent, independent process should be used to handle grievance or defamation claims against media outlets made by the public, political actors, or public officials. An unbiased, non-partisan media ombudsman organisation can investigate such allegations.

In the end, media reform in Bangladesh is a matter of institutional

bravery, political determination, and democratic maturity rather than merely being a legal or administrative matter. Reforms run the risk of becoming cosmetic if the top leadership is not committed. Furthermore, change will not materialise if journalists do not stand together.

Ownership of the media is another issue. It is said that political allegiance determines the allocation of new broadcast licences. Media outlets are often run to serve the vested interests of their owners, many of whom are deeply embedded in the corporate or political elite. Any departure from "approved" tales may result in regulatory harassment, licencing obstacles, or tax audits.

In newsrooms, this poisonous atmosphere often deters truthful

offers a chance to rethink media freedom in Bangladesh. But time is running short. Every delay erodes public trust, silences more journalists, and buries more truths. Bangladesh must have a free, secure, and independent press if democracy is to be more than just elections and voting booths. Our democracy will continue to be dangerously unfinished until that time.

Why is the ICJ silent about the gender aspect of climate justice?



Farah Kabir is country director at ActionAid Bangladesh

FARAH KABIR

On July 23, 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a landmark advisory opinion on states' obligations related to climate change, a long-awaited milestone in the global push for climate justice. However, the opinion falls short in addressing crucial justice dimensions, particularly from a feminist perspective.

The ICJ addressed two key questions: what legal obligations states hold concerning climate change, and what consequences arise from failing those obligations, especially for vulnerable populations and future generations. The court confirmed that these obligations stem both from climate treaties and customary international law, human rights law, and general principles of international law.

Substantively, the court affirmed that all states must act to prevent "significant harm" to the environment and to human rights threatened by climate change. This includes a duty of due diligence to regulate emissions and a binding obligation to cooperate globally. Crucially, the court elevated the 1.5-degree-Celsius target of Paris Agreement from an aspirational goal to a legally relevant benchmark, meaning the countries' climate pledges may

now be judged against it in legal terms.

The opinion underscored that inaction violates core human rights: the rights to life, health, food, water, and a healthy environment. It emphasised that states could bear international responsibility for failing to act in accordance with scientific evidence and well-established legal norms. This pressurises countries to enhance their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and scale up financial and technical support for developing countries, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

The ICJ's recognition that climate-vulnerable nations like Bangladesh and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can retain legal personality even if rising seas physically submerge them is groundbreaking. It enhances their legal standing in climate negotiations and opens the door to potential reparation claims in case of climate inaction by states or corporations.

However, the ICJ's opinion stops short of addressing one of the most persistent blind spots in global climate governance: the gendered dimensions of climate justice.

From a feminist lens, the opinion

remains overly abstract and state-centric, failing to recognise how intersecting vulnerabilities shape real-world experiences. Although it references "vulnerable groups," it does not disaggregate or meaningfully analyse how women, indigenous peoples, gender minorities, and those at the margins of poverty and displacement face disproportionate climate impacts.

Feminist legal scholars argue that this was a missed opportunity to incorporate gender-specific obligations into the climate governance framework. By not applying an intersectional approach, the opinion risks reinforcing structural inequalities rooted in patriarchal systems that govern access to resources, political voice, and burdens of unpaid labour. Women in the Global South, for instance, often serve as frontline defenders of the environment while being excluded from formal climate decision-making and finance. The ICJ's silence on this reinforces a justice framework that is procedural but not transformative.

Equally problematic is the court's omission of gender-responsive remedies. For instance, it does not specify how reparations in case of litigations should meet the distinct needs of women and marginalised communities. As a result, future remedial mechanisms may be gender-blind, failing to ensure access to climate-resilient infrastructure, relocation support, or climate finance tailored to the most affected.

The ICJ advisory can be contrasted with the 2024 advisory opinion by the

Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which explicitly linked climate harms to gender-based violence, land rights, and systemic disenfranchisement of women. This reflects deeper epistemic and representational gaps within international law. The ICJ's bench remains predominantly male and drawn from elite legal circles. While representation alone doesn't guarantee justice, diverse perspectives, particularly from the Global South and feminist legal traditions, are essential to developing jurisprudence that responds to the full complexity of climate injustice.

Still, all is not lost. Feminist activists and legal advocates can leverage the ICJ's affirmation of human rights and intergenerational equity to press for gender-sensitive laws and policies at national and regional levels. Courts around the world may cite the opinion when interpreting state obligations, and civil society can invoke it to demand inclusive governance, reparative finance, and gender-responsive climate budgeting. Feminist principles can be embedded into the architecture of mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Fund and the Green Climate Fund at forums like the COP negotiations.

Whether ICJ's opinion leads to a more just climate order will depend on how civil society, legal practitioners, and policymakers push its boundaries. Without centring those most impacted by climate breakdown, the law risks becoming a tool of legitimacy rather than liberation. Thus, the ask at national level is, Bangladesh should adopt a climate justice legislation that is gender-sensitive and transformational.

The consensus to keep women out



THE SOUND AND THE FURY
Sushmita S Preetha
is a writer and activist.

SUSHMITA S PREETHA

The National Consensus Commission's recent decision to retain the existing 50 reserved seats for women, without direct elections, and to require parties to nominate women in a mere five percent of general constituencies, is a blunt proclamation that men alone will determine the limits of women's political presence. The composition of the consensus commission tells its own story: five heads of reform commissions, all men, negotiating with party delegations in which women were present in such negligible numbers you'd need a high-powered microscope to find them.

We should pause here to ask: who authorised these men—many of whom have never themselves won a parliamentary seat—to decide, on behalf of over half the population, how we are to be represented? What electoral, moral, or historical legitimacy entitles them to determine the numerical ceiling on women's political presence? If democracy is to have any meaning, such a question should not be settled in a closed meeting room between male elites but in the full light of public deliberation—at the very least, through a national referendum on how many seats should be reserved, and under what conditions.

If we situate this decision about women's seats within the broader arc of the post-uprising months, the pattern is unmistakable. The women's quota in public service has been abolished; women are underrepresented in the interim cabinet and nearly absent from the commissions shaping the constitutional and electoral future; and women student leaders who stood at the forefront of the anti-discriminatory movement have been pushed to the margins. Women politicians, journalists, and activists from across the political spectrum have been subjected to an unrelenting campaign of humiliation, harassment, and intimidation—deepfakes, doxxing, torrents of sexualised abuse—for the mere act of being visible and vocal in the public sphere. In short, the democratic opening created by the uprising has been followed, as in so many historical transitions, by a deliberate contraction of the political sphere in which women are allowed to operate.

This gendered silencing is being emboldened by a sharp rightward turn in national politics: the growing influence of right-wing groups who now shape policymaking from within, or mobilise mobs

from without, to police women's bodies and restrict their freedoms. In such a climate, the fight for political representation is inseparable from the fight to hold public space itself; it is a struggle against a nexus of patriarchal control that stretches from the social media troll farm to the parliamentary chamber, from the street mob to the ministerial desk.

The political theorist Carole Pateman once described the "fraternal social contract" at the heart of liberal democracy: a pact among men to share power among themselves while defining women as dependents, auxiliaries, or symbolic figures. The consensus commission's decision is a textbook example of that contract at work. And it is not only women who are written out. Indigenous communities, religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and the rural and urban poor are almost entirely absent from these negotiations, their political demands diluted or erased before they ever reach the table. In this sense, the exclusion of women is part of a broader architecture of marginalisation—one that keeps entire populations out of meaningful political participation while

Women politicians, journalists, and activists from across the political spectrum have been subjected to an unrelenting campaign of humiliation, harassment, and intimidation—deepfakes, doxxing, torrents of sexualised abuse—for the mere act of being visible and vocal in the public sphere. In short, the democratic opening created by the uprising has been followed, as in so many historical transitions, by a deliberate contraction of the political sphere in which women are allowed to operate.

preserving the supremacy of a narrow, elite fraternity.

The language of "gradual increase" that the consensus commission clings to is a dialect of delay, honed over decades, in which

the pace of change is always just slow enough to keep men in power comfortably. It is telling that the political parties' objections to more ambitious proposals were framed in terms of "practical difficulties," as though the absence of women were an unavoidable natural condition, rather than the direct outcome of decades of deliberate exclusion.

When political parties plead that they cannot possibly field more women

asked to commit to nominating even 25 percent women in direct constituencies, these same parties recoiled, claiming they did not have "that many" suitable candidates. The contradiction is almost too perfect. The claim of equality is deployed as a weapon to dismantle the few structural safeguards that exist, while the lived reality of exclusion is invoked to justify continuing male dominance.

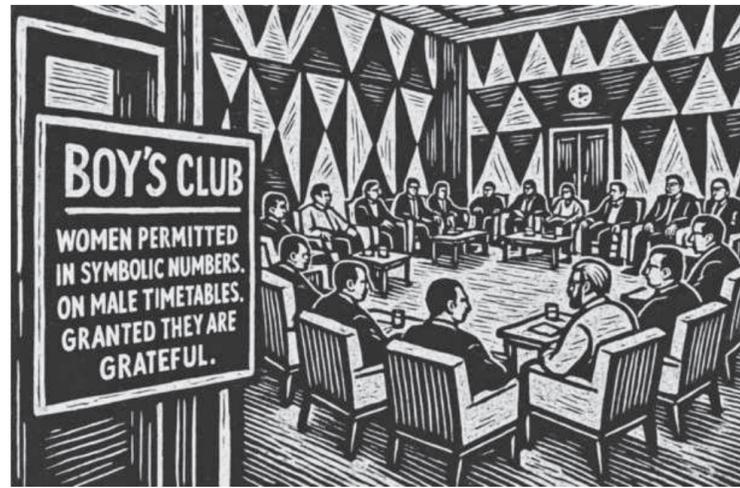
are we still outsourcing the blueprint for the future to the same political parties that authored our exclusion in the first place?

Many women's rights organisations, recognising both the urgency of change and the entrenched resistance of the male political class, have advanced a compromise that is nonetheless structurally transformative: expanding parliament to 450 seats, with 150 reserved exclusively for women and filled through direct elections, alongside the existing 300 general seats. This is an intervention designed to alter the architecture of representation itself. By creating a parallel track of constituencies in which women compete on equal terms with other women, the model interrupts the patronage-based nomination systems that have long kept women tethered to male party leaders. It embeds women's electoral presence as a permanent and visible component of parliamentary politics, while also creating the conditions for them to transition into general seats over time. In political theory terms, it is a transitional mechanism: a deliberate distortion of the status quo to correct a historically produced imbalance, shifting the baseline from token inclusion towards genuine parity.

If the consensus committee and political parties are prepared to engage seriously with women's rights representatives and revise their decision, then let that engagement happen in the open, under public scrutiny. If not, then the question of women's political participation cannot remain the private bargaining chip of a political fraternity. These parties are historically male-dominated institutions whose organisational cultures, patronage networks, and selection processes are engineered to reproduce their own hierarchies. To expect them to deliver gender parity without structural compulsion is to mistake the jailer for the liberator. The project of egalitarianism cannot be subcontracted to the very custodians of inequality.

So, then, let the ultimate decision be made through a national referendum in which the very people whose representation is at stake—more than half the population—have the authority to determine the terms of their own political inclusion.

Let us remember that women have tilled this country's soil and staffed its factories, filled its classrooms and run its households, led its protests and sustained its movements. They have kept the economy alive in crisis and defended its streets in moments of danger. To exclude them now from the architecture of political power is an act of historical amnesia, a theft from the very foundation of the democratic project. If democracy is to mean anything beyond a stage-managed ritual, it must finally be rebuilt on the labour, leadership, and voices of those who have always been there, even when the record refused to see them.



VISUAL: SUSHMITA S PREETHA

candidates, the more pressing question should be why such an excuse is treated as a reasonable defence in the first place. Under the Representation of the People Order (Amendment) Act 2009, any party seeking registration is required to set a target of reserving at least 33 percent of all committee positions for women, including in the central committee. They were supposed to have met that target by 2020. Every major party has openly failed to meet this requirement. In other words, this so-called shortage of capable women is the result of the parties' sustained non-compliance with the law.

How do these parties continue to enjoy legal registration when they have so openly violated the conditions for it? And how is it that the Election Commission, charged with safeguarding democratic integrity, has escaped scrutiny for its refusal to censure, sanction, or disqualify non-compliant parties, thereby converting a legal mandate into little more than decorative text? Will the honourable members of the consensus commission provide some clarity on this matter?

Some parties apparently argued, without irony, that because women and men have now achieved "full equality", the very idea of reserved seats is outdated. And yet, when

Political theory has a name for this manoeuvre: the rhetoric of achieved equality, in which formal declarations of parity are used to delegitimise affirmative measures, even as the structures producing inequality remain fully intact.

And then there are those who stated, quite openly, that men would "mind" if their seats were "given away" to women, as if parliamentary constituencies were the personal property of sitting male politicians. These seats are effectively treated as fiefdoms in a political economy where power is passed laterally among men. The resistance to women's inclusion, simply put, is about preserving the exclusive rights of a political fraternity to allocate the spoils of the state among themselves.

So what do women really want? Fifty percent representation, of course, as should have been the foundational principle of the new political order we were promised in the wake of the uprising. To call this "fantastical" is to betray how thoroughly patriarchy has colonised our political imagination. In a moment when the slate was supposed to be wiped clean, when we had the rare chance to design the architecture of democracy anew, why should equality itself be treated as an impossible demand? Why

How Tejgaon's runway is choking Dhaka's future



Zakir Kibria
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ZAKIR KIBRIA

The acrid smoke has cleared from the Milestone School atrocity, leaving behind thirty-five coffins and a city's collective conscience forever scarred. As we scrub soot from classroom walls and bloodstains from textbooks, a fundamental question hangs heavy in our polluted air: why must children learn beneath the shadow of ageing fighter jets in a megacity of 2.3 crore souls? The answer lies partially in Tejgaon—a 300-acre paradox in Dhaka's heart where an "active" airport stands frozen in time, its silent runway strangling our city's future while mocking our collective wisdom.

This ghost airport haunts our children with institutional paralysis. Born as a British World War II airstrip in 1941, Tejgaon served as Bangladesh's primary international airport

until 1981, when operations shifted to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA). Since then, it has existed as "BAF Base Bashar," a military facility with zero commercial flights. Yet, in 2011, the CAAB and relevant authorities quietly re-designated it as a "domestic airport," defying international aviation standards while enabling real obstruction. This dormant status blocked a critical metro rail route along Bijoy Sarani, forcing costly realignment near parliament, a telling metaphor for how phantom airfields derail progress.

While Tejgaon's runway gathers dust, Dhaka's skies grow more lethal. Since 2011, the CAAB has identified at least 525 illegal high-rises encroaching on approach paths at HSIA and the old Tejgaon Airport runway,

violations reported to RAJUK for over a decade without a single demolition. This regulatory surrender has transformed our airspace into a game of Russian roulette. Aviation safety data confirms that at least 80 percent of accidents occur within the first three minutes of takeoff or in the last eight minutes before landing, where clearance margins are sacred. The Milestone crash, while officially attributed to pilot error (pending investigation), unfolded in a cityscape where illegal construction systematically eroded safety buffers. When ageing aircraft and vertical sprawl collide above schools, tragedy isn't accidental; it's engineered by neglect.

Consider the cruel arithmetic of our urban crisis: according to a 2018 media report, Dhaka just had 0.7 acres of open place for every 1000 residents. This is a mere fraction of the green space recommended by the World Health Organization, which is nine square metre per person, approximately 2.2 acres for every 1000 residents. Around 84 percent residents of the capital's city corporation area have no access to playground facilities, while citizens breathe air laced with particulate matter at over 15 times the WHO safety limits. Against this suffocating reality, Tejgaon's 300 acres represent a life-saving transfusion. Converted

into public commons—not commercial real estate—it could absorb tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, provide play space for half a million children, and create a vital green corridor in our concrete heart.

Global cities have shown the way forward. Hong Kong closed its iconic Kai Tak Airport in 1998, replacing it with Chek Lap Kok 34km away—the former runways now bloom with community gardens. Istanbul relocated from Atatürk Airport to a safer facility 40km outside the city in 2019, freeing 1,500 hectares for urban renewal. Osaka built Kansai Airport offshore in 1994, eliminating urban overflights entirely. Yet, Dhaka tolerates the surreal spectacle of fighter jets practising manoeuvres over Gulshan while planners whisper about distant "aerotropolis." This isn't urban planning; it's institutional surrender disguised as strategy.

While we recognise Tejgaon's symbolic heritage, we must remember that true strength lies in adaptive leadership. The Bangladesh Armed Forces embody the strategic foresight our city desperately needs—the very logic that would never permit an active airfield in a dense urban centre. Relocating training operations to purpose-built facilities beyond Dhaka wouldn't be

retreat; it would be an advance towards a capital worthy of our aspirations.

Besides, the Milestone children weren't martyrs to progress; they were casualties of inertia. Every day, Tejgaon remains unfollowed, costing Dhaka \$8.7 million in lost economic opportunity while denying generations cleaner air and play space. We've mastered disaster response, the floral tributes and compensation cheques, but failed at prevention. True honour lies in sparing future classrooms from becoming crash sites.

Imagine dew glistening on wild grasses where tarmac once baked. Grandparents practising tai chi beneath canopies of neem and kadam. Teenagers playing cricket where fighter jets idled. Children sketching clouds unobscured by exhaust. This vision isn't utopian; it's achievable if we trade complacency for courage.

The Milestone children won't play in this park. But we owe them this legacy—a city where classrooms aren't crash zones, where the only shadows over schools come from clouds, not ageing jets; where our planning finally looks upward, not in fear, but in hope. Three hundred acres of redemption await beneath the silent runway. All we need is the will to breathe.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Diamonds, e.g.
5 Goopy stuff
10 Leading
12 Praline bit
13 Inge work
14 Striped rock
15 Feel queasy
16 Back muscle
18 Toddy base
19 Like some toddies
21 Rage
22 View from the moon
24 Dined at home
25 Cascade
29 Sharpen
30 Page of "The

- Umbrella Aca demy"
32 Squid's squirt
33 Letter before omega
34 Letter after zeta
35 Freak
37 Polite refusal
39 Quebec native
40 Florida player
41 Sports figures
42 Theater award
- DOWN**
1 Fizzy quaffs
2 Green, perhaps
3 Napoli's nation
4 Singer Waits
5 Petty fight
6 Table part

- 7 Doomed flier
8 Grow up
9 Foe
11 Choice of colors
17 Sticks
20 Packing box
21 Last
23 Ransacking
25 Prevailed
26 Turkey's capital
27 Deceives
28 Hand soother
29 Daily temperatures
31 Linger
33 Corral
36 Poker prize
38 Bran bit

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39						40			
41							42		

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

P	A	C	E	S		C	A	S	T	S
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C	A	K	E	S		A	G	A	P	E
A	D	E	L	E		P	O	K	E	S
R	E	S	T	S		H	O	S	E	S

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.

I will never sell the copyright for my songs: Angel Noor

SHARMIN JOYA

Humble by nature, young musician Angel Noor has already created music in his short career that holds a special place in the minds of music lovers.

After the success of *Jodi Abar*, another one of Angel's singles, *Teel*, has also won over audiences. Now, he has announced an entire album, titled *Prano-to*, to be released on Spotify in October.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the artiste shared details about the album, his recent visit to Nepal, and new acting ventures.

"This album will contain seven songs, including *Kichhu Kotha*, *Bondhunama*, *Morichikaar*, *Protikkha*, and *Ichche*, among others. The music video will be available soon after the release. All of the songs have been written and composed by me, while the arrangements were handled by Asif

Ahmed (also the keyboardist of his band), whose contribution accounts for half of my career's success, and I will always be grateful to him."

Angel just landed in Dhaka the day before yesterday from Nepal. He attended the International Conference on Cultural Heritage of South Asia at Kathmandu University, where he was a cultural representative of Bangladesh.

"It was amazing attending the event. I met many Nepali fans there, and Binod Abraham, based in the United Arab Emirates and currently a Regional Commercial Manager at Flydubai, also expressed his admiration for my music. He posted a video with me on his social media where he sent a message to the Bangladeshi audience that 'We'll sing *Jodi Abar* together.' That was a sweet gesture from him, which amazed me!"

Meanwhile, Angel is in talks for a couple of films for the silver screen in both Tollywood and South India. His latest Bangladeshi project is in the pre-production stage. "The film is being produced and written by Ahmed Rizve, and a Lebanese DOP will be shooting the entire film. If the political situation remains stable in Bangladesh, we will begin shooting in December."

Angel recently received a nomination for the Best Music Digital Platforms at the Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 for *Jodi Abar*. Elated with the nomination, he shared, "I'm thankful and blessed." Additionally, his song is in talks to be used in a Kolkata film under a big banner. "They have approached me about using my song. However, I will never sell the copyright to my songs. I might permit the use of my music, though."



Asif with Angel.



Taylor Swift announces 12th studio album 'The Life of a Showgirl'

Taylor Swift has announced her 12th studio album, *The Life of a Showgirl*, after a day of fan speculation. The news followed a social media post from her team and confirmation from partner Travis Kelce on his podcast *New Heights*, alongside a countdown on Swift's official website.

Her previous album, *The Tortured Poets Department* (2024), set a Spotify record for most streams in a single day. The new album's release date is yet to be revealed, though pre-orders are open.

The singer wrapped her *Eras Tour* in December 2024, performing 149 shows in 53 cities and boosting the UK economy by an estimated £1 billion.



PHOTO: ZIAUDDIN SHIPLU

Abul Hayat and Dilara Zaman take the lead in drama 'Bela O Bikel'

Veteran actors Abul Hayat and Dilara Zaman have taken on the leading roles in *Bela O Bikel*, a new drama written and directed by Shariful Islam Shamim.

Abul Hayat plays Bikel, while Zaman portrays Bela—marking, they believe, their first collaboration in titular roles despite decades of shared screen history.

The actors praised Shamim's meticulous approach, expressing confidence in audience reception. Zaman lauded the project's rare focus on character-driven storytelling, calling it a welcome challenge in today's television landscape.

The cast of *Bela O Bikel* also includes



Nabila Binte Islam and Golam Kibria Tanvir. It will premiere soon on the YouTube channel Enigma TV.



Bassbaba Sumon and Shakib Chowdhury to pen Raihan Rafi's 'Andhar'

Saidus Salehin Sumon of Arthohin and Shakib Chowdhury of Cryptic Fate are set to bring their shared passion for horror to the big screen with *Andhar*, directed by Raihan Rafi. Co-written with Adnan Adib Khan, the film's screenplay and dialogue are by Shakib and Adnan.

Inspired by their radio show *Bhoutist*, the project was initially delayed due to Sumon's illness but has now been revived. Set in a Bangladeshi context,

Andhar aims to blend horror, mystery, thriller, murder, and emotion while maintaining international production standards.

Shakib described it as a bold genre entry for Bangladesh's evolving film industry. Produced under 221B Production, with Shakib, Adnan, and Sarah Ali as producers, filming is set to begin next month, with the cast announcement forthcoming.

Ryan Reynolds hints at Deadpool's Avengers entry

Ryan Reynolds has sparked speculation of his character Deadpool's entry into the Marvel Cinematic Universe's *Avengers* franchise.

The actor posted an image of the *Avengers* logo defaced with Deadpool's signature red spray-painted "A", prompting theories of his appearance in *Avengers: Doomsday* or *Avengers: Secret Wars*. Marvel previously confirmed the return of Robert Downey Jr, now cast as Doctor Doom, in the Russo brothers-directed *Avengers: Doomsday*, set for December 18, 2026, with its sequel arriving December 17, 2027.

Downey last portrayed Iron Man, who died in *Avengers: Endgame*. Deadpool was last seen in 2024's *Deadpool & Wolverine*, alongside Hugh Jackman.



NEWS

BB to outline merger process

FROM PAGE 12

and EXIM Bank.

Four of the banks' chairmen attended the meeting, chaired by Governor Mansur, along with Deputy Governor Md Kabir Ahmed and other senior BB officials. Those present were Mohammad Abdul Mannan of First Security Islami Bank, Md Fariduddin Ahmed of Union Bank, Mohammed Nurul Amin of Global Islami Bank, and M Sadiqul Islam of Social Islami Bank.

However, EXIM Bank Chairman Md Nazrul Islam Swapan claimed he was not invited. "The financial health of the bank is better than other weak banks. That's why we are not interested in the merger," he told The Daily Star. "We requested the central bank in different ways to exclude us, but it did not accept our plea."

Contacted, BB Executive Director and spokesperson Aref Hossain Khan said the meeting was part of the merger initiative and aimed at expediting the process.

A chairman who attended the meeting, requesting anonymity, said the government would make an official announcement within days and send letters to the banks.

Union Bank Chairman Fariduddin said the BB governor sought their views and assured them the move would be done legally.

BB officials said the central bank decided to set up an office at Sena Kalyan Bhaban in Motijheel to oversee the process.

The five banks again requested liquidity support from the BB, but the regulator refused, saying no new funds would be provided during the merger.

The central bank decided in June to merge the five troubled lenders due to their weak financial health revealed by a forensic audit conducted by global audit firms KPMG and Ernst & Young. The asset quality review found their non-performing loans were four times higher than previously reported.

The banks will be placed under temporary government control once the merger begins.

The move is part of the interim government's wider effort to stabilise the banking sector, for which it passed the Bank Resolution Ordinance giving the BB expanded powers to resolve distressed financial institutions.

Fighting across Myanmar border

FROM PAGE 12

They reportedly gathered in Laldwip after learning that Myanmar junta forces were preparing to launch airstrikes in southern Maungdaw Township, prompting many AA members stationed there to flee towards the border in search of safety, according to intelligence sources.

The BGB said it has already intensified patrols and surveillance to prevent illegal entry.

"We are keeping a close watch on the border — we are determined to prevent any illegal intrusion," Ashiqur Rahman, commanding officer of the BGB Teknaf Battalion 2, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier on Monday, around 8:45am, BGB 64 Battalion detained an armed member of AA after he crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar through the Balukhali border in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar.

The detainee — Jiban Tonchongya, 21 — surrendered with an AK-47 rifle, 52 rounds of ammunition and two magazines.

During interrogation, Jiban said that he fled to Bangladesh due to security threats, said Mohammad Jasim Uddin, commanding officer of BGB 64 Battalion in Ukhiya.

Jiban was produced in front of a court following the arrest and the court sent him to jail, said Arif Hossain, the officer-in-charge Ukhiya police station.

Over at the border, residents have been on edge for weeks.

Between July 25 and July 27, bursts of automatic weapons fire were heard intermittently near border pillars 44, 45, 46, 48 and 49.

Residents of Chakdhala, Ghumdhum, Douchhari and other nearby villages say the fighting has

severely disrupted their lives.

Then on Sunday night, gunshots were heard again.

This time, it took place around 300 to 330 metres from the zero line near border pillars 34 and 35, according to BGB.

The border situation is currently calm, said SM Khairul Alam, commanding officer of BGB 34 Battalion 34.

"After the gunfire incidents, local residents were feeling uneasy, but we assured them that the incidents took place inside Myanmar and there is no lapse in security on our side," he said, adding that residents had since been reassured.

Md Mazharul Islam Chowdhury, Naikhiyangchhari upazila nirbahi officer, said: "We are closely monitoring the situation with BGB, and border forces are on maximum alert."

"It's been a long time since we last heard gunfire — we heard it for quite a while, but it's hard to understand what's happening in Myanmar," said Local resident Mahamudul Hasan.

In December last year, more than a year after launching resistance against Myanmar's junta, the rebel AA claimed full control of the 271-kilometre stretch of the Rakhine portion of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

Earlier in February last year, heavy gun battles between the AA and Myanmar junta troops raged for days in the Ghumdhum border.

Multiple sources and intelligence reports indicate the AA has been struggling in northern Maungdaw since July, suffering from manpower shortages, internal disputes and low morale.

Disagreements over narcotics smuggling profits, loot-sharing and the very necessity of continued fighting have driven many to desert the group, they said.

Atpara UNO sued

FROM PAGE 12

after hearing about allegations of rice looting, the case statement said.

Plaintiff Raihan said, "I was present at the time. That day, the UNO arrived with police and beat Durjoy with a baton. We tried to stop him, but he didn't stop. A government officer should not behave like this."

Durjoy said, "I went to collect rice for my mother. The bamboo barricade at the front broke due to the crowd, and I fell. At that moment, the UNO came and beat me, then detained me until 4:00pm before releasing me after taking my signature."

"I'm not the kind of person who loots rice."

The court took the case into cognisance and instructed the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate it.

Mizanur Rahman, lawyer for the plaintiff, said that a video of the assault was attached to the case statement.

Denying the allegations, UNO Ruel Sangma said, "I didn't beat anyone. Some people were trying to loot the rice, so I took action to maintain law and order. There's a conspiracy going on against me."

Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Md Mokhter Ahmed said the matter was under investigation. Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Bonani Biswas could not be reached for comment.

83% in favour of caretaker govt system

FROM PAGE 12

Eighty-seven percent want article 70 of the constitution to be amended, and 90 percent support governing the state based on the principles outlined in Tajuddin Ahmad's declaration of April 10, 1971.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents believe internet services should be recognised as a basic right, alongside food, education, healthcare, and housing.

Eighty percent support the creation of a National Constitutional Council. Ninety percent want the Anti-Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, Information Commission, and the proposed Local Government Commission to be made constitutional bodies.

Eighty-seven percent support requiring approval from the Election Commission for any executive actions during the polls period that could

influence the elections.

Eighty-four percent want an independent delimitation commission of experts formed after every census. Eighty-eight percent back cancellation of candidacy or results of any candidate who provides false information on election expenses.

Ninety-two percent want individuals identified as criminals, extortionists, corrupt figures, or convicts to be declared ineligible for political parties.

Eighty-seven percent support using passport data to enable postal or online voting for expatriates. Eighty-eight percent back creating a national voter registration authority, 83 percent support a "no" vote option, and 90 percent want a permanent independent police commission.

Talking about the findings, Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam said the survey clearly proved that citizens are in favour of reforms and

want a change.

He added that the existing systems, processes, and institutions have enabled Sheikh Hasina to become an autocrat and so changes are a must.

"If we are to establish a democratic state, we need a complete overhaul of these systems, processes, and institutions. Reforms are necessary," he said.

Speaking at the event, Robaet Ferdous, professor at Dhaka University, said, "Elections alone do not guarantee good governance."

Citing examples such as money laundering and corruption during past governments, he stressed the need for reforms within political parties.

Highlighting the Shujan's proposed National Charter, the speakers at the press conference opined that this charter would help build a democratic, humane, and prosperous Bangladesh if implemented.

Educationist Mahfuza Khanam passes away

FROM PAGE 12

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at her Indira Road residence after Asr prayers yesterday.

Today, her body will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar and kept there from 10:00am to 11:30am for people to pay their last respects, followed by a tribute at the DUCSU building at 12:00pm.

Her second janaza will be held after Zuhr prayers at the Dhaka University Central Mosque, and she will be laid to rest at Azampur Graveyard.

Born on April 14, 1946, in Kolkata, Mahfuza graduated from the physics

department at Dhaka University in 1966 and completed her master's from the same department the following year.

She served as DUCSU VP for the 1966-67 term as a nominee of the East Pakistan Chhatra Union.

Later, she went on to hold several prominent positions, including the director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, president and general secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, chairperson of the central Khelaghar Ashor, adviser to Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi, and member of the

Dhaka University Senate.

She taught at various government colleges for many years.

In recognition of her contributions to education, she was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2021.

She was married to eminent lawyer and former law minister Shafique Ahmed. They had two sons and a daughter.

Political, cultural, and social organisations have expressed their condolences, remembering her as a fearless activist against military rule in the 1960s and a lifelong campaigner for social progress.

Cops forced to retreat

FROM PAGE 12

were pushing and slapping the two. Within 20 to 25 minutes, around 12-13 policemen came here on two police vans. They tried to calm the crowd. But people became more agitated seeing police."

Contacted, Taraganj Police Station's Officer-in-Charge MA Faruk said some policemen were present there. But they were too few in number.

"There were around 2,000 to 3,000 angry people. They became

aggressive. Police were compelled to leave the scene to save themselves. Upon receiving the news, I informed the army. I went to the scene myself and with the army's help controlled the situation. We rescued the two injured men from Burirhat school field," the OC said.

Ruplal was declared dead at Taraganj Upazila Hospital, and Pradip died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, he added.

Ruplal Robidas, 48, of Ghanirampur Dangapara village

under Taraganj upazila, and his relative Pradip Lal Robidas, 47, of Khamar Mokimpur village under Mithapukur upazila were hurrying home on a battery-powered van on Saturday night to begin planning for Ruplal's daughter's wedding.

The mob waylaid the two and accused them of stealing the van.

On Sunday, Ruplal's wife Maloti Robidas filed a case accusing some 700 unidentified people.

Police have so far arrested four people, said the OC yesterday.

Revised stent

allowed time before enforcing the new prices. Since the price cuts have been widely reported in the media, hospitals are facing pressure from patients to provide stents at the revised rates, he said. Therefore, the ministry has decided to implement the revised cost from October 1, he added. The expert committee is reviewing prices of other companies, but further reductions are expected to be smaller as the US companies' prices were the highest. Asked why prices remain higher in Bangladesh than in India despite the revision, Naveem Golder, another DGDA director, said India's larger demand and more competitive market - supported by eight local manufacturers - help lower prices.

Aviation stakeholders

FROM PAGE 4 chairman of TAS Aviation Services. He urged the government to consult with industry stakeholders before making any amendments, dismissing the perception that GSAs drive up ticket prices. "GSAs focus solely on airline promotion and marketing. Ticket sales and pricing are controlled entirely by the airlines," he added. Currently, GSA operations employ over 5,000 people directly, with another 15,000 indirectly dependent on the sector. Forum leaders warned that removing the GSA clause could lead to widespread job losses, as foreign airlines would likely appoint only a small number of local staff. Citing past experiences,

they noted that when foreign carriers such as Emirates, Qatar Airways, Saudia, Thai Airways, and Air India operated in Bangladesh without GSAs, the market saw allegations of corruption, mismanagement, and long ticket queues - especially affecting Bangladeshi expatriates. "The situation improved dramatically after GSAs became mandatory," Hoque said.

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 13
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

Expedite

FROM PAGE 3 Mansur passed the order after SP Nazer appeared in compliance with its summons. The bench exempted him from future appearances, as his office had complied with the HC's directive, said Deputy Attorney General Mohammed Shafiqur Rahman. On July 22, the HC summoned the SP for failing to properly submit a compliance report on ensuring the victim's safety, during hearing of a writ petition filed by lawyer Mir AKM Nurun Nobi. On June 29, the HC ordered the SP to ensure the victim's security and directed BTRC to remove all related photos, videos, and audio from social media within 24 hours.

45,000 polling centres, 2.8 lakh booths likely

FROM PAGE 1 A meeting on August 6 discussed preparations for forming a panel of polling officials and supervising their training. The minutes of the meeting, chaired by Election Commissioner Tahmida Ahmed, were issued by the EC Secretariat yesterday. Tahmida is the head of the committee on preparing the panel of polling officials and supervising their training for the 13th general election. A total of 8,86,790 polling officials will be required, according to the

EC's letter. Following the 2025 voter list update, the number of potential voters for the 13th election may reach 127,873,752, according to the letter. In the 12th general election, there were 119,689,289 voters, 42,148 polling centres, and 261,564 polling booths. The Electoral Training Institute in Dhaka will organise training for divisional commissioners, police commissioners, deputy inspectors general (DIGs), deputy commissioners, superintendents of police, returning officers,

magistrates, and other relevant administrative and law enforcement officials as well as executive and judicial magistrates and election officials before and after the announcement of the election schedule. Core and trainer training (ToT) programmes are usually launched three to three-and-a-half months before the schedule announcement. This time, the EC intends to begin the trainer training programme in September. A total of 3,600 officials will receive training under this programme. Regarding the election

preparation, EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said that as part of the trainer training programme, a small-scale session has been initiated for EC Secretariat officials. The required number of ToT sessions will then be completed in phases. Meanwhile, on August 7, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said the EC was preparing to announce the schedule in December so that the polls can be held in February next year as announced by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Reserve 150 seat

FROM PAGE 3 reserved seats, democratic practice will be further strengthened, and women's political participation will become broader and more meaningful," it added. The committee urged all political parties to reconsider the consensus commission's decision to keep 50 reserved seats through nomination until 2043. It also called on political leaders and the public to speak up for women's political empowerment, with the goal of building a democratic and equality-based state. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Dr

Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "We hope, this time, the consensus commission will sit with representatives from the women's rights movement." "Political parties must play the most important role in the political empowerment of women. If they do not nominate women, it will be difficult to ensure women's political empowerment," she said. We want 150 reserved seats for two terms, and they must be filled through direct elections. Women are progressing in every field, but without these rights, true empowerment cannot be achieved," she added.

Consensus

FROM PAGE 3 Professor Ali Riaz, head of the Constitution Reform Commission, serves as the commission's vice president. Members of the other reform commissions are Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, head of the Public Administration Reform Commission; Safar Raj Hossain, head of the Police Reform Commission; Badiul Alam Majumdar, head of the Election Reform Commission; Justice Emdadul Haque, head

of the Judicial Reform Commission; and Iftekharuzzaman, head of the Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission. The Commission is now preparing the final draft of the July Charter, reflecting the consensus reached during two phases of its talks with political parties. It has also resumed its third phase of talks to implement the charter. The law ministry is providing secretarial support to the commission.

'We will sleep in the car'

FROM PAGE 3 journey, I went to bed early and the next morning tried to contact him again. I still saw the car in the hospital basement on the GPS tracker," the car owner said. He later collected the phone numbers of Mizan. But Mizan could not be reached either. Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said viscera samples were collected from the bodies, and the report will determine the cause of death. Additional Deputy

Commissioner of Ramna Zone Mir Asaduzzaman said the investigation is underway, while Ramna Division Deputy Commissioner Masud Alam added that CCTV footage and other evidence are being collected. Meanwhile, Zakir's father, Md Abu Taher, said, "My son had no quarrel with anyone... I don't know who killed him." He added that there had been some disputes with a broker over sending his son abroad a few years ago.

Academic activities

FROM PAGE 3 span six years, including a one-year internship. They have long sought a law and council to match the structure and status of their education. Jubair Islam Mission, a fourth-year student, said the draft act has some controversial provisions, like allowing any UGC-approved university, including private ones, to confer their degrees, unlike MBBS and BDS degrees, which only public universities can award. He warned this could lead to fake doctors and "certificate business." He also said the draft is unclear on whether graduates can use the title "Doctor." Prof Rubina Yasmin, additional director general (medical education) at the DGME, said the students' demands are acknowledged, but enacting a law takes time. "They have halted academic activities and even the admission process. We have nothing to do now... They will have to face the consequences," she said.

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা
ওয়েবসাইট: www.bb.org.bd
স্টাফবাস ভাড়ার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রের নিম্নবর্ণিত রুটের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের অফিসে আনা-নেওয়ার জন্য ৩০ আসনের একটি ডিজেল চালিত বাস চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদে ভাড়া করার উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বাস মালিক/সংস্থার নিকট হতে ই-টেন্ডারিং প্রক্রিয়ায় উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

Table with 5 columns: রুটের নাম, গাড়ির ধরণ, গাড়ির সংখ্যা, মডেল, দরপত্র জামানত. Includes details for 30-seater bus tendering.

চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ
প্রকিউরমেন্ট শাখা
www.ccc.org.bd
নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি
তারিখ: ১০/০৮/২০২৫ইং

Table with 5 columns: স্লট নং, মন্ত্রণালয়, প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, প্রকিউরমেন্ট শাখা, নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes details for procurement tenders.

পদ্মা অয়েল পিএলসি
বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান
Website: www.pocl.gov.bd
E-mail: info@pocl.gov.bd
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
খালিদ ও হানিম সম্পদ বিকাশের আওতাধীন বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন (বিপিসি) এর অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান পদ্মা অয়েল পিএলসি'র 'এভিয়েশন বিভাগে' নিম্নলিখিত পদসমূহে স্থায়ীভাবে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (http://pocl.teletalk.com.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে। অনলাইন ব্যক্তিগত কোন প্রকার আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবেনা।



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
"Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities
in different strategic locations across the country" Project
Directorate General of Food
16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
www.dgfood.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Manufacturers/Suppliers for the following Mechanical Ventilation with all relevant services under "Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country project" as per terms and conditions stated below:

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Food			
2. Agency	Directorate General of Food			
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, "Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country" Project			
4. Procuring Entity Code	N/A			
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6. Invitation for	Supply and Installation of Mechanical Ventilator for New Food Godowns at Different Districts of Bangladesh with Given Technical Specification.			
7. Invitation Ref. No and Date	Ref: No. 13.01.0000.366.38.065.25-1926, Date: 12-08-2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
8. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9. Source of Funds	GoB			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10. Project/Program Code	224382400			
11. Project/Program Name	Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country.			
12. Tender Package No.	GD-10			
13. Tender Package Name	Supply and Installation of Mechanical Ventilator for New Food Godowns at Different Districts of Bangladesh with Given Technical Specification.			
14. Tender Publication Date	13-08-2025			
15. Tender Last Selling Date	10-09-2025 at 5:00 PM			
16. Tender Last Submission Date and Time	11-09-2025 at 12:00 PM			
17. Tender Opening Date and Time	11-09-2025 at 12:30 PM			
18. Name & Address of the Office(s)	Office of the Project Director, "Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country" Project, Directorate General of Food (Khaddya Bhaban), Room No. 329 (3 rd Floor), 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
19. Eligibility of Tenderer	The invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderer's who satisfy the following: a. Mechanical Ventilation manufacturing and/or installing in the supply of Similar equipment & Goods and related services as Supplier shall be [10] years. b. The tenderer should have an experience in delivery and installation of Mechanical Ventilation/Similar equipment. Work order/ contract agreement/ completion certificate must be submitted. c. The tenderer must have experience for successful supply and installation of Mechanical Ventilations valuing at least Tk. 2700 (Two Thousand Seven Hundred) Lac each for minimum two (2) contracts within last five years, i.e. years counting backward from the date of opening tender. d. The tenderer should have a minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Taka 3100 (Three Thousand One Hundred) Lac. e. Debarred bidders from any Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous organization will be treated as ineligible for participation in tender. f. Other qualifications of the tenderer are as stated in the tender document.			
20. Brief Description of Related Services.	Supply and Installation of Mechanical Ventilator for New Food Godowns at Different Districts of Bangladesh with Given Technical Specification.			
21. Tender Document Schedule Price	Taka 5,000 (Taka Five Thousand Only), Non-refundable.			
Tender Security				
Package	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security (Taka in Lac)	Completion Time
GD-10	Single	Different Districts of Bangladesh. Details are given in the tender documents	80.00	18 months from the date of contract signing
INFORMATION OF PROCURING ENTITY				
23. Name of Official Inviting Tender.	Mohd. Aminul Islam			
24. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director			
25. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director, "Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country" Project, Directorate General of Food (Khaddya Bhaban), Room No. 329 (3 rd Floor), 16 Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.			
26. Contact Detail of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No: 02-41050153, e-mail address: pdcnfg@dgfood.gov.bd & pdcnfg.dgfood@gmail.com			
27. Special Instruction	(a) All submittals must be signed by the Tenderer, if not the Tender will be treated as non-responsive in case of submitting Tender Documents by secured post service must be addressed to Project Director, Construction of New Food Godowns with ancillary facilities in different strategic locations across the country, 16, Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000 and it must be reached within the time mentioned in SI.No. 17 of IFT. (b) Tender Submission Letter (Form PG-3-1) should be filled in and signed as per form attached with the Tender Document, if not Tender shall not be accepted. (c) Any less or discount/above on total quoted amount in the abstract of BOQ of Tender Document will not be accepted but modification as per ITT Clause 40.1 will be accepted. (d) Notification of award (NOA) will be issued to the successful Tenderer after getting approval from the competent authority. (e) Any false, forged and misleading documents furnished by Tenderers shall result in rejection of the tender. (f) In the event of unavoidable circumstances, if the selling, receiving & opening of the tender cannot be done on the above mentioned dates, the next normal working day will be treated as the valid date of selling, receiving & opening of the tender respectively. Time and place shall remain unchanged.			
28. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender Proceedings.				

Mohd. Aminul Islam
Project Director
Tel: +880 2-41050154
e-Mail: pdcnfg@dgfood.gov.bd

GD-1773

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Programming Division, Planning Commission
Strengthening Development Budget Management Capability of Programming Division
through establishing a new Digital Database System (SDBM) Project
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM IT FIRM FOR TECHNICAL STUDY

1. Ministry / Division	Planning Division			
2. Agency	Programming Division, Planning Commission			
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, SDBM Project			
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
5. EOI for Selection of	Consulting firm for technical study on Integrated Public Investment Management System for Planning Commission			
6. EOI Ref No	20.06.0000.002.14.173.2025-11			
7. Date	11/08/2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
8. Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9. Budget & Source of Funds	Development Budget, GoB			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10. Project / Program Code	224128700			
11. Project / Program Name	Strengthening Development Budget Management Capability of Programming Division through Establishing a New Digital Database System (SDBM) Project			
12. EOI Closing Date & Time	03/09/2025 at 1:00 pm			
13. Place	Office of the Project Director, Room 13, Building 2, SDBM Project, Programming Division, Planning Commission.			
INFORMATION OF APPLICANT				
14. Brief Description of Assignment	Various development project management activities are performed by multiple entities of the Government. These functions are supported by various application systems developed independently by different entities. Currently, each system is developed using distinct technologies and databases, resulting in siloed, isolated systems with only limited API integration. This inadequate integration leads to inefficiencies and hampers comprehensive development project management. To address these challenges, it is essential to unify all applications into a integrated platform that consolidates diverse systems into a centralized, robust solution. This will improve workflow efficiency, enhance coordination across units, and strengthen the Planning Commission's ability to perform the development project management effectively. This technical study will provide a comprehensive guideline for the robust system.			
15. Experience, Resource & Delivery Capacity Required	(a) The firm must have minimum 5 years' experience in the field of technical and feasibility Studies, (b) must have practical experience (successful Completion) of developing more than 3 Studies on technical and feasibility nature for Government of Bangladesh or any of its agencies, preferably in the areas of Web based solution, (c) have experience of completing a contract value of at least BDT 2(Two) Crore in a single contract, (d) The firm must have in-house Project Manager, Technical and Financial Consultants for the purpose, (e) the firm should demonstrate its management capacity (brochures and other documents describing similar assignments, experiences, availability of appropriate professional staffs and experiences among applicant's staffs, resources to carry out the assignment) in managing large scale projects. (f) The firm has to demonstrate its logistical capability, i.e., well-equipped office space in Dhaka, Bangladesh with necessary facilities. (g) Should include updated Trade license, VAT certificate, Tax Identification Number certificate, (h) Must have certificate of incorporation (i) Company profile showing organizational structure and logistics, (j) Must have up to date Certificate of Professional Bodies such as BCS, BASIS, DCCI etc.			
16. Other Details (if applicable)	Interested firm must provide documents (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staffs, capacity, logistics etc. in support of their experience and qualifications demonstrating that they are fully qualified to perform the services) along with the EoI. Interested consultancy firms will submit 01 (one) original and 01 (one) true copy of the EoI in sealed envelopes marked with the "title" must be on or before the specific closing date and time, only short-listed Firms will be allowed to submit RFP (Request for Proposal). Detailed information can be collected from the project office.			
17. Ref. No.	Phase of Service	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
20.06.0000.002.14.173.2025-11	Not phased	SDBM Project, Programming Division, Planning Commission, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka (room 34, building 7)	October 2025	March 2026
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
18. Name of the Official inviting EOI	AHM Anwar Pasha			
19. Designation of the Official inviting EOI	Project Director, SDBM Project			
20. Address of the Official inviting EOI	Room-13, Building # 2, Programming Division, Planning Commission, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka			
21. Contact Details	Telephone: 880-2-48113882, email: pasha6892@gmail.com			
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all or any EOI without showing any reason thereof.				

AHM Anwar Pasha
Project Director, SDBM Project

GD-1771



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chief Adviser's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project
House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

Invitation for Tender

03/2025-2026

Ref No. 03.06.7895.325.14.132.2025-472

Date: 11 August 2025

1. Ministry/Division	Chief Adviser's Office
2. Agency	Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director, Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project, BEPZA, Dhaka.
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5. Invitation for	Work
6. Invitation Ref No. & date	03.06.7895.325.14.123.2025-472 Date: 11 August 2025
KEY INFORMATION	
7. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), (NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
8. Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (GoB)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
9. Project code	224380500
10. Project name	Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project.
11. Tender Package No.	PEPZ W-06
12. Tender package name	Construction of storm water drain at Patuakhali EPZ Project (Package BEPZA W-06)
13. Tender publication date	14 August 2025
14. Tender last selling date	09 September 2025 during office hour
15. Important instruction to tenderers for submitting their tenders	The Tenderer shall submit the tender with one (01) copy in sealed condition
16. Tender closing date and time	10 September 2025 at 12:00 Noon.
17. Tender opening date and time	10 September 2025 at 02:00pm.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
20. Eligibility of tenderer	1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor shall be 5 (five) years (Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper). Documentary evidence (i.e. initial trade license or oldest trade license/oldest work completion certificate or equivalent) shall be submitted. 2. Tenderer having record of poor performance such as abandoning or not completing the contract, inordinate delay, defective or poor workmanship, financial failures, wasteful claims, consistent history of litigation, debarred by any public sector organization shall not be considered in evaluation.

3. The Tenderer must have successful work completion experience of drain related work in a single contract amounting not less than BDT 4,800.00 lac during last 05 (five) years in govt./semi-govt./autonomous bodies. The works certificates shall have to be issued by the Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent officer of concerned Department/Organization				
4. The required minimum average annual construction turnover is BDT 10,000.00 lac. Construction turnover will be calculated on the basis of completion/payment certificates which have been executed within last 05 years where best 03 years will be considered.				
5. The required minimum Liquid Asset is BDT 2,500.00 lac in prescribed format of Credit Line certificate from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh without any alteration.				
6. The required minimum tender capacity is BDT 6,000.00 lac.				
7. Blacklisted/debarred bidders from any govt./semi-govt. autonomous organizations will be treated as ineligible to participate in the Tender				
8. Up-to-date trade license, income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate etc. shall be submitted.				
9. Other required conditions and documents of the Tenderer are shown in the TDS of Tender Documents must be fulfilled.				
10. All other criteria will be taken according to the Public Procurement Act & Rules. N.B: Interested Tenderers are encouraged to visit the site prior to participate in tendering process.				
21. Brief description of works	Earthwork, RCC, Brick work, Sand/Earth back filling, Plastering work, etc.			
22. Price of tender document (Tk)	20,000.00 (twenty thousand) only.			
23. Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount in favor of BEPZA in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order	Completion time
i. Single	Construction of storm water drain at Patuakhali EPZ Project (Package BEPZA W-06)	Patuakhali EPZ, Patuakhali	Tk 2,00,000,00.00	270 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
24. Name of official inviting tender	Mohammad Shafiqul Islam			
25. Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project, BEPZA, Dhaka.			
26. Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project, BEPZA Complex, 2nd Floor, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.			
27. Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No. 0241060133			
Special instruction				
(a) Eligible firms/authorized representative may purchase tender documents from the offices mentioned in SI-18 on submitting written request in their letterhead pad.				
(b) Any false, forged and misleading documents furnished by Tenderer shall result in rejection of the Tender.				
(c) In case of any confusion arises due to printing mistake or other reason, The Public Procurement Rules-2008 and its amendments will govern.				
(d) Tender should be submitted original along with one duplicate copy and it should be mentioned on the cover sheet.				
(e) Tenderer failure to submit relevant and acceptable Method Statement of the work including Safety Procedures in the Tender may not be considered for Evaluation.				
(f) All papers of submitted tender documents including bidder's profile must be signed by the contractor or its authorized representative.				
(g) The tender shall be valid for a period of 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of submission the Tender. The tender notice is also available at website: www.bepza.gov.bd of BEPZA and www.cptu.gov.bd of BPPA.				
29. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the Tenders or annul the Tendering Proceedings.				

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
Project Director
Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project
BEPZA, Dhaka
Email: pd.pepza@bepza.gov.bd

GD-1777

It is something I could not even dream as a kid. I wanted to play in the Premier League but I could never imagine to win it. Pictures that will be shown forever. It is a remarkable achievement for a small guy that came from Gondomar, where I had this dream.

Former Liverpool forward Diogo Jota said in a documentary just weeks before his death



"It's often debated what the best fitness test is. I prefer the time trial because it's simple and doesn't require any equipment. You can do it anywhere -- a cricket ground or an athletics track. We don't get an off-season like many Western teams, so when we get a break, we focus on testing and improving fitness. I'm really pleased with the progress, especially from the younger group. They're committed to improving -- not just as cricketers, but as athletes."

Nathan Kiely, Bangladesh national cricket team's strength and conditioning coach, told reporters on Tuesday in Mirpur.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PUSHING THE LIMITS

Najmul Hossain Shanto, Soumya Sarkar, Taskin Ahmed and Mohammad Saifuddin power through a strength drill under strength and conditioning coach Nathan Kiely during an intense fitness session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur yesterday.

Maruf's laments Abahani's lack of depth

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's hopes of advancing beyond the preliminary round of the AFC Challenge League were dashed after the six-time Bangladesh Premier League champions suffered a 2-0 defeat to Muras United at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Forward Atai Dzhumashev scored both goals in the second half to take the Kyrgyzstan outfit into the group stage of Asia's third-tier club competition in their debut appearance, while Abahani were eliminated from the preliminary round for the third time since reaching the inter-zonal semifinal of the now-defunct AFC Cup in 2019.

Maruf Haque's charges held their formidable opponents -- bolstered by five Ukrainian footballers in the starting eleven -- to a goalless draw in the first half. The Dhamondi outfit successfully neutralised Muras United's natural wing play and created a couple of opportunities on the counter-attack but failed to convert those chances.



Three minutes into the second half, Muras broke the deadlock with a precise header from Dzhumashev on a well-measured cross from Ukrainian full-back Andriy Batsula. Dzhumashev then sealed the victory in stoppage time, dispossessing defender Kamrul Islam before calmly finishing.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Maruf attributed the defeat to a lack of squad depth and believed the outcome could have been different had they fielded more foreign players in key positions.

"I want to congratulate Muras United, who deserved the victory," said Maruf.

"I focused more on the players' mentality than fitness because our boys tend to get frustrated too easily. Besides, our squad lacks depth -- you saw our substitutions. Kamrul (Islam) was supposed to be replaced much earlier, but we simply don't have a proper replacement for him, and that cost us."

Maruf continued, "We could have made a difference if we had a dynamic foreign midfielder who could distribute the ball effectively. Also, a foreign winger would likely not have made the same errors that Ibrahim did in the first half."

Reflecting on the tactical execution, Maruf added, "We followed our game plan in both halves. However, Al Amin couldn't stop the goal-scoring cross in the second half because of his excessive running in the first half. The right-back was tasked with blocking the outside, while Al Amin was supposed to cover the inside. Unfortunately, he couldn't stop the cross, which led to the goal."

"Muras United struggled to deliver effective crosses throughout the match -- except for that one which eventually made the difference," Maruf concluded.

NCL teams to be finalised after fitness test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will finalise the eight teams for the upcoming National Cricket League (NCL) T20 and the subsequent four-day tournament following a two-day fitness test on September 4-5.

Divisional teams have already submitted separate lists of 30 players each.

After the assessments, selectors will finalise squads of 15 players per team, with four to five like-for-like players kept as standbys.

"Before the fitness test, players will undergo training under BCB fitness trainers. Alongside fitness, they will also work on their skills," a BCB official told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Initially, teams will only be formed for the T20 competition. The four-day squads will be announced later," the official added, noting that the fitness test will take place in Dhaka.

The BCB is still undecided on the fate of Dhaka Metro players, who will feature in the NCL T20 starting September 14, as the side will be replaced by Mymensingh Division in the longer-version tournament.

There has been discussion on whether Dhaka Metro players will represent Mymensingh in the four-day competition, scheduled to start in mid-October. However, according to the official, the decision will be made once BCB president Aminul Islam returns from Australia next week.

Will BCB's vagueness around Mirpur wickets change?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has once again brought back Australia's Tony Hemming -- this time as the head of turf management, after previously hiring him as a curator.

This decision has generated considerable buzz, largely because of his elevated role. Hemming now outranks Sri Lanka's Gamini De Silva, who has served as the head curator of the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur since 2010.

For much of the past decade, the Mirpur surface has been under scrutiny for the wrong reasons, with Gamini's work questioned repeatedly.

"It's not like Gamini did not try, but maybe he had limitations which he could not overcome," BCB director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim said during a press conference following Saturday's board meeting.

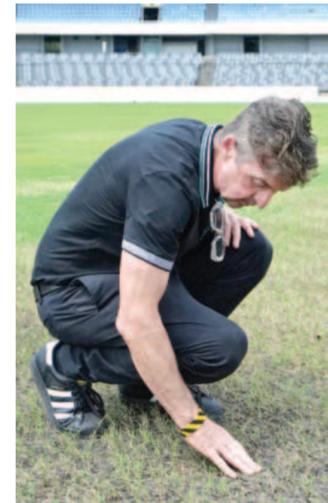
So, why has the board only now acknowledged Gamini's limitations, despite Mirpur being one of the most criticised venues for many years?

Poor bounce in Mirpur has been a recurring complaint, especially since 2016. Yet it appears that the BCB has only recently prioritised reforming the wickets, after significant damage had already been done.

Mirpur has hosted 66 T20Is so far. Between 2011 and 2015, the average T20I score there was 142.5. Since 2016, that average has dropped to 130. Despite this decline, Gamini, who has been with BCB since 2010, did not feel the board's ire.

Given that the venue hosts most of the national team's matches, the Mirpur wickets have often been cited as a reason for batters' poor performances in ICC and other multinational tournaments.

Bats have broken due to players trying



to adjust to the low bounce on practice wickets adjacent to the indoor facility. The academy wickets -- intended for use during the monsoon -- were underprepared in recent months.

These issues prompted new BCB president Aminul Islam to intervene personally, inspecting the wickets after hearing players' concerns.

There is reason to believe Gamini's explanations for the poor surfaces were less convincing this time, particularly after last month's home series against Pakistan.

Interestingly, media reports have often suggested that the national team preferred lower and slower wickets -- especially against non-subcontinental teams. However, in a recent press conference, BCB directors claimed that neither the coach nor the players wanted the kind of

wickets prepared for the Pakistan series.

It is, however, widely known that during Chandika Hathurusingha's tenure, Bangladesh often relied on such wickets to secure favourable results.

Several explanations have been given for Mirpur's poor surfaces: overuse due to too many matches at the same venue, unfavourable weather conditions, and insufficient preparation time.

With Hemming's return, BCB signalled that it lacked confidence in Gamini's ability to implement necessary changes alone, effectively placing the blame solely on the Sri Lankan curator.

The reasoning remains unclear. For years, the board showed little urgency even after repeated complaints about the surfaces, while Gamini himself believed he was simply following instructions.

It finally dawned on BCB that transition to sporting wickets must be made, with BCB director Faheem saying that Hemming's work in Pakistan was promising.

In reality, Pakistan's wickets have generally been flat, offering runs for batters but lacking the balance that true sporting tracks provide.

Given the long-standing vagueness over what Mirpur wickets should be, responsibility for the situation should be shared. Yet, the BCB seems eager to praise itself for Hemming's appointment.

If the board's mindset on the importance of quality wickets has genuinely shifted, it will be reflected in Hemming's work over the coming months.

The BCB president told this newspaper that a variety of wickets is essential for better preparation, and that surfaces should be built around a clear plan. What that plan cannot be is replicating Pakistan-style pitches -- doing so would only prove that the BCB holds a very different idea of what "sporting wickets" truly mean.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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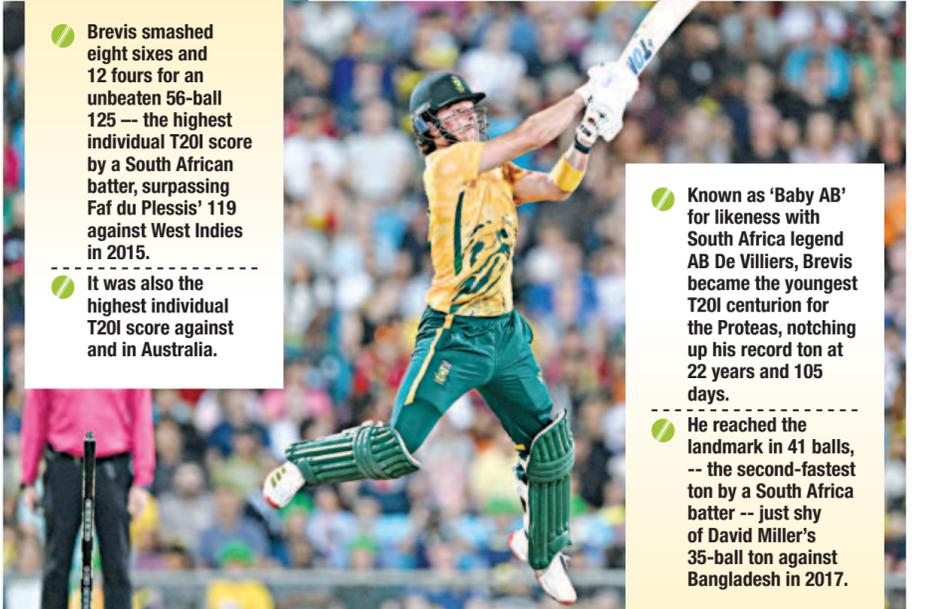
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ: ২৮ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২
১২ আশ্বিন ১৪৩২

ক্র.সং.	মন্তব্য/বিবরণ	পরিশোধিত মূল্য
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
২	সরকারি কার্যালয়/প্রকল্পের নাম	সরকারি ভূমি ও ক্যান্টনমেন্ট অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস
৩	সরকারি কার্যালয়/প্রকল্পের তারিখ	২০১৫-২০১৬ আর্থিক সালের জন্য "অন্য প্রয়োজন কখন সহকারী" বিজ্ঞপ্তি টেন্ডারের মাধ্যমে সরকারি/প্রাইভেট প্রতিষ্ঠান দিয়ে
৪	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫-০২-২০১৫, ০২-০৭-২০১৫, ২৪-০৮-১৫, ২৪-০৮-১৫, ২৪-০৮-১৫
৫	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫
৬	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫
৭	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫
৮	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫
৯	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫
১০	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫
১১	সরকারি নথি ও তারিখ	১৫/০৮/১৫

মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রতি বিদ্যমান শর্তাবলী:
(১) সরকারি কর্মসূচি পরিচালনা ও মন্ত্রণালয়ের কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করে ০৫/০৮/১৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বিদ্যমান শর্তাবলী ০৫/০৮/১৫ (শিফট) টাঙ্ক (সেফটকোয়াল) মুদ্রা সিস্টেম পরিচালনা করতে কাজ করে হবে।
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শ্রীমান আব্দুল হক
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Brevis smashed eight sixes and 12 fours for an unbeaten 56-ball 125 -- the highest individual T20I score by a South African batter, surpassing Faf du Plessis' 119 against West Indies in 2015.

It was also the highest individual T20I score against and in Australia.

Known as 'Baby AB' for likeness with South Africa legend AB De Villiers, Brevis became the youngest T20I centurion for the Proteas, notching up his record ton at 22 years and 105 days.

He reached the landmark in 41 balls, -- the second-fastest ton by a South Africa batter -- just shy of David Miller's 35-ball ton against Bangladesh in 2017.

South Africa batter Dewald Brevis lit up Darwin with his maiden T20I century which set up a series-levelling 53-run win for the Proteas in the second T20I of the three-match series against Australia. His knock rescued South Africa from a shaky 57-3 to a dominant 218-7 before three wickets apiece from Kwena Maphaka and Corbin Bosch helped bundle out the hosts to 165 in 17.4 overs.

PHOTO: AFP

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BB to outline merger process for five ailing Islamic banks

It will detail funds needed, fate of shares

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank will send a letter to the government soon, detailing how to merge five troubled Islamic banks in what officials say is the formal start of implementing the sector's long-discussed consolidation plan.

The letter will specify the funds required for the process and the fate of the banks' shares, according to a decision taken at a meeting at the central bank yesterday.

At a press conference, central bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said discussions on mergers were ongoing and an official announcement would be made in due course. He reassured depositors there was no cause for panic, as all funds would be returned.

Under the newly enacted Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, the BB has initially decided to merge Social Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Palestinians scramble to collect aid supplies from trucks that entered Gaza through Israel, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Fighting across Myanmar border worries locals

BGB on high alert in Bandarban over fears of entry of Arakan Army soldiers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A tense situation is prevailing along the Bangladesh-Myanmar frontier after an armed member of the Arakan Army (AA) entered Bangladesh on Monday, hours after prolonged bursts of gunfire from the Myanmar side in Bandarban's Ghumdhum border.

The gunfight, which began around 10:00pm on Sunday, is believed to have been between AA and rival armed groups allegedly backed by Myanmar's junta.

No casualties were reported on the Bangladesh side, but the sounds of heavy weapons rattled residents in Ghumdhum, Chakdhala and surrounding areas.

Some dozen armed AA members are currently positioned near the Naf river in Myanmar's Laldwip area and waiting for an opportunity to cross into Bangladesh to take shelter. The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the matter.

Their location has been pinpointed about three kilometres east of the Dumdumia Border Outpost (BOP) under Teknaf Battalion 2 of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on the Myanmar side.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

SURVEILLANCE BY AL GOVT Spending spiked before last three elections

Says Tech Global Institute report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the run-up to Bangladesh's last three national elections, state spending on surveillance technologies surged dramatically, according to a report by Tech Global Institute, titled "The Digital Police State: Surveillance, Secrecy and State Power in Bangladesh".

The report estimated that at least \$20 million was spent on surveillance systems in the 12 to 18 months preceding the 2018 and 2024 general elections.

"AL's [Awami League] use of surveillance played a key role in securing three consecutive election victories in 2014, 2018, and 2023, each marked by credible allegations of widespread electoral irregularities," claimed the report. "Its principal rivals, including BNP and JIB [Jamaat-e-Islami], along with dissidents, students, and activists, were subjected to intensive and invasive surveillance, often leading to arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings."

Before the 2018 polls, spending largely focused on geolocation trackers and related software. By 2023, the focus shifted towards more intrusive spyware, capable of remote eavesdropping, full device access, and large-scale data extraction.

Procurement records and training logs from 2022 to 2024 reveal a strong emphasis on tools designed to extract data from encrypted platforms, including Messenger, Telegram, WhatsApp, and Viber.

The report found that many purchases were aimed at bypassing end-to-end encryption or deploying malware to enable remote device access, allowing direct retrieval of app-based communications.

TGI found that the most significant spike came in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Educationist Mahfuza Khanam passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned educationist, social worker, and women's rights advocate Mahfuza Khanam passed away in Dhaka yesterday. She was 79.

Mahfuza was also a freedom fighter and a former vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU).

She died at Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital on Eskaton Road around 12:00pm, her family told this newspaper.

Mahfuza had gone for a swim at the Officers' Club on Bailey Road around 10:00am when she collapsed. She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared her dead. She had suffered a heart attack.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

83% in favour of caretaker govt system

Shujan survey finds 63% want rotating reserved seats for women in lower house, and 69% favour 30 reserved seats for women in upper house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighty-three percent of people are in favour of forming an election-time caretaker government for 120 days during the national polls.

They want a provision for the caretaker government system in the constitution. Moreover, 79 percent want irregularities and fraud in the last three general elections to be investigated and those responsible to be held accountable.

These findings come from a public opinion survey conducted as part of the process to finalise the National Charter proposed by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform.

Ekram Hossain, a member of Shujan's national committee, presented the survey results at a press briefing at the Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

The survey, conducted between May and July this year, gathered responses to 40 questions from 1,373 people across the country, in addition to feedback from 15 citizen dialogues. Of the respondents, 335 were women, 1,033 men, and five were from the third gender.

When asked whether the current government

is neutral, Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said, "This government does not represent any political party. It is a non-partisan government."

According to the survey, 69 percent support a bicameral legislature, while 63 percent favour rotating reserved seats for women in the lower house, and 69 percent want 30 reserved seats for women in the upper house.

Seventy-one percent favour proportional representation (PR) system in the upper house, 86 percent want the deputy speaker of the House to be appointed from the opposition, and 82 percent want the deputy speaker of the upper house to be from the opposition as well.

Eighty-seven percent support a provision barring the same individual from holding the posts of prime minister, leader of the house, and party chief simultaneously.

Eighty-nine percent favour limiting the prime minister's tenure to a maximum of two terms. Eighty-seven percent support a cabinet-led government, while 88 percent favour increasing the power of the president.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

MOB ATTACK IN RANGPUR Cops forced to retreat without rescuing victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

When the mob was fatally beating two people on suspicion of van theft in Rangpur on Saturday night, some policemen went there but they left the scene without rescuing the victims.

Around one hour later, police accompanied by security forces went there again and rescued the victims in an unresponsive state.

Ruplal Robidas and his relative Pradip Lal Robidas died. The Daily Star's correspondent talked to around a dozen witnesses and police also confirmed the account.

"After the chaos began, some 12 to 14 policemen came here in two police vans. But they failed to control the mob and rescue the two. The policemen left the scene after a few minutes," said an eyewitness seeking anonymity.

The witness had seen Sub-Inspector Abu Jobayer of Taraganj Police Station at the scene.

Contacted, Abu Jobayer, who is also the investigation officer of the case, said, "I cannot remember whether I was present there at that time."

Jobayer admitted that some policemen were present there, but he refused to name any.

Seeking anonymity, another eyewitness said, "Agitating people had surrounded the two men. They

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Israeli planes, tanks bombard Gaza City

20 killed; Hamas leader arrives in Cairo to revive ceasefire talks

AGENCIES

Israeli planes and tanks bombarded eastern areas of Gaza City yesterday, killing at least 20 people, witnesses and medics said, with Hamas leader Khalil Al-Hayya arrived in Cairo for talks to revive a US-backed ceasefire plan.

The latest round of indirect talks in Qatar ended in deadlock in late July with Israel and Palestinian group Hamas trading blame over the lack of progress on a US proposal for a 60-day truce and hostage release deal.

Israel has since said it will launch a new offensive and seize control of Gaza City.

Witnesses and medics said Israeli planes and tanks pounded eastern districts of Gaza City again overnight, killing seven people in two houses in the Zeitoun suburb and four in an apartment building in the city centre, reports Reuters.

In the south of the enclave, five people including a couple and their child were killed by an Israeli airstrike on a house in the city of Khan Younis and four by a strike on a tent encampment in nearby, coastal Mawasi, medics said.

Five more people, including two children, have died of starvation and malnutrition in Gaza in the past 24 hours, the territory's health ministry said. The new deaths raised the number of deaths from the same causes to 227, including 103 children, since the war started, it added.



To deceive buyers, a group of unscrupulous traders use toxic red dyes to make fish appear fresher than they are. Consuming fish soaked in such chemicals can be hazardous to health. The photo was taken recently at Fishery Ghat in Chattogram city.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Atpara UNO sued for beating youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A case has been filed against Ruel Sangma, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Atpara in Netrakona, on charges of beating a young man during disorder in distribution of rice among the poor before Eid-ul-Fitr.

Although the incident occurred around four and a half months ago, it drew public attention recently after a video of the UNO taking a baton from police and beating 18-year-old Durjoy went viral on social media.

Durjoy, the son of day labourer Shahid Mia from Bishnupur village of the upazila, went to Banijan Union Parishad office on March 24 to collect rice on behalf of his mother.

Each of 2,037 beneficiaries in the area was being given 10 kg of rice under the government's Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme during Ramadan, according to the case filed in a court by Upazila Jubo Dal Joint Convener Raihan Kabir last Sunday.

Disorder broke out due to people breaking the queue. At the same time, the UNO arrived at the scene