



SADA PATHOR stripped bare

Sylhet's iconic white-stone landmark falls victim to rampant looting

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

Bholaganj's Sada Pathor, a broad, shallow stretch of the Dholai River where smooth white stones once lay against the backdrop of Meghalaya's hills, has long been one of Sylhet's top tourist attractions.

Now, after months of rampant extraction and looting, the area resembles a ravaged quarry -- scarred with pits and mud, with its iconic boulders almost gone.

Environmental groups and locals said the illegal extraction in Companiganj and Gowainghat upazilas surged after the Awami League government's ouster in August last year.

They estimate the plunder is worth hundreds of crores of taka, though there is no official valuation.

"These are no random incidents. The stones have been and are being extracted through organised looting, carried out on a massive scale and backed by politically influential figures," said Advocate Shah Shaheda Akhter, divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

- Locals say looting intensified after August last year
- ACC launches probe into looting
- Writ petition seeks action against culprits

Abdul Karim Kim, member secretary of Dhoritri Rokhhay Amra (DHORA), said the massive looting started immediately following the AL regime's collapse on August 5 last year, after a quiet period of nearly four years at the stone extraction sites in the Sylhet region.

"In just a few days after the fall of the Awami League regime, stones worth over a thousand crore taka were looted from the extraction sites in Companiganj and Gowainghat upazilas, including all nearby areas of Sada Pathor tourist attraction," Abdul Karim Kim claimed.

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Sylhet's iconic white-stone landmark and tourist attraction, the Bholaganj Sada Pathor now lies barren after miscreants looted stones worth hundreds of crores over the past year. *Inset*, what Sada Pathor looked like in April last year.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH NASIR



ELECTION READINESS Fault lines exposed after NCP leader's comments

MD ABBAS

As the nation looks toward a smooth transfer of power to elected representatives, National Citizen Party leader Nasiruddin Patwary's remarks that the polls cannot be held in February 2026 without reforms have ignited a political debate.

While another NCP leader later insisted that Patwary was stressing the need for reforms before polls, several political parties and analysts yesterday criticised his language as "dictatorial, irresponsible, and reminiscent of old political tactics".

Patwary, the NCP's chief coordinator, made the remarks at the National Youth Conference at Dhaka's Krishibid Institution on Tuesday, organised to mark International Youth Day.

"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 alleged the election was being planned under the same "fascist" constitution and system.

Patwary's comments came around a week after Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus announced that the polls would be held in February, starting the process of returning to an elected government.

Political observers said the declaration, coming after weeks of speculation, set a clear target for the Election Commission and government agencies to work toward,

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We will hand over power to people thru free, fair polls

Says Yunus

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is working hard to hold a free, fair, and transparent election in February next year so that power is handed over to the people, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said.

"Our government is focused on ensuring peace and stability. We are committed to strengthening democracy and giving power back to its rightful owner -- the

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Promises on paper, pollution in reality

PINAKI ROY

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan's admission of failure to stop rampant stone extraction in Sylhet's Jallong may be honest, but it highlights her glaring limitations as an administrator.

The adviser, who has championed environmental causes for nearly three decades, recently acknowledged that, as a de facto minister, she has failed to achieve what she had previously achieved as an environmentalist.

At an event on July 26, she said, "For four years, we were able to stop stone extraction in Jallong, but I could not prevent it now when I am an adviser. So, this is our reality. We saw all-party consensus on extracting stones ... but we haven't seen consensus on protecting Jallong."

Venting her frustration over Sada Pathor, a popular tourist destination in Sylhet, which has been stripped bare of its white stones in a matter of months, she said, "If you want to learn how to destroy a beautiful place, you have to come to Bangladesh."

However, it's not all bad news: there have been successes on some fronts.

Speaking to The Daily Star recently, the adviser said her

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ALMOST NO PROGRESS

River pollution remains as high as before

Markets still flooded with single-use poly bags

No concrete measure to combat air pollution

SOME SUCCESS

Recovered over 5,000-acre forest land

Temporarily banned tourists from St Martin's

Demolished 830 brick kilns, shut 18 lead factories

Rights situation stabilises, but concerns linger

Says US state dept report on Bangladesh last year

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The human rights situation in Bangladesh has stabilised following the July uprising but concerns remain, according to the US State Department's Bangladesh 2024 Human Rights Report.

Although the interim government has taken steps to address impunity, including collaboration with the UN and the use of the International Crimes Tribunal, challenges persist, said the report, which was released on Tuesday.

Restrictions on speech, vague definitions of hate speech, and legal tools for repression are there in the statute books, giving future governments potential means to stifle dissent.

Concerns centre on the protection of civil liberties, prevention of abuse by security forces and ensuring accountability for past and future violations.

The interim government began taking steps to address past abuses, including arrests of former officials and party activists accused of rights violations.

The report details sweeping abuses under the previous government, including arbitrary killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary

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'We reject such sweeping statements'

Editors' Council responds to Jatiya Juboshakti's claims against media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday strongly protested the "unwanted" allegations against the media made by the National Citizen Party's youth wing Jatiya Juboshakti at a programme on Sunday.

A statement, signed by the council's President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Haniif Mahmud, said, "We clearly reject such sweeping remarks. A majority of the print media played an extremely important role during last year's student-public uprising."

On Sunday, speakers at the National Youth Conference 2025, organised by Jatiya Juboshakti to mark International Youth Day, accused the media of "character assassination" of those involved in the July uprising.

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Teachers of MPO-enlisted schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions engage with police during a demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. Their demands, among other things, include a 45 percent house rent allowance. Story on Page 3.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

End the war or face 'very severe consequences'

Trump tells Putin ahead of Alaska meet

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin with "very severe consequences" if he does not agree to end the war in Ukraine during their upcoming summit in Alaska.

Asked if Russia would face repercussions if Putin does not agree to end the conflict, Trump told reporters, "Yes, they will."

"They will face very serious consequences," he said during remarks at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

The remarks came just hours after Trump took part in a virtual meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other European leaders, which the US president said was "very good."

"I would rate it a 10, you know, very, very friendly," he said.

The comments come as the president prepares to sit down with Putin for the first time in his second term.

Trump said the face-to-face summit, slated to take place in Alaska's most populous city of Anchorage, is likely to result in the establishment of a trilateral summit with Putin, Zelenskyy and himself.

"There's a very good chance that we're going to have a second meeting, which will be more productive than the first, because the first is, I'm going to find out where we are and what we're doing," he said.

"If the first one goes okay, we'll have a quick second

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Nepal waives climbing fees for 97 mountain peaks

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has waived climbing fees for 97 mountains, officials said yesterday, hoping to steer people to its lesser-known peaks and boost local economies.

Climbers pay for permits on Nepali peaks and the fees vary depending on the mountain's height and popularity, with hefty charges for those such as Everest.

The 97 mountains, ranging in height from 5,870 metres (19,300 feet) to 7,132 metres, are located in the western Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces.

"We hope it will bring our hidden treasures in the limelight and diversify the mountains Nepal offers," Himal Gautam, of Nepal's tourism department, told AFP.

It follows a busy spring climbing season in Nepal during which the government issued 1,168 climbing permits.

Over half of those were for peaks above 8,000 metres, including Everest, the tallest in the world at 8,849 metres.



PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus returns home after wrapping up his three-day official visit to Malaysia last night.

Rights situation

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detention, transnational repression and severe curbs on freedom of expression.

Under Sheikh Hasina's administration, rights groups and media reported "widespread impunity" for abuses, with rare prosecutions and mostly administrative punishments for security personnel found guilty, the report said.

It accused the former government of systematically violating constitutional protections on free expression.

Journalists and bloggers faced harassment, intimidation, and arrest under the Digital Security Act, Cyber Security Act and the ICT Act, often for criticising the government or religious views.

As of August last year, 5,818 cybercrime cases were pending in tribunals, including 1,340 classed as "speech-based offences". Even teenagers were prosecuted.

In September last year, the interim government announced the withdrawal of over 1,000 such cases and pledged to release detainees charged solely for speech-related offences.

It also revoked press credentials for 167 journalists tied to the former ruling party, limiting their access to official events.

In the first eight months of last year, rights group Ain o Salish Kendra documented 388 journalists harassed or attacked, including five shot during the protests.

Two journalists were killed and 128 were injured in 120 incidents, according to the Human Rights Support Society.

The report highlighted continued allegations of enforced disappearances under the Awami League, with most victims being political opponents or activists.

Between January and June, HRSS recorded three disappearances and eight illegal detentions lasting more than 24 hours.

After the change of government, many long missing individuals were released from secret detention centres, where some were held for years without charge.

Indigenous rights activist Michael Chakma was freed after more than five years in secret custody. Human Rights Watch estimates around 100 disappearance victims remain missing.

The interim government has faced at least one allegation of disappearance.

Relatives of Aslam Serniabat, an automobile association official, accused law enforcement of abducting him on August 29 last year. Police later produced him in court in connection with a murder case.

End war

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one. I would like to do it almost immediately, and we'll have a quick second meeting between President Putin and President Zelenskyy and myself, if they'd like to have it," he said.

Trump said that while "certain great things" can be achieved during Friday's summit it is largely geared toward "setting the table" for a follow-up trilateral, which he acknowledged may not be in the offing.

"There may be no second meeting because if I feel that it's not appropriate to have it because I didn't get the answers that we have to have, then we're not going to have a second meeting," he said.

The US leader promised dozens of times during his 2024 election campaign to end the conflict on his first day in office but has made scant progress towards securing a peace deal.

He threatened "secondary sanctions" on Russia's trading partners over its invasion of Ukraine but his deadline for action came and went last week with no measures announced.

According to an AFP analysis of battlefield data from the US-based Institute for the Study of War, Russian forces made their biggest 24-hour advance into Ukraine in more than a year on Tuesday.

Sada Pathor stripped bare

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He alleged that the administration did almost nothing for months despite media reports and protests from environmental organisations.

However, in April, the government decided to stop stone extraction completely from eight quarries in the Sylhet region.

Despite the decision, stone extraction continued across the region, including around Sada Pathor area, said Abdul Karim Kim.

"The illegal activities only caught national attention when videos and photos of massive looting at the Sada Pathor tourist zone became viral," he said.

The Zero Point area of Jallong in Gowainghat is also reportedly near collapse, with residents saying looting intensifying at night.

Videos circulating on social media showed hundreds of people, accompanied by small "Barki" boats, extracting stones at the Sada Pathor tourist zone. Excavators have also been deployed to dig deep pits, reaching stone layers beneath the riverbed.

"Whoever owns a boat now can extract stones," said Jamal Miah, a local boat owner.

Locals, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the previous syndicate had operated under a controlled system, employing registered workers through subcontractors. Now, they claim, the field is open to all, fuelling a looting frenzy outside quarries including tourist spots like Sada Pathor and Jallong's Zero Point.

They said, even though the quarries remained closed, influential people encouraged boat owners to bring stones to them, without taking into consideration where those were coming from.

"They [the boat owners] all are part of the syndicate," said a resident.

During the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, the then government cancelled leases for all Sylhet quarries after decades of illegal extraction using heavy machinery. But on January 13 this year, the High Court overturned the order, reopening the door for stone lifting.

Fault lines exposed after NCP leader's comments

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and offered the public a concrete timeline for the long-anticipated transfer of power to an elected government.

In the same address, Yunus reiterated his government's commitment to making visible progress on key political reforms and on bringing to justice those responsible for the killings during the July uprising.

He stressed that credible reforms and accountability for past violence will ensure that the upcoming polls are both participatory and widely accepted, and will restore public confidence in the democratic process.

The air of relief in the political arena, however, was snapped by Patwary's comments.

BNP Standing Committee member AZM Zahid Hossain said the NCP leader's words echoed "the same behaviour and rhetoric once used by dictatorship".

After placing a wreath at BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday, Zahid urged supporters to remain active.

"The July uprising wasn't a movement of just a single group, but carried out by students and people who could not be silenced by threats... The electoral journey cannot be stopped through threats either."

He also questioned whether those opposing polls had public backing. "You've created a mob culture. Where are you taking the country's law and order? Have you seen what has been happening in the education sector over the past year?"

Ziaur further alleged "conditional threats" from quarters linked to the government. "They are implying that no election will be allowed if something they want isn't done. And then they talk about democracy."

On April 27, the government suspended leases for 17 of the country's 51 stone quarries.

"No leases will be given for quarries that are under court injunctions or located within declared Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA)," the government said at that time.

After the decision, on June 14, hundreds of locals blocked the motorcade of Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan and Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan in Sylhet, demanding the withdrawal of the suspension order. The advisers went to visit Jallong to see the situation.

Soon after, Sylhet District Road Transport Owners Workers' Unity Council called repeated transport strikes to pressure the government.

"I see an all-party consensus when it comes to stone extraction," Rizwana said on Monday.

She added, "For the past four years, I was able to halt stone extraction in Jallong, but now, even as an adviser, I'm unable to do so. I saw no unity when it came to protecting Jallong. This is the reality of Bangladesh."

In response, Abdul Karim Kim said, "When an adviser says something like that, it gives the local administration a perfect excuse to relax vigilance, handing the syndicate a golden opportunity to loot."

According to locals, Companiganj upazila BNP president Shahab Uddin has long been involved in the stone syndicate and took control of the racket after the previous government fell.

On Monday, under mounting criticism, BNP suspended Shahab Uddin.

"BNP does not support such immoral acts as looting," said Abdul Quiyum Chowdhury, president of Sylhet District BNP. "Anyone involved in these activities will be suspended from the party."

Azizunnahar, upazila nirbahi officer of Companiganj, said, "Stone looting is a heinous crime. Since August 5 last year, we have conducted four joint drives against illegal stone extraction. We will conduct another drive in the area soon."

Muhammad Sher Mahbub Murad, deputy commissioner of Sylhet,

however, admitted that the situation was disappointing.

"We have formed a probe committee headed by an additional deputy commissioner, who has been asked to submit a report as soon as possible," he added.

The authorities, after a coordination meeting of the divisional and district administrations, took a five-point decision yesterday to protect the natural sites of Sylhet.

The measures include round-the-clock deployment of joint forces in the Jallong ECA and Sada Pathor areas, 24-hour police check-posts in Gowainghat and Companiganj, continuous drives to dismantle illegal crushing machines and cut off their power supply, identification and arrest of all involved in stone theft, and recovery of the stolen stones for return to their original sites.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission has launched an investigation into the large-scale looting of stones from Sada Pathor area.

A nine-member ACC team visited the area yesterday afternoon to collect evidence and statements from locals and administration officials.

"We found evidence of illegal stone extraction. We are now looking into who was involved, why the administration remained silent, whether there was collusion, and where the looted stones were taken," said Ashraf Uddin, assistant director at ACC in Sylhet office.

He said the team has spoken with locals and witnesses.

"A detailed investigation report will be prepared, and appropriate legal action will be taken against those found guilty," he added.

Meanwhile, Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Mir AKM Nurun Noby yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its order so that the government submits its inquiry report on the looting of stones from Bhologanj and takes legal action against those responsible.

The petition also sought deployment of additional forces at Bhologanj and a rule asking officials to explain why their inaction should not be declared illegal.

with political brinkmanship in 1991 and 1996, when there were attempts to block elections under caretaker governments; in 2001; and again in 2006.

"We won't let elections happen' is the language of the old order. They claim to want to bring new politics, but they are speaking the language of the old," he told The Daily Star.

Haque said any party has the right to announce that they would not participate in the election and urge people not to vote.

"But to say, 'We'll see how the election happens' or 'We'll not let it happen' – that is the language of threat, and it does not fall within democratic practice."

He added, "Frankly, I didn't expect such language from them, especially from a group that is part of the younger generation and has experienced political struggles, and that is supposedly seeking change."

"This kind of rhetoric implies coercion or force. Whether they can block an election is another matter – and one could argue that they don't. They haven't yet built an organisation nationwide, nor do they have the capacity to mobilise the masses."

To Haque, this is not the language of constructive politics. "The way he spoke sounded more like the low-level bargaining language of the old political order, rather than something new."

Meanwhile, Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, termed Patwary's remarks "a political stand".

"If he means necessary reforms before the national polls, which they've been saying from the very beginning, that's okay. But if he's trying to threaten or block the polls, it would be a very ominous sign, which is not acceptable."

RANGPUR MOB VIOLENCE 8 cops suspended for negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two sub-inspectors and six constables have been suspended over the mob beating that left two men dead in Taraganj upazila of Rangpur.

Rangpur Superintendent of Police Abu Sayem ordered the suspension yesterday afternoon on charges of negligence of duty.

The suspended cops are SIs Abu Jobayer and Safiqul Islam; constables Farikud Akhtar Jaman, Dhiraj Kumar Roy, Hasan Ali, Firoz Kabir, Moktar Hossain and Babul Chandra Roy of Taraganj Police Station.

According to district police sources, the eight were on patrol duty during the incident.

SI Abu Jobayer, the previous investigating officer of the murder case, has been removed from the probe, and OC (Investigation) Rafiqul Islam of Taraganj Police Station has been appointed as the new IO.

SP Abu Sayem confirmed the suspensions, saying further action will be taken against them following a departmental probe report.

The victims were Ruplal Robidas, 48, and his relative, Pradip Lal Robidas, 47. Ruplal worked as a cobbler at Taraganj Bazar, while Pradip drove a van.

Around 9:00pm on Saturday, Ruplal was returning home on Pradip's van. When they reached the Burirhat Bottola area in Sayar union, locals stopped them on suspicion of stealing the van and beat them to death.

Police arrived at the scene during the mob beating but left without rescuing the two men.

The next day, Ruplal's wife, Maloti Rani Robidas, filed a murder case with Taraganj Police Station against 700 unidentified people. Police later arrested four suspects identified from video footage.

We will hand over power

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people," he said on the last day of his three-day visit to Malaysia.

The chief adviser was addressing a special convocation ceremony of University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) yesterday, where he was conferred an honorary doctorate in recognition of his contribution in promoting social business.

On Tuesday, he held a meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, attended a business forum, and held meetings with other ministers to discuss bilateral and regional cooperation. He returned home last night.

Regarding last year's uprising in Bangladesh, he said people stood up bravely against a fascist regime and hundreds have sacrificed their lives for a better future where everyone can live with dignity, free from intimidation, discrimination, and injustice.

"Today, we are working to build a new Bangladesh, where governance will be just, the economy will include everyone, and each person will have a fair chance to be successful," the chief adviser said.

He said reforms are the top priority of the interim government.

"To build a stronger and resilient Bangladesh, we need big changes in our economy. This includes supporting entrepreneurs, investing more in education and technology, and working closely with our international and regional partners," Prof Yunus said.

He said people are not poor because they lack talent or dreams, but because the system has never given them a fair chance.

"Our financial system is built to serve the rich, not the poor," said the chief adviser, detailing his Three Zeros theory. The theory envisions a better world without poverty, where everyone has meaningful work and the environment is protected.

"But right now, we stand at a crossroads. The world is facing many serious challenges – climate change, inequality, conflicts, and economic uncertainty."

"That's why we need a new way forward. A way that focuses on social business, sustainability, and putting people before profit."

Prof Yunus said one of the biggest dangers today is that wealth is becoming more and more concentrated in the hands of a few that creates discrimination and injustice.

"What we need is an inclusive economy, where wealth is shared fairly, and where every person has the chance to live with dignity and purpose."

Mentioning a strong friendship with Malaysia, he said as Bangladesh steps into a new era, the country wants to deepen cooperation with Malaysia and to explore new areas like the semiconductor industry, halal economy, renewable

energy, and entrepreneurship and together build a future that is prosperous, innovative, resilient, and inclusive.

Graduate Plus Visa

Malaysia is likely to introduce Graduate Plus visas for Bangladeshi students studying in the country, enabling thousands to access high skilled jobs in its expanding economy, according to a statement of the Chief Adviser's press wing.

The chief adviser raised the matter during a meeting with Malaysian Higher Education Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir at UKM in Kuala Lumpur.

"We had productive discussions with the minister. In principle, he has agreed to issue Graduate Pass visas to Bangladeshi students in Malaysia. However, both sides need to complete certain formalities before the policy can take effect," said Prof Asif Nazrul, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment adviser.

Currently, about 10,000 Bangladeshis are enrolled at Malaysian universities. While students from other countries enjoy access to Malaysia's job market, this privilege has so far been unavailable to Bangladeshi students.

Prof Yunus also met the King of Negeri Sembilan, Muhriz ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, and gifted him the graffiti book, "Art of Triumph", in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Sir Jeffrey Cheah, founder and chairman of Sunway Group; Syed Mokhtar Al Bulkhary, a Malaysian business tycoon and owner of the country's national car company, Proton; and Jerald Joseph, chairperson of Forum Asia, called on the chief adviser.

Earlier on Wednesday, Malaysian Education Minister Fadhlina binti Sidek met Prof Yunus at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur and discussed ways to enhance educational cooperation, including expanding scholarships for Bangladeshi students at Malaysian universities and colleges.

Prof Yunus stressed the importance of broadening student and faculty exchange programmes and sought formal recognition of Bangladeshi degrees by Malaysian authorities and higher education institutions.

Meanwhile, Khalilur Rahman, national security adviser and high representative on the Rohingya issue, yesterday met ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Othman Hashim, at the latter's office, according to the statement of CA's press wing.

They discussed recent developments in Myanmar, voicing serious concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Rakhine, and the decline in international financial support for Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh.

They agreed to work closely towards an expeditious and sustainable resolution of the Rohingya crisis.

A beacon of wisdom goes dark

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hundreds more came to pay their respects, before being brought to his Netrokona town residence around 9:00pm.

He was cremated at the Netrokona Mahashashan later that night, said Sheikh Bahar Majumdar, secretary of the Mymensingh district unit of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, quoting family members.

Born on August 18, 1936, in Netrokona's Kendua upazila, he grew up in a time of sweeping political and social transformations that shaped his enduring commitment to progressive ideals.

He joined the Language Movement in 1948, and in 1952, played a pivotal role in organising demonstrations in Netrokona following the student killings in Dhaka, said Sarwar Kamal Robin, vice-president of Udichi Shilpigosthi Mymensingh.

Jatin later taught in the Bangla department of Mymensingh's Nasirabad College, from where he retired in 2002. His life remained deeply intertwined with literary work, leftist politics, and progressive activism.

He served two terms as president of the central committee of Bangladesh

Udichi Shilpigosthi and one term as president of the same organisation's Mymensingh unit. He was also a central leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Celebrated for the depth of his influence on Bangladesh's intellectual sphere, his notable works include "Pakistaner jonmo-mrityu darshan" – a memoir examining the emergence and eventual collapse of the idea of Pakistan.

Other works include "Bangladesher kabigan", "Bangaleer somajtantrik oitijhya", "Sanskritir sangram", "Golpe golpe byakoron", "Manabmon, manab dhormo o samaj biplob", and "Dwijatitotto niyotibad o bigyan chetona", among others. He also edited several books and journals.

Jatin received numerous awards, including the Bangla Academy Sahitya Padak in 2007 and the Swadhinata Padak in 2010 for his contributions to literature. In 2005, he won the Prothom Alo Best Book Award for "Pakistaner jonmo-mrityu darshan".

Other honours, such as the Dr Enamul Haq Gold Medal, Khalekdd Chowdhury Literary Award, and Moniruddin Yusuf Literary Award, reflect the range and impact of his work.

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Mob violence a threat to democracy

Says HRFB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) yesterday expressed grave concern over continued incidents of mob violence across the country.

In a statement, the forum said such incidents are not only matters of law and order but also of profound significance for the future of Bangladesh's democratic system, rule of law, and human rights.

Referring to a recent incident in Rangpur, the HRFB said allegations have surfaced that two men were beaten to death by a mob while police were present at the scene, but took no steps to protect the victims.

Media reports later said the police merely recovered the bodies from the scene -- an act the forum described as a serious failure in discharging their duties.

Citing constitutional safeguards, the HRFB said Articles 31 and 32 of the Bangladesh Constitution guarantee citizens' right to life and personal liberty, while Article 27 ensures equal protection of law.

It reads that Sections 149, and 150-152 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) clearly mandate that police officers must take all possible steps to prevent any known offence and act immediately to ensure public safety if there is a likelihood of a crime being committed. Sections 154-157 obligate police to receive and record information about crimes, investigate promptly, and arrest offenders,

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A one-kilometre stretch of canal emerges during low tide at Laboni Beach in Cox's Bazar. Beyond it, people stand on the sand, gazing out at the sea. However, once the high tide comes in, the entire area is submerged in chest-deep water, posing a serious risk to anyone who cannot swim. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

NATIONALISATION DEMAND MPO teachers issue one-month ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of MPO-enlisted schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions have issued an ultimatum to the government to meet their demand for nationalisation of the institutions by September 14.

If the demand is not met, they said they will observe a half-day work stoppage on September 14, followed by full-day strikes on September 15 and 16.

They also warned of a continuous sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club from October 12.

The ultimatum came yesterday after a meeting with the education adviser at the Secretariat.

During the meeting, ministry officials said a letter had been sent to the finance ministry on August 7, proposing to increase teachers' house rent allowance from Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,000, medical allowance from Tk 500 to Tk 1,000, and festival allowance from 50 percent to 75 percent, according to the teachers.

Welcoming the proposal, the MPO Teachers' Nationalisation Alliance said house rent allowance should be paid as a percentage of basic salary, similar to government teachers.

"Even if it is increased by 20 percent for now, it must soon match the rate given to government employees.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

ICT-1 records testimony of witness on Chankharpul shooting

STAR REPORT

A prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday that he heard men in police uniforms speaking Hindi when thousands of protesters gathered at Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

Shahid Ahmed, uncle of victim Md Yakub, testified that as protesters reached the intersection, policemen were stationed opposite them, and he heard one say "Idhar aao [come here]".

Yakub was among six killed when police allegedly opened fire on protesters marching towards Gono Bhaban during the July uprising.

Shahid said he and others took Yakub to Mitford Hospital, where

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

DSCC misses revenue goals for 5th straight year

DIPAN NANDY

For five consecutive fiscal years, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has failed to meet its revenue collection targets, with the shortfall in 2024-25 being the largest in recent years.

In the latest fiscal year, DSCC set a revenue target of Tk 1,337 crore but collected only Tk 791 crore -- a shortfall of Tk 546 crore -- marking a decline of nearly Tk 270 crore compared to the previous year. The collection rate dropped to 59 percent, the lowest in five years, after never falling below 70 percent in the preceding four years.

The DSCC authorities attributed the sharp fall to the 42-day lockdown and protest movement surrounding BNP leader Ishraque Hossain's mayoral oath-taking, which halted all citizen services and revenue collection at Nagar Bhaban and its 10 regional offices.

The movement began on May 14,

when Ishraque's supporters locked the main gates of Nagar Bhaban and regional offices, and ended on June 23.

A review of the past five years shows the pattern of missed targets.

FISCAL YEAR	REVENUE TARGET (Tk/cr)	REVENUE COLLECTED (Tk/cr)	COLLECTION SHORTFALL (Tk/cr)
2024-25	1,337	791	546
2023-24	1,372.37	1,061	311.37
2022-23	1,277	1,031.97	245.03
2021-22	1,242.46	879.65	362.81
2020-21	991.77	703.31	288.46

SOURCE: DSCC

In 2020-21, DSCC targeted Tk 991.77 crore but collected Tk 703.31 crore, a shortfall of Tk 288.46 crore. In 2021-22, the target was Tk 1,242.46

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

RABINDRA UNIVERSITY Tk 519cr campus project set to be placed for Ecneec approval

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prioritising literature, music, fine arts, theatre, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and environmental sciences, the permanent campus project of Rabindra University in Sirajganj is set to be placed for approval at next week's Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) meeting. The Tk 519.15 crore project will feature 11 faculties and 40 departments, accommodating 7,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students for education and research.

The proposed campus will have three five-storey dormitories, which will be built at a cost of Tk 93.89 crore.

It will also feature four non-residential buildings: a five-storey academic building, a five-storey administrative building, a three-storey

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



Twenty collect nomination forms for DucsU polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 20 candidates have collected nomination papers for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DucsU) election over the past two days.

Thirteen of them collected papers yesterday, while seven did so on Tuesday.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Dr Mohammad Zashim Uddin disclosed the information during a press briefing in front of the Chief Returning Officer's office at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building yesterday.

Of the 20, five are vying for the post of vice president (VP) -- three of them collected their papers yesterday and two on Tuesday -- while the remaining are contesting for other positions.

Responding to journalists' queries, the CRO said objections raised by student organisations regarding the posts of president and treasurer of DucsU have been resolved as per the constitution, leaving no scope for the commission to intervene further.

It also said no complaints regarding violations of the electoral code of conduct have been received against any candidate so far.



Despite broken headlights, a cracked windshield, and rust covering its body, this bus continues to operate in the capital. Public transport vehicles are required to pass a mandatory fitness test, and since July 21 the government has announced strict penalties for operating ramshackle buses and trucks with faulty machinery. Yet such dilapidated buses still ply the city's streets. This photo was taken in Lalmatia yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

EDCL reduces prices of 33 medicines

BSS, Dhaka

Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), the state-owned pharmaceutical manufacturer, has announced price reduction on 33 essential medicines.

EDCL Managing Director Md A Samad Mridha yesterday revealed this update at a press conference at its headquarters.

He claimed that the company has attained unprecedented achievements over the past six months and the decision to reduce the prices was taken following the formation of the interim government.

The reduced-price medicines include tablets, capsules, oral saline, injections, and other critical pharmaceutical items, he added.

Mentioning that several reform initiatives have been undertaken to boost production and make the company profitable, Mridha said these include dismantling syndicates, combating corruption, and terminating around 700 unnecessary employees.

As a result, production has increased by an estimated Tk 59 crore, he said, adding that by opening tenders for raw material procurement, the company is now saving approximately Tk 18 crore per month.

Mridha further announced that the company would set up two new plants under EDCL, of which one will be a biotechnology facility focused on vaccine production, including insulin and other biological products.

Apurba Lal Dey passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
City

Apurba Lal Dey, a senior lawyer and father of Arun Bikash Dey, staff reporter of The Daily Star's Chattogram Bureau, passed away yesterday afternoon. He was 80.

He breathed his last at Chattogram Medical College Hospital around 4:00pm due to old-age complications and other health issues, said family sources.

He is survived by one son, one daughter, grandchildren, and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

He was cremated last night at his ancestral village in Bhatikhain under Patiya upazila of Chattogram.

PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:25	12:45	4:45	6:41	8:00
JAMAT 5:00	1:15	5:00	6:44	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Flood threat looms over the north

Chars, villages inundated as rivers swell

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 140 chars (river islands) and villages on riverbanks across 33 unions in 13 upazilas of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari have inundated as the Teesta is flowing above the danger level, according to the Water Development Board.

The Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers are also rising rapidly, though still flowing below danger levels, the



Water Development Board (WDB) said.

Around 9:00am yesterday, the water level at the Teesta Barrage point in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat was recorded at 52.22 metres, seven centimetres above the danger mark.

At the same time, the Brahmaputra was at 22.17 metres -- 1.08 metres below the danger level



-- at Chilmari. The Dudhkumar measured 29.08 metres, 52 centimetres below the danger level, at Pateshwari point in Nageshwari, while the Dharla stood at 26.19 metres, 86 centimetres below the danger mark, at Bridge Point in Kurigram Sadar.

WDB Executive Engineer Amitav Chowdhury at Dalia in Nilphamari said all 44 gates of the Teesta Barrage remained open since yesterday morning. He warned that water levels may rise further as upstream flows continue.

Lalmonirhat WDB Executive Engineer Shunil Kumar said low-lying areas and chars have already been inundated. "The situation is

under control for now, but if heavy rainfall and runoff persist, it could become severe in the next two to three days."

Kurigram WDB Executive Engineer Rakibul Hasan said water levels in the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers have risen by 40 to 45 centimetres in the 12 hours to 6:00am yesterday.

Mozmul Haque, a farmer from Char Gokunda in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said water entered every home in the village in the morning, forcing many to take shelter on roads. "Aman paddy fields have been submerged. If water keeps rising, it will be a devastating flood."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

PIROJPUR-GOPALGANJ

Narrow, damaged road puts traffic at risk

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

A 20-kilometre stretch along the Pirojpur-Nazirpur-Gopalganj road is so narrow that vehicles face severe difficulties navigating it. The stretch is too tight to allow two fast-moving vehicles to pass each other simultaneously.

According to drivers familiar with the route, the road becomes noticeably narrower from Sikdermollie village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila and remains so until Matibhanga village in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila. Every day, over 1,000 Dhaka-bound vehicles use this route.

The situation is worsened by damage in several spots along the road.

"We have to pass through the narrow road at great risk, especially when vehicles approach from the opposite direction," said Ariful Islam, a driver of a Dhaka-bound bus.

Another driver, Raju Khan, said, "A huge number of locally motorised vehicles also use this road, and they often ignore basic traffic rules, which frequently causes accidents."

Locals said the route has been in poor condition for a long time, but no measures have been taken to improve it.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender hereby invited by Prime Bank PLC. from reputed companies in the relevant field for providing below item:

Name of Work	Period of Sale (Tender)		Last Date of Submission
	From	To	
Procurement of 149 units Computers (Laptop: 119 units and Desktop: 30 units)	14.08.2025	24.08.2025	24.08.2025

Details are given on the Prime Bank website.

<https://www.primebank.com.bd/tenders>

Head of Facility Management Division

Prime Bank

MPO teachers issue

FROM PAGE 3

Teachers will return home only after achieving this demand," said Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the alliance.

He said during a 22 day protest earlier this year, the government had promised house rent, medical, full festival, and entertainment allowances at government rates.

Although the festival allowance was raised from 25 to 50 percent, no gazette has been issued for the other benefits. If a gazette is not issued by September 13 for at least a 20 percent house rent increase and concrete steps towards nationalisation, they will go ahead with the announced protest programmes.

Earlier in the day, thousands of teachers from across the country joined the "Teachers' Rally and March Towards Secretariat" in Dhaka. By 9:00am, the area in front of the Jatiya Press Club was packed, blocking one side of the road and forcing traffic diversions.

Security was tightened in and around the venue and the Secretariat.

At 12:30pm, the teachers began marching towards the Secretariat but were stopped by police near the High Court. A 10-member delegation was then taken to the ministry for talks with the education adviser, the secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division, and other officials.

Mizanur Rahman, a madrasa teacher from Cumilla, said, "We work as hard as teachers in government institutions, but we face discrimination. We get only Tk 1,000 as house rent, while government teachers get 45 percent of their basic salary. Is it possible to rent a house with Tk 1,000 nowadays? We came to Dhaka to realise our logical demands."

The alliance said their 2018 movement had resulted in a 5 percent annual increment and a 20 percent Pahela Baishakh allowance, along with a promise of nationalisation -- which has yet to be fulfilled.

They added that although the current budget has allocations for allowances, no gazette has been issued.

Mob violence a threat

FROM PAGE 3

The forum said these legal obligations were clearly violated in the Rangpur incident.

According to data from the human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 114 people have been killed in mob beatings across the country between January 1 and August 12 this year.

Bangladesh is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights (ICCPR), both of which guarantee the right to life, the right to justice, equal protection of law, and the state's obligation to ensure citizens' safety.

The HRFB said these incidents constitute not only violations of domestic laws but also of Bangladesh's international human rights obligations. The forum warned that if such incidents are not immediately prevented, citizens' safety, judicial independence, and the rule of law will face extreme threats.



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

Phone: 02 8870422 (Ext.-201) Web: www.aust.edu

Ref. No. AUST/TE, CSE & UE office/OTM/Tender-02/2025-26

TENDER INVITATION

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) is inviting sealed bids from bona fide/reputed organizations/ distributors/ business partners/agents for:

- Supply & Installation of Lab Equipment (Miniature Rotor Spinning Machine, Qty-01 No.) for the Department of Textile Engineering**
- Procurement of High Configuration PC (Qty-28 Nos.) for the Department of CSE**
- Supply & Installation of Solar PV system at AUST**

The bidders must submit earnest money @ 2.5% of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology" along with their offer. Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from the Procurement Officer of AUST on all working days till Aug. 21, 2025. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Aug. 26, 2025 (Tuesday)** by 2.30pm at the Treasurer's office and the tenders will be opened at 03:00pm on the same day (**Aug. 26, 2025**). Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the tenders.

The AUST authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason what-so-ever and is not bound to award the work order to the lowest bidder.

INNOVATION:: CREATION:: LEADERSHIP



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education

Secondary and Higher Education Division

International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)

1/Ka, Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani

Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

www.imli.gov.bd

Memo No. 37.26.0000.000.32.001.22-209

Date: 10.08.2025

Research Scholarship

Applications for Research scholarships are being invited following the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) Research Guidelines-2022 for the fiscal year 2025-2026 in Post-doctoral, PhD, MPhil, Fellowship and Professional research categories in the prescribed application form available on the IMLI website: www.imli.gov.bd. The Research Guidelines and other documents are also available on this website.

Last date of application: 15th September 2025

Professor Dr. Muhammad Ashaduzzaman

Director

International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)

GD-1786



Rajshahi City Corporation

Engineering Department

Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.07.26.2025.745.

Date: 13.08.2025

e-Tender Notice (IFT-02/2025-26)

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Reference No.	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1	1139407	46.12.0000.006.07.26.2025.744.	Supply, Fitting, Fixing & Installation of Security System CC Camera & related items at Nagar Bhaban, Asphalt Plant, Salbagan Garage, City Hospital, Central Park and different more in Rajshahi City Corporation Area.	12:30pm on 28-Aug-2025

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

রাসিক/জসা-১৩ (২০২৫-২৬)
তারিখ-১৩/৮/২৫
৪৯৩

A. B. M. Asaduzzaman Sweet
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Rajshahi City Corporation
Tel. +880 2588879220
E-mail: sweet_ee86@yahoo.com

GD-1793

Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

HIGH COURT DIVISION

(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATER NO. 1383 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Professor S M Huzzatul Islam LatifcePetitioner

-VERSUS-

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms and othersRespondents

Please take notice that an application under section 81 (2) read with Section 85 (3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for Condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) of **Yunus Foundation** has been filed by Professor S M Huzzatul Islam Latifce, Member, **Yunus Foundation** before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon hearing his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel was pleased to admit the application on 10.08.2025.

Md. Shamim Darji

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Suite # 11B, 33 Tophkhana Road, (Meherba Plaza), Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

HIGH COURT DIVISION

(ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 1386 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: A application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF: Mohammed Ullah, shareholder and Managing Director of **MR. BAKER CAKE & PASTRY SHOP LTD.** having his Office:- 160/485, Mokdam Ali Sarker Road, Dhaur, Turag Dhaka.Petitioner

-VERSUS-

MR. BAKER CAKE & PASTRY SHOP LTD. having his Office:- 160/485, Mokdam Ali Sarker Road, Dhaur, Turag Dhaka. represented by its Managing Director Mohammad Ullah and anotherRespondents

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3), 183 read with section 396 of the Respondents Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company and style as "MR. BAKER CAKE & PASTRY SHOP LTD. The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has admitted the said application on 10.08.2025 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 3(three) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before 19 October 2025 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges. (Rowshan Ali), Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh Room No. 5028 (Annex) Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01717023985

Legal Notice

Bangladesh Supreme Court

High Court Division, Dhaka.

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

Company Matter No-1389/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under section 81(2), 85(3) and 396 of Company Act 1994.

Beraid Nissan Lake City Ltd., by its Managing Director **Md. Rashidul Islam**, 7thka, PC Culture Housing Society, Ring Road, Shyamoly, Dhaka, Bangladesh.PETITIONER

Register, Joint Stock Companies & Firms, TCB Bhaban, Karwan Bazar C/A, Dhaka.RESPONDENT

This is to inform all concerned that, pursuant to Sections 81(2), 85(3), and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, the above-named applicant has filed a petition before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (Company Bench) seeking the Court's permission to condone the delay in holding the Annual General Meetings (AGM) of **Beraid Nissan Lake City Ltd.** for the years 2021 and 2024, and to pass appropriate orders for holding the same within the stipulated time. The said petition was filed on 03 August 2025 and, upon preliminary hearing, was admitted for detailed hearing by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel of the Company Court on 10 August 2025. Any person wishing to raise an objection regarding the said hearing or intending to participate therein may appear in person or through an advocate on the date fixed for the subsequent hearing. A copy of the said petition may be obtained from the undersigned upon payment of the requisite charges.

Chamber : Latif And Associates Barrister Mahathir Mohammad Ratul
Kabhakas Market, Plot 3D, Level-6, Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court
Room:16, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. On Behalf of the Petitioner.
Email: mahathir_ratul@yahoo.com Contact No-+8801778741608

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW	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 5,000 (Five Thousand) in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2).
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)	19	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum BDT 0.5(Point Five) million in the form of Pay Order/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2).
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-05C	20	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	a) General Experience: Tenderer must be a Bonafide Contractor having minimum 5(five) years of experience in supply and installation of STP b) Specific Experience: Tenderer must have successfully completed at least 1(one) work of minimum 50 KLD of Supply and Installation of STP of 10-Storeyed and above Commercial Building in all respect in last 5(five) years.
4	Publication Date	14 August 2025	21	Financial Criteria of Tenderer	a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover: Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover for Building Construction Work of BDT 5(five) million in last 5(five) years. b) Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit: Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/Working Capital/Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 2(two) million for this particular project.
KEY INFORMATION			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 & +8809638 917 000 E-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org
5	Procurement Method	Competitive Tendering among eligible Tenderers: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Least Cost Basis (LCB).	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
FUNDING INFORMATION			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.
6	Source of Funds	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storeyed Twin Tower and 4-Storeyed 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-05C			
9	Tender Package Name	Supply and Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)			
10	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	20 August 2025 upto 5:00 PM			
11	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	24 August 2025 at 11:30 AM			
12	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
13	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	31 August 2025 upto 4:00 PM			
14	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	31 August 2025 at 4:30 PM at the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Intending Tenderers or their Authorized Representatives may remain present during opening of Technical Offer.			
15	Name and Address of the Office Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
16	Name and Address of the Office for Receiving Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
17	Brief Description of Works	Sewage Treatment Plant (STP): Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 85 KLD Bio Tube STP based on SBR Technology comprising Manual Bar Screen, Air Lifting Module, Air Blower, Fit Pump, Media Filter, Carbon Filter, UV Filter, Flow Meter etc.			



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

Prudence needed in deferment decision

Postponing LDC graduation needs careful deliberation by all stakeholders

The question of whether Bangladesh should defer its graduation from the UN's Least Developed Country (LDC) category and the challenges likely to arise when it makes the transition have been a topic of debate for months. Considering the shocks impacting the country's economic growth and activities in recent years, business leaders—mostly from export-oriented industries—have asked to defer the graduation from 2026 to 2032 at a recent roundtable discussion organised by *The Daily Star*. Their concern is not without merit, yet there is much to consider before deciding on this matter.

As reasons for this deferment, speakers at the event cited a lack of preparedness to cope with the loss of trade preferences following the graduation. Among all the LDCs, Bangladesh—an entirely export-dependent economy—enjoys preferential access to the international markets the most. It is also the only LDC that uses the TRIPS waiver extensively in its pharmaceutical sector, and will suffer a huge blow in terms of drug production and prices when the waiver is lifted post-graduation. Bangladesh is also quite underprepared with coping mechanisms to deal with post-graduation repercussions. Although it will retain LDC trade benefits for three years after graduation, the country is nowhere near its biggest competitors, such as Vietnam and India, who have already secured free trade agreements with some of our biggest markets. For a country that has been waiting to become a developing country since 2018, there has been no real initiative to negotiate bilateral agreements with our biggest markets. Bangladesh also has alarmingly high logistical costs, poor governance, bureaucratic complexities, high cost of doing business, and weak infrastructure. Furthermore, compliance costs in labour standards, environmental protection, and intellectual property rights will also shoot up.

Despite these hurdles, some experts believe it's best to go along with the graduation schedule set by the UN. The white paper on the economy, published in December 2024, also states that there are “no plausible reasons” why it should be postponed. The incumbent planning adviser said a deferral may not be an option, despite there being several precedents. Indeed, Bangladesh cannot make the decision unilaterally; it needs to negotiate with the UN and the two other countries set to graduate with it in 2026—Nepal and Laos—to secure the deferment, needing to present strong evidence that a smooth transition would be significantly undermined.

In this situation, we urge the interim government to take a pause and consider all options. It must organise a national dialogue, bringing all stakeholders to the table, to consider all perspectives. The concerns raised by the business leaders must be reviewed carefully, and a pragmatic approach must be taken to deal with this situation, keeping in mind that very little time is left. Simultaneously, the issues cited above must be addressed with due haste to improve Bangladesh's competitiveness in global trade. Whatever decision is made, it must be in the country's and its people's greater interest.

Israel must stop targeted killing of journos

It must be held accountable for its war crimes in Gaza

We are outraged by the targeted killing of journalists, including an Al Jazeera news team, in Gaza by Israeli forces on August 10. The victims were 28 year-old Anas al Sharif, one of the most well-known Palestinian journalists in Gaza; correspondent Mohammed Qreiqeh; cameramen Ibrahim Zaher and Mohammed Noufal; and freelance journalists Moamen Aliwa and Mohammad al-Khaldi. They were killed when an Israeli drone strike hit a media tent set up outside the main gate of al-Shifa Hospital. The killings occurred just days after Israel's security cabinet approved its plans to seize Gaza City and send troops into the region. Before this incident, at least five other Al Jazeera journalists were killed by Israel since the war began. Reporters Without Borders estimates that nearly 200 journalists have been killed in the war so far. These killings underscore the grave risks faced by media workers covering the war in Gaza and Israel's clear attempt to erase witnesses to the genocide being committed in Palestine.

Sharif was one of Al Jazeera's most recognisable journalists reporting daily from Gaza since the war began. In April, he wrote a message to be shared in case of his death, where he said his voice had been silenced and urged the world “not to forget Gaza.” In July, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) called for his protection after an Israeli military spokesperson targeted him online. CPJ criticised Israel for repeatedly labelling journalists as militants without credible evidence, noting that similar allegations had been made against other media workers. As Palestinians mourned the deaths of the journalists, Israel confirmed it had targeted Sharif, calling him a “terrorist” affiliated with Hamas who “posed as a journalist.” However, it has yet to provide any evidence backing its claim.

According to Brown University's Costs of War project, more journalists have been killed in Gaza since the war began on October 7, 2023 than in the US Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, the wars in the former Yugoslavia, and the post 9/11 war in Afghanistan combined. The deliberate targeting and killing of local journalists and bar on international journalists from covering its atrocities in Gaza is nothing but Israel's tactic to obscure the brutal realities on the ground. The world must do what is needed to put an immediate end to Israel's atrocities in Gaza and stand united in protecting those who risk everything to tell the truth.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Pakistan becomes sovereign state

On this day in 1947, Pakistan emerged as a sovereign state, marking the end of British colonial rule.

Pharma must collaborate with academia to thrive in post-LDC era



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SYED ABDUL HAMID



VISUAL: MONOROM POLOK

The pharmaceutical sector in Bangladesh stands at a turning point. From a heavily import-dependent industry in the 1980s, it now meets 98 percent of domestic medicine needs and exports to over 150 countries. In FY2024-25, export earnings from this sector reached \$213 million. Its success has been largely driven by the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver under the World Trade Organization (WTO), which allowed the production of generic versions of patented drugs.

However, with Bangladesh set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category by November 2026, the TRIPS flexibilities and other international exemptions are set to come to an end. This shift could significantly limit local production of patented medicines, raised drug prices—especially for newer treatments—and reduce export potential. Public health programmes that rely on low-cost generics may come under budgetary strain. Meanwhile, the domestic pharmaceutical industry will need to meet stricter international regulatory standards like those of the US Food and Drug Administration, European Medicines Agency and World Health Organization Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP), and compete in a more complex global market. Gaps in biotechnology, active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) production, and clinical trial infrastructure will further intensify these challenges.

To navigate the post-LDC era successfully, Bangladesh must transition from a volume-driven, generics-dominated model to one centred on innovation, quality, and global integration. This can be achieved by enhancing collaboration between industry and academia. Academic research in the country has traditionally remained disconnected from industry needs. Underfunded labs, outdated infrastructure, and limited engagement from the private sector have weakened universities' role

as innovation hubs. The disconnect is evident in pharmaceutical education and research. Collaboration is hampered by theoretical research orientations, outdated curricula, and the absence of mechanisms like technology transfer offices. Applied research funding is scarce, and expertise in emerging fields like biotechnology, regulatory science, and clinical trials is limited.

Meanwhile, firms often avoid collaboration, focusing on short-term gains rather than long-term innovation. Many are reluctant to invest in joint research, curriculum development or workforce training. The lack of structured platforms for engagement, along with concerns over intellectual property and limited demand for high-end scientific expertise, further weakens cooperation.

A national strategy to bridge these divides is needed, along with investment in joint research initiatives that can drive pharmaceutical innovation and resilience.

Tertiary institutions, particularly departments of pharmacy, biochemistry and molecular biology, genetic engineering and biotechnology, microbiology, and health economics institutes, can partner with pharmaceutical companies to develop biosimilars

and new drug formulations. Industry-supported clinical trials hosted in academic settings can reduce dependency on foreign labs, lower research and development (R&D) costs, and speed up product development. Faculty members should be incentivised to pursue industry-relevant research through consultancy, collaborative grants, and research organisations (CROs) struggle with ethical approval delays, a lack of qualified principal investigators and biostatisticians, and difficulty recruiting trial volunteers. These shortcomings force companies to outsource trials abroad, increasing costs and delaying market entry. By investing in accredited research facilities and university-based ethical review boards, Bangladesh can localise clinical research. Additionally, industry-funded training programmes in trial design, regulatory compliance, and data management can strengthen research capacity.

Academia must also play a central role in evidence-based policymaking. As Bangladesh adapts to post-LDC trade and intellectual property (IP) requirements, academic institutions can assess the economic impacts of patent compliance, propose sustainable pricing models, and help design national strategies. Establishing formal “policy labs” that bring together academics, industry leaders, and regulators could facilitate coordinated, evidence-informed decision-making. In international forums, academic voices can also advocate for equitable IP policies and targeted transition support for countries like Bangladesh.

To realise these goals, structural reforms are urgently needed. Bureaucratic bottlenecks, mutual mistrust, and misaligned incentives must be replaced with a supportive national framework for industry-academia partnership. This framework should include tax incentives, R&D grants, and co-financing mechanisms for joint initiatives. Universities should be empowered to commercialise intellectual property and engage in contract research. Performance metrics for academic institutions must evolve to reward patents, industry impact, and product innovation alongside traditional publications. Clear policies for IP ownership and benefit-sharing can also help foster mutual trust and long-term cooperation.

If policymakers, academic leaders, and industry stakeholders act with urgency and coordination, Bangladesh can build on its pharmaceutical legacy and emerge as a global leader in affordable, innovative healthcare solutions. The core foundations are already in place; what's needed now is the shared commitment to build on them strategically.

In Gaza, Israel is waging a war on journalists, too



Jamal Kanj is the author of *Children of Catastrophe: Journey from a Palestinian Refugee Camp to America*, and other books. He writes frequently on Arab world issues.

JAMAL KANJ

After sealing Gaza off from international reporters and blocking the world's eyes from its genocide, Israel has moved to the next phase of its blackout strategy: hunting down Palestinian journalists inside Gaza. The goal is obvious: silence the last independent witnesses so that the genocide and starvation of an entire people proceed unseen, unrecorded, and unchecked by the global community.

The latest murders are of two of Gaza's most prominent TV correspondents—Anas Al Sharif, Mohammed Qreiqeh—as well as four other reporters who were in a tent outside a Gaza hospital. This brings the number of Palestinian media workers killed by Israel to more than 230, the highest killed by any country, in any conflict.

This is not just in Gaza; let us not forget Israel's cold blooded murder of American-Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in May 2022 in the West Bank. Then, as now, Israel followed the same familiar playbook pattern: lie, deny, and distort the truth, before claiming, months later, that Abu Akleh was “accidentally” killed by a sniper's bullet.

Israel bars international journalists from covering its atrocities, and when local reporters defy the blackout,

silencing them becomes a calculated item on its “to-do list”. Israel sends a clear message with every murder to those still breathing: report the truth, and you will join them.

Political Zionism, from its inception, has perfected the art of pairing the crime with the lie. Israel fabricates evidence, if any, and then the Western media unquestionably market the lie. For example, the headline for Reuters was: “Israel kills Al Jazeera journalist it says was Hamas leader.” Instead of highlighting the documented Israeli death threats against the journalist or the fact that Al Sharif's father was murdered by Israel in December 2023, Reuters, NBC and others chose to spread the unverified Israeli narrative.

This is not unique; Western media almost always treat Israeli statements with a nuance of credibility they deny non-Westerners. Consider Benjamin Netanyahu, a proven habitual liar, not by his enemies but by his close allies. He claims Israel wants to “liberate” Gaza from Hamas and relocate civilians to so-called “safe areas.” Despite his proven record of deceit, Netanyahu's false assertions are well covered and repeated uncritically by Western media outlets.

Contrast this with the treatment of Russia's claims that its war in Ukraine is to “liberate” the country from neo-

Nazis. Those claims are met with great scepticism, fact-checks, and ridicule. Why does the same media grant Israeli lies a pass? Is it because of bias in favour of Israel, or an anti-Russian bias? Either way, it is hypocrisy, and it eats on the very principles that journalism is supposed to uphold.

Just over a year ago, an Israeli drone strike murdered Al Sharif's colleague Mohamed El Ghouli, and his coworker inside a clearly marked press car. Israel made the same claim then: he was a Hamas member; to kosher his murders. If Russia did this to reporters in Ukraine, the outrage would never end. But when Israel kills journalists, the story is framed, softened, or buried.

This is how Israel's decades-long dehumanisation of Palestinians works: demonise them, diminish their suffering until their deaths generate less outrage than the injury of a dog. I wrote recently about a viral story of a dog in Gaza whose plight drew more global sympathy than the Palestinian who saved it. That was not a fluke; it was the “logical response” for people who were also victims of a propaganda that dehumanises Palestinians.

Israel could not succeed in this without help. Embedded by dual citizen Israelis and Western Zionist voices in the international media, those terrified by the “antisemitism” smear act as marketers of Israeli hasbara. They parrot Netanyahu's denial of mass starvation, even when hundreds of humanitarian agencies, including the United Nations, say otherwise.

Western outlets would never have extended that courtesy, say, to Myanmar's generals or Sudan's warlords, denying starvation in those

countries. But the lie of a European Israeli, of Polish descent, carries more weight in their newsrooms than the truth of the nonwhite victims.

Arab media are hardly immune. Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya have both handed Netanyahu and Israeli spokespersons airtime to lie without challenge, even though the former's coverage of this war has been nothing short of remarkable given the threat on the ground. However, in the name of “balance,” most global media outlets have become conduits for a propaganda that justifies starving children. The idea of presenting “both sides” is meaningless when one side is propagating lies. There is no balance between lies and truths.

When a journalist is killed, their archives, contacts, and testimony are buried with them. When survivors are too afraid to speak, official lies become the only record. Israel understands this perfectly. It has turned the killing of journalists into a weapon of war, knowing that without witnesses, there is no record, and without documents, justice fails.

Allowing Israel to normalise the killing of journalists is not only a betrayal of the truth, but it is a heinous violation of the supposed mission of journalism. The press cannot claim to be the guardians of free expression while accepting that a state may carry on targeted execution of reporters and normalising the silencing of Palestinian journalists.

Targeting journalists is not just about silencing the present; it is about monopolising the future. No witnesses, no crimes—that is the darkness Israel is building; a darkness that will swallow not only Gaza, but the soul of humanity.

The law just made it harder to get justice for domestic abuse



MIND THE GAP

Barrister Noshin Nawal is a columnist for The Daily Star. She can be reached at nawalnoshin1@gmail.com.

NOSHIN NAWAL

If you're a Bangladeshi woman, unfortunately married to a monster who believes "dowry" is just another word for "marriage subscription fee", felicitations, the government has just gifted you a shiny new hoop to jump through before you can get justice. It's called the Legal Aid Services (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, but I like to think of it as the "*Loading After Six Months Ordinance*". Previously, if your husband slapped you around because the fridge your parents gave him wasn't the latest model, you could march directly to court under Section II(ga) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000. That little section—bless its dry, legal bones—made "simple hurt" for dowry demands a criminal offence, punishable by two to five years in prison and a fine. Simple hurt is the legal term for injuries that don't need an

and justice. Now, thanks to this ordinance, before you can even think about seeing the inside of a courtroom, you must toddle off to a legal aid officer and sit through mandatory "mediation". Yes, you read that right. As in, "let's sit you and your abuser at the same table with tea and biscuits, and see if we can't sort this little *misunderstanding* out." This is the part where the legal scholars will gently remind us that mediation is a noble tool of alternative dispute resolution—quicker, cheaper, less adversarial. True. Mediation works wonders when you're disputing a property boundary or who gets the family farmland. It works less well when the "dispute" is over how many times you can be slapped before dessert.

Because here's the thing: mediation assumes both parties are negotiating on

with a government officer. The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000, was drafted precisely to bypass the foot-dragging of social compromise. It recognised that in cases of violence against women, every delay is an opportunity for threats, coercion, and "family honour" lectures from your in-laws. And yet here we are dressing up delay as due process. Of course, the official reasoning will be wrapped in the warm, fuzzy language

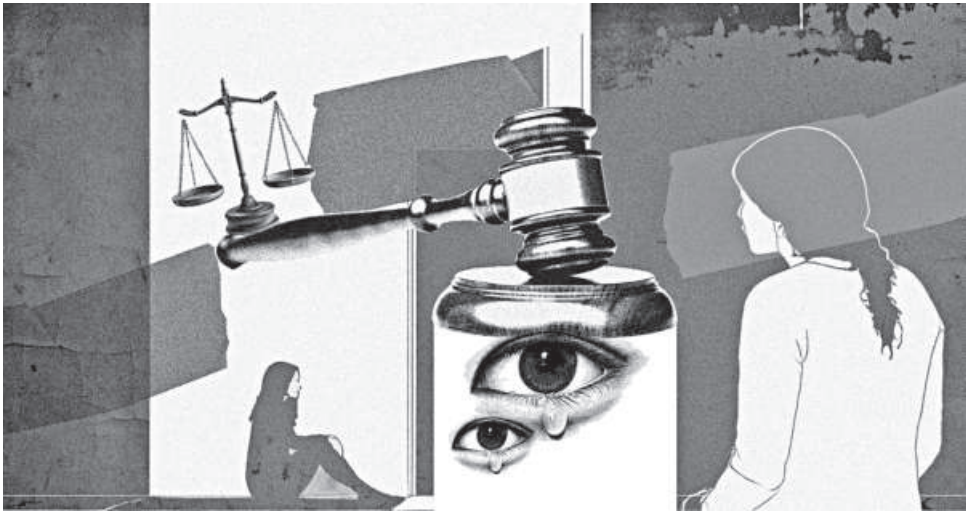
need better communication skills. Case closed!"

The absurdity would be funny if it weren't so dangerous. Dowry-related abuse is not a polite marital disagreement; it is a criminal act under Bangladeshi law. Section II(ga) is not there as a suggestion; it is a statutory recognition that "simple hurt" in dowry cases is serious enough to warrant direct prosecution. The ordinance, however, slyly

Rights, after all, are only as useful as the ease with which you can exercise them. And let's not forget the dangerous precedent: if mediation-before-prosecution becomes the norm in dowry abuse, why not extend it to other charming cultural traditions? Acid attacks? Arson over land disputes? A quick cuppa and a chat should do the trick. I can see the legal textbooks of the future now: *The Doctrine of Compulsory Forgiveness*, nestled comfortably between *Mens Rea* and *Natural Justice*. Law students will learn that in Bangladesh, justice is no longer blind; she's been sent for counselling before she can file an FIR.

Supporters of the change will no doubt point to "false cases" as the bogeyman. Yes, false allegations exist. But they are rare. And it is not unicorns that send thousands of women to hospital wards each year. The original law already allowed courts to dismiss frivolous cases. This amendment doesn't target false complaints—it targets all complaints, genuine or not. What's perhaps most galling is the timing. In a country where women's rights are already teetering between tokenism and tolerance, this ordinance is a step backwards disguised as procedural refinement. And because it's cloaked in the language of legal aid, the untrained ear might even believe it's progressive. It is not. It is the legal equivalent of a doctor telling you your broken leg will heal faster if you take a nice, long walk first.

So, here's my modest proposal: if we must have compulsory mediation in criminal acts against women, let's make it fair. Everyone who voted for it should first spend a weekend being "simply hurt" in the name of dowry and then see if they're in the mood for a polite chat. If they still think mediation is the best way forward, I'll personally draft the thank-you note to the legal aid officer. Until then, let's call this amendment what it is: a legal waiting room for women's justice, where time ticks away, bruises fade, and the only people truly protected are the ones holding the dowry receipts.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

of "reducing case backlogs" and "encouraging reconciliation". Because nothing says "healthy reconciliation" like a woman being told to patch things up with the man who bashed her head into the cabinet. I imagine the mediation script will go something like this:

Legal aid officer: "So, why do you think your husband hit you?"

Victim: "Because I didn't bring enough dowry."

Husband: "No, no, she misunderstood. I was merely expressing my cultural expectation through physical emphasis."

Officer: "Well, sounds like you two just

moves that first step behind a locked door labelled "Mediation Only". From a purely legal standpoint, this amendment undercuts the deterrent effect of the original act. Criminal law is supposed to send a message: commit this act, and you face swift, punitive consequences. By inserting mediation as a compulsory prelude, the state has effectively told perpetrators, "You've got one free round. Use it wisely."

It's also a triumph for the quiet backroom pressure of patriarchy. No need to lobby against women's rights openly—just tinker with the procedural requirements until the rights become too cumbersome to claim.

ambulance but still ruin your day (or life).

But that was too straightforward, wasn't it? In Bangladesh, we don't like our women rushing into rash things like bodily agency

equal footing. It's difficult to negotiate when one party is holding a legal baseball bat and the other is holding a police complaint that has now been reduced to a nice discourse

What can political parties learn from opinion polls?



Md Rubaiyath Sarwar is managing director of Innovision Consulting.

MD RUBAIYATH SARWAR

In Innovision's nationwide poll completed in March 2025, of the 10,696 people surveyed, 29.6 percent said they had not decided whom they would vote for. In contrast, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development's (BIGD) August 2025 survey found that 48.5 percent of their 5,495 respondents were undecided about their voting preference. Post-uprising, we thought that our nation would be uniting under a common hope: a reformed Bangladesh. Our polls are showing that voters are losing that hope. They also appear to be confused about whom they will vote for. The question is why?

BIGD did not ask a follow-up question to determine the underlying reasons for voters' indecision, but Innovision's March 2025 poll did. First, we found that a higher percentage of urban voters are undecided (urban 35 percent, rural 27 percent). Second, a higher proportion of Gen Z and Millennial voters are undecided when compared to other generations (Gen Z 33.64 percent, Millennials

28.06 percent, Gen X 25.53 percent, Boomers II 25.99 percent, Boomers I 26.00 percent, Post War 21.25 percent). Also note, 52 percent of Hindu voters, as opposed to 37 percent of Muslim voters, were undecided in the March 2025 poll. We also found that residents of pucca households were more undecided (45 percent), as opposed to those living in jhupri (37 percent). This means that the relatively wealthier families were more undecided. Besides, 52 percent of the ethnic voters were undecided, in contrast to 38 percent of Bangalee voters. The share of undecided voters was higher among students, petty traders, and homemakers.

When asked, 49.3 percent of the undecided voters cited not knowing who the candidate would be as a reason for their indecision. Meanwhile, 33.9 percent of them said they would make decisions based on the political situation before the election. Also, 14.5 percent of them were not thinking of the election and 9.7 percent of the undecided

voters did not trust mainstream political parties. To understand whether doubt about Awami League's election participation impacted the voters' decision not to vote, we had a proxy, and it was revealed that 6.1 percent were undecided because they were unsure whether their preferred party would participate in the election. Of the rest, 3.7 percent said they do not see any alternative political parties and 6.5 percent refused to comment. Note that 10.3 percent of the Gen Z voters said they do not trust mainstream political parties, in contrast to only 3.95 percent of Gen X voters. Besides, 4.2 percent of Gen Z said they are undecided because they do not see any alternative political parties. Also, a higher percentage of urban undecided voters (12.1 percent) compared to rural voters (5.3 percent) mistrust mainstream political parties.

The results of the Innovision survey show that our voters want to know who their candidates are. The political parties have so far failed to disclose their preferred candidates. Jamaat has already put forward a list of candidates, unofficially. But BNP has kept us in the dark in this matter, while the NCP is still organising itself. In this election, voters are asking for candidates who will work for them, on their behalf. The parties must engage with the voters and talk to them before finalising their candidates. Just using the party's name will not be enough to win this election. We also asked the respondents how they decide whom to vote for, and 21.6

percent responded that they always vote for the same party, 8.6 percent said they vote for a different party every election. However, 38.1 percent of the respondents said they make the decision based on the performance of the previous candidate. This means voters will be assessing the historical background of nominated candidates to assess their credibility. So, new candidates must break through the baggage left behind by their predecessors.

The data is clear. If the next election is free and fair, then the parties must now race to win the voters' hearts. That heart, however, has hardened, and it is bruised. If the parties think their old tactics would work, they would be wrong. So, how do the parties gain voters' trust ahead of the election?

The solution depends on both political parties' higher-ups and local leaders, or the aspiring nominees. During a recent field visit near the Sundarbans, I saw men in their mid-50s and 60s congregating at a local tea stall at 5:30pm. The tea stall owner switched on Somoy TV channel on YouTube. I was surprised to see how these common people from one of the remotest areas in the country were gathering information online through a private TV channel. I was also startled to see how all the news headlines sounded like BNP is creating chaos by not agreeing with several reform proposals. BNP will be in a fool's paradise if they think they can easily win the next election with a landslide given the concerns about its grassroots activities

among many people. The same theory applies to NCP as well. These parties must conduct a critical self-reflection. People want to move ahead from the old political culture of violence and control. Jamaat is benefiting from the chaos that BNP and NCP are in, and seems better organised, but it is still not above self-reflection given the changing demands of the time.

We, the people of Bangladesh, want a free and fair election. We want a parliament where there is a balance in power between the opposition and the government. We want the opposition and the government to work as a group for the common interest of Bangladesh. We do not want an opposition that will resort to street violence from day one, after the election, and declare that they will not cooperate with the government. Such an opposition party, in my opinion, is no less fascist than the ruling party we saw before. We want a government that listens to the opposition. We want a government that takes the opposition and the civil society as partners in building the nation. A ruling party that suppresses the opposition's voice in the parliament and remains in denial mode is something the people of Bangladesh have already ousted.

I request all political parties to listen to the people. The opinion polls are giving you insights that you otherwise failed to gather through your own apparatus. This is the gift from the people of Bangladesh to you. Make good use of them.

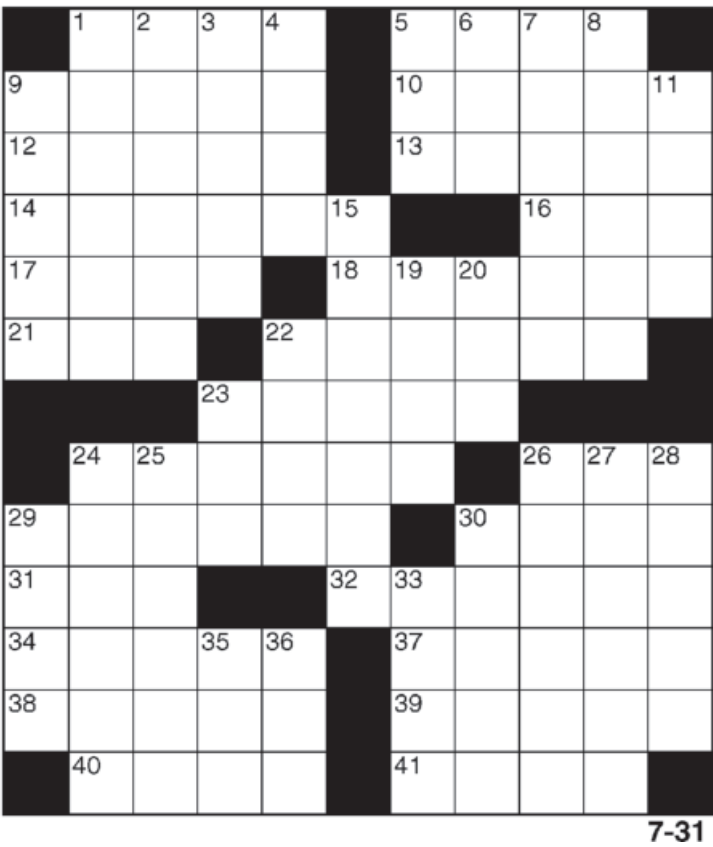
CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- Nuisance
- Writing tablets
- Shire of "Rocky"
- Aids in crime
- Some golf clubs
- Extend, as a subscription
- Kansas capital
- By way of
- Pub drinks
- Natural gift
- Homer's neighbor
- Tool kit tool
- Painting holder
- Some silverware
- Inquire
- Desire for a drink
- Pinnacle
- Mine yield
- Texas capital
- Full of caffeine, perhaps
- "Don't cry over - milk"
- Audacity
- Enters the pool
- Acute
- High cards

DOWN

- Convict's hope
- Wed in secret
- Trig functions
- Gofers' work
- Golf goal
- Lincoln nickname
- Colorado capital
- Beer hall vessels
- Moon of Saturn
- Try for a fly
- Georgia capital
- Goals
- Director Spike
- NFL players
- Gift tag word
- Cry of terror
- South Dakota capital
- On the go
- Mine yield
- photographer
- Superman's adoptive family
- Hamlet
- Jellied dish
- Meat-rating org.
- Genesis woman
- Cozy retreat



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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

Besides, deputy governors of the central bank served the purposes of politically affiliated business groups and businesspersons, as per industry people.

Promises on paper, pollution in reality

FROM PAGE 1

ministry has initiated three projects to save three rivers – Sutang in Habiganj, Haridhoa in Narsingdi and Labandaha in Gazipur – under the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund. The water resources ministry has approved a large volume of emergency work to protect riverbanks in just two months.

The ministry also drew up a list of 1,294 rivers in Bangladesh.

The long-awaited Teesta River project has finally taken off with a Chinese company about to complete its fieldwork, which will help determine what needs to be done under the project. According to the initial plans, it will curb bank erosion, reclaim land and store floodwater for use during the dry season.

In August last year, soon after taking office, Rizwana told The Daily Star that she would select one river in each division to rid them of pollution and encroachment. In subsequent public speeches, she had vowed to go after businesses that pollute rivers. She had been especially vocal against the factories that release untreated industrial waste into the river systems.

But nothing of substance has been visible till now.

All the rivers around Dhaka city, including the Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakkhya, Dhaleshwari and Balu, are still as polluted as before. In the last one year, her ministry could only prepare a plan to revive 63 rivers in 63 districts.

Although Rizwana wishes to ensure a fair share, negotiations about 54 transboundary rivers remain uncertain.

Forest land recovery from forcible occupation also remains a major challenge. Over 1.60 lakh individuals and organisations occupy

2.57 lakh acres (more than three times the area of undivided Dhaka city) of forest land across 28 districts, according to a forest department report of 2021. Of that, 31,615 acres were recovered between October 2020 and July 2024. The interim government has recovered over 5,000 acres in the last year.

A release from the environment and forest ministry said that besides cancelling numerous projects with allotment of forest land, which in turn saved 11,000 forest land from encroachment, the forest department had taken an initiative to revive three forests – Modhupur Sal Forest, Chunati Forest and Sherpur Forest.

Smaller initiatives include banning the invasive acacia and eucalyptus trees, reintroduction of the extinct native peafowl, and conservation of other species like sambars, capped langurs and hoolock gibbons.

Also, the plan for a safari park in Lathitila of Moulvibazar has been scrapped as the ministry didn't find it feasible. Meanwhile, plans are underway to establish a sanctuary for captive elephants in Chunati, Cox's Bazar.

The forest department, however, could not improve its record on protecting wild elephants. At least 11 elephants were killed by poachers and villagers in Chattogram over the past year. In the last 10 years, more than 100 elephants were killed by villagers, according to forest department data.

While there has been some progress in monitoring pollution, the ministry has yet to enforce concrete, long-term measures to combat Dhaka's air pollution, which remains among the worst in the world.

Ministry officials say

they have developed plans for national air quality management. They say 830 illegal brick kilns were demolished in the last one year. They have also shut down 18 unauthorised lead factories.

Brick kilns, however, continue to operate on Dhaka's outskirts, contributing to the city's air pollution.

When pointed out that the 80,000 diesel-run buses and trucks still ply the streets further worsening pollution in Dhaka, Rizwana said vehicles are regulated by the transport ministry and that environment ministry is trying to coordinate with the transport ministry to limit old vehicles.

Bangladesh was the first country to ban polythene shopping bags in 2002. Since then, officials have been conducting occasional drives against polybags. But the production, marketing, and sales of single-use polythene shopping bags never stopped. The interim government's efforts to curb plastic use included 748 mobile court drives, collecting Tk 87.6 lakh in fine from 1,397 violators.

More than 292 tonnes of polythene were seized, one individual received a one-month prison sentence, four cases were filed, and seven illegal polythene factories had their power connections severed. There were also certain measures to free the Secretariat from plastic.

Despite all these initiatives, markets remain flooded with single-use polythene bags.

The one clear success has been the temporary ban on tourists to Saint Martin's Island, off the Cox's Bazar coast.

On the other hand, the move to make the airport area a silent zone seems to have fallen flat, even though mobile courts collected fines worth Tk 15.5 lakh and

seized 1,644 horns in 484 cases.

The environment adviser remains positive about giving it a try at least. "If you dismiss something because the initiative was not successful, then nobody will even try to do them," she said.

"Nobody will be able to finish all this work within a year. I never said I could save all the rivers in that time. But I dream of saving them."

Sharif Jamil, member-secretary of a civic platform for environment and climate, DHORA, said his expectation from the ministry was naturally higher than it was for others. He acknowledged that there had been some instances of success on the environment front. But, he explained, from the perspective of the common citizens, the rivers are being grabbed and water being polluted. "There is no sign of improvement so far as forest of biodiversity are concerned."

MAHESHKHALI IN COX'S BAZAR

Illegal sand extraction poses landslide risk

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Illegal sand extraction in Maheshkhali, a coastal island upazila in Cox's Bazar, is putting hundreds of hillside residents at risk of landslides, alleged locals.

They claimed political party activists have formed a syndicate extracting 20 to 50 truckloads of sand daily from a site known as "Chaliyati Balur Dale" in Kalamarchhara union.

Despite several drives by the upazila administration, authorities have failed to stop the illegal activity.

Locals said sand extraction intensifies during the monsoon, when rainwater washes sand down from the hills and deposits it in the basin. The syndicate collects and sells the sand, transporting it by truck or dumper to Matarbari, Badarkhali, and other parts of Maheshkhali.

Each truckload reportedly sells for around Tk 2,500.

Md Sajminul Islam, assistant conservator of forests of the Coastal Forest Division in Maheshkhali, admitted sand trafficking from the area.

He said the sand originates from hills under his department's jurisdiction in Mouza-12 and is washed down to the basin by rain.



However, the basin is on khas land (government land not under forest jurisdiction), so the forest department cannot take direct action.

He said the department ensures no one extracts sand directly from

the hills, but residents illegally settled near the basin now face a high risk of landslides due to sand removal.

"These sandy hills have been severely degraded, partly because of houses built illegally and roads constructed through natural water channels," he said. "If the sand extraction stops, erosion from the hills will also reduce."

Abu Bakkar, journalist and general secretary of the Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Moheshkhali unit, said, "Although drives are conducted in response to media pressure, traffickers are often tipped off ahead of time, making operations ineffective."

UNO Md Hedayet Ullah said the administration is aware of the issue and has carried out multiple drives against the traffickers.

"I personally led a drive and seized some equipment from the site. Local law enforcement has also been instructed to act," he said.

ICT-1 records

FROM PAGE 3

he was declared dead, and accused top officials – including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina – of ordering the shooting. He named several police officers as the shooters.

Yakub's mother, Rahima Akhter, described the fatal injuries, breaking down as a video of Yakub bleeding was played in court. She and another victim's relative demanded punishment for the killers. The tribunal adjourned witness testimonies until

August 1.

Eight police personnel, including former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman and others, are accused; four are in custody, while the rest are absconding.

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 set August 21 to decide whether to frame charges or discharge 16 accused in the killing of seven people at Ashulia during the July uprising. Six victims were set on fire, one still alive at the time.

Tk 519cr campus project set

FROM PAGE 3

central library, and a two-storey TSC and cafeteria, costing around Tk 211 crore.

Two more establishments will be built within the project at a cost of Tk 2 crore. In addition, around Tk 15 crore will be spent on furniture.

According to the project summary prepared for Ecner, the academic masterplan focuses on teaching, specialised training, research, and knowledge dissemination, along with the physical and mental development of students to help build a humane society.

The campus will include open spaces, sports grounds, lakes, and designated areas for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries departments.

At least 33 per cent of the area will be reserved for tree plantation and

greenery, in line with Forest Department guidelines.

If implemented, the university – located in Shahjadpur, Sirajganj, and established to honour the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore – will aim to expand quality higher education, promote Rabindra studies, and develop skilled, technology-savvy human resources.

On May 7, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud said after the proposal was initially placed, the chief adviser directed that a comprehensive plan prioritising fine arts be prepared.


The project was then sent back for revision. At the time, Wahiduddin Mahmud also said the university would be built on 100 acres of land in the Zamindari area of Kuthibari in Shahjadpur, designed to attract tourists

and prioritise fine arts, dance, and literature.

The four-year project is scheduled to run from May 2025 to April 2029. It will be implemented by the University Grants Commission and Rabindra University, Bangladesh, under the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Education Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Chalan Beel Rokkha Andolon has written to the planning ministry, urging that the proposed university site be relocated from Buripothajia in Shahjadpur.

They warned that building the campus at the confluence of several rivers and canals – the only outlet of Chalan Beel – could cause waterlogging and an ecological disaster in the country's largest wetland. The letter described the move as "the final nail in the coffin" for the already threatened ecosystem.



Narayanangj City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban
10 BB Road, Narayanangj.
www.ncc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.16.6700.015.09.209.2019.151(58)

Date : 13/08/2025

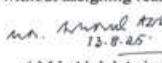
e-Tender Notice No-06/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works under "Urban Development and City Governance Project (UDCGP)". Package details are given below:

SI	Tender ID No.	Package No & Description of work	Online Tender Notice Publication Date	Online Tender Closing Date
01	1127912	Package No: UDCGP-NCC-SWM-2 Improvement Landfill site in Alamnagar.	13/08/2025 6.00pm	Please see tender notice in e-GP System.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). This notice will be also available on Narayanangj City Corporation website (www.ncc.gov.bd) as well as LGED (www.lged.gov.bd). The payment of works will be made under the availability of JICA fund.

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning reasons whatsoever.



(Md. Abdul Aziz)
Chief Engineer
Narayanangj City Corporation
Narayanangj.
Ph. 02-7645032
e-mail: se@ncc.gov.bd

GD-1801

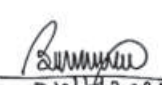
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়
ঢাকা টেকনিক্যাল টিচার্স ট্রেনিং ইনস্টিটিউট
মিরপুর রোড, দারুস-সালাম, ঢাকা-১২১৬
www.dttti.gov.bd

অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অভিবাসন ও দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন তহবিলের অর্থীনে গৃহীত কার্যক্রমের আওতায় সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক নিয়োগের জন্য শর্ত সাপেক্ষে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। www.dttti.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে আবেদন ফরম ডাউনলোড করে পূরণপূর্বক dttti2024@gmail.com ই-মেইল ঠিকানা/ডাকযোগে/সরাসরি আগামী ০১/০৯/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

বেতন	টেকনোলজি/বিভাগ ও পদসংখ্যা	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
অতিথি প্রশিক্ষক	ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল - ০১	স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/ইনস্টিটিউট
ও অতিথি স্ক্রীভ	সিভিল - ০১	হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ডিসপ্লিনে বিএসসি ইন
ওয়ার্কারদের	মেকানিক্যাল - ০১	ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রিসহ ২ বছরের বাস্তব
আমন্ত্রণ ও সম্মানী	অটোমোবাইল - ০১	অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট
প্রদান নীতিমালা,	আরএসি - ০১	টেকনোলজিতে ডিপ্লোমা পাসসহ ৮
২০২২	ফুড টেকনোলজী - ০১	বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা। সংশ্লিষ্ট
(সংশোধিত)	কম্পিউটার - ০১	ডিসপ্লিন/টেকনোলজি এর যেকোনো
অনুযায়ী	গার্মেন্টস/টেক্সটাইল - ০১	অকুপেশনে এনএসডিএ সাটিফাইড
		হতে হবে। CBT&A Level 4
		অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

বিস্তারিত জানতে www.dttti.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট ভিজিট করুন।



ড. প্রকাশলী মোঃ সাকাওয়াং আলী
অধ্যক্ষ
ঢাকা টেকনিক্যাল টিচার্স ট্রেনিং ইনস্টিটিউট

GD-1789

DSCC misses revenue

FROM PAGE 3

crore, with Tk 879.65 crore collected – Tk 362.81 crore short. The 2022-23 target was Tk 1,277 crore, but Tk 1,031.97 crore was realised, leaving a gap of Tk 245.03 crore. In 2023-24, the target was Tk 1,372.37 crore, while Tk 1,061 crore was collected – a Tk 311.37 crore shortfall.

Although revenue collection had been increasing year-on-year between 2020-21 and 2023-24 – rising by Tk 176.34 crore, Tk 152.32 crore, and Tk 29.59 crore respectively – the trend reversed in 2024-25, with a steep drop.

A DSCC revenue department officer said no officials or employees could enter Nagar Bhaban during the protest period, with even the administrator and CEO's offices locked.

"Because of this, DSCC could not fully collect revenue from the 52 revenue heads. Many citizens came to pay revenue but left empty-handed. Trade licence issuance and renewals were impossible during that period, reducing total revenue collection," the official said.

On Wednesday, DSCC administrator Md Shahjahan Mia announced the budget for fiscal year 2025-26, setting a revenue collection target of Tk 1,399.98 crore against a total budget of Tk 3,841.38 crore.

Shahjahan Mia said June is normally the month of highest collection, but this year the offices were locked for over 40 days.

"However, we have targeted to collect more revenue in 2025-26 than was collected in 2024-25.

The arrears from last fiscal year will be collected during the current fiscal year," he added.

Contacted, BNP leader Ishraque Hossain's family said he is undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital, and no comments could be obtained from him.

Urban planner Professor Adil Muhammad Khan said the decline was not solely due to Ishraque's movement.

"All activities were halted for about one and a half months. Additionally, there was a student-led uprising in the previous fiscal year. Following that, the mayor and councillors were removed. People were somewhat hesitant. These are also reasons."

Collecting the revenue that could not be collected this year in the next year will be a challenge for DSCC, he said.

Flood threat

FROM PAGE 4

Kamal Hossain, a farmer from Char Bajra of Ulipur upazila in Kurigram, said water entered all houses in the area at dawn. "Rain has worsened our suffering. We're struggling to protect our cattle."

Nader Islam, a farmer from Jatrapur village in Kurigram Sadar, said the Brahmaputra's water has risen sharply over the 24 hours to 6:00am yesterday. "It looks like floods may be approaching soon."

Kurigram District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Abdul Matin said they were prepared to handle a flood situation and had adequate relief supplies in stock.



বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ
৩৭/এ, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা
প্রশাসন-২ শাখা
প্রশাসন অনুবিভাগ
www.idra.org.bd
তারিখঃ ১৪/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

অডিট ফর্ম তালিকাভুক্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক গত ২২/০৭/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখে 'দৈনিক খবরের কাগজ' এবং 'দি ডেইলী স্টার' পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত 'অডিট ফর্ম তালিকাভুক্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি'র (ক) ক্রমিকের ২, ৩ অনুচ্ছেদ নিম্নোক্তভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো:

(ক) ২. বাংলাদেশ চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট অর্ডার, ১৯৭৩ (পিও ২, ১৯৭৩) মোতাবেক (ক) বিদেশী অডিট ফর্মের সাথে এফিলিয়েশন আছে এমন ফর্মের ক্ষেত্রে ০২ (দুই) জন এর পরিবর্তে ০১ (এক) জন এবং অনুমোদিত ফেলো চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট এর পরিবর্তে এসোসিয়েট চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট থাকতে হবে;

(খ) বিদেশী অডিট ফর্মের সাথে এফিলিয়েশন নেই এমন ফর্মের ক্ষেত্রে ০৪ (চার) জন এর পরিবর্তে ০২ (দুই) জন এবং অনুমোদিত ফেলো চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট এর পরিবর্তে এসোসিয়েট চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট থাকতে হবে;

৩. বিদেশী ফর্মের সাথে এফিলিয়েশন থাকুক বা না থাকুক আবেদনকারী অডিট ফর্মের ০২(দুই) জন ফেলো অংশীদারের পরিবর্তে ০২ (দুই) জন এসোসিয়েট অংশীদারের ন্যূনতম ১০ (দশ) বছরের পরিবর্তে ন্যূনতম ০৭ (সাত) বছরের প্র্যাকটিসিং অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;


বিজ্ঞাপনের সর্বশেষ প্যারার ৩য় লাইনে উল্লিখিত আবেদন জমাদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ আগামী ২০/৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ এর পরিবর্তে আগামী ০৭/৯/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো।

বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ

GD-1792



BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
DHAKA-1000
Office of the Chief Engineer
e-Tender Notice

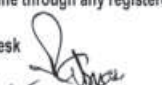
CE/Tender Notice-No-02/25-26(002-004)/E-107

Date:- 13/08/2025

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

Tender ID/ Re-Tender	Tender Name	Tender Document Last selling/downloading date and Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1137305	CE/S-02/25-26 Supply of Various Type Parts of AC, Printer & Telephone for Maintenance Works of BUET.	27-Aug-2025 16:00	28-Aug-2025 16:00
1137374	CE/E-12/24-25 Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 2 Stop, 1000 KG Capacity Cargo Lift for Swadhinata Hall at BUET.	27-Aug-2025 16:00	28-Aug-2025 16:00
1138195	CE/C-94/2023-24 Construction of Testing & Measurement Room in Side of the High Voltage Lab at ECE Building, BUET.	27-Aug-2025 16:00	28-Aug-2025 16:00
1138254	CE/S-09/24-25 Supply of Various Type Electrical Items for Maintenance Works of BUET.	27-Aug-2025 16:00	28-Aug-2025 16:00

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



(Dr. A.K.M. Jahangir Alam, PEng)
Chief Engineer

GD-1797

**Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute**
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207

Tender No. OTM/25-26/G04

Date: 14/08/2025

Invitation for Tender (Framework Contract OTM), Manual

01	Ministry/Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
02	Agency	Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.		
03	Procuring entity name	Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.		
04	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
05	Tender name	Supply of Stationary & Printing Items for General Store at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.		
06	Invitation Rel No.	BSH/OTM/25-26/G04		
07	Date	14/08/2025		
08	Procurement method	OTM (NCT) Framework Contract		
09	Budget and source of fund	Own		
10	Development partner	None		
11	Tender publication date	14/08/2025		
12	Pre-tender meeting will be held	24/08/2025 to 12.00pm. Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (Board Room), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
13	Tender last selling date and time	06.09.2025, During the office hour within 02.00pm		
14	Tender closing date and time	07.09.2025, 12.00pm		
15	Tender opening date and time	07.09.2025, 01.00pm		
16	Name and address of the office(s)	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
17	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
18	Name and address of the office(s) receiving tender document	(1) Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka (2) Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Thana, Agargaon, Dhaka.		
19	Name and address of the office(s) opening tender document	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (Board Room), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
20	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	This Invitation for Tenders is open to all eligible Tenderers as mentioned below: a) The minimum years of General Experience of the Tenderer in the Supply of goods as supplier shall be 05(Five) years. N.B: years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper and Delivery Completed Certificate must be submitted. b) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in Supply of Stationary Items 1(one) or 2 (two) contracts successfully completed within the last 3(Three) years with a value of Taka 54.0 (fifty-four) lac and Printing Items 1(one) or 2(Two) contracts successfully completed within the last 3(Three) years with a value of Taka 45.0 (forty-five) lac only. N.B: Delivery Completed Certificate must be submitted and years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. c) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line (unconditional) of the Tenderer shall be Taka lot-1: 54.0 lac, Lot-2: 45.0 lac only. d) Up-to-date trade license, VAT registration, up-to-date income tax return certificate and with other required eligibility and conditions of the Tender are shown in Tender Data Sheet of Tender documents and if any requirements are omitted/ missing then PPA-2006 & PPR 2008 standard rules will be followed.		
21	Brief description of goods	Supply of Stationary & Printing Items for General Store at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.		
22	Price of tender documents	Tk 4000.00 (four thousand only).		
23	Tender security amount in Taka	Lot-1: Tk 1,50,000.00 (one lac fifty thousand) and Lot-2: 1,25,000.00 (one lac twenty-five thousand) Pay Order in favor of Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute. (Pay Order)		
24	Package No.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location
	BSH/OTM/25-26/G04	1&2 (Lot Wise)	Supply of Stationary & Printing Items for General Store at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.	Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute
25	Name of official inviting tender	Prof. (Dr.) Md. Mahbubul Hoque.		
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute,		
27	Address of official inviting tender	Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
28	Contract number of official inviting tender	+880255059051-60		
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tender proceedings.			

Prof. (Dr.) Md. Mahbubul Hoque
Director
Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute

GD-1794

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Pirojpur
E-mail: pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com**Invitation for Tender**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division	
2	Agency	Roads & Highways Department	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur	
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A	
5	Procuring Entity District	Pirojpur	
6	Invitation for	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026	
7	Invitation Ref No	35.01.7980.462.99.171.20-2240	
8	Date	13/08/2025	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	NCT & OTM	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB	
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	N/A	
13	Project Name (if applicable)	N/A	
14	Tender Package No.	01/Manual/PSN/PRD/2025-2026	
15	Tender Package Name	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026	
16	Tender Publication Date	13/08/2025	
17	Pre-Tender Meeting Date	27/08/2025 at 12:00 p.m. Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division,Pirojpur (Zoom Meeting ID- 634 685 4277; Passcode: 12345)	
18	Tender Last Selling Date	14/09/2025 up to 05:00 p.m.	
		DateTime	
19	Tender Closing Date and Time	15/09/202512.30 p.m.	
20	Tender Opening Date and Time	15/09/202502.00 p.m.	
21	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address	
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur	
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barishal	
	Receiving Tender Document	(i) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barishal Circle, Barishal (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur	
	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Pirojpur	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law.Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh.Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of BangladeshAs per requirements specified in TDS & TOR	
23	Brief Description of Services	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division	
24	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	TK. 4000.00 (Four Thousand) Only	
25	Package No	Identification of PackageLocationTender Security Amount (Tk)Completion Time in Weeks / Months	
	01/Manual/PSN/PRD/2025-2026	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026Pirojpur25,00,000/- (Twenty-Five Lac)36 (Thirty-Six) months	
26	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. This notice will be available on RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd		

Tanvir Ahmed
ID No. 602308
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD,
Road Division, Pirojpur

GD-1788

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর

www.zoo.rangpur.gov.bd

স্মারক নং: ৩৩.০১.৮৫০০.০০০.০৭.০০১.২২-৫৫০

তারিখ: ২৯ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২
১৩ আশ্বিন ২০২৫খ্রিঃ**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

০১	মহাপ্রাণ	১	মদসা ও গ্রানিসম্পদ মহাপ্রাণ।	
০২	অধিদপ্তর	১	গ্রানিসম্পদ অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।	
০৩	বাংলাদেশকারী দপ্তর	১	গ্রানিসম্পদ অধিদপ্তর রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর।	
০৪	কি জন্য আহবান	১	পুন্ডা ইজারা প্রদান।	
০৫	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	১	৩৩.০১.৮৫০০.০০০.০৭.০০১.২২-৫৫০, তারিখ: ১৩/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ।	
০৬	সমগ্র পদ্ধতি	১	উদ্বৃত্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।	
০৭	দরপত্রের প্রাপ্যকৃত নম্বর	১	WR-01	
০৮	দরপত্র প্রচার/প্রকাশের তারিখ	১	১৩/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ।	
০৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১	২৭/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১	২৮/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১	২৮/০৮/২০২৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১২	দরপত্র নির্দিষ্ট বিদ্রোহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১	(ক) হোটেলিং সার্ভিসের কার্যালয়, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর। (খ) রেঙ্গা গ্রানিসম্পদ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, রংপুর।	
১৩	দরপত্র গ্রাহ্যকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	১	(ক) হোটেলিং সার্ভিসের কার্যালয়, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর। (খ) রেঙ্গা গ্রানিসম্পদ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, রংপুর।	
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তর	১	হোটেলিং সার্ভিসের কার্যালয়, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর।	
১৫	দরপত্রপ্রচার যোগ্যতা	১	শিল্পকার-২০০৮ ও তদনুসারে আইন ও বিধি এর বিধান ও দরপত্র সিডিউসে উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী।	
১৬	কার্যের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা	১	সমৃদ্ধ সিডিউসের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক।	
১৭	দরপত্র নির্দেশের মূল্য	১	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা মাত্র মূল্য (অফিসের মাধ্যমে)।	
১৮	কার্যের বিবরণ ও পরিচয়	১		
ক্রমিক নং	লস্ট/প্রাপ্যকৃত নং	লস্ট/প্রাপ্যকৃত পরিচয়	দরপত্র জামানত (BID Security)	মন্তব্য
১	২	৩	৪	৫
১	WR-01	গ্রহণকারের ইজারা	২,০৫,০০০/-	দরপত্র জামানত (BID Security) যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হাউসে হোটেলিং সার্ভিস, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর এর কার্যে নে-অবলিগেবল ক্রেতার দরপত্র সিডিউসের সাথে শাখা করিতে হইবে।
১৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	১	ডায় মোঃ জব্বার হাফিজ	
২০	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	১	হোটেলিং সার্ভিস অফিসার, রেঙ্গা হোটেলিং সার্ভিসের কার্যালয়, রংপুর ও হোটেলিং সার্ভিস (আই) দায়ী রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর।	
২১	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কার্যালয়ের ঠিকানা	১	হোটেলিং সার্ভিসের কার্যালয়, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর।	
২২	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	১	ফোন: ০২৫৮৮৮০৮০৩৫ এবং ই-মেইল rangpurzoo@dlis.gov.bd	
২৩	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য	১	(ক) দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র ব্যতীতই পূর্ণ অমাত্রা সংগ্রহণ করলে। (খ) বিজ্ঞপ্তির তথ্যাবলী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাবে।	

ডায় মোঃ জব্বার হাফিজ
হোটেলিং সার্ভিস অফিসার
রেঙ্গা হোটেলিং সার্ভিসের কার্যালয়, রংপুর
ও
হোটেলিং সার্ভিস (আই) দায়ী
রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর

জিডি-১৭৮৭

**North-West Power Generation Company Ltd**
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)**Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)**
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.217

Date: 13/08/2025

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1137516	Procurement of WTP Filters & Accessories	11-Aug-2025	02-Sep-2025 15:45 PM	03-Sep-2025

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

13.08.2025

Engr. Md. Abu Zafar Siddique
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-1791

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director

Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research (IEDCR), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Tel: 8802-222280376, 8802-2222986691 Fax: 02222280440

Memo no. IEDCR/BPHP/e-tender/2024-25/765

Date: 13.08.2025

e-Tender Notice- 01/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following goods under 'Government of Bangladesh Public Health Protection: Facilitating Health Security through Disease Surveillance, Laboratory Capacity, Workforce Readiness, and Emergency Management-2023 (BPHP)' Project Fund.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of the Item	Tender ID No.
01.	IEDCR/BPHP/2025/P1 – P17	M.S.R, Laboratory Machineries, Office Equipment, Computer Items.	1134190,1139236,1139281,1139321,1139338,1139344,1139353,1139365,1139368,1139375,1139380,1139390,1139504,1139507,1139510,1139512,1139516

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

To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to 4.00 PM, on 27/08/2025.

The Closing & Opening Time of Tenders are Shown Bellow:-

Sl. No.	Description	Date	Time	
			Closing	Opening
01.	IEDCR/BPHP/2025/P1 – P17	28/08/2025	3 : 00 PM	3 : 00 PM

Further Information and Guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

N.B: NOA will be issued as per funding availability.

13.08.2025

অধ্যাপক ডায় তাহমিনা শিরীন পিএইচডি
পরিচালক
টেলিফোন: ৮৮০২-২২২২৬২২৭০

GD-1790

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Forty more pushed into country: BGB

STAR REPORT

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained 40 individuals from the border areas in three districts early yesterday after they were allegedly pushed into Bangladesh by India's Border Security Force (BSF).

In Panchagarh, a total of 23 people were allegedly pushed early yesterday through the Borobar border of Panchagarh Sadar.

Of the 23, a BGB team detained 18 individuals near Harivasa Bazar under Harivasa union at dawn, while five others were apprehended from the Jotbahdai area, said Lt Col Sheikh Md Badruddoza, commanding officer of BGB-56 Battalion in Nilphamari.

The detainees include nine men, thirteen women, and one child. BGB handed them over to Panchagarh Sadar Police Station yesterday afternoon, said the BGB official.

Lt Col Badruddoza said, during questioning, the detainees claimed that they had been living and working in India for a long time. On August 2, they were detained by the Indian police in Mumbai and other locations. Later, on Tuesday, they were reportedly brought to the border

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



A malnourished Palestinian child receives a check-up at a medical point run by a local NGO affiliated with the Palestinian Health Ministry's primary care programme, in al-Mawasi, Khan Yunis district, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Use firearms in self-defence'

Orders CMP chief after Monday's attack on cop

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

After a police officer was attacked during a raid in the port city, Chattogram police chief Hasib Aziz told officers to be ready to use arms for self-defence.

In a wireless message on Tuesday night to all Chattogram Metropolitan Police personnel, he said police may open fire immediately to protect themselves during patrols or operations if anyone brandishes a weapon.

The attack on the police officer occurred on Monday night when Awami League activists staged a flash procession in the Saltgola area under Bandar Police Station.

Acting on information, a three-member police team led by Sub-inspector (SI) Abu Sayeed Rana went to the scene. While searching a house where AL activists were reportedly hiding, SI Rana was attacked with a sharp weapon. He was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital with head injuries.

Following the attack, 18 people were arrested and sharp weapons were seized in a joint police-army operation.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

BFIU seeks bank details of former BB governors, deputies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has asked banks to provide the account details of three former governors of the Bangladesh Bank, four deputy governors and two BFIU heads for the first time in history.

The three former governors are Atiur Rahman, Fazle Kabir and Abdur Rouf Talukder. The four former deputy governors are Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, SM Moniruzzaman, Kazi Sayedur Rahman and Abu Farah Md Nasser. The two former BFIU heads, who held the deputy governor rank, are Abu Hena Mohammad Razee Hassan and Md Masud Biswas.

The anti-money laundering agency sought the bank account details at the request of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Criminal Investigation Department of police, said a senior official of the BFIU seeking anonymity.

The letters, which were sent to the banks last week, specified that information, including account opening forms, KYC (Know Your Customer) documents, transaction histories and related data, must be provided.

Massive irregularities in the banking industry during the Awami League's 16-year rule came to light after the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

PURBACHAL SCAM Trials begin in 3 cases against Hasina, family

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday began trials in three corruption cases against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 22 others, including four of her family members, over alleged irregularities in the allocation of Purbachal New Town plots, recording depositions from the complainants.

The family members named in the cases are Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana, her nephew Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and nieces Azmina Siddiq and British MP Tulip Siddiq.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lodged six cases between January 12 and 14 with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 over the alleged scam.

In yesterday's proceedings, ACC Deputy Director Md Salahuddin, the complainant in one case against 17 people, including Hasina, Rehana, and Tulip, testified before Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 from 10:45am to 12:15pm.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Israeli strikes kill 60 Palestinians in Gaza

25 aid seekers among dead; Netanyahu says Gaza civilians 'allowed to exit'

AGENCIES

Israeli planes and tanks bombed multiple areas across the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing at least 60 Palestinians, including 25 aid seekers, according to residents and medical officials.

Hamas' chief negotiator, meanwhile, held talks with Egyptian mediators over a potential ceasefire, while Israel struck the territory's main city prior to a planned takeover and again invited Palestinians to leave.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated an idea - also enthusiastically floated by US President Donald Trump - that Palestinians should simply leave the enclave housing more than 2 million people after nearly two years of conflict.

"They're not being pushed out, they'll be allowed to exit," he told Israeli television channel i24NEWS. "All those who are concerned for the Palestinians and say they want to help the Palestinians should open their gates and stop lecturing us."

Armed forces chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir "approved the main framework for the IDF's operational plan in the Gaza Strip," a

statement released by the Israeli army said.

Arabs and many world leaders are aghast at the idea of displacing the Gaza population, which Palestinians say would be like another "Nakba" (catastrophe) when hundreds of thousands fled or were forced out during a 1948 war.

Israeli planes and tanks bombed eastern areas of Gaza City heavily, residents said yesterday, with many homes destroyed in the Zeitoun and Shejaia neighbourhoods overnight.

At least 60 Palestinians, including at least 25 aid seekers, were killed in the strikes, reports Al Jazeera online. Al-Ahli hospital said 12 people were killed in an airstrike on a home in Zeitoun.

Tanks also destroyed several houses in the east of Khan Younis in south Gaza too, while in the centre Israeli gunfire killed nine aid-seekers in two separate incidents, Palestinian medics said. Israel's military did not comment.

Hamas chief negotiator Khalil Al-Hayya's meetings with Egyptian officials in Cairo were to focus on stopping the offensive, delivering aid and "ending the suffering of our people in Gaza," Hamas official Taher al-Nono said in a statement.

➔ Israeli military approves 'framework' for new offensive

➔ Hamas holds more ceasefire negotiations in Egypt

➔ Aid entering Gaza remains far from sufficient: UN



Prof Jatin Sarker (1938-2025)

A beacon of wisdom goes dark

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Marxist scholar, educationist, essayist, and an unwavering voice against oppression and communal politics, Prof Jatin Sarker died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday.

He was 89. He had been receiving treatment for multiple complications, including kidney and bladder infections, said his son-in-law Rajib Sarker.

Jatin's body was taken to the Udichi Mymensingh Sangsad office, where leaders of various political parties, including BNP and left-leaning parties, along with representatives of socio-cultural organisations and local residents, paid their tributes from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

The body was then taken to Netrokona Shaheed Minar, where

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Scientists discover 'cute' but fearsome ancient whale

AFP, Sydney

Australian scientists have discovered a razor-toothed whale that prowled the seas 26 million years ago, saying yesterday the species was "deceptively cute" but a fearsome predator.

Museums Victoria pieced together the species from an unusually well-preserved skull fossil found on Victoria's Surf Coast in 2019.

Scientists discovered a "fast, sharp-toothed predator" that would have been about the size of a dolphin. "It's essentially a little whale with big eyes and a mouth full of sharp, slicing teeth," said researcher Ruairidh Duncan.

"Imagine the shark-like version of a baleen whale - small and deceptively cute, but definitely not harmless."

The skull belonged to a group of prehistoric whales known as the mammalodontids, distant smaller relatives of today's filter-feeding whales. It is the fourth mammalodontid species ever discovered, Museums Victoria said.



Locals crossing a single-bamboo bridge in Paikgachha's Katabunia village of Khulna, where persistent waterlogging for almost two months has disrupted life for over 200 families. Courtyards and roads remain submerged, while farmers and fishermen count losses with farmlands and shrimp ponds under water. Locals blame silt build-up at the Chadkhali river sluice gate for blocking drainage. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Trump begins DC takeover

National Guard troops arrive

AGENCIES

The new picture of law enforcement in the US capital began taking shape Tuesday as some of the 800 National Guard members deployed by the Trump administration began arriving.

The city's police and federal officials, projecting cooperation, took the first steps in an uneasy partnership to reduce crime in what President Donald Trump called - without substantiation - a lawless city.

The influx came the morning after the Republican president announced he would be activating the guard members and taking over the District's police department, something the law allows him to do temporarily. He cited a crime emergency - but referred to the same crime that city officials stress is already falling noticeably.

By Tuesday evening, the administration said that National Guard members were on the streets, reports AP.

The Army said there were no

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1