

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 steeper 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.

Rights situation

FROM PAGE 1

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

FROM PAGE 1

one, I would like to do it almost immediately, and we'll have a quick second meeting between President Putin and President Zelensky 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.



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

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

Sada Pathor stripped bare

FROM PAGE 1

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 Jaflong in Gowainghat is also reportedly near collapse, with residents saying looting intensified 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 sub-contractors. Now, they claim, the field is open to all, fueling a looting frenzy outside quarries including tourist spots like Sada Pathor and Jaflong'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.

Muhammad Sher Mahbub Murad, deputy commissioner of Sylhet,

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 Jaflong 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 Jaflong, but now, even as an adviser, I'm unable to do so. I saw no unity when it came to protecting Jaflong. 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 Quayum Chowdhury, president of Sylhet District BNP. "Anyone involved in these activities will be suspended from the party."

Azizunnahar, upazila mirbahi 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 Jaflong 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 Nobjy 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 Bholaganj and takes legal action against those responsible.

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

"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

We will hand over power

FROM PAGE 1

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.

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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 Sls 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.

Sl 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.

Sl 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, Malotti Rani Robidas, filed a murder case with Taraganj Police Station against 700 unidentified people. Police later arrested four suspects identified from video footage.

Fault lines exposed after NCP leader's comments

FROM PAGE 1

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the government should focus on the polls, instead of what political parties say. "There is a certain quarter that wants to block the election... No one will take this statement into consideration."

Biplabi Workers' Party General Secretary Saiful Huq refused to dismiss the "highly irresponsible" comments. He warned the remarks could be "advance bargaining signals" to derail the election process.

"To call this arrogance would be an understatement... Is it wise to push the entire situation towards further instability and uncertainty?"

"Bangladesh is already facing grave security risks both internally and externally. Everyone agrees that an elected government with clear political command is essential. So, when someone seeks to derail this process, one must consider whether something else is hidden behind it."

Moulana Yunus Ahmad, secretary general of Islami Andolok Bangladesh, said that if Patwary meant reforms before elections, "he is right in some way," but criticised the language and manner as inappropriate.

Asked whether Patwary's statement reflected the stance of the party, NCP Office Secretary Mushfiqul Salehin told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday. "He actually meant that we want all the key reforms before the next election, which was in his speech."

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."

Patwary's remarks "a political stand".

Jamaat-e-Islami could not be contacted, despite repeated attempts for comments on Patwary's remarks.

Prof SK Tawfiq M Haque, director of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University, noted similarities in Patwary's tone

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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 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 oblige 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 SHUVO

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.

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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 lockout 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

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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



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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 Lalmoni 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,
Ctg

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
JAMAAT 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

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.

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

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.

Mozmuj 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



Water Development Board (WDB) said.

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

Mob violence a threat

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.

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.

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:

1. Supply & Installation of Lab Equipment (Miniature Rotor Spinning Machine, Qty-01 No.) for the Department of Textile Engineering
2. Procurement of High Configuration PC (Qty-28 Nos.) for the Department of CSE
3. 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.

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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, Salbagh 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).

৳৩০০/ক্ষসা-১০ (২০২৫-২৬)

তারিখ-১৩/৮/২৫

৪৫

GD-1793

A. B. M. Asaduzzaman Sweet

Executive Engineer (Electrical)

Rajshahi City Corporation

Tel. +880 2588879220

E-mail: sweet_cee86@yahoo.com

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

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW	Issue of Tender Documents:
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)	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).
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-05C	
4	Publication Date	14 August 2025	
5	Procurement Method	Competitive Tendering among eligible Tenderers: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Least Cost Basis (LCB).	a) General Experience:
6	Source of Funds	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh	Tenderer must be a Bonafide Contractor having minimum 5(five) years of experience in supply and installation of STP
7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with Common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.	b) Specific Experience:
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-05C	Tenderer must have successfully completed at least 1(one) work of minimum 50 KLD of Supply and Installation of STP of 10-Storied and above Commercial Building in all respect in last 5(five) years.
9	Tender Package Name	Supply and Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)	a) Minimum Average Annual Turnover:
10	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	20 August 2025 upto 5:00 PM	Tenderer must have minimum Average Annual Turnover for Building Construction Work of BDT 5(five) million in last 5(five) years.
11	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	24 August 2025 at 11:30 AM	b) Liquid Asset/ Working Capital/ Credit Limit:
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.	Tenderer must have a Liquid Asset/Working Capital/Credit Limit for an amount of BDT 2(two) million for this particular project.
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.	
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 Waqf (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

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

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

PIROJPUR-GOPALGANJ

Narrow, damaged road puts traffic at risk

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.

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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:

NUKE EXPANSION

India aims to allow its pvt firms to mine, import uranium

REUTERS, New Delhi

India aims to allow private firms to mine, import and process uranium as part of plans to end a decades-old state monopoly over the nuclear sector and bring in billions of dollars to boost the industry, two government sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government plans to expand nuclear power production capacity by 12 times by 2047 and it is also relaxing requirements to allow foreign players to take



A firefighting airplane drops water on a wildfire on the outskirts of Abejera de Tabara in Zamora, Spain, yesterday. Firefighters across Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, and the Balkans are battling blazes as a heatwave pushes temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius across parts of Europe.

PHOTO: REUTERS

a minority stake in power plants, Reuters reported in April.

If it meets its expansion goal, nuclear will provide 5 percent of India's total power needs, according to government estimates.

Until now, the state has maintained control over the mining, import and processing of uranium fuel because of concerns over the possible misuse of nuclear material, radiation safety and strategic security.

Ukraine, allies must resist Russian 'deception'

Says Zelensky ahead of phone diplomacy with Trump; Moscow makes biggest 24-hr Ukraine advance in over a year

AFP, Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that Ukraine and its allies must work together to pressure Russia into ending its invasion, ahead of talks in Berlin with European leaders and US leader Donald Trump.

"Pressure must be exerted on Russia for the sake of a fair peace. We must learn from the experience of Ukraine and our partners to prevent deception on the part of Russia," Zelensky wrote on social media. "There

are currently no signs that the Russians are preparing to end the war," he added.

Zelensky reached in Berlin yesterday for talks with European leaders and Trump ahead of the US president's summit with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

The Ukrainian leader said he and his team had held more than 30 conversations with world leaders and high-ranking officials ahead of the talks. The flurry of diplomatic engagements have been overshadowed by rapid, but so far limited Russian push in the

eastern Donetsk region, which the Kremlin claims is part of Russia.

Meanwhile, Russia branded as "insignificant" European diplomatic consultations with Ukraine yesterday ahead of a planned summit between Trump and Putin in Alaska.

The Russian army made its biggest 24-hour advance into Ukraine in over a year on Tuesday just ahead of the Trump-Putin summit, according to an AFP analysis of data from the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

Deadlocked plastics treaty talks 'at cliff's edge'

AFP, Geneva

Negotiators from 184 countries remained stalemated yesterday on how to curb plastic pollution, less than 36 hours before they were slated to deliver a binding global treaty.

Diplomats are "at the edge of a cliff," one official observer told AFP.

Dozens of ministers have arrived in Geneva to try to break the deadlock as the 10-day talks hurtle towards a close, but widely divergent positions have made the search for a so-called landing zone "very difficult," according to Danish Environment Minister Magnus Heunicke.

A new draft of the treaty text, streamlined by the talks chair, was expected later yesterday, several sources told AFP. A plenary meeting to take stock of where things stand is scheduled for 7:00 pm (1700 GMT).

The debate continues to pit the so-called "Like-Minded Group" of chiefly oil-producing countries that refuse restrictions on the production of plastic -- a derivative of oil -- or certain chemicals thought to be harmful to health against a much larger "high ambition" bloc that favours such measures.

20 migrants die in shipwreck off Lampedusa island: UN

REUTERS, Rome

At least 20 people have died after a migrant boat capsized off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, a United Nations agency and local media reported yesterday.

Rescuers have recovered 20 bodies so far and operations were continuing, according to initial reports by Ansa news agency. Between 70 and 80 people were believed to have survived.

Filippo Ungaro, from the UN's refugee agency UNHCR, expressed "deep anguish" over the disaster and said more migrants could still be missing at sea.

"Twenty bodies have been recovered and the same number are missing," he wrote on his account on social media platform X.

The Italian interior ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

More than 30 boats carrying about 600 irregular migrants have arrived in Spain's Balearic islands since Monday, officials said, as a new migratory route from North Africa gains traction after a crackdown by authorities in other jumping off points.



Swiss pilot surpasses solar-powered plane altitude record

AFP, Geneva

Swiss pilot Raphael Domjan beat the altitude record for a solar-powered electric plane in a flight that took him soaring to 9,521 metres, his team announced yesterday.

The SolarStratos plane made the landmark flight from Sion airport in southwest Switzerland on Tuesday, taking advantage of warm air thermals to go beyond the 15-year-old record.

The certified altitude record for a solar plane had stood at 9,235 metres (30,298 feet). It was set in 2010 by the Solar Impulse plane, with Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg at the controls.

Domjan's flight lasted five hours and nine minutes.

"I share this moment of joy with all the people who have been preparing for this achievement for years," he said, celebrating afterwards with the melted cheese of a traditional Swiss raclette.

US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

India acts minimally, Pak rarely acts against abuses

REUTERS, Washington

The US government noted abuses in India and Pakistan in a shortened human rights report released on Tuesday that said India "took minimal credible steps" to combat the abuses while Pakistan "rarely took credible steps."

The Trump administration scaled back the annual US government report on human rights worldwide, dramatically softening criticism of some allies and countries that have been President Donald Trump's partners.

The State Department human rights documentation for India and Pakistan was also much shorter and scaled back this year.

India has been an important US

partner in recent years in Washington's effort to counter China's rise, although relations have been tense over Trump's imposition of a 50 percent tariff on goods from India. Pakistan is a non-Nato US ally.

About India, the report said: "The government took minimal credible steps or action to identify and punish officials who committed human rights abuses."

On Pakistan, it added: "The government rarely took credible steps to identify and punish officials who committed human rights abuses."

Indian and Pakistani embassies in Washington had no immediate comment on the report released on Tuesday, which documented instances in 2024.

Russia restricts Telegram, WhatsApp calls

Cites law breaches

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia has started restricting some Telegram and WhatsApp calls, accusing the foreign-owned platforms of failing to share information with law enforcement in fraud and terrorism cases, the digital development ministry said yesterday.

Russia has clashed with foreign tech platforms for several years over content and data storage in a simmering dispute that intensified after Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, with critics arguing that Russia is trying to expand its control over the country's internet space.

President Vladimir Putin has authorised the development of a state-backed messaging app integrated with government services, as Moscow seeks to establish what it calls digital sovereignty by promoting home-grown services and reducing its dependence on platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram.

"In order to counteract criminals... measures are being taken to partially restrict calls on these foreign messengers," the Interfax news agency quoted communications regulator Roskomnadzor as saying. "No other restrictions have been imposed on their functionality."

WhatsApp owner Meta Platforms and Telegram did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Reuters reporters verified the restrictions, noting that voice calls on Telegram had barely been functioning since August 11 and that WhatsApp calls had been rendered impossible due to intermittent sound and a metallic buzzing.

The digital development ministry said Telegram and WhatsApp had ignored repeated requests to take measures to stop their platforms being used for activities such as fraud and terrorism. The blocking measures would be lifted should the platforms comply with Russian law, the ministry said.

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

নির্বাচিত প্রকৌশলীর মন্ত্রী
ভার্জিন পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ
বাণিজ্যিক, ভার্জিন, নামকরণী
ফোন: ০২২-৫৪০০০ (ফোন)
ই-মেইল: xen.dalia@bwdb.gov.bd

Office of the Executive Engineer
Dalia Water Development Division
BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari
Phone: 0521-64505 (Off)
www.bwdb.gov.bd
E-mail: xendalia@bwdb.gov.bd

Memo No. Dalia/T-1/Ka(Part-37)/861
Date: 11-08-2025

e-Tender Notice No. Dalia/NDR/PW-01,02,03,04,05,06,07/25-26
e-Tender packages have been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following work.

SL. No.	Tender ID	Package No. (Lot No.) & description	Location of the works	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01	1139040	Dalia/NDR/PW-01/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the right bank of Teesta River from km 5.100 to km 5.310-210.00 meters at Kharapara in Upazila: Dimla, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26	Kharapara, Dimla, Nilphamari	27-08-2025 & 12:00	27-08-2025 & 12:30
02	1139041	Dalia/NDR/PW-02/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the right bank of Teesta River from km 7.150 to km 8.330-1180.00 meters at Doholpara & Uttar Khoribari in Upazila: Dimla, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26.	Khoribari, Dimla, Nilphamari	11-09-2025 & 12:00	11-09-2025 & 12:30
03	139042	Dalia/NDR/PW-03/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the right bank of Teesta River from km. 17.150 to km 17.650-500.00 meters at Choto Khala in Upazila: Dimla, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26	Choto Khala, Dimla, Nilphamari	03-09-2025 & 12:00	03-09-2025 & 12:30
04	1139043	Dalia/NDR/PW-04/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the right bank of Teesta River from km 22.00 to km 22.350-350.00 meters at Baispukur in Upazila: Dimla, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26.	Baispukur, Dimla, Nilphamari	03-09-2025 & 12:00	03-09-2025 & 12:30
05	1139044	Dalia/NDR/PW-05/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the right bank of Teesta River from km 37.600 to km 37.900 to km 39.000 to km 39.200 = 200.00 meters at Sholmari in Upazila: Jaldhaka, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26.	Uttar Dowbari, Dowbari, Sholmari, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari	03-09-2025 & 12:00	03-09-2025 & 12:30
06	1139045	Dalia/NDR/PW-06/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the right bank of Teesta River from 40.00 to km 40.400=400.00 meters at Koymari in Upazila: Jaldhaka, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26.	Koymari, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari	03-09-2025 & 12:00	03-09-2025 & 12:30
07	1139046	Dalia/NDR/PW-07/25-26 Precautionary work to protect the left bank of Teesta River from km 1.950 to km 2.550-600.00 meters at Charkhoribari, Upazila: Dimla, Dist: Nilphamari under Dalia WD Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari during the financial year 2025-26.	Charkhoribari Dimla, Nilphamari	03-09-2025 & 12:00	03-09-2025 & 12:30

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 bank's branches up to banking hours as stated in IFT notice in e-GP Web Portal. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

11-08-2025
Amitav Chowdhury
Executive Engineer
Dalia Water Development Division
BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari

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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 Noulaf; and freelance journalists Moamen Aliwa and Mohammad al-Khalidi. 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.

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 noshin.noshin@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(1a) 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(1a) 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.

Mediation assumes both parties are negotiating on 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 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.

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 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 will 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.

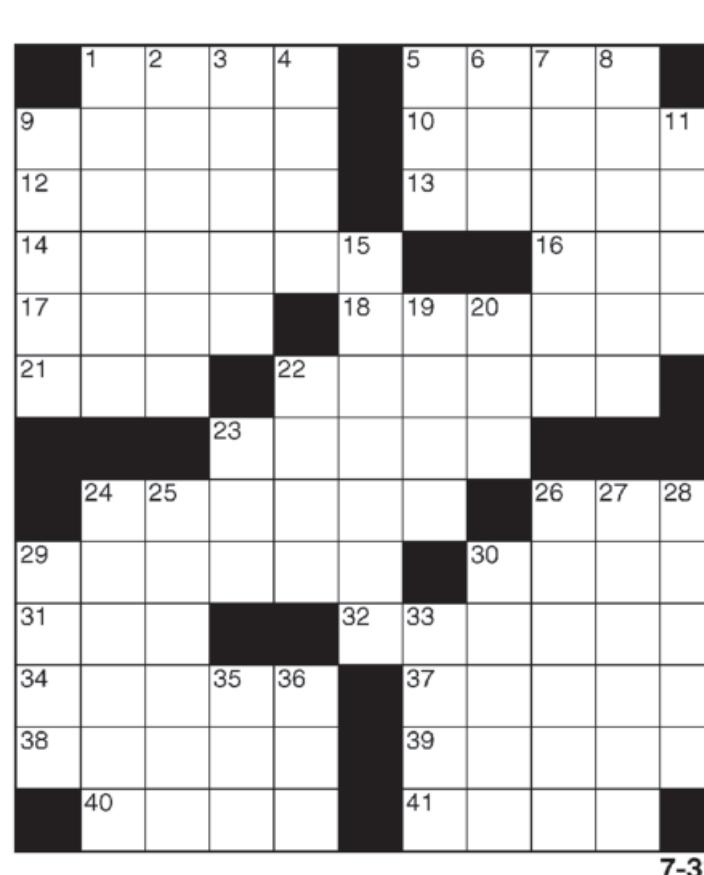
I request all political parties to listen to the people. The opinion polls are giving you insights that you otherwise failed to gather through your own apparatus. This is the gift from the people of Bangladesh to you. Make good use of them.

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
- Gofer's 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
- Obey the photographer
- Superman's adoptive family
- Hamlet
- Jellied dish
- Meat-rating org.
- Genesis woman
- Cozy retreat



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024

The most memorable 'independent' releases



The Daily Star OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2024

Ispahani Tea Limited and The Daily Star return for the fourth consecutive year to honour excellence in OTT and digital media. The nominations for the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 have been announced, offering the perfect opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge your favourite artistes for their outstanding performances across OTT and digital platforms.

To vote, visit :
ottcawards.thedailystar.net

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TikTok



RUBAYAT REHMAN & RUSLAN REHMAN
EKHANE EKHON

A stirring glimpse into human yearning by The Rehman Duo—created, performed, and filmed by the duo—captures an evocative desire to break free from the confines of urban life. Ruslan Rehman's lyrics and guitar, alongside Dipro Ahmed's piano and Ruslan's mixing, paint a soulful narrative of longing and escape in the soulful voice of Rubayat. The music video brings that inner bird longing to life, beautifully resonating with anyone who dreams of boundless horizons.



ANGEL NOOR

JODI ABAR

You cannot forget this song, the soft, melodious tune laced with melancholic remembrance, that became an anthem last year. Written, composed, and soulfully performed by Angel Noor, it rang deeply with listeners even beyond the borders. Its heartfelt lyrics and haunting melody captured emotions that words alone could never convey. A work of rare artistry and emotional depth, it truly stands as a well-deserved nomination in every sense.



NACHIKETA & JOY SHAHRIAR

AREKТИBAR BACHO

A poignant duet unites prolific musician Nachiketa Chakraborty and Joy Shahriar in an evocative fusion. Written by Tanbir Sajib and composed by Joy Shahriar, the song complements its stirring message of hope and resilience. Joy also directed the music video, visually amplifying the song's emotional core and making it a memorable addition to the contemporary Bengali music scene.



XEFER, MUZA & SANJOY

ARALE HARALE

This track from 2024 bursts with infectious energy, fusing playful flirtation with a beat that refuses to let you sit still. Xefer and Muza's voices dance over a rich mix of Afrobeat, Amapiano, Bangla folk, and EDM, with Sanjoy's production adding irresistible polish. Dotara strings weave tradition into the groove, while the Los Angeles shot, choreography-driven video turns this track into a celebration you can both watch and feel.

NEWS

Trump begins DC takeover

FROM PAGE 12
specifies on the locations they will be patrolling, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason.

Mayor Muriel Bowser pledged to work alongside the federal officials Trump has tasked with overseeing the city's law enforcement, while insisting the police chief remained in charge of

the department and its officers.

"How we got here or what we think about the circumstances—right now we have more police, and we want to make sure we use them," she told reporters.

The tone was a shift from the day before, when Bowser said Trump's plan to take over the Metropolitan Police Department and call in the National

Guard was not a productive step and argued his perceived state of emergency simply doesn't match the declining crime numbers.

Still, the law gives the federal government more sway over the capital city than in US states, and Bowser said her administration's ability to push back is limited.

"Even in the post uprising period, under the interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus, most print media have continued to play a constructive role in building a democratic state, upholding the aspirations of the July uprising, and bringing the government's shortcomings before the public."

The council urged all, including Jatiya Juboshakti, to make statements that are based on facts.

Putin, N Korea's Kim vow stronger ties ahead of US-Russia summit

AFP, Seoul

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un have vowed to strengthen cooperation, days ahead of Putin's summit in Alaska with Donald Trump, Pyongyang's state media reported yesterday.

Putin and Kim spoke by phone on a "warm comradely atmosphere" on Tuesday and confirmed "their will to strengthen cooperation in the future", the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The call came three days before the summit between Putin and Trump, the first between a sitting US and Russian president since 2021, as Trump seeks to broker an end to Russia's more than three-year war in Ukraine.

North Korea has sent thousands of troops to Russia's Kursk region as well as weapons to aid its war effort, with Kim offering Moscow his full support for the war during talks last month with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

'We reject such sweeping statements'

FROM PAGE 1
They also said the media "acted like the mouthpiece of intelligence agencies, as it did during Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule".

In response, the Editors' Council said editors and journalists were subjected to various forms of persecution, harassment and repression during the 15 years of Awami League rule.

"During the uprising, the media

courageously brought to the public crucial reports on killings and human rights violations by state forces, internet blackouts and other critical issues."

It added that most print media fearlessly presented facts and played a key role in shaping public opinion in favour of the uprising, often working under considerable threats and intimidation.

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Police officials said they became hesitant to carry firearms after the July uprising. Many were targeted in deadly violence amid public anger over the law enforcers' brutal response to the protests that toppled the AL government.

After the attack during the raid, Commissioner Hasib Aziz ordered CMP officers to carry firearms as authorised before August 5, 2024, a move confirmed by at least five officers across various police stations.

In his wireless directive, Hasib Aziz said no patrol, mobile, DB, or check-post teams will go out without firearms and live ammunition because "rubber bullets alone are not working".

Police sources said the two constables accompanying SI Rana were carrying shotguns but did not fire.

The commissioner's order has

'Use firearms in self-defence'

FROM PAGE 12
Md. Amirul Islam, deputy commissioner of CMP's Bandar Zone, told The Daily Star that a CT scan on the injured officer showed there is no brain injury, but doctors kept him under observation because the wound is close to the bone.

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Trials begin in 3 cases against Hasina, family

FROM PAGE 12
The court then heard ACC Assistant Director Afnan Jannat Keya in another graft case against 18 people, including Hasina, Azmina, and Tulip, from 12:45pm to 1:40pm. In the third case against 18 accused, including Hasina, Radwan, and Tulip, ACC Assistant Director SM Rashadul Islam testified from 1:45pm to 2:25pm.

Court sources said that as all the accused have been declared fugitives, there was no scope for defence lawyers to appear on their behalf, they said.

On August 11, Salahuddin, Keya, and Rashadul testified in three

other graft cases against 23 accused, including Hasina, Joy, and Putul. The ACC filed six charge sheets with the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court on March 25, naming Hasina as common accused in all. Arrest warrants were issued on April 10, 13, and 15 against Hasina, her relatives, and others after the court took cognisance of the charges.

On July 1, the court ordered 29 accused to appear. Charges were framed against them on July 31.

They were detained from Mashirbari area of Patgram upazila, said Subedar Anjaryl Haque, Commander of Dhabsatli Border Outpost (BOP) Camp under BGB 61 Battalion in Rangpur.

The detainees include four men, three women and two children, he said.

They went to India illegally around 10 years ago for work. Recently, they were detained by Indian police in Gujarat state and later sent back to Bangladesh through BSF, he added.

"The detainees are currently in police custody. Their identities and addresses are being verified. Necessary legal measures will be taken upon investigation," said Mizanur Rahman, OC of Patgram Police Station.

The detainees include one man, five women, and two children.

During questioning, they said that they had been living in India for several years. About 8-10 days ago, Mumbai police arrested them and brought them back to the border areas on Tuesday.

After verifying their citizenship, preparations are underway to hand them over to Pirkjan Police Station in Thakurgaon. A flag meeting was held between BGB and BSF company commanders in this regard, the release added.

In Thakurgaon, BGB detained eight people who were allegedly pushed in by the BSF through the Fakirganj border in Pirkjan upazila. They were apprehended near border pillar 342, according to a press release issued by the BGB 42 Battalion in Dinajpur.

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Following the reserve heist in 2016, he stepped down.

He was replaced by former finance secretary Fazle Kabir.

During his tenure, one bank after another came under the control of new owners, who went on to indulge in large-scale irregularities in their institutions, central bank reports showed.

During his tenure, the approval of new banks and the relaxation of loan policies were also used as strategies to conceal defaulted loans.

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Promises on paper, pollution in reality

FROM PAGE 1
ministry has initiated three projects to save three rivers -- Sutang in Habiganj, Haridhao 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 Lathitala 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."

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DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2025
SRABAN 30, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

9

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 "Chaliyatali 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.

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.

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.

Narrow, damaged

FROM PAGE 4

"When we drive the bus along this road, it jolts badly while crossing damaged sections, which harms the vehicle's parts," said Mohammad Shahin, manager of Emad Paribahan in Pirojpur.

Dhaka-bound trucks carrying wooden logs, green coconuts, and other goods also travel this road.

"Sometimes it becomes extremely difficult and risky to make way for vehicles coming from behind or from the opposite direction because the road is so narrow," said trucker Mohammad Ali.

"The road needs to

be widened to double its current width. Otherwise, smooth movement will remain impossible," he added.

Tanvir Ahmed, executive engineer of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Pirojpur, said 29 kilometres of the Pirojpur-Nazirpur-Gopalganj road fall within Pirojpur district and have an average width of 5.5 metres.

"We have sent a proposal to the higher authorities to widen it to 10.3 metres," he said, adding that if approved, they will be able to expand the road, easing the suffering of road users.

"The road needs to be widened to double its current width. Otherwise, smooth movement will remain impossible," 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.

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 Ecne, 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 percent 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 of students to help build a humane society.

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, under the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Education Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Chalan Beel Rokhha 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



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 Ref No.	BSHI/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, Arganya, 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	<p>This Invitation for Tenders is open to all eligible Tenderers as mentioned below:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
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
	BSHI/OTM/25-26/604	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			
9	Procurement Method	NCT & OTM			
10	FUNDING INFORMATION				
11	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB			
12	Development Partners (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.			
19	Date	Time			
20	Tender Closing Date and Time	15/09/2025 12.30 p.m.			
21	Tender Opening Date and Time	15/09/2025 02.00 p.m.			
22	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			
23	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
24	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 Bangladesh As per requirements specified in TDS & TOR 			
25	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			
26	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	TK .4000.00 (Four Thousand) Only			
27	Package No	Identification of Package Location Tender 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 2025-2026	Pirojpur 25,00,000/- (Twenty-Five Lac)	36 (Thirty-Six) months	
28	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				

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

GD-1788

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রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর		www.zoo.rangpur.gov.bd	
স্থানক নং: ১৩০,১১,৮৫০০,০০০,০৯,০০১,২২-৫০		তারিখ: ২৯ শাব্দ ১৪৩২ ১৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৫	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
০১	ময়মান	১	ময়মান ও শান্তিপুর ময়মান
০২	অশুলু	১	অশুলু অশুলু, ময়মান, রংপুর
০৩	বাংলাদেশকান্তী ময়মান	১	বাংলাদেশকান্তী ময়মান রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর
০৪	কৃষ্ণ ময়মান	১	পুরু ইয়ালা ময়মান
০৫	ময়মানের সুর ময়মান ও কৃষ্ণ	১	৩০,০১,৮৫০০,০০০,০৯,০০১,২২-৫০, তারিখ: ১৩/০৮/২০২৫
০৬	ময়মান প্রক্রিয়া	১	উন্নত ময়মান প্রক্রিয়া (OTM)
০৭	ময়মানের প্রাক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	WR-01
০৮	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৩/০৮/২০২৫
০৯	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৫/০৮/২০২৫
১০	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৮/০৮/২০২৫
১১	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৮/০৮/২০২৫
১২	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	(১) চেটোরিনার সার্কেল কার্যালয়, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর (২) মেলা অশুলু কার্যালয়, রংপুর
১৩	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	(৩) চেটোরিনার সার্কেল কার্যালয়, রংপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, রংপুর (৪) মেলা অশুলু কার্যালয়, রংপুর
১৪	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৪/০৮/২০২৫
১৫	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৫/০৮/২০২৫
১৬	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৬/০৮/২০২৫
১৭	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৭/০৮/২০২৫
১৮	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৮/০৮/২০২৫
১৯	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	১৯/০৮/২০২৫
২০	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২০/০৮/২০২৫
২১	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২১/০৮/২০২৫
২২	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২২/০৮/২০২৫
২৩	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৩/০৮/২০২৫
২৪	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৪/০৮/২০২৫
২৫	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৫/০৮/২০২৫
২৬	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৬/০৮/২০২৫
২৭	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৭/০৮/২০২৫
২৮	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৮/০৮/২০২৫
২৯	ময়মানের প্রক্রিয়া ময়মান	১	২৯/০৮/২

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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 Borobari 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 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

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

The nine individuals led the banking industry as regulators during AL regime, a period that saw significant deterioration in governance

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 Rabiu 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 Shejaiya 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-Haya'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

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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

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