

# NEWS

## 3 Bangladeshis to compete in Japan's SpoGomi World Cup



### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three young Bangladeshis will represent the country at the 2nd SpoGomi World Cup in Japan this October. The participants – Md Imran Hossain, Md Jubair Sheikh, and Md Tanvir, all students of Daffodil International University – competed as Team Eco Fighters and secured victory in the Bangladesh qualifiers held yesterday in Dhaka.

Originating in Japan, SpoGomi is a team-based competition where participants collect litter from designated areas within a set time and sort it into categories. Teams earn points based on the type and weight of collected waste.

The contest aims to promote environmental awareness and public engagement in waste management in a fun and competitive manner.

The Bangladesh qualifier took place at the Sandhya Malati ground of the Rajuk Uttara Apartment Project in Uttara Sector-18.

Seventy teams competed, with Team Eco Fighters scoring the highest. Each team had one hour to collect waste and 20 minutes to sort it.

Different categories carried different point values.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Administrator Mohammad Azaz highlighted the importance of civic responsibility in keeping the city clean.

"We want to advance the city's cleanliness through community participation. Without awareness and cooperation from all walks of life, it is impossible to keep the city clean," he said.

He also criticised unauthorised markets occupying sidewalks, making waste management more difficult. "We clean the city's garbage all night, but by noon it becomes dirty again due to citizens' negligence. Without public awareness and active participation, the city cannot remain clean," he added.

## Janmashtami

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before concluding at Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka. Earlier in the morning, the Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee organised a Gita Yajna at the Dhakeshwari National Temple, seeking peace and prosperity for the country and the nation. It was conducted by Shankar Math and Mission from Sitakunda, Chattogram.

Additionally, the

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) undertook a four-day programme marking Janmashtami. The activities included recitation of the Srimad Bhagavatam Gita, devotional songs and kirtan, bhog arati, distribution of maha prasad, discussion meetings, cultural programmes, and religious drama and kirtan mela.

## Burglaries at Khulna

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group of burglars vandalised and looted a Dutch Bangla Bank Fast Track ATM booth along with two shops on Sadar Road early yesterday.

Around 3:30am, the gang stormed the ATM booth at Adalatpara, tied up and assaulted security guard Mojibur Rahman, and then vandalised the booth, looting a laptop, said Sadar Police Station OC Imtiaz Ahmed.

Mojibur, left seriously injured after being struck on the head, was admitted to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital.

About 20 minutes later, the same gang broke into "Fashion Optical" on Sadar Road, stealing products, a

computer monitor, and about Tk 2 lakh in cash.

Around 4:30am, they targeted "Shikdar Store" in the area, looting a CCTV monitor, cash, recharge cards, and other items, the OC added.

Md Rinku, channel officer of Dutch Bangla Fast Track, confirmed Mojibur had been tied up and attacked.

"We have obtained video footage of the incident. An investigation is underway, and the culprits will be identified and brought to justice soon," the OC said.

[Our correspondents from Khulna and Patuakhali contributed to this report.]

## Army seizes arms

FROM PAGE 3  
"Relevant intelligence agencies have already begun detailed investigations, and the operation is still ongoing," it added.

Meanwhile, the detainees were identified as Montaserul Alam Anindo, locally known as an English teacher and owner of the coaching centre, and two others, Md Robin and Md Faisal.

Anindo is the son of Shaiful Alam, alias Lattu, former vice-president of BNP's Rajshahi city unit, and owner of the building of the coaching centre, according to media reports.

He is also a cousin of former Rajshahi City mayor and Awami League leader AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, said a press release issued by 40 East Bengal, Rajshahi Sena Camp.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
AUGUST 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Magrib	Esha
4:25	12:45	4:45	6:38	8:00
AZAN	5:00	1:15	5:00	6:41
JAMAT	5:00	1:15	5:00	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Stop pushing unnecessary tests

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"Look into the matter seriously," he said.

Prescribing unnecessary medical tests is another complaint, he said, citing the case of his house help who was prescribed 14 tests by a Dhaka hospital.

Aggrieved by the sheer number of tests prescribed, the house help went to his hometown, Mymensingh, for treatment by a doctor he knew and was cured without any tests.

"Stop this torture. It's fine if you charge the rich more, but please end the practice of prescribing 14 or 15 tests for poor patients."

Another complaint is about compelling patients to buy medicine from a particular company, he said.

"In any part of the world, do doctors set aside specific times in hospitals or clinics for pharmaceutical company representatives? Is there any country where this happens? Are you agents of pharmaceutical companies? Are the doctors of major hospitals in this

country intermediaries for pharmaceutical companies? Where are you placing yourselves?"

Wrong test results and low salaries of service providers are the other complaints, he said, while urging more investment in manpower to improve the quality of services.

People would not need to go to India or Bangkok for treatment if they received proper care here, he added.

People receive treatment from both government and private medical facilities, so the standards of these two types of facilities should not differ, Rahman said.

Similarly, the quality of education in government and private medical colleges cannot be different as both produce doctors.

The government will establish a Health Facilities Accreditation Council to ensure quality, he said.

The practice of undue profit must be stopped, he said, adding that healthcare providers should limit themselves to justifiable

profits.

Talking about the low salaries of service providers, he said that doctors at most medical facilities earn less than Tk 30,000 monthly while nurses receive about Tk 12,000.

"In which country in the world do people work for such low wages, except Cuba, where the government provides everything? This has reached a shameful level."

Subsequently, he urged healthcare providers to establish a salary structure keeping their social dignity in mind.

The government wants a salary board for health service providers and sought the owners' support in this regard.

He also termed the annual renewal of licences for private medical facilities as irrational.

The government is working to review the process, he said, adding that the authorities must ensure proper inspections within the fixed period.

## Implementation timeline

FROM PAGE 1

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the consensus commission, confirmed to The Daily Star that the commission had sent the integrated final draft to the parties, adding that they had been asked to send their feedback on language and wording by August 20.

"The content will remain unchanged," he added.

About the charter having no specific deadline for the parties, he said the two-year deadline was mentioned in the preliminary draft to initiate discussions. "It wasn't anything concrete."

Asked why the draft does not specify the immediately implementable recommendations, he said the interim government will identify those and act accordingly.

A member of the commission, preferring anonymity, also said the timeline was initially mentioned to initiate discussions on implementation. "We are now discussing the legal bindings of the charter. Once that's established, we expect a timeline will naturally emerge."

The draft outlines 84 issues on which political parties reached consensus during two rounds of discussions between March 20 and July 31. It also includes notes of dissent – most from the BNP and some from other parties.

On whether political parties would be bound to take the notes of dissent into consideration, Prof Ali Riaz said, "Discussions with legal experts are underway.... The parties would be obliged to follow the interpretations given by the experts."

Giving priority to the July uprising aspirations, the commission sought pledges on eight broad commitments.

For half an hour, the family pleaded, protested, and prayed. By 7:15pm, the baby had died.

"Had I known my child would die over a Tk 2,000 dispute, I would have paid the higher fare. I demand justice and strict punishment for the perpetrators," Nur Hossain said, his grief raw and unfiltered.

DHAKA SUNDAY AUGUST 17, 2025

BHADRA 2, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

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of the vice presidency, temporary presidency, and eventual return to the judiciary had no legal framework.

"Yet those actions were legitimised on the basis of political commitments, and the subsequent parliament endorsed them as the people's will, strengthening both constitutional convention and democracy," it added.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said his party needs to consider whether they will sign the charter or not.

The charter said the people's uninterrupted struggle for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law – particularly the historic significance of the 2024 uprising – would receive constitutional and state recognition.

Parties are urged to pledge justice for the killings during the July uprising, state honours for the martyrs and assistance for their families, and rehabilitation of the injured.

In the preliminary draft, the commission asked parties to pledge to recognise and "enshrine the historical importance of the 2024 anti-discrimination democratic movement and popular uprising in the constitution with due prominence."

Raved Rasin, senior joint convener of the National Citizen Party, said they are disappointed as the draft does not mention a timeframe; which proposals are immediately implementable; how they will be implemented; the fate of issues over which parties submitted notes of dissent; or those on which no consensus was reached.

"We will write to the commission about this," he said, expressing hope that it will take their concerns into consideration.

Both BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed and Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher, who represented their respective parties during the consensus talks with the commission, could not be contacted for comments despite repeated attempts.

## Two held over Banani shisha

FROM PAGE 3

had gone there with his friend Nurul Islam Khokon.

Allegedly, around 5:28am, on the second floor of the building, suspects Munna and Hamza confronted Rahat. During an argument, Munna stabbed Rahat multiple times before fleeing.

The knife used in the murder, a Swiss Gear blade, was recovered from Rajia Sultana Road in Dhaka's

Mohammadpur area.

In preliminary interrogations, the suspects revealed a long-standing dispute with Rahat over dominance in the Banani lounge.

On the night of the incident, Rahat reportedly asked Munna to leave the lounge around 1:00am, which escalated the conflict and led to the stabbing, the press release stated.

## EC alone cannot ensure fair polls

FROM PAGE 3

through constituency-based elections and the upper house through a proportional representation system.

He also discussed the limitations of both the proportional representation system and the constituency-based system in parliamentary elections. He said discussions are ongoing about forming the lower house

without the cooperation of the EC, the administration, political parties, candidates, and voters, it will not be possible to hold a free and acceptable election.

The Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) debaters emerged as winners, defeating the team from Sir Salimullah Medical College.

However, he added, through constituency-based elections and the upper house through a proportional representation system. In his concluding remarks, Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron said the process of organising the upcoming national election should be expedited. The EC alone cannot ensure fair polls through constituency-based elections and the upper house through a proportional representation system. In his concluding remarks, Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron said the process of organising the upcoming national election should be expedited. The EC alone cannot ensure fair polls through constituency-based elections and the upper house through a proportional representation system. In his concluding remarks, Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron said the process of organising the upcoming national election should be expedited. 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