

Tk 707cr spent in 9yrs, dengue still ravages Dhaka

Experts blame outdated strategies, poor planning and lack of coordinated action

WASIM BIN HABIB and HELEMUL ALAM

Despite spending around Tk 707 crore over the past nine years, Dhaka's two city corporations have failed to shield residents from the relentless surge in dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) spent nearly Tk 464 crore on pesticides, cleaning weeds and water bodies, and equipment purchases, while Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) spent around Tk 243 crore on similar initiatives during the period.

This year, DNCC proposed Tk 135 crore

ineffective due to outdated strategies, poor planning, and the absence of a comprehensive policy.

Without coordinated, science-based action backed by nationwide monitoring, the fight against Aedes mosquitoes, the vector for dengue, will remain futile, they warn, calling for an end to the repeated use of the same outdated approach year after year.

They suggest a specialised integrated vector management department to lead the initiatives with effective community engagement.

While city officials continue to debate

YEAR	DNCC	DSCC
2025-26	Tk 135.50 (proposed)	Tk 46.50 (proposed)
2024-25	Tk 110	Tk 46.75
2023-24	Tk 87.50	Tk 40.84
2022-23	Tk 52.50	Tk 31.07
2021-22	Tk 53.50	Tk 23.01

BUDGET FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL (IN CRORES)

budget and DSCC Tk 46.50 crore for mosquito-control activities.

Yet the capital remains in the grip of recurring outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases that pose an escalating threat to public health.

Experts say the city corporations' mosquito control efforts have largely been

strategy and funding, residents continue to suffer. Neighbourhoods brace for the worst with every rainfall, and families fall ill despite taking every possible precaution.

Take the case of Asad Rahman, a private company employee living in a modest apartment in Mirpur. He spent

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Md Abdul Latif, 78, a respiratory patient, struggles to use a nebuliser on his own at the medicine ward of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal yesterday. The hospital has been facing a severe workforce crisis since intern doctors went on strike over attacks on medical professionals and a lack of workplace safety.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

STONE LOOTING
Sylhet DC withdrawn amid flak
Companiganj UNO also transferred

STAR REPORT

Mohammad Sher Mahbub Murad, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, has been removed from his post and attached to the public administration ministry as an officer on special duty (OSD).

Sarwo Alam, who is currently serving as the private secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment adviser, has been appointed as the new Sylhet DC.

The Ministry of Public

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

'Ukraine peace deal possible' Says Trump as he meets Zelensky, European leaders

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday said a peace agreement for the war in Ukraine is attainable as he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders.

Trump, speaking with reporters present at the White House, said all would prefer an immediate ceasefire but that he was optimistic that an agreement could be reached to deter aggression in Ukraine.

He also said his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, at summit talks last week, had accepted that

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

Ducsu panels begin taking shape

Deadline for nomination collection, submission extended by a day

MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Former Students Against Discrimination spokesperson Umarra Fatema, who collected her nomination papers yesterday, said she will announce her panel today.

Meanwhile, the university authorities extended the deadlines for collecting and submitting nomination forms for Dhaka University Central Students' Union election.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

HSBC Export Excellence Awards 2025

Accelerate your international success

The HSBC Export Excellence Awards returns to honour the determination and achievements of Bangladesh's exporters – enabling businesses to open up a world of opportunities beyond borders.

Award nominations are now open across four categories:

- Ready-made Garments
- Ready-made Garments Backward Linkage
- Non-traditional and Emerging Sectors – Manufacturing
- Non-traditional and Emerging Sectors – Service

Nominations close on 18 September 2025.

For award nominations and more information, visit www.business.hsbc.com.bd/EEA2025 or call +8801714-109696

In association with



British High Commission
Dhaka



HSBC

Opening up a world of opportunity

Spain, Portugal battle wildfires as death toll mounts

AFP, Madrid

Thousands of firefighters backed by the military and water-bombing aircraft yesterday battled dozens of wildfires across Spain and Portugal, as the death toll increased to six since the outbreaks began.

The Iberian peninsula has been particularly affected by forest fires fuelled by a succession of heatwaves and droughts blamed on climate change that have hit the southern Mediterranean.

Two firefighters were killed on Sunday -- one in each country, both in road accidents -- taking the death toll to two in Portugal and four in Spain.

The head of Spain's Civil Protection and Emergencies, Virginia Barcones, told broadcaster TVE there were currently 23 "active fires in operation status two", indicating a serious and direct threat to the population.

The fires, now in their second week, were concentrated in Galicia, Castile and Leon, and Extremadura regions.

Sylhet DC withdrawn amid flak

FROM PAGE 1

Administration issued a notification regarding the transfers yesterday.

Meanwhile, Companiganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Azizunnahar has been transferred to Fenchuganj upazila, and Md Shafiqul Islam, the current UNO of Fenchuganj, has been appointed as the new Companiganj UNO.

Sylhet's Divisional Commissioner Khan Md Reza Un-Nabi issued the transfer orders, confirmed Debajit Singha, additional divisional commissioner of Sylhet.

The local authorities have faced widespread criticism after reports surfaced on the rampant looting of



As the Ducusu polls near, at least 442 aspirants picked up nomination forms yesterday, raising the total to 565 candidates for 28 posts since August 12. The deadline for collection, originally set for yesterday, has been extended until this afternoon. The photo was taken at the Senate Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tk 707cr spent in 9yrs

FROM PAGE 1

a considerable sum on mosquito nets, sprays, coils, repellents, and cleaned his home regularly. Yet two weeks ago, he, his wife, and his elderly mother were infected with dengue.

"We did everything we could and even spent money beyond our capabilities," he said.

Asad said that although dengue has taken a dangerous turn in recent years, he has not seen any urgency in the authorities' response. In his neighbourhood, fogging is sporadic at best, and other preventive measures are rarely visible.

"It feels like we're on our own," he added.

First identified in 2000, dengue, once considered a seasonal issue, has now become a major public health concern, with cases occurring throughout the year.

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data show the dengue outbreak is worsening. In 2016, the number of deaths was only 14, while 6,060 people were infected.

The situation worsened in 2019, when more than 100,000 cases and over 179 deaths were recorded. However, the worst dengue outbreak in the country's history occurred in 2023, with 1,705 deaths and 3,21,179 hospitalisations.

As of yesterday morning, 105 people have died from dengue this year, according to DGHS, with 45 of the fatalities reported from the Dhaka metropolitan areas. At least 380 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning, bringing the total number of reported infections to 26,758, including 6,133 from Dhaka metropolitan areas.

The daily dengue bulletin of DGHS is based on data from only 59 public and private hospitals in Dhaka and 80 district- and divisional level hospitals, whereas around 16,000 hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres across the country provide dengue care. This means the true scale of the outbreak remains undetermined.

SAME OLD APPROACH

Every year, both DNCC and DSCC launch mosquito control drives in the capital aimed at curbing the spread of dengue and other vector-borne diseases.

These efforts typically include fogging operations in residential areas, markets, and public spaces to kill adult mosquitoes, larvicide spraying in stagnant water bodies, drains, and construction sites. They also run awareness campaigns and some special drives.

And the lion's share of the city corporations' spending is on insecticide purchases.

For example, DNCC proposed allocating Tk 135.5 crore for mosquito control activities in fiscal 2025-26, of which Tk 80 crore has been set aside for insecticide purchase. It spent Tk 65

stones from Bholaganj Sada Pathor in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila that has allegedly been going on since August 5 last year.

In the face of public outrage, joint forces, including local administration, police, Rab, and the army, launched operations to recover the stolen mineral resources.

As of Sunday, around 4.5 lakh cubic feet of stones were recovered during multiple drives conducted all over the Sylhet district.

On the same day, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan accused the local administration of complicity in the looting of stones from Sada Pathor, and called for immediate

action against those involved.

On August 15, Md Anwarul Habib, director general of the Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD), filed a case accusing around 1,500 unnamed individuals in connection to the looting of stones from Sada Pathor.

So far, five people have been arrested in the case.

According to the case statement, since August 5 last year, miscreants have been illegally extracting stones worth hundreds of crores of taka from the government gazetted quarry area, as reported by several media outlets.

The statement also noted that the identities of those directly involved had remained unconfirmed until now.

Meanwhile, DSCC proposed Tk 46.50 crore for mosquito control programmes, of which Tk 45 crore has been allocated for buying insecticides, up from Tk 40 crore in FY24-25.

The rest of the money is usually spent on equipment, including fogger, wheel, and spray machines, their transportation, and special cleaning activities.

Experts, however, say this old approach is unlikely to produce significant results in curbing the menace amid a changing climate.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said the city corporations must identify breeding sources from the beginning of the year. Authorities should first categorise neighbourhoods based on dengue cases and then carry out vigorous anti-mosquito drives in those areas.

"Instructions have already been given to all centres under DGHS across the country to take necessary steps and strictly follow the national guidelines on dengue management," he said.

WHAT TWO CITY CORPORATIONS SAY

Asked whether the insecticides are effective, DSCC Chief Health Officer Nishat Parvin said they use insecticides

a multidisciplinary team, including biochemists, biologists, serologists, and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) experts, working year-round to track resistance patterns and guide insecticide use, he said.

"We do not even know which insecticide is currently effective against Aedes mosquitoes," he added.

Farhad Hussain, director (disease control) of DGHS, said they handle dengue management, while vector control is carried out by other authorities.

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WHAT TWO CITY CORPORATIONS SAY

Asked whether the insecticides are effective, DSCC Chief Health Officer Nishat Parvin said they use insecticides

only after receiving positive results from three separate tests conducted by the IEDCR, the Plant Protection Wing of Agriculture Extension Department, and DSCC itself.

He also said insecticide resistance patterns vary from city to city and strategies must be tailored accordingly. "We keep using the same types of insecticides even though mosquitoes here have developed resistance to them. We have also failed to involve researchers in the process. The government must engage experts and use laboratory findings to design effective interventions," he added.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Experts said it will not be possible to check the Aedes mosquito population without an integrated vector management department.

The department would conduct research on vectors and develop plans to manage them. The outcomes would be shared with all city corporations, municipalities, upazilas, and union parishads across the country, they said.

"The absence of a dedicated national authority for vector management is a major gap in the efforts to control mosquitoes," said Saifur Rahman.

"City corporations alone cannot do the job. There should be a specialised government department led by entomologists to conduct surveillance, analyse data, issue directives, and coordinate responses nationwide."

The department would employ

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said, "Field-level work must be assessed regularly -- ideally every two months. Monitoring reports should guide decisions."

He also said insecticide resistance patterns vary from city to city and strategies must be tailored accordingly. "We keep using the same types of insecticides even though mosquitoes here have developed resistance to them. We have also failed to involve researchers in the process. The government must engage experts and use laboratory findings to design effective interventions," he added.

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Thousands suffer as bridge collapses in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A 34-foot bridge over the Ayman river in Multagacha upazila of Mymensingh collapsed recently, leaving thousands of people in severe hardship.

The collapse cut off communication between the two banks, forcing people to cross on foot.

Locals said several days of heavy rainfall increased the river's water pressure, while soil erosion at both ends of the bridge contributed to the collapse.

Built in 2001, the bridge was located at Amodpur Kandigoan village on Muktagacha Natun Bazar to Dapuria Road.

Residents alleged that recent excavation work by the Water Development Board (WDB) in the river, carried out without protective measures, weakened the structure's foundation and hastened its collapse.

Imam Uddin Mukta, a veteran journalist, said the bridge had been the only means of communication for thousands of people from several villages, including



117 acres reclaimed, but encroachers creep back in

Freed WDB land in Ctg occupied again

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Just a month after a major eviction drive, land reclaimed by the Water Development Board (WDB) has once again come under fresh encroachment, raising concerns over the sustainability of the operation.

Several plots, part of the more than one hundred acres of land cleared during the July 13-15 drive, have reportedly seen the return of former occupiers. Makeshift structures have already been set up in some areas, while in others

vehicles are once again being parked on WDB property.

The eviction drive, conducted from Halishahar to Kattali in the port city, had recovered valuable government land after many years of illegal occupation. The operation cost around Tk 20 lakh. With fresh encroachment already underway, locals said the effort and resources spent have effectively gone in vain.

During a visit yesterday, this correspondent observed that grabbers have once again started constructing structures on the reclaimed land.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Mob violence persists in some parts

FROM PAGE 3
August 15, the adviser said, "There was no directive from the home ministry specifically prohibiting people from offering flowers. What we instructed was that no untoward incident should occur."

Asked about mass lawsuits and allegations of harassment through false cases, Jahangir said police were not the only ones filing cases, as members of the public were also lodging complaints. "To prevent innocent people from suffering, we are forming another committee. The principle is clear: the guilty will not escape, and the innocent will not be punished," he said.

Yesterday's meeting also reviewed preparations for the upcoming national election, discussions on the Police Reform Commission, progress in the July killing cases, law and order in rural areas, extortion, snatching and cyber propaganda, violence against women and children, narcotics abuse, bail of top criminals, unrest in the garments sector, recovery of illegal arms, border and hill tract situations, and conditions in Rohingya camps.

He explained that police recruitment covered constables and sub-inspectors, while in BGB and Ansar most posts were at constable level. "This is the first round of large-scale recruitment under the current government," he said.

The adviser acknowledged criticism that law enforcers often target only "small fry." "We often catch minor offenders, while the big ones escape. I would urge you [journalists] to highlight the real facts -- not only when big fish are caught, but also when the innocent is wrongfully harassed," he said.

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On the arrest of MyTV chairman in a disputed case, he said the matter was for the court to decide. "If the arrest was illegal, the court would have released him. Since the court did not, it

means the arrest was not baseless," he added.

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EC to unveil polls action plan this

FROM PAGE 3

Regarding political parties' registration, Akhtar said letters are being sent to 22 parties whose applications were sent for field verification. "Those whose applications were rejected or deemed not eligible are being informed with specific reasons. The rejection letters clearly state which conditions were not fulfilled," he explained.

Meanwhile, the EC said it will hold hearings on the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies from August 24 to 27. Over these four days, the commission will hear a total of 1,760 applications and objections.

The hearings will take place at the EC building under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, with four election commissioners and the EC secretary. The EC issued a circular in this regard, signed by Deputy Secretary Mahbub Alam Shah.

According to the EC circular, on Sunday hearings will be held on 683 claims and objections concerning 18 constituencies in the Cumilla region. The following day, hearings will cover 98 claims from the Khulna region, 381 from Barishal, and 20 from Chattogram.

On August 26, the EC will hear 316 claims from the Dhaka region. Finally, on Wednesday, August 27, hearings will cover seven claims from Rangpur, 232 from Rajshahi, three from Mymensingh, 18 from Faridpur, and two from the Sylhet region.

A total of 1,760 applications were submitted for changes in 83 constituencies, according to the EC.

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 1323 OF 2025

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

AND

Mr. Nur-E-Ahsan Sobiz

---Petitioner.

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) and another. ---Respondents.

Notice is hereby given in the effect that an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994, was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting for the 2023 and 2024 of the company namely "Brother Knit Composite Ltd" The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 28.07.2025 and Hon'ble Court directed the petitioner to publish notices within 03 (Three) weeks and to submit affidavit in compliance with 15th August, 2025 from publishing the said notices. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

Mohammad Jamil Khan, Advocate.

Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 02 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: +88-01911809525.

Five killed as pickup crashes into van in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five fish traders were killed after a pickup van rammed into a covered van parked beside a road in Chattogram city early yesterday.

Four others were injured in the accident that occurred around 5:15am in the City Gate area.

Three of the deceased were identified as Kala Das, 30; Akash Das, 28; and Ajit Das, 30.

A total of 10 fish traders were on their way to the Fishery Ghat in Chattogram to buy fish, said Alamgir Hossain, deputy assistant director of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Upon receiving the information, a firefighting unit from the Agrabad station reached the spot and conducted rescue operations, he added.

Sajjad Saikat, a sub-inspector of Akbarshah Police Station, said according to a preliminary investigation, a mini pickup coming from the



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Family members mourn the deceased at CMCH.

Faujdarhat area towards AK Khan lost control and rammed into the rear of a large covered van parked beside the road.

Five people were killed on the spot and four others were injured, he said.

The injured were admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, while the bodies of the victims were kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy, the SI added.

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 1324 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under section 59 read with section 60 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

Lama Rubber Industries Limited

represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Hasan Adil

VERSUS

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) and another. ---Respondents. Notice is hereby given in the effect that an application under section 59 read with section 60 of the Companies Act, 1994, was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for reduction of shares and share capital of the company namely "Lama Rubber Industries Limited" The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 14.08.2025 and Hon'ble Court directed the petitioner to publish notices within 03 (Three) weeks and to submit affidavit in compliance with 19th October, 2025 from publishing the said notices. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

Mohammad Jamil Khan, Advocate.

Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 02 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: +88-01911809525.

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

www tcb gov bd

Commercial Section

Invitation For Tender (International) for Purchase of

(a) 5,000 M. Ton of Brown Color Chickpea & (b) 1,100 M. Tons of Dates

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	a) Brown Color Chickpea & b) Dates
7	Invitation Ref. No.	a) 26.05.0000.016.10.568.25.2191, b) 26.05.0000.016.10.568.25.2192.
8	Date	18-08-2025

KEY INFORMATION

9 Procurement Method Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)

FUNDING INFORMATION

10 Budget and Source of Funds TCB's Own Fund.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11 Package No. a) TCB/Imp-02/Chickpea/2025-26, b) TCB/Imp-02/Dates/2025-26.

12 Package Name a) Brown Color Chickpea, b) Dates.

13 Tender Invitation/Publication Date 19-08-2025

14 Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time 02-09-2025 17.00 P.M.

15 Tender Closing Date and Time 03-09-2025 12:00 P.M.

16 Tender Opening Date and Time 03-09-2025 12:15 P.M.

17 Name & Address of the office(s) Address

- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from banks & offices as mentioned in right column.

- Receiving Tender Document In front of TCB's reception (2nd floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

- Opening Tender Document Board Room, TCB.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

18 Eligibility of Tenderer Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.

19 Brief Description of goods Import of

a) 5,000 (Five Thousand) M.Tons of Brown Color Chickpea packed in 25/50 (Twenty Five/Fifty) kg bag. [Partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 2,500 M. Ton.]

b) 1,100 (One Thousand One Hundred) M.Tons of Dates packed in 10 (Ten) kg Paper Carton [Partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 550 M. Ton.]

20 Price of Tender Document Price of (a) Brown Color Chickpea tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand) & b) Dates tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand).

21 Lot No Identification of Lot Location Tender Security Amount (USD/BDT)

22 1. a) Brown Color Chickpea Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chatogram

b) Dates Previous name Chittagong/ Mongla Port by Sea or CPT Benapole/ Bangla Hill/Darshana/ Sonamasjid/ Bhorma/ Teknaf by rail/ truck

in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee from a foreign Bank must be endorsed by any local scheduled Bank. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Bank Guarantee.

23 Tender Security Amount (USD/BDT) Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped within

24 Date of Submission a) 20.11.2025

b) 20.11.2025

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

25 Name of Official Inviting Tender Md. Golam Khorshed

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18-08-25

(Md. Golam Khorshed)

Civil service needs an urgent overhaul

Its performance records do not inspire confidence ahead of elections

In mid-July, we ran an editorial on the practice of compensating "deprived" former bureaucrats through retrospective promotions, highlighting how it is creating fresh problems rather than resolving old ones, and urging the government not to make it a norm. Our comment followed news that the government was set to "promote" several hundred retired officials from non-admin cadres, after its earlier move in December to award post-retirement promotions to 764 admin cadre officers. Far from rejecting this unprecedented trend of mass promotions for those no longer in service—resulting in them getting improved benefits and pensions—the government is reportedly going ahead with it. Even the Ministry of Defence is now said to be reviewing applications from "deprived" retired armed forces officers.

Clearly, the government doesn't care about the bad optics such decisions create, nor about the criticism that retrospective promotions for retired officers—civil or military—undermine merit, waste public resources, and set a damaging precedent. This tendency to disregard valid concerns mirrors the approach of the very regime it replaced one year ago. As a new report by this daily suggests, over the past year, there have been numerous instances related to promotions, placements, appointments, and retirements across the public sector where it could have exercised far better foresight.

For example, during this period, some 1,500 officers were elevated to the ranks of deputy secretary, joint secretary, and additional secretary, which is quite staggering. Moreover, at least nine secretaries and 19 additional secretaries were sent into forced retirement, and 87 others designated as OSDs. Many of those promoted, including retired officials, face corruption allegations. Many incompetent but well-connected officers were elevated, and many retired officers were brought back. Add to that the frequent reshuffles. We understand the circumstances under which the administration had to make some of the decisions post uprising, but its manner and motive have been rightly criticised by experts citing political favouritism, lack of leadership, and poor enforcement of rules. Far from restoring order, this has only led to chaos, resentment, and indiscipline within the administration.

Meanwhile, the government's much-publicised call for wealth statements from officials remains cosmetic, with no steps taken to publish them or strengthen outdated rules against corruption. It has also made little progress in undertaking internal reforms to make civil service more efficient and people-oriented. This state of affairs, we must say, is a disservice to the uprising that installed the interim government to fulfil the aspirations of the people. With the country now set on the path to a national election come February, the question is, can this fragile and unpredictable administration deliver a free, fair, and credible election as it promised?

These concerns must be addressed going forward. We urge the interim administration to take a critical look at its present state as well as performance over the past year. It must undertake necessary reforms and initiatives to restore trust that it will be able to not only deliver a credible election but also leave behind a strong institutional foundation for the next elected government.

A gruesome tragedy behind closed doors

Woman killed by husband in Shewrapara the latest in a disturbing trend

We are deeply alarmed by the recurring incidents of women being murdered by their husbands. On April 8, a man allegedly killed his wife, child, and his wife's elder sister over a family dispute in Narayanganj. On June 18, another man reportedly murdered his wife and disposed of her body in a pond in Golapganj, Sylhet. Most recently, on August 13, Syeda Fahmida Tahsin (Keya) was allegedly murdered by her husband, Sifat Ali, in their flat in Shewrapara, Dhaka. These brutal incidents have once again exposed the deeply rooted culture of intimate partner violence in our society. They also highlight the glaring absence of adequate support systems for potential victims, as well as weaknesses in our law enforcement and legal system in preventing such crimes.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), between January and July this year, a staggering 133 women were killed by their husbands, while another 42 were murdered by members of their husbands' families. ASK reported 363 incidents of domestic violence during this time, which resulted in 322 deaths. Among them, 208 women and children were victims of murder, while 114 individuals died by suicide. Reportedly, Sifat used to beat Keya frequently, which she endured for the sake of their four children. Tragically, in the end, she lost her life. According to Keya's family, Sifat strangled her and then attempted to stage the incident as a suicide before leaving her body at the hospital and fleeing the scene. While Keya's family filed a case, the police are yet to arrest her husband.

The question is, is the state doing enough to stop such brutal fates from befalling our women, who continue to endure abuse at the hands of their husbands with no support from anywhere? While their families often remain silent about the violence faced by their daughters—as was the case for Keya—the state has also failed to establish a support system where these women can seek help. We do have a national emergency service '999' and the National Women's Protection Helpline '109' under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, which receive thousands of calls for help every day, but these have hardly been effective in reducing cases of domestic violence.

We, therefore, urge the government to build a robust mechanism through which women can seek help and find shelter when needed. Breaking the silence around intimate partner violence is equally crucial. More importantly, cases filed in connection with domestic violence must be expedited and concluded with conviction. In the case of Keya's death, the state must ensure her husband is arrested and brought to justice.

Decision on LDC graduation deferral needs careful assessment



is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate from the United Nations' Least Developed Country (LDC) category on November 24, 2026, having met the three graduation criteria—Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, Human Assets Index (HAI), and Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI)—for two consecutive triennial reviews since 2018. A major milestone for Bangladesh, it reflects the economy's strength, achieved through decades of progress in economic growth, poverty reduction, human development, and resilience. Yet, graduation also entails significant costs, leading to the loss of crucial international support measures (ISMs) such as duty-free quota-free (DFQF) access to developed markets, special treatment under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, and concessional financing.

While the previous government highlighted LDC graduation as a political symbol of success, the data integrity was questionable. Short-term image building rather than long-term readiness drove the eagerness to graduate. Businesses, though outwardly supportive, have been apprehensive about whether Bangladesh is structurally ready to withstand the post-graduation challenges.

Recently, the private sector has been urging the government to seek a deferment of graduation for at least three years, citing both economic vulnerabilities and the precedent of other countries that successfully postponed their transition. Notably, the European Union (EU) has already committed to extending DFQF access for goods originating from graduating LDCs for an additional three years after their respective graduation.

The greatest risk associated with LDC graduation is the loss of trade preferences. Bangladesh's exports are highly dependent on preferential market access. The RMG sector, which accounts for 85 percent of exports, relies heavily on DFQF access to several developed country markets, including the EU, Canada, Australia, and Japan. Our RMG products also enjoy duty-free access in some developing countries on a limited scale. In fact, Bangladesh was among the few LDCs that reaped the most benefits from preferential market access offered by developed countries.

This implies that Bangladesh has the most to lose. Estimates show that preferential access covers 70 percent of our global exports. Therefore, Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market will significantly erode after graduation.

LDC status also guarantees access to concessional development finance from multilateral institutions. Graduation will increase borrowing costs significantly. This is especially concerning for Bangladesh, given its already rising external debt service

increase and present stability, is much lower compared to the period when the country's reserve was equivalent to almost five to six months' import value. As of August 14, 2025, the foreign exchange reserve was \$25.82 billion, which, as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s benchmark, can cover about three months of imports. The government also needs to service its high external debt, borrowed by the previous government for several large infrastructure projects. The banking sector was also left in distress by the previous government. As of March 2025, the share of non-performing loans (NPLs) in the banking system had increased to 24.13 percent of total loans disbursed. Once Bangladesh Bank completes full assessment of the asset quality of all weak banks, NPL may increase further. This indicates the banking sector's constraints in providing loans to genuine businesses at a competitive interest rate. Governance failures in

achieve national economic objectives and comply with global requirements.

Several countries have been successful in deferring graduation, noting various vulnerabilities. Nepal deferred graduation after the devastating 2015 earthquake and subsequent macroeconomic challenges. Vanuatu's graduation was deferred in 2012 due to natural disasters and external shocks. Similarly, Tuvalu's graduation was postponed in 2012 for environmental vulnerabilities. Maldives' smooth transition period was extended in 2005 due to the Indian Ocean tsunami and the country graduated in 2011. The graduation of the Solomon Islands, scheduled to happen in 2024, was extended in 2023 by three years to December 13, 2027, due to various shocks disrupting its graduation process. Angola's graduation has been deferred due to the deterioration of its economy to an unspecified date. Bangladesh and Nepal were supposed to graduate in 2024, but the UN General Assembly (UNGA) extended the timeline due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Therefore, deferment is not unprecedented, and the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) recognises exceptional circumstances, such as climate shocks, financial crises, or political instability as legitimate grounds that can cause serious setbacks to a country's development progress. Bangladesh can make a compelling case by citing the combined effect of global economic downturns, domestic macroeconomic fragility, and climate vulnerability. The recent tariff regime may impact many economies, including Bangladesh's, negatively. To overcome these challenges, the government needs to improve institutions and governance to ensure conducive fiscal, monetary and trade policies, and the private sector should work towards upgrading compliance, technology, and productivity.

If the government decides to request LDC graduation deferment and if the UNGA grants the extension, we must not forget the hard work that lies ahead. Moreover, the preparation for a smooth transition cannot be delayed. The deferral should be considered an opportunity to upgrade infrastructure; improve human capability; reform economic sectors, including trade, investment, banking, fiscal system; reduce bureaucratic red tape; and ensure transparency and accountability. Therefore, Bangladesh's requests for a deferral of the LDC graduation period should be framed as a move towards strategic readiness. Without credible reforms, deferment would merely postpone the crisis.

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

The world needs humanitarians more than ever



Alberto Bocanegra
is head of delegation at International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Bangladesh.

ALBERTO BOCANEGRA

When crises unfold, humanitarians are the first to step forward.

In Rasulpur village, Lakshmipur, waist-high floodwater has engulfed the road, blurring the lines between ponds and homes. The air is thick with the smell of wet earth and soaked clothes. Through it all, a young woman in a red vest wades carefully, calling out to families, checking if anyone needs to be evacuated, and assessing where urgent help is needed.

That woman is Suchana from the same flooded village. She is a trained community volunteer with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). She has been working for months, helping her own community, which is still recovering from last year's eastern region floods. Like her, thousands of trained volunteers of BDRCS work through floods, cyclones, fires, landslides, cold waves, and heat waves, including in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

"I love helping and supporting people in need," Suchana says. "Most of the time, with even the smallest help, they can fight back and rebuild. I have

seen people survive, recover and live again. And that's my inspiration."

She remembers a mother and her two children she helped evacuate during last year's unprecedented floods in south eastern Bangladesh.

"They cried as we evacuated them, but the next day they smiled when we brought food and drinking water for them. That smile has stayed with me," added Suchana.

Like Suchana and other Red Crescent volunteers, we have millions of humanitarians worldwide, many of whom stay unseen and unrecognised, but in moments of danger step forward to protect lives, often risking their own.

The need for them is growing. In 2024, the United Nations estimated that 305 million people worldwide, including 24.5 million in Bangladesh alone, would require humanitarian assistance.

Today, the strong early warning systems save millions of lives, but the courage humanitarians require remains the same. From the Covid-19 pandemic to devastating cyclones and fires, humanitarian teams in

Bangladesh have faced extraordinary challenges. Unfortunately, these unsung heroes do not always come back safe and sound.

Globally, the risks to humanitarian workers are rising. By mid-July 2025, at least 143 humanitarian aid workers have been killed in 25 countries. Last year was the deadliest on record—377 lives lost, including 32 Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers. In 2023, at least 280 aid workers were killed—a 137 percent increase from 2022. More than 95 percent of those killed were local humanitarians who received far less media attention than internationals. Many more were injured, kidnapped, attacked, or detained.

Beyond physical dangers, humanitarians increasingly face risks from misinformation and disinformation. False narratives, sometimes baseless rumours about aid distribution, spread rapidly on social media and in communities. During the pandemic response in Bangladesh, aid workers were sometimes denied entry to communities due to false information and fears about vaccines. In cyclone-affected areas, rumours that evacuation shelters were unsafe delayed the movement of the at-risk community to higher ground. Such misinformation erodes trust, delays lifesaving assistance, and in some cases incites violence against aid workers. Combating this "information crisis" has become as critical as providing aid itself. Awareness campaigns can help address these difficulties.

These hostile situations also affect aid workers both physically and mentally. In Bangladesh, we remember the Red Crescent volunteers who arrived within five minutes of the fighter jet crash at Milestone School and College in Uttara. The tragedy left one IFRC volunteer in need of psychosocial support. Shah Alam, a Red Crescent volunteer with the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), died in May 2020 while evacuating people during Cyclone Amphan.

There is International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to protect aid workers and civilians, but laws mean little if not enforced, upheld, and respected. We must confront intentions to normalise attacks on humanitarian workers and hold those responsible.

By promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles, humanitarian diplomacy leverages diplomatic channels to encourage decision-makers and opinion leaders to act in the interest of people with humanitarian needs and protect humanitarian workers.

On this World Humanitarian Day, under the themes "Protect Humanity" and "Act For Humanity," let us remember that humanitarians are not just a resource to be deployed; they are people with families, feelings, dreams, and hopes, choosing to serve others in their hour of greatest need. The world needs humanitarians, including volunteers, more than ever, and the international community needs to ensure that mechanisms are in place to protect them.

DECENTRALISING THE HIGH COURT

Between consensus and constitutional constraints



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KHAN KHALID ADNAN

In a rare moment of unity, political parties in early July reached a consensus on establishing permanent benches of the High Court in divisional headquarters. This agreement, struck during discussions with the National Consensus Commission, comes with the understanding that Article 100 of the constitution will be amended. Therefore, the permanent seat of the Supreme Court remains in Dhaka, but one or more permanent benches of the High Court will operate at the divisional level, subject to consultation with the chief justice.

The logic behind such decentralisation is compelling. The Judiciary Reform Commission (JRC), in its report, had strongly recommended expanding the judiciary by setting up permanent High Court benches in every divisional city. The aim is to address the staggering backlog—currently over 5.77 lakh pending cases in the High Court Division alone—and to make justice more accessible. Today, all the High Court benches are housed in the Supreme Court buildings in Dhaka. This forces litigants from all corners of the country to make costly, time-consuming trips to the capital for hearings. By distributing permanent benches across divisions, justice could be delivered faster and closer to the people it serves.

The JRC stressed that each permanent bench should have a clearly defined jurisdiction in terms of the areas from which it can receive cases, while retaining the full jurisdiction of the High Court Division to issue judgments, orders, and directions. In other words, decentralisation should not fragment the High Court's constitutional authority nor undermine the unitary nature of the

state. Adequate infrastructure—courtrooms, judges' chambers, support staff, and budgets—would be essential. Implementation could proceed in phases, prioritising the most urgent divisions first.

The Constitution Reform Commission (CRC) made a similar recommendation, albeit with a slightly different model: permanent "seats" of the High Court in all divisions, while keeping the Appellate Division in the capital. Both the CRC and the JRC recognise that implementing either model—benches or seats—will require amending Article 100, which currently states: "The permanent seat of the Supreme Court shall be in the capital, but sessions of the High Court Division may be held at such other place or places as the Chief Justice may, with the approval of the President, from time to time appoint." In its present form, Article 100 only allows for temporary "sessions" outside Dhaka, not permanent benches or seats.

If this sounds familiar, it is because we have been here before. Between 1982 and 1986, several permanent benches were set up outside the capital under martial law proclamations. In 1988, the parliament amended Article 100 through the Eighth Amendment to establish six permanent benches in Barishal, Chattogram, Cumilla, Jashore, Rangpur, and Sylhet. This attempt at decentralisation was short-lived.

In the landmark Eighth Amendment Case (Anwar Hussain Chowdhury vs. Bangladesh, 1989), the Appellate Division struck down the amendment as void and unconstitutional, marking the first time in Bangladesh that a constitutional amendment passed by parliament was invalidated. The

court applied the "basic structure" doctrine, holding that certain fundamental features of the constitution—such as the supremacy of the constitution, separation of powers, independence of the judiciary, and the "oneness" of the High Court Division—cannot be altered even by a two-thirds majority in parliament.

The majority opinion was clear: creating multiple permanent benches with full

contemporary needs. Proponents propose three potential paths forward: first, design a model in which all permanent seats have plenary jurisdiction without territorial limits, with case allocation managed internally by the Supreme Court; second, adopt a fresh constitutional interpretation that reflects present-day demographic, economic, and judicial realities; and third, enact a referendum-based constitutional amendment

framework, no other court can be placed on par with the High Court Division. It found Article 44(2) inconsistent with the basic structure, particularly the oneness of the High Court Division, and therefore beyond the parliament's amending power under Article 142.

The 15th Amendment judgment's endorsement of the Eighth Amendment Case, especially its emphasis on the oneness of the High Court Division, is telling. While the case did not specifically deal with decentralisation under Article 100, the reasoning strongly aligns with the position that such decentralisation risks fragmenting the High Court Division's constitutional integrity. It is difficult to ignore how this judicial stance could be read as discouraging any move towards permanent benches or seats, regardless of political consensus or reformist enthusiasm.

This leaves Bangladesh at constitutional crossroads. On one side, we have overwhelming public support, formal recommendations from reform commissions, and cross-party political agreement to bring the High Court closer to the people. On the other, we face entrenched constitutional doctrine, reinforced as recently as last year, that resists any structural change perceived to dilute the High Court Division's unity.

The truth is, decentralisation of the High Court cannot be addressed through political will alone. Any reform must survive constitutional scrutiny under the basic structure doctrine as interpreted by our highest courts. This will require more than a straightforward amendment to Article 100—it will demand careful constitutional engineering, perhaps even a direct exercise of constituent power through the people themselves.

Until then, the promise of a more accessible and efficient High Court will remain an aspiration caught between two powerful forces: the undeniable need for reform and the unyielding guardrails of constitutional doctrine. Whether we can reconcile the two will determine not only the future of our judiciary but also the balance between stability and adaptability in our constitutional order.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

jurisdiction amounted to setting up rival courts to the High Court Division, violating its oneness and the unitary character of the republic. The lack of provisions for transferring cases between benches effectively turned each bench into a separate and distinct court, undermining the essential limb of the judiciary.

Today's decentralisation debate must grapple with this binding precedent. Opponents of reform, particularly some within the legal community, argue that any such move threatens the unitary structure of the judiciary and risks violating the constitution. Proponents counter that the realities of 2025 are drastically different from those of 1989, and that the constitution is a living instrument capable of adapting to

exercising constituent power, which would stand beyond the reach of the basic structure doctrine.

However, the Eighth Amendment Case is no longer the only obstacle. The issue must now also be viewed in light of the recent 15th Amendment Case, decided by the High Court Division on December 17, 2024, with the full judgment released in July 2025. The court reaffirmed the principles laid down in the Eighth Amendment Case in emphatic terms by revoking Article 44 (2).

Article 44(2) had allowed the parliament to empower "any other court" to exercise the High Court Division's powers to enforce fundamental rights. The High Court Division struck this down as unconstitutional, holding that within the constitutional

The 'six tigers' that drive China's AI geopolitics



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SAYEED AHMED

Astrophysicist Professor Ye Zhetai is dragged before a crowd of Red Guards and cheering onlookers. He refuses to denounce Einstein's theory of relativity as a "reactionary bourgeois academic" idea. The hysterical crowd watches as he is beaten with brass buckles and iron bars, his scientific principles costing him his life. Chinese writer Liu Cixin's science fiction masterpiece "The Three-Body Problem" opens with this brutally haunting image of how the Communist Party once punished the country's leading scientists for holding onto their scientific principles.

Six decades later, China leads in several areas of science and technology. This remarkable transformation is highlighted by the rise of six AI startups: StepFun, Zhipu AI, Minimax, Moonshot, OI.AI, and Baichuan—known as the "Six Tigers." Each has a valuation exceeding at least \$1 billion, with Moonshot valued at \$3.3 billion, Baichuan at over \$2 billion, and Minimax at \$2.5 billion. How has this extraordinary turnaround happened?

The six tigers didn't just appear; they were cultivated by a system designed to produce exactly this kind of success.

These companies emerged from China's 'Hundred-Model Battle,' where over 300 large models were released by 2023, with the six tigers representing the elite survivors who achieved billion-dollar valuations. Now, having reached these valuations, they're ready to reshape the global technology landscape.

have long adapted to produce the kind of talent that tech startups need to compete worldwide. With over 10 million graduates each year, many of whom are focused on AI, this generates an endless pipeline of young talent buzzing with ideas. Recent studies show that 90 percent of AI researchers who studied in China have chosen to stay there. In addition to retaining the country's talents, the AI firms are also attracting top Chinese researchers from Google, Microsoft, and other Western giants, demonstrating their

ability to attract and benefit from global expertise.

The six tigers didn't just appear; they were cultivated by a system designed to produce exactly this kind of success. These companies emerged from China's "Hundred-Model Battle," where over 300 large models were released by 2023, with the six tigers representing the elite survivors who achieved billion-dollar valuations. Now, having reached these valuations, they're ready to reshape the global technology landscape.

First, they are democratising AI access. Companies like OI.AI are making world-class AI models freely available through open-source releases, proving that cutting-edge AI doesn't have to be locked behind expensive APIs. The rise of the six tigers represents more than economic competition—it signals a fundamental shift in global power dynamics that governments worldwide are scrambling to understand.

For decades, the United States has dominated global technology through companies like Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI. The tigers' success shows that this dominance isn't permanent. When OI.AI releases models that compete directly with GPT-4, or when Zhipu AI's research rivals anything coming out of Silicon Valley, it forces a recalibration of who leads in AI. This isn't just about corporate competition—it's about national influence. Countries that control AI technology will shape how the world works, from economic systems to military dominance. The tigers give China a seat at the table where these decisions are made.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the tigers are creating alternatives to Western-dominated tech infrastructure. A prime example is Moonshot AI's recent launch of Kimi K2, a trillion-parameter model that competes with OpenAI's most advanced systems while being distributed as an open-weight model. This strategic move could fundamentally change the global AI landscape. When countries can access trillion-parameter AI capabilities, it significantly reduces US technological dominance. Kimi K2's open availability means any nation can develop advanced AI applications without needing to adhere to US export controls or technology restrictions. The geopolitical implications extend beyond technology itself. The tigers aren't just selling software; they're

exporting a different vision of how digital societies should work.

Third, the six tigers' success has intensified new Cold War between tech superpowers, where export controls and investment restrictions are the weapons. This competition, while creating tensions, is also driving unprecedented innovation on both

sides. Moreover, this creates risks, as we may soon see the global internet fragment into separate, incompatible systems. This scenario could become more likely, as countries may face pressure to choose between the two camps.

In the multiple Oscar-winning US sci-fi film *Gravity* (2013), directed

by Alfonso Cuarón, Dr Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock), an engineer on her first space mission, is rescued back to Earth by a Chinese spacecraft. This ending might not be a coincidence, as in today's China, scientists like Professor Ye Zhetai are viewed not as "bourgeois puppets," but as national assets.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

কমিশনার এর কার্যালয়

গাজীপুর মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, গাজীপুর।

"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

তারিখ: ১৮/০৮/২০২৫ খ্রি।

"The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulation-2008/2010 (সংশোধনী-২০১৬)" মোতাবেক ২০৫-২০২৬ অর্থ

বছরে গাজীপুর মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ জন্য ২৪ বেসরাতিরে (অক্টোবর/১৮/২০২৫ হতে ডিসেম্বর/১৮/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত) বেসন সামগ্রী কর্তৃর লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রত্ন

ব্যবসায়/টেকনোলজি/সরবারাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীমান্তবন্ধিত থাকা প্রতিযোগিতা মূল্য মুক্ত সর্বস্বত্ত্ব আবাসন করা যাবে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: ১০/১৮/২০২৫-২০২৫ অর্থ সংস্থ।

কর্তৃপক্ষের বিবরণ:

১. মূল্যায়ন বিবরণ	১. প্রক্রিয়া মূল্যায়ন/জনসিদ্ধান্ত বিবরণ
২. সম্প্রতি	২. পুলিশ।
৩. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব সংশোধনকারী ধ্রুবান	৩. পুলিশ কর্মসূচী, গাজীপুর মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
৪. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব বিবরণ	৪. সম্প্রতি সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী, পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী, পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী এবং সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী।
৫. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব স্থান	৫. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
৬. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব পরিকল্পনা	৬. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
৭. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব এবং অধিকারী ধ্রুবান	৭. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
৮. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব স্থান	৮. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
৯. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব স্থানের সর্বস্বত্ত্ব পরিকল্পনা	৯. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১০. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১০. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১১. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১১. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১২. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১২. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১৩. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১৩. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১৪. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১৪. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১৫. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১৫. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।
১৬. সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী এবং স্থান	১৬. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী।

কর্তৃপক্ষের বিবরণ	পরিমাণ (টম)	প্রিয়োগের মূল্য (অক্রিয়েটিভ)	সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কর্মসূচী (ক্রিয়েটিভ)	কর্তৃ সম্মতির সময়
১. ১. উন্নতাদেশের স্বাচ্ছিন্ন ক্ষেত্রের সর্বস্বত্ত্ব	১,০০০/-	১,৪০,০০০/-	অক্রিয়েটিভ/২০২৫ প্রি মার্চ	অক্রিয়েটিভ/২০২৫ প্রি মার্চ
২. ২. উন্নতাদেশের স্বাচ্ছিন্ন ক্ষেত্রের সর্বস্বত্ত্ব	১	১,০০০/-	১,২০,০০০/-	১
৩. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী	১	৫০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	১
৪. পুরোপুর কর্মসূচী	১	৫০০/-	৮০,০০০	

Directors who ruled 2024

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

From romantic tales to gripping thrillers, the Best Director (Film) nominees at Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 showcase the impressive diversity and innovation driving Bangladeshi streaming. Each filmmaker brings a unique vision—whether exploring human psychology, portraying aching relationships, offering comforting stories, highlighting authentic regional voices, or experimenting boldly with genre—crafting narratives that resound powerfully with both viewers and critics.

Let us have a look at the nominees this year.



MOSTOFA SARWAR FAROOKI

The filmmaker, renowned for his trademark humour, infused *The Last Defenders of Monogamy* with wit and originality. The film became one of the highlights of 2024, featuring a powerhouse performance from Chanchal Chowdhury and marking an impressive debut for Xefer Rahman.



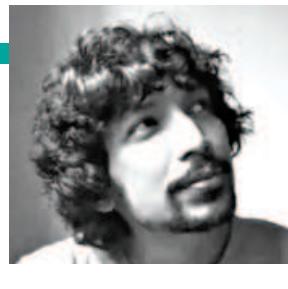
SHIHAB SHAHEEN

Among the most memorable projects of last year was the director's film *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya*. Staying true to his signature style—blending romance, separation, and reunion—he delivered a story that struck a bold emotional chord with audiences. The film's impact was heightened by the undeniable on-screen chemistry between Tasnia Farin and Pritom Hasan.



RAIHAN RAFI

Depicting the ongoing struggles and painful realities faced by the family of a drug-addicted individual, Raihan Rafi once again drew from his strength of portraying narratives inspired by true events in *Mayaa*. His sensitive yet impactful direction captured the raw emotions of such a troubling situation, earning him this nomination.



ROBIUL ALAM ROBI

Aching emotions poured across the screen in *Forget Me Not*, as if winter had vanished only to summon summer, leaving spring behind. Directed by Robiul Alam Robi, the film marked a bold departure from his usual genre, showcasing his willingness to experiment with storytelling. The honest performances of Mehazabien Chowdhury and Yash Rohan added depth and sincerity, making the project not only memorable but also a standout in 2024.



KAJAL AREFIN OME

This director earned his nomination for the web film *Osomoy*, a contemporary story! His vision was elevated by the remarkable performances of industry favourites. Blending strong character work with compelling direction, he created a project that not only engaged audiences but also stood out as a notable achievement in the Bangladeshi OTT industry.

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The best of the best will be selected based on your votes. Vote for your favourite contents, artistes and digital content creators to win them the crown of OTT and digital content awards.

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2 DAYS REMAINING

Entertainment Partner
TikTok

NEWS

'They dragged my brother out of a shop

FROM PAGE 12
IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who has already confessed and turned state approver.

Around 10-15 policemen, including joint commissioners Sudip and Proloy, DC Iqbal, ADC Masudur, ACs Nahid and Tanzil, OC Abul Hasan, and inspector Wahidul Hoque were present when he was shot, he added.

Imam was later taken to Jatrabari Police Station, where five to six policemen—including ADC Shamim, ADC Masudur, and AC Nahid—stomped on his face with their boots, disfiguring it. He was eventually taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Robiul said Imam had over 200 pellet wounds on his body. He said their father, senior sub-inspector Moynal Hossain Bhuiyan, broke down upon seeing the body at the hospital and cried out, "How many bullets does it take to kill a person, sir?"

Imam, a second-year student at Government Adamjee Nagar MW College, had gone out during a two-hour curfew relaxation, telling his mother he was going for tea but instead joined the quota reform protests. Around 12:50pm, his mother

was informed he had been shot. She later found only his blood and shoes near the Kajla footbridge.

Robiul said police refused to register a murder case despite repeated attempts. He went to the office of then DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman, but he did not see him. He later visited Jatrabari Police Station, the Wari DC office but failed to file a case over his brother's killing.

Holding Hasina, Asaduzzaman, ex-IGP Mamun, then home secretary and police officers responsible, Robiul demanded their execution. The court also played videos showing Imam bleeding as police obstructed his friend from rescuing him.

Apart from Robiul, two other prosecution witnesses testified before ICT-1 yesterday, including the father of As-Sabur, who was allegedly shot and later burned along with five others in a police pickup near Ashulia Police Station on August 5 last year.

Enab Najej Jaki, 60, a retired garment factory officer, said his son had joined a peaceful student procession in Baipail when police opened fire. Around 3:30 pm, As-Sabur took shelter in a nearby house

amid heavy shooting but later could not be reached. After searching hospitals, the family learned of burned bodies found near Ashulia Police Station.

Jaki's nephew and cousin identified As-Sabur by a charred piece of his t-shirt and checking his SIM card on a another phone.

He broke down in tears as a video was played in the courtroom, showing his son's body among others piled on a rickshaw van, followed by footage of the bodies being burned on a police pickup near Ashulia Police Station.

He blamed Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman, ex-IGP Mamun and ex-MP Saiful Islam and other policemen and demanded justice.

Another witness, Jasim Uddin, who got injured while participating in a procession that came under attacks by police and members of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League in Rajshahi on August 5 last year, in his statement said two protesters were killed in the attacks and many others were wounded.

Defence counsel for Sheikh Hasina and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal cross-examined the prosecution witnesses.

Savar declared

FROM PAGE 12
industries that may cause air pollution, and other activities outlined in the action plan.

Data from DoE's Continuous Air Monitoring Stations (CAMS) shows that the annual average concentration of ambient air pollutants in Savar is nearly three times higher than the national standard, posing severe health risks.

During the dry season, northwestern and northeastern winds carry pollution from Savar into Dhaka for almost five months, aggravating air quality and creating serious health hazards for city dwellers.

The government said the declaration is expected to play a key role in curbing air pollution in both Savar and Dhaka.

In September last year, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan announced that no new permits for brick kilns would be issued in an effort to reduce air pollution.

She added that 3,491 brick kilns operating without environmental clearances would be shut down, and all kilns built illegally in hilly areas would be relocated.

Brick kilns in Dhaka city and its surrounding areas are responsible for 58 percent of the city's air pollution.

The increasing use of firewood, collected through tree felling, has caused severe deforestation, while toxic emissions from brick baking pose acute health risks, especially to school-going children.

On February 24, the High Court ordered the removal of all illegal brick kilns nationwide.

Kiln owners were required to submit their valid documents to their respective upazila assistant commissioner (land) offices by March 1. Most failed to comply, demonstrating blatant disregard for the law.

Under the existing legislation, brick kilns cannot be established near residential areas, protected zones, commercial areas, municipal towns, educational institutions, or agricultural land.

Several hundred Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 12
the Arakan Army of committing atrocities that have forced Rohingyas to flee their villages.

Clashes between Rohingya armed groups and the Arakan Army have also flared in recent weeks across the border from Naikongchhari upazila of Bandarban.

Meanwhile, BGB claimed to have detained two individuals, including an alleged associate of the Arakan Army, from the Ghumdhum border area.

According to BGB, the two were picked up near the Tumbru Pachimukul check-post along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border on Sunday by members of the Tumbru Border Outpost (BOP) under Cox's Bazar Battalion-34.

In a press release, BGB said one of the detainees, Uli Chakma, 24, from Dekubuni village in Myanmar, is an associate of the Arakan Army. The other detainee was identified as Nayan Chakma, 30, from Rangamati town in Bangladesh.

The press release, signed by Lt Col SM Khairul Alam, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-34, said the two disclosed the information during interrogation.

BGB added that preparations were underway to hand them over to the local police for legal action under Bangladeshi law.

Man dies

FROM PAGE 2
of this statement.

Fazlur died at RMCH around 8:00pm on Friday.

The victim's cousin Enamul Haque said Fazlur borrowed Tk 30,000 from Dhulu and later repaid Tk 43,000 with interest. Dhulu demanded another Tk 30,000, which Fazlur could not repay.

Confirming the case and arrest, Mohanpur Police Station Officer in-Charge Ataur Rahman said Fazlur named one of the accused in a video recording before his death. "The accused has already been arrested. Police are investigating the matter."

'Drastic' measures at Biman to regain

FROM PAGE 12
Biman are not doing their jobs properly. Multiple sources attributed the crisis to improper execution of scheduled "checks" and "servicing", a shortage of experienced engineers and a lack of spare parts.

At least three of its 10 widebody planes, three Boeing 787s and one Boeing 777 are grounded.

Subsequently, flight schedules have been seriously disrupted, affecting multiple onward services and increasing operational and passenger-handling costs, Biman officials said.

Biman's present fleet comprises

six Boeing 787s, four Boeing 777-300ERs, four Boeing 737s and five Dash-8Q400s.

The carrier is now operating flights to 21 international and seven domestic destinations.

Under the increased direct supervision programme, the director of the engineering department and three chief engineers have been asked to strengthen their existing monitoring system, Raoshan said.

Besides, Biman has taken measures so that spare parts remain available at all times. For instance, the airline will store wheels of aircraft, he said.

An engineer from Chittagong has

also been withdrawn over negligence. The Daily Star has learnt from people with direct knowledge of the matter.

"I welcome Biman's such measures although they realised it late— I hope their drastic measures will be fruitful in removing the passengers' negative perception and lack of confidence in the airline," said Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert and a former member of the Biman board.

Biman will have to take a zero-tolerance policy for effectively implementing its new measures in a bid to regain public confidence, he added.

Under the existing legislation, brick kilns cannot be established near residential areas, protected zones, commercial areas, municipal towns, educational institutions, or agricultural land.

The order, signed by Senior Secretary Nasimul Gani, said the officers will be entitled to subsistence allowance during the suspension period.

WORKING WELL

The art of strategic breaks and genuine disconnection



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

If the benefits of daily breaks are clear, so too is the need for longer stretches of complete disengagement. Yet fully 'switching off' during annual leave remains a challenge for many. The Associated Press recently highlighted how smartphones and remote access tempt employees to check emails or attend virtual meetings from the beach or a mountain cabin.

ZARIF FAIAZ

The idea of taking a break from work may feel radical. Yet strategic pauses, whether they are micro-breaks during the workday or complete disconnection on holiday, are increasingly recognised not as indulgences, but as essential investments in productivity, creativity and well-being. Far from being a sign of weakness or lack of commitment, stepping away at the right moments has been shown to make individuals and teams more effective.

Vacation: escaping work begins before the outbound flight
If the benefits of daily breaks are clear, so too is the need for longer stretches of complete disengagement. Yet fully 'switching off' during annual leave remains a challenge for many. The Associated Press recently highlighted how smartphones and remote access tempt employees to check emails or attend virtual meetings from the beach or a mountain cabin. One marketing professional described missing her child's first attempts at swimming because she felt obliged to respond to a client.

Health-focused workplace programmes have popularised 'booster breaks', short intervals in which employees engage in activities that promote well-being, such as simple exercises or guided relaxation. These breaks have been linked to improved mood, reduced stress and, over time, lower health risks for those in sedentary roles.

Patterns also matter. Productivity-tracking

data suggests there is an optimal rhythm to work and rest: one commonly cited model advocates working intensely for around 52 minutes before taking a 17-minute break. Others suggest slightly longer cycles, such as 75 minutes of concentrated effort followed by 33 minutes of rest. The point is not that one schedule suits everyone, but that sustained high performance is better achieved through structured alternation between focus and recovery.

The key to avoiding this trap lies in preparation and boundary setting. Experts recommend informing colleagues and clients of your absence well in advance, activating out-of-office responses, and setting clear rules for communication - ideally, none at all. For those who feel compelled to stay informed, a single, short daily check-in may

help reduce anxiety while keeping the rest of the day free. Removing or disabling work applications from personal devices can also reduce temptation. Importantly, leadership behaviour sets the tone: when managers model true disconnection, employees are more likely to follow suit without guilt.

The deeper value of stepping away
Beyond maintaining day-to-day productivity, more extended breaks. Mini-sabbaticals and even 'adult gap years' allow people to pursue personal projects, travel, volunteer or simply rest. Those who take such breaks often report returning to work with fresh perspectives, renewed energy and greater clarity about their priorities.

There is also growing recognition that stepping away fosters qualities that are difficult to cultivate in constant motion. A reflective essay in the Financial Times framed rest not as wasted time but as fertile ground for empathy, creativity and deep thinking. This aligns with the philosophy of "slow productivity" advocated by some workplace thinkers, which encourages a focus on producing quality work at a sustainable pace rather than chasing perpetual busyness.

The science of recovery
Psychologists refer to this process as 'detachment', a mental and emotional uncoupling from work demands. Detachment allows the brain to consolidate learning, reset emotional states and replenish cognitive resources. Without it, workers risk chronic stress, reduced creativity and eventual burnout. Even brief mental respites can activate the brain's default mode network - a system associated with problem-solving, imagination and insight. It is no coincidence that solutions to stubborn problems often appear while walking, cooking or showering, rather than while staring at a computer screen.

The evidence is clear: well-timed breaks, whether short pauses during the workday or long holidays away from the office, are not luxuries, but necessities. They restore energy, improve performance, foster innovation and protect mental health. Structured rest is a discipline in itself, one that requires intention, planning and sometimes the courage to disconnect in a culture that prizes constant availability.

To work well, we must learn to value time away from our desks as much as time spent at them. The healthiest and most creative output often flows after we have given ourselves permission to truly step away. In the long run, productivity is not about working without pause, but about knowing when to stop.

GitHub CEO announces departure

NEXT STEP DESK

GitHub CEO Thomas Dohmke has announced that he will leave the company at the end of 2025 to launch a new venture.

In a note to staff, Dohmke said his "startup roots have begun tugging" at

him, prompting his decision to return to building something from scratch. He plans to remain for the next year to ensure a smooth handover.

Dohmke added on the note that during his tenure, GitHub's developer community grew to more than 150 million users, while its AI coding

assistant Copilot expanded to over 20 million users. GitHub will remain under Microsoft's CoreAI division, though Dohmke's successor has not yet been named.

According to a CNBC report, Dohmke's journey with Microsoft began in 2015 when it acquired

his mobile app analytics startup, HockeyApp. Three years later, Microsoft bought GitHub for \$7.5 billion, and by mid 2021, Dohmke had joined the platform as chief product officer. Within months, he replaced Nat Friedman as CEO.

LinkedIn winds down test of alternative news feed options

NEXT STEP DESK

LinkedIn appears to be scaling back its experiment with alternative feed formats, signalling the likely end of a trial that offered users new ways to navigate the professional network's home page. The feature, available only to a select group of US members, introduced 'pills' at the top of the main feed that allowed users to toggle between three content streams: 'For You', an algorithm-driven feed; 'Following', containing updates from people the user follows; and 'News', a curated stream of business updates assembled by LinkedIn's editorial team.

The trial had been running for several months, but an updated note in LinkedIn's Help Centre now describes it as a "limited test" that has ended for some users. The company stated, "This experience is currently a test and is limited to a select group of US members only. It'll not impact feed preferences you made in settings. If you no longer see the pills at the top of your feed, it's because the feature was part of a limited test that has now ended."

While the wording leaves open the

possibility that the feature could be trialled with a different group of users, the update suggests that LinkedIn is not preparing for a wider rollout.

Social media analysts note that algorithmic feeds such as 'For You' typically drive the highest engagement, making them commercially valuable for platforms. The test appeared designed to increase visibility for LinkedIn's in-house news content, but questions remain about whether users see the platform as a destination for general business news, rather than for professional networking and commentary.

Some observers believe LinkedIn could find other ways to promote its editorial output, such as through short-form video or more prominent in-feed placement, but doubt that a separate 'News' tab would become a core part of user behaviour.

For now, the company has not announced whether the alternative feeds will return in a different form. For users who had access, the removal marks the end of a brief experiment in giving more control over the content they see on LinkedIn.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE
Networking has always played a vital role in career development, but in today's competitive job market, it has become more important than ever. With limited openings and a growing pool of qualified applicants, personal connections go a long way as opportunities often arise not just from what you know, but from who knows you and, more importantly, who remembers you when the right opportunity comes along. For students and recent graduates, networking can provide access to internships, mentorship, industry insights, referrals, and even long-term career opportunities. But how do you begin building a network when you are just starting out?

Start with who you know
One of the most common misconceptions about networking is that it begins with strangers. In reality, your most valuable connections may already be part of your life. Friends from university, senior students, faculty members, and internship supervisors all form the foundation of a network you may not have realised you had. These individuals understand your background, strengths, and potential. Reaching out to them is not only easier but also more likely to result in sincere and supportive conversations.

Build a professional online presence
In today's digital-first environment, platforms like LinkedIn have become more than just job search tools as they are spaces where your work, interests, and communication style are visible to a broader audience. Creating a complete

and well-written profile, following professionals in your desired industry, and participating in relevant discussions can help you build credibility over time. Even small gestures, like commenting on a post or sharing a thoughtful perspective, can create visibility and encourage future interactions.

Keep it focused and specific
Many students and fresh graduates hesitate to reach out because they are unsure of what to say. Vague messages like "I am looking for a

job" often go unanswered. It is much more effective to communicate with clarity and specificity. For instance, saying "I am looking for entry-level roles in the supply chain, particularly FMCG companies" gives your contact a better idea of how they can help you.

Engage before you ask
One of the most common mistakes in networking is reaching out only when you need something. While asking for help is valid, relationships built solely on requests often feel transactional. People are more

inclined to support those who have shown genuine interest in their work or expertise long before any favour is asked.

Use your campus advantage
Your university affiliation is one of the most powerful assets you have. Alumni networks offer access to individuals who were once in your exact position and have navigated their way into various industries and roles. As a student, you also have access to resources that are often unavailable later in your career. Career services offices, faculty advisors, and university events offer direct channels to professionals.

Prioritise quality over quantity
In the age of social media, it is easy to assume that a large number of connections equals a strong network. However, networking is not a numbers game. The strength of your relationships matters far more than how many people you are connected to.

Maintain your network over time
One of the most overlooked aspects of networking is consistency. Staying in touch with your contacts can maintain relationships and demonstrate genuine interest. A quick message congratulating someone on a promotion or checking in with a former mentor often goes a long way.

Finally, a common fear among young professionals is that they have nothing to offer in return. While it may seem like networking is about asking for favours, the most successful relationships are based on mutual value. Offering a relevant article, sharing feedback on a project, or simply expressing genuine interest in someone's work can show thoughtfulness and initiative.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

BRAC University

Research Associate
(Graphic Design and Technical Support)



Deadline: August 30

Eligibility:

• Bachelor's degree in Graphics Design, IT, CSE, Media & Communication, Business, MIS, or a related field with a CGPA of 3.5 and above. A Master's degree is preferred.

Minimum experience: N/A

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Senior Officer (Ranking)



Deadline: August 20

Eligibility:

• Master's degree in Business, Statistics, Data Science, Education Management, or a related field with a quantitative focus.

Minimum experience: 3 years

Bengal Meat Processing Industries Ltd.

Category Manager



Deadline: August 27

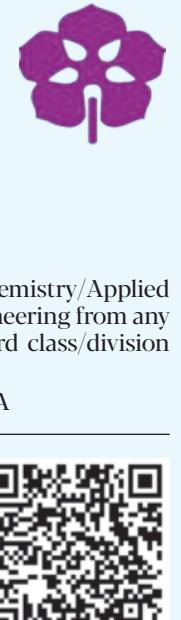
Eligibility:

• Bachelor's or Master's degree in Business Administration/Marketing/Economics/Finance or a related field.

Minimum experience: 5 years

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Limited

Production Officer (PO)



Deadline: August 25

Eligibility:

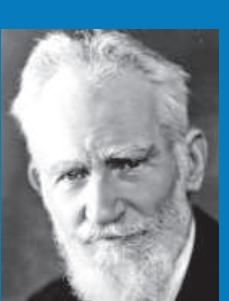
• Masters degree in Chemistry/Applied Chemistry/Chemical Engineering from any reputed university. No third class/division in any examination.

Minimum experience: N/A

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



"Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby."



GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ



Bangladesh national hockey team players appear in a jolly mood as they walk off the athletics track at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday following a yo-yo fitness test. Even though they have been preparing for the Asia Cup for which they had originally failed to qualify, it was only yesterday that the confirmation came that Bangladesh will be playing in the continental competition instead of Pakistan, who have pulled out over security concerns.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Batters strive to add metres without changing basics

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's batting effort in T20Is have lagged behind global standards over the years and the lack of power-hitting skills has often been talked about as the biggest reason.

In recent T20I series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, both of which the Tigers won, batting efforts in Powerplay showed signs of improvement but middle and death overs remained a concern.

To deal with this issue, the Tigers have roped in power-hitting coach Julian Wood ahead of the Asia Cup.

The team has been undergoing a skill camp since August 15 and batter Jaker Ali Anik informed that Woods is trying to make changes within their game to help them add a bit more distance to their big shots.

"He is not trying to make us do anything different. Everyone is trying to get a grip on things from within their own pattern," Jaker said at the press conference.

"Those who are dependent on their timing, he has tried to improve that aspect. He didn't tell those reliant on timing to become power-hitters. It's about adding five to six metres of distance to the shots for players who are timing the deliveries. If that happens, then instead of getting out, those shots would go for six," he added.

Wood has often talked about bat swing, head position and hitting base as key areas of his work. But the end game is to get more power, which he had suggested was possible.

In his drills he uses the ProVelocity Bat, a specialised bat which forces batters to generate greater hand speed and helps with sequencing and mechanics when playing shots.

This unconventional bat has a barrel at the middle of it, which slides to the end when a shot is played, generating a click sound. The goal is to generate a double click sound, which indicates that the bat speed and other mechanics was up to the mark, while a single click indicates there is improvement to be made.

"It's a good feeling when you can get the sound [double click] that he is telling you to achieve. But it takes a lot of force to acquire that sound," Jaker said when asked about the ProVelocity bat.

Wood will next travel with the team for the Sylhet Camp beginning on August 20.



Flooded field, lost smiles

SAHIDUL ISLAM, Jamalpur

Once alive with children's laughter and football matches, the lone playground of Chargolabari Government Primary School in Jorkhali union of Jamalpur's Madarganj upazila now resembles a stagnant pool.

According to locals and school authorities, this vital space remains waterlogged for nearly four months every year. Consequently, students are deprived of sports and physical activities, while residents who visit the Union Parishad office beside the field also face immense difficulties.

The importance of the field is undeniable, yet it still lacks a proper drainage system. As a result, even a brief spell of rain leaves it unusable for days. The situation is particularly disheartening because in 2023 Chargolabari Government Primary School became the champions of the National Gold Cup Football Tournament.

"We come to school, but the field is under water. Football practice has stopped," sighed Raihan, a fifth grader.

Parents watch with equal worry. With sports gone, Babul Sarkar noted, children now spend entire days on their phones. "If only there was drainage," he said, "they would return to play."

For Headmaster Shahinur Islam, the sight is especially bitter. "We were champions, yet today our children cannot even step onto their own field," he reminded.

Asked about the issue, Upazila Education Officer Nurul Amin said, "If government funds are allocated, steps will be taken to fill the field and resolve the waterlogging. Meanwhile, a temporary solution will be sought in consultation with the local administration."

Echoing this, Madarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nadir Shah told The Daily Star, "I am aware of the matter. Initially, we wanted to



address the waterlogging using funds from the union parishad and the district council. But the required amount exceeds our budget. It would be more effective if the project is undertaken by the Department of Primary Education Engineering."

For now, however, the children who once lifted a national trophy are left stranded – dreams of football glory drowned in the very field that once nurtured them.

AFH MEN'S ASIA CUP HOCKEY Bangladesh 'eager to cash in' after late lifeline

SPORTS REPORTER

Initially ineligible for the 2025 AFH Men's Asia Cup after finishing third in April's AFH Cup in Indonesia, the Bangladesh men's hockey team suddenly found themselves on the tournament roster. Pakistan's withdrawal just ten days before the August 28 start in Bihar, India opened the door for the red and green.

Despite the late call-up, the team's determination was already evident. At the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday, shadows stretched across the blue turf as a few floodlights from the National Stadium flickered on, yet the players pressed on, practising penalty corner conversions with utmost focus.

Anticipating the possibility of such an opportunity, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) had already organised a 12-day fitness camp in July. The second phase of training began on August 10, blending preparation for the Asia Cup with the upcoming SA Games, ensuring the team could make the most of this unexpected chance.

"Actually, the players started the second-phase training cheerfully, by settling their minds to play the Asia Cup," head coach Moshir Rahman Biplob told The Daily Star after yesterday's training.

"They have also been giving extra effort in the training since it started last week. So, they knew that the opportunity would come. Now they are eager to take part in the tournament and want to cash in on the opportunity."

Despite this, the team enter the tournament with less preparation than usual, raising concerns over fitness. Most players are from

services teams, who focus on game skills rather than conditioning. A fitness test conducted yesterday confirmed that the squad has not yet reached the required physical standards, though the coaches are emphasising penalty corner conversions.

"If you don't have proper preparation, it is tough to survive in a big tournament. But mental readiness can help the team play with a fighting spirit," added the former national defender, who was the assistant coach during Bangladesh' AFH Cup campaign in Indonesia.

Asia Cup 2025: August 28 – September 8

Host: Rajgir, Bihar, India

Bangladesh's Asia Cup eligibility:

Received after Pakistan withdrew

Bangladesh squad: Ten U-21 players in 26-member squad

Of the 26-member preliminary squad, 10 are from the U-21 team preparing for November's FIH Junior World Cup, with four already experienced at the senior level. The 20-member final squad is expected to be announced today.

BHF general secretary Lt Col (Rtd) Riazul Hasan informed the federation expects government approval to travel to India and plans to apply for visas today, with the team set to fly to Kolkata on August 26.

For now, time is short but the stakes are high as the red and green chase glory on borrowed hours.

Alonso promises action over words

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid manager Xabi Alonso said on Monday he wanted his team's performance on the pitch to do the talking for him as he begins his first LaLiga campaign at home against Osasuna on Tuesday.

Real, under Italian Carlo Ancelotti, finished four points behind LaLiga champions Barcelona and failed to retain their Champions League crown after a quarterfinal exit. They also lost the Copa del Rey final to bitter rivals Barca. Former Bayer Leverkusen coach Alonso has been charged with reviving a Madrid side that ended last season without a major trophy.

In the Club World Cup, which was Alonso's first competition as Real coach, they were knocked out by PSG in a 4-0 semifinal loss last month.

"I'm more about doing than talking," Alonso told reporters. "Making promises before you act doesn't usually work in football. Just saying it is not going to make it happen. We want to start down that path tomorrow."

Real will be without Antonio Ruediger (suspended) as well as injured left back Ferland Mendy, midfielders Eduardo Camavinga and Jude Bellingham plus forward Endrick. Right-back Dani Carvajal, who has come back from an ACL injury, was named in the squad.

SHORT CORNER

Mueller's debut goal in MLS chalked off

Thomas Mueller made his Major League Soccer debut on Sunday as a second-half substitute for Vancouver Whitecaps in a 1-1 draw with Houston Dynamo that left the Germany great with "mixed feelings" after he had a goal disallowed for offside.

Lukaku to miss start of Napoli's title defence

Romelu Lukaku will miss Napoli's opening fixture of their Serie A title defence after suffering a thigh injury which could keep the Belgium striker out for months.

Neymar dejected after heavy loss

Philippe Coutinho scored two goals as Vasco da Gama secured a 6-0 victory over Santos in the Brazilian Serie A on Sunday, August 17, leaving Neymar with the worst defeat in his career.

**Read full stories on The Daily Star's website



Team Red players celebrate a Team Green dismissal during a low-scoring opening match of the Women's Challenge Cup at BKSP-3 yesterday. Despite Nigar Sultana Joty's 78, Team Red were bowled out for 144 in 47.4 overs, while Team Green could only manage 112 in 40.1 overs in reply. The series is part of women's team's preparation for the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup, with boys' under-15 team being the other team of the series.



Vitinha celebrates with Nuno Mendes and Desire Doue after netting the winner as European champions PSG edged Nantes 1-0 in their Ligue 1 opener on Sunday night. Fresh from their UEFA Super Cup win over Tottenham Hotspur last week, Luis Enrique's side laboured early before substitutes Ousmane Dembele, Mendes, Achraf Hakimi, Doue, and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia shifted the momentum. Dembele's short corner found Mendes, whose cutback was controlled and then deflected in the 67th minute.

PHOTO: AFP

'They dragged my brother out of a shop and shot him' Witness gives testimony at ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elder brother of 12th grader Imam Hasan Bhuiyan gave a harrowing testimony before International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday, recounting how police dragged his brother out of a tea shop in Jatrabari's Kajla area during a demonstration on July 20 last year and shot him at close range.

Robiul Awal Bhuiyan said his brother Imam had taken shelter inside the shop amid police firing. "Then SI Sazzaduzzaman shot my brother in the leg, telling him to run away. As Imam looked back, ADC Shamim grabbed a firearm from another officer and fired at his lower body. The bullet pierced through.

"Finally, then Jatrabari police inspector Zakir Hossain fired multiple shotgun rounds," he told the court in a trembling voice.

He added that when Imam's friend Rahat tried to pull him to safety, police shot at Rahat and forced him to flee. "My brother lay bleeding on the street for half an hour, even though two hospitals were just yards away. He pleaded for help, but the policemen stood by, enjoying the sight of him dying," he said, breaking down.

Locals and journalists tried to save him, but were forced to retreat as police fired at them too.

Robiul was testifying in the crimes against humanity case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, and ex-

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

'Drastic' measures at Biman to regain public trust

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman has taken 'drastic measures' to regain passengers' confidence after the recent spate of technical issues in its aircraft that raised questions about the quality of its maintenance and safety.

The national flag carrier has formed a four-member high-powered committee to investigate the technical issues between July 1 and August 13, said ABM Raoshan Kabir, spokesperson of Biman.

Led by Tanvir Khurshid, the airline's chief of technical, the committee has been asked to submit its report within 10 working days.

The committee will recommend how to avoid the recurrence of any such technical issues in the future.

Besides, Biman's Engineering department and flight operations department are also separately investigating each of the big technical issues, which seemed unusual, Raoshan said.

From now on, Biman will have a dedicated engineering team for the night shift under a special arrangement for any technical issues, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

In the last month, there have been at least 10 incidents in which Biman's Boeing and DHC Dash 8 aircraft experienced technical issues before or after takeoff.

While technical issues are common in any airline, the recurring nature of the problems has raised concerns about the safety standards and maintenance practices at Biman, according to aviation experts.

In the last 30 days, international flights to Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Dammam, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur have faced problems mid-air, according to Biman.

Allegations have been raised that engineers working at

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Savar declared 'degraded airshed'

Brick kilns slapped with restrictions
UNB, Dhaka

The government has declared Savar upazila in Dhaka a "degraded airshed" and said that the operation of all brick kilns, except "Tunnel Kilns" and "Hybrid Hoffman Kilns", will be restricted from next month.

The decision was made under Rule 5 of the Air Pollution (Control) Rules, 2022, according to a circular issued yesterday and signed by Department of Environment Director General Md Kamruzzaman.

In addition to kiln restrictions, the circular bans open burning of solid waste, issuance of location or environmental clearance for

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Palestinians walk past the ruins of the Abu Khudra Mosque in Gaza City yesterday. Inset, displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza load their belongings onto a car before heading south, as the Israeli military prepares to relocate residents to the southern part of the enclave.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS



(From left) European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz pose for a photo in the Cross Hall of the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Hamas agrees to new Gaza truce proposal

Says group official; Israel launches massive attacks on the enclave ahead of planned seizure

AGENCIES

A Hamas source told AFP yesterday that the Palestinian group had agreed to a new proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, devastated by more than 22 months of war between the group and Israel.

"Hamas has delivered its response to the mediators, confirming that Hamas and the factions agreed to the new ceasefire proposal without requesting any amendments," the Hamas source told AFP, requesting anonymity.

A Palestinian official earlier yesterday told AFP that mediators had proposed an initial 60-day truce and hostage release in two batches.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces have intensified their attacks ahead of planned efforts to seize the territory, with at least 19 Palestinians killed since dawn yesterday.

Fearing the imminent Israeli ground offensive, thousands of Palestinians have left their homes in eastern areas of Gaza City, reports Reuters.

Hamas has slammed Israel's plan to seize

Thousands flee their homes in eastern Gaza City

19 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes across the Strip

Five Palestinians die from malnutrition in 24 hours

the Palestinian city and forcibly displace its population, calling Israeli promises to provide shelter and humanitarian aid "blatant deception".

The health ministry in Gaza said five Palestinians have died due to malnutrition in the past 24 hours, including two children. This brings the total death toll from starvation and malnutrition since the offensive began to 263, including 112 children, reports Al Jazeera online.

Amnesty International said: Israel is "carrying out a deliberate campaign of starvation" in Gaza and is "systematically destroying the health, wellbeing and social fabric of Palestinian life".

Doctors Without Borders, known by its French initials MSF, said its staff in Gaza are witnessing a surge in mass casualties linked to Israel's ongoing siege and its distribution of aid.

"The indiscriminate killings, and the counts of mass casualties we still [see] on a daily basis right now, hasn't stopped, but only increased in its scale," said Nour Alsaqqa of MSF.

Ex-DB chief Harun, 17 cops suspended over 'desertion'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has suspended 18 senior police officers on charges of "desertion", according to an order issued by the Public Security Division of the home ministry Sunday.

Among them is the high-profile police officer Harun or Rashid, who previously served as the head of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch.

The order said the officers had remained absent from duty without permission from the authorities concerned on various dates in 2024 and 2025, which is an offence categorised as "desertion" under the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2018.

Those suspended include senior officials of the DMP, different range DIG offices, the Armed Police Battalion, police training institutions, and other specialised units.

The list also includes Sanjat Kumar Ray, joint



US keeps eye on India-Pak situation 'every single day'

P5



Decision on LDC graduation deferral needs careful assessment

P6

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
কলম্বেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬

গ্যাসের মূল জ্বালানোর কম্পকে ২০ মিনিট পূর্বে
রাস্তারের দরজা-জানলা খুলে দিন, নিরাপদ রাখুন

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিতাস গ্যাসের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবুর্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সম্পত্তি কিছু প্রত্যাক্রম চক্র মোবাইল ফোনে কল করে মিথ্যা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট অভিযানের কথা বলে গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নের হুমকি দিচ্ছে এবং তিতাস গ্যাসের নাম ব্যবহার ও প্রত্যাগার মাধ্যমে তাদের দেওয়া মোবাইল ফোনে বিকাশ, নগদ, রকেট ও উপায় ইত্যাদির মাধ্যমে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধের জন্য বলা হচ্ছে। উক্ত প্রত্যাক্রম চক্র হতে সতর্ক থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

উল্লেখ্য, তিতাস গ্যাস নগদ অর্থে কোন লেনদেন করে না, সকল লেনদেন ব্যাংক ও এমএফএস (বিকাশ, রকেট ও উপায়)-এর মাধ্যমে হয়ে থাকে। কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ব্যবহার করে তাদের দেওয়া মোবাইল নম্বরে অথবা নগদ অর্থে কোন লেনদেন না করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

GD-1817

'They dragged my brother out of a shop and shot him' Witness gives testimony at ICT-1

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CLASHES IN RAKHINE Several hundred Rohingyas wait along the Naf in Myanmar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Several hundred Rohingyas are reportedly stranded just across the Naf River opposite Teknaf, unable to enter Bangladesh due to tightened border security, according to Rohingya community leaders.

They estimate that around 300-400 Rohingyas have gathered along the frontier, many fleeing fierce clashes in Myanmar's Rakhine State involving the Arakan Army, Rohingya armed groups, and junta forces seeking to regain control of lost territory. Fourteen of Rakhine's 17 townships are now under Arakan Army control.

The matter of Rohingyas massing near the border was raised at a National Task Force meeting on Rohingya Affairs, chaired by Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on August 17. Officials at the meeting confirmed reports that some Rohingyas are crossing into Bangladesh despite heightened patrols.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

ACC files cases against 3 top businessmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed cases against three leading businessmen in the country on charges of embezzling large sums of money and amassing illegal wealth.

At a press briefing at the ACC headquarters in Segunbagicha yesterday, ACC Director General Alkher Hossain disclosed the information.

The accused are Saiful Alam, chairman of S Alam Group; Kazi Nabil Ahmed, owner of Gemcon Group and former member of parliament; and Nazrul Islam Majumder, chairman of Nassa Group.

According to ACC sources, a case has been filed against Saiful Alam on charges of embezzling Tk 80 crore. The allegation said he opened fake enterprises in name of restaurant businesses and took loans from First Security Islami Bank Limited in name of these enterprises, which were later misappropriated. Along with him, 20 others have been accused in the case.

ACC also filed a case against Nazrul Islam, also former chairman of EXIM Bank, along with 22 others, on charges of embezzling nearly Tk 858 crore. The allegation states the money was withdrawn under the guise of loans.

Another case has been filed against Kazi Nabil Ahmed. He is accused of acquiring illegal wealth worth Tk 7 crore and conducting suspicious transactions of more than Tk 109 crore across 45 bank accounts.

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman has taken 'drastic measures' to regain passengers' confidence after the recent spate of technical issues in its aircraft that raised questions about the quality of its maintenance and safety.

The national flag carrier has formed a four-member high-powered committee to investigate the technical issues between July 1 and August 13, said ABM Raoshan Kabir, spokesperson of Biman.

Led by Tanvir Khurshid, the airline's chief of technical, the committee has been asked to submit its report within 10 working days.

The committee will recommend how to avoid the recurrence of any such technical issues in the future.

Besides, Biman's Engineering department and flight operations department are also separately investigating each of the big technical issues, which seemed unusual, Raoshan said.

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